

As we've reached the end of our second term I would like to share with you our progress over the course of this year as we continue to move our school forward. At the start of the year, together with our Governors we set ourselves six priorities of areas where we can do even better.

Continue to improve the attendance of all pupils

We know that good attendance is the biggest single factor in achieving strong outcomes for children from education. School attendance has continued to improve and is now almost 2% higher than at the same stage last year. We have a lot more to do on this and continue to improve in-school systems to help all of our children achieve the best possible attendance.

Effectively embed school values with measurable outcomes for pupils attitudes to learning

A recent school review highlighted excellent behaviour of our pupils. However, we think there is more work to be done in this crucial area, and in the new term will be introducing some quite big changes to improve our detentions system and continue to embed our school values – that all children should feel happy in school, feel safe in school, be aspirational for their future, be engaged in their learning and feel able to be active citizens within the school.

Continuing the improvements in specific subject areas to reduce variation in outcomes

We are anticipating a great set of results for the current Year 11 this summer based on mock exam results. We have also been working quietly throughout the year to over staff in key subjects to give us the ability to create additional groups, cover any staff absence or sudden departures with high quality subject specialists. We have also been working hard with the King Edward VI Trust to make sure our teachers receive worldclass CPD, developing subject knowledge and teaching skills.

Continue to embed extra-curricular participation as an expectation of all pupils

With 50 clubs each week we have hit 700 attendances at clubs each week (in a small school of 750 pupils). This is a tremendous achievement, but we will keep working to ultimately double that figure. We want to reach a stage where every child has an activity they love and most children routinely do at least a couple of activities each week. Your support with this will continue to be vital.

Continue to embed SEND best practice in the classroom

External reviews of our SEND provision and parent views show this to be an increasing area of strength for the school. However, we do not feel there is any grounds for complacency and are determined to continue to improve every aspect of our support for our wonderful SEND children.

Implement key changes in teaching and learning to improve the delivery of our knowledge-rich curriculum

We are fortunate to have so many skilled and committed teachers here. With this huge advantage we have been making a number of changes to how we teach, informed by recent educational research and evidence. This has seen teachers consistently start lessons with 'Do It Now' activities which encourages children to revisit past learning, teachers now routinely check understanding using our mini-wakeboards and respond to gaps in understanding by adapting the planned lesson. Increasingly 'no-hands questioning' ensures all children actively participate in lessons is the norm.

We understand that reaching our potential as a truly remarkable school is a journey. We also understand that your support, and that of your child, is absolutely fundamental as we continue to move forward. Doubtless we will face challenges ahead, but I remain incredibly proud to be a part of this ambitious and inclusive school community.

Mr N Jones Headteacher



w e recently invited our Year 11 Leavers back to the school for a special Awards Evening to celebrate their achievements during the five years they spent with us. The Main Hall was full

with no seats to spare and photos were projected onto the screen of the pupils during their time at the school -including some of them when they first arrived in Year 7!

AWARDS EVENING

Our guest speaker Grace Cousens gave an inspiring speech followed by the Headteacher who praised them for all their efforts and pure hard work. Subject awards from staff were given out as well as awards to pupils with excellent attendance and punctuality and pupils who achieved outstanding results in their final exams. There was also some wonderful singing from the school choir, which was very emotional, supported by our brilliant school band. It was lovely to

see all of our leavers and hear about how much they miss being at school, their new, exciting lives at college and their hopes and dreams for the future.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the office staff, who worked so very hard to make this a special night

Mrs McAuley

King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls



We welcome Sarah Miles as the new careers advisor for King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls.



Sarah will provide careers support and guidance to Year 7 – 11 students, available Monday to Friday from 8.30am – 4.15pm. Sarah is a Level 6

qualified Careers Advisor and brings over 20 years experience working in secondary and sixth form schools. Working with Mr Keylock (Head of Careers) she will support students in making informed decisions about their next steps, helping to raise their aspirations and set goals in addition to arranging careers events and educational off-site trips to support your child in moving on to positive destinations.

