



Welcome to the final Gazette Online of the 2025-26 school year!

There are many interesting articles to read below and here are just a few of them:

Interdisciplinary Event; The Summer Jazz Concert; Sports News: KES hosts ICC Women's T20 World Cup training day at Eastern Road!

Second Master's Message

As another academic year draws to a close, it is worth pausing to reflect on just how much has been achieved across King Edward's School.

Young Edwardians have distinguished themselves in the classroom, on the stage, on the sports field and through an extraordinary range of co-curricular activities. From outstanding IB results to musical masterclasses, West End-quality productions to National finals in hockey, badminton and squash, they have continued to demonstrate the curiosity, commitment and character that have long defined a KES education.

Looking forward, there is a palpable sense of excitement permeating the school as we prepare to celebrate the School's 475th anniversary. Milestones such as this invite us to look both backwards and forwards: to take pride in the generations of Edwardians who have shaped the School's history and to feel excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.

Schools are, above all, communities of people. I would like to thank our staff, parents, Old Edwardians and friends of the School for the support they continue to provide. Together, we help ensure that today's Young Edwardians can make the most of the remarkable opportunities that KES offers.

I wish all members of the Edwardian community a restful summer and look forward to the year ahead.
Ed Swannick



Interdisciplinary Event

At the end of June, Year 12 pupils from KES and KEHS came together for two interdisciplinary project days designed to encourage collaboration, curiosity and creative thinking. Pupils explored one of two broad themes (Perception and Green), developing their own research questions and investigating topics that ranged from social media algorithms and greenwashing to branding, culture, health, medicine and the natural world.

Pupils spent two days planning investigations, collecting and analysing data, carrying out research, and designing posters to communicate their findings. The project culminated in a presentation session where groups shared their work with peers and staff.

The interdisciplinary days were a valuable reminder that the most interesting questions rarely belong to a single subject, and that

innovation often emerges when different ways of thinking come together and proved to be overwhelmingly positive.

Dr James Bendall

Speed Networking Event

The Careers Speed Networking Event had an extra warmth to it in late June, thanks to our Midlands meets Mediterranean weather. Under the thankfully high ceiling of Big School pupils and guest speakers enjoyed chilled drinks as the networking got under way.

The event allows the boys to chat with a range of professionals across many fields to ask whatever questions they see fit. It's an ideal chance to see how careers progress and not necessarily in the traditional straight line of school - university - job. There are many paths and it's a useful experience to chat to varied professionals on how they got to do what they do and any speed bumps they encountered on the way.

Thank you to those Old Eds who gave up their time to speak with the pupils and thank you to the numerous Old Eds who have helped with careers throughout the year.



Summer Jazz Concert

The final big concert of the year feature, our Swing Band with an amazing performance of *'Strike Up the Band'* and finished with *'Soul Bossa Nova'*. Max (Sixths) took on Kapustin's formidable *'Eight Concert Études No. 1 - Prelude'*. His incredible playing mixed classical precision with jazz, giving a beautiful, commanding solo performance.

There was a variety of exceptional small ensembles: soulful takes on jazz classics like *'Take Five'* (featuring Toby (UM) and

Ryan (Fourths)), *'Falling Behind Moon River'* sung by Tayesha (Upper Fifth - KEHS), *'Fly Me To The Moon'* and *'Summertime'* sung by Alex (Divs).

The Big Band then truly raised the roof, moving seamlessly from Glenn Miller's *'Moonlight Serenade'* to a thrilling finale of Oasis's *'Wonderwall'*, the entire ensemble showed precision and phenomenal teamwork. It was an unforgettable celebration of musical talent and a massive highlight of the summer.

We have also enjoyed many wonderful recitals throughout the year and are incredibly fortunate to have such a depth of musical talent across both KES and KEHS. Our pupils have shone as soloists and as members of small ensembles, choirs, bands and orchestras, enriching our schools with their exceptional musicianship.

KES hosts ICC Women's T20 World Cup training day!

On 12 June, KES was proud to support the Pakistan and India women's cricket teams as they prepared for their opening match at Edgbaston in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup. Both teams spent time at our Eastern Road cricket ground, just a mile from the stadium, making use of the top-class facilities on a glorious day.

12 pupils (11 from KES and one from KEHS) were selected to be net bowlers for the day. Nathan Round, Director of Cricket, said: *"This was a unique chance for these students to work alongside some of the world's best cricketers, observe elite preparation first hand, and gain valuable experience in a high-performance environment."*





Reading Week

It was delightful weather for Reading Week 2026 where pupils and teachers met at the Greek Theatre at break and lunchtimes to read aloud excerpts from their 'surprising reads' while enjoying some ice lollies. Particular highlights included hearing aloud the winning Mukwashi exchange poems; excerpts from A Level Philosophy texts and poetry by the late Simon Stacey from his recently published collection: *In, Through Alabaster*.

