



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
BIRMINGHAM

Insight Gazette

The annual review of the school year for Old Eds

Old Edwardians Gazette issue number: 283

Summer 2010



DEVELOPMENT

OLD EDS

ACADEMIC

SPORT

ARTS

EXTRA CURRICULAR



The new Paul and Jill Ruddock Performing Arts Centre

A summer of change

King Edward's is about to enter an exciting new era as it embarks this summer on a series of major projects that will enhance its reputation for educational excellence.

After three years of preparation, King Edward's will become the first major independent school to move in one stroke from A Levels to the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. The IB Diploma is a first class international qualification that is recognised by universities throughout the world. Offering a wider breadth of disciplines, it has a more holistic approach to education than A Levels and will provide students with a richer and more diverse educational

experience, encouraging independent thinking and creativity. The switch to the IB will take place in September.

Thanks to a generous gift from former pupil Paul Ruddock (1976) and a major investment from the King Edward VI Foundation, work will begin this summer on the building of a new £10 million performing arts centre next to Big School, which will be shared with King Edward's High School. The centre, which will be named the Paul and Jill Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, is the school's biggest building project since it moved to its Edgbaston site in 1938 and will greatly enhance the quality of its music and drama.

Finally, the school is launching its new Assisted Places Fund in July. The Fund was set up to ensure that the school remains accessible to all boys of ability, whatever the financial circumstances of their family. At the moment around 20% of students are here on an Assisted Place but our long-term purpose is to double the number of places that are available.

FIND OUT MORE INSIDE

Further information about the move to IB, the new performing arts centre and the Assisted Places Fund can be found inside.



Message from the Chairman of the OEA, James Martin

This edition gives our alumni further evidence of the variety of activities that exist for boys at King Edward's. Today, there is even more to challenge and excite than when we were at school. All the more reason to ensure that all boys have access to this education through the new Assisted Places Fund.

The Development Office has now tracked down over half the living Old Edwardians and, with administration of the OEA strengthened by the arrival of Lucy Parrott, provision of services to members is steaming ahead.

The resources being invested by the school are for convergent aims – the school to seek help from alumni and alumni to see each other and stay in touch with school – and the Committee is reassured about the longevity of these arrangements. The OEA therefore no longer needs all the funds it has retained to ensure provision of services to its members so the Committee wish to contribute £250,000 of capital to The King Edward's School Birmingham Trust. The Trust has been set up as a separate vehicle to hold contributions to the Assisted Places endeavour and we are delighted to demonstrate our support of the school's initiatives in this way.

The effect of this is much the same commitment as we gave by offering up our surplus income now that costs are borne by the school but the firmer footing of the undertaking to look after the OEA's administration has caused us to think we could make this powerful gesture.

I hope you enjoy this half time update between full Gazettes and we would still like to hear of editors in waiting. Future events are all over the website – please join in!



Message from the Chief Master, John Cloughton

On the day before I wrote this brief introduction to the Insight Gazette, the Junior Challenge Team was in the national finals at Pilgrims' School, in the Cathedral Close at Winchester. It's the Under 13 version of University Challenge. Of the team of four, three are here on Assisted Places and / or scholarships and they are bright as buttons, if not quite bright enough to beat the home team in the semi-finals.

These four boys will be the intellectual lifeblood in the coming years of this school, not only excelling, but also setting the standards for others and making their teachers think and laugh. In return, I believe that this school will provide them with wondrous opportunities to succeed in and contribute to the world beyond. That is why the Assisted Places Fund that we are launching is so important. There are other major changes – the end of A Levels and the beginning of the International Baccalaureate, the end of the gyms and the Music School and the beginning of the Paul and Jill Ruddock Performing Arts Centre – but none is more important than getting the brightest boys to come here.

A special message from the Chairman of the Foundation, Michael J Price CBE

I should like to take this opportunity to express the hope that the new Assisted Places Fund is successful in raising money principally to fund bursaries in order that more boys, no matter what their financial circumstances, can benefit from an education at King Edward's School. It is of vital importance that the school is accessible to the widest number of families in our city and its environs. I wish to assure all Old Edwardians and friends of King Edward's School that the existence and, hopefully, success of the new Fund will not diminish the Foundation's commitment to continue to support the school by the proper and prudent management of the funds at its disposal.

Whilst the Foundation has not been left untouched by the current economic malaise, it is important that, by careful stewardship of funds, Governors are able to help the school realise its ambitious plans for the future.

With all the very best wishes for the future of the school and to Old Edwardians everywhere.

Extract from a letter from the Chairman of the Foundation. The full letter will be published in the next Old Edwardians Gazette.



Old boys together - Gareth Davies, Head Boy, the Chief Master and Lee Child (1973) outside the main doors at Speech Day. Lee Child, known to his former school friends as Jim Grant, was this year's speaker. He is author of the 35-million selling Jack Reacher series.

Assembly in Big School



Calling all Old Edwardians

During July and August twelve current pupils and recent leavers will be calling some 1,500 Old Edwardians to seek support for the new Assisted Places Fund, which aims to increase the number of bright boys within the school who receive financial support in the form of Assisted Places.

