



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
BIRMINGHAM

Insight Gazette

Old Edwardians Gazette issue number: 281

Summer 2009



OLD EDS



ACADEMIC



SPORT



MUSIC



EXTRA CURRICULAR



OTHER



Message from the Chairman of the OEA, James Martin

I wrote in the last OEA Gazette about a new era that was dawning. Well the sun has now well and truly risen; for example – a new events programme (see page two) and a new website (which I encourage you to visit). This new “interim” Gazette, the KES Insight Gazette, perhaps symbolises the changes taking place, and I hope you will agree it builds on the start we made with last year’s publication. Our thanks go to Sebastian Atay (2005) for his help in editing it.

The plan going forward will be that the two Old Edwardian Gazettes each year will have two different identities and purposes. This KES Insight Gazette, published every summer, will be focused more on the School and a review of news from the previous school year whilst the main Old Edwardian Gazette, published every winter, will continue to focus on Old Edwardian news, events and articles. I hope you enjoy reading this new publication and finding out all that has been going on at the School. I hope you will agree that the future, both for the School and the OEA, looks bright.



Message from the Chief Master, John Claughton

At about two pm on the last day of term, a strange calm descends. After all the sound and fury of the summer term, its urgency, panics and last night of term japery, it really is all over. The boys and the staff have gone and at such a moment, Simon Lerwill, the Development Director, whose life-cycle is not driven by the bell and the term, asks me if I can write something for another new manifestation of the OEA Gazette. Of course, and here it is, made out of the fragments of the end of the year.

Here are three such fragments from those last days. The first is Speech Day. Tim Franks, a 1986 leaver and the BBC’s Middle East correspondent, presented the prizes and gave the address. He spoke movingly of what a real journalist must do - ‘Tell the truth, write well, be curious’ - and of how his school life had prepared him for the challenges he faces. However, before that, one of the declamations was given by Hardeep Galsinh. His prize essay was about the brain haemorrhage that nearly killed his father. Hardeep will go on to study Medicine, we hope, but he is only here because of the generosity of another Old Edwardian, Graham Kinsman.

The second set of fragments is human, Phil Lambie and George Worthington, who retired at the end of this term. Phil taught here for 41 years, George for only 39, and in so doing must have taught, in their very different ways, thousands and thousands of us. And not only taught the pupils, but taken them to Italy and Greece and on ski trips, coached them at Fives and hockey and cricket.

The third fragment was down at Eastern Road. On the penultimate day of the term, in the game against the Chief Master’s XI (J A Claughton 3) Jack Cornick failed by 50 runs to break Anurag Singh’s record for runs scored in a season. He still ended up with 1070 at an average of 97.85. Not bad for a Fifth former who has two more years to have another go at the summit.

And can I make something out of these fragments? Of course, I can. The fragments show how tightly bound we all are, pupils and alumni, or should be. Former pupils, like Franks and Kinsman, can still bring wisdom and opportunity back to the school and enrich us. Teachers like Lambie and Worthington - if there ever could be such things again - form the school and the way we all turn out, even down to Tim Franks learning to keep a neat notebook. And today’s pupils are still doing great things, and defining themselves against their great forebears. They aren’t dwarves perched on the shoulders of giants. They are growing giants already and this publication is primarily designed to show all that these young giants are doing to fill the time before the strange calm descends.

NOW READ THE SPEECH

The full address given by Tim Franks at Speech Day can be read online at www.oldeds.kes.org.uk/news/speech

FORTHCOMING OE EVENTS

Young OE pub night (Post 2000 leavers)

Celebrate the festive season with old friends at the Pitcher & Piano in Brindley Place. All those who come along will get a free drink!

Date: Thursday 17th December
Location: Pitcher & Piano, Brindley Place, Birmingham
Cost: None – free drink
Booking: Email oldeds@kes.org.uk to let us know you are coming
Contact: Sue Dickens, OEA Administrator (see details below)

Decade reunion dinners (1960 – 1999)

Come back to King Edward's for a proper School dinner in the Dining Hall. Beforehand there will be tours of the School and a drinks reception. These informal events are a great way to relive old memories and to re-establish old friendships.

Dates:
Saturday 10th October 1960-1969
Saturday 17th October 1970-1979
Saturday 23rd January 1980-1989
Saturday 30th January 1990-1999
Location: King Edward's School
Cost: £25
Booking: Invitations will be sent out with booking forms three months before the event. You can also book online at www.oldeds.kes.org.uk/events
Contact: Sue Dickens, OEA Administrator (see details below)



Old Edwardians attending their 1958/59 reunion. Reports on all the events taking place this year will be published in the next Old Edwardians Gazette.

Reunion lunches (pre 1960)

These more intimate, informal reunions take place during the School term. There will be a lunch followed by a chance to see some of our archives and have a tour of the School. The day will conclude with tea in the Chief Master's study. This is a great opportunity to catch up with some old friends.

Date:
Wednesday 23rd September 1954-1955
Wednesday 30th September 1952-1953
Wednesday 10th March 1950-1951
Wednesday 17th March 1945-1949
Wednesday 24th March 1940-1944
Location: King Edward's School
Cost: £5
Booking: Invitations will be sent out with booking forms three months before the event
Contact: Sue Dickens, OEA Administrator (see details below)

NB: Those who left pre-1940 will be invited to a special reception in December 2010 marking 75 years since the New Street building closed.

London OE Dinner

Annual dinner arranged by the London Old Edwardians. There will be a guest speaker. All Old Edwardians are welcome to attend!