Sarah will be meeting all Year 10 students this term to discuss post school options, entry grades and career

rah Miles as the
dvisor for Kingpaths. All Year 7 – 11 students can
request a career meeting either viaSchool for Girls.their form tutor or by emailing Sarah at:
s.miles@nsg.kevibham.org

The National Careers Service website is a great resource for parents and guardians to explore over 800 career profiles with your child, in helping you

National

areers

Service

to discover different career paths and different ways to get into a wide range of jobs. The website can be accessed via this link:

https:nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/ explore-careers

We advise students that there is no expectation to choose a career at this stage of their education, but rather to start having an awareness of the range of jobs which are available. We encourage students to follow their interests and to understand the skills they are developing, to help direct them towards choosing a job in the future. If your child has chosen a particular career path that they would like to follow, they can speak to Mrs Miles about different progression routes into a particular career.

The school is keen to work with businesses and to bring businesses into the school to support students in learning more about:

- · Advanced, Higher & Degree
- · Apprenticeship opportunities
- · Post school options & career paths
- · Applying for jobs & interviews
- Local labour market information and skills required by different industry sectors.

If you know of any employers who would like to work with the school to highlight career and apprenticeship opportunities, please do contact Sarah Miles at s.miles@nsg.kevibham.org

Mr Keylock

Envision Action Project

Year 9 Aspire students have been completing an Envision Social Action Project this year. Within this programme they have had regular meetings on Tuesday's with Envision staff to work on their cultural awareness project. On top of this they regularly visited Irwin

Mitchell offices, employees gave up their time to mentor these students and our students also experienced a professional working environment in their offices on the ninth floor looking out over central Birmingham.

Within this project they have interviewed students about their culture, collaborated with our canteen staff to put on a week of multicultural food. They also ran an event in the main hall at break time distributing foods from different cultures to all year groups.

This project culminated in an interschool presentation of their projects at Birmingham City Football Club on 23rd January. This involved them standing up not only in front of other schools,



business mentors but also a panel of judges to present their project. After their presentation they then had to answer questions the judges asked them, which they did extremely well. All spoke clearly and confidently and Rose did an excellent origami demonstration, pausing to allow time for the audience to follow her instructions. It was great to see the progress made by all students to participate in this event, even though some students were anxious or shy about public speaking, they all took on the challenge and made myself and our business mentors very proud.

Over the course of the project I have seen impressive growth in a range of



their skills such as increased independence, seeking out senior leadership themselves to get agreements for their social action projects. In addition, their public speaking skills developed significantly and they worked incredibly well as a group, delegating roles but also willingly stepping in if a student was absent. Well done to all Year 9 who participated in Envision.

Miss Hufton



Welcome Home Past Pupils

e are proud to have three members of our teaching staff who attended our school and we are lucky enough to have had them return after further education to teach. This is a brief account of each of their journeys.

this school as a pupil when it was still Turves Green Girls School. I really enjoyed my time here, made life-long friends, had the best opportunities and learned Once I had qualified as a a lot from some amazing teachers. They were so supportive and helped to push me to achieve some excellent GCSE results in difficult subjects like

came to

Triple Science. Gaining these qualifications have allowed me to study the A-levels of my choice and receive an unconditional offer to a Russel Group University to study Environmental Science. teacher, I knew I wanted to return to this school and give other pupils the same opportunities that I have had. It has been great coming back to a

brandnew building but many of the same



I remember. Both the staff and pupils have been very welcoming to me since joining and have made this school a great environment to work in.

Miss Harrison

but in

many

ways

things

have

started my journey as a student at KEVI NSG in 2007,



previously known as Turves Green Girls School.

Throughout my time here, I enjoyed PE, English and History and went on to study Sport and Exercise at Bournville College. I always knew I wanted to be a teacher and studied Sport and Education Studies at Newman University. After Graduating in 2017 I left the UK to travel in Australia, which I ended up living there for around a year in total! When I returned to the UK, I started my teacher training and even did a 6-week placement here at KEVI NSG.

Late 2023 a job advertisement for a teaching vacancy in PE came up and I knew I had to go for it! It's great to be back here, it's very different from when I was here as a student but there are lots of familiar faces and everyone has made me feel very welcome.

