

# NEWSletter



December 2022

*Merry Christmas!*

It has been another full term here at King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls. In what seems like an age ago, our Leavers received their exam results at the end of the summer – securing fantastic outcomes, particularly in Graphics, Textiles, English, Music and History after an extremely challenging few years disrupted by the Covid pandemic.

Shortly after, we were joined by our now not-so-new Year 7s, who threw themselves into school life, despite the huge change from primary to secondary school. Our other year groups, particularly Year 8 and Year 10 have made particularly strong progress this term.

Our programme of clubs and boosters has continued to grow, and now reaches as many as 700 attendances each week. Our first Enrichment Day saw excellent engagement in educational visits as varied as

Walsall Art Gallery and Arboretum, Twycross Zoo, Croome Park, the Nottingham Court of Justice, Carding Mill Valley and Stratford-upon-Avon.

Whilst our staff absences have remained well below some other schools, and thus avoided us having to take difficult decisions around year groups having to stay at home, small outbreaks of illness (particularly in these last weeks) has added to staff workload as we cover a few more lessons and do our best to maintain the quality of education we deliver. We have been fortunate in this regard, in that our former headteacher, Mr Crookes, was willing and able to step back into the breach once more to cover a longer-term absence.

Being part of the King Edward VI Foundation is bringing a number of benefits, including support and challenge for key subject leaders, but perhaps most excitingly in giving growing numbers of our pupils access to King Edward VI Sixth Forms. Both King Edward VI Lordwood Sixth Form and King Edward VI Camp Hill Girls have started the legal process around changing their admissions criteria to prioritise Year 11 leavers from this school. King Edward VI Five Ways staff will be offering a number of small group master classes to Year 11s and 10s in the months ahead for pupils interested in applying there. While all this is a work in progress – I am very pleased to see concrete steps being taken as the Foundation prioritises our pupils' pathways to university and employment.

The end of this term and the start of next will see a number of staffing changes. Firstly, our fantastic English and Drama teacher, Mr Christopher Allen, who has helped lead this hugely successful Faculty will be leaving us for a promotion to Faculty Leadership in another school. Mr Allen's hard work and ready wit will be sorely missed. The English team will be joined by Ms Mole, a veteran teacher who has worked within the King Edward schools. We will also be joined by Mr David Chesterman, a new Deputy Head and Ms Marti Elliott, as Assistant Head. Both of these colleagues have helped their current schools achieve remarkable results in key subjects such as the Sciences. We look forward to using their expertise and experience to continue to build upon the strong quality of education we already provide as we strive toward becoming the school this community deserves.

I would like to wish all of our pupils and their families a fantastic Christmas, despite the pressures many families are facing. I would also like to thank parents for their support for their children and the school in helping to deal with the challenges which inevitably arise. I reflect on a term where, together, despite sometimes getting some things wrong, we continue to get a great deal right.

**Mr N Jones**  
**Headteacher**



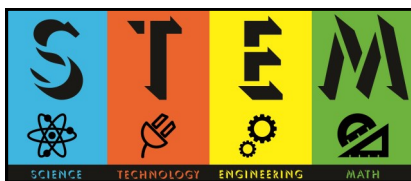
**King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls**

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# CAREERS



**T**omorrow's Engineers Week was celebrated in school in November. Pupils in Years 7 to 10 had assemblies to learn more about careers in engineering, including hearing from engineers working on flood defences in Bangladesh, new support for swimming pool access for those with mobility issues and work to reduce carbon footprints in industry.

Engineering can offer creative, diverse, enjoyable and well-paid careers and pupils are encouraged to use the assemblies as a starting point to understand the various types of engineering and links to many areas of interest. Many employers are keen to encourage a diverse workforce and some offer excellent opportunities to encourage this. There are also many different pathways into jobs at different levels so there is potentially an engineering career for anyone out there!

**Mr Jackson**



**A** reminder that pupils have access to a wide range of resources to support their Science lessons via Teams, Moodle and Educake. For KS4 pupils, all detailed lesson Power points (with narration), flash cards and additional practise exam questions can be found on Moodle. There is also a link to a simulator to practise a range of practicals - including the examined practicals for GCSE.

