



King Edward's  
WITLEY

# The JOURNAL

MAY 2025





# WELCOME

Welcome to our May half term edition of The Journal; we are delighted to share a range of updates from King Edward's, Witley with you. Our term so far has once again been very busy; for our 5th Form and Upper Sixth pupils, it is a time of preparation for their GCSE and A level exams which have now started. We wish our exam year pupils all the best; there is a quiet focus around our School as they look to emulate the graduating classes of 2024 (including 69% A – B grades attained at A level, with 2/3 of our pupils accessing Russell Group, G5 and Oxbridge Universities).

We're pleased to bring you the **latest news around our sporting successes** and a taste of the **wide variety of musical events** we've hosted at King Edward's recently; all of our co-curricular programmes are designed to include as many pupils as possible, whatever their ambitions in the activities we offer, whilst supporting those who wish to focus on their passions at the highest levels in the art, drama, music and sports fields. We are very proud of the successes we've included in our update for you.

Earlier this term, our whole School community was proud to receive the **Good School Guide's review** of King Edward's, and we've included more detail around this in The Journal, including links to the review for families you are working with, and who may want to understand more about the strengths of our School. I hope you enjoy reading the review as much as we have.

During April and May we have welcomed a **new group of pupil leaders**, our Prefects, after a rigorous selection process. Our 2025/26 Prefects have been instrumental in our events programme this term, which has included another successful open day, and a highlight of our term, hosting the **British Boarding Schools Network (BBSN) Networking Day**. We were privileged to welcome the BBSN team and recruitment partners from around the world to this event, and thank you to our guests for your very positive feedback regarding your visit to our School. If you would like arrange a personal visit of our School, please don't hesitate to be in touch; the summer term is a great time to see all that is great around King Edward's for yourself.

Thank you to all of you who have been working with us to assist families on their journeys to King Edward's; as ever, our admissions team is at your 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 hope the rest of the academic year goes well for you, and that you enjoy reading our updates; thank you to those of you who have positively fed back around our Journals so far this year.

With best wishes,

**Simon Fitch**

Head of Marketing, Admissions and Communications



# OUR GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE REVIEW

## THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

King Edward's was proud to receive our recently completed Good Schools Guide review earlier this term. Our review followed a rigorous process led by the Guide's reviewer, who conducted an extensive visit to our School and talked with a wide range of our pupils, staff and parents whilst preparing the comprehensive review.

Our review may be found on our website at <https://www.kesw.org/good-schools-guide-review-2025/> and we're pleased to share some of the review's findings below. If you'd like to find out more information about our Good Schools Guide review, please don't hesitate to contact us; we hope you find it very useful in your discussions with families.



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‘The school feels *contemporary and uncrowded*, with preserved historical charms like the *magnificent chapel* and the old quad, where a *statue of the young King Edward* stands peacefully’.

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‘*Being five minutes’ walk* from the station (London-Guildford-Portsmouth line) makes rail *a good choice for transport.*’



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‘*It’s incredible* what Mrs Wright has done for the place.’ Her character, they tell us, is one of ‘*quiet, calm assertiveness,*’ but also ‘*...a force to be reckoned with.*’ One parent told us, ‘*She’s probably one of the kindest people I’ve met in years.*’



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‘In Queen Mary House (years 7 and 8) common *rooms look comfortable and homely.* Thoughtfully designed bedrooms give everyone *a sense of their own space.* Older pupils say houses are ‘not just where you register and hang out... *they’re an important part of identity.*’



# FINALS GALORE FOR KING EDWARD'S SPORTS TEAMS

Our sports' teams have enjoyed have enjoyed unprecedented success this year, reaching four national finals. The girls and boys involved have represented our School with great honour, and we congratulate them on their brilliant achievements.

Our boys' **Under 15 football team** greatly enjoyed their 'day in the sun' at **The Hawthorns**, Championship club West Bromwich Albion's ground, in the **English Schools Football Association Cup Final**. Cheered on by almost 200 pupils and staff from King Edward's, the boys were very close to taking home the trophy, only to be pipped 2-1 by worthy winners, St Patrick's College. The team featured a mix of pupils who had played together since 1st Form and those, from the UK and around the world, who had joined the School more recently and we look forward to going one better and bringing the cup home in next season's tournament.



Alongside our more established sports, King Edward's has recently introduced opportunities to play padel competitively and recreationally for all of our pupils; this has proved to be a hugely popular addition to our wide-ranging sports programme. Our top **Under 15 padel players** journeyed to Rocket Padel and both our girls' and boys' teams reached the finals in their competitions, narrowly losing out to more established school teams. We plan to further expand our padel programme next year, with the appointment of a **new Head of Rackets** at our School.

The girls' **Under 14 netball team** earned the highest honour of becoming **national champions**, following a Final Four event held at Loughborough University, home court of national league Loughborough Lightning. Following an extensive series of play off victories, our girls earned their place at 'Manic Monday' and after a tough semi-final v Merchant Taylor's, were **victorious in their final** against St John's. This championship victory was the highlight of a very successful season across the School, led by our new Head of Netball Mrs Lovesey, and we look forward to further successes in the years to come.





# MAGICAL MUSIC MOMENTS ACROSS KING EDWARD'S

Our **2024/25 musical programme** has continued to enthrall our School community, and our many visitors, with many events taking place throughout the School year. **Each week over 150 1:1 music lessons are offered at King Edward's**, together with choirs, ensembles and bands, and pupils enjoying their music at all levels have regular opportunities to perform in our event spaces.

The King Edward's **Musician of The Year** competition is a true annual highlight at our School, with a week of preliminary rounds leading to a Finals Day, featuring pupils of all ages competing in a wide range of classes and genres. Over 20% of our pupils competed in the event this year, with the finals taking 6 hours to complete! After so many virtuoso performances, Edward, with his mesmerising piano performance was awarded the coveted trophy for 2025.

We celebrated our focus on organ performances in May with a performance of **Hans Zimmer's** score of **Christopher Nolan's** blockbusting film **Interstellar** by international star **Roger Sayer** in our Chapel. Many organ and Interstellar enthusiasts travelled from far and wide for this inspirational evening, with our guest also conducting a lengthy Q+A with the audience. The event continued our long tradition of **organ excellence**, with our pupils regularly transitioning to music colleges on organ scholarships, and provided an inspiration to those pupils aiming to follow in our Old Witleians footsteps.



Our programme of accessible, smaller scale recitals and **open mic** nights has continued throughout our School year, and we took advantage of the excellent May weather to host our latest open mic event outside in our Music School courtyard. Pupils and staff from throughout the School took the opportunity to perform informally to their peers in a **relaxed environment**, providing for many the first opportunity to showcase their developing talents as they learn their instruments here at King Edward's. We look forward to many of our open mic performers taking to our bigger stages during their time at our School.

# NEW PREFECTS FOR THE 2025/26 ACADEMIC YEAR

Each year at King Edward's, our spring term sees a 'changing of the guard' in our pupil leadership teams, as our Upper 6th Prefects bid farewell to focus on their upcoming A levels and BTEC examinations, and our **new Prefect team** take the stage for their year in the spotlight.

Our 2025/26 Prefects were selected after a rigorous process, including input from their predecessors, peers and staff members, and were announced to great excitement at a whole School assembly. Our Prefects then enjoyed **a reception with our Head, Mrs Wright**, and senior staff and received some words of advice from our 2024/25 Prefects. This year's team includes boarding and day pupils, from many countries around the world and from the UK.



At the end of term, our current Head Girl and Head Boy, Emily and Barry, formally stepped down for their roles and their successors Abi and Peter were welcomed to their positions by the whole School community before traditional photos were taken in our courtyard. Abi and Peter were delighted by their appointments, noting that 'The School provides so many opportunities for pupils to **gain leadership skills, and we are honoured to be given the chance to lead the Prefect team this year**'.

Many congratulations to Abi, Peter and the new Prefects, we look forward to the team playing a leading role in our events and visits programme during their time in office!

