



***In this edition:* Gemstones Reunion - Tolkien Lecture - CCF Annual General Inspection
- Senior Production - Sports News - Alumni Services - Dates for your Diary**



**Welcome from the Chief Master & Principal,
Kirsty von Malaisé**

The Spring term has been wonderfully full, and I have been struck once again by the ambition of our boys and staff. The Senior Production 'The Great Gatsby' was a particular highlight, and it sat alongside a string of successes in concerts and national finals that have shown King Edward's boys achieving the highest accolades. Max, who will be deciding between taking up a scholarship at the Royal College of Music, or a place at Oxford University, dazzled and moved us with his commanding performance of Ravel's Piano Concerto for the Left Hand: I am sure we will all be hearing more of him in future. Our sporting teams are national champions in Squash and Badminton, and, competing as the reigning champions, we have reached national finals in U16 Hockey, and also in Waterpolo and Rugby. Culture Week and Neurodiversity Week brought the community together in thoughtful and celebratory ways, reminding us of the strength we draw from openness, mutual respect, and belonging.

On 14th March, the community came together in a sponsored run, attempting to clock up the miles between Birmingham and Paris, an initiative to fundraise for our Assisted Places, and to foreshadow Mr Labutut's Paris marathon. I believe that French soil was breached! As well as funds, we have raised within the community an awareness of our mission to educate bright boys and girls at the best schools in the region, regardless of their financial means.

Finally, it has been a joy to welcome back nearly 80 KES OEs for reunions this term. Seeing former pupils return, reconnecting with each other and with the schools, is always deeply heartening, and a reminder of the lifelong bonds that begin here. The gemstones reunion concluded with a King Edward's band, 'Ken Wood & The Mixers' (Classes of 74,76 and 77) playing the event to a close, their great gusto and panache rolling back the years. You never know what the annual 'House Shout' may lead to in the future....'

Tolkien Lecture

Tickets are now available for this year's Tolkien Lecture – *Cricket as Business, Culture and Entertainment* - Tuesday, 28 April, 6pm, at the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre.

Tickets cost £5 and can be purchased from the [RPAC website](#). The event is open to the whole school community across KES and KEHS.

Vikram Banerjee (OE 2002), is currently the Managing Director of The Hundred, and will take a deep dive into the commercial engine behind the world's second-largest sport, uncovering the commercial, cultural and strategic decisions driving its evolution. He will be joined by former first-class cricketer Ragi Singh (OE 1994), who is Partner and Co-Lead of the Corporate Team at Gowling WLG LLP.



Sports News

Victor School Sports Magazine National - U16 champions

A huge [congratulations](#) to our U16 Badminton on their national title win. They have also qualified for the All England Schools Finals.

U16 National Squash champions

The U16 team were crowned national champions in the English Schools Championships, the best in the country. It's believed to be the first time the school has secured this title! An outstanding achievement from an outstanding squad.

Careers

Are you a member of the Personal Finance Society?

We are looking to connect with any Old Eds who are members of the Personal Finance Society and may be part of the pro bono schools outreach network 'My Personal Finance Skills Programme'.

This network provides schools and colleges with free financial education workshops nationally. If you are already part of the 'My Personal Finance Skills Programme' we would love to invite you into school so, please let us know by emailing oldeds@keschools.org.uk. If you are not part of the programme you can find out more [here](#).

Also a huge thank you to all our Old Eds who volunteered during our busy Careers Week this term. If anyone would like to get involved with any of our future careers events please email the Development and Alumni Relations Team on: oldeds@keschools.org.uk

Becky Cuthbert, Head of Careers





The Great Gatsby

This year's Senior Production was an adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*. The production had a unique spin upon which the characters of the book are characters within an in-universe film, giving the play a unique sense of identity and accessibility to a modern audience.

From the first read-through, it was clear to everyone involved how ambitious the undertaking was going to be, and as the dates drew closer, the magnitude of the task at hand started to seem daunting for them all, and difficult to conceive how all these moving parts could possibly slot together. However, they all agreed that the most memorable experience was the moment that everything did come together, and everyone could finally see the vision before them! Ultimately, the show was an amazing experience and the audiences absolutely loved it! Bravo.

