



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
BIRMINGHAM

Insight Gazette

The annual review of the school year for Old Eds

Old Edwardians Gazette issue number: 285

Summer 2011



OLD EDS



ACADEMIC



SPORT



ARTS



EXTRA CURRICULAR

Looking back, looking forward

This year the school celebrated two key buildings in its past and future – the old Sir Charles Barry building on New Street, which was demolished in 1936, and its new state-of-the-art performing arts centre, which will be completed next year.

2011 marks 75 years since King Edward's undertook the biggest change in its history and left the New Street building, a site it had occupied since 1552. To celebrate this historic anniversary the school opened up its extensive archive to the school and local community in January and put together a special exhibition dedicated to the old Barry building and the boys who were taught there.

Over the course of three months over 1,000 Old Edwardians, current pupils, former teachers, parents and residents of Birmingham were welcomed through the doors of the chapel, which was originally the upper corridor of the old building, to see the New Street Remembered Exhibition and take a glimpse into the school's past.



The school's new performing arts centre.

Whilst the school celebrates its New Street heritage this year and laments the loss of one of the great buildings of Victorian Birmingham, the erection of another great building – its new £10 million performing arts centre – is progressing well. Next to the chapel, and all that remains of Barry's old building, the Shaylor construction team is hard at work laying the foundations for the school's future.

The Paul and Jill Ruddock Performing Arts Centre is now over halfway to completion and a festival is being planned to celebrate

the opening. This will be spread over the Summer Term and Old Edwardians of all age groups will be invited to attend two weekends dedicated to music and drama.

FIND OUT MORE INSIDE

Further information about the New Street Remembered Exhibition, construction of the new performing arts centre and the opening festival can be found inside.



The old New Street building being demolished.

FORTHCOMING OE EVENTS



Old Edwardians at this year's London Pub Night, which took place on Thursday 9th June.

Year Group Reunions - 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001

Reunions for Old Edwardians who left King Edward's in 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001.

Date: Saturday 8th October

Time: 6.30pm

Location: King Edward's School

Cost: £20

Booking: Invitations were sent out in July. You can book online at www.olders.kes.org.uk/reunion.

Law Drinks Reception

A networking event for Old Edwardians and parents working in the legal profession in Birmingham.

Date: Wednesday 19th October

Time: 6.30-8.30pm

Location: Wragge & Co, Birmingham

Cost: £10

Booking: Invitations will be emailed before the event to those living locally and those who work in Law. If you would like to be on the mailing list, please email olders@kes.org.uk.

London Old Edwardians Dinner

Meet with fellow Old Edwardians based in London.

Date: Monday 28th November

Time: 6.30pm for 7.30pm

Location: RAF Club, Piccadilly, London

Cost: £45 (£22.50 for Old Edwardians who left after 2001)

Booking: Invitations will be sent out with booking forms in October. Booking will be available online at www.olders.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 16th December

Time: 6-9pm

Location: The German Market, Victoria Square

Cost: None – free drink

Booking: Email olders@kes.org.uk or sign up to the Old Edwardians Facebook group to let us know you are coming.

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

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.olders.kes.org.uk/lunchrecitals after the start of the 2012 Autumn Term.

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 Saturday 10th December). For further information, please visit www.olders.kes.org.uk/sportsfixtures.

School senior production

Join us for a drinks reception with other Old Edwardians before the annual senior production.

Date: Thursday 26th January

Location: King Edward's School

Cost: £12 for adults, £6 for concessions

Booking: Invitations will be emailed before the event to those living locally or those on the mailing list. If you would like to be on the list, please email olders@kes.org.uk.

BOOK ONLINE

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



Message from the Chairman of the OEA, James Martin

It is extraordinary how much that happens in the life of the school and its alumni is likely to be of interest to our readers. This publication brings it all into sharp focus - we have everything from the Papal Visit to Les Misérables, from the Oxford Union Presidency to winning the School Challenge, and from our proud New Street heritage to the thrusting vibrancy of Cloggs.co.uk.

You will find references to successes of the Assisted Places scheme, especially some of our most gifted musicians who would not be fulfilling their potential without that help. The Fund, which is being promoted by John Cloughton with such energy and brought to life by Simon Lerwill and his team, has now received the £250,000 endowment from the OEA which we hope to be a powerfully symbolic pump primer for this year's efforts.

The more of us who decide to join in and help, the more that can be done to ensure the school gets the best youngsters through its doors. May I thank all of the team who look after the OEA's affairs both in the Development Office and on the Committee.

In particular may I thank and pass on my good wishes to John Wheatley (1969), who has agreed to succeed me as Chairman. I had expected to continue for another year in this role, one which has been a privilege and a pleasure, but find time pressures such that I regretfully need to step down. John has stepped into the breach with alacrity, gusto and very little notice - but that is why we asked him.