Date: Monday 7th December
Location: RAF Club, Piccadilly, London
Cost: £40 (£20 for those who left after 2000 and who are attending for their first time)
Booking: Invitations will be sent out with booking forms in October
Contact: David Edmonds - dave.edmonds@virgin.net or 0117 932 8249

OEA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Old Edwardians Association. All Old Edwardians are welcome to attend.

Date: Wednesday 9th September
Location: King Edward's School

You can find further information with this Gazette or online at www.oldeds.kes.org.uk/events.

School events

There are also some School events during the year which Old Edwardians are welcome to attend:

Senior production

Date: Thursday 4th -
Saturday 6th February
Location: King Edward's School

Summer concert

Date: Tuesday 4th May
Location: King Edward's School

Invitations for these will be emailed before the event. If you would like to ensure you receive an invite please contact Sue Dickens, OEA Administrator via the details below.

DEVELOPMENT & OEA OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS

Development & OEA Office
King Edward's School
Edgbaston Park Road
Birmingham
B15 2UA

Email: oldeds@kes.org.uk
Website: www.oldeds.kes.org.uk
Phone: 0121 472 1672 (Ext 1005)
Fax: 0121 415 4327

BOOK ONLINE

More details about all our forthcoming events (including online booking for the reunion dinners) can be found at www.oldeds.kes.org.uk/events

Meet the team



Simon Lerwill – Development Director

Simon has been involved in alumni and fundraising work for 10 years, having started as a telephone caller for Sherborne School, his old School, in 1998. Simon attended the University of Birmingham and subsequently worked in their Development & Alumni Office for five years before joining King Edward's. Simon lives locally in Edgbaston and in his spare time likes to play football, go walking and travel.

T: 0121 415 6055

E: development@kes.org.uk



Sue Dickens – OEA Administrator

Sue has 15 years experience of working within the voluntary sector. She has worked for The Stroke Association for 11 years organising fundraising events. She has also worked for Help the Aged and a local charity, Birmingham Focus on Blindness. Before working at King Edward's she worked as a PA to a local surveyor and Old Edwardian. She lives in Shirley and has two children Marianne, aged 9, and Stephen, aged 3.

T: 0121 472 1672 (Ext 1005)

E: oldeds@kes.org.uk



Stuart Birch

After 38 years' teaching, 36 of which were at King Edward's and the last 20 of which were as Director of Physical Education, Stuart has returned part-time to assist with Development (and games). He particularly enjoys renewing contact with ex-pupils. Stuart lives in south Warwickshire, follows the fortunes of Burnley FC and spends his spare time playing with cars and trying to keep fit.

E: sb@kes.org.uk

Old Eds fund new boys

We are delighted that a number of Old Edwardians and the Old Edwardian Association itself have recently agreed to fund boys through the School as part of our Assisted Places scheme. John Osborn (1962), who is generously funding several boys through the School, said "Quite apart from the obvious satisfaction of putting back something into a school that has given us all so much in the past, it really is a pleasure and a privilege to see boys benefiting from a first class education that might otherwise be denied to them".

Meanwhile the Old Edwardian Association has also agreed to fund a boy through the School. James Martin, Chairman of the OEA, said "the OEA is delighted to be able to fund an Assisted Place for a boy at King Edward's from next year. We are in total support of the School's aim to increase the number of boys who can be helped in this way". Funding further Assisted Places will be the main fundraising priority for the School over the next decade and we are planning to launch a major fundraising campaign for this vital need in the near future.

Trusting in Old Eds

On 17th June the first trustee meeting of the new King Edward's School Birmingham Trust was held. The Trust has been set up so that any donations for the School in the future can be held by a separate charitable body governed by a board of Old Edwardian trustees. The Trust has charitable status which means that Gift Aid can be claimed on donations and that donors paying higher rate tax can also claim some tax back themselves.

