



King Edward's

WITLEY

School Report

JULY 2026



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW - 2025/26

by Joanna Wright, Head



In our final School Report of 2025/26, I am delighted to share highlights of our academic year at King Edward's with you. Our successes continued until the very end; in the last twenty-four hours of our summer term our Boys' 1st XI prevailed over the M.C.C. for the first time in our School's history and we received the excellent news that we had once again been commended and shortlisted in the Independent Schools of The Year awards for Sporting Achievement.

Throughout the year we have aimed for 'happy excellence' and I am very thankful to every member of our School community for their engagement with all we offer here at King Edward's during this academic year. We will enjoy seeing our new returning pupils and parents again in September.

With best wishes,

Joanna Wright,
Head
King Edward's Witley

CONTINUED INVESTMENT IN LEARNING & TEACHING

Learning and teaching at our School has been greatly enhanced by the refurbishment of the Science laboratories during Summer 2025 and have enjoyed enabling our pupils' academic success throughout the year, moving forward with the implementation of our WIN feedback framework and launching our skills-based Bridewell Diploma and a much expanded Extended Project Qualification offer at 6th Form.



Our facilities continue to prove extremely popular amongst our School community and visitors alike. These enhancements marked the sixth major capital project completed at King Edward's in the last five years; our use of the recently reimagined Gerald Coke Pentagon continues to broaden, with the return of the AppArt exhibition and the welcoming of over 2,000 visitors during the Easter holidays to enjoy the work of so many independent artists, including pupils, parents and staff from the Bridewell community, providing a true highlight of our year.



ADVENTURES IN AI

Developments related to Artificial Intelligence have continued at pace, within Bridewell's overall AI and Digital Futures strategy.

Aiming to future-proof our pupils' education, we have worked with our higher education partners at the University of Surrey and Royal Holloway, University of London, researchers and pioneering experts in this field, including alumni from tech start-up Unified Projects to empower pupils with advanced skills to thrive and do good in our rapidly changing world, whilst retaining human interaction at the heart of our approach, valuing the expertise of our teachers and the authenticity of relationships.

We look forward to significant further developments in this area within Bridewell's strategic priorities during the next year.



CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Our pupils have continued to enjoy the widest range of inclusive co-curricular opportunities; almost 25% of our School demonstrated their brilliant musicianship at all levels in our Musician of the Year competition, and, once again, over 80% of our pupils have represented King Edward's in sports' fixtures.

We continue to host younger children from a wide range of local Schools to enjoy activities including art workshops, drama performances and sports festivals; our pupils are able to inspire the next generation by playing a key role in delivering our events.



SPORTING SUCCESSES

In the last year, our sports provision has broadened and deepened for pupils with every level of ambition under the leadership of our new Director of Sport, Mr Edwards. Taking advantage of our new floodlights we have provided extended Netball, Pickleball and Tennis opportunities on site, and we have launched a popular cross-country activity for girls and boys of all ages.

Highlights have included our Boys' Under 15 Football team reaching the final of the ISFA trophy in March and our Girls' Football First XI being ranked in the top eight in the country, and playing in the semi-finals of the National Shield. Our Ski team became English Mixed Team Champions and our Under 15 mixed Padel team won the national championship in a sport which is growing very significantly at King Edward's.

Our position in The Cricketer's Top 100 Senior Schools has been retained, with girls' cricket in particular enjoying an exponential increase in participation at all levels.

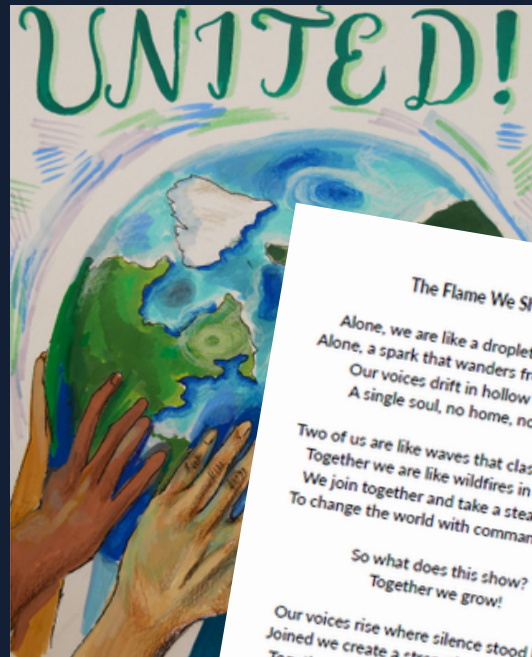


MUSICAL MAGIC

Our performing arts have continued to flourish; we have enjoyed the first performances of a number of our Composer-in-Residence Mr Lee's creations during this academic year, including the performance of 'A Lament For The City' by our choir at the Spital Sermon in March.



