

NEWSletter



KING EDWARD VI
NORTHFIELD
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Educational excellence for our City

SPRING 2026

Red Nose Day Brings Fun and Fundraising together!

RED
NOSE
DAY

Smiles, silliness, support and a sea of red – our school shines for Comic Relief

On Friday 20th March, our school came alive in a vibrant celebration of kindness, laughter, and community spirit as we proudly supported Comic Relief. From the moment pupils and staff arrived, there was a real buzz in the air – a sense of excitement and togetherness that carried throughout the entire day.

The school was transformed by a wave of red, with pupils embracing the theme through an array of accessories, from bright red socks and tights, to red nails, brilliant bows and bracelets and everything in between. Adding to the fun, our staff truly rose to the occasion with some wonderfully creative and hilarious costumes. Among the highlights were Miss O'Grady as a dinosaur, Mrs Smith as a chicken, and Mr Parkes as a lobster, alongside many other fantastic fun outfits that kept everyone smiling, Mr Gladstone even grew hair!

Throughout the day, there were long queues for raffle tickets as pupils and staff eagerly entered for a chance to win our impressive red hamper. Our cake sale was another huge success, with delicious treats flying off the tables and contributing to the fantastic total raised.

Laughter echoed through classrooms as subject teachers joined in the fun by sharing jokes during lessons, adding an extra layer of joy to the day. These small but meaningful moments helped create a warm and inclusive atmosphere that brought everyone together.

Most importantly, the day was a wonderful reminder of what we can achieve as a community. Through lots of fun, laughter, and generosity, we raised just under £450 for Comic Relief – an incredible achievement that reflects the kindness and spirit of our school.

Comic Relief is a UK charity that works to tackle poverty and social injustice both in the UK and around the world. The money raised helps fund vital projects that support people facing hardship, ensuring access to food, education, healthcare, and safe living conditions.

We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part and helped make the day such a success. Thank you for your enthusiasm, creativity, and generosity – together, we truly made a difference!

Mrs Colvin-Grieve



King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls

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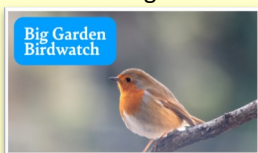
Science Extracurricular Clubs

This term, Science extracurricular clubs have been helping pupils learn and be inspired through exciting experiments and hands-on projects that bring Science to life. All Science Clubs (except Medical Ethics) are open to all pupils - no sign-up needed; just pop up to Room 8 after school. Pupils will receive a treat and a stamp for attending.

In Science Club, our pupils have had the opportunity to carry out a variety of experiments, such as exploring static electricity with a Van de Graaff generator, building bridges to test their engineering skills, and using vitamin C tablets to explode camera pots. Science Club runs every Monday and allows pupils to explore scientific concepts first hand while developing practical skills in a fun, supportive environment.

This term, Gardening Club has been blossoming with opportunities for pupils to connect with nature, learn about plants, and cultivate their own green spaces, despite the cold weather! Pupils have been planting trees donated by the Woodland Trust, taking cuttings to produce their own herb gardens, using food scraps to grow more food, and even reusing plastic bottles to make self-watering plant pots. Gardening Club runs every Tuesday and is a great opportunity for pupils to develop new skills and learn about plant biology.

Eco Club is dedicated to empowering pupils to learn about the planet through creative projects and sustainable initiatives. Pupils have participated in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch to contribute to scientists' understanding of bird



populations, decorated birdhouses ready for spring, used reeds to make bee houses, and even made their own flowery perfume. Eco Club runs every Thursday and allows pupils to explore the natural world in a creative way.

Medical Ethics Club also runs on Thursdays in Room 7. Pupils debate complex moral questions at the heart of healthcare and scientific advancements. This club is particularly helpful for those

exploring careers in the medical field. Due to the sensitive nature of the topics discussed, Medical Ethics Club is only open to Year 9 and 10 pupils.

Without a doubt, the highlight of this term for many staff and pupils has been our duck hatching



experience. The hatching duck experience offered an incredible opportunity for pupils to witness the miracle of life up close, fostering a deep sense of wonder and responsibility. As the ducklings emerged from their eggs, pupils observed the delicate process of growth and development, gaining hands-on insight into biology and animal care. This immersive experience encouraged empathy and respect for living creatures while sparking curiosity. Beyond the science, the hatching project, developed teamwork and patience, as pupils worked together to create a safe, nurturing environment for the new arrivals. It was a memorable journey that brought lessons in life, care, and connection to the natural world. The ducks are part of a rare breed program and have now returned to their farm, where they will help conservation efforts. Our hatching duck egg experience was also part of our celebration of Science Week. Pupils also had the opportunity to enter a number of competitions and win exciting prizes.