**E**ducake can provide all year groups with a valuable way to practise recall and understanding. As well as being used for homework we encourage all pupils to extend their practise independently and they can set their own questions on any topic. Pupils all have a log-in. Those in Years 7 and 8 can also log-in with their school email address (older pupils can manually add their email to allow this) on the website. There is a password reset function for anyone who needs to use it. Any issues can also be directed to science teachers via email.

## Talk from the CEO of HSBC



**W**e are very excited to announce that King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls will be hosting a talk from Ian Stuart the CEO of HSBC on Wednesday 8th March 2023 between 3.15 to 4.15pm. He will discuss the route he took to become the CEO of a major bank and what his job entails. He will also refer to any hurdles and setbacks he experienced and how he overcame these. Furthermore, he will mention how diversity and inclusion is now approached within banking and the opportunities that are available.

This is a fantastic chance for our students to be inspired about the world

of banking and management and we hope that many of our students from all year groups will take advantage of this opportunity. After his talk students will be able to ask Ian Stuart any questions related to what they have heard. There is an online booking system available for parents to book a free seat for their child to attend this talk. We are extremely grateful that despite his busy work schedule he has decided to give up some of his time to come and talk to our students.



Ian Stuart the CEO of HSBC

## Mock Interview day

**W**e had 29 employers giving pupils their first practice of a job interview. Pupils spent a few lessons in PSHE writing a letter of application and a CV to prepare for their "application". Pupils were asked to research their chosen job and company and then think about interview questions. Pupils had overwhelming positive feedback about their conduct and preparation for the event.



**M**s Hanratty has taken over as our Careers Advisor. She is primarily working with Year 11 at the moment, but is available for anyone in any year group, should they wish to have some careers advice. It is our intention that everyone will get an appointment in Year 10 and 11 but if you would like an appointment early, please email Ms Hanratty and she will make an appointment with you.



## Applications

We have been encouraging everyone in Year 11 to apply for their post 16 provision. Some Sixth Forms and Colleges close their application window in January and the most popular courses will be full very soon. Most pupils have made several applications and have been offered a place at their preferred destination. I would encourage anyone who has not applied to get an application in over the Christmas Holidays. Ms Hanratty is available to help make applications and will support students in every way to complete their applications. People who are interested in doing an apprenticeship should also apply for a college course as a back up, as the majority of apprenticeships only become available for school leavers from March onwards. Please take this into account when supporting your child with their application.





# October, a Month of Celebration



**B**lack History Month is a time when we all came together and celebrated the colourful cultural diversity of the United Kingdom. Here at King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls our classrooms were buzzing with creativity. Lessons ranged from producing Jamaican patties with Miss Carroll and the Food Technology Department to Afro-Beat dance workshops organised by Miss Adey and the PE Department. All Faculties came together and paid their respect to Black History.

In addition to this, throughout the month there were several exciting extra-curricular activities

that our students had the opportunity to experience and take part in. The gospel group **Sisters with Voices** visited and

performed an interactive concert with pupils singing along to a plethora of songs, one of which was the famous Stormzy song, 'Blinded by Your Grace'. Our mini-Glastonbury was welcomed by both teachers and pupils singing together in harmony.

We also experienced the humorous, 'myth buster' assemblies headed by my Mr Yentumi, who himself originates from the beautiful country of Ghana. He kindly shared some of his cultural knowledge and experience as well as melting our hearts with his beautiful family photographs. We closed our colourful month with an author visit by the poet Maureen Watson who treated us to an eclectic talented performance of poetry, comedy and song.

Thank you all who brightened our October 2022 and made it an entertaining, edifying and colourful Black History Month.