There are currently 150 boys in the school who have an Assisted Place, where some or all of their fees are paid for them. The majority receive funding from the King Edward VI Foundation, which gives £1 million each year to the school, but 20 are also funded by former pupils, companies and trusts.

However, there are many more bright boys from the Birmingham area who apply each year and the school is unable to help. The aim now is to double the number of places that are available so that 300 boys receive financial support. The Chief Master, John Cloughton (1975) says, "I write too many letters to the parents of bright boys who do well in our entrance exam each year to say that they have passed and we can offer them a place but that we cannot provide any financial support. Our aim is to raise enough funds so that any bright boy can come here and I can stop writing these letters."

Former Head of School and Managing Partner of Wragges, a leading Birmingham law firm, Ian Metcalfe (1976) says, "It's vital for this scheme to work. My brother and I were lucky enough to have our fees paid through the Direct Grant System. Without this, we wouldn't have been able to come and I hope that other Old Edwardians who benefited will also be able to give back to help the pupils of the future."

Over thirty years on Rajiv Gogna, who left this summer, feels his family has benefited in a similar way. He says, "My brother came here and we both had Assisted Places. My brother went to Cambridge and I am lucky enough to have a place at Oxford. Without King Edward's I would not have been in such a strong position. Neither of my parents went to university and they are just so proud and grateful that we were given this opportunity."

MEET THE CALLERS

You can read more about the student telephone callers and the Assisted Places Fund online at www.trust.kes.org.uk/callers.



Lucy Parrott – Development Officer

Introducing the new Development Officer

Lucy has 6 years' experience of working in fundraising and communications, having previously worked at City University in London and The University of Sussex, where she also completed her BA degree in American Literature. Lucy lives in Sutton Coldfield and likes to travel in her spare time.

T: 0121 415 6055
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The King Edward's School Birmingham Trust launches new website

The King Edward's School Birmingham Trust has launched a new website at www.trust.kes.org.uk. The Trust was set up last year to receive donations on behalf of the school. On the new website you can find out more about the Assisted Places Fund and the different ways you can support it. You can also find quotes from donors and recipients and watch a film about why the Fund is so important.

DON'T FORGET TO BOOK YOUR PLACE AT THIS YEAR'S BIENNIAL DINNER

This year's 39th Biennial Dinner is taking place on Saturday 18th September. Book online at www.olds.kes.org.uk/dinner by 3rd September.



Aidan Burley wins his Cannock Chase seat

Old Edwardian secures biggest Conservative swing of the election

Old Edwardian Aidan Burley MP (1997) won his Cannock Chase seat from Labour in the General Election with an impressive swing of 14.02% – the largest Labour to Conservative swing of the national poll. The BBC called it a “staggering result” and the Telegraph “the Tories’ greatest triumph.” This was a personal victory as the national average swing from Labour to the Conservatives was just 5%.

“I thought we might sneak it despite the 9,227 Labour majority,” says Aidan, “but I didn’t expect to have the biggest swing of the election. It was a bit of a surprise to end up with a 3,195 majority!”

Aidan’s interest in politics dates from the Sixth Form at King Edward’s when he stood for the school’s mock General Election and won a landslide victory for the Conservatives. That was in 1997, just before Tony Blair won power for Labour. “All through my twenties I only ever knew the Opposition so it is lovely to come in just as the Conservatives get back into power, aged 31,” he says.

Aidan – who Prime Minister David Cameron now refers to as “Mr 14%” – is excited about putting the ideas he talked about in Opposition into practice. “I am looking forward to rolling up my sleeves and implementing a few changes,” he says. “One of my key priorities is reducing some of the bureaucracy in the police, getting rid of the red tape and allowing them to concentrate on crime fighting, not form writing.”

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.olders.kes.org.uk/yournews or emailing the editor via editor@kes.org.uk.

Old Edwardian appointed to the Cabinet

David Willetts (1974) has been appointed as the Minister of State for Universities and Science. David held the Havant constituency for the Conservative Party at the 2010 General Election with 51.1% of the vote. He has been a Member of Parliament for Havant in Hampshire since 1992.

David has worked at HM Treasury, the Number 10 Policy Unit and served as Paymaster General in the last Conservative Government. He has also previously served as the Shadow Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and Shadow Secretary for Trade and Industry.

OTHER ELECTION SUCCESSES

The 2010 General Election was a particularly successful one for Old Edwardians, who now hold a total of five seats. Along with Aidan Burley and David Willetts, other winning candidates include Conservative MPs Stephen Mosley (1990), who won the Chester seat, and Sir Alan Haselhurst (1951), who held onto the Essex seat of Saffron Walden. Liberal Democrat John Hemming (1978) also held onto his Birmingham Yardley seat.

Obituaries

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

Gilbert R. Ireland (1938)
W. J. Knights (1939)
H. E. Bingham (1943)
John H. Poole (1944)
John L. Sessions (1959)
M. O. Storer (1961)
Peter A. Oldershaw (1969)
John A. Fuller (1978)
Stuart J. Nicholls (former teacher 1961-1964)

A full list of Old Edwardians who have died this year, including some detailed obituaries, will appear in the next Old Edwardians Gazette.