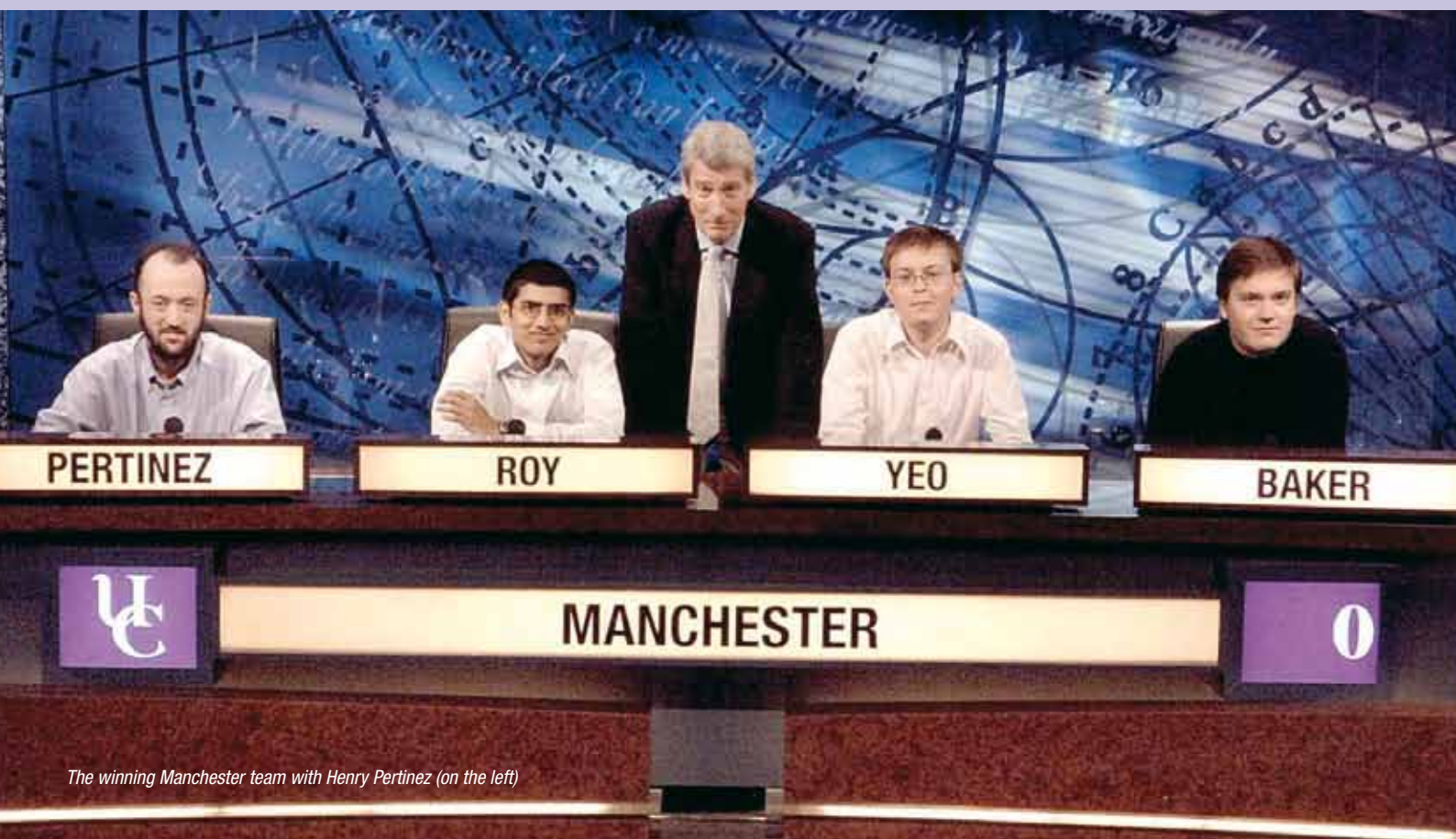
The founder trustees (pictured) who attended the inaugural meeting were: John Claughton (Chief Master, 1975), Stuart Southall (Governor, 1977), Stephen Campbell (Governor, 1978), James Martin (Chairman of the OEA, 1979) and Paul Thomson (Former Chairman of the OEA, 1967). At this meeting the trustees agreed some initial plans, including the setting up of the Trust bank account. All being well the Trust should be able to start accepting donations within the next few months. The trustees will meet three times a year to distribute donations received to the School in accordance with donors wishes.



The founder trustees: Stuart Southall, Stephen Campbell, John Claughton, Paul Thomson and James Martin

FINDING THE LOST BOYS

Please help us to track down lost Old Edwardians by visiting www.oldeds.kes.org.uk/lost



The winning Manchester team with Henry Pertinez (on the left)

Challenging victory for OE

Old Edwardian Henry Pertinez (1999) made headlines this year when his Manchester team won University Challenge - despite having suffered a sudden defeat in the final. Corpus Christi snatched the title away from Manchester in the breathless final five minutes of the programme. However, after it was discovered that one of their team members had not technically been a student since the quarter finals, the victory was retrospectively awarded to Manchester.

It was a particularly interesting experience for Henry as Corpus Christi was his undergraduate College. "If you're going to lose, losing in the final isn't so bad and losing to your old College makes things slightly better. Being awarded the title by default certainly wasn't what we would have wanted but the whole experience was tremendous fun and we had a great run through the series. In best KES tradition (if it isn't excessively cheesy to say so) we 'kept our heads and played the game'".

Henry has fond memories of Schools Challenge at King Edward's. Like many of the KES students who eventually appear in University Challenge, he started out under the watchful eye of long-term school coach Mr. Milton. Back in 1996 he was part of the team that won the national championship.

READ ALL ABOUT IT

We will be publishing more OE news in the next Old Edwardians Gazette. Old Edwardians can update their news by visiting www.odeds.kes.org.uk/news or emailing the editor via editor@kes.org.uk.



Group Captain Richard Mason arriving by Chinook

Old Ed drops into KES

It's not often you get to bring the traffic on the Bristol Road to a standstill or get every student in the building rushing to the window but landing a Chinook helicopter on the South Field is one way to achieve it! In May Group Captain Richard Mason RAF, who left King Edward's in 1984 and had recently commanded the Chinook Force in Afghanistan, flew in for a visit. He spoke to the CCF about his experiences and the reality of warfare in Afghanistan before giving over 60 cadets and staff the unforgettable experience of a Chinook flight.



Elliot and Zander Weaver who produced the new KES promotional film

OE gets inside view for KES film

An Old Edwardian returned to King Edward's this year to produce a new promotional DVD for the School. Elliot Weaver (2006) spent several months filming School life and interviewing some of the staff and pupils. Fittingly it was at King Edward's that Elliot, who is a freelance cameraman, started making films. "I made little videos for school projects and decided not to go to university and get a media degree but to go straight into television and music". The Chief Master, John Cloughton, thinks having an Old Edwardian making the film made a real difference. "Elliot has produced something that no outsider could have done. He has been able to film every aspect of School life and his love of the school shines through in everything he has done." Elliot was helped in the venture by his brother, Zander, who left King Edward's this year.

NOW WATCH THE FILM

The new promotional film can be viewed online at www.olders.kes.org.uk/news/film

The film is available in either the full 17 minute or shorter 2 minute version.



Lee Child



The successful team

OE Golfers make the cut

A glorious success for the old boys was recently achieved in the Grafton Morrish at Olton when the Old Edwardian golf team qualified for the knock-out stages at Hunstanton and Brancaster in September. This is particularly impressive since, according to the team captain, Tim Pickering (1981), the team has only qualified once in the last 25 years and that was in 1992. There will be an update on how the golfers fared in the competition in the Old Edwardians Gazette at the end of the year.