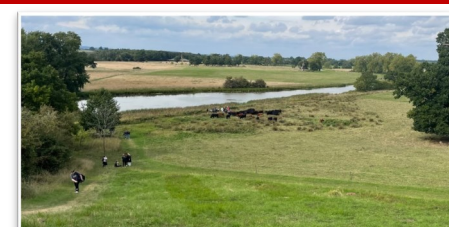
## Croome Court Visit

**O**n 22nd September, Year 9 pupils visited Croome Court in Worcestershire as part of the whole-school activity days programme. We were very lucky to enjoy a sunny day exploring the estate with its Capability Brown landscape designed for the

6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Coventry. The history of the site includes it being a refuge for the Queen of the Netherlands during World War II where the adjacent RAF Defford was used to develop radar and also demonstrated the first "hands-free" landing of an aircraft. The estate is now partly run by the National Trust.

Pupils enjoyed seeing the huge variety of plant species (once second only to Kew Gardens), the various architecture across the landscape and the local wildlife, including the local cows!

All of the pupils attending are to be commended on their positive attitudes



and politeness around the members of the public also visiting on the day. The staff thoroughly enjoyed the time spent with them and we hope it will encourage them to visit the countryside and heritage sites again in the future!

**Mr Jackson**



# TERM DATES

## January

Tuesday 3th January

Pupils Return:

Year 11 Mock Exams Start

Year 7 & 8 Aspire - 3.15-4.00pm

Year 9 Aspire - 3.15-4.00pm

Year 8 Aspire Trip to Blackwell - 1.30pm onwards

Year 11 Art Gallery Visit - TBC

Year 11 Mock Exams End

Year 9 STEM Workshop - all day

Year 10 Aspire Trip to Blackwell, 1.40pm onwards

Holocaust Memorial Day

Year 9 HPV Vaccinations/Year 7, 8 & 9 Flu Vaccinations

Year 7 & 8 Aspire - 3.15 - 4.00pm

Tuesday 10th January

Tuesday 17th January

Thursday 19th January

Friday 20th January

Monday 23rd January

Tuesday 24th January

Friday 27th January

Tuesday 31st January

## February

Wednesday 1st February

Friday 3rd February

Tuesday 7th February

Wednesday 8th February

Thursday 9th February

Year 11 Parents' Evening 4.00-7.00pm

Year 11 GCSE Graphics Research Visit - TBC

Year 9 & 10 Aspire 3.15 - 4.00pm

Year 9 Aspire Students to Aston Campus - all day

Year 10 Apprenticeship Assembly /Apprenticeship Workshop Period 1

Virtual ASK Apprenticeship Workshop, 6pm - all year groups

Year 8 Loudmouth Performance

Year 11 Apprenticeship Assembly/Apprenticeship Workshop

Year 10 Engineering Talk, Periods 4 & 5

Year 7 & 8 Aspire 3.15 - 4.00pm

Year 7 Parents' Evening, 4.00-7.00pm

Teacher Training Day

Friday 10th February

Monday 13th February

Tuesday 14th February

Thursday 16th February

Friday 17th February

**Half Term - Monday 20th February - Friday 24th February**

## March

Wednesday 1st March

Thursday 2nd March

Friday 3rd March

Tuesday 7th March

Wednesday 8th March

Year 11 Food NEA Exam, Periods 1-4

World Book Day

Year 11 Food NEA Exam, Period 1-4

Year 11 Food NEA Exam, Period 1-4

International Women's Day, Year 8 Careers Event at St Modwen

Aspire Talk—CEO HSBC, 3.15-4.15pm

Year 11 Food NEA Exam Period 1-4

Year 11 Food NEA Exam Period 1-4, Year 10 Art Gallery Visit - TBC

Science Week Connections—all year groups

Year 10 Aspire Students to Aston Campus—all day

Year 11 Maths Raising Attainment Evening, 3.15-5.00pm

Year 9 Parents' / Options Evening Combined, 5.30-8.30pm

Year 7 & 8 Aspire, 3.15—4.00pm

Year 11 GCSE Graphics Exam all day

Year 8 Parents' Evening, 4.00-7.00pm

Year 11 GCSE Graphics Exam all day

Year 11 GCSE Textiles Exam all day

Year 11 GCSE Textiles Exam all day

Year 9 School Leavers' Booster Vaccinations

Wednesday, 29th March

Thursday 30th March

Friday 31 March

**Monday 3rd April - Friday 14th April - Easter Break**

*All dates are subject to change*



**H**i! My name is Lucy and I played Mother Superior in my school's production of Sister Act. I was so excited to reunite with all my friends from Sister Act to go and see the actual show! I missed them all so much so I felt very privileged and grateful to be given the opportunity to spend time with everyone and go and spend some time relaxing and singing along to all the songs! On the minibus there, we were singing along to all the songs on the radio, warming up our voices for 2 hours of singing along to the

Sister Act soundtrack ha-ha! When we arrived, we saw Mrs Wilding which was so lovely and made our way into the Birmingham Hippodrome. We all got into our seats and were waiting for it to start when the lights dimmed and the nostalgic opening beats of the first song began. I was so excited because I didn't realise that they sang the same songs we did! I had so much fun dancing and singing along to the songs; I made some really special memories. Thank you Miss Adey, Mr Allen and Mrs Wilding for making it such a lovely trip!



**O**n Tuesday 4th October, Year 8 Aspire students visited the Lapworth Museum at the University of Birmingham. They had the chance to explore the museum looking at the exhibits and taking part in the interactive sections of the museum to help them complete a geology trail.

Then we went into a small classroom within the museum to participate in the 'Composition of the Earth' workshop which involved doing tests on different types of rocks to identify their properties. This was a great opportunity to see the cross-curricular links between Science and Geography outside of the school environment. It also provided an opportunity for them to experience some of the facilities that are available to students on a university campus.

The curator of the museum praised our students for their engagement and the way they represented our school so positively.

**Miss Hufton**





# LIBRARY NEWS

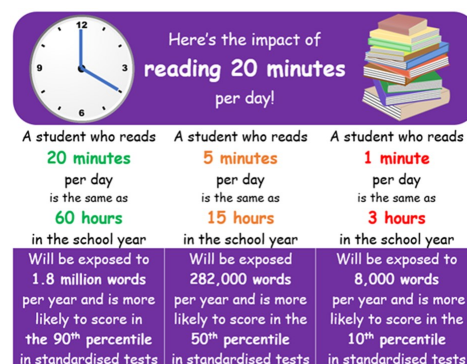
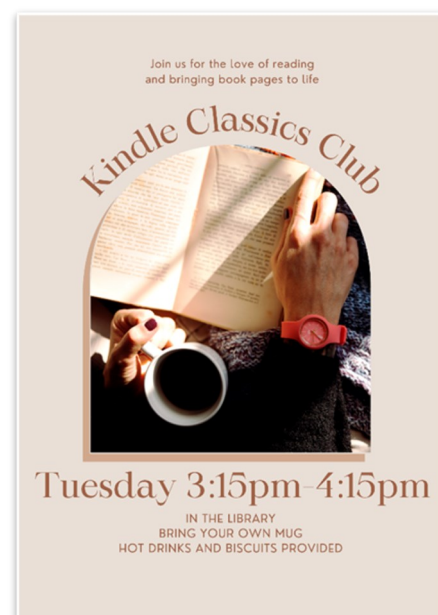


## TOP BOOKS

All KS3 students are enrolled on the AR programme. Students are given a target every half term to check they are reading enough. Well done to the following students, who smashed their independent reading targets this term:

Lydia, Gabi, Hannah, Poppy, Zara, Eden, Micaiah, Evie, Freya, Imogen, Sovina, Millie, Maisie, Millie, Laura, Rose, Leona, T'annah, Larna, Lillia, Millie, Stephanie, Connie, Niah, Laya, Amara, Caitlin, Mia, Amelie, Maisy, Rebecca, Kyra, Kariss, Keira, Alaika, Ruby, Alyssa, Mia, Megan, Aleema, Rosie, Lucy, Poppy, Isobel, Wania, Meg, Olivia, Tiah, Haylee, Yasmin and Ellie.