Conor Woodman

Around the World in 80 Trades

Conor Woodman (1992) has written a book about his fascinating journey around the world as a solo trader trying to make a living by buying and selling products as he travelled from one country to another in 2008.

The book, *Around the World in 80 Trades: Adventures in Economics, from Coffee to Camels and Back*, was published in 2009 and followed Conor's decision to give up his lucrative career as a market analyst in the City of London in pursuit of a "more interesting way to make money."

Using the negotiating skills he learnt in the City and £25,000 from the sale of his home, he set out to buy local products in one country and attempted to sell them for a profit in another. His endeavours – as many unsuccessful as not – include trades and exports of camels from Sudan, coffee from Zambia, chilli from South Africa, horses from Kyrgyzstan and jade across China. In each case he attempted to sell his product on the next stop on his journey.

"I trained as an economist and worked in corporate finance, and I know about making money, but I just thought that the simple, ancient idea of trading is something I would never experience first hand and I wanted to know if I could bring my experience to bear on this really exciting way of making a living," he says.

Conor's journey through 13 countries was chronicled in the Channel 4 adventure series *Around the World in 80 Trades*, written and presented by Conor. The four-part series was broadcast in April, 2009.

OE celebrates his 100th birthday

A former pupil, reputed to be the most senior Old Edwardian, celebrated his 100th birthday on 7th November last year.

Reverend Christopher Evans left King Edward's in 1928 and was a contemporary of Enoch Powell. He remembers his time at the school fondly – particularly playing for the 1st XV rugby team and taking part in debates. His father worked at a small silversmiths and his mother was one of the first certificated teachers in Birmingham. They belonged to a group known as the 'Birmingham Welsh' – people who had left the principality to set up small businesses in Birmingham.

After school he went to Cambridge University, where he obtained a First Class degree in Theology. He later trained at Lincoln Theological College where he was taught by Michael Ramsey, later to serve as Archbishop of Canterbury. Christopher was ordained at Winchester and his first curacy was at St Barnabas in Southampton. He later became Chaplain at Corpus Christi College Oxford and Canon Professor at Durham (teaching church history) before his appointment as Professor of the New Testament at King's College London, where he remained until 1977. He finished his career at Glasgow University, where he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) degree.

Christopher and his wife Elna, who died in 1980, had a son, Jonathan, who himself has just retired as a priest.

New Street in 3D

This December will mark 75 years since King Edward's left the Sir Charles Barry Building in New Street. To celebrate the occasion the school will be screening a specially made film in the chapel, which was originally the upper corridor of the Barry Building, during December. The film will feature a unique tour of the building using some archive 3D images that were recently discovered and will be the central part of an exhibition of archive material relating to the building. Further information, including how to book for one of the screenings, will be available later in the year.

CAN YOU HELP?

We would like to interview Old Edwardians who were taught in the Barry building for the film. We are also interested in any archive material which old boys might have and are willing for us to use in the accompanying exhibition. If you are happy to help out, please contact Sue Dickens via oldeds@kes.org.uk or 0121 415 6050.



Big School in the old Barry Building



A science lesson

King Edward's becomes IB school

In January King Edward's was granted the status of an IB World School by the International Baccalaureate Organisation. As a result, this September the school will replace A Levels with the International Baccalaureate Diploma for its Sixth Form provision.

The International Baccalaureate was created in 1968 as an attempt to bring together the best elements of the British and European educational systems and is now taught in 2,721 schools in 138 countries. Over 220 of these schools are in the UK.

The IB Diploma will offer King Edward's a completely different approach to Sixth Form study. Whereas the A Level system tends towards specialisation, the IB Diploma requires a greater breadth of study, which means that boys will study six subjects instead of three or four. These subjects must include English, Mathematics, a science, a language and a humanities subject. The course also has a central core that binds it together. This core is composed of a course on The Theory of Knowledge, which explores how we know what we know, an extended essay on any subject and the Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) programme, whereby a student gets credit for extra-curricular activity.

It is felt that the greater range of subjects will prepare our boys better for a world with increasingly complex and inter-disciplinary problems and careers that are more likely to change. The international component is also valuable to a school like King Edward's, which has a 40% ethnic population and a rich cultural diversity.

John Cloughton, the Chief Master, says, "This is a historic moment for the school and, after three years of exploration and preparation, we are delighted to have been accepted as an IB World School. We are all very excited to be embarking on this new challenge which will change fundamentally what we provide for our boys in the Sixth Form."

Highest number of Oxbridge offers for a decade

Earlier this year Oxford University and Cambridge University made offers to 26 boys from King Edward's – our highest figure since 2002. John Cloughton, the Chief Master, is delighted with this outcome. "This has always been an exceptional generation of boys in the school and it is very exciting for the boys to receive offers," he says. "The list is particularly satisfying because of the breadth of success. There is barely a subject that has not had some success."