Miss Lonsdale

first

started my time at KEVI

NSG as a pupil in 2008 when it was then known as Turves Green Girls School. Throughout my time here I particularly enjoyed Science and English lessons and went on to study A-levels in Biology, Chemistry and **English Language at** Cadbury College in 2013. I decided that Science was the route I wanted to take and went on to

the University of Leeds. After graduating in 2019 I came back to Birmingham where I began training to be a Science teacher. In November 2019, I saw a Science Teacher position advertised at my old school and knew I had to apply and the rest is history! Coming back to teach here is very different to when I was a student, particularly with us being in the new

study Neuroscience at

building

remained very similar with lots of my old teachers now being my colleagues!

Miss Haywood



Creative Writing Club

K EVI Northfield Creative Writing Club have been continuing to explore different types of writing in our workshops including fantasy and world building, romance and World Book Day fan fiction, and many of our talented writers have been busy writing their own independent projects during our weekly workshops. We have also been experimenting with fun writing games and group novel writing, with members starting a story then passing it onto another member to continue! After the

success of our last competition 'One Winter Evening' we will be launching more writing competitions and challenges very soon - so keep an eye out for posters around school!

We are always happy to welcome new members, so if anyone wants to come along and try out Creative Writing Club, please come to Room 28 on Monday after school, or ask Miss Norris for more information.

Miss Norris

Chrysalis Group

y name is Lyla, I am a Year 9 student and a member of Chrysalis. My friends and I are raising money to go to Switzerland with Girl Guiding. Over the next few months myself and Chrysalis will be making and selling crocheted pocket hugs, bobbles and worry worms in school. Our goal is to raise £2500 and we have already raised £250. Thank you to those who have already supported us.





SPARK! Book Awards

Judging is well on the way for the SPARK! Book Awards, as our pupils meet every Friday morning to discuss what they have read so far.

We are judging two categories: Graphic Novels and 11+ Fiction. The shortlisted titles are:









We have some very controversial and contrary opinions already, with some initial thoughts being at entirely opposite ends of opinion – proving how subjective reading actually is!

Our Judges are also looking forward to the Virtual Author Events for the 11+ Fiction category over the next term, where

the authors of the shortlisted books will be talking about their experiences writing, convincing us why they deserve to win, and answering any burning questions you may have.

There is still time to participate in the judging of the SPARK! Awards, and you are welcome to come along to any of the Author Events. Please speak to Mrs Dunnaker in the Library for more information!



Pupils have had the opportunity to meet with two of the short listed authors of the Spark Book Awards. Josh Silver spoke about his inspiration for writing Happy Head, including his experience as a mental health nurse in the NHS and how that shaped the dystopic storyline. Sophie Cameron talked about her experiences moving from Scotland to Spain, and how her unique story was able to be brought to life with the help of a graphic designer.

Both authors talked about their experiences with writing for young people, and gave advice to budding writers in the audience. In summary: Read a lot. Write down everything. And if you can't find the book that you want to read, write it yourself.

With thanks to Mr Jones, the library has been able to undertake a significant restock this year. In December, pupil voice was taken into consideration and we were able to purchase enough Graphic Novels to create an entirely new section within the library. In addition, pupils have been putting suggestions forward this term for books that they would like access to from the school library, including books for our Comedy, Mystery and Horror sections. These will be available to borrow in the Summer Term.

Mrs Dunnaker

WORLD BOOK DAY 2024

We love reading for pleasure at King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls so, like every year, we participated as a school in World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. World Book Day aims to "change lives through a love of books and reading". Our staff and pupils from across the school got involved in book talk and sharing a fun book challenge, culminating in a massive book giveaway at the end of the school day in the Library, organised by Mrs Dunnaker, our Librarian.

The week before World Book Day, Mr Beech led assemblies for all year groups where he spoke about why the annual event is so important and also shared some of our NSG teachers' favourite children's books. Who knew Mr Chesterman was a big fan of Julia Donaldson's 'The Gruffalo'?! Mr Beech and Mrs Dunnaker also gave out the World Book Day £1 vouchers to all pupils which can be used towards buying a new book in any participating book shop or supermarket, or can be exchanged for one of the special 2024 WBD releases you can browse the books available here: https://www.worldbookday.com/booksand-tokens/books/

On World Book Day itself, the day began with five lucky raffle winners receiving a brilliant bookish prize – copies of the nominated books for the Spark! Book Awards. (Read more about the Spark! Awards in Mrs Dunnaker's article in this newsletter...) Congratulations to Poppy, laya, Micaiah, Erin and Divine and happy reading!