Back to school for Lee Child

Bestselling author Lee Child went back to school for the first time in 36 years when he visited King Edward's last December. Lee left the School in 1972 and, after studying law, he worked for Granada Television for 18 years. However after being made redundant in 1995 he decided on a change of direction. Lee had always enjoyed reading thrillers, especially those by Alistair MacLean, so he decided to write one himself. His first book, *The Killing Floor*, was an immediate success and the series, featuring ex-military cop Jack Reacher, now has millions of fans worldwide.

During his visit he toured the School and talked to a group of pupils in the Library about his writing. He also talked about his years at King Edward's admitting that he "was not a model pupil". Lee praised the quality of his teachers whom he credits for his concise, elegant style of writing. "I actually learned to write in my Physics class, nothing to do with English or anything like that. We had a Physics teacher who made us write in the most brief and concise way that we could. He was an absolute tyrant... and that's actually where I learned to write".

OE Obituaries

Tom Freeman obituary

We regret to announce the death of T.G. 'Tom' Freeman, Old Edwardian and, for 30 years, a distinguished and distinctive member of the School Staff.

Born in Edgbaston on the 13th June 1921, Tom entered the School a Foundation and King Edward's Scholar in 1932. He left with a minor scholarship in Classics at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, in 1939, but switched to a teacher training course during the second part of the Classics Tripos. Tom began teaching at University College School in 1946, before returning to King Edward's in 1951, where he spent the remaining thirty years of his career. He leaves five children, two boys and three girls, with his wife, Margaret.

A full and proper obituary reflecting his personality and many contributions to the life of the School will feature in the next Old Edwardians Gazette.

Other obituaries

We also regret to report the deaths of the following Old Edwardians, who have died in the first six months of this year:

W. Kenneth Wyatt (1930)
Sir Edward Downes (1939)
Major Terry A. Podesta OBE (1940)
T. F. Harrison Oxley (1951)
John H. Whitfield (1957)
David R. James (1957)
P. R. M. Mathews (1965)
Henry J. Santocki (1990)

A full list of obituaries will appear in the next Old Edwardians Gazette. If you know of any OEs who have died please contact us via olders@kes.org.uk.



KES had their best ever A-level and GCSE results last summer

Record exam results

Last year King Edward's enjoyed its most successful results to date in both A-level and AS level examinations. The School secured a 100% pass rate at both levels meaning that no-one in the Sixth Form failed a single subject out of the nearly 800 that were taken. At AS 87.2% of the candidates achieved either an A or B grade whilst at A-Level the figure was 93.8%, a record at King Edward's.

Our GCSE results also broke records with the 117 boys in the year group passing 61.3% of their papers at A*, an increase from last year of almost 10%. Our performance in IGCSE subjects were consistently strong - 73% A*s in Biology, 69% A*s in Chemistry, 81% A*s in Physics and 68% A*s in Mathematics.

The Chief Master was understandably pleased with the results, especially given the wide scope of extra-curricular activities undertaken by the boys. He praised the hard work of individual pupils and teachers, and the commitment to success they shared. "Everyone is thrilled. It is an exceptional moment to have the best ever results for five year groups at the same time."

Given the remarkable AS level results, hopes are high of another record year of A-level results this summer. Next year will be the last time King Edward's will use A-level examinations, as the School turns completely to the International Baccalaureate from September 2010.

Four more Arkwright Scholarships

Four boys in the Divisions have been awarded a prestigious design scholarship. Mike Hoffman, Lawrence Pardoe, Matt Poole and Daryl Rodrigo have all been selected to receive an Arkwright Scholarship after successfully passing the Arkwright aptitude paper. Having demonstrated flair and originality in solving engineering design problems, they presented their GCSE Design and Technology work to a panel of interviewers.

Scholarships are supported by individuals, companies, institutions, charitable trusts and the services. Major sponsors include BT, Rolls-Royce, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy. The four boys received their scholarships at a ceremony hosted by the Institution of Engineering and Technology in Savoy Place, London. These latest additions bring the number of Arkwright Scholars studying for their A-Levels at King Edward's to a grand total of nine. Five boys in the Sixth Form (Ismail Akram, James Buckley, Aaron Freeman-Powell, Tom Gammage and Ben Walpole) were awarded a scholarship last year.



The winning KES Maths team

Multiple Maths Successes

This has been a particularly successful year for the Maths department at King Edward's. Last summer Nyma Sharifi was placed in the top ten candidates sitting the A-level Mathematics exam out of more than 26,000 entries. He scored 600 out of 600 UMS marks and also achieved a distinction in the Mathematics Advanced Extension paper, despite taking both exams a year early.

In September eight Year Ten boys took part in the Year Ten Maths Festival at Birmingham University. Teams of four were paired up to form mixed teams of eight in the ensuing challenge competition. With an odd number of teams present, the King Edward's 1st team of Shankho Chaudhuri, Tom Lilburn, Andrew Macarthur and Vishal Patil (pictured) agreed to play the game four 'men' short but still managed to win by a substantial margin.

In February a School team of Nyma Sharifi, Alex Dawes, Rajiv Gogna and Josh Wearing travelled to London with team coach Mrs. Gardiner for the Final of the Senior Team Maths Challenge. The event was postponed for a week due to snow and, perhaps somewhat out of practice, the team made two costly errors in the first round. Nevertheless, they put in some excellent performances in the latter two rounds of the competition and finished eighth out of the 2000 teams that had entered. Perhaps more importantly, the group finished higher than the KEHS team, who had beaten them in the qualifying round.