John Wheatley.



Message from the Chief Master, John Cloughton

In *Annie Hall* - or was it *Manhattan*? - Woody Allen says to Diane Keaton, "A relationship, I think, is like a shark, you know? It has to constantly move forward or it dies. And I think what we got on our hands is a dead shark." Well, a school is like a shark, too, but I don't think this one is dead, yet.

The Paul and Jill Ruddock Performing Arts Centre has begun to tower over the hockey pitches, the first year of the IB Diploma is coming to an end - and it really does make a difference that the Divisions have not had a term blighted by exams. The inspectors even had the audacity to pass through. In September there will be 35 boys arriving here on Assisted Places, the largest number for many a year, and we are already planning for our sports centre and classrooms to replace all that was lost in the grand demolition. And, in the midst of all this, an exceptional, and exceptionally nice, group of boys have filled their final year to the brim.

A school may be about grand designs but, in the end, the school is mainly about the life the boys lead, and that life is brimful.

Old Edwardians merchandise

Below is a selection of OE merchandise. Please visit the Old Edwardians website at www.olders.kes.org.uk/oe-shop to see the full range and to order items. You can also send a cheque (payable to the "Old Edwardians Association") to Sue Dickens, OEA Administrator, Development & OEA Office, King Edward's School, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham, B15 2UA.

Please note that all prices listed here include postage.



Cufflinks £10

A pair of enamelled cufflinks featuring the school crest in a smart presentation box.



Postcards £4

A selection of eight archive and current images of school life.

Ties £15 each

Alternative silk tie (left) and standard silk tie (right).



Pin badge £3

An enamelled pin badge featuring the school crest.



Bow ties £10

Standard design ready-tied and self-tied silk bow ties.



Ken Smith (1936), the Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress, Ronald Naylor (1931), Philip Edwards (1939), Michael Roper-Hall (1939) and John Cloughton, Chief Master (1975).

New Street Remembered Exhibition

The cold winter weather was not enough to dampen the spirits of over 1,000 Old Edwardians, current pupils, former teachers, parents and residents of Birmingham who turned up to see the school's special exhibition dedicated to New Street at the beginning of the year.

The New Street Remembered Exhibition, which ran between January and March, was constructed in the school's chapel to commemorate 75 years since King Edward's left the Sir Charles Barry building on New Street.



Brigadier Rupert Crowdy visits the school for the first time in over 80 years.

The occasion gave the school a rare opportunity to open up its extensive archive to the public and display a selection of materials from its New Street days, including original architectural drawings by Charles Barry, newspaper articles, school magazines and photos. Pieces of furniture designed by Augustus Pugin, which were originally in New Street, were also on display around the chapel. These items included Sapientia, the Headmaster's teaching desk, and two smaller thrones that were teaching desks for the second masters.



Ken Smith, Ronald Naylor, Philip Edwards and Michael Roper-Hall wearing their 3D glasses.

The main highlight of the exhibition was a nostalgic 3D film featuring recently discovered stereoscopic images of the old building and the memories of four old boys who were taught there in the 1920s and 1930s before it was demolished in 1936. The film was made by two Old Edwardians who are brothers – Elliot and Zander Weaver (2006 and 2009).

Among visitors to the exhibition were the four Old Edwardians who featured in the film – Ronald Naylor (1931), Ken Smith (1936), Philip Edwards (1939) and Michael Roper-Hall (1939) – and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham. Old Edwardian Brigadier Crowdy, who left King Edward's in 1928 and celebrated his 101st birthday this year, also made a special trip over from Oxfordshire to visit the chapel, which is all that remains of the building he was taught in. The exhibition was also visited by Augustus Pugin's granddaughter who came to see her ancestor's furniture.



Sapientia being moved out of Big School and into the chapel.

VIEW THE FILM

The film can be viewed online at www.oldeds.kes.org.uk/newstreet.



Chris Thomas (1997), Jonathan Cooper (1984), David Stevens (1993) and Paul Hockley (1989).

Graduate Careers Seminar Day

Sixteen Old Edwardians returned to King Edward's in January to speak to Fifth Formers about their careers, as part of the school's annual Graduate Careers Seminar Day.

The Careers Day is designed to provide pupils with information and advice about a wide range of different careers they might be interested in, including medicine, engineering, law, finance and the media.

The Old Edwardians, who all work in different sectors of employment, each ran a session which took the form of an interview with a teacher and pupils were able to select which session they were interested in attending. Afterwards, the old boys joined the Chief Master, John Claughton, for lunch in the school's dining hall.