Yeajoon Cho

Olympiad success

King Edward's pupils have enjoyed another year of success in the Olympiads. Eleven Sixth Form boys completed the British Physics Olympiad (BPO) paper, all of whom received awards – two commendations and nine bronze awards. Speaking about the competition, Mike Hoffman, who received a bronze award, said, "The BPO is a great challenge that stretches your knowledge outside the usual A Level syllabus – it's nice to be made to think really hard." A special mention must also be made of Vishal Patil (Fifths) who took a gold medal award in the Junior Physics Olympiad, an outstanding achievement.

Five British Biology Olympiad candidates also gained awards in this year's competition. Anuj Wali received a commendation while both Ranvir Cheema and Rohith Sunkaraneni received bronze awards. Rohan Prakash and Yeajoon Cho did fantastically well to come in the top 45 students in the country. Both received gold awards and were asked to complete the round two selection papers. Yeajoon came in the top twelve and will now have the opportunity to progress to the practical stage of the competition (held at Birmingham University) which selects the final Olympiad team to represent the UK in the international final, being held in South Korea in July.

Banking on success

A team of King Edward's students won their area finals for the first time in a decade to make it to the National Final of the Bank of England's monetary policy competition for schools and colleges.

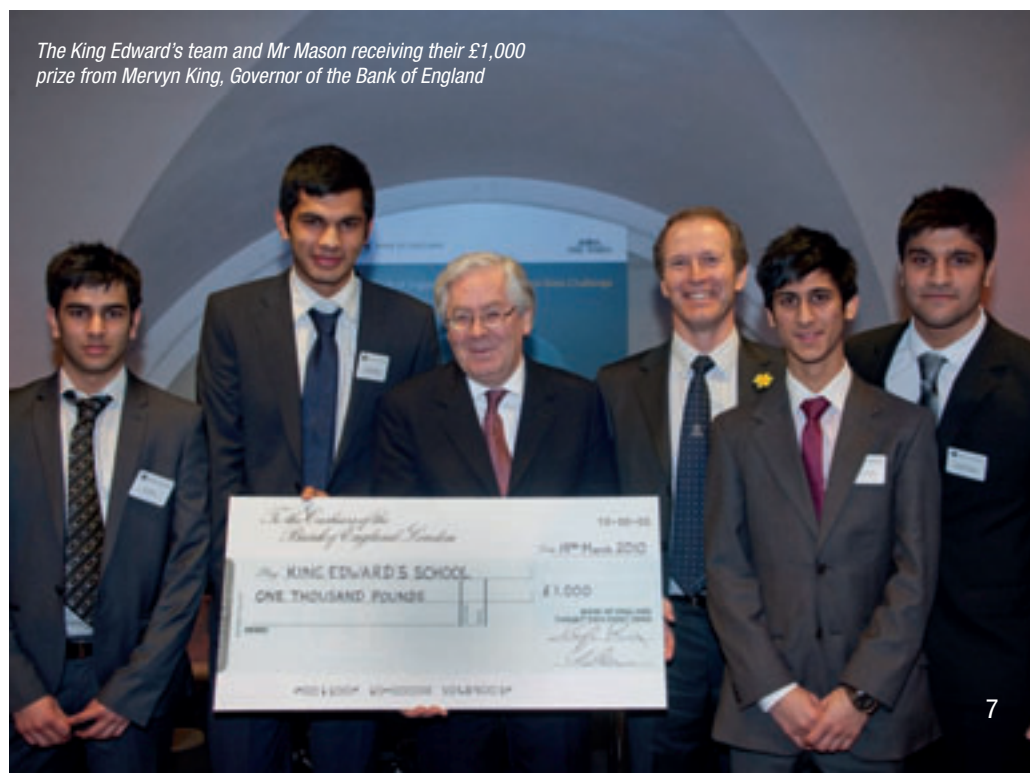
Target Two Point Zero, The Bank of England's interest rate challenge, asks students to analyse the UK economy and recommend monetary policy to a panel of Bank of England judges. In the area final the King Edward's team recommended that the Bank stick with an interest rate of 0.5% and continue with their plans for £200bn of quantitative easing. They were praised for their original research, particularly their surveys of King Edward's parents, their use of graphics and for being the only team to use humour in their presentation.

The competition from the other five finalists was impressive and unfortunately proved to be too strong for the King Edward's team of Faiz Haq (captain), Amrit Chahal, Gaurav Kumar and Rohin Maini. The boys should be incredibly proud of themselves regardless – the competition began with 292 schools and King Edward's remain the area champions for Wales, West Midlands and South West England.

Record results at A Level and AS Level

For the second successive year, the school produced record results at A Level and AS Level in 2009. At A Level (excluding General Studies) the percentage of A grades was 76.5%, an increase from last year's 72.3%. The percentage of A and B grades was 92.3%, marginally lower than last year's record. If General Studies is included, the percentage of A grades was 73.3% (63.8% in 2008) and the percentage of A and B grades was 91.0% (89.0% in 2008). On an individual basis, eleven boys got five As, 43 boys got four As and 83 out of 123 got 3 or more A grades.