Engineering students receive top award

In June three boys had the opportunity to show off their A-Level Design and Technology projects at the Midlands Regional Final of the Young Engineers for Britain Award held at Rockingham Speedway. These awards are the most prestigious event in the Design and Technology Calendar and they recognise the fantastic Design and Technology work that students produce in schools across the country. James Buckley presented his GPS Tracking System for Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Leaders, Aaron Freeman-Powell presented his Data Retrieving System for home made rockets and Josh White presented his Programmable LED and Halogen Lighting System. Amongst stiff competition from the other schools all three boys impressed the judges with their knowledge, enthusiasm and excellent projects. James received the award for the 'best electronics project' as well as the Senior Nomination for the National Final to be held next March and Aaron received the award for the 'best manufactured project'.

Gold at Science Olympiads

King Edward's pupils enjoyed great success in the Chemistry and Physics Olympiads this year. In the Chemistry Olympiad Rajiv Gogna achieved one of the highest marks for any Divisions pupil and he will be going to the Royal Society's Summer School in Cambridge in the summer holidays. In the Sixth form, the most notable performances were by Ismail Akram and Nyma Sharifi who both achieved Gold Medal awards. Ismail, the School Captain this year, was one of the top 24 pupils in the country and he went to Cambridge in March to see if he could make the Great Britain team. Sadly he just missed out. However Ismail did also manage to achieve a Gold Medal award in the British Physics Olympiad along with Alex Dawes. Meanwhile Tom Dawes and Nyma Sharifi took a Silver Medal Award and Tom Gammage, Ben Lee and Ben Walpole ended up with Bronzes.



The triumphant engineers



James Cull celebrating the Under 16 team triumph

National water polo champions, again!

The Under 16s Water Polo team became National Champions in May, ending an extraordinary twelve months for King Edward's Water Polo which began with the Under 18s becoming national Champions last year. The achievement of the Under 16 team cannot be understated since Manchester Grammar started as clear favourites. On finals day, the KES side began shakily with narrow wins including a one goal win over Trinity School Carlisle in the semi-final. These unconvincing performances were forgotten though in the final against Manchester. With a display of maturity and confidence KES won 3-2 with Andrew Macarthur and Ryan Hughes scoring the goals. James Cull and Morgan Hirsch (Senior Player of the Year) led the team impressively. Not only did Morgan become a National Schools champion this year but he was also selected as the Great Britain Captain for the GB Under 16s team.

After last year's success it was the Under 18s team, not the Under 16s, that had been expected to become National Champions. However, despite being seeded first, they lost out narrowly in the semi-final. However, the side did win the Under 18 Warwickshire Cup, beating every side by more than ten goals on the way to the final where they beat Handsworth 33-3. From the team Simon Gateley was again selected as England Schools Captain whilst Dan King and Will Divall were also chosen for the England Schools side.

Cricket report

The second season of the excellent artificial practice facility and the School coaching system, under Head Coach Dave Collins, supplemented by WCB coach Rajen Sen (aided in the winter by WCCC Captain Ian Westwood, plus Daryl Mitchell) appears to be getting the best out of the boys. All the age groups have responded in a tremendous manner and, at the time of writing, all teams are still in their respective Cup Competitions and have a very impressive win-lose ratio.

Special mention must be made of Jack Cornick (Fifth year), who has made 870 runs in the first team with four matches still to be played. He has also been selected for the National Performance Academy at Loughborough University in the first week of September.

The Under 13 cricket team have had a successful season being unbeaten at the time of writing. They have reached the semi-final of the Warwickshire County Cup having beaten all teams in the competition comfortably. Shivam Pabari has been the outstanding batsman with three fifties.

1st XI Scorecard:

P	W	D	L	Cancelled/ abandoned
16	7	1	8	4

NB: There are four games still to be played at the time of writing.

Athletics report

It was a season of continuing success for the Seniors and Inters but a season of frustration for the Junior and Minor teams. The Seniors beat all the local schools including Rugby, Loughborough and the "old enemy" RGS Worcester. The team were also invited to take part in the ultra competitive Cholmeley Shield match held at Harrow School against all the major London schools. They came fourth, losing to Highgate, Harrow and Eton, but it is a mark of the success of the team that they were invited to take part in this prestigious event.

Unfortunately for the Junior and Minor teams summer deluges, motorway grid-lock and swine-flu led to the cancellation of the Junior Foundation Match, the Holden Trophy, the Loughborough Invitation and the match against the local comprehensive schools.



Jay Reddy, the youngest member of the Warwickshire U14 squad, in action

Hockey report

Hockey success came from the U13s who had an unbeaten season this year, only conceding one goal. Unfortunately the spring term was disrupted by the snow and three weeks of frozen conditions resulted in numerous fixtures being cancelled. However as the weather improved, so did the performances. Senior hockey produced some excellent results, including a 4-1 thrashing of Bablake School by the 1st XI, who won nine of the 18 matches they played this year. The 1st XI also reached the semi finals of the Warwickshire County Cup.

King Edward's pupil Jay Reddy (pictured) was the youngest member of the Warwickshire U14 squad, which won the Midland Hockey Championships for the first time in ten years. Sam White and Jack Moreton represented their counties in the U17 and U15 County Championships, respectively.

1st XI Scorecard:

P	W	D	L	F	A
18	9	3	6	41	29



The victorious U12 KES rugby team

Rugby report

Over the last year King Edward's played 160 inter-school rugby fixtures, winning 85 of them. Success came from the U14 A XV and the U12 XV (pictured) who both won their competitions in the Greater Birmingham Cup. The 1st XV won six games including some very convincing victories against King Henry (52-3) and Wygggeston College (31-10). Most notably, they suffered a rather excruciating 40-0 defeat in the famous fixture against Bromsgrove.

