

KESPRESS

KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL, LICHFIELD

Community Newsletter No. 69

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Message from Mr. Lunt

As the end of yet another extremely busy term approaches it is a delight to be able to report on so many successes in this latest version of Kespress. I hope that you will find it enjoyable reading and that you will share with me a feeling of real pleasure and pride in the achievements of so many of our students. I should like also to record my thanks to all my colleagues, both teaching and support staff, who work so tirelessly to support and encourage the young people of King Edward VI School. If anyone had told me twelve months ago that, as Acting Headteacher, I would be writing the preface to the Spring 2006 edition of Kespress I would not

have believed them! That I have done so has bestowed upon me a rare privilege to lead such an outstanding group of people, albeit for a few months only. I am grateful to all members of our school community, students, staff, parents and Governors, for the enormous support which they have given me during this time.

We all look forward very much to welcoming Kevin Maycock as our Headteacher from the start of the new term and wish him every success in his new post.

Happy Easter!

Inside this issue:

<i>Charity Event</i>	2
<i>Young Enterprise</i>	2
<i>World Book Day</i>	2
<i>PTA News</i>	3
<i>Medical Awareness Update</i>	3
<i>Librarian Recommends</i>	3
<i>Sports News</i>	4

New Music Block

As you probably know a new arts block is being built. Staffordshire County Council drew up the original design, although it was a struggle to get planning permission at first. I was told by Mr. Stephen Barr, the school's Business Manager, that they were allowed to commence building as long as the building was environmentally friendly, hence the moss on the 'live' roof.

Phase one of the build is due to be complete in May, which will mean that the Music Department will be teaching in their new, and long overdue, purpose built facilities in September. Phase Two is in the planning stage and the intention is to eventually link the new development with Bader Restaurant and provide a block of new classrooms for Art and Drama.
John Clarke Y9



Westside Story



The curtain went up on West Side Story long before the first performance on Wednesday 1st February. This ambitious project had been in the hands of a dedicated cast and crew of almost 100

people since last September; a fact which simply radiated from the final showcase.

The enthusiastic cast, all selected from the school's talented students, simply oozed energy and were expertly accompanied by members of the schools acclaimed orchestra. They were supported by many students and teachers in backstage and technical capacities, low-profile roles which are often overlooked.

This superb production was testament to the sheer volume of talented individuals that the school has available for such projects. A huge thank you and congratulations must go out to everybody involved.

Ben Travers

Important Information

Advance Warning Parental Survey

What issues are important to you?

We would like to know your views and ask for your support in completing a questionnaire that we will be sending out after Easter.

Charity Event

The idea to do something for charity came from one of our RE teacher's Dorothy White and Mrs. Audrey Nichols who works with her as the learning support assistant. Just before Christmas she mentioned it to her RE classes in years seven, eight and nine. They decided to have a collection box in the classrooms and start bringing in donations of whatever they could afford to raise money. In the end each class raised enough to buy a goat – a total of nine goats for villages in the third world.

A goat, along with basic training

in how to care for it, means so much to a family living in poverty. A goat provides milk and offspring to sell, and the bonus of free fertiliser! Any surplus can be sold to pay for things like medicines and school fees. Plus, when an animal has young, the first one is passed on to another family in need so the positive cycle continues.

Mrs. White said she felt it was important for students to think about what giving can really mean and was very proud of the students who so willingly took on board the ideas and gave both their commitment and money to paying for these goats.



Eat and Drink for £1 and a worthwhile cause ...



Mr. Mawson recently organised you all into collecting £750 towards a fund which be going to Africa (via Oxfam) to help drill a well to provide water for a village

community. Those of you that bought a dinner ticket to help children have cleaner water told me that your plain rice meal and clean water was actually quite satisfying. The day of abstinence took place on Ash Wednesday, to coincide with the first day of lent. Thankyou to all the kitchen staff who helped Mr. Mawson.....and

look out for the request for donations (to go towards the same cause) to nominate which male member of staff you think should have their leg waxed!!!

Young Enterprise Trade Fair



'Creative Revolution' is a group of students who have set up a business, selling T-shirts and jewellery, as part of their sixth

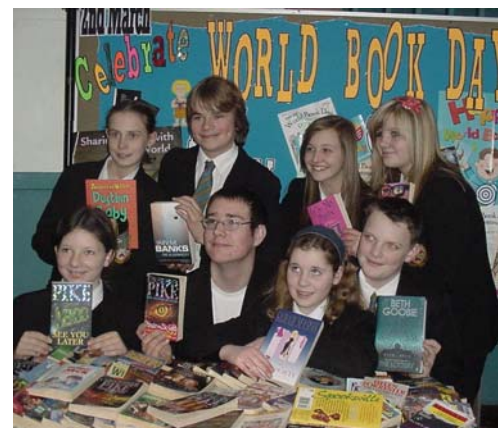
form studies. They recently sold their wares at a Trade Fair which took place at the MOTO Services on the M42. Their next venue will be Drayton Manor Park, where they are due to give their final presentation on 26th Aril.

Mr. Holdford said, 'The overall aim of Young Enterprise is to prepare students for the challenges of running a business.'