In each lesson during the day, all teachers read out one of five fiendish book riddles, the answers to which were all a classic children's book. This generated lots of excited, engaged book talk in lessons from across all subjects, and pupils spent break and lunch times using the clues around the Library and canteen areas to figure out all five answers. The classic novels were: 'Anne of Green Gables', 'Little Women', 'The Jungle Book', 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' and 'The Secret Garden'. Throughout the day, we shared the clues on the school's X social media page (@KEVINorthfield).

BOOK

Then, at the end of the school day, hundreds of pupils rushed to the Library, clutching completed riddle sheets, to queue up to receive a free book to take home. On offer were the classics mentioned already, as well as five more classics, some of the Spark! Book Award nominees and some other brilliant books such as 'Coraline' and 'Skellig'. There was such a brilliant buzz about books, with hundreds of happy pupils leaving school with books in hand, or getting their noses stuck straight in!

A grand prize-winner of a huge haul of all fourteen books was chosen at random the following day... Congratulations to Gabi in Year 8 who took home the grand prize! Gabi has been doing amazingly



with her

Accelerated Reader reading, so the prize is well-deserved.

Reading for pleasure is not just for World Book Day, and we hope every pupil who got involved in our WBD activities this year continues to enjoy and be passionate about reading for the rest of the year... and their lives!

Mr Marchese-Fry

CAKE SALE

D uring break, the School Council organised a bake sale in support of the Toilet Twinning charity, a charity that raises money for sanitation for communities in need. After school, the students baked a delightful assortment of cookies and cupcakes to raise funds for this worthy cause. Their efforts exemplify both their commitment to community and their culinary skills.

It's heart warming to see our students actively contributing to charitable endeavours.

Mr Dolan

Art & Science Day

n February Year 8 had the opportunity to explore how two of their subjects overlap, connect and enhance each other. Art & Science are often seen as polar opposite subjects, but they have plenty in common, both in terms of subject matter and in the way we think and learn in these subjects.

Pupils listened to a presentation by Birmingham artist Sophie Huckfield, and then took part in workshops led by Art and Science teachers. These included heart dissection and watercolour illustration, microscopic imagery developed into clay tiles, mixed media paintings of fantasy alien landscapes,

onion skins boiled up and used for pH testing, and studies of iridescent insects with iridescent paint. Lots of thought provoking and beautiful work well done Year 8!

Mrs Allen



King Edward's African and Carribbean Conference

The inaugural King Edward's African and Caribbean Society (ACS) Collaboration event took place at King Edwards School on Friday 23rd February. The conference was heavily attended drawing representatives from all the King Edward's Foundation Schools. The event aimed to enrich students' understanding of ED&I issues, give them inspiration for activities in their schools and expand their horizon and network.

The conference provided students with the fantastic opportunity to engage with fellow students from other KEVI schools about issues surrounding Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. They were able to hear from notable individuals at the forefront of the fight for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), particularly for Black communities in Birmingham and the rest of the UK.The keynote speakers were Wade Lyn (CBE, CD, DL), the High Sherrif of the West Midlands (the first African Caribbean man to hold the position in over 1000 years) and founder of Cleone Foods, the makers of Island Delight Jamaican patties. And Dr. Pogus Caeser, a successful conceptual

photojournalist and artist whose works have been acquired and displayed in museums in Washington, USA, London, and other major cities in the UK. He has also had an illustrious career in television working as a presenter, series director/producer for Carlton Television, Central Television and BBC. Other guest speakers were Stuart Lawrence, a consultant, youth engagement specialist, coach, and public speaker and the younger brother of Stephen Lawrence, a British teenager who murdered in a racially motivated attack in 1993. And, Celia Fraser, a trail blazing co-head of the Business Data, Analytics and Tools (BDAT) team at Capital Group (CG), the largest active asset manager in the world, where she also leads the Capital Associates of African Descent (CAAD)

Community for Europe. Celia actively mentors graduates entering the business world and supports different bodies that empower Black-Owned Businesses. These speakers shared their journey in dealing with racism, their identity and what helped them succeed.



