

KESPRESS

KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL, LICHFIELD

Community Newsletter No. 72

December 2006



Although the longest term of the school year, Autumn 2006 seems to have passed by parents in the very near future. Ofsted in a flash! It has been a busy term, with concluded that "King Edward VI is a good students in all years continuing through their school", a judgement that we were all work at a cracking pace. I have been pleased with. Next term, the school will impressed with the way that students new identify those areas where we need to to the school, have settled to their studies, develop our work even further in our new especially Year 7. School Improvement Plan.

As ever, at the end of term we will be saying goodbye to some colleagues who are moving onto pastures new. Mr. Hipwell (Mathematics) is moving to Nether Stowe to become second in the department there. Mr Skilton (Drama) is leaving to pursue a career change. Mr Jones (PE) will be departing the UK altogether to work in Qatar and Miss Mohammad (Science) is moving to Spain. I should like to thank them for their efforts on behalf of the students and the school during their time at King Edward VI. Much work this term has focussed on becoming a Specialist School in Science and Languages. We have to put together a detailed plan to show the DfES how we intend to raise achievement, develop our curriculum and work with the local community. Our fund-raising is going well – at the time of writing we have raised or had committed over £18,000. Our thanks go to all parents who have contributed to this in whatever way. More help and support would be gratefully received!

Of course, a "highlight" of the term was the inspection of the school by Ofsted. The inspection took place on 22/23 November with only five days notice. The team of inspectors met with a number of staff and student groups and saw lessons across the Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

FROM THE PEAKS TO THE PALACE

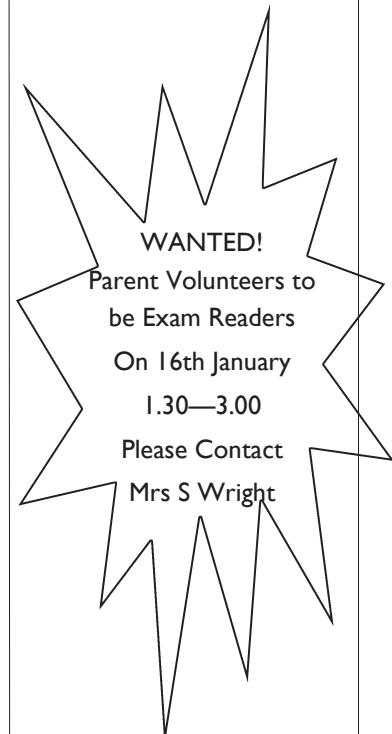


On Thursday 23rd November six ex-pupils had the honour to attend a presentation to receive their Duke of Edinburgh's Gold award at St James' Palace in London. The six that attended were James Edwards, Rob Tunningly, Chris Ayerst, Joanna Habart, Penny Blatch and Chris Jones (not in picture). They had the opportunity to speak to The Duke of Edinburgh about their final expedition in the Lake District. He wanted to know if they got lost and how good their leaders were (the less said about this the better!) and Rob was able to speak about his residential experience abroad on a boat with a pupil from Saxon Hill School, which the Duke was really interested in. The young people thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience, especially having the opportunity to meet the Duke himself and felt that it was a wonderful way of recognising their achievements.

Congratulations to all.

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Merry Christmas to all our readers





HITTING THE HIGH NOTES

If music be the food of love, join KES Youth Choir! Forty students from year 7 and 8 have shown commitment and talent to form the KES Youth Choir. Deemed a resounding success at the annual school dedication day, the choir have gone from strength to strength. They performed at the school's carol concert on Tuesday 12 December, and have been asked to perform at the school's house carol services during the last week of term. The group perform a wide range of music and look forward to future 'gigs' in the Spring term, and of course the Easter concerts. Any new members are welcome. They rehearse under the direction of Mr. Teager and Mrs. Daune on Thursday lunchtimes in B3.

BONNE APPETIT!

Many smiling faces and full tummies were to be seen on the last Wednesday in October as Languages Club held its annual French Breakfast. Large numbers of hungry KS3 students came to sample the delights of warm croissants, pains au chocolat and brioches with an assortment of French jams and butter. Particular thanks to Miss Young for organising the event and also to Mr. Pitt for the items sourced direct from France! A special mention also goes to Colette and Matthew who were winners of the French quiz held earlier in the term – well done to you both! Languages Club is held every Wednesday lunchtime in room 43 (languages mobile) – come along and join in!



MICROSOFT OFFICE SPECIALISTS!