The Library Celebrates World Book Day

Thursday 2nd March saw the annual celebrations for 'World Book Day' – a chance for all to enjoy books and reading. The chosen charity of World Book Day, Book Aid International was the focus for events in our own school Library. BAI send books to schools, libraries and hospitals overseas so that children and young people who would not normally have access to books have the opportunity to enjoy reading and improve their education.

A book swap event together with a quiz raised £87 for the charity.



PTA News

Since our last Kespres the PTA have been busy! A hugely successful Burns Night in January raised a staggering £550, and the recent Jazz Band Evening was enjoyed by all and raised even more towards a total of £8 – 10,000 that this small body of extremely hard working parents manage to raise each year.

Look out for the Jazz Band Reunion on Saturday 15th July when former members re-unite to perform what promises to be a concert not to be missed! Also in July, a group of approximately 35 American students aged 12-14 will be visiting Lichfield as part of their three week visit to the UK. We are looking for families to host a student or one of their teachers for their stay. This is a huge annual fundraiser for the school, and many life-long friendships are made. This year, students will be able to

enjoy two whole days with their visitors. School will organise an event, probably a disco, for the Saturday evening. Anyone who would like to, but has not yet offered to host a visitor, please ask at Bader reception for a letter.

Avoid the Dangers of Drugs

Wednesdays....10th May, 17th May, 24th May, 7th June, 14th June and 21st June.

These are the dates for a series of six evening sessions for parents who want to help their children avoid the dangers of drugs. The aim of each evening is to help parents to be both equipped and informed to help if there is a need. There is a charge of £2 per session. To book your place please telephone the school number and ask for Mrs. Bailey or Mrs. Wright.

Entrepreneur Master Class

Calling all you parent entrepreneurs out there?

Do you own/manage your own business? If so, would you be interested in taking part in an 'entrepreneur master class' with a group of Y10 students, pointing out such things as how you got started, the skills you need and the pitfalls?

The time involved would be two sessions: a briefing session of approximately one hour then a session of the same length with the students.

We hope to hold the session in June or early July.

Interested? Then please contact Mr. A. Walker at the school (email: awalker@kingedward-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk)

Financial Support for Modern Foreign Languages



Managing Director of Siemens, Mr B. Glew, is seen here presenting a cheque for £1500 to Mr Kingston. The generous donation will be used by the German department to assist with the purchase of interactive whiteboards.

Medical Awareness Update

Please help us to help your children by keeping all medical information and personal medication up to date in both Johnson and Bader Offices:

- diabetic boxes and medicines (Piriton etc) should be re-stocked on a regular basis
- inhalers and epipens must be carried by pupils at all times as well as spares being kept in both offices
- both offices hold the same instructions and medication for each student.
- it is vital that we have correct contact numbers and we ask you to notify us of any changes to contact arrangements and mobile numbers immediately so that we can contact you quickly in the event of an emergency.

Thank you for your support in this important issue.

Librarian Recommends

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief By Rick Riordan

The gods of Olympus are alive in the 21st Century. They still fall in love with mortals and have children who might become great heroes, but most of the children meet horrible fates and the hands of monsters by the age of twelve. Only a few learn the truth of their identity and make it to Half Blood Hill, a Long Island

summer camp dedicated to training young demigods. Such is the revelation that launches young Percy Jackson on a quest to help his real father, Poseidon, avert a war among the gods.

From Y7 boys to Y11 girls, I have had Students raving about this book!

There is a sequel out called "Percy Jackson and the Sea of Monsters", so definitely one series to watch out for.

Mrs. Emery

Sports News

As we draw to the end of an extremely successful winter season we would like to acknowledge and celebrate some of the achievements of our youngsters since our last edition of Kespress.



Adam is seen here being presented with the Junior Championship Cup and the Senior Championship Shield at the Staffordshire County Swimming Championships. Adam won the 200m freestyle in a record breaking time, and although classed as a junior was presented with the Senior Shield as a result of being the fastest swimmer in all age groups in the County. He will be leaving us at the end of this year to take up a Swimming Scholarship at Kelly College, Devon.



U14, U16 and U18 County Netball Players

In the December edition of Kespress we reported that three of our netball teams had been selected to represent Staffordshire in the West Midlands Championships. The U14 and U16 teams were both victorious and as a result were selected to represent the West Midlands in the National Schools Netball Championships in Manchester.

Congratulations to all for achieving such an excellent level!



Helen and William are currently training hard in the hope of being selected to ride in the London Olympics.



U14 and U15 County Rugby Players

Four of our rugby teams, U13, U14, U15 and U18, have won through their qualifying round to secure places in the Staffordshire County Cup finals. This is an amazing achievement and we wish all the lads the best of luck in their bids to become County Champions.



Sam is a member of Tamworth Amateur Boxing Club and although he has only been boxing for eighteen months he is already making his mark. Sam has found the sport hugely demanding but he says that, 'it has increased his confidence and self discipline'.

We are very proud of all of our sport stars and the photos above are just a few of the successes this term. Please keep the information coming in so that we can include all current news. Finally we would also like to thank the teachers, coaches and parents who have given of their time so freely to support and encourage these fantastic achievements.