The library was abuzz as it hosted the annual book fair, and pupils from the Shells and Rems enjoyed a visit from Mitch Johnson, author of *Kick*.

Reading was celebrated throughout the school, and many book recommendations were exchanged. Hopefully everyone is now inspired to read even more over the summer holidays!

Mrs Stokes

ACS Conference

KEHS hosted the Annual African Caribbean Society Conference for the King Edward VI Foundation in late June. The theme, '*Honouring Your Community*', sparked inspiring conversations about the importance of giving back, creating opportunities and supporting the next generation. We were fortunate to hear from an incredible group of guest speakers and panellists who shared their experiences, insights, and commitment to making a positive impact.

One of the highlights of the day was celebrating the outstanding young people across the Foundation. Their talent, ambition, and dedication are a reminder of the transformative power of education and the opportunities it can create. Events like this reinforce the importance of investing in our communities and ensuring that future generations have the confidence and support to thrive. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making the conference such a meaningful and successful event.

Miss D P McKee



National Youth Theatre Success!

Huge **congratulations** to Zach (Divisions) and Poppy (KEHS Lower Sixth) on being selected for the National Youth Theatre!

What an incredible accomplishment, well done to them both!

Sports Teams News

Tennis - In the National Championships, the 1st team of Seb, Oli, Conor and Rishi beat Alcester Grammar and then enjoyed a fantastic win against Ellesmere College. Unfortunately, Repton proved too strong and the boys couldn't quite progress to Finals Week.

Athletics - William (800m), William (High Jump), Leo (300m), Joshua (100m) and Adhvaith (Triple jump) were all selected to represent South Birmingham in the West Midlands Schools athletics competition. Leo and Josh were then selected to compete for the West Midlands team in the Mason trophy. So far this term Leo (300m), Joshua (100m + 200m) and William (High jump) have all broken school records.

Cricket - The annual Solihull Sixes week is always a firm favourite among both pupils and staff, and this year certainly did not disappoint. We were incredibly proud to qualify for the final in every age group throughout the week - a remarkable achievement. The Upper Middles and Shells were crowned champions, while the Fourths and Removes finished as runners up.



Fencing: Carlino wins gold and bronze in London

Carlino (Rems) travelled to London recently to compete in the LPGS (Leon Paul Junior Series) Challenge Cup, organised by Fencers Club London. As part of his preparation for the upcoming European Championships, he competed in both the Under 14 and Cadet (Under 17) events, winning gold in the U14s and securing bronze in the U17s. An outstanding achievement across both categories. [Congratulations](#)

to Carlino!

The Class of 2026

On 1 July, we welcomed the Class of 2026 to the Old Edwardians' Club at their Leavers' BBQ.

Dr Shrawan Patel (2007) addressed the Sixths before we celebrated them becoming Old Edwardians. He reflected on his journey since leaving school, describing it as neither linear nor even winding, but more like a scatter graph. He emphasised that every opportunity he has embraced has ultimately led somewhere meaningful, even if the destination was not clear at the time. His key message was the importance of saying 'yes' to new experiences and opportunities, as you never know where they might take you or what doors they may open in the future.

The afternoon concluded with a BBQ attended by the leaving Sixths and staff. Opportunities, not only for staff and fellow pupils to sign the boys' Year Books, but also for them to collect their Old Eds leavers' bags.

Five days later, the Class of 2026 celebrated their excellent IB results. This year's cohort achieved an average points score of 38.11 points, with 46% of pupils attaining 40 points or more (up from 45% last year). Sixteen pupils achieved 43 points or above, including three pupils who scored 7s in all six of their academic subjects. The average points score per subject was 6. You can view the full report [here](#).

The Class of 2026 will now embark on the next stage of their journeys at leading universities in the UK including Oxford, Imperial, UCL, Durham and King's College London, as well as UCLA and University of Miami in the US. Pupils will go on to study a diverse range of subjects including Medicine, Engineering, Geography, Pharmacy, Maths, History and Economics.

We wish the Class of 2026 every success in the future and look forward to staying in touch as Old





Speech Day

On 4 July we welcomed the Class of 2026 and their families to Speech Day. Our guest speaker was Old Edwardian, Dr William Clarke (2008). William is an Associate Professor at the Centre for Integrative Neuroimaging, at the University of Oxford. In Oxford he leads a research group of nine post-doctoral researchers and students developing novel methods to image human neurochemistry. His group and work is funded by an eight-year Wellcome Trust Career Development Award.

His research focusses on the technical development of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to measure dynamic changes in brain chemistry and cell-type specific cellular structure in the living human brain.