Roger Guck (1966) speaks about his career as an architect.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

We are looking for Old Edwardians to take part in next year's Careers Day. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Sue Dickens, OEA Administrator, on 0121 415 6050 or oldeds@kes.org.uk.

Papal indulgence

Old Edwardian Bob Fisher (1965) was tasked to research and write the official 40 page commemorative guide for the Papal visit in September. Commissioned by the Bishops' Conference, the 'Benedict brochure' had to square many circles, involving Bob in balancing the pious with the populist, the spiritual with the secular. Internal politics were rife, so editing speeches by major church and government figures had to win approval at the highest level.

Bob said, "Considering I'm not a Catholic, the media furore surrounding the Pope's visit tested my ability to research, digest, understand, weigh up and translate everything, however complex and riddled with contradictions, into a widely acceptable (and saleable) whole. I took a deliberate and impartial step back from the controversy, using disciplines and a balanced approach that I inherited directly from King Edward's."



Tom Shippey giving his lecture.

Tolkien Centenary Lecture

2011 marks 100 years since J. R. R. Tolkien left King Edward's. In July 200 Old Edwardians and guests attended a special lecture by Old Edwardian Tom Shippey (1961), who is perhaps the world's foremost literary critic of Tolkien's works, to commemorate the occasion. Tom delivered an illustrated lecture entitled 'Tolkien: The Books, the Films, the Phenomenon', which was followed by a drinks reception and a chance for guests to visit a small Tolkien exhibition in the chapel.

TELL US YOUR NEWS!

We will be publishing the annual OE notes and news in the next Old Edwardians Gazette. Old Edwardians can update their news by visiting www.oldeds.kes.org.uk/yournews or emailing the editor via editor@kes.org.uk.



Pat Ford receiving flowers from the Chief Master at the Biennial Dinner in September.

Obituaries

Pat Ford, who was the Queen of the school's dining hall for 30 years, sadly passed away in January.

Pat was the mother of Peter Webber, the Catering Manager. Many Old Edwardians will remember her warmth, energy, laughter and capacity to see the good in naughty boys. It was striking how many former pupils she remembered at Old Edwardian events held at the school over the past few years. Her funeral took place at Lodge Hill Crematorium in Weoley Castle on Friday 21st January.

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

J M Day (1930)
W R James (1937)
Chris H Luckett (1952)
C D Tyler (1963)
Ian P Grainger Clemson (1965)
Anthony J Hopkins (1967)
Richard J Berry (1972)
Jeremy B Higgs (1975)

It is also with sadness that we report the death of Richard Bryan Johns (1948) in December 2009. We offer our sincerest apologies to his family and friends for omitting this news in previous issues of the Insight Gazette and Old Edwardians Gazette.

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



Ashvir Sangha with rapper Tinie Tempah who spoke at the Oxford Union last year.

Old Ed serves as Oxford Union President

Former School Captain Ashvir Sangha (2007) served as Oxford Union President for the university's 2011 Trinity Term, which ran from 1st May until 25th June this year.

Ashvir, who is studying History and Politics at Queen's College, Oxford took a year's sabbatical from his studies in order to take up the role at the Union, which is considered to be one of the world's most prestigious debating societies.

During his term as President Ashvir was responsible for organising debates with high-profile speakers including Willy Walsh, CEO of British Airways, Paul Walsh, CEO of Diageo and Home Secretary Theresa May. Prior to taking up the role of President, he served as Librarian and Treasurer-Elect for the Union.

Having been involved with debating from a young age at King Edward's, it was during his school days that he first developed an interest in the Oxford Union. "At the age of 15 I visited the Union to take part in a school debating competition," he said. "When I got there I saw photos on the wall of students with the Dalai Lama and the Queen and was amazed that students ran the whole society. I knew from that moment I wanted to be involved."

Ashvir credits his role as School Captain and involvement in the school's Leadership Society for the self-confidence he has today. "King Edward's is good at making people confident," he said. "Societies are student-led which gives boys the chance to do things themselves and learn how to develop professional relationships with people."

In terms of the future, Ashvir's immediate plan is to complete his degree, which he will finish in June 2012. Beyond that he is considering a number of career paths, one of which is starting up his own business – an interest that comes from serving as President of Oxford Entrepreneurs, another student-led initiative which promotes entrepreneurship in young people.

Performing arts centre – opening festival

The school is planning a festival next year to mark the opening of the new Paul and Jill Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, which is due to be finished in April 2012. The festival will be spread over the Summer Term and will include special music and theatre weekends for Old Edwardians of all generations.

The music weekend is scheduled for the 16–17th June and will comprise an orchestral concert (conducted by Peter Bridle) and a choral concert (conducted by Martin Monks) featuring old boys and girls and plenty of social opportunities to meet up with old friends.

The theatre weekend, which is planned for the 29th June–1st July, will be hosted by Jennifer Herbert, Director of Drama, and will include musical and dance performances from past and present students, and various workshops.

FIND OUT MORE

If you would like to get involved
or find out more visit
www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/pac-opening.



The interior of the performing arts centre.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The school archive is missing copies of the School Chronicles from 1975 and 1976. If you happen to have a copy that you are willing to lend us for scanning purposes please contact Sue Dickens, OEA Administrator, on 0121 415 6050 or oldereds@kes.org.uk.

The Insight Interview: Chris Thomas



Chris Thomas (second from left) celebrating winning 'Best Independent Footwear Retailer' at the Drapers Footwear Awards in May.

Chris Thomas (1997) runs online fashion shoe retailer Cloggs.co.uk with his brother Nick Thomas (1994). Cloggs.co.uk began operating online over ten years ago and its flagship store based in the Bullring Shopping Centre in Birmingham opened up in September 2009. The company, which is now worth over £10 million, stocks more than 20,000 items, including popular brands such as FitFlop, UGG and Birkenstock.

How did the idea of Cloggs.co.uk come about?

It was born out of the family business. My dad owned The Oasis, an independent fashion store in Birmingham. He was the landlord so he let out space to other sole traders in the store. The opportunity became available in 2001 to get involved with a sole trader called Cloggs. They had a small collection of footwear brands and wanted to sell them online. These were the days of dial up connections and sixteen bit colour websites so online retail was virtually unheard of. My brother and I decided to get involved and straight away we found that people all over the world wanted to buy our shoes online.

Have you had any role models during your career?

I love the title of one of Richard Branson's autobiographies, 'Screw it, let's do it', which epitomises the entrepreneurial flare. You can spend months analysing everything and still end up making the wrong decision when it was actually quicker and much better for everybody just to make a decision and then move on if it was wrong. So that is one of the phrases I always revert back to.

What is the hardest part about setting up your own business?

The hardest part is the realisation that it is all on your shoulders. You have those moments when it feels like the walls are caving in and no-one else can sort out a problem other than you. Our biggest challenge when we set up the business was trying to compete with national retailers. I spent months traipsing around London knocking on the doors of big brands trying to get supplies with them. It is difficult to get supplier relationships when you are a small business trying to be taken seriously. That was one of our biggest hurdles.

Do you think your time at King Edward's prepared you?

To be honest I would not have associated the two but it certainly did. When I left King Edward's I did not realise how far ahead the education system was. At university I was still learning stuff that I had learnt at GCSE so I was definitely a sharper tool going into that environment. The competitive spirit that King Edward's brings out in you stays with you forever. When I joined I felt like a small fish in a big pond, surrounded by high achievers. It is difficult to make yourself stand out but I think over the course of seven years you find a way to do it. That spirit inherently stays with you.

What has been your proudest moment so far?

Winning 'Best Independent Footwear Retailer' at the Drapers Footwear Awards in May, where we beat Clarks and Jimmy Choo, must come pretty close! I also feel very proud on days like today. We have 70 people working for us now and on the last Friday of every month we get together and do some kind of social activity. It is great to see that in the business when I think about where it came from. It was just me and my brother doing all the work ourselves. Now the business is its own organism.

What advice would you give to a young Old Edwardian starting up their own business?

I get the sense from people I speak to that they want to be in business as soon as possible but my attitude is not to rush. I went to do engineering because I thought that would provide me with good skills and then I went to be an accountant because I thought a financial background would be useful in the future. When the opportunity came along I was well-skilled and I knew what to do. You need time to work out what you are passionate about.



Inspectors grade school 'excellent'

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) conducted an interim inspection of King Edward's in May and gave the school an outstanding reference.

The inspection categorised all aspects of the school's provision - the pupils' achievements, their personal development, the curricular and extra-curricular provision, the teaching, the arrangement for pastoral care, health and safety, the governance, the leadership and management, the links with parents - as 'excellent', the strongest word the inspectors are allowed to use.

John Cloughton, the Chief Master, is delighted by the outcome, "King Edward's School aims to provide a remarkable education, combining the highest possible academic aspirations with the richest possible school life for the boys," he said. "The good news is that the inspectors confirm that this is what we are doing in all parts of school life. I am particularly delighted that, in the pre-inspection questionnaire, parents were 'overwhelmingly supportive of all aspects of the work of the school.' Long may that continue."

To view the full inspection report please visit the school's website at www.kes.org.uk/inspection-report.

Twenty Oxbridge offers for 2011

King Edward's has enjoyed another excellent year gaining 20 offers from Oxford and Cambridge. This means that the school has gained 65 offers from both universities in the last three years.

The Chief Master, John Cloughton said, "Competition for entry to both Oxford and Cambridge has never been tougher and we are delighted for these boys. One of the most striking features of the success is the breadth of subjects where they have been successful."



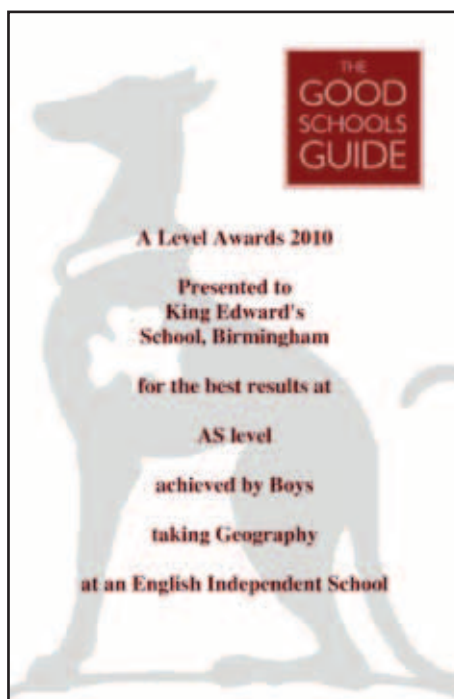
Record A Level year: 32.5% A.*

Record A Level results

The leavers of 2010 received record A Level exam results. The 114 candidates achieved A* grades in 32.5% of their subjects, which placed King Edward's amongst the top independent boys' schools in the country. A*/A grades were achieved in 76% of their subjects and A* - B in 95.1% of their subjects.

John Cloughton, the Chief Master, commented, "This has been an exceptional generation of pupils, not only in academic performance but in the range of their talents, their enthusiasm, their character and the relationships they have built with their teachers. It is a delight that so many boys have fulfilled their potential and so will go on to outstanding careers at university and beyond."

The GCSE results were also outstanding with 51% A*s and 83.8% A*/As. One boy gained 11 A*s out of 11 subjects and a further 15 gained 10 A*s out of 10 subjects. Out of 125 pupils, 65 achieved 10 A* or A grades.



Good Schools Guide Awards for Geography and DT

Each year the 'Good Schools Guide' presents awards to the independent schools that have achieved the highest points score at A Level and GCSE in particular subjects. Their aim is to highlight excellent teaching in individual subjects. This year, to add to the award last year for A Level Chemistry, King Edward's School gained an award for both AS Level Geography and GCSE Design and Technology.

Junior Maths Team Competition

More than 1,500 schools in the UK enter a team for the Mathematical Trust Team Maths Challenge competition each year. After the regional finals, 96 teams (including four boys from King Edward's) met in the Royal Horticultural Halls in London on 20th June for the national finals.

The King Edward's team, which included Harrison Green (Upper Middles), Clement Chan (Upper Middles), Viddy Reddy (Removes) and Jeremy Ho (Removes), did exceptionally well in all the rounds and came fourth overall in the country. Only St Paul's Girls' School, Magdalen College School and City of London School managed to beat them by a narrow margin. Congratulations to all four boys for a splendid performance!



Jeremy Ho and Harrison Green puzzling out a problem.



The tourists on Dover Beach.

West Indies Cricket Tour

In July a squad of fourteen cricketers and three teachers embarked on the school's first cricket tour for nearly a decade. The team travelled first to Barbados expecting sunny weather but it seemed that they took the typical English weather with them as the first game on tour, along with all cricket that day on the island, was duly called off. They played two more games in Barbados, winning one and losing one. The boys also found time to enjoy other activities such as snorkelling around the coral reefs and studying the fish populations of the island.

For the second part of their trip the team travelled to Saint Lucia where they played two further matches, winning one and losing the other, before taking part in the highlight of the trip – a match against Gros Islet Cricket Club at the Beausejour Stadium, where Michael Hussey famously scored 18 runs off the final over to take Australia to victory in the World Twenty20 semi-final. The match was very close with the school winning by one run. Jack Cornick (Sixths) scored 77 not out.

The tour to the West Indies was an extremely successful one, particularly as it allowed the boys to experience a new culture and learn a different way to play cricket.

Cricket report

The Summer Term allowed a phenomenal amount of cricket to be played due to the kind weather. Over 125 fixtures were scheduled so the chance to play school matches was plentiful in a term that has become more and more congested with exams and the plethora of other opportunities at King Edward's.

The junior teams entered seven Warwickshire County Cup competitions and at the time of writing four teams (Under 13A, Under 13B, Under 14A, Under 14B) are still chasing honours.

In other news, Warwickshire County Cricket Club held its Player of the Year Awards ceremony in February and Jack Cornick (Sixths) was awarded Player of the Year in both the Under 17 and Under 19 categories.

1st XI Scorecard:

P	W	D	L	Cancelled/ abandoned
14	6	0	6	2

Athletics report

In the Cholmeley Shield Competition held at Harrow School the Seniors and Intermediates both came fourth against the big day and boarding schools from the South-East. Individual winners were Ryan Millar (Divisions) in the 100 metres, Tim Griffith (Divisions) in the Steeplechase and Ed Davis (Sixths) in the high jump. This equals our best performance of the last ten years in the competition.

In local competition RGS Worcester was beaten on two occasions by the Seniors and equal success was registered against Uppingham, Nottingham, Bromsgrove and Oundle. In the lower school King Edward's beat Camp Hill in two age groups out of four and narrowly lost in the remaining competitions.

School records are now difficult to beat but two new Sports Day records were established in the high jump and the discus throw.

Rugby report

For a third year snow and ice played its part, with over 50 inter school fixtures having to be cancelled. However, King Edward's still played 173 fixtures this season, winning 88 of them.

The 1st XV finished with an impressive playing record of 16 wins from 24 games. They also reached round seven of the Daily Mail Vase. The Under 16 XV lost in the semi-final of the North Midlands Cup to a very strong Bromsgrove side. Congratulations must go to Jonathan Duckett (Fifths) on his selection to the North Midlands Under 16 XV and his Midlands trial selection.

The Under 14 A XV won the Greater Birmingham Cup, with the Under 15 A XV and Under 13 A XV both finishing runners up. The only unbeaten team was the mighty Under 12 D XV, with a playing record of five wins from five games and 254 points against 12!

In other news, the Edwardians Rugby Club at Streetsbrook Road had a very impressive season. After becoming Midlands Junior Vase Champions, they travelled to Twickenham for the National Junior Vase final against the Honourable Artillery Company. Although they finished runners-up, the Edwardians can take pride in the fact that they achieved something very special in the history of the club.

1st XV Scorecard:

P	W	D	L	F	A
24	16	1	7	557	294



Patrick Edwards escaping a tackle in the Under 13 Greater Birmingham Tournament.



Adam Forrest and Jay Reddy, stalwarts of the hockey teams.

Hockey report

Hockey continues to go from strength to strength with two sides reaching the Midlands hockey finals for the first time. The Under 14 age group played 22 games, won 19 and scored 93 goals. They missed out on a place in the national finals, losing to Repton School on penalty strokes in the semi-final.

The 1st XI exceeded all expectations and narrowly missed out on a place in the national finals. In the group games, the 1st XI beat Oakham School 2-1, Uppingham 2-0 and lost 4-0 to Repton. Unfortunately, the team lost 3-0 to Bromsgrove in the semi-final.

Reaching the last four of the Midlands hockey competitions in two age groups is a great achievement. King Edward's has competed against some of the best hockey schools in the country and everyone should be proud of their efforts.

In June a group of young and old Old Edwardians returned to the school to play three matches against each other and current students of the school. The younger OEs drew 1-1 against the students and won 1-0 against the older OEs, whilst the older OEs lost 0-2 against the students. They then made their way over to the school's dining hall to enjoy a three course dinner and plenty of wine.

1st XI Scorecard:

P	W	D	L	F	A
25	16	4	5	67	28

Sports Shorts



Tim Griffith finishing his fastest lap at the Queen Mary's Relay.

Senior Cross Country

Tim Griffith (Divisions) has won the Birmingham League outright, having been unbeaten all season. Tim gained a number of medals this year: fastest laps in the Queen Mary's Relay and Pairs Race and winner of the Sutton Park Race. On a larger stage his lap in the King Henry's Relay was third fastest out of an entry of 200 of the country's best schoolboy runners and in the West Midlands Young Athletes' League he finished second. Finally, he came 21st in the UK Under 17 Intercounties race, which is the top club competition in his age group.



Patrick Maughan winning gold.

Judo

Two King Edward's boys won gold medals in the Headmasters' Conference Boys Independent Schools' Judo Tournament in March. Patrick Maughan started the day in the Junior Under 42kg category and took a combined total of 22 seconds to win his two bouts, whilst Nafis Hussain gained three wins in the Senior -60kg class.

Patrick is the Amateur Judo Association Boys Under 40kg National Squad Champion and was invited to Holland to represent England in April. He was in the Crystal Palace Open age group Under 42kg International Tournament, where he secured a silver medal after beating contestants from Ireland, France, Poland, Japan, Germany and Holland.



The school's new performing arts centre under construction.

Performing arts centre construction under way

Construction of the school's new Paul and Jill Ruddock Performing Arts Centre is progressing well. The floor slabs are complete, along with the upper ground floor to second floor walls and lift shafts. The concrete frame is due to be finished in August and the building will be watertight by October. In addition, the new roadway around the building at the edge of the hockey pitches has been completed with the top section due to be placed after the building has been constructed.

During August building work will take place in the main school building. This will include the current P.E. office being converted into the new performing arts centre music library and work taking place to allow further disabled access into the main school building.

The new £10 million centre, which has been financed by Old Edwardian Paul Ruddock (1976) and the King Edward VI Foundation, will be a major boost for music and drama at both King Edward's School and King Edward's High School. It will provide a concert hall large enough to accommodate an orchestra of 80, a choir of 120 and an audience of more than 400. There will also be a flexible drama studio that will seat 120, another dance and drama studio and new practice, rehearsal and teaching space for music.

VIEW OUR WEBCAM

You can view a live webcam of the building work as it progresses on the Old Edwardians website at www.oldereds.kes.org.uk/pac.

House Shout

This year's House Shout competition was as popular as ever. An audience of pupils and staff were entertained to classics such as Andy Williams' 'Can't Take My Eyes Off You' (Gifford), 'Mambo No. 5' (Cary Gilson), and an interesting version of 'Pass The Dutchy' (Levett). However, overall the musical quality was the highest it has ever been and for the first time in House Shout history there was a draw for first place! This was between Vardy and Jeune but Vardy were later declared overall winners. To show no hard feelings the two bands fused together their songs of 'Mr Brightside' and 'Use Somebody' in a final assembly.



Vardy performing their winning song 'Mr Brightside'.



Roberto Ruisi, James Kuo, Dan Mort, Kiyam Lin and Matthew Raynor.

Musical success

This year a record-breaking five King Edward's pupils have been accepted to perform with the National Youth Orchestra. Not only have Roberto Ruisi (violin) and Kiyam Lin (violin) succeeded in keeping their places but they have also been joined by Matthew Rayner (viola), James Kuo (violin) and Dan Mort (clarinet). It is thought that no other school in Britain (apart from specialist music schools) has achieved this number of participants. Two of the musicians are also at King Edward's on an Assisted Place which highlights the importance of fundraising efforts to increase accessibility to the school.

The National Youth Orchestra (NYO) of Great Britain brings brilliant young musicians together and gives them the opportunity to play with young people from across the country and around the world. It is an unparalleled creative experience for the young people involved and an inspirational experience for audiences.

Les Misérables

This year's much-awaited senior production of *Les Misérables* could not, in spite of itself, be described as a miserable experience. The solo roles were, even by King Edward's standards, exceptional.

Kieran O'Brien made an appearance on the school drama scene as Jean Valjean, the lead of the musical, impressing everyone with his emotional stage presence. Tom Anderson played the dark horse as the policeman Javert, providing pathos and moral ambiguity to the piece. Tom Lilburn (as Enjolras) and Seb Ostrowicz (as Marius) were also excellent, with Seb especially rising to the challenge of singing with the talented Alice Halstead, who played Cosette.

Sam Wilson proved the most adept at getting the audiences' tear ducts to work, with his heart-wrenching death as Gavroche, and Tom Edwards, ever primus inter pares on the King Edward's stage, savoured the limelight with his risqué comedy.

Credit must also go to the band for sounding fantastic, the crew for making everything work backstage but most of all to Jenny Herbert and Phil Evans from the drama and music departments who both gave up so much of their own time to pull it all together.

Mrs Thernardier (Charlotte Merriam), Mr Thernardier (John Tsopanis) and Jean Valjean (Kieran O'Brien) in mid-performance, with Bhavik Parekh and Sam Wilson in the background.



The massed choirs in all their glory at the Symphony Hall.

Summer Concert

Every year the school's Summer Concert is a phenomenon to behold; organisation out of apparent chaos on the part of the music staff running it and the sheer quality of performance in the concert itself. This year's concert was particularly special as it was the final Summer Concert of Nigel Argust, a stalwart of King Edward's High School for many years.

To commemorate the event, the concert opened with the massed choirs of both schools performing Parry's 'I was Glad'. With Nigel himself at the keys of Symphony Hall's magnificent organ, the result for those singing and those watching was awe-inspiring. This opening was just an example of the superb quality of this year's concert.

The climax of the concert came, as always, with the Symphony Orchestra and a humorous performance of Johan Strauss the younger's 'Champagne Polka' (which inevitably led to the music staff drinking on stage) and then Strauss the elder's 'Radetsky March', a performance worthy of Vienna's Musikverein. Another year, another triumph and thus a suitable send off for Nigel.

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, contact Sue Dickens, OEA Administrator, on 0121 415 6050 or oldeds@kes.org.uk.





Henry Tonks, Oli Clarke, Yanbo Yin and Patrick Wernham.