Remember you can play your AR quizzes on books that you have read at home too! Check they have quizzes available on: [arbookfind.co.uk](http://arbookfind.co.uk)



## Student Librarians

The Library will need some additional Librarians in the new year, please ask Mrs Dunnaker for an application form in January

## PE KIT REMINDER

Thank you and well done to the majority of pupils who have adjusted back to remembering their PE kit and changing in school for their PE lessons. We have been really impressed by the maturity of pupils in stepping up to organise themselves on days their PE kit is needed. We aim to communicate with you as much as possible when pupils are failing to remember their kit for lessons. We understand that forgetting kit once is an easy mistake to make so we will just send a message

home to let Parents/Guardians know. Over a half term, we follow the following procedure:

**2nd time** kit is forgotten – a detention will be issued

**3rd time** kit is forgotten – someone from PE will phone Parent/Guardian to help support with any issues with bringing kit

**4th time** kit is forgotten – pupil removal for a number of PE lessons, Parents/Guardians informed.

We would really like your support in

encouraging maximum participation in PE lessons. If your child is unwell/unable to take part, please send a note into school to explain this. Your child is still expected to have their kit for their PE lesson.

If there is an issue with kit, please also send a note in with your child which will prevent them from getting a further kit mark.

Mrs Vizor





## Pixie from Year 7 reflecting on her first term at King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls

**M**y first term has been very busy but extremely fun. They first welcomed me in and showed everyone around the school.

Our first week and a half was like a trial lesson every day where we could get an idea of what the lessons were like.

After that, we got our planners and went off to normal lessons. I knew where and what to do because they gave us two weeks to adjust to the changes. There were around 50 after school clubs which was a lot to choose from and a lunch time film club on Wednesdays in different languages.

I am soon doing a Christmas concert and participating by playing guitar. I have only began playing since September so this proves King Edwards will help and support anyone with anything. I have progressed a lot in all my subjects and have started many new subjects like Food Science, Graphics and Textiles. There have been many events just in one term because I have been on a school trip, had a disco, done a Christmas concert for kids and parents. The best of all is that I have made so many new friends which is something I thought I wouldn't be able to do. I can't wait for next year!

**Pixie Year 7**



## MEDALS FOR BETHANY

**M**y name is Bethany and I go to Wythall Gymnastics Club, they have taught me many new skills including tuck, pike and straight backs. I have learnt so many new flips and I am proud of this as I am only in Year 7. Since joining Wythall I have progressed as a gymnast. At my last club competition I won 4 medals, 1 shield and 1 trophy. I won one gold on floor, 1 gold on tumble, 1 bronze on vault and a gold overall as well as a trophy overall and a shield for individuals. I had to do

a floor routine, tumble and vault. I compete in Stoke-on-Trent for most of my competitions. Gymnastics teaches you to work as a team as well as an individual.



## AFRO BEATS WORKSHOP

**T**his year our school sought to bring in school a professional Afro dance teacher to encourage a range of students to take part in another form of dancing and in particular, one that originates from Africa. I found this experience quite exhilarating, especially due to me being African, but also because I got to appreciate my culture and tradition with my fellow peers. Watching us all enjoy and compete was the highlight of the session as this uplifted us using this creative input. I found this Afro dance class as a way to celebrate Black achievement and contributions to society as well as give visibility to others about just one of many Black cultures whilst creating a very memorable experience for not only I, but many others that attended!

**Leanne - Year 11**



**L**og onto our website where you will find a link to check if you are eligible for Free School Meals in a matter

of minutes, alternatively use the link:-

[www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham](http://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham)

Free School Meal allowance is added to your child's account automatically so there is no way of anyone knowing any child is on FSM. Any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up to date with all the exciting events happening in school.



## Governors

**W**e would like to welcome two new Governors, Isobel Simmons - Appointed by The Trust and Clair Hughes - Staff Governor to the Governing Board. Both to serve on the Governing Board for a period of four years.

Isobel and Clair bring skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls

We wish them every success in their new roles.