Students were able to ask them questions and interact with them on a more personal level during breaks and group sessions.

KEVI-NSG was represented by the core ED& I group namely: Amara, Annaleise, Savannah, T'Annah, Niah, Phoebe and Nikola. These girls were excellent ambassadors for the school. The organisers, speakers and teachers from other schools commented on how confident, courteous, eloquent, respectful, and engaged they were throughout the day, particularly during the group sessions where they discussed identify, culture, and code switching.

Mrs Pearson

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Well done and thank you to all those students who have 100% attendance at the school so far this year.

Attendance is one of the biggest factors deciding student success in school. Year on year, students who are in school with over 95% attendance achieve better grades and prepare themselves better for their future. We want every student at King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls to fall into this category and we don't want anyone to be left behind. We will be monitoring attendance closely next term

Attendance Update

• Please ensure your child attends every day, on time, equipped and ready to learn.

• Please ensure the school has up-todate addresses and telephone numbers. We will contact you if your child is absent and you have not contacted us. This ensures that the absence is quickly identified. • If your child is ill, please contact school on the first day of absence and provide medical evidence if requested.

- If no contact is received regarding the absence, it is recorded as unauthorised. Ultimately the school is responsible for deciding if the absence is acceptable or not. Only genuine absence will be authorised.
- You will be asked to provide medical certificates if your child has a poor attendance record. This may also result in a home visit being conducted by school.

• If a student's attendance falls below 90% they will be classed as Persistently Absent and this is a serious cause for concern - an example of this could be taking one day off every 2 weeks.

• Missing school will make your child fall behind and will impact on their academic progress and achievement. As parents/ guardians, you play an essential role in supporting attendance and ensuring your child has access to a full education; the school is required to take action should a student's attendance become a cause for concern. Such action may include a Penalty Notice and possible prosecution by the Local Authority.

- Please ensure that medical appointments are made outside of school time.
- Holidays should not be taken in school time. Any Leave of Absence can only be agreed by the Head Teacher and only agreed where there are exceptional circumstances.
- Please respond to letters or telephone calls regarding attendance and punctuality.
- Please contact school if you are experiencing difficulty in getting your child into school.

Mrs Tisdell Attendance Lead



ing Edward VI Foundation Archi id you know that King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls and staff! (formerly Turves Green School for Girls)

What is an archive and what does it hold?

has the beginnings of an archive?

Archives are collections of information (both modern and historical) about a particular place or person. They are places which store both paper and digital records (newsletters, photographs, uniforms, books, drama programmes, tickets, sports memorabilia and much, much more) connected with the school.



This is what the shelves in the Foundation archives tend to look like. As you can see – we have a lot of boxes!

> We keep archives so we can record an honest and

accurate account of our school's history – who attended, what happened and what was happening at the time? This is important for people in the future finding out about the history in their local area or even their family history. Do you know where your grandparents went to school? What was happening when they were your age?

We also don't just collect 'old stuff'. The programmes from the plays you put on this year, the latest newsletter, photographs from sports day - they all have a place in a school's archive -

anything that shows the life of students

The picture and newspaper cutting are from a scrapbook entitled 'A Year in the Life' and is a collection of events which took place at the school in 1992. This page was dedicated to a campaign by Northfield students to collect gifts for a school in Ukraine. Shortly after this, a group of seven pupils from a girls school in Ukraine visited Turves Green Girls School.

Most of what we have is currently paper, but with more and more digital content being created we now find we need extra RAM as well as shelf space. We need to think carefully about how we store our digital content. We have in the archive lots of different devices that store information, including USB Sticks, DVDs, CD-Roms, cassette tapes, VHS and even gramophone records. As Archivists we need to think about how we access this information in the future when the technology that works with these storage devices is no longer available.



An example of technology before computers: students at Turves Green Girls School had typing lessons on typewriters.



Presents for the **I** Ikraine

One amazing and unique record that Northfield Girls has is a logbook created by Miss L E Bright who was appointed Headmistress 1st September 1953. In this book she records the day-to-day happenings for the 374 pupils at Turves Green Girls School.