Nevertheless, the 1st XV showed exceptional courage and tenacity in what was an outstanding advertisement for school rugby. In all there were 17 fixtures played at various ages and levels against Bromsgrove on Saturday 29th November, of which King Edward's won 12.

1st XV Scorecard:

P	W	D	L	F	A
18	6	2	10	251	419

Sports Shorts

Football

Bradley Garmston, who plays for West Bromwich Albion Academy, was chosen to represent the Republic of Ireland in the Under 15 Tri-Nations Tournament in Cardiff in May.

Skateboarding

Jim Langran is currently ranked 7th overall in the UK. Jim will be spending his gap year trying his luck as a professional skateboarder.



Scuba diving

Jack Walton a current Shell, has become one of the UK's youngest master scuba divers. The award is the highest non-professional qualification that divers can achieve.





Mark Heath who preformed the UK premier

Sonata receives UK premiere at KES

In January KES witnessed the UK premiere of Aaron Copland's Sonata for Piano – G Major (1920). Performed by Mark Heath, it was only the second performance ever of this neglected work. Mark played the first movement of the sonata after conducting a long search to unearth the score. The only original, handwritten manuscript in existence was held in the archives of the Library of Congress in Washington. Mark discovered its existence whilst researching his A-level coursework and the three-month race to get hold of it that followed is a story which won him attention from the local press, radio and even got him on the evening news.

Despite meeting with the initial scepticism of staff and friends alike when he proposed his 'crazy idea' in September, Mark persevered. With the help of friends and family in the US, he eventually managed to persuade Aaron Copland's estate to let him have a copy of the original manuscript for his A-level studies.

Theatre devised for junior play

The Train Leaving Platform Four was the drama department's first foray into devised theatre. It merited an entirely different approach, requiring levels of concentration, commitment and creativity that set it apart from a scripted play. The directors, Miss Proops and Mr Bartlett, carved out a rough plot with some help from Tim Kiely but it was down to the cast to sculpt the dialogue and detail. In this way, rehearsals were not so much 'running through' the play as actually creating it.

In the countdown to the performance, the drama studio was transformed into a cramped Anderson shelter with an unexploded bomb lodged outside. Authentic 'ration book' programmes and 'evacuee name tag' tickets further added to the authentic atmosphere. The performance itself was a fascinating journey that followed the stories of four families as they underwent the horrors of the Second World War. Thought-provoking sadness was beautifully balanced by fleeting moments of genuine humour.



Actor from The Train Leaving Platform Four



The cast of Great Expectations

Expectations met despite great snowfall

There were high hopes for *Great Expectations*, despite the fact that the performance was delayed due to the heavy winter snow. Thankfully, it was worth the wait. For the first time the Drama Department attempted physical theatre and choral speaking on a grand scale. The entire company were on stage throughout, becoming the set and narrating the action in the style of a Greek chorus whilst acting out the principal scenes which punctuate the story. The set dazzlingly depicted pages of the novel itself, spilling over the surfaces of walls and floor. The cast were also joined by a number of boys and girls from the KES and KEHS music department who provided haunting background music throughout.

Ted Smith and Matt Howes played the roles of young and old Pip, pulling off brilliant characterisations. Tim Kiely was also on great form as the convict Magwitch, whilst colourful cameos were provided by figures such as Joe Bunce. George Hims gave an extremely colourful performance whilst at the other end of the spectrum Christopher Bland put in a truly RSC portrayal, full of gravitas.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE PLAY OR CONCERT NEXT YEAR?

Old Edwardians are welcome to attend either the senior play or summer concert next year. If you are interested in coming along please let us know (see contact details on inside front cover).

KES perform King Lear at UK festival

KES and KEHS took part in a UK-wide Shakespeare Schools Festival last October. The Festival, which was held in 57 professional theatres, is an arts education initiative open to students from all backgrounds. Since 2000 it has seen 65,000 11-16 year olds from 3000 secondary schools appear on the stage in over 200 professional theatres.

Each night featured a handful of enthusiastic and innovative interpretations of Shakespeare's plays. In the Artrix Theatre in Bromsgrove, the joint KES/KEHS production of *King Lear* was performed alongside versions of *Romeo and Juliet* and *Twelfth Night* by other local schools. The King Edward's group consisted of 26 members of the 4th and 5th forms, all of whom were on stage throughout the performance. Whilst the festival is not a competition, the schools were lucky to have the National Festival Director Christopher Grace at the Artrix. He had glowing praise for the cast's commitment and performances and was particularly impressed by their focus and intensity.

The following week an additional performance was held in the King Edward's drama studio. Although the entire studio itself is smaller than the stage in Bromsgrove, over a hundred students crammed in to see it.

Summer Concert celebrates KEHS milestone

Over the years the music heard at the School's annual Summer Concert at the Symphony Hall has undoubtedly been of a truly remarkable standard; together with KEHS the students and teachers alike produce music worthy of Birmingham's finest venue. This year's concert was a particularly special occasion for KEHS who are celebrating their 125th anniversary. They used the concert partly to raise awareness of their 125th anniversary bursary appeal and Lindsay Duncan, an Old Girl and leading actress, was even on hand to give a short speech to mark the occasion.

The concert itself was, perhaps, one of the best ever. There was a stylish performance of Stravinsky's *Petrouchka*, an outstanding display of talent and passion by Jinah Shim with Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor and the boisterously and magnificent Polostvian Dances. Along with the usual high quality renditions from the likes of the Swing Band's and the other ensembles, it was truly a memorable evening.



