



KING EDWARD VI
HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
OLD EDWARDIANS

CONNECT

We hope you enjoy our Autumn term newsletter below with all the latest news from KEHS!

Message from Dr Paul Arnold, Head of School

I write this message at the beginning of the final week of term - a term packed full of adventures and events which showcase the incredible range of talent within our school. Some of my recent personal highlights include the recent Lower School production of *Oliver Twist* (which played to sell-out audiences every night), our Christmas concerts which demonstrated the depth and breadth of musical talent here at KEHS in so many genres and styles, and the KE Community Christmas event, which was a lovely way to bring our special community together for some festive cheer! Our many sports teams have also excelled across the board this term; our Junior 4x50m freestyle relay team placed 12th at the ESSA National Finals last month, and our U12, U14 and Senior netball teams have progressed deep into national competitions.



KEHS was also named West Midlands Independent Secondary School of the Year for Academic Excellence for the fifth year in a row in the Sunday Times Parent Power guide last weekend, cementing our place as the top independent school for pupil's academic achievement outside London and the South East - but as you already know from this thumbnail sketch of the term, KEHS is about much, much more than GCSEs and A Levels.

'Karaoke' event, a Great Christmas Debate, and the departure of KEHS parties on a French trip to Boulogne, a trip to visit the battlefields of WWI, and the ever-popular ski trip - after which all our pupils and staff can enjoy a well-earned rest.

The House Christmas Card Competition was fiercely contested this year; the wonderful range and quality of designs made the judging a tough task! I'm delighted that the Development Team chose this beautiful picture of the front of school for our Old Edwardians - an iconic view that has remained unchanged for over 140 years. Well done, Guistine!

Finally, I'd like to wish a very Merry Christmas to all our Old Edwardians and friends of the school. I look forward to seeing many of you at our events in the New Year.

Dr Paul Arnold



Alumni Events Overseas

In October, the Chief Master & Principal, Kirsty von Malaisé, and Development Director, Laura Salt, travelled to Canada and the United States to meet alumni from both KEHS and KES. The visit was long overdue, and it was wonderful to reconnect with our community in person. Highlights included a brunch in Toronto and drinks in Brooklyn, generously hosted by Old Edwardians from KES and KEHS respectively.

It was a real pleasure to meet those who attended, share our plans, and hear your valuable thoughts and feedback. Thank you to everyone who joined us. Our sincere thanks go to all those who helped make the trip possible, it could not have happened without you.

If you are overseas and have not updated your details with us please do [here](#).

Pictured (Host Catherine Mackay (1985), with Kirsty von Malaisé and Laura Salt)

Collective giving funds new school minibus

Last year, the KEHS Parents' Association played a vital role in helping to fund the purchase of a shared minibus for our schools. Working in partnership with the KESPA, who also provided a contribution, alongside two significant donations from generous Old Edwardians (one from each school), we successfully raised the funds needed to acquire a vehicle that now proudly carries dual branding and serves both communities.

The primary purpose of this minibus is to support outreach activities, community projects, and other essential needs such as sports fixtures. Outreach is an important part of our work in raising aspirations of pupils who could flourish here, enabling us to welcome primary school children to experience the opportunities we offer - whether it's a maths challenge, an author day, a chess competition, or watching a dress rehearsal of one of our productions. Transport is often one of the biggest barriers for schools wishing to take part, and this bus helps remove that obstacle.



In addition, the minibus will be used to take pupils to their Friday afternoon activities, getting our pupils out into the community around us. Even with our existing fleet, demand often exceeds availability at certain times of the year, leaving the schedule fully booked. This additional vehicle eases that pressure and, importantly, means the school owns a bus rather than relying on leased options.

We are immensely grateful to the committee for getting this project off the ground. Thank you too to everyone in our school community whose support of PA events raises funds to make initiatives like this possible. Your generosity helps us create more opportunities for our pupils and extends our impact within the wider community. Thank you for making a real difference.



KEVI ACS Conference 2026

The King Edward VI (KEVI) African and Caribbean Society (ACS) Conference 2026, will take place at the University of Birmingham on Monday, 26 June 2026 to celebrate the history, present and future of 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride'.

KES and KEHS ACS, is our annual event celebrating our diverse school communities across all 14 KEVI Schools. It is a day full of inspiring talks, guest panels and activities to cherish the diversity of the students in our schools and the city we live in.

We would love to hear from anyone interested in giving a short presentation/talk on the theme of 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride' ie. how you feel your historical, present, or future self would stand firm in your own power and pride and how your life and experience enabled you to be proud to be you and succeed, or if you would be willing to be a guest on the panel which would consist of a Student Q&A based on the same theme, alongside other guests, to inspire the next generation to be proud being them.

If you would like to attend or be a speaker on the day, please [click here](#).

Miss Brechon-Smith, Miss D McKee & Miss D McKee

KEYNOTES 2025-2026

Earlier this term, in October, we sent out a community email to inform you all that the next edition of Keynotes was going to be published in June 2026 instead of at the end of the calendar year ie. from this edition, and going forward, the Keynotes publication will be published in line with the end of the academic school year. Therefore for this year only, Keynotes will be covering 18 months.

Thank you to all of those who have already sent in items for the 'News in Brief' section - they are delightful to read and cover such a wide range of topics! We ask for around 2-300 words and a photo to go alongside your piece. Once the busy Christmas 'season' is over, please do consider sharing your news with us, and sending it to d.macleod@kesschools.org.uk



Dates for your Diary

Saturday, 28 February 2026 - [Gemstones Reunion](#)

Are you the class of **1956, 1966, 1976 or 1986**? Then we want to see you at this very special reunion in February to celebrate your Platinum, Diamond, Golden or Ruby anniversary. This is a once in a decade opportunity so do not miss out. This reunion is also open to ALL Old Edwardians from all year groups. [You can book your place here](#).

Date TBC - Tolkien Lecture

We hope to be able to confirm a date in the New Year.

Saturday, 14 March 2026 - [Class of 1986 Reunion](#)

This is a special stand-alone reunion requested by an Old Ed and is open to all KEHS and KES Alumni from 1986. Bookings are now open and you can [book your place here](#). Former Staff are also invited along to join in the reunion and reconnect with former pupils.

Saturday, 6 June 2026 - [Milestones Reunion](#)

We are holding a very special reunion for the Classes of 1996, 2006 and 2016 from both KEHS and KES in June next year and we want you to be part of it! We are also looking for some Year Group Representatives for these year groups, to help get as many of your friends there as possible. If you are interested then please do get in touch with us at oldeds@keschools.org.uk. [Click here to book your place for this special reunion!](#)

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2026!