CCF Annual Inspection

On Friday, 20 March, the KES CCF once again celebrated the work that cadets and staff have enjoyed over the past year. We were delighted to host Group Captain Ian Sargeant, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, as our Inspecting Officer this year along with Major Howard Smith, Commander Jon Shorrocks, Sub Lieutenant Olivia Morris and former KES Contingent Commander Duncan Raynor. We were very fortunate to also be able to welcome back OEs and former CCF cadets; Captain Jack Thompson, Sub Lieutenant Zain Aslam and Officer Cadet James Moore.



After the Parade and Inspection, the attending dignitaries, guests and parents were entertained with displays from each section spread around the school site all building towards the Inter Section Field Gun Competition which this year was won by the RAF Section.

The evening concluded with the presentation of awards where the Contingent recognised the exceptional work of our cadets and those who have stood out as embodying the core values of the CCF. The final awards of the night were the Knight Memorial Medals which are awarded to the Senior NCOs who have exemplified the ideals listed on the certificate they received from the endowment of the parents of Flying Officer Dennis Knight who was a cadet at KES and lost his life flying a Hurricane defending the Island of Malta in World War II.



Culture Week

Recently the school celebrated Culture Week. During this week, pupils engaged in a rich programme of events exploring language and culture. A staff panel responded to pupil questions on language and cultural experiences, while a pupil-led panel offered insights into reflections on their own cultures as well as the cultures of KES and KEHS. Their discussion also explored whether a global culture currently exists - or could exist in the future.

In addition, the KES Diversity Forum organised several activities throughout the week, including a joint folklore and storytelling workshop with KEHS.

Run to Paris

Our very own French and Spanish teacher, Mr Labatut is running in the Paris Marathon on 12 April and had the great idea of holding a Sponsored Run for the KES Community to run the equivalent distance in laps around the South Field.



On Saturday, 14 March staff and pupils took to the field to add their lap count to the total. It turned out to be a really terrific (sunny) morning, with lots of people showing up, and a really lovely family atmosphere – thank you all.

Many [congratulations](#) to everyone who contributed to the massive total of 532 laps of South Field! Although Paris wasn't quite reached, they did cross the channel safely and arrive at Boulogne!

Special [congratulations](#) go to: Lewis for achieving the pupil highest lap count of a huge 26 laps; Jibrail was second with an impressive 20 laps and Rohan was third with remarkable 12 laps; Henry who won the fastest lap time to run 750k in 2mins 57secs, and Will who just lost out to Henry by one second!

On the staff, Dr Carta who, in an absolutely unstoppable display of running prowess, completed a massive 30 laps of the field – 22.5km! Almost as impressive were Mr Lusk (15 laps), Mr Adams (12) and Mr Round and Mr Caveziel Cox (11 each). Mr Labatut himself managed just 14 laps – but he was doing a half-marathon in Bath the next day, so he was forgiven!

As it was a sponsored event, people were encouraged to make donations to the Assisted Places Fund. The current total raised stands at £4,258 – absolutely incredible! Thank you to everyone who ran, donated and organised the event and a huge good luck to Mr Labatut on 12 April!



Neurodiversity Week

Last week, our school proudly took part in Neurodiversity Celebration Week, a global initiative designed to recognise and value the many different ways people think, learn, and experience the world. It was a vibrant and meaningful week filled with learning and collaboration across our whole community.

Pupils attended assemblies exploring what neurodiversity means and why it matters. They discussed Nena Kalu, Turner Prize Artist, challenged common misconceptions and encouraged everyone to celebrate the unique ways our brains work.

Vince House opened its doors, which is the new dedicated SEND Space. This multipurpose space has been designed to be neurodivergent friendly and is used by pupils from Shells to Sixths.

One of the most impactful moments of the week was a dedicated session where teachers had the opportunity to learn directly from neurodivergent pupils. Pupils spoke candidly about their experiences in the classroom, what helps them thrive, and what small changes can make a big difference. This honest and collaborative dialogue strengthened understanding across the school and reinforced our commitment to ensuring every pupil feels supported and valued.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the week such a success!