William reflected on his time at King Edward's notably his time as part of the Royal Navy section; the many expeditions, caving, and a trip to southern Africa. He remarked on his fantastic teachers and the pinnacle for him was (obviously), Prince Lee winning the Cock House trophy in 2008, having made their way up from bottom of the table (just above Cary Gilson) in his first year!

Milestones Reunion

The Milestones Reunion took place in early June, bringing together Old Eds from both Schools to celebrate their anniversary years. We were delighted to welcome back the classes of 1996, 2006 and 2016.

While the weather was not always on our side, it certainly did not dampen the spirit of the occasion. Guests enjoyed guided tours of the Schools, followed by a warm welcome from the Chief Master and Principal.

Between the downpours, year group photographs were taken. These images not only serve as treasured mementoes for those who attended but will also become an important part of the Schools' archives for years to come.

Just a few weeks later, we were pleased to welcome a number of Old Eds to our London Drinks event at The Wren Tavern. Held during the first heatwave of the summer, we were particularly grateful for the venue's air conditioning, which helped keep everyone comfortable throughout the evening. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for alumni to reconnect and catch up with friends old and new. We appreciate that the high temperatures meant some were unable to attend, but we hope to host another gathering soon, so please watch this space for further details.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at these events. We look forward to welcoming you to our next events.



Book of Treasures – 475 Anniversary

As part of our 475th anniversary in 2027, work is underway on a beautifully illustrated 'Treasures' book, bringing together our traditions, people, places and everyday moments – from cherished rituals and co-curricular life to iconic spaces and a brief history from 1552. Due for publication in the summer of 2027, this special volume will resonate across the whole King Edward's community.

Become a subscriber, pre-order your copy and be acknowledged in its final pages. [Click here](#)

[Find out more about what's happening next year and how you can get involved.](#)

Dates for your Diary



Friday 11th September 2026 - [University Networking](#)

If you left King Edward's in or after 2021 then why not join us back at school in September to help the Class of 2027 with advice on Universities, different degree courses and university life in general!

Taking place from 16.00 - 17.30 at the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre. [Click here to book your free place now.](#)

Saturday 27th February 2027 - [Gemstones Reunion](#)

Did you leave KES in 1957, 1967, 1977 or 1987? Then we want to see you at this very special reunion, joint with KEHS, in February to celebrate your Milestone. This is a once in a decade opportunity so do not miss out! Please save the date.

Tuesday 20th April 2027 - [Tolkien Lecture](#)

We are delighted to announce that the 2027 Tolkien Lecture will be delivered by world-renowned author Lee Child (Jim Grant OE 1973) at the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre. More information to follow in due course.

Saturday 15th May 2027 - [Milestones Reunion](#)

We are holding a special reunion in May for the classes of 1997, 2007 and 2017 from both KES and KEHS and we want you to be part of it! Please save the date.

Sunday 16th May 2027 - [Strava Barnt Green Cycle](#)

Join Mr Phillips for an exciting cycle ride through the beautiful Worcestershire countryside. The ride will begin at 10.00 from Barnt Green Railway Station. After the ride, we will gather at The Victoria (B45 8NW) in Barnt Green to relax and celebrate. As a 'well done', all alumni will receive a voucher for their first drink on us. [Click here to book your free place now.](#)

Friday 28th May 2027 - [Dentist & Medic Mock Interviews](#)

We will once again be hosting a Mock Interview event for aspiring students who are looking to pursue a career in Dentistry or Medicine and we are seeking industry experts to conduct approximately **20-minute mock interviews** for our students.

This event will be held between 15.30 and 17.30 in the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre. If you are interested in helping, then drop us an email and please include your current job title and specialism.

Friday 25th June 2027 - [475 Careers & Networking Day](#)

Throughout the day, we'll be hosting a programme of events tailored to each year group - from workshops to talks and interactive activities. This event will bring together alumni, parents, partners and friends of both KES and KEHS to share insights and offer guidance. If you are interested in taking part in this event, we would be delighted to hear from you. [Express your interest here.](#)

Saturday, 26th June 2027 - [475 Gala Dinner](#)

Join us for the 475 Gala Dinner - a celebration of the people, achievements and stories that have shaped King Edward's School, and an opportunity to raise vital funds to enable more AP pupils to come through our doors. Enjoy a spectacular dinner, guest speakers and entertainment as we reflect on our heritage and raise a toast to the many years ahead for KES. Booking information to follow in due course.

Sunday 27th June 2027 - [475 KE Community Day](#)

Enjoy a 475th anniversary cricket match alongside family activities, food, games and entertainment. Bring friends, family and picnic blankets for a relaxed day of sport and community on South Field. More information to follow in due course.

Visit our [475 events page](#) or our [OE upcoming events page](#).