8. 9. 53. The Session opened with full assembly and a short religions service. Classes and Class rooms a temporary Time Table for inaugurated. te allo Periods of attendance 19.30 A.H. - 12.30 p.m. Special tuses convey large numbers of children to and from outlying aseas. School meals can be served in newly built brining Hall, accommodating 240 girls.

Miss Bright's notebook entry on her first day at **Turves Green Girls School**

This book was kept until 22nd June 1988, by which point two other headmistresses had kept up the tradition - Myfanwy Edwards (1963-1977) and Miss P Thompson (starting in 1977).

There is a lot of administrative notes connected with the day to day running of the school, but also hints at the politics of Birmingham and the UK that affected them. For example, there are several entries during the 1970s noting that the school had to be closed because there was no oil to heat the building. This shows the effects of the major global energy crisis occurring at the time - effects of a huge worldwide event being felt in a school in Northfield.



The old school building c.1980s

This building no longer exists, but as long as archives are kept, future generations can learn about the history of this school, see what their town used to look like and understand how things have changed.

Charlotte Gallant Archivist The Schools of King Edward VI Birmingham

SPORTS UP-DATE

his term in PE there has been a hive of activity as always with so many pupils taking up the opportunity to attend our wide range of clubs. Students have loved travelling to the exclusive Priory Club in Edgbaston to learn how to play Squash from a specialised coach as well as enjoying the discipline and



structure of Fencing and the energy needed for Boxing Club! Students who regularly attend our clubs continue to collect their Stay Active signatures which is earning them rewards, from

stickers, chocolate and Stay Active badges, to a ticket to our end of term reward, which at the end of last term was glow in the dark dodgeball! The

students absolutely loved how the sports hall was plunged into darkness and with glow in the dark bibs, balls and face

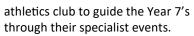


began!! We have loved being involved in the various School Games events happening in

paint, the fun

the area. We have taken part and hosted many events this term and our pupils haven't disappointed. The Year 7 and 8 athletics teams took part in the district indoor athletics competition, the Year 7's went away with the silver medal and the experienced Year 8 team finished first, going through to the All Birmingham Finals which will take place at Birmingham University on Monday the 15th April, we wish them the best of

luck! A big thank you to Sasha in Year 9 and Tegan in Year 8 who helped lead in



We were proud to host the district primary and secondary dance competition, the primary school children were amazed at our facilities and our KS3 dance troop finished in first place, winning a place at an exclusive dance workshop at the Hippodrome and a place in the next stage of the competition, good luck girls.

We have a special group of young sports leaders in Year 9 who have been involved in leading numerous activities this term and representing our school and themselves wonderfully. On Thursday 29th Feb and Friday the 1st March, our school hosted 10 primary

> schools over two days of fun and competition led by our young leaders. Day one saw Year 3,4,5 and 6 children take part in a badminton festival. Our leaders were

Swimming Gala

n Wednesday 21st February 8 of our pupils from all different year groups represented our school in a swimming gala for the very first time. The gala was with four other KEVI grammar schools, all with access to swimming pools on site. There were lots of nerves because of the vast difference in access to facilities and age ranges which was daunting for our pupils, however our pupils overcame this intimidating environment and came away feeling proud they had represented us so well. I am also very proud of these girls for putting themselves forward to take part in trials for this competition and I hope that this experience will encourage them to take part in future swimming competitions.

Poppy, Imelda, Lillian, Aimee, Poppy, Evie, Georgina and Isabelle

Mrs Shackel-York



to the younger pupils, helping them improve their skills and building their confidence in sport. Day 2 saw the primary school indoor athletics competition. Our leaders gave up their Friday evening to score, time and model the many events for the younger pupils and the event was a huge success!

Mrs Vizor

exceptional role models

STAFF NEWS

t the end of the Spring Term we have some hellos and goodbyes to say to staff at King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls.

We would like to welcome; Miss Holly Jessup, Deputy Designated

Safeguarding Lead and Mr Jack Parkes, Head of Physics.

We sadly said goodbye to Mrs Alex Dawson Head of Year 7 and wish her all the very best for the future.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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



