

the Edwardian



The latest news from King Edward VI High School, Stafford

Autumn 2015



Students celebrate exam success

King Edward VI High School is pleased to announce record-breaking examination results - with over a third of all students attaining at A*-A grades in at least one of their GCSE subjects. There are far too many students to single out for their outstanding achievement, however a particular mention must be made for the achievement of Beth Poynton who achieved a fantastic nine A*s and three As.

Mr Christey, in his first year as Headteacher, was delighted with improvements in attainment and commended the "excellent achievement of our talented students" and congratulated staff and students on their hard work and commitment.

There was also good news over the summer for our Sixth Form students with excellent results for another successive year with a 99% pass rate; the vast majority

of students attaining their first choice university placement. Students doing particularly well include, Luke Acton 3As and 1B, Jenna Clayton 1A and 2Bs, Luke Bond 1A and 3Bs, Rhys Castellan 3Bs, Tim Pettifor 1A* 2As and 1B, Sophie Watson 2As 2Bs and Amy Wright 2As and 1C.

Pupils go batty for Eddie

At the end of the Summer Term, the school briefly added a new member to its roll.

Students on their way to school discovered an injured bat in the street and decided to bring it into school for help.

Lauren Rutter and Leah Ward, both now in Year 10, took the bat to the Science Department who took care of it and nicknamed him "Eddie".

Eddie is now at a bat sanctuary where he is being cared for.

Mr Christey, Headteacher, praised the girls' act of kindness, saying "Lauren and Leah did their bit for the local environment by rescuing this bat and did the right thing bringing it into school for safety. I commend their efforts and act of kindness for nature and they are an excellent representation of the kind, caring and responsible students we have at King Edward's."



Student declared European Champion in racing contest

A Year 8 pupil at King Edward's has been celebrating after being awarded the title of National, European and SPRC Champion in the Santa Pod Racing junior drag racing competition.

Lottie Bradford, who takes part in Santa Pod Racing Club events in her spare time, was given the award after gaining nearly 4,000 points in the national competition. The races take place mostly at the SPRC's raceway in Northampton and skilled Lottie fought off competition in the 8-18 year old category from Finland, France, the USA, the Czech Republic and more to be crowned champion.

Lottie, currently 12, hopes one day to race in the adult competitions and is already getting ready to move to the Junior Modified stage when she turns 13. "I just love cars" says Lottie. "My aunt and uncle took me to watch a drag race once, as they were VW Beetle dragsters and I just thought 'That look's fun - I'd be happy to have a go. Soon after that my dad came home and said 'I've bought you a car' and it all started from there".

Lottie hopes to keep her current car (see above) until she's 18 and then upgrade. The concept is a simple one with only Accelerator and Brake to operate, with an emergency switch just in case. However clearly there takes some skill to achieve what Lottie has achieved.

Headteacher, Mr Christey, said "I am very impressed by Lottie's achievement and she should be congratulated on winning not one, but three prestigious titles. Not only does Lottie work hard at school but devotes much of her free time to her favourite sport. Her efforts and commitment have paid off and myself, her parents, her fellow pupils and the whole school are immensely proud of her. Well done Lottie!"

Lottie's next big competition is at Easter 2016 where she hopes to defend her title.

Read the full article at kevi.org.uk/school-news.



Cerys with Alan O'Donohoe (left) and Simon Monk (right)

Techno Talent: Cerys demonstrates her computing skill

A pupil in Year 9 has been talking to The Edwardian about her technical talent as she learns how to be a computer programmer and even work with robots.

Cerys Lock has been taking part in the Raspberry Pi programme, organised by the Raspberry Pi Foundation based at the University of Cambridge. According to their website, "The Raspberry Pi Foundation is a registered educational charity based in the UK. Our Foundation's goal is to advance the education of adults and children, particularly in the field of computers, computer science and related subjects."

The initiative consists of working from a small handheld computer device and developing it, learning how to build your own computer and exploring the complexities of computer science.