Science staff would like to say a huge well done and thank you for the enthusiasm, hard work and participation of our pupils in Science extracurricular clubs, activities, competitions and projects.

Miss Kennedy



Royal Life Saving Society

We are delighted to announce that Aimee in Year 11 has successfully achieved her RLSS Level 3 Award in Pool Lifeguarding, a remarkable accomplishment that reflects her dedication, professionalism, and commitment to keeping others safe.



The RLSS (Royal Life Saving Society) qualification is a highly respected award that requires young people to demonstrate strong swimming ability, emergency response skills, first aid knowledge, and the confidence to act swiftly in real life situations. Achieving this standard at such a young age is truly impressive.

Well done, Aimee a fantastic achievement and one you should be incredibly proud of!

Miss Woods



CAREERS

Mrs Miles

National Apprenticeship Week 9 – 13 February

The school recently hosted a bigger version of National Apprenticeship Week. During the week, pupils had the opportunity to explore a wide range of career pathways through a series of employer-led activities and workshops. The school hosted assemblies delivered by industry partners including Acivico, National Highways, Severn Trent, HM Revenue & Customs and HSBC, giving pupils valuable insights into apprenticeship routes and the world of work. Year 9 pupils also visited a heritage site currently under construction with Galiford Try, where they learned about careers in construction and project delivery. In addition, KPMG delivered an "Opening Doors"

employability skills workshop, the Civil Service led an engaging economics session, and BWAMS provided a hands-on clinical skills workshop. These activities helped pupils understand the diverse opportunities available through apprenticeships and develop key skills for their future careers.



STEM Roadshow Materials Science

School was excited to welcome The Education Roadshow to the school, a long-standing national initiative delivered by BAE Systems, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy, designed to inspire young people to explore careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). Now in its 21st year, the programme continues to play an important role in addressing the UK's skills gap by encouraging the next generation of innovators and engineers. This year's theme, The Material World: Engineering the Future, introduced pupils to the fascinating field of materials science and how the properties of different materials shape the technology we use every day. Through an energetic 'STEM theatre' performance delivered by education specialists Hi-impact and Altru Drama, complex scientific ideas were brought to life through live experiments, interactive storytelling and real-world engineering challenges. Year 7 & 8 pupils learned how advances in materials science contribute to developments such as stealth technology and sustainable energy.



BWAMS Clinical Skills Session

Some Year 9 & 10 pupils recently had the opportunity to take part in an engaging Clinical Skills workshop delivered by Birmingham Widening Access to Medical Sciences (BWAMS), a student-led society from the University of Birmingham. BWAMS is made up of medical, dental, nursing and other healthcare pupils who are passionate about widening participation in healthcare careers and supporting young people from state schools to pursue degrees in Medicine, Dentistry and other health-related fields. During the session, pupils were introduced to a range of clinical skills commonly used by healthcare professionals and had the chance to use real medical

equipment such as stethoscopes, pulse oximeters and peak flow meters. The interactive workshop provided valuable insight into healthcare careers while helping pupils develop their understanding of the science behind the human body and the important work carried out by healthcare professionals.



HSBC Year 9 Future Skills Competition

HSBC delivered an engaging Future Skills Competition with some of our Year 9 pupils. They were challenged to work in teams to design the 'Bank of the Future', encouraging them to think creatively about how banking could evolve to meet the needs of modern customers. Throughout the activity, pupils stepped outside their comfort zones as they collaborated, shared ideas and presented their concepts, while developing key skills such as teamwork, communication, problem solving and innovation. It was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to experience the kind of thinking and collaboration used in the world of work. The winning teams will be visiting HSBC head office in Birmingham in June to pitch their ideas to colleagues at the bank. Pupils will also be offered on-going mentoring with HSBC colleagues, to help them prepare for the world of work.



Year 8 Celebrate Art & Science Day with Creativity and Curiosity

On Thursday 5th March, our Year 8 pupils took part in an inspiring Art & Science Day, immersing themselves in a range of creative workshops that highlighted the fascinating connections between the two subjects. Throughout the day, pupils explored how artistic expression and scientific understanding can come together to spark imagination, develop new skills, and deepen their curiosity about the world around them.

Pupils rotated through a variety of hands on activities, each designed to showcase the powerful overlap between scientific processes and artistic techniques.

Workshops included:

