



King Edward's
WITLEY

The JOURNAL

DECEMBER 2025



WELCOME TO OUR DECEMBER JOURNAL

Welcome to the latest edition of our Journal including our traditional carol services and eagerly-awaited House events, including the announcement of our new Heads of Houses for 2026, together with our Boarders' trip to London's sights and seasonal lights

This edition of The Journal features our End of Year review. I hope you find this summary of our activities and successes in 2025 interesting as we look back, with pleasure, on the many highlights we have celebrated together with joy in our pursuit of 'happy excellence' at King Edward's.

Throughout the year, we have been very grateful for your support, and have enjoyed welcoming many of you to King Edward's. Please do let us know if you'd like to visit us and we'll be delighted to assist in the planning of your trip to Witley, under an hour by commuter train from Waterloo.

Our Admissions office will be closed from 23rd December – 2nd January. If our team can be of any assistance to you and your families, please don't hesitate to contact us via admissions@kesw.org.

With my best compliments of the Season to you and your family,



Simon Fitch

Head of Marketing, Admissions
and Communications



ENABLING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



Our learning and teaching has been greatly enhanced by the refurbishment of our Science laboratories during the summer holidays, with our new facilities proving extremely popular amongst pupils, staff and those visiting our School in increased numbers during our open events. Beginning with a renewed induction schedule, we have continued with the implementation of our WIN feedback framework, have launched our future-focussed Bridewell Diploma programme for our 6th Form and curated a much expanded Extended Project Qualification exhibition in November, in addition to the provision of additional opportunities for our pupils to nurture their curiosity, for example in the Physics Horizons series and our new Wednesday Arts and Textiles club.

The Bridewell Speakers Series has been significantly extended during our Autumn term, including an evening focussed on Artificial Intelligence which integrated with our own Bridewell AI and KESBots developments during 2025; we look forward to broadening the scope of this series during 2026 and to welcoming many of you to our future events.

Our pupils have, as ever, travelled to take advantage of a great variety of academic enrichment and co-curricular opportunities. Many trips to London, taking advantage of the accessibility of our capital city and the invitations afforded by our Bridewell Royal Hospital foundation in the City of London, have taken place; pupils have also travelled further afield, including exploring the history and culture of Berlin, performing as a choir on the shores of Lake Como, and playing cricket and hockey in South Africa during our most recent sports tour.



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OUR SPORTING SUCCESSES

We continue to focus on the provision of co-curricular opportunities for all of our pupils. We have welcomed Mr Edwards as our new Director of Sport and have taken advantage of our new floodlights to provide extended Netball, Pickleball and Tennis programmes on site. For the first time in recent years, we have regularly fielded third and fourth boys' senior Football elevens and have offered more opportunities than ever before for our pupils to represent the School in sports' fixtures, including in our expanded Swimming programme and new Cross Country activities, where we have already successfully competed in a number of events.



Our Football, Netball and Hockey teams have been navigating the early rounds in their cup competitions, with our Girls Football 1st XI reaching two national cup quarter-finals and the Boys U16 Indoor Hockey team qualifying for their regional finals, both for the first time.

Many congratulations to our Ski team as they became English Mixed Ski Team Champions earlier this term, and to our pupils who reached the semi-finals of the National Schools Padel Championships. During our term we have also celebrated with our pupils as their achievements during the 2024/25 academic year have been recognised locally; our national Netball champions have taken pride of place winning the Senior School Sports Team category at both the Godalming and Haslemere Sports Awards.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Our performing arts programmes have flourished throughout our year. Our Music department has welcomed Ms Bathurst as Assistant Director of Music, Miss Annie Macdonald as Vocal Specialist and Mr Eunseog Lee as Composer in Residence; we have enjoyed the first rendition of Mr Lee's Carol of the Old Earth at our carol services following the immersive performance of 'Rorate' by all those present at our School Concert in November, an evening featuring over one-third of our pupil community. Our Royal College of Organists' accreditation has been renewed for a further four years and we are one of a handful of Schools in the UK to receive this prestigious recognition; our regular Friday showcase concerts have continued to provide opportunities for many of our pupils to perform across the fullest range of genres in the intimate setting of our recital room, whilst our inclusive House Music event provided an ebullient larger-scale highlight in our autumn term.

In parallel, 'Flesh' has transformed our Drama Studio and provided distinctive immersive performance opportunities. Rehearsals for Matilda, our musical theatre production in February, have been progressing at pace in parallel with our pupils benefitting from a number of theatre trips within our Drama programme.



OUR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Throughout our term our current pupils have enjoyed engaging with their predecessors as our Old Witleians return to King Edward's. Following the success of our Founder's Day in June, we resumed football and netball fixtures against the Old Wits in September, and we are looking forward to further extending this friendly competition next year. Over 40 Old Witleians returned to School for our carol services, and we have included their dedicated Christmas reception within our celebrations; similar to our welcome at events throughout the year, including our Admissions Day and Bridewell Day commemorations of our current pupils' place within the King Edward's community. In the new year, we will host members of our class of 2025 for a 'one term on' reunion; we have much appreciated their Christmas cards and messages with news of their progress in their very diverse careers and University courses, after celebrating their achievements at our Leavers' events in the summer.

Our values of kindness, compassion and authentic connection underpin our past and guide our future; thank you for your enthusiastic support of our many charitable activities during the year. This term we have welcomed the Surrey Coalition of Disabled People as our School Charity, following our partnership with Charlie's Promise, for which King Edward's raised over £5,000 in 2024/25. Our 'Shoes and Sticks' and 'Santa Stork' collection initiatives have enriched the lives of children in South Africa and in Surrey, and we have greatly appreciated seeing the collections grow in our reception area. Many other smaller events have been supported and will continue to be during the remainder of our academic year, providing regular reminders of the charitable foundation on which our School was founded.



Merry Christmas
from all at King Edward's!

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