Congratulations to our first three students to successfully achieve the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) qualification: Jamie, Stuart and Mark. Microsoft Office Specialist certification is a globally recognised standard for demonstrating desktop skills. The Office Specialist programme is helping to meet the demand for qualified and knowledgeable people in the modern workplace.



CHARITY STARS

Single-handedly, form 7C1, under the supervision of Mr. Teager, chose to donate their time, patience and persuasive skills to raise money for charity. The group sold Christmas tree decorations in the shape of stars. Each star sold raised £1 to go towards the Multiple Sclerosis Society's Christmas appeal to buy support and expertise for those handicapped by MS. They designed posters and divided into teams to cover the school and raised over £80 for charity, well exceeding the form target of £50! They had planned to sell the remainder at the Christmas Fayre, but so good was their selling ability that the group sold out by the end of school. A thrilled Mr. Teager has recently received a letter of gratitude from the MS Society thanking the form for all their support.



ENDING THE TERM IN A COLOURFUL WAY!

Science club continues to flourish for years 7 and 8. Activities have included the chemistry of fire works – colour production, motion form electrical energy – making a motor, making honeycomb crunch (the science behind Crunchie), and using light Emitting Diodes (LED's) to make a festive Xmas decoration.

In the New Year we will be making a paper rocket (travels over 50m!), making slime, making the tallest tower from paper, crystal gardens, making fake blood, looking at non-Newtonian fluids using custard (is it solid or liquid?) and the screaming jelly baby!

Mr Whitehouse



FANTASTIC START TO PTA YEAR

Unfortunately, July saw the departure of several dedicated members of the PTA, as their offspring left for university and pastures new. We wish them well and thank them for their work towards raising funds to benefit all students of KEVI.

A new school year brought fresh faces, full of enthusiasm, and lots of new friendships have been made.

We began with the annual quiz hosted by Mr Bowman. Seventeen teams closely contended throughout an enjoyable evening, which was eventually won by Mr & Mrs Lunt and family! Thanks must go to Mr Bowman also, for donating £64 to the PTA from his sponsored 5K run.

November saw the ever-popular girls night out – a Hair and Beauty evening in association with Tamworth and Lichfield College. Students from the college came along and transformed the hall into a beauty parlour, with braiding, nail polishing, facials and massage – totally different aromas lingered to that of the usual smelly socks near the changing rooms! A total of 90 “clients” queued up to be pampered, experiencing possible career paths that they could follow at college.

The November training day saw the beginning of the Christmas season, with the Christmas Fair, at KEVI. Invited craft stalls set the scene in the hall, whilst students drew the crowds with fun and games in the gym. To satisfy those Christmas taste buds, turkey and stuffing baps and mince pies were served in the restaurant. The fair was one of our largest fundraisers – amounting to a total profit of over £2,000.

The PTA will be hard at work throughout the year: during the next few months the prime target is to help raise funds for Specialist School Status. The PTA has pledged a sum of £10,000, plus Christmas raffle ticket sales towards the School's target of £50,000. If you are interested in a night out, you would be made very welcome at one of our informal meetings (7.30pm, room 10) or at an event.

Mrs Haynes

CAREERS

Mrs Wainwright is our Personal Adviser from Connexions and is usually in school on Mondays, Wednesdays and alternate Thursdays. Mrs Fox, our assistant Personal Adviser is available on Fridays. Students can request an interview by completing a referral form in school. Students can also sometimes be referred to Mrs Wainwright by members of staff. If parents wish to request an interview for their child, they can contact the Personal Adviser through school. Please note that the careers library is open for students every lunchtime and during Tuesday and Thursday breaktimes.

Mrs Sydenham

DYSLEXIA FRIENDLY STATUS

We aim to be an inclusive school where every student can achieve their full potential. To do this, students may need advice and assistance to remove any barriers they have to learning. This requires constant monitoring and evaluation of all students. A lot of the good practice developed for Dyslexia students will also benefit other students with Learning Difficulties.

We start to liaise with some students as early as Y5 and continue to monitor these students through their transition into Y7 by organising extra support. All students are monitored throughout their school career.

Examination assistance can also be arranged for students who have a history of need, so it is vital that we liaise with parents on a regular basis. This enables students to access examinations in the most appropriate way for them and achieve their examination potential.

We hope that through the transition process, we are already aware of your child's needs. If, however, we do not know about a diagnosis of Dyslexia, please contact Mrs S Wright, who is our Head of Learning Support.