## STAFF/NEWS

**A**t the end of the term we have some hellos and goodbyes to say at King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls.

We would like to welcome **David Chesterman** - Deputy Head, **Marti Elliott** - Assistant Head Teacher, **James Cashmore** - Exams Officer/Attendance Administrator, **Elaine Tisdell** - Attendance Lead, **Kayleigh McConnell** - Food Technician/Cover Supervisor,

**Samuel Conlon** - Premises Shift Supervisor and **Vanessa Parker Barnes** - Cover Supervisor.

**W**e sadly say goodbye to **Chris Allen**—Teacher of English who will be moving on to Faculty Leadership we wish him all the very best for the future.







## NEXT GENERATION AWARDS

On Thursday 6th October, five of our Year 8 pupils competed in the Next Generation Award final at Highbury Hall in Moseley: Caitlin, Larna, Millie, Maisy and Alice. The Next Generation Award is

a long-standing Citizenship scheme run by the Birmingham Civic Society; it allows schools to present their ideas for projects to benefit their local community to a panel of judges. Although our girls did not win, they all presented extremely well (under trying technical circumstances at the venue) and the judges praised them for the passion they had for their idea of organising and running a reading project in local primary schools. They were all brilliant.

Mr Sweeney



## Duke of Edinburgh Award

This year a group of 35 Year 9 pupils will be taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. This is the first time the school has participated in the Bronze award, with the hope that in the future pupils will go on to achieve their Silver and Gold award. The DoE is many things to many people, supporting generations to successfully navigate adult life. We hope that this life-changing experience will provide pupils with an opportunity to discover new interests and talents, have a fun time with friends, and develop essential skills for life and work.

Miss Barstow



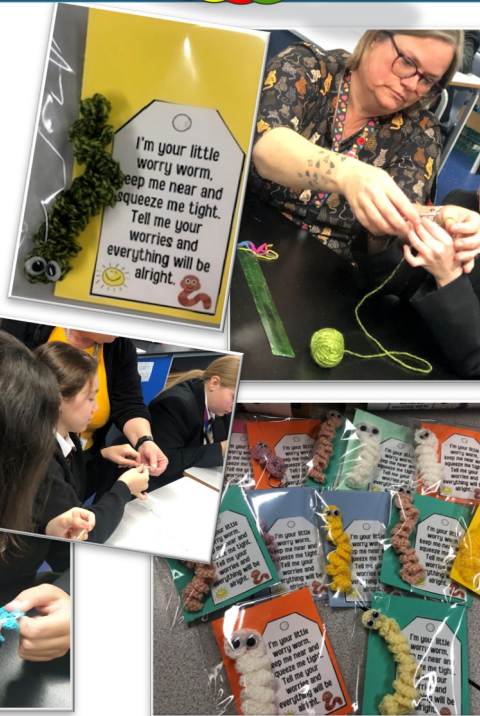
## WORRY WORMS



Chrysalis is a mentoring group that was set up nearly 20 years ago to help students socially and emotionally in school.

When we were given the challenge to run an after school club we wanted to encourage some of the old skills that have been taken over by technology such as crochet. It proved to be very popular. Our first project raised £70 for Children in Need crocheting worry worms. We would like to thank all pupils and parents for supporting this project and look forward to our future ones. We have had a lot of fun also during the last few weeks.

Merry Christmas from Chrysalis



## Poppy Appeal

Thank you for donations to the Poppy Appeal, King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls raised a massive: **£219.04**

## Message from Reception

Could we please ask that if your child has to leave school during the day for any reason, could you please write a note and ask her to get it signed by their Year Head before leaving.

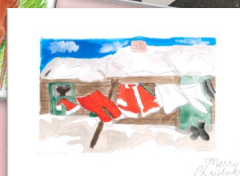
**Lost Property** - We have numerous items of lost property in reception. Please feel free to pop in and have a look if your child has lost her coat/glasses/bottles etc.