Cerys says you can "expand it, do whatever" after initial and ongoing teaching from course leaders such as Alan O'Donohoe and Simon Monk (pictured above with Cerys). "The only thing that limits you is your imagination" says Cerys.

Cerys attends several regular meetings and training sessions in Preston, Lancashire and has been taking part since July. Her computer, the Raspberry Pi, contains an 8GB removable hard drive which runs on a Raspbian operating system.

Cerys' skills are advancing to the point where she is now embarking on a much bigger project looking at developing a robot.

According to the Foundation, "The Raspberry Pi is a low cost, credit-card sized computer that plugs into a computer monitor or TV, and uses a standard keyboard and mouse. It is a capable little device that enables people of all ages to explore computing, and to learn how to program in languages like Scratch and Python. It's capable of doing everything you'd expect a desktop computer to do, from browsing the internet and playing high-definition video, to making spreadsheets, word-processing, and playing games. We want to see the Raspberry Pi being used by kids all over the world to learn to program and understand how computers work."

Find out more about the programme by visiting their website, www.raspberrypi.org.

Dates for your diary

12 October
Open Week

15 October
Y7 & Y8 Library Coffee Morning

20 October
Chetwynd Centre's Year 12 Parents Evening

23 October
Enrichment Day
School closes for Half Term holiday

2 November
School reopens

11 November
Remembrance Day Service

16 November
Year 9 Reports published

17 November
Year 7 Tutor Day

24 November
Futures Evening for Years 9-13

30 November
INSET Day

1 December
Year 9 Pathways Parents' Evening

3 December
Year 7 & Y8 Library Coffee Morning

4 December
Year 11 Mock Exams begin

7 December
Sixth Form Tasters and Interviews



Castlechurch Primary School's Sports Day at King Edward VI

Sports fun for Castlechurch

Castlechurch came to our school for a sports day on Thursday 2nd July. The children participated in a range of activities including running races, throwing events and other skillful activities. The children completed a circuit full of all the events, run by the KEVI sports leaders, which they thoroughly enjoyed. While the kids were doing the activities, the teachers recorded who won and for the running race we did finals. Everyone came and sat around the running track and supported their team representative. We then ran the races and got to see the winner out of each team. All of the children really enjoyed the day and the teachers said what a wonderful experience it was for them. Unfortunately Year 5 could not make the sports day, as they were on a trip, so they missed out on a great morning of sport. The sports leaders also had a good time looking after the children and doing different activities with them. It was a great day!

Report by Allegra Soutar, Liberty Busby, Kirsten Reade Y10

Join the team and learn skills in journalism, writing and photography.
Speak to Mr Lomas or e-mail lomas.d@kevi.org.uk.

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School Clubs

Mondays

8.00 Do My Homework (C6)
 10.40 Library Open
 12.40 Humanities (F7)
 Library Open
 Do My Homework (C6)
 Do My Homework (M4)
 GCSE French Club (L1)
 12.50 Y11 English Revise (LB1)
 15.15 Do My Homework (F2)
 GCSE ICT/CS Support (H5)
 Third Space Learning (M4)

Tuesdays

8.00 Do My Homework (C6)
 10.40 Library Open
 12.40 Humanities (F7)
 Library Open
 Do My Homework (C6)
 Do My Homework (M4)
 GCSE French Club (L1)
 15.15 Do My Homework (F2)
 Third Space Learning (M4)

Wednesdays

8.00 Do My Homework (C6)
 10.40 Library Open
 12.40 Humanities (F7)
 Library Open
 Do My Homework (C6)
 Do My Homework (M4)
 GCSE French Club (L1)
 15.15 Do My Homework (F1)
 KS3 Spelling Club (C6)
 GCSE ICT/CS Support (F1)

Thursdays

8.00 Do My Homework (C6)
 10.40 Library Open
 12.40 Humanities (F7)
 Library Open
 Do My Homework (C6)
 Do My Homework (M4)
 GCSE French Club (L1)
 12.50 Y11 English Revise (LB1)
 15.15 Do My Homework (F2)
 GCSE Art Clinic (A2)
 Netball Club (Gym)
 Rugby All Years (SH)
 Vocal Club (MRM)

