



King Edward VII School



w: kes.sheffield.sch.uk

e: office@kes.sheffield.sch.uk



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NEWSLETTER May 2023

Welcome to the second School newsletter of 2022-2023.

Against the backdrop of an incredibly challenging post OFSTED 2022 inspection period, King Edward VII School continues to provide students with a good quality education, delivered by passionate teachers, and a vast array of opportunities to help them to grow, develop, succeed and access often unique experiences that will shape them and be remembered for a lifetime.

We are proud of the fact that our students, regardless of their individual circumstances or starting points, have the same ambitious, demanding, challenging opportunities to succeed in a tolerant, diverse, inclusive learning environment, firmly rooted in equality for all, that values and celebrates all individuals.

In this edition of our newsletter you will gain insight into our partnership work with different organisations such as Chol Arts on pages 7 and 8 and Sheffield Hallam University, with reference to its Languages Study Film Day, on pages 17 and 18.

The achievements of our students permeate almost every page. Enjoy reading about them. Marvel at the exceptional, educational trips to Iceland on page 19 and Washington DC on pages 20 and 21. Celebrate with the School on its significant success with the Home Language Accreditation Project (HOLA!) and being part of a winning £15m bid by the University College London to boost language learning across the country. See pages 25 and 26 for more details.

We hope you enjoy reading all the articles in this newsletter.

If you would like to keep up to date about the School on a regular basis, please follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/KESSheffield.

If you have an article that would be of interest to our School community, please email it to jjackson@kes.sheffield.sch.uk for consideration.

Warm regards
Linda Gooden
Headteacher



IMPORTANT DATES

- Half term holiday: Monday 29 May until Friday 2 June 2023
- Year 11 and Year 13 study leave commences - Monday 15 May 2023
- Year 8 Parents' Evening - Thursday 18 May 2023
- Year 6 Information Evening - Tuesday 13 June 2023
- Sports Day - Monday 10 July 2023
- Last day of term - Friday 21 July 2023
- School returns for the new School year 2023-2024 - Tuesday 5 September 2023



King Edward VII School



One of the top Yorkshire schools
for progression to Oxbridge -
33 students in the last 4 years.

Our students' success
is indicative of the quality of education they receive
at King Edward VII School.



Our Students

Y11 History Trip to Manor Lodge

On Friday 3rd and Monday 6th March Y11 History students visited Sheffield Manor Lodge in preparation for their GCSE History exam. Manor Lodge was chosen by AQA to be this year's historic environment study which means students will answer a 16-mark question on the case study as part of the Elizabethan England paper.

Bo Clay has written a report about her visit on Friday 3rd March:



“Mary Queen of Scots was held captive at Manor Lodge for 10 years, in what then was a large deer park southeast of Sheffield where the 3000 deer outnumbered the people. On the trip, we learned about key figures such as George Talbot who had custody of Mary and was married to Bess of Hardwick who later went on to build the famous Hardwick Hall. Sheffield was chosen because its location in central England meant there were no opportunities to attack and rescue Mary from the coast which was a huge threat to Elizabeth at the time.

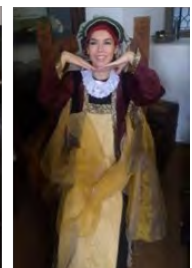


In the morning, we went on a tour of the grounds including the turret house which remains standing today. Here, we did a couple of activities to learn more about Mary's life as an imprisoned monarch including her luxury eating habits which cost George Talbot millions a year. My favourite bits were the stocks and the dress up (I got to wear a gown).

In the afternoon we did an escape room activity focused on decoding messages similar to those written by Mary in her attempts to escape. Afterwards, we designed our own house to hold Mary out of modelling clay. Everyone I spoke to really enjoyed the trip. It was great to do some hands-on learning and I personally had a blast despite the freezing weather.”



As a department we are looking forward to building on what we learnt at Manor Lodge in class after Easter in preparation for the exam. The students have benefited from the opportunity to see the site first hand and learn from the staff at Manor Lodge, and it was brilliant to get out of the classroom and have fun with the students exploring the site together. The staff at Manor Lodge have met a lot of Y11 students from around the country this year and they made a point of praising how particularly well behaved, engaged and focused our students were. Well done to all the students involved, and thanks for being great sports with the dressing up!



Our Students

Shakespeare Workshop



Year 8 students were recently invited to live and breathe Shakespeare's language in an interactive drama workshop from an actor's perspective.

Using the same techniques that a professional actor would use in a rehearsal room today, the sessions gave our students ownership of Shakespeare's text by encouraging them to explore the characters through their physicality and voice.



Our Year 8 students were guided by a professional actor through the dramatic moments of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. By putting the text 'up on its feet' and by drawing out the emotions of the characters, the language took on new life while the plot gained new meanings and perspectives. By the end of the workshop, the students were so engaged that they then performed pieces in front of their peers.



We have some excellent actors here at King Edward VII School! Well done all involved!



Our Students

Y11 GCSE Geography field visit to Flamborough Head



Although later than planned due to the inclement weather we experienced, on 24th March our Year 11 Geography students finally spent a day at Flamborough Head as part of their studies.

It was an absolutely fantastic trip with some sunshine and seals! Lots of great geography and students really engaging with the field study techniques under the expert tutorage of field study specialists. A truly memorable experience that the Year 11 Geographers will put to great use in their upcoming exams.



Our Students

Schools' Climate Education South Yorkshire 2023 Conference

On Thursday 2nd March, eight Lower School students went to Victoria Hall in Sheffield for the first in-person Schools' Climate Education South Yorkshire Conference.

The conference has run virtually for a number of years and has always been a fantastic interactive event. This year it was able to go ahead in person and was better than ever.

Our students attended a number of workshops on climate related topics such as fast fashion and community action, and they ended the day with a brilliant question and answer session with Abtisam Mohamed, a senior Councillor responsible for education.