## Christmas Card Competition

A competition was held for all pupils to design a Christmas card, which has been used as our official 2022 Christmas card. The winning card has been sent out to local primary/secondary schools and the local community, designed by Lily Year 8. Lily received a voucher along with Veronika and Aimee who were runners up. All entrants received a certificate and small prize. Thank you to all pupils who took the time to enter.



WINNING CARD



RUNNERS UP





# SPORTS UP-DATE by Mrs Turner

## CROSS COUNTRY

### SOUTH BIRMINGHAM CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022-23

**Wednesday October 19<sup>th</sup>  
Kings Norton Boys' School**

The second Cross Country event since Covid restrictions were lifted, took place on the 5th October at Shenley Academy. It was not a team event, but more of a trial to select a District team.



Well done to Lauren in Year 10. She finished 2nd in the Intermediate Girls' race and as a result she was selected to compete for the District at the West Midlands County Championships. This was a fantastic achievement, especially considering she has had shin splints injuries in both legs for a number of months.

Well Done

## Extra-Curricular Netball

Netball has been an incredibly popular Extra-Curricular club for the lower school, with multiple pupils across Year 7 and 8 attending weekly trainings. They have also had the opportunity to play local schools such as Bournville School, Saint Thomas Aquinas, and Selly Park School. On all occasions our Year 7 and 8 teams have



remained unbeaten which is a huge achievement! Going into the New Year, pupils will be playing many more matches, and the hope is that our unbeaten record continues.

## NETBALL

September 2022 saw a second season of Netball matches & competitions and the return of the South Birmingham District Leagues, since Covid restrictions were lifted a year ago.

### Senior team – Year 10 & 11 District Netball League matches

The team consist of a mixture of Year 10s & 11s. They have played very well this season and had some very good results. They have lost 2 matches and won the rest, so we will have to wait until all schools have completed their fixtures in late February, before we know our final league position.

### Results

v Bishop Challinor won 15-12,

v St Thomas Aquinas 'A' won 15-12,

v St Thomas Aquinas 'B' won 18-4,

v Shenley won 28-0,

v Swanshurst lost 10-24,

v King Edwards Five Ways lost 6-15

v Swanshurst lost 10-24,

v King Edwards Five Ways lost 6-15

### Year 9 team- Friendly matches

The Year 9 squad have not been competing in the league this year. They have had a number of friendly matches, which have usually been against older

players from Year 11. These were on dates when the Senior team were also playing the same school and the Year 9 team would play a friendly after the league match, against the same team. Bearing this in mind, they have done well to compete against players that are 2 years older.

### Year 9 Friendly results v Year 11s

v St Thomas Aquinas 'B' drew 1-1

v St Thomas Aquinas 'A' lost 4-1

v Swanshurst lost 15-4



Years 9,10 & 11 Netball Squad 2022-2023

### Year 8s & 9s combined Friendly tournament at Bournville.

(This team consisted of 5 Year 9 players and two year 8 players)

v Dame Elizabeth Cadbury 'B' won 6-3

v Bournville won 3-1

v KE Northfield B won 3-0

v Dame Elizabeth Cadbury 'A' drew 3-3



**KING EDWARD VI  
FOUNDATION  
BIRMINGHAM**

*Educational excellence for our City*

# Stay Active!

A big well done to all pupils who attended any of our multiple PE clubs this term. From Archery and Basketball to Dance and Netball, it is wonderful to see and hear the buzz around the PE department at the end of each day. So many pupils are giving up their time to develop both their physical and social skills. Our successful Stay Active Scheme is still up and running with the first two tickets to Drayton manner won by Lucy and Isabella. Students can collect a signature for each club they attend, with 5 signatures gaining them one entry into our half termly prize draw. Prizes range from a ticket to Drayton Manor, a golden pass for break/lunch time, to chocolates and a movie. It is also worth noting that any pupil collecting 50 signatures will automatically gain a free ticket for Drayton Manor in the summer term!! There are a few pupils well on their way to achieving this landmark! Keep an eye out for new clubs and activities for next term and keep collecting everyone!!