The joint full orchestra and choir performing in Symphony Hall



Dani Malik, a member of the England Chess Team

KES chess success

KES Chess had a busy and successful year. Last Christmas, King Edward's drew with Camp Hill for Division One of the Birmingham League and were second in all the other five Divisions. In the English Chess Federation Schools Cup, King Edward's won through to the countrywide stages by winning a tournament at Nottingham. In the UK Land Schools Challenge some 20 boys won through to the Warwickshire area 'megafinal' and of these, ten qualified for the National Northern 'gigafinal' – the best KES results in this competition to date. At the UK Chess Team Championships at Brean Sands, the U16 team came fourth and the U14 team, with a very strong performance, were placed second, all against some of the best playing schools in the country.

In Spring, the King Edward's squad (Dani Malik, Kaiser Malik, Tom Lilburn, Hari Dhesi, Shakeel Choudhury, Aaron Rai and Jaspal Jheeta) won the local area final of the National Schools Tournament by beating Camp Hill. As many Old Edwardians will know, a new junior coaching initiative, led by Mr Malcolm Hunt (OE 1970), was launched last year. The results at junior level speak volumes for his efforts and influence.

In a final bit of good news Dani Malik (pictured) has been chosen as a member of the England Team to take part in the Western European U18 Championships, which take place in Glasgow in July.

Double Gold

The recent Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Presentation at St James's Palace was a double celebration for the Wood family. Peter (who left KES in July 2005) and his sister Catie (who left KEHS in July 2007) both received their Awards on November 26th 2008. The ceremony at the Palace, where they met HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and several other Award recipients from King Edward's, was a memorable occasion to round off their D of E challenges. Their certificates were presented by Nigel Vardy, who gave an inspiring talk about his experiences climbing some of the world's highest and most dangerous mountains.

RAF flying high

KES RAF Section have retained their place as the 3rd best section in the UK after their achievements in the National Ground Training competition at RAF Cranwell. This was even more of an accomplishment because the 14 strong team had just returned from their expeditions weekend, having had a maximum of 4 hours sleep.

Particular credit goes to Flt Sgt. Wagstaff for earning us 1st place in RAF Knowledge and gaining overall best cadet in this discipline, Pratteeek Bathula for getting overall best cadet in First Aid, Roly Grant for his sheer determination in the fitness 'bleep' test and Flt Sgt. Weaver for his level-headedness with his Drill commands. The Section have now been invited to attend Air Squadron Day at Cranwell – which features a big parade, massed bands, lunch and flights in 'unusual' aircraft from the Air League Association.



The KES RAF Section



Samir Deger-Sen (2003) is the reigning debating world champion

OE becomes debating world champion

Last year, the only King Edward's World Champion was in Debating. Old Edwardian Samir Deger-Sen (2003) took the title in Thailand with a student partner from Oxford University, after taking a First in PPE from Balliol two years before. Samir was a highly successful school debater at King Edward's and is now working on his Oxford doctorate in Politics and International Relations.

Though the current school First Team of Tim Kiely and Greg Stacey have found it hard to live up to Samir's world status, they are keeping up the tradition well, qualifying for national Finals' Day at Oxford and taking a fine 14th place in the UK at the Cambridge Union in February. Ed Siddons and Henry Tonks came very close to making the last 44 in the country and there have been highly creditable performances this year by new boy Sam Peat and soon-to-be Old Boy Tom Gammage.

Bringing History to life

In July, 22 members of the Living History Group travelled to Sattley School to present a Medieval Day to their Year 7 and 8 pupils. A medieval marketplace was set up in one courtyard, whilst elsewhere in the school displays of skill-at-arms and archery took place. This was the biggest school-based event ever organised by the Group and was a tremendous success. The students at Sattley particularly enjoyed the have-a-go archery and the opportunity to practise with medieval arms and armour.

During the summer break 18 members of the Living History Group visited Denmark and returned to the Late Middle Ages for ten days. Recreating a medieval merchant's household they bought and sold, fought and shot their bows and helped out with the siege machines and tournament at the internationally famous Danish Middle Ages Centre.

Ski trip takes in snow and water

February half-term saw the first tandem ski trip by the KES Ski Club. Over 100 boys and staff flew to Northern Italy to stay either side of Mount Paganella in the Trentino region of the Dolomites. Several months of heavy snowfall and day after day of glorious blue skies ensured perfect skiing conditions for the trip. Their time was spent skiing on beautifully groomed pistes, eating hearty Italian food and enjoying the evening activities the area had to offer. The trip concluded with a water-taxi trip and a look round Venice on perhaps one of the busiest days of the year, the 'Start of Spring Festival'.



Some of the KES skiers

AND FINALLY!



KES breaks the world record

Record breaking socks

After sixth months of preparation and three days of rain-soaked effort, Rem W broke the world record for the longest line of socks at the end of the summer term. Now officially recognised by Guinness, the boys extended the previous record held by a German team from 1289m to 1553m, collecting over £1,500 for the Cot Fund in the process. Close on 23,000 socks were suspended on washing line stretched across the South Field. Despite being swept up by a veritable media whirlwind - with articles in the local press, interviews on Radio Five Live and filming by three TV crews - the boys kept boldly to their task.

NOW WATCH THE NEWS FOOTAGE

You can view one of the news reports online now by visiting www.olders.kes.org.uk/news/socks.

The School's biggest ever cake

Following on from Guinness world record, the School also baked a cake of truly staggering dimensions, thanks to the efforts of class 4S. Nathan Roberts and Abid Ali came up with the idea and got their classmates to lend a hand. Each volunteer prepared a 7" by 7" cake, combining them into a cake measuring a spectacular nine square feet. The next morning, 4S worked together to ice and decorate the cake. At break, they held a special sale in the Gild Hall, raising over £80 for their chosen charities.