Results at AS Level also beat last year's record. The percentage of A grades was 68.6% (66.2% in 2008) and the percentage of A and B grades was 89.0% (86.8% in 2008). The overall pass rate was 100%. At GCSE, 44.6% of subjects were passed at A*, 83.5% at A* or A. Ten boys gained a perfect 10 A*s and eight more gained 9A*s.



The King Edward's team and Mr Mason receiving their £1,000 prize from Mervyn King, Governor of the Bank of England



The Under 18 team retain their title

We are the champions, again!

The school's water polo team have become Under 18 national champions for the second time in three years, beating Manchester Grammar School in a penalty shoot-out 3-1, after a 3-3 draw in normal time.

In the group stages King Edward's lost to Manchester Grammar School 5-4, but beat Charterhouse 7-3 and in the semi-finals they beat City of London School 5-4. Against Manchester, by far the team's toughest opposition, they performed well, with Andrew Macarthur scoring all three goals to make it 3-3 at full-time.

The team had already seen the Under 16s go out early in their campaign due to penalties and with Manchester Grammar School having the Under 17 Great Britain goalkeeper on their side, they were rather concerned. However, they had the multi-talented James Shirley ready to do the business. In typical King Edward's spirit James saved more goals than his Great Britain rival and saved the day!

For several of the boys, this was their third national title since the school's Under 16 team were national champions in 2009. One of the players, Morgan Hirsch, has travelled to Hungary and Poland as Captain of the Great Britain Under 17 team and is also developing his coaching at the Regional Training Centre in Walsall.

Hockey report

This year has seen hockey go from strength to strength. Both the Under 18 and Under 13 teams reached the Midland finals in March. Whilst the Under 18s failed to win any of their matches, the Under 13s won all their games and made it through to the semi-finals where they lost to Bilton Grange School. Both teams should be proud of their efforts – no King Edward's hockey team has ever reached the national competition stages and the progress they have made this season is terrific. The Under 14 and Under 16 teams also performed well in the County Championships, with both losing to Rugby School in the semi-finals.

Sam White has been chosen to represent the Great Britain Swifts Under 16 side on a tour of the Netherlands. The Swifts are a team of boys selected from all the independent schools in Great Britain. Sam will gain great experience playing against the Belgian Under 16 side, as well as a host of elite Dutch club teams.

1st XI Scorecard:

P	W	D	L	F	A
35	22	3	10	110	40

Athletics report

Athletics continues to be strong in the senior part of the school. The Seniors were invited again to take part in the Cholmeley Shield competition against the big schools in the south-east. Eton won this year, with King Edward's losing out on second place to Harrow, but beating schools such as St Paul's and Highgate. Equally encouraging was the performance of the Under 17 team which just missed out on third place to St Paul's.

In local competition, RGS Worcester, Rugby, Bromsgrove and Uppingham have all been beaten, maintaining the level of success which has become the norm for senior teams. In the lower school, young athletes have recorded wins against the other schools of the King Edward's Foundation but have struggled against Nottingham, Loughborough and Worcester.

Two school records were also broken this year by Bradley Garmston (Fifth Form). His new 100m record is 10.9 seconds! To our misfortune he is leaving school to train with West Bromwich Albion Football Club.

Rugby report

For the second year in a row, snow managed to disrupt the rugby season, but even this distraction wasn't enough to see King Edward's falter under pressure. At the senior end of the school, the 1st XV finished with an outstanding 14 wins from 22 games and 574 points against 374, one of the best records for a number of years.

Lower down the school, successes have been just as numerous. The Under 15A and Under 13A teams both won the Greater Birmingham Cup, whilst the Under 16s lost in the semi-final of the North Midlands Cup to a strong Bromsgrove team. Congratulations must go to Ryan Millar and Rob Wigley, who were selected for the North Midlands and the Under 16 Scottish Exiles respectively.

Other news of note is that 34 senior players have signed up for the senior development tour to Argentina and Brazil, set to take place in August 2011. Former King Edward's 1st XV Captain, and now Worcester Warriors star, Miles Benjamin has also recently made his England Saxons debut against Ireland and Italy, even getting on the score sheet in the process.

1st XV Scorecard:

P	W	D	L	F	A
22	14	1	7	574	374



A King Edward's pupil dives across the tryline



Haris Ismail standing under the scoreboard at Eastern Road

Cricket report

The Under 15 team have enjoyed one of their best seasons ever. Winning all but two of their matches, the boys beat Solihull, RGS Worcester, Warwick, King's Worcester and Bishop Vesey's School on two occasions. The team progressed to the County Cup Final away at Warwick and, after a run of ten wins, finished runners up.

The Under 14 team have also had a successful season. They won the 2009 Under 13 Warwickshire County Cup Competition, which had been postponed from last year and, at the time of writing, have progressed to the semi-finals of this year's competition.

Division cricketing star Jack Cornick has also had a great season for the school and Warwickshire's Under 19 team where he scored 143 against Cheshire. Haris Ismail, 1st XI captain, made the second highest individual innings ever for the 1st XI scoring 157 against Warwick while Nathan Roberts (Fifths) scored 117 against Repton.

