



King Edward's  
WITLEY

# The JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 2025





# WELCOME!

Welcome to the February half term edition of our Journal, our update to partners around the world featuring the latest developments here at King Edward's, Witley. Our latest edition includes a Q+A with one of our international pupils, news of our expanded GCSE provision and features our own academic 'World Champion' from our Lower Sixth.

One of our highlights this term was the launch of our updated Pre-A level programme; thanks to all of you who joined our online event in January. Our pre-A level programme features up to 6 GCSE subjects, with additional Science tuition for those intending to take these subjects at A level, adapted English language provision for your pupils with different English experience and our wide ranging co-curricular and boarding activities. Our update included reflections from current and past pupils including Alfredo (Head Boy, 2024) who has progressed from to Cambridge University. Overall, 73% of our Pre-A level pupils transition from our sixth form to Oxbridge, Russell Group universities and University of London colleges, and we are very proud of their achievements.

Once again we've welcomed many of you to our School this half term. If you are taking part in the BBSW event in early March and would like to take advantage of our direct train link to London, and excellent access to Heathrow and Gatwick airports, and visit us please do let us know. Alternatively, if you're in the UK and would like to experience our warm welcome, please be in touch via [admissions@kesw.org](mailto:admissions@kesw.org) and we can arrange a private tour for you.

We are looking forward to working with you throughout 2025. Our admissions team is at you and your families' service and if we can help in any way, please don't hesitate to contact us via [admissions@kesw.org](mailto:admissions@kesw.org) – we look forward to hearing from you.

I do hope your year has started well, and I wish you all the best for the busy months to come!

Simon Fitch  
Head of Marketing, Admissions and Communications



# LATEST GCSE NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOL

We are very pleased to announce that King Edward's will be further extending our academic portfolio to include GCSE Business from September 2025.

We invited feedback on the course's inclusion from Third Form parents and pupils during our recent GCSE option choice process. With thanks to the many parents and pupils who indicated they would like to take advantage of this extended offer, we have confirmed that the course will run for the first time at King Edward's from September 2025.

Our new GCSE will run in parallel with GCSE Economics, which has also maintained its popularity amongst our community, and we look forward to offering this extension in our provision next academic year.



## Congratulations Xinyan – On Top of The World!



Mrs Wright, our Head, recently congratulated Xinyan (Lower Sixth) on behalf of our School community as we celebrate her gaining the highest mark in the world for Cambridge IGCSE Foreign Language Mandarin Chinese in the June 2024 exams.

This supreme achievement required many hours of study and revision, and everyone at King Edward's is very proud of you, Xinyan – brilliant work!

## Q+A WITH ATAKAN (UPPER SIXTH)

Atakan, an Upper Sixth form pupil from Türkiye, shares his reflections on his four years at King Edward's, Witley

### ***How was your transition to King Edward's?***

Coming from Türkiye to study at King Edward's School Witley (KESW) was a big transition for me, in which I was supported in by the School, and is one which has shaped me both academically and personally.

### ***What was one immediate difference you noticed when you arrived at KESW?***

One of the biggest differences I noticed when I first arrived was the quality of the sports facilities. As a country, Türkiye is passionate about football, and coming to a school with such well maintained pitches and training spaces felt like a dream.



### ***How would you describe your final year (Upper Sixth) experience?***

This year, as an Upper Sixth student, I've had the privilege of moving into Jubilee House, a house designed specifically for final year students. The facilities in Jubilee make a huge difference in our daily lives, especially as we prepare for our A-level exams. The house provides more study spaces and social areas, creating the perfect balance between independent work and group collaboration. With the added pressure of final year academics, these facilities have made a real impact on creating a productive and supportive environment.

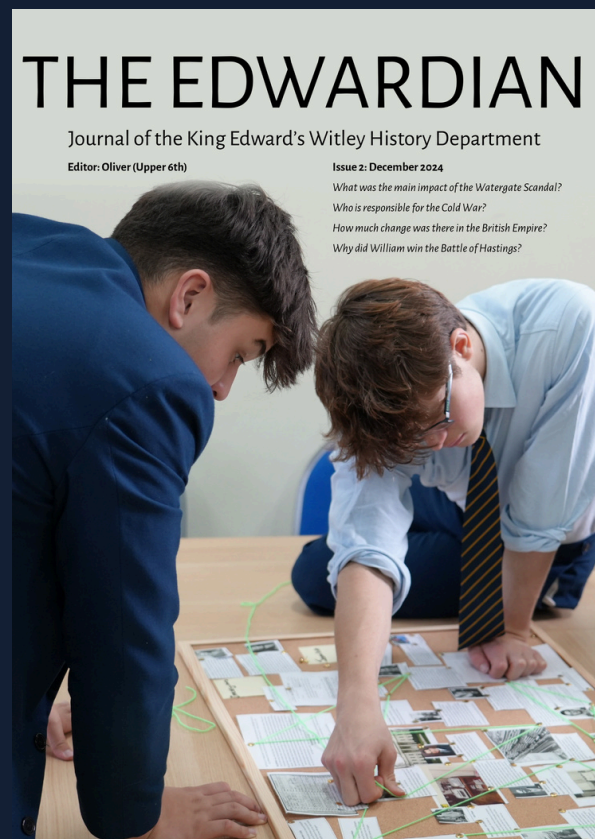
### ***What would your final reflections on your time at King Edward's be?***

Over the past four years, I've had the chance to experience everything this school has to offer, from its outstanding facilities to the strong sense of community that defines life here. These four years have been full of challenges, growth, and unforgettable experiences. King Edward's School Witley has given me access to world class resources, a strong education, and a community that has supported me throughout my time here. Looking back, I can confidently say that this school has helped shape me into who I am today, and I'm grateful for everything I've learned along the way.