The students prepared and asked numerous questions ranging from transport and the impact of the clean air zone to what the future holds for climate education. The students left the conference with some brilliant ideas on how to make an impact not only as an individual but also collectively as a school.

We look forward to putting some ideas into practice.



Schools' Climate Education



South Yorkshire

Our Students

Untold Stories at KES



GCSE Photography students have been working with Chol Arts on a short research project, called Untold Stories, linking to the Centenary of the BBC. Chol use a participatory approach, where artists work with groups and communities to create new work which, in this case included:

- Trying out XR Stories and Pilot Theatre's VR experience, Monoliths.
- Hearing from academics, such as Dr Yinka Olusoga, who research children's play and media.
- Creating a collaborative 360 sound scape about childhood experiences of broadcasting.
- Trying out object ethnography, using creative photography to explore meaning.
- Contributing to and co-creating an exhibition.

Dr Becky Parry, who led the project, pointed out that the young women who took part in the project were enthusiastic and very generous with their time and effort. The research team were also struck by the way the group asked questions about the activities and had the confidence to share their ideas. Chol's Carly Clarke, felt the project opened up an opportunity for the young women in the group to reflect on their own experiences of broadcasting:

We have used a cross art form approach, bringing a group of artists and young women together to explore some really challenging ideas. Some young women feel unseen and unheard, while others feel gender stereotypes are still the biggest issue they have to deal with.

Stephen Carley, Artist and Teacher at King Edward VII School, in Sheffield, suggested that involving young people in research can be highly valuable:

There's been a real buzz about this project and the group have been really engaged. It's important for them have extended time to think about the big questions and express their ideas creatively.

Artist, Meg Wellington-Barratt was impressed by the quality of the work created and the engagement of everyone in the group.

Nikki Stearman, Creative Producer at XR Stories expressed her excitement at hearing directly from young people about their experiences of virtual reality content:

Our Students

Through R&D Funding and expertise, XR Stories is helping to propel the innovative and dynamic digital storytelling community of our region. We are excited to hear about the experiences of new users of immersive technologies and how these experiences inform what they see as the future of broadcasting.

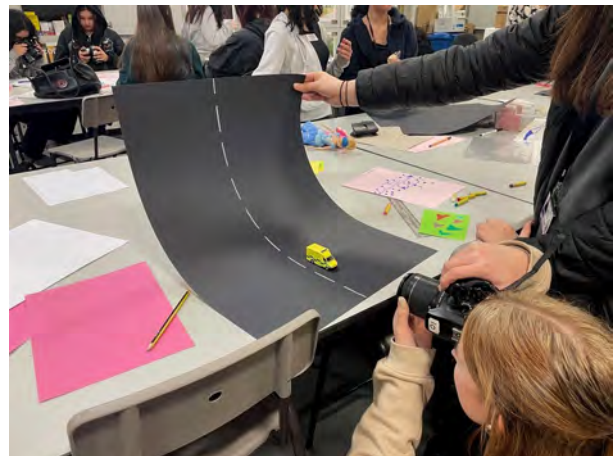
The finished work was shared in a pop up exhibition hosted in the Cholavan in February 2023. Insights from the project will be shared at XR Stories The Future is Northern conference on the 27 March 2023.

Artists / Collaborators

Jon Harrison is a filmmaker and digital artist working in the arts, education and heritage sector.

Jake Parry is a sound artist with expertise in spatial audio composition. He also releases electronic music under the alias unperson.

Meg Wellington is an artist, educator and writer. She works mainly with photography and print based media. Meg is currently studying towards a doctorate in education at the University of Sheffield, with a specific focus on photography education in schools and further education. She is council member of NSEAD (National Society for the Education in Art and Design).



Our Students

Spring Daffodils



Well all the hard work has paid off and the daffodils are looking wonderful. Many thanks to the Foundation Learning group who, on a very cold wet day in October, helped to plant some of the daffodils bulbs.

I knew the planting window of opportunity was closing so in my spare time, at lunch times and weekends, I was desperately trying to get the remaining bulbs in.

With more bulbs still to plant, the October break was upon us and unusually, I was not working during the holiday, but the niggling thought of the hundreds of remaining bulbs waiting to be planted was biting into my conscience.

On was the last day of my holiday, the sun was out so I gathered my family for a meeting about a task that had to be completed. Thankfully, Jo, my wife, and Autumn, my daughter, were very happy to agree to helping me plant the remaining bulbs. Five hours later and with some very sore knees and backs, we had finished.

Many thanks to all that helped especially, my family - who knows what we will be planting next!

Mr C. Jarvis

Buildings Officer



Our Students

Young Artists Summer Show

This year we have had lots of exciting entries of an exceptionally high standard from students across all key stages for the Young Artists Summer Show. We thought we should share some of the amazing work that students have been creating. It is very clear that lots of thought, effort and time have gone into this and we are very proud of all of the entries. If students did not manage to submit work this year, we will be looking for more entries next March, and hopefully this work will provide some inspiration as well as aspiration.

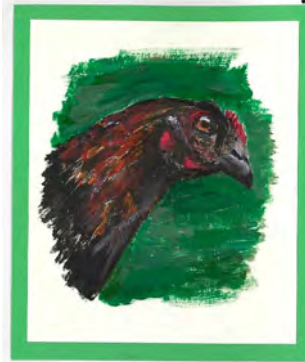
Mrs Heath



Charley Clarke Y13



Esme Lumb Y11



Poppy Tedstill Y9



Esme Griffin Y9



Dilnya Hussain Y10



Chloe Gough Y8



Lucy Hoyle Y7



Bella Hughes Y9

Our Students

Dragons' Den

Mrs Proost accompanied our successful Big Challenge team 'Woodland Crafts' to the Showroom workstation on 8th March for them to present their business to the Dragons!