COUNTDOWN TO SPECIALIST SCHOOL STATUS

As you know, these are exciting times for the school and we hope that by September 2007 we will be a Specialist Science and Modern Foreign Languages School. This means that, alongside the current range of subjects, there will be all sorts of developments on the science front and new languages to learn here over the next few years. However, to support our application for specialist school status, we need to raise £50,000 – for our own use but through our own efforts. We are well on the way. For instance:

- The PTA has promised £10,000.
- The House Drama performances organised by the Sixth Form raised £800.
- The Conduit Lands Trust have agreed to give us £5000 and we have other applications in the pipeline.
- We have had a number of generous donations from families and individuals, including one wonderful gift of £1000.
- Several local and national companies are looking favourably at our request for sponsorship.

HOWEVER, THERE IS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO! CAN YOU HELP?

Students – how about organising a fund raising activity in school or asking one of your family if their company would consider sponsoring us or taking out an advertisement?

Parents – is there some way you can help through donations, a fund-raising activity, company sponsorship or an advertisement in the booklet we will be producing in the New Year?

DON'T LEAVE IT TO SOMEONE ELSE—PLEASE DO SOMETHING TO HELP!

Mr Barr



MIDLANDS RUGBY

After representing Staffordshire this term, Saneliso and Daniel have both been selected for Midland rugby trials at their respective age-groups. Congratulations!



RUGBY NEWS

We have again followed an extensive fixture list, with eleven block fixtures completed against Friary (x 2), King Henry VIII Coventry, Arden, Fairfax, John Taylor, Highfields Matlock and Newcastle. There are four more block fixtures before the end of term. There have been five sides put out on each occasion with over one hundred students taking part. We have played a total of fifty-four matches, winning forty-two and losing twelve. The 1st XV made it through to the third round of the Daily Mail National Cup losing to Adams Grammar School 24-19. The U15 side made it to the fourth round before also losing to Adams 34-30. An excellent achievement getting to the last sixty-four in a competition with over five hundred schools having entered!

	P	W	L	D		P	W	L	D
1st XV	9	7	2	0	UI4	11	11	0	0
U16	2	1	1	0	UI3	12	9	3	0
U15	13	12	1	0	UI2	7	2	5	0

All sides are still in the Staffordshire Cup, and the U14 side are in the quarter finals of the Midland State Schools Cup.

A record thirty-one players have so far been selected for Staffordshire age-group sides. The performances and image we have developed over the last couple of years has resulted in us being invited to a couple of prestigious tournaments. The U14 and U15 sides to the Adams Grammar School 7's and the U16's to the London Oratory School 7's. This is only possible as a result of the staff giving up their time during the week and on Saturday mornings. Thanks to Nick Adamson, Martin Jones, Robbie Bracewell, Dave Eckley, Tim Johnson, Richard Garner, and Linda Eccles. Graham MacDonald (Lichfield 1st Team Coach) also comes in to help coach the school 1st XV.

CROSS COUNTRY

We had three sides in the Cannock and District Leagues. A Year 7 side, Year 8/9 side and a Year 10/11 side. We had a total of 16 students taking part with the Year 7 team winning the two meetings we have had so far.

NETBALL SUCCESS AT COUNTY TOURNAMENTS

King Edward VI entered teams in all age groups in the County Netball Championships and the results are as follows:

U14	Winners
U16	Winners
U18	Runners Up

Congratulations to all who played.

These teams will all go through to represent Staffordshire at the West Midlands Finals on 20th January.

HOCKEY CHAMPIONS

The U14 Girls Hockey team became County Champions in their age group at the finals played at Beaconside, Stafford, on Tuesday 31st October. In the final round, victories against Denstone College: 1-0, John Taylor: 3-0 and Wolverhampton Grammar School: 2-0. The girls now go on to represent Staffordshire in the Midlands Finals at Edgbaston in a few weeks' time.



PTA FUTURE EVENTS

Meetings

Wed 10 Jan 2007

Thurs 1 Feb

Tues 13 March

Wed 2 May

Wed 13 June

Tues 10 July

Events

Burns' Night – Sat 20 Jan 2007

Tickets on sale now!

Mayor's Barn Dance – Sat 10 Feb

Jazz Evening – Sat 17 March

People to People – early July

Ring Mrs D Haynes on 01543 255714 if you would like further information – remember as a parent, you are automatically a member of the PTA, and the more you become involved, the more your child will benefit overall.