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. Regular Friday showcase concerts have continued to provide opportunities for so many of our pupils to perform across the fullest range of genres in the intimate setting of our recital room, together with our expanded, informal, 'Open Mic' evenings.



The Flame We Share
Alone, we are like a droplet lost at sea,
Alone, a spark that wanders from the flame.
Our voices drift in hollow melody,
A single soul, no home, no name.
Two of us are like waves that clash with sand,
Together we are like wildfires in the night.
We join together and take a steady stand,
To change the world with commanding light.
So what does this show?
Together we grow!
Our voices rise where silence stood before,
Joined we create a strength unknown alone.
Together we are a chord that can't be torn,
Together our unity is set in stone.
by Daniel R.
(Third Form)



Our new Bridewell art and poetry competitions have attracted over 100 entries on our theme of 'United' and we enjoyed the winning poem being set to music on Founder's Day.

DRAMA DELIGHTS

On parallel our Drama department has enthralled with a series of innovative productions, with our pupils also benefitting from regular visits from a number of theatre companies, providing a series of performance opportunities, including 'Flesh' and 'Branches and Breadcrumbs', to pupils from QMH to 6th Form.



A true highlight was the brilliant and mesmerising performances of 'Matilda' in our Charter Hall theatre. The cast, orchestra and production team from all year groups performed to sell-out audiences, and local schoolchildren in a matinee. Expertly guided by staff during countless hours of rehearsals, all pupils and staff involved delighted their audience with lifelong memories earlier this term.



OPPORTUNITIES IN LONDON & BEYOND

Our historic relationship with the City of London affords a number of special opportunities throughout our year, with a highlight being Bridewell Day in March where our Old Witleians and current parents and staff join with representatives of Livery companies and other partners to celebrate our foundation, and were treated to our Head Girl, Abi and Head Boy, Peter's insightful reflections on the value of a Bridewell education.



Our proximity to our capital city plays an important part in our extensive visits schedule with countless academic enrichment and co-curricular excursions to London; this year these have included our Boarders' Big Trips each term to experience a range of cultural experiences. Further afield our cricket and hockey teams toured to South Africa in the autumn, and curriculum-focussed activities have included trips to France, Germany, Iceland and Spain and residential weekends in the UK.



KINDNESS, COMPASSION & CHARITY

Our values of kindness, compassion and authentic connection have been reflected in our charitable partnerships and we have welcomed the Surrey Coalition of Disabled People as our School Charity, raising funds and awareness throughout the year.



Our 'Shoes and Sticks' and 'Santa Stork' collection initiatives have enriched the lives of children in South Africa and in Surrey, and many other smaller events have also been arranged by our pupil-led Charities Committee, providing regular reminders of the charitable foundation on which our School was founded

We were honoured to be recognised for our work with local charities as finalists in the recent Education Choices national awards, together with our Art and Music provision which was also honoured with finalist status in these awards.



BEYOND KING EDWARD'S

Those leaving today become part of our flourishing Old Witleian community. In addition to last week's Founder's Day Festival where we launched our Bridewell Giving initiative, Old Witleian sporting fixtures against the School have resumed and over forty Old Witleians returned to take part in our carol services.



Bridewell Giving



King Edward's
WITLEY



Barrow Hills
SCHOOL



In January we hosted a large group of our class of 2025 for a 'One Term On' reunion to reflect on their preparation for both trial and public examinations with our current Upper 6th Form in Jubilee, whilst explaining how thoroughly they felt they were prepared for their transitions to their Universities, employment and Degree Apprenticeships. This session took place within our Next Steps careers guidance framework, offered to pupils of all ages.

Our programme has further broadened this year, including attendance at the London Careers Festival, activities during National Careers Week and Apprenticeship Weeks, interview experience days and an international Universities presentation with support from external experts in this area.



HONOURING OUR PAST & LOOKING TO OUR FUTURE

As we closed our Academic Year, we celebrated the dedication over very many years of Sir Peter Estlin and Mrs Justine Voisin to Bridewell's Court and our School. Both Sir Peter and Justine were with us as we honoured the service of our former Treasurers, fellow Governors and colleagues who are leaving us, including our Deputy Head Mr Corran.



We look forward to celebrating the 160th anniversary of our School's move to Surrey in 2026/27, and to Bridewell's 475th anniversary in 2028; we hope you have enjoyed our School Report, and if we can be of any assistance to you over the summer, please do not hesitate to email our Admissions Team via admissions@kesw.org