Well done to Lucy-Laura and Rose! We will find out how successful they are at the awards evening.



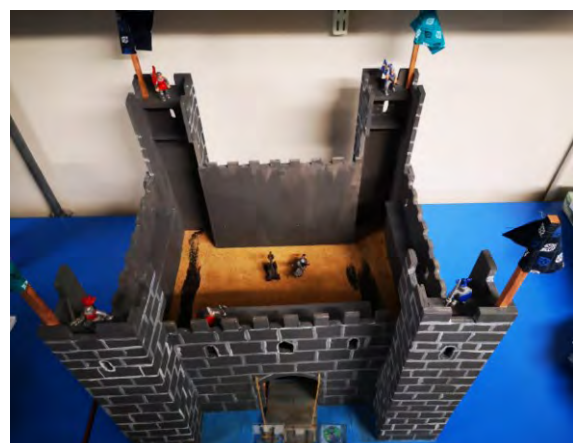
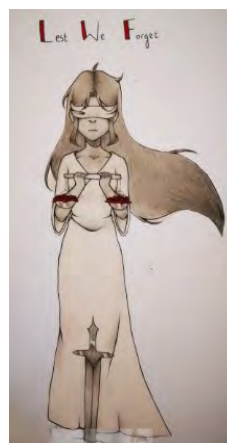
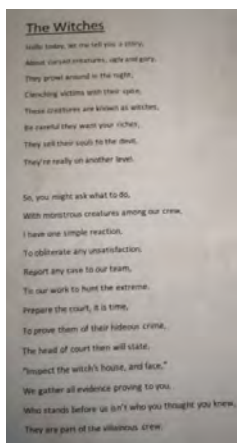
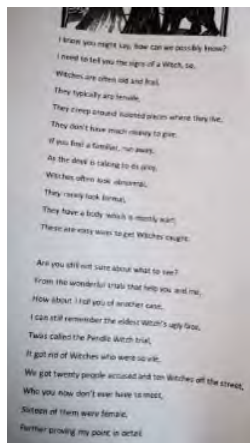
Action Tutoring

Our Year 7 Action Tutoring students recently completed their fifteen week course. Well done for their commitment to the after school programme! All have made great progress with their tutors.



History Challenge Projects

Key Stage 3 History students produced some fantastic History Challenge Projects last term. There were amazing poems, artwork, models and music. Here are just a few examples. A new project has been launched this term and we can't wait to see what is produced!



Year 7 Drama Club

Our Year 7 Drama Club were recently exploring how to create a sinking ship using ensemble theatre techniques and garden canes! We had a great deal of fun - this group are amazingly imaginative and work so well together.



Our Students

Cross Country Success

The PE department are very proud of our cross country runners who were selected to represent Sheffield at the South Yorkshire Cross Country Championships on 4th February. Freya became the South Yorkshire champion! Well done to all those who represented Sheffield!



Sheffield Schools' Hockey Tournament

King Edward VII School hosted the Year 7 Sheffield Schools' Hockey tournament on Thursday 2nd February 2023. It was another great turn out from the Year 7 hockey players. Well done to all those involved!



Sports Leaders



Well done to all those sports leaders who officiated as a young leaders at the Sheffield Schools' Panathlon challenge on Wednesday 8th February.



Our Students

Year 11 Mock Exams

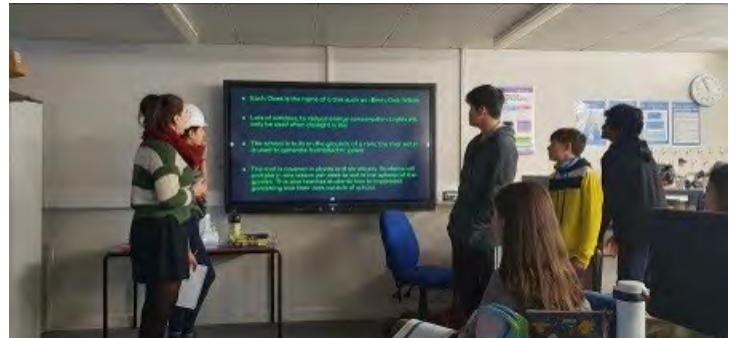
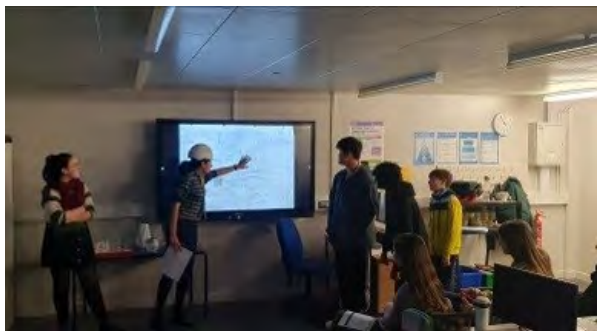
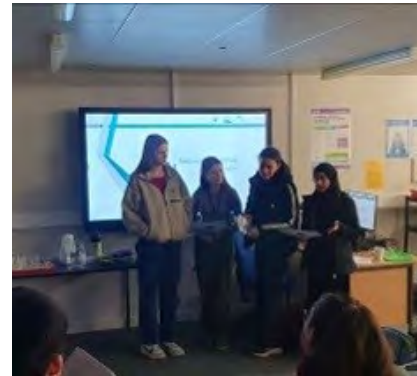
Each year we like our Year 11 students to gain a sense of what it feels like to take their GCSE exams and receive their results. There was a great atmosphere at the Year 11 mock exam results day on Friday 17th March! And there were some fantastic results too, well done everyone!



Our Students

Y9 Cutlers' Ambassadors

We were pleased to welcome Sophie Mosley from McLaughlin and Harvey Construction who delivered an interactive and informative session to our Y9 Cutlers' Ambassadors. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it with lots of interest in careers in engineering and construction.



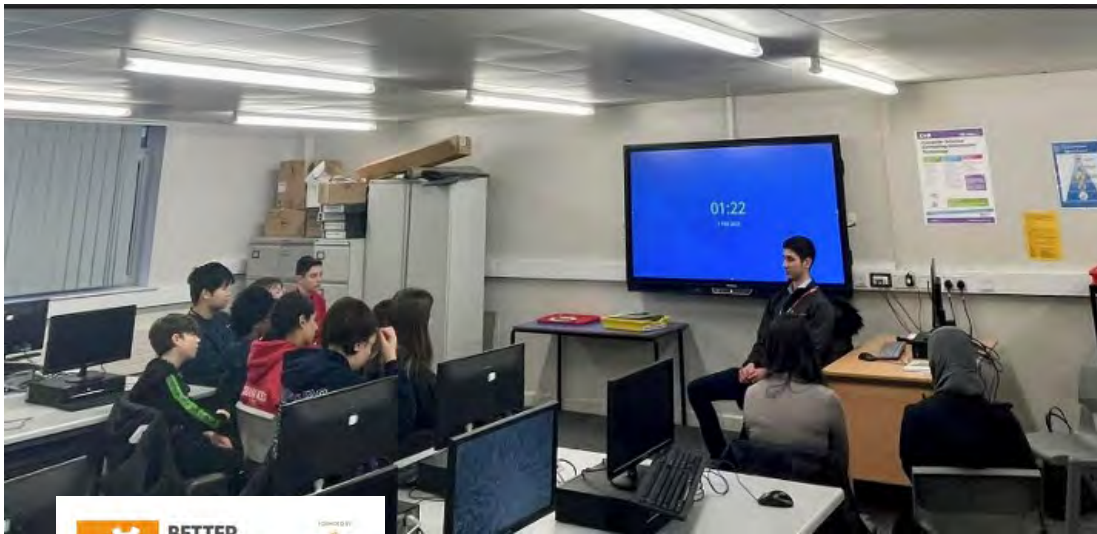
Our Students

Sheffield Forgemasters

Our Year 9 Ambassadors at King Edward VII School had a great morning with Marcus Scholey, an Apprentice from Sheffield Forgemasters.

The company are capable of producing the largest and most technically challenging cast and forged steel components in the world.

Marcus was a former Better Learners Better Workers (BLBW) Ambassador when he was at Westfield School and talked to the students about how the skills he learned on the programme helped him to be more confident and prepared for the world of work. Students asked questions about what GCSEs they should choose and what skills were needed for a job in Engineering. It's an absolute pleasure to see how well Marcus is doing and we thanked him and the team at Forgemasters for supporting the programme.



Our Students

Mother Goose - Charity Fun(draiser)

We were very pleased to learn that the following students took part in the Crookes Community Performers pantomime (Mother Goose) at Crookes Club in January, raising £1500 for the Children's Hospital.

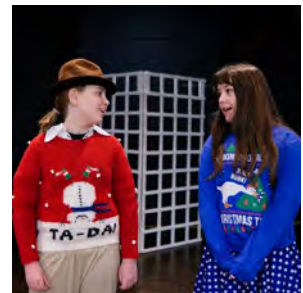
Y7 - Cara Guihen (Lead), Matilda Edwards (Lead)

Y8 - Eleanor Rushforth (Lead), Lina Wood (named character) Eddie Wilson (back stage)

Y10 - Evie Edwards (Lead), Charlie Rushforth (Lead), Blake Bellamy (Chorus)

They performed two shows, acting, singing and dancing to audiences of around 150 people each show. Julie Rushforth, Producer, said "We are very proud of our uplifting, warm and funny production, and each of them played a big part in it, whether they were a lead part, chorus or back stage."

Julie runs this group to raise money for charity and to encourage the local community to get involved in the arts. If you're interested in performing in the next show, follow the group on Facebook or keep an eye out for the next audition date!



Our Students

Languages Film Study Day at Hallam University

Our Partnership with ALL Yorkshire

On Thursday 9th March 33 KES students attended a Study Day at Sheffield Hallam University based on foreign language films. The event was organised by the Yorkshire Branch of the Association for Language Learning (ALL), the national subject association of foreign language teachers.



King Edward VII School has been working in partnership with ALL Yorkshire for many years, hosting **CPD events for language teachers** and acting as its administrative base. This year alone more than 70 language teachers from across the region have attended training sessions at King Edward VII School. KES MFL teachers have, of course, also benefited from this opportunity of updating their skills in the light of a new MFL GCSE specification which will be first examined in 2026.

This year ALL Yorkshire was able to offer its popular **Film Study Day** again, after a two-year break caused by the pandemic. KES students joined more than one hundred other language learners from across Yorkshire at Hallam University which hosted the event as part of its outreach programme.



Morning Plenary in the Adsetts Building of Sheffield Hallam University

The **Film Study Day** was offered in three languages: **French**, **German** and **Spanish**.

Our Students

It was aimed at Year 11 and Year 12 students with the intention of bringing the two groups together to enjoy a day of language immersion and film study and to encourage the GCSE students to continue with the language learning to A-Level.

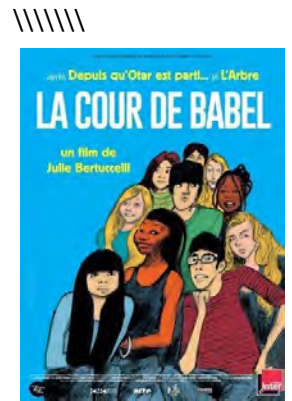
Key Stage 4 students were offered an introduction to A-Level film study, whereas Post-16 students had the opportunity to consolidate their film study techniques and language. The event also allowed both groups to explore an A-Level cultural topic and to immerse themselves in French, German or Spanish for a day.

Unfortunately we had to cut the day short because of the inclement weather conditions but all felt they had gained a lot from the workshops up to lunchtime and expressed their intention to finish watching the films by themselves.

Eva Lamb
Teacher of German at KES
Chair, ALL Yorkshire

The mood amongst the students was really positive and productive. They were getting a lot out of the workshops despite the weather curtailing everything.

K Lowes
KES MFL teacher
i.c. of the KES Spanish group on the day



KES Year 11 and Post-16 students engaged in workshop activities.



Our Sixth Form

A-level Iceland Residential Fieldtrip

On Tuesday 14th February, twenty A-level Geography students set off for Manchester Airport. Everything started well, only one student forgetting their passport. A quick dash home to collect said passport and we were on our way. On our arrival at Keflavik International Airport the snow started falling. We made our way to our accommodation in Reykjavik for a much needed good night's sleep.



The following morning we made our way to some fantastic sights along the south coast of Iceland. Such as Þingvellir (Thingvellir) National Park, Haukadalur Geothermal Field and Gullfoss. We then made our way to our accommodation for the next two nights in Hella. That evening the students were treated to a fantastic showing of the northern lights which was simply spectacular.

The next two days were spent travelling to inspiring places such as Vik and the Black Sands Beach. The students walked up to the snout of a glacier and then headed to a geothermal town and a geothermal power plant, before exploring the city of Reykjavik.

Saturday came with one last sight, The Blue Lagoon where the students enjoyed the mineral rich waters. We then made our way back to Sheffield with twenty very tired but inspired A-level students.

Mr Johnston



Our Sixth Form

Y13 History and Politics Trip to Washington DC

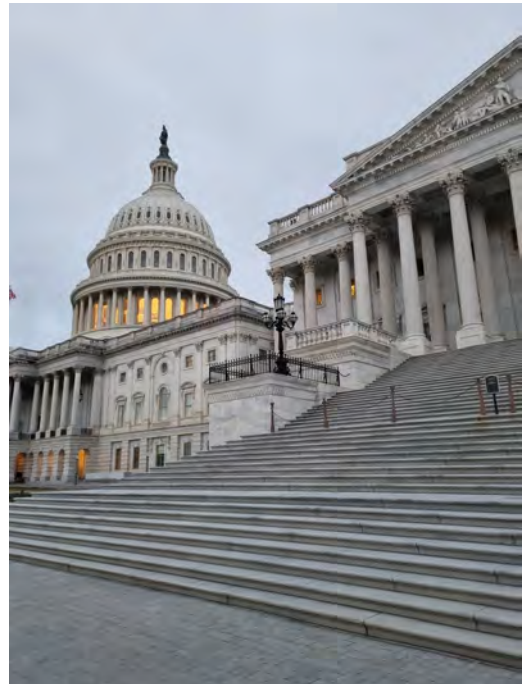
During the February half term, six teachers and thirty-eight Y13s went on a History and Politics trip to Washington DC. Washington DC, the US capital, is enriched with politics and history making it an amazing destination for A-level students.

We arrived in America after a long journey and headed on an evening visit to the White House. Seeing the White House illuminated felt surreal. Just twenty four hours before we were standing outside KES; we were now outside the White House, arguably one of the most famous buildings in the world. It felt like we had really arrived in America.

An early start for day two in Washington and we made our way on the metro to the famous Lincoln's Waffle House, an all-American diner where waffles and pancakes were devoured (with an array of interesting topping combinations), some on the trip even said it was the best breakfast they'd ever had! We then made our way to the Supreme Court building, where we got to sit in the room where justices have made major historical and political decisions that have affected America for centuries. This was followed by a tour of the Capitol building where we saw the old rooms of Congress and learnt about the history of the building and Congress from two amazing tour guides.

Whilst we were still in the Capitol, we got the once in a lifetime opportunity to sit in a live Senate session. This was my favourite part of the trip, seeing members of the Senate (including members I have written about in my politics essays!) in a live vote brought US politics, which can often seem distant, to life for me. I could have stayed there all day. Later in the day, we made our way to Ford's theatre, where Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1856. Here we saw the theatre box where he was shot and went into the house across the road where he died.

For some of us, day three started with Mr Harland's run club - meeting in the hotel lobby at 6:45am for what I was promised would be a light jog- which ended up being a 5km sprint to the Capitol! Although I had seriously underestimated my running ability, it was worth it to see the Capitol in the early hours of the morning (pictured above). Later in the morning, we began our walking tour of the Mall. Visiting George Washington's monument, the WW2 memorial, the Korean war memorial, and the Vietnam war memorial. These memorials hold great historical significance, and their differing sizes were very telling of America's attitude towards their role in wars throughout the 20th century. We made our way to the end of the Mall where we saw the famous Lincoln Memorial and sat and ate our lunch on the steps overlooking the Mall, in the very same place Martin Luther King made the famous 'I have a dream' speech 60 years before. We then moved to the National Museum of African American history and culture; one of the best museums I have ever been to. With five floors, starting in the 1400s on the underground floor and making our way to the top where there were displays and celebrations of African American culture. This was followed by a visit to the Holocaust Memorial Museum, an insightful, informative and moving experience.



Our Sixth Form

In the evening we all met for Mr Galloway's amazing USA quiz- which included a drawing round named 'KES takes Washington' (my team were unfortunately robbed of a place on the podium!).

Our final day in Washington DC consisted of a variety of museums. I chose the National Gallery of Art while others chose the Natural History Museum or the National Air and Space Museum; all of which received great reviews from everyone who went, before we headed, sadly, back to the airport.

Our trip to Washington DC was an amazing opportunity to immerse ourselves in both our history and politics A-level courses. A massive thank you to KES for the experience and all the teachers for making our time so fun... but don't trust Mr Harland if he promises a 'light jog' to the Capitol!

Erin Flannery, Y13



Our Sixth Form

Duke of Edinburgh Gold



DofE Gold students enjoyed sunny and warm conditions for their training walk on Saturday 18th March – a big weather change from the week before when the ground was covered in deep snow! Seven groups took part in a twelve-kilometre circular walk from Wyming Brook to High Neb, via Stanage Pole and Oaking Clough Plantation. Fantastic attitude and superb teamwork from all groups.



Our Staff

Congratulations to Iffat Hameed MBE

Recently, Iffat Hameed MBE, Urdu teacher at King Edward VII School, was presented with two awards by the Mayor of Rotherham, Councillor Mayor Tajamal Khan for her outstanding services and achievement as an inspirational media personality who has been broadcasting on BBC Radio Sheffield since the early 1980s.

Iffat's broadcasting initially focused on a language programme on Saturday evenings. She expanded her work into becoming a professional broadcaster which took account of the quality ethics associated with good quality journalism.

Many congratulations to Iffat!



Historical Association Teacher Fellowship 2023

Mrs Davis (Second in History) has been named a Teacher Fellow of the Historical Association in recognition of her work on the Broadcasting and Social Change in Sixties Britain programme run by the HA, The University of Loughborough and the BBC.

Mrs Davis has been working with academics and teachers from across the country to develop resources using broadcasting materials that shed light on the experiences of people in the sixties. The end product, which was refined with the help of students in 9R2, explores peoples' experiences of the ending of empire, migration and race using a TV show called *Rainbow City* which was aired in 1967.

The resources that Mrs Davis produced will be available nationally once they are published on the Historical Association website in the near future.

Congratulations and well done to Mrs Davis!



Photo from the residential at The University of Loughborough.

What does *Rainbow City* tell us about race relations in 1960s Britain?



Screenshot of enquiry title from the finished resource.



Our School

World Book Day

All Year 7 students received a free book and read a short story on the 2 March to celebrate World Book Day 2023. Year 9 also read a short story and were given digital World Book Day tokens which they can use at a local bookstore.

Students were also invited to the library to share their favourite books and write short stories which was very popular.



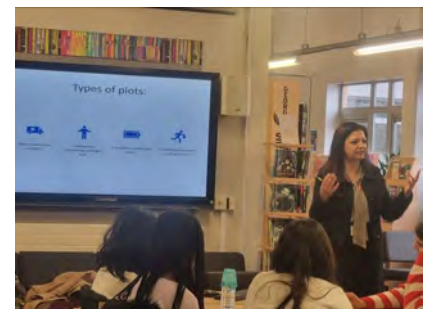
Author Visit

We were also pleased to welcome Sufiya Ahmed to the school on Tuesday 14th March. Sufiya visits schools to talk about her childhood dream to become an author, her books and creative writing. She also discusses her previous career in the Houses of Parliament to educate and inspire pupils about the democratic process and discusses how her political activism influences her writing. She is a public speaker on girls' rights and the founder and director of the BIBI Foundation, a non-profit organisation which arranges visits to the Houses of Parliament for diverse and underprivileged children.

Our Year 7 students were able to hear Sufiya talk about British South Asian role models, becoming a writer and her previous career in the Houses of Parliament. Next our Year 9s listened to a talk on the book, Secrets of the Henna Girl with themes of forced marriage and human rights. The talk also touched on careers, the journey to becoming an author, resilience, and how political activism inspires her books.

Some of our Year 8 students were treated to a Creative Writing workshop whilst a group of Year 10s took part in a workshop on How to Campaign for Human Rights workshop.

We look forward to hosting more author workshops in the future!



Our School

KES home language project wins national recognition

A project developed at King Edward VII school which supports students to take exams in their home, heritage, or community language, is going national after being awarded Government funding.



The Home Language Accreditation Project (HoLA) was part of a winning £15m bid by University College London to the Department for Education to boost language learning and will involve the development of five hubs across England.

HoLA is currently led by King Edward VII School and supports students across the Sheffield City Region to take exams in more than 18 languages.

The School has helped thousands of children gain extra qualifications by providing expert speakers to mark mock papers, give feedback and facilitate speaking exams.

Through the project, King Edward VII School's students have also gained bespoke advice on how best to prepare for the exams in their language at both GCSE and A Level.

In the last academic year at King Edward VII School, HoLA delivered 320 speaking exams across 17 different languages (almost a third of them in Arabic) working with schools both in the state and private sectors as well as directly supporting students who may be under the care of specialist hospital services or students who are recent arrivals to the region.

Most recently, the project has helped to support students who have come to Sheffield from Syria, Afghanistan and Ukraine.

Students often take their qualifications earlier than Year 11 which has proven to be highly motivational, helping them develop examination skills that can be transferred to other subjects. Many students achieve the highest grades, which can often prompt a re-evaluation of their potential in other subjects.

The original HoLA Project was established in 2011 and was funded nationally by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. It was a collaboration between King Edward VII School and Languages Sheffield, a local charity supporting community language schools.

In its first year it won the European Language Label and the prestigious Mary Glasgow Award. As well as supporting qualification in home languages, HoLA has embedded employability skills into sub-projects such as the Film Summer School, in which students made short films in various language combinations and a programme which allowed young people to have their, often informal, interpreting skills accredited.

Our School

These sub-projects helped young people to value their home/heritage/community language skills as a part of their future career, whilst simultaneously offering opportunities to speakers of any language to develop their communication skills in creative ways.

As it expands, the HoLA Project is now looking to work in and with schools to develop advocacy for home, heritage and community languages, to be not only recognised as a legitimate form of qualification but a legitimate form of communication which is respected and recognised as a way to access the curriculum.

Project Lead Clare Allison, Languages Project Manager, said the funding awarded for more HoLA hubs to be set up around the country reflects the proven value shown by the programme in Sheffield.

“HoLA aims to respect a student’s full linguistic repertoire and it is hoped the future HoLA hubs will continue to find ways to support and value all languages, including the more than 50 languages spoken by students at King Edward VII School.”

FOUR CRISES of KES

1926-7, 1944-45, 1965-69, 1982-86

The first of the four crises of KES - 1926-7:

In the 118 year history of King Edward VII School there have been four periods when the future direction of the school was in doubt and many of the school’s staff and parents feared an existentialist crisis that would leave the school weaker or changed out of all recognition, even in one event losing its Regal name and its distinctive identity all together.

These crises seemed to arrive once every twenty years and were the result of the founders of the school in 1905, leading Liberal and Conservative City Councillors, deciding by one vote that the school should be owned totally to the City Council. They could have left the new King Edward VII School legally separate yet still dependent for funding on the Council. This situation would have allowed the Council to still be a position to exercise some considerable influence on the school as they had with the Royal Sheffield Grammar School, who they had combined with Wesley College to form the new, boys only, KES in 1905.

So, although the new KES was Council controlled and financed it was still almost entirely fee paying with very few scholarship boys before 1917, and the clear intention of the City Council was that this would be a school in the style of the established Public Schools for the sons of Sheffield’s burgeoning middle and upper middle class most of whom lived in the new suburbs in the south west of the city. Not surprisingly the nascent Sheffield Labour Party, whilst having no objection to the aim of providing an elite school for the city that aimed at the very highest

Our School

standards for its pupils, was very critical that rate payers' money should be spent on a school for the wealthy with little or no opportunity for the able children of working class families to attend.

Until 1926 Labour's position could be ignored because they did not have a majority on the Council, but in the year of the General Strike Labour took control of the Council for the first time and they had their eyes on changes to take place at King Edward VII School. KES had just appointed a new Headmaster, Ronald Gurner, and he now feared the Council would make KES an all-scholarship school like the Central School, later High Storrs, and the distinctive Public School ethos that KES had been courting, with its appeal to the wealthy suburbs would be lost. In the event the new Labour Council did not go this far because they had so many problems to fix in the city they could not afford to change the financing regime at KES at that time, and anyhow nearly 25% of the pupils were now scholarship boys and a proportion came from working class homes.

Instead they took two limited but still very controversial actions. Firstly, they abolished the separate Governing Body of the school that had essentially "guaranteed" its sense of independence and secondly they abolished the OTC (the Officer Training Corps) a voluntary cadet force that was one of the most prized symbols of the Public School brand. Ronald Gurner now found he had to report to the Councillors at the education offices and sit in the corridor with other headteachers all awaiting their turn to be called in by their new political masters to make their report. Labour also wanted to end the cadet force because they were a deeply pacifist party in the post-war period and the idea of boys, some as young as 14, training for war was anathema to them, but also this was the "Officers" training corps and they were the party of the "other ranks", and the OTC was seen as unacceptable snobbery in a social world where bitter class divisions influenced almost all political decisions.

Gurner, a former decorated Major who had been badly wounded in 1917, sought confrontation with the Labour Council and had allies in the Headmasters' Association whose members all feared that if their city or town followed Sheffield and became Labour controlled, as seemed very likely in the near future, then their most prestigious grammar schools would suffer a similar fate. The happenings at KES were national news and the subject of debates in the Commons and the Lords. Gurner resigned in 1927 after he had been appointed the Headmaster of Whitgift School in Croydon, whilst the Headmasters' Association stopped any of their members from applying for the KES post.

So the new Headmaster, Richard Graham, was not an experienced headteacher or even a deputy head, but was a senior classics master whose pacifist views were more acceptable to the Labour Council, they were also impressed by his reputation as a well-known Alpine mountaineer. However much the school had been in turmoil in Gurner's time it soon recovered under Richard Graham. Scouts replaced the cadet corps and the upward academic progress of KES continued, so in many ways the 1930s was one of the happiest times in KES's distinguished history. Labour Councillors were keen for their children to win scholarships to KES and delighted in the reputational success of the school, especially at Oxford and Cambridge. Despite there never being more than 25% of the pupils on free council scholarships, a position that Labour never challenged until the end of the Second World War.

Information to follow in future newsletters with regard to the further three crises of KES.

Our School

Old Edwardians and Young Edwardians

Brave the Shave

On Saturday 18th March, Jack Creasy, ex-KES student shaved his head for Macmillan Cancer Support.

After a couple of months of fundraising Jack “braved the shave” and thanks to donations from ex-KES students and KES staff, he raised over £650 for Macmillan.

Jack wanted to do something to help raise awareness of cancer sufferers after seeing friends and family go through cancer diagnoses and treatment.

His "Brave The Shave" is just another great example of the kind young people we have in our school and how they develop as adults.

Well done Jack!



MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Sheffield United Full Debut

Well done to our ex-student Andre Brookes on making his full debut for Sheffield United Football Club (SUFC) on 1st March against Tottenham Hotspur in the Fifth Round of the FA Cup. A magnificent performance which made us all very proud.



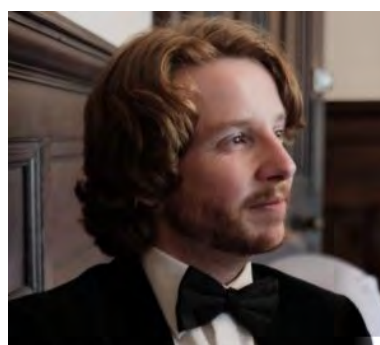
Stella Jockel Young Composer Competition—Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus with Classical Sheffield

We were very proud to see that three of the five winners of the Stella Jockel Young Composers Competition, part of Classical Sheffield Festival Weekend held in March are alumni of King Edward VII School. Mason Birch (26), Robin Morton (33) and Reuben Tozer-Loft (22) all attended the School. Mason was a joint winner and shared the £2,500 prize while Robin won £1,000. Reuben was one of the runners up. This is an amazing achievement, well done all!

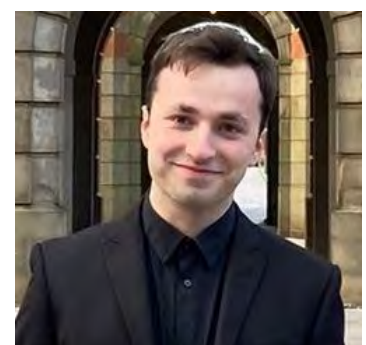
Mason Birch – joint first prize winner



Robin Morton – third prize winner



Reuben Tozer-Loft – runner up



Old Edwardians and Young Edwardians

Celebrating National Apprenticeship Week

Mahnoor Akhter studied at King Edward VII School from 2018- 2020 and is now an Aerospace Apprentice at Rolls Royce.

As part of a week of celebrations for the National Apprenticeship Week 6th – 12th February, Mahnoor, along with group of other apprentices, were given the opportunity to represent Civil Aerospace Engineering Degree Apprentices at Rolls Royce in the House of Commons on Wednesday 8th of February.

She had the opportunity to speak to notable MPs, such as Dame Margaret Beckett DBE – (the first female foreign secretary), which was both ‘inspiring and encouraging’. All of the MPs she interacted with were big advocates for apprenticeships, especially Dame Margaret Beckett DBE being a former engineering apprentice herself. Mahnoor enjoyed sharing current projects she is undertaking, as well as an overall insight into the apprenticeship with the MPs.

As part of the week, Mahnoor visited the Rolls Royce Headquarters in London, which was a valuable opportunity to learn, network and also feedback to the company executives such as the President, Chris Young, and the new CEO Tufan Erginbilgic, who took time out of their very busy schedules to offer words of encouragement to all the apprentices.

To end the week Mahnoor visited the Rolls Royce Hangar at East Midlands Airport which forms part of her placement in Digital Design. Here she was given the opportunity to learn about current systems and have an open discussion on new ways of working with the Head of Applications Delivery for Civil Aerospace IT and Digital Design.

Mahnoor summed up her thoroughly enjoyable week by commenting on what an amazing opportunity it was and that no matter the high positions of those she met, they were all keen to hear from her and offer words of advice and encouragement. They were particularly keen to hear her opinions and feedback from her experiences so far.

Mr Kavanagh



Old Edwardians and Young Edwardians

Obituaries

Julian Harrison

We were saddened to hear that MICHAEL JULIAN HARRISON had died on 25th February in Kirby Lonsdale, where he was caring for his elderly father since the Covid lockdown began. Julian had grown up in Cumbria but came to Sheffield in the 1960s and was a pupil at Hunter's Bar School before passing his 11+ examination to King Edward VII School in 1966. He was always an outstanding pupil at KES, a natural linguist who excelled at Latin and Greek, however, when he joined the Sixth Form he chose to do three Science A-Level subjects and Music as a fourth and went on to study for a degree at UMIST.



He entered fully into the life of KES acting in the school plays, singing in the school choir and the madrigal group and as a virtuoso on the violin he was the leader of the school orchestra. He was also a leading member of the First XV Rugby team. Whilst still at school he also played regularly for Sheffield Tigers RUFC, a club he later rejoined when he returned to live in Sheffield.

Julian's father, Michael Harrison, was at that time the Chief Education Officer for Sheffield City Council and Julian said that he was always aware that every day when he entered the gates of the school he saw his father's name on the board at the entrance. It is said that many members of staff who taught Julian were also aware that his father was the Chief Education Officer.

After UMIST, where he studied from 1973-76 and gained a degree in Computer and Management Science, he then rather surprisingly chose to take a Short Service Commission in the Regular Army. After attending officer training at RMA Sandhurst he was commissioned into the Royal Artillery serving in Paderborn in Germany during the Cold War, and he also did a tour of duty in Belfast where patrolling could be very dangerous. He left the Army in 1979 with the rank of lieutenant, but later joined the Territorial Army serving as a captain in the Sheffield University OTC and the 3rd Battalion of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, at that time Sheffield's local TA infantry regiment.

During this period, he set up his own IT company, then a new industry still finding its feet. Subsequently he was a restaurateur in Cambridge and when he returned to Sheffield he lectured in Operations Management at Hallam University. At various times in his life he worked in the accounting, brewing and agricultural industries. In recent years he turned his hand to writing short stories and a number of poems and had a published novel entitled "The Random Piano Tuner" under the pen name Henry Welcome.

A man of many talents, Julian was a proud and much loved father; he is survived by his former wife, Lynn, and his three children, Richard, Gwen and Kate and his new grandson, Ellis.

John Cornwell

Old Edwardians and Young Edwardians

Robert Griffin

Robert Griffin's family (his sisters Joanne and Mandy) had a plaque made to be taken out to the Falklands in remembrance of their brother, Robert, who was sadly killed in the Falklands War. At the same time they had a smaller plaque made and this has been attached to Robert's memorial stone which is situated in the Upper School grounds. Joanne and Mandy and their family members visited the School on Saturday 18 March 2023, and with the assistance of Craig Jarvis (Buildings Officer), fixed the plaque to Robert's memorial. Robert's family members felt it would be nice for people to see his face.

The plaque took a lot of work to create due to the poor quality of the original photograph but James, a local man to the family, did an amazing job.



Mandy sent this message to the School afterwards:

Just wanted to say a big thank you to Craig.

What a lovely man.

He took time to make our visit so so special. The plaque looks lovely- just hope the glue works!

We are so grateful to the School for remembering Rob. It really means so much to us as a family.

Thank you to all involved in allowing this to happen.

Kind regards,

Mandy and Joanne x

