



King Edward's  
WITLEY



*School Report*

FEBRUARY 2026



# WELCOME TO OUR FEBRUARY SCHOOL REPORT

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to our February School Report, full of the latest news and updates from King Edward's Witley.

It is my privilege to have recently joined King Edward's as **Registrar**, and I am very much looking forward to working with Simon, Caroline and Penny in our admissions team, as well as with colleagues across our School, in helping to guide families in their search for senior education options.

My background is in teaching and school leadership, and I have spent the past 15 years as Headteacher of a Primary Academy in Buckinghamshire. I have had first-hand experience of supporting parents and pupils in the complex process of choosing secondary schools which I hope will prove to be an asset when you are considering King Edward's as the next step in your child's educational journey. I look forward to being of service to you and your family.



Since my arrival, I have enjoyed taking part in our '**Discover King Edward's**' events and was impressed by the number of pertinent questions during these evenings. We have also been privileged this term to welcome so many year 6, 7 and 8 children to our '**Explore Your Passions**' teatime taster sessions which will return later this year. In the meantime, I look forward to our next open morning on 6th March (registration is open at [kesw.org/admissions](https://kesw.org/admissions)) and hopefully, the chance meet some of you in person.

I hope you enjoy our latest report and our round-up of academic and co-curricular highlights from this half term. If we can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us via [admissions@kesw.org](mailto:admissions@kesw.org) and we'll be delighted to help.

With best wishes,

**John Ronane,**  
Registrar, King Edward's Witley

# BY ROYAL COMMAND

Half term started with our **'Boarders' Big Trip'** to London, with a large and enthusiastic group taking the train from our station in Witley before dining together at Waterloo and then accessing a range of cultural opportunities. These included experiencing **Ballet and Shakespeare** performances at Sadler's Wells Theatre and the Barbican respectively, and exploring an immersive exhibition focussed on the **Last Days of Pompeii**.

Throughout the term, our pupils have travelled to town for a number of academic enrichment visits; highlights have included a number of theatre trips and our 4<sup>th</sup> Form enjoying their day at the **'Science Live'** event, where they had the opportunity to see and hear **Professor Robert Winston** and a number of the UK's top scientists as they explained their specialisms and their important work, and inspired those present to follow in their footsteps.



Our Head Boy, Peter, Head Girl, Abigail and our Chaplain, Reverend James Radcliffe recently attended a Service of Celebration at **St Bride's Church** in the heart of London. They had the great pleasure of meeting with **Her Majesty The Queen** during the service which marked the 650th Anniversary of the **Royal Confirmation of the Guild of St Bride**. Abigail delivered a confident and considered reading during the service; this was a proud moment for King Edward's Witley as Peter and Abigail formally became confirmed members of the Guild of St Bride, reaffirming our **Royal and City of London** heritage.



# CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

A true highlight of our half term has been three brilliant and mesmerising performances of 'Matilda' in our Charter Hall performance space. The cast, orchestra and production team from all year groups delighted sell-out audiences over two evenings, and local schoolchildren in a matinee performance. Expertly guided by staff during countless hours of rehearsals, all pupils and staff involved provided our community with an amazing show, showcasing all that is good at King Edward's.



Our musical half term featured almost one-quarter of our pupils taking part in the preliminary rounds of our Musician of the Year competition, and a wide range of performances by bands and orchestras from throughout the School. It culminated in Edward B (Upper 6<sup>th</sup>) expertly performing three of Beethoven's sonata in a captivating recital, exploring the composer's early and middle-period sonatas, revealing the romantic spirit hidden within works often seen as classical. The evening provided Edward with a showcase for his exceptional keyboard talent, which has recently been recognised with an offer to study Music with an Organ scholarship at Oxford.



# SPORTING SUCCESS, WHATEVER THE WEATHER

Our pupils have enjoyed many sporting successes since Christmas, and most importantly have demonstrated considerable strength of character and fortitude during a period marked by very challenging conditions.

The half term has witnessed a number of very creditable performances by our football teams. We have celebrated our **Girls' 1<sup>st</sup> XI's** success as they played in the quarter finals of the **Independent Schools Football Association Cup** competition for the first time, as one of the top eight Schools in the country. We are very proud of the team and wish them very well in their upcoming **ISFA Shield semi-final**. Our **Under 15 boys'** team have also reached the semi-finals of the **Independent Schools Football Association** trophy, and we are looking forward to hosting a home semi-final in late February.



We were pleased to be included in **The Cricketer magazine's Top 100 Schools** for the 2025/26 season, whilst our hockey teams have successfully progressed through a number of national and county cup rounds. Our swim squad has continued to impress, with pupils **qualifying for the Surrey championships** whilst our school community is incredibly pleased for Maddie M. from 2<sup>nd</sup> Form, who competed for Scotland in seven events at the **Geneva International Challenge** meet. We await the culmination of our winter sport season after our break with excitement as our pupils continue to enjoy and excel in the wide range of sports offered this term.

# WELCOMING THE WORLD TO WITLEY

In January, we hosted a group of girls and boys from schools in **Chile**, who lived and studied with us, making friends and sharing their experiences with our pupils. During their two week stay our visitors were offered an integrated KESW living and learning experience which immersed them in our house system and our warm culture of learning and care.

We were very interested to hear their positive reflections as the group presented to their peers on the final day of their stay. Our guests left King Edward's with our very best wishes and we hope to keep in touch after they return home from their UK adventure.



Together with **Barrow Hills School**, we were privileged to welcome a group of over 100 teachers from the **Republic of Korea**, who joined colleagues and pupils at both Barrow Hills and King Edward's, to understand more about education in the UK and in particular about approaches to **digital literacy**, and our **Bridewell AI** programming.

We were very honoured to be selected to host this governmental delegation; their research visit created valuable opportunities for further collaboration and we look forward to continuing to share knowledge with our guests in the future.

# PREPARING FOR LIFE AFTER KING EDWARD'S

We welcomed back many of the **Upper Sixth Class of 2025** for their One Term On reunion in January, where we heard so much about their progress after leaving King Edward's. As part of our evening, we were thankful to a number of our alumni for spending time in Jubilee, our Upper Sixth House, answering questions from our current pupils, providing insights relating to their work prior to both trial and public examinations, and explaining how thoroughly they felt they were prepared for their transitions to **Universities, employment and Degree Apprenticeships**.



Our final event before our break featured Old Witleian Ella Rowdon (2025) returning to King Edward's to discuss her experiences taking a **Degree Apprenticeship at Rolls Royce** with our Fourth Form and Lower 6<sup>th</sup> as part of our events during National Apprenticeship Week. Our pupils greatly appreciated Ella and her brother Robert, who studies **Supply Chain Management** with Airbus, sharing their reflections as part of our **Next Steps programme**, offered to all pupils at King Edward's, and we look forward to supporting the increasing popularity of this pathway into employment.

