



**We hope you enjoy our Autumn term newsletter with all the latest news from KES!**

### **Message from the Chief Master & Principal**

It has, as always, been a busy first term of the academic year, and our pupils and staff will be looking forward to a well-earned rest over the Christmas break.

This term, our sell-out Junior Production was a fabulous 'Oliver Twist' - not the musical version but the playscript adaption by Anya Reiss (a former pupil of mine from a previous chapter). Our Christmas concerts over the weekend, along with the traditional Carol Service at St. Philip's Cathedral, have once again heralded the festive season and showcased the extraordinary music-making that has long been a hallmark of King Edward's.



Other highlights of the term have included our U14 rugby team beating OSH to earn themselves a spot in the EDF Cup Final in March, and our distinguished quiz team winning the Lord Mayor's Quiz for the seventh year in a row.

I am also delighted to announce that we have made a permanent appointment to the role of Second Master. Ed Swanwick will be joining us in January from Westbourne International. Ed has substantive experience in leading the pastoral, academic and operational life in independent and international schools. His former roles include Senior Boarding Housemaster at The Scots College, Sydney, Assistant Head in charge of Boarding at Abingdon School, Deputy Head Pastoral at Clifton College and Senior Deputy Head at Toowoomba Anglican School, Australia. In a previous chapter, Ed coached the 1st XV at Bedford School, and he has also directed plays. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Louise Leigh, who has served with distinction as Acting Second Master in the interim.

I thank Young Edwardian Jacob (pictured) for his cheerful Christmas card design this year, and I wish all our Old Edwardians and friends of the school a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year!

Kirsty von Malaisé



### **Congratulations** to Ian Metcalfe, OBE, OE (1976) and Chair of the KES Trust

We are delighted to announce that earlier this term, Ian Metcalfe was appointed as one of eight new Deputy Lieutenants for the West Midlands - a prestigious role that recognises his outstanding contributions to the local community.

As a Deputy Lieutenant, Ian will support the Lord-Lieutenant, His Majesty The King's personal representative in the West Midlands region, across a wide range of civic, cultural, and social initiatives, with a particular focus on Birmingham.

Duties will include supporting official royal visits to the region, representation at citizenship ceremonies, supporting the armed forces particularly the reserve and cadet forces, encouraging charitable and voluntary work and local initiatives to benefit the community, as well as promoting and encouraging nominations for Honours, the King's Award for Voluntary Service, the King's Award for Enterprise and the Young Active Citizen's Award.

This appointment is a testament to Ian's commitment to service and leadership, and we are incredibly proud of his continued impact both within our schools and across the wider community.

### **Alumni Events Overseas**

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



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

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



### **James Grant aka Lee Child (1973) exhibition in Birmingham**

In November, Development Director, Laura Salt, visited the opening of *Lee Child: Creating Reacher*. This exciting exhibition offers a unique glimpse into the creative world of one of the world's best-selling authors, an author we are proud to call our own.

Commissioned by Central BID

Birmingham and curated by renowned art historian Ruth Millington, the exhibition brings together rare, never-before-seen material from Lee Child's personal archive, the Lee Child Archive, and the King Edward's School archives - including copies of some of his detention cards!

The exhibition is located in Grand Central, Birmingham, and is free to attend. There is no definitive end date as yet, but it should be around until the new year, so do take a look if you can.

## Remembering Rakesh Chauhan (2003)

A week ago we had the honour of being presented with an artwork that will take pride of place in the school collection. Guests included current serving OEs, the donors, veterans and our own school CCF representatives.

'It was a privilege to welcome guests to King Edward's School to honour the memory of Rakesh Chauhan OE, who will always hold a special place in our history. His courage, commitment and dedication exemplify the value of selfless service that we seek to instil in our pupils. The presentation of 'The Fallen of Afghanistan' artwork is both a lasting tribute and a poignant reminder of his sacrifice and the enduring impact of his life.'



Kirsty von Malaisé



## Class of 1983 reunion

On Saturday 8 November, the Class of 1983 gathered for their annual reunion - a tradition that for them takes place in the years between the school Biennial Dinner. Thanks to the efforts of Richard Robbins, this group has grown steadily year after year.

This time, nearly 20 alumni met at The Highfield in Edgbaston for an evening of great food, lively conversation, and plenty of reminiscing.

The group are keen to widen and to get in touch with any other in the Class of 1983 and if you'd like to be part of their next reunion, please contact the office and we'll be happy to put you in touch with Richard.

Likewise, if you're in other year groups and are already organising your own reunions outside of school, we'd love to hear about them and offer our support. For example in March, the Class of 1986 were looking to hold their own reunion locally but we have now arranged for this to be at school, the event is expecting around 50 guest from across KES and KEHS and will be a great way to celebrate their 40 years since leaving.

## 'This Shining Night' an original composition by Christopher Churcher (2022)

Royal Albert Hall organ supremo Anna Lapwood has released her recording of Christopher Churcher's original composition *This Shining Night* for all to enjoy. Here's how she announced it to her 1.4 million followers:

*'Surprise! A new recording as an early Christmas present to you all - @cfchurcher's stunning organ piece 'This Shining Night'. I received SO many emails from different people telling me about this piece and saying they had a feeling I would love it... and they were absolutely right. It traces the journey of our eyes adjusting to the night sky, gradually noticing more and more stars until the sky is a blaze of light at the end of the piece. Christopher is such a talented composer, so please go and follow him and listen to some of his other compositions too.'*



[You can listen here.](#)



## Collective giving funds new school minibus

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

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

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

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

## KEVI ACS Conference 2026

The King Edward VI (KEVI) African and Caribbean Society (ACS) Conference 2026, will take place at the University of Birmingham on Monday, 22 June 2026 to celebrate the history, present and future of 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride'.

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



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

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

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

## Dates for your Diary



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

Are you the class of 1956, 1966, 1976 or 1986? Then join us at King Edward's School, Birmingham for a special celebration reunion to celebrate your Platinum, Diamond, Golden or Ruby anniversary! This is a once in a decade opportunity so do not miss out. This reunion is also open to ALL Old Edwardians from all year groups. [You can book your place here.](#)

### Date TBC - Tolkien Lecture

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

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

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

### Sunday, 17 May 2026 - [Strava Barnt Green Cycle](#)

Join Keith Phillips for a 30 or 50 mile cycle around Worcestershire, before finishing at The Victoria for a drink on us! Bookings will open in the new year, but for now please **save the date.**

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

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

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