Fridays

8.00 Do My Homework (C6)
 10.40 Library Open
 12.40 Humanities (F7)
 Library Open
 Do My Homework (C6)
 Do My Homework (M4)
 GCSE French Club (L1)
 15.15 GCSE Art Clinic (A2)
 Badminton Club (SH)



Some of the entries for the bread-themed transition competition

Getting bready for Sixth Form

On 9th September there was a transition day for the new Year 12s who have recently moved up from Year 11.

Both Year 12 and Year 13 were split into teams to participate in an activity, the task was to shape, design and make a brand of bread complete with packaging. Since both years were mixed up it created a great opportunity to talk and work with people that we might not have spoken to before.

Coming up with ideas for the logo, shape, brand name and packing was a lot of fun to do because it got everyone in the team involved and it was fun to see people coming up with interesting ideas. By the end of the day you got to know the people in your team a little bit better than you did at the start of the day. Having the activity be a competition was also a great idea for motivation because everyone was very competitive.

One of the most interesting parts of the day was the end as you got to see the end product of each teams, which included alphabet bread where you could spell your name; loafers which were bread slippers for making sandwiches; a crown, as it was the same day that the Queen became the longest-reigning British monarch, as well as many more. It was surprising to see how many different and unique ideas people came up with for their bread company.

The other exciting part was to see which team won the competition, each team had to do a presentation in front of the judges as well as receive a vote from the audience which would contribute to their overall score. In the end the winning bread was the Tetris bread which was bread shaped into Tetris blocks so you could play with them.

Overall the day was a huge success and everybody really enjoyed themselves.

Report by Tan Suntronsaratoon Y12

Welcome to new staff

Mrs D Kelly
Leader of English

Mr G Ivanov
Teacher of Geography

Mrs A Bone
Learning Mentor

Mrs T Teasdale
Learning Mentor

New appointments

Mrs A Harte
Assistant Headteacher

Mrs S Dolloway
Leader of Science

Goodbye to staff

Mr S Brentnall
Leader of Science

Mrs D Morgan
Lead Teacher in MFL

Miss D Cunnion
Teacher of Mathematics

Mrs L Oates
Teacher of History

Miss R Marshall
Teacher of Geography

Mr S Goodwin
Teacher of PE

Mrs K Young
Art Technician

We are Hear4U

Are you struggling with homework, fallen out with friends, just need someone to talk to? We are Hear4U.

Hear4U is the peer mentoring service at King Edward VI High School; run by students, for students. Whatever the issue, we are here to listen to you and help.

The Peer Mentoring Programme aims to provide support for our new Year 7 students – individually and as a group, to help them settle in, make progress and to achieve their full potential within King Edward's.

However our services are open to all students.

Click the Hear4U button on the VLE, speak to a Hear4U mentor in your tutor group (Year 7 only) or around school.

For more information:

Hear4U Co-ordinator
Mr Lomas (Room F6)

Safeguarding Officer
Shona Elliott

safeguarding@kevi.org.uk

Text: **07624 880156**



University challenge

From the 9th to 11th September 2015 King Edward's new Year 12s and 13s took part in a three-day induction period in order to get to know new students and improve our team building skills. The induction was a great success and it was nice to feel as though Year 12 and 13 were becoming more integrated and supportive of one another.

During the first day, students participated in a bake-off style competition aiming to create a bread product superior to the rest! Ideas included Sammy the Snail bread, Baking Shapes Tetris bread and Alpha-bread; the overall turnout was very impressive and was definitely a great way to welcome students back to school. After this, the Sixth Form took part in an activities day on the field aimed at bringing us closer together and helping us work as a team. Challenges included building a structure out of just wood and ropes, and it became clear throughout the day that communication was key!