# THE EDWARDIAN SHOWCASES OUR FINE HISTORIANS

This year's first edition of our History department's journal 'The Edwardian' included submissions from pupils in every year at King Edward's, and has proved an extremely popular read for our community and beyond. The journal, which may be accessed here ([www.kesw.org/2025/02/13/the-edwardian](http://www.kesw.org/2025/02/13/the-edwardian)) featured twelve articles, covering diverse historical topics ranging from the Battle of Hastings, the history of China, the Watergate scandal and many more. Head of Department Mrs Francis explained 'the Edwardian's publication provided an excellent opportunity to pause and reflect on some of the pupil work we are most proud of within the History department'. Mr Haywood, department lead on this project noted 'this academic year's first edition features a brilliant breadth and depth of writing, and all of our pupils whose work has been published should be congratulated on their submissions'.



Our senior contributors recently reflected on their contributions to the Edwardian; Kyle, Lower Sixth, commented that 'I really enjoyed being able to reflect on our experiences visiting the Houses of Parliament in the journal'. Paige, also from Lower Sixth, enjoyed her interview within the journal as 'it was great to explain my passion for History and provide some advice for younger, budding Historians'. Editor Ollie F, Upper Sixth, concluded that 'I really enjoyed reading and embracing the exceptional work that members of the school community produced for this edition of the Edwardian. I look forward to editing the next version around Easter!'

# THE ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME AT KING EDWARD'S

This half term we've welcomed pupils with many different academic and co-curricular interests to our Scholarship Assessment days, with many aiming to become Academic Scholars at our school. After our most recent talk in our Bridewell Speaker series focussing on plants and medicine, by Jonathan Newell of the Royal Horticultural Society, Bea (5th Form) reflected on her experience on the programme at King Edward's.

## ***How long have you been an Academic Scholar?***

I was awarded a scholarship when I started at King Edward's, and have been a Scholar ever since.

## ***Which are your favourite academic subjects?***

Currently I really enjoy Maths and Geography but I have a wide range of academic interests.

## ***How would you describe the activities within the Scholars' programme?***

We benefit from regular sessions where Academic Scholars come together with teachers to explore different subjects; this half term we've been concentrating on Chemistry. We also have the opportunity to hear from expert speakers in the Bridewell Speakers series, and in the summer, all of the Academic Scholars from across the school and work together on activities, learning from each other's subjects.

## ***What's best about being an Academic Scholar?***

I really enjoy working with other Scholars, as we all enjoy being stretched in our academics, discussing our work together and learning advanced topics.

## ***Academically, what are your next steps?***

After my GCSEs, I plan on taking Biology, Chemistry and Maths at A level; during our Scholar sessions we've worked on A level topics and I'm looking forward to studying them in more depth.



# NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK CELEBRATED AT SCHOOL

Our pupils and parents have been able to access a comprehensive series of events this February as part of National Apprenticeship Week (NAW25). These included a range of opportunities at King Edward's, commencing with a presentation by Old Witleian Ella Anderson, a Degree Apprentice at Mace Construction, to 4th Form and Lower 6th pupils and a series of group and 1:1 sessions to discover more around apprenticeship opportunities.



Head of Careers and Higher Education, Mrs Moira Davies, organised our school's in-house events and explained 'this important series of presentations and seminars was designed to integrate with national events which our community were also encouraged to access through the NAW25 website. Overall, our programme aimed to further support our pupils in considering alternative career pathways to ensure they make informed decisions about their future, particularly with an increasing interest in apprenticeship opportunities. This programme also formed an important part of our overall Next Steps Careers and HE framework, and it was pleasing to see so many accessing the opportunities provided'.





# SPANISH LEARNING VIA OUR VIRTUAL EXCHANGE INITIATIVE

2nd form pupils are having fun and enhancing their Spanish learning via a virtual exchange initiative with children from l'Escola Quermany in Pals, a town close to Girona. Throughout this academic year, our pupils will write to their counterparts in English, receive responses in Spanish and extend their vocabulary skills by translating these responses in class before replying.

Mrs O'Keefe, Head of Modern Foreign Languages, is leading this initiative and explained 'our project was facilitated by four final year language students from the University of Grenoble who were tasked with creating a programme which improves intercultural understanding. The students encouraged pupils from both schools to contribute via an exciting video where they provided a guide to their city and University, and we were very keen to contribute. With weekly letters exchanged, electronically, between the schools, our pupils are improving their language learning very positively. Our thanks go to our student facilitators for providing this opportunity for our pupils, and we look forward to our penpals meeting each other via video towards the end of our project'.