1st XI Scorecard:

P	W	D	L	Cancelled/ abandoned
18	5	1	12	1

Sports Shorts

Kendo

Rick Collins (Fourth) has won his age category at one of the largest Kendo Competitions in England. The international "Mumeishi 3s" held at the Mumeishi Kendo Club in London, attracts the best players from the UK, Poland, Spain, France and many more countries. Rick entered the 15-17 year olds category and finished top. Rick is being lined up for the British team and is hoping to compete at the European Championships next year.



Rick Collins at the Mumeishi Kendo Club in London

Table tennis

Sam Georgevic (Fourth) played table tennis for Scotland at the Maccabiah Games in Israel last summer. The Maccabiah Games is one of the largest international athletics gatherings in the world, "rather like a Jewish Olympics" according to Sam. Playing eight games over the course of the fortnight Sam competed in the Under 18 category, which at the age of 14 made him one of the youngest competitors there and one of only twelve Scots.

Trampolining

Upper Middle jumping superstar Daniel Berridge was selected to compete for England in the 4th International Trampoline Loulé Cup in Portugal in September. Daniel, aged 14, competed in the junior boys double mini trampoline competition. In the UK Nationals Daniel narrowly missed out on securing enough points for a place in the 2010 European Championship team but is hoping to be selected for the 2011 World Championships which will be held in Birmingham at the NIA.



The interior of the concert hall by day

The Paul and Jill Ruddock Performing Arts Centre

The importance of music and drama to the school is reflected in its decision to build, in cooperation with King Edward's High School, a major new performing arts centre. It will be called the Paul and Jill Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, in recognition of Old Edwardian Paul Ruddock's generous gift to the school. The remainder of the funding will come from a major investment from the King Edward VI Foundation and the two schools' own resources.

The centre will provide a major concert hall large enough to accommodate an orchestra of 80, a choir of 120 and an audience of more than 400. In addition, there will be a flexible drama studio that will seat 120, another dance and drama studio and new practice, rehearsal and teaching space for the school's music department. Work begins this summer and is expected to be finished early in 2012.

John Cloughton, the Chief Master, says, "For decades the school's music and drama have been exceptional and it will be wonderful to have facilities to match that quality. These facilities will also allow us to do more and offer more of our pupils the opportunity to participate and perform. This really will be something."

VIEW MORE IMAGES

More images of the new performing arts centre can be viewed online at www.kes.org.uk/pac.

Musical Maestros

Kiyam Lin (Divisions) and Roberto Ruisi (Upper Middles) have both been selected to play with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. This is an incredible achievement; to gain one of only 40 places the boys had to compete with hundreds of other violinists, many from specialist music schools. For Kiyam, this is the second time he has achieved this feat and Roberto becomes the youngest violinist in the prestigious orchestra. Another pupil who has achieved musical success recently is Grant McWalter (Sixths) who sang Handel's Messiah as part of a massive youth chorus at the Royal Albert Hall in London during the BBC Proms.



Kiyam Lin and Roberto Ruisi

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 the back cover).

A colourful performance of Hairspray

After months of rehearsing, the joint King Edward's School/King Edward's High School production of the musical Hairspray crashed onto the stage of Big School in February.

Performing a show in which half of the characters are of African Caribbean descent obviously posed problems but the directing team of Hannah Proops and Matthew Bartlett came up with an ingenious and appropriate solution: responding to a script which often referred to the Black company as 'Coloreds', they decided to segregate Baltimore into the 'Black and White' majority and the 'Colored' minority, distinguishing between the two using different costume colours.

The audiences were treated to a feast of colour (and black and white) in which energy, music and dance took centre stage. Set in Baltimore in 1962, Hairspray tells the story of Tracy Turnblad (Rosalind Urquhart), a big girl with big dreams, who desperately wants to join her teen idols on the all-singing, all-dancing 'Corny Collins Show'. But as she danced her way to pop-tastic super stardom, her realisation of the inequalities of racial segregation threatened her happiness, her future career and her hopes of getting to first base with heart-throb Link Larkin, played outstandingly by the previously undiscovered talent Tom Anderson.

Sam Newton also deserves a mention for his fittingly cool performance of Tracy's friend, Seaweed Stubbs. Stealing the show, however, were the stalwarts of King Edward's drama, Finn Milton and Christopher Bland. Finn's portrayal of Tracy's eccentric father and Christopher's worryingly realistic interpretation of a concerned mother had sides splitting throughout the audience, who were then reduced to hysterics by their duet 'Timeless'.



The winning Evans team. L-R: Ed Ratcliff, Sam Newton and Mark Wright

House Shout

In March came the most anticipated event of the school year, House Shout. The eight houses had been rehearsing for weeks and the dedication of the bands and dancers shone through, producing one of highest quality House Shouts of recent years.

The crowd was treated to a diverse choice of songs, from Vardy's selection of the Motown classic 'Blame it on the Boogie' to Cary Gilson's hard rock 'Welcome to the Jungle'. Jeune played a rendition of 'Since You've Been Gone' by Rainbow, which was given 7th place, surprisingly low considering their amusing stage show featuring James Travers, thoroughly at ease with his role as a woman.