Cleobury Mortimer Residential

The annual weekend trip to Cleobury Mortimer gave pupils the opportunity to hone their musical skills through rehearsals, while also strengthening friendships through activities such as bouncy castles and energetic barn dancing. It was a wonderful weekend full of joy and excitement, and it helped bring the music together in preparation for the Choral and Orchestral Concerts. And what a real triumph these concerts were!



Both the Choral Society and Symphony Orchestra performed excellently, and a great sense of well-deserved pride was felt by all involved.



Class of 1986 Reunion

We were delighted to welcome back over 50 Old Edwardians from KES and KEHS as they celebrated 40 years since leaving school. The evening was filled with shared memories, nostalgia, and plenty of catching up. As a group that usually hosts their reunion away from school, it was a delight to be able to host them at school this year!

There was plenty of time for guests to reconnect and reminisce about their school days and a carefully curated 1980s playlist set the backdrop for the evening! Special thanks to Paul Hill (1986) for liaising with the Development and Alumni Relations Office to make this such a success.

Gemstones Reunion

In February, the Development and Alumni Relations Office warmly welcomed back alumni from the classes of 1966, 1976 and 1986, alongside guests from other year groups across both KES and KEHS.



The day began with a welcome reception, where Chief Master & Principal, Kirsty von Malaisé, greeted guests and shared an update on school life today. Kirsty then handed over to our guest speaker, Lucy Smith (KEHS OE 2020), who delivered a fascinating talk on codebreaking at Bletchley Park.

Following the morning activities, guests enjoyed a delightful buffet lunch, after which our wonderful Sixth Formers led guided tours of the school. The reunion concluded in the Common Room with tea, coffee and a special performance by our Old Edwardian band, *Ken Wood & The Mixers*, a perfect finale to a day full of warmth, conversation and shared history.



Gazette 2026

We are full steam ahead with gathering together all the contributions for the Gazette 2026!

Thank you to all of those who have already sent in items for the 'News in Brief' section - they are delightful to read and cover such a wide range of topics! If anyone is now thinking they wish they had sent in a contribution - it's not too late!!! We still have room for a few more items!!

We ask for around 2-300 words and a photo to go alongside your piece, and please then send them to d.macleod@keschools.org.uk

KEVI ACS Conference 2026 - Reminder

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. 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



Tuesday 28th April - Tolkien Lecture

Join us for our upcoming 2026 Tolkien Lecture: An Evening with Vikram Banerjee (OE 2002) and Ragi Singh (OE 1994). Discover the commercial engine behind the world's second-largest sport. Uncovering the commercial, cultural and strategic decisions driving its evolution. [Tickets available here.](#)

Sunday 17th May - Strava Barnt Green Cycle

Join Mr Phillips for a 30 or 50 mile cycle around Worcestershire before finishing at The Victoria for a pint on us! If you are unable to join us in person, then complete the cycle wherever you are on Strava and share with us afterwards! [You can sign up for the event here.](#)

Saturday 6th June - Milestones Reunion

Did you leave KES in 1996, 2006 or 2016? Then we want to see you at your reunion in June! Join us for an evening of nostalgia and reminiscing, joint with KEHS. Tickets are £46.50 and you can [book your place here.](#)

****NEW EVENT**** Tuesday 25th June - OE London Drinks

Join us for a relaxed evening in the heart of the city, offering the perfect opportunity to reconnect with fellow Old Edwardians and hear the latest news from KES. You will receive a complimentary drink on arrival and the chance to meet fellow alumni in a friendly and informal setting. [Click here to book your place.](#)

****COMING SOON**** Former Staff Lunch

Date and information will be sent out as soon as possible.

Friday 11th September - University Networking

Did you leave KES in or after 2021 and are currently studying at University or just graduated? Then you are invited back to KES to network with some of our current sixth formers about all things University! The afternoon is free to attend and you can [book your place here.](#)

Spring has finally arrived. We hope you are enjoying warmer, drier days!