



King Edward's
WITLEY

School Report

APRIL 2026



WELCOME TO OUR APRIL SCHOOL REPORT

Dear Parents and Guardians,

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

Since my arrival in February, I have enjoyed meeting many families who have visited King Edward's for a Personal Tour or Open Morning this term and are considering our School as the next step in their child's educational journey; our next open morning is on 9th May and spaces may be booked via www.kesw.org/admissions - I look forward to seeing many of you at this event.

Next term, from 18th May, we will be restarting our **'Explore Your Passions'** teatime sessions, and we'll be in touch with more information regarding these opportunities for younger children to enjoy a taste of our School with our teaching staff here at King Edward's.

I hope you enjoy our latest School Report, and if our Admissions Team can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact us via admissions@kesw.org and we'll be delighted to help.

I look forward to being of service to you and your family,

With best wishes,

John Ronane,
Registrar
King Edward's Witley



CELEBRATING OUR CITY HERITAGE

Our Founder, Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, understood that education can transform lives and in 1553 inspired the young King Edward VI to grant Bridewell Palace in the City of London to the Lord Mayor to house, care and educate girls and boys within The Bridewell Royal Hospital. Each year in March we celebrate our proud foundation, rich history, and our bright future in our historic City of London home at our Bridewell Day and Spital Sermon events in the presence of the Lady Mayor, Aldermen, Councilmen, parents and staff.



At the Spital Semon, preached every year since the late 14th century and held at St Lawrence Jewry, we celebrated our pupils' musical excellence as our Choir performed 'A Lament For The City', by our Composer in Residence Mr Eunseog Lee, for the first time. A week later, our 2nd Form, Upper 6th Form and Choir were privileged to represent King Edward's at St Bride's Church, followed by lunch in the Guildhall. As ever at this annual celebration of Bridewell Day, our pupils were joined by Old Witleians, current parents and staff to enjoy wide-ranging conversations with representatives of Livery companies and other partners, and were treated to our Head Girl, Abi and Head Boy, Peter's reflections on the value of a Bridewell education to them during their time at our historic School.



EXPLORING NEXT STEPS

Pupils from throughout King Edward's have been busy this half term exploring their future Careers and University options in a series of activities within our **Next Steps programme**. Following our attendance at the **London Careers Festival**, we were very grateful to AXA for recently opening their offices and allowing our 6th Formers to experience working life in a busy City office.



Our pupils enjoyed a tour of the company's offices and met with AXA's apprentices and interns who shared their varied career journeys and gave tips and insights into careers in insurance and risk management. They then met The Chartered Insurance Institute (CII), the professional body dedicated to building trust in the insurance and financial planning profession.

The CII team ran an interactive game of risk management, to allow our pupils to experience the kind of critical thinking decisions professionals risk managers need to make during times of crisis, and provided an incredible experience and networking opportunity.

In the same week, we also welcomed Mr David Hawkins from **'The University Guys'** and international university colleagues to King Edward's to present on global application procedures with Mrs Davies, our Head of Careers and Higher Education. Their visit offered much food for thought and we look forward to more international universities visiting King Edward's as we support the increasing numbers of pupils who are considering transitioning outside of the UK on their educational journeys.



LEARNING FROM OUR OLD WITLEIANS

Our vibrant Old Witleian community of former pupils continues to grow and inspire our current pupils. A core component of our **6th Form Bridewell Diploma** is our **Bridewell Speaker Series**, and we were delighted to welcome back four Old Witleians to celebrate **International Women's Day** in March to reflect on experiences gained during their careers as workforces continue to diversify.

Samira Ebrahim (OW 1996), Clare Himmer (OW 1988), Rebecca Large (OW 2011) and Matilda Pegler (OW 2017) shared their inspiring and insightful stories and generously answered an extensive range of questions from our pupils and parents. Our panel's lively discussions were expertly moderated by Miss Sophie Quiney, our Head of Science, and we look forward to our Old Witleians returning to School in the future to further share their expertise with our current pupil community.



Earlier this half term, our former pupils from 2015, 2016 and 2017 reconvened to catch up and enjoy reminiscing about their time at King Edward's, in the Old Witleian owned 'Enterprise' venue in the **City of London**. Further reunions are planned this summer, including at our **Founder's Day on 27th June**, when our pupils, parents, alumni and friends will come together to celebrate as we look towards the 160th anniversary of our School's move to Witley in 1867.



SPRING SPORT FOR ALL

Our pupils have celebrated their sporting successes, and inspired the next generation of future stars, throughout a winter season which has featured over 400 School sports fixtures at all levels.

Our U15 Mixed Padel team started our half term by becoming **national champions** after a closely fought final against Charterhouse. Our Boys U15 football team then reached the final of the **Independent Schools Football Association Trophy**, after a thrilling win in a home semi-final; held at **Slough Town FC**, a tense final was lost in extra time to Highgate School, in front of over 100 King Edward's pupils. Our Girls 1st XI made history by reaching the quarter-finals of the **ISFA National Cup**, as one of the top 8 Schools in the country, for the first time and the semi-finals of the **National Shield** as our football programmes continue to be enjoyed by pupils throughout our School.



We have also welcomed over a thousand younger children to King Edward's to participate in a diverse programme of events, with current pupils and staff playing a central role in officiating and organising these events. **The Independent Association of Preparatory Schools** regional Netball tournament, and our annual Preparatory and Junior School cross-country event both took place at the end of February, building on our rapidly developing Cross-Country programme here. In March, Longacre School and King Edward's welcomed over 45 girls' football teams to two Under 9 and Under 11 festivals, with impressive sportsmanship, teamwork and competitive spirit on show throughout these events.



Looking forward to the summer season, we have warmly welcomed **Miss Darcey Whiteley**, as our Sport Assistant, to King Edward's; Miss Whiteley is also **Guildford Cricket Club's** first overseas women's player, and will play for the **Club's 1st XI** this season in addition to her duties at School. We look forward to Darcey playing an important part in our girls' cricket season in particular, as interest and participation in our programme grows very rapidly.



MUSICAL DELIGHTS THROUGHOUT OUR SCHOOL

Our half term featured our annual **School Concert**, featuring performances from pupils from our 1st Form to the Upper 6th in a mesmerising evening in our Chapel. After the excitement of the Concert, Stella and Eve from 3rd Form rounded off the term at **Wembley Arena**, singing in the '**Voice in A Million**' concert, whilst members of our Upper 6th took to the stage in the more intimate setting of our Recital Room for a final time to celebrate their achievements throughout their School career.



Almost one-quarter of our School entered the competition in 2026; congratulations were extended to all our finalists and winners at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels, and in particular to Stella L, from 3rd Form, who was presented with the Musician of The Year award after her brilliant performances in the Final. We look forward to the competition continuing to delight our School community in the future.



The finals of our annual **Musician of The Year** competition were a marathon of brilliant musicianship, showcasing the talents of so many of our pupils following their progress from the earlier preliminary rounds; as our adjudicator Edward Leech from **The Musicians' Company** explained, judging the finals was a very difficult task indeed.