Gifford, last year's winners, were favourites before the competition, but an excellent rendition of Bryan Adams' 'Summer of '69' was not enough to defend the title. That instead went to Evans' 'Fly Me to the Moon', a risky choice considering the usual House Shout diet of pop and rock classics.

Summer Concert

This year's Summer Concert was another outstanding display of musical talent. On 4th May over 1,200 people packed into Symphony Hall to watch pupils from King Edward's School and King Edward's High School perform together.

The concert began with a performance by the choral society and orchestra which featured solos from Rosheen Iyer and Jinah Shim from the girls' school. Rosheen sang a beautiful solo during Lambert's 'Rio Grande' to a captivated audience who were then treated to a wide range of music, including Korean folk song and a rendition of Rutter's 'When The Saints Go Marching In' by the boys' school choir. The evening finished off with a spectacular performance of Rossini's 'William Tell Overture' by the Symphony Orchestra. Those lucky enough to attend were once again left amazed at the skill and professionalism of such young musicians.



A colourful performance of Hairspray



The Living History Group show off their archery skills

Living History boys siege the Tower of London!

Over the May bank holiday, twelve boys and girls from the King Edward's Living History Group had the honour of working at the Tower of London, one of the most prestigious historical attractions in Britain. Arrival by boat through Traitor's Gate usually preceded a swift and bloody departure from this life. Thankfully they arrived through the West Gate in a school minibus and their welcome was rather warmer than that afforded to many previous guests!

During the three days, they were kept busy displaying their skills as merchants, archers, swordsmen and siege engineers. Perhaps the most impressive part of their performance was the hurling of cabbages along the length of the West Moat of the Tower, using their large trebuchet, to the surprise and delight of the mass of visitors.

The group have an invitation to return to the Tower and to work at Hampton Court Palace in the future. Before that they have a fortnight at the Danish Middle Ages Centre as a merchant's household to look forward to.

Junior Challenge Team come third in the country

In June a team of four Shells and Removes set off for The Pilgrims' School in Winchester for the National Schools Challenge Finals. They won their first match comfortably against Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School by around 810 points to 200. In the semi-final, they came up against the Pilgrims, who appeared to have read the complete works of Anne Fine. Around half the questions were focused on literature and as it is not one of the boys' strengths, it proved to be their downfall. They managed to make up points in the history and science questions but lost in the end by a respectable 110 points. Although this was disappointing initially, the boys should be proud of coming third in the country!

Chess Champions

In March King Edward's entered two teams of eight boys in the Birmingham Schools' Under 14 Invitation Quickplay Tournament, which was held at Windsor High School in Halesowen. For some of the boys taking part, it was their first taste of competitive chess for the school. Each player took part in five rounds and at the end of the tournament, the A team, captained by Richard Miller, won the 'Home' team trophy and the B team, captained by Adam Malik, won the B team trophy. In addition, despite the presence of Nottingham High School, one of the best chess schools in England, Aaron Dhesi, Hugh Lilburn and Richard Miller all won their respective board prizes.



Adam Malik and Richard Miller pose with their trophies



L-R: Sam Peat, Alex McPherson and Aakash Patel in front of the inflatable obstacle course.

Leadership EDGE Festival

The school's Leadership Group hosted its first ever EDGE Festival in March. Designed for King Edward's pupils from the Shells and Removes and pupils from local primary school Chandos Junior School, the afternoon was billed as a fête of fun for all. With numerous activities such as sumo wrestling, inflatable games and a large-scale assault course, the event was so successful that it is now set to become an annual part of the school's leadership programme.

The festival was the brainchild of Sixth Formers Alex McPherson (Head of King Edward's Leadership), Aakash Patel and Sam Peat, who secured a £2,000 grant from Birmingham City Council's Youth Opportunities Fund. As part of the award requirements, the pupils had to show how the event would benefit a range of young people by developing the leadership and event management skills of the boys involved, whilst providing a fun and engaging afternoon for younger pupils to enjoy.

After the event Alex said, "The festival has given the three of us fantastic experience in organising something so big and managing a huge team of 130 boys. It was great to be able to use the school grounds in a way that benefited so many and hopefully we have created something which will continue to get bigger and stronger each year with wider participation from more local primary schools."

CCF Annual General Inspection

The King Edward's School Combined Cadet Force paraded on 14th May for the Annual General Inspection by our own Brigade Commander, Brigadier Mark Banham MBE. Over 200 cadets paraded, including the RAF's competition-winning drill squad whose final flourish was a synchronised bow to the Brigadier in perfect timing.

The Cadets demonstrated a range of training activities, from basha-building and compo-cooking to lifesaving and first aid, weapon handling, navigation and climbing. The obligatory section attack on a mysterious enemy across the South Field provided plenty of smoke and gunfire and the evening finished with presentations and awards.

Knight Memorial Medal citations were awarded to Coxswain Andy Philpot, C/Sgt Mike Hoffman and F/Sgt Lewis Syms-Wood and in an unexpected addendum arranged without his knowledge, the Contingent Commander Sqn Ldr Duncan Raynor received the RAF's Certificate of Meritorious Service.