Finally, on Friday 11th, students visited Staffordshire University and took part in a range of activities ranging from talks about university itself, to dramas regarding conflict in school (some of which were extremely creative). The Staff hosted a great day for all involved and everyone went away having learned something new, or having something different to think about. Overall, a productive and helpful induction period was enjoyed by all, and the new Year 12s and 13s have transitioned smoothly into the new and exciting challenges which await them.

Report by Grace Edge Y13



Sixth Formers join forces to take on the Transition Challenge

Transition challenge for new Sixth Form

As part of the transfer to Sixth Form our first week was jammed full of activities which were designed to help make new friendships and to bring the two sixth form year groups closer together.

On our second day, the school outsourced a company to run outdoor exercises to encourage teamwork, communication and to help turn our brains back on after so many weeks out of school. The groups were made up of around 10 people from Years 12 and 13. In these teams we completed a number of challenges throughout the day, some much harder than others. One my group found particularly difficult was the Chinese Whisper themed game. This involved the group passing information along a line of people in order to recreate a shape using the same blocks on the finishing side of the line. After many attempts, the team was able to complete the challenge as we began to learn from our mistakes.

Probably the most enjoyable activity was when our team split in to two see who could build the tallest tower out of bamboo, tape and string. This was a extremely competitive activity as the other groups tower was right next to ours. Amid a very competitive atmosphere, each team raced to make the tallest tower. At the end there wasn't much difference in height but our team won.

I think the day was extremely helpful in making my transition to sixth form easier and much more enjoyable.

Report by Joe Harte Y12

Pupils learn British values

Pupils in each year group have spent two weeks focusing on British values in their registrations and Tutorial lessons. The lessons are part of a government initiative to ensure all pupils have an understanding and appreciation of core British values which include:

- Tolerance of beliefs
- Individual liberty
- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Mutual respect

The Department for Education has said "It is expected that pupils should understand that while different people may hold different views about what is 'right' and 'wrong', all people living in England are subject to its law."

Pupils are now putting together presentations in their form groups in preparation for forthcoming assemblies on the topic.

Look out for some of the best presentations on the school website soon.





Headteacher Mr Christey with the Head Boy Brandon McEleny, Head Girl Fran Bishop and Deputy Headteacher Mr Smith

Macmillan Coffee Morning raises over £400 for charity

Students, parents and staff came together on Friday 25th September for the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning to help raise money for the work of the cancer charity. Staff and students provided coffee and cakes for visitors, selling tickets for a charitable cause.

The morning proved a popular success with many parents and students in attendance throughout the morning. Organiser and Lead Teacher in Technology, Mrs Katabalwa, said "Thank you so much to you all. The donated cakes, tickets bought, raffle and donations totaled up to our school charity contribution of £429.22. Thank you to all the sixth formers and students who helped during the day to host the event. Your support is greatly appreciated."

Mr Christey added his own thanks to staff, parents and students for their support, saying "It was a memorable morning and very pleasing to see so many members of the local community come together to raise money for such an important cause. Thank you to all those who took part and organised the event."

So far, over £4.5million has been raised by similar coffee mornings across the country to support the work of Macmillan, a charity who help people affected by cancer and support them in the best way they can in their time of need.

Mini Olympic event for primary schools

On 29th June over 200 primary school children arrived at King Edward VI High School to partake in a Mini Olympics Day. The day began with registration in the sports hall and an introduction into what the exciting day had ahead. In total 3 school took part and they were all different ages.

From Castlechurch Primary School there were children from Years 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Woodseaves Primary School arrived on a coach and they had Year 3s and 4s with them. Gnosall St. Lawrence CE(C) Primary School also arrived on a coach with Year 3 and 4.

The children were divided up into teams and, in each team, divided into 7 groups. There were sack races, egg and spoon races, target throw, golf related activities, shuttle runs and even some football related activities.

All children thoroughly enjoyed themselves as the weather stayed lovely all day. I can imagine that the children went home and told their parents all of the exciting things they did on that day as it was a fun day for all involved.

**Report by Sam Cotterell
Y13**



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