School Challenge team are national champions

Continuing the tradition that King Edward's School wins the Schools Challenge Competition (the school equivalent of University Challenge) at least once a decade, a team consisting of Oli Clarke (Fourths), Henry Tonks (Sixths), Patrick Wernham (Upper Middles) and Yanbo Yin (Upper Middles) won the 2011 competition to make the hat-trick of three decades in a row.

The team competed in the national finals in May at Westminster School. They defeated last year's champions, Lancaster Royal Grammar School, in the quarter finals by 890 points to 580. In the semi-finals they beat the Northern Ireland champions, Abbey School, by 860 points to 490 and, in the final, they beat the home team, Westminster School, by the staggering score of 1000 to 630, due in part to Oli Clarke's knowledge of the Eurovision song contest. Westminster School has historically dominated the competition, winning it for five of the last seven years, so victory over them was particularly rewarding.

Ed Milton, the master in charge of the team and a teacher of History, said, "The four boys have been a perfect combination throughout the competition and have produced a fantastic performance in the final against outstanding opposition. We will miss Oli and Henry next year but they have written their names in the pages of Challenge history. Yanbo and Patrick, the dynamic duo, have many more years to look forward to."



The RAF competition team.

Fifth final in a row for RAF

Winning with record-breaking success against twelve schools in the western area Ground Training Competition earlier this year, the RAF section qualified for the national competition for an unparalleled fifth year in a row.

The team travelled to the national competition at RAF Cranwell in May, where they fought valiantly against the top twelve teams in the UK. Overall they were awarded first place in first aid, a very close second in shooting and third in drill. However, due to an injury incurred in personal training, they only achieved fourth place.

Overall this meant that the team finished in sixth place. Although this was disappointing, coming sixth out of 250 teams is an impressive achievement!



The Sixths dressed as Smurfs!

Smurfs raise money for Cot Fund

Non-Uniform Day in March featured the Sixths turning up en masse as Smurfs, raising money for Cot Fund (and leaving little smudges of blue behind them).

King Edward's pupils raised £18,000 for good causes this year, breaking last year's record of £15,000.



King Edward's Under 12s contemplate some cunning moves.

Chess triumph

Last summer ten King Edward's chess club members entered the UK Chess Team Championships held at Pontins, Brean Sands. Six games were played over two days and the results were a triumph for the school.

In the Under 16 division King Edward's won every one of its six matches against some good chess schools, thus taking the trophy with ease. Results in the Under 12 division were even better. In a combined event with Under 14 teams included, the school managed to win all but one of the matches and comprehensively won the Under 12 section.

In the Birmingham League Invitation Under 18 tournament held in November, King Edward's won the local schools trophy beating both King Edward's Camp Hill and King Edward's Five Ways. In the main tournament, however, the team was unable to match the might of Haberdashers' Aske's or Nottingham High School but it was an encouraging result for the future.

Debating – a return to glory days?

King Edward's debating teams have impressed judges with their acumen and debating maturity in various competitions this year.

Three Fifth Formers, Ashkaan Golestani, Dominic Bealby-Wright and Xiaoyuan Li, won the Birmingham Cup for the English-Speaking Union's national Schools' Public Speaking Competition early in the year.

In addition, the school's First Debating Team of Frank Lawton and Andrew Macarthur (both Divisions) won the national Birmingham Schools' Competition in February. King Edward's had half the teams in the final and four in the top eight. The same team won through to the national Finals' Day of the Oxford Union's UK-wide tournament in March, where they finished 44th out of more than 700 original teams.

In a third competition, Central Regional Champions Frank Lawton (Divisions) and Henry Tonks (Sixths) won a place at the England Final of the English-Speaking Union's (ESU) national Schools' Mace Debating Competition in London in April, where they competed against five of the best schools in the country. Although St Paul's School were crowned champions, Frank and Henry only lost to them on a 3-2 judging split, so King Edward's was unofficially placed second best debating school in England in the ESU Mace competition, losing only to the overall winners.



Living History construct medieval herb garden

During the course of the school year the Living History Group has been busy recreating a medieval apothecary's herb garden on an ill-regarded patch of soil in the grounds of King Edward's High School.

The garden, which was officially opened in July, is fully stocked with over forty medicinal herbs and boasts rowan and hazel hedging, raised beds and gravel paths that are not only authentic and practical but harmonious in colour and concept.

The hard effort of shifting and digging tons of earth and gravel, laying paths and hedges and propagating most of the plants from seed has not only been a rewarding experience for all the boys involved but has made something very special.



Ashkaan Golestani, Dominic Bealby-Wright and Xiaoyuan Li.

REAR VIEW



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Keeping dry during Rems Week in the Lake District.