A minor memory

In a scene reminiscent of 1938 (the year in which King Edward's moved to its current Edgbaston site) a Morris Eight saloon was parked outside reception for a few hours earlier this year. This particular picture featured on the front of the March edition of Morris Monthly and was taken when a committee meeting was held at KES in January. No attempt, however, was made to get the car inside the School – quite an achievement in the 1980s, when an Austin Seven was parked in the Gild Hall in the run up to a non-stop John O'Groats to Lands End charity run.



Morris Eight parked outside KES

KES cyclists pedal for cash

In July last year, a group of 11 intrepid cyclists from King Edward's arrived at John O'Groats in Scotland - having cycled the 1,000 miles from Land's End in just two and a half weeks. Four of the boys (Joe Harrison, Hamish Robertson, James Shirley and John Lumley) decided they would make the trip even more memorable by raising money for Acorns Children's Hospice (where Joe's cousin, Olivia, died earlier this year). They blogged their journey (at justgiving.com/4sorebottoms) as they travelled up the country and ended up raising almost £6,000.

Exhibition of Old Masters

Unique archive footage of lessons being taught in Birmingham schools in the 1970s has been rediscovered during research for an exhibition held at the Ikon Gallery last January. The exhibition, entitled *Work Studies in Schools*, was recorded by Darcy Lange, a pioneering video artist from New Zealand, as part of a project studying the process of teaching and learning. The footage used features the lessons of Messrs Stead, Rigby and Trott.



Tony Trott teaching in 1976

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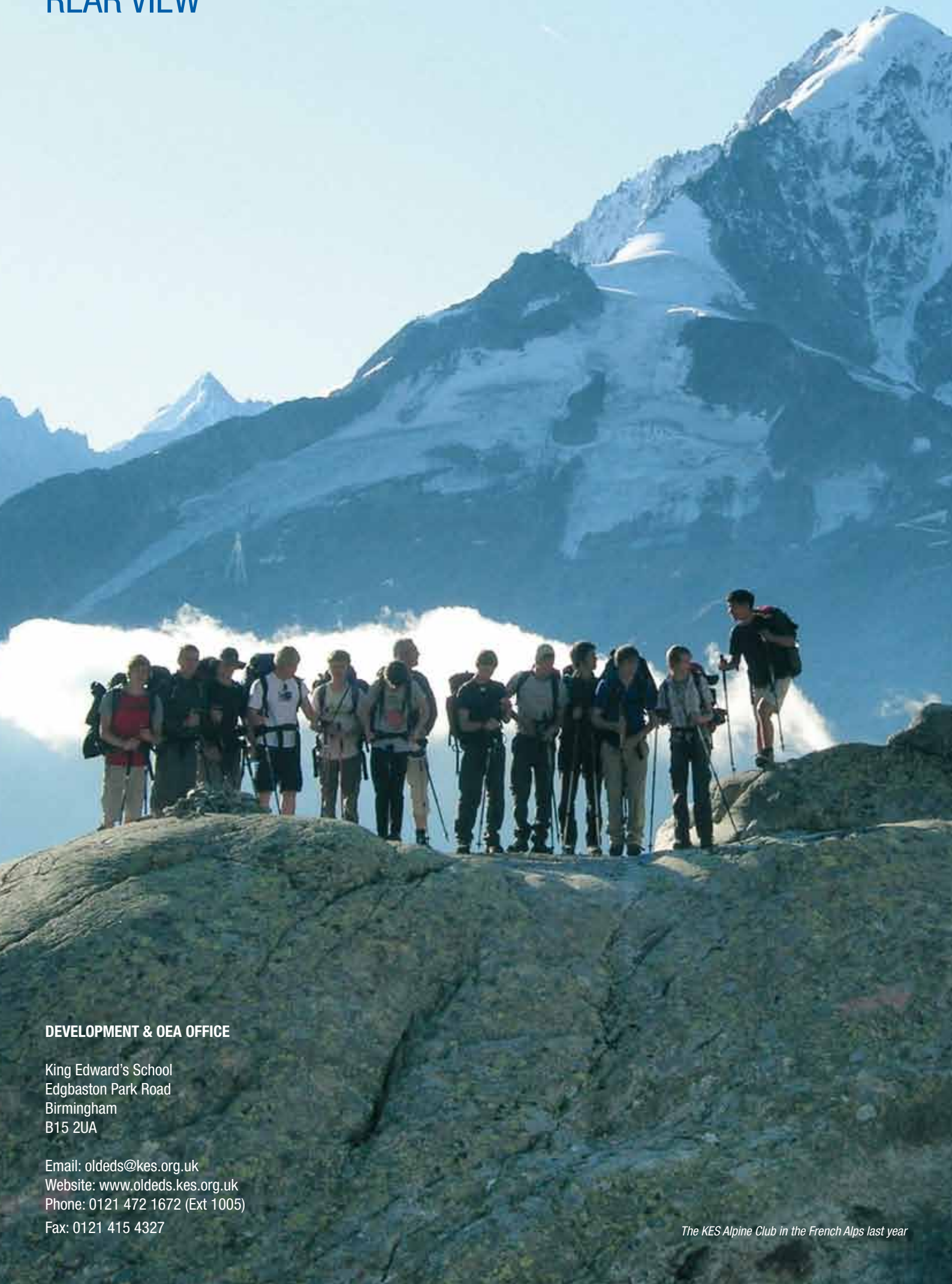
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The KES Alpine Club in the French Alps last year