The top three Divisions cadets receive their awards from Brigadier Mark Banham MBE

Jordanian Adventures

While most people suffered the cold and gloom of a UK February, an intrepid party of 18 boys and two staff travelled the length of Jordan in half-term, experiencing a new country and culture. Travelling from Madaba with its sixth-century mosaic map of the Holy Land in St George's Church, they reached Mount Nebo (where Moses allegedly saw the Promised Land for the first time) followed by floating in the Dead Sea, which at -420m is the lowest point on earth.

Driving south they spent three days camping in the Wadi Rum, climbing Jordan's highest mountain, driving through the desert in 4x4s, scrambling up monolithic rocky jebels and natural arches, watching incredible sunsets and drinking lots of mint tea. A short drive to Aqaba saw the group in glass-bottomed boats in the Red Sea and they finished their trip with a visit to wondrous Petra, a city carved out from the surrounding rock. Their visit finished with a short walk to the 'view at the end of the world', but they all (just) made it back again.

Students taking advantage of the therapeutic properties of the Dead Sea mud



AND FINALLY!



(L-R): Mr Roll, Michael Vaughan and King Edward's Groundstaff Gary Watson and Richard Hare

Michael Vaughan visits the school

Michael Vaughan, 2005 Ashes winning England Captain, visited the school last summer in conjunction with Michael Vaughan Cricket, an initiative that brings children together to enjoy a week of cricket coaching. The programme is run through the King's Foundation's King's Camps, which are dedicated to developing children and young adults through sport.

Michael Vaughan Cricket provides a great introduction to cricket for beginners and develops the skills and techniques of children aged 5-10 years with a basic skill level. The programme is all about developing cricket skills through fun and uses a game-centred approach to improve children's batting, bowling and fielding.

Michael Vaughan Cricket runs cricket camps at over twenty venues throughout the UK during the summer school holidays. This year it will be at King Edward's School from 2nd-13th August.



The cast filming in the library

Lights, Camera, Shh!

Just when life at King Edward's could not get any more hectic the cast and crew of the BBC daytime drama 'Doctors' descended on the library for an afternoon of filming. The episode is called "Ghosts" and aired in late May.



The rehearsal room covered in newspaper

Musical madness

In March the joint boys' and girls' school Symphony Orchestra and Choral Society descended on the Pioneer Centre in Cleobury Mortimer for their annual residential weekend to prepare for upcoming concerts. Hours of rehearsal time were clocked but amazingly there was still time for other activities to take place. Over the last seven years, the noble and much celebrated convention of the Upper Sixth prank has seen balloons in teachers' bedrooms, percussion recitals at 7.30am and the contents of Mr. Bridle's room (bed and all) moved flawlessly to the middle of the barn dance floor, but this year's scheme to cover the rehearsal room in newspaper was the most ambitious, entertaining and spectacular yet.

FORTHCOMING OE EVENTS



Old Edwardians attending their 1990s reunion. Reports on all the events taking place this year will be published in the next Old Edwardians Gazette.

If you would like to book a place at any of the events listed here or ensure that you receive an invite, please contact Sue Dickens, OEA Administrator, at oldeds@kes.org.uk or on 0121 415 6050.

Biennial Dinner

Revisit the school and meet old friends at the 39th Biennial Dinner. This year's guest speaker will be Niels De Vos, Chief Executive of UK Athletics.

Date: Saturday 18th September
Time: 6.30pm for 7.30pm
Location: King Edward's School
Cost: £48
Booking: Online at www.oldeds.kes.org.uk/ dinner by Friday 3rd September

London Old Edwardians Dinner

Meet with fellow Old Edwardians based in London.

Date: Monday 29th November
Time: TBC
Location: RAF Club, Piccadilly, London
Cost: TBC
Booking: Invites will be sent out with booking forms in October. Booking will be available online at www.oldeds.kes.org.uk/londondinner.

Birmingham festive drinks

Meet up in the German Market with fellow Old Edwardians for a pre-Christmas glass of gluvine. All those who come along will get a free drink!

Date: Friday 17th December (TBC)
Time: 6-8pm
Location: The German Market, Victoria Square (TBC)
Cost: None – free drink
Booking: Email oldeds@kes.org.uk or sign up to the Old Edwardians Facebook group to let us know you are coming.

School lunchtime recitals

Throughout the course of the school year, King Edward's will be running several lunchtime recitals on Thursdays. For further information, please visit www.oldeds.kes.org.uk/lunchrecitals after the start of the 2011 Autumn Term.

School senior production

Old Edwardians are welcome to attend the annual senior production.

Date: 2nd – 5th February
Location: King Edward's School
Cost: TBC
Booking: Invitations will be mailed before the event to those living locally or those on the mailing list. If you would like to be on the mailing list, please email oldeds@kes.org.uk.

School sports fixtures

Old Edwardians are welcome to attend any of the school's sports fixtures throughout the year (including the 1st XV rugby match against Bromsgrove on 11th December). For further information, please visit www.oldeds.kes.org.uk/sportsfixtures.

BOOK ONLINE

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

REAR VIEW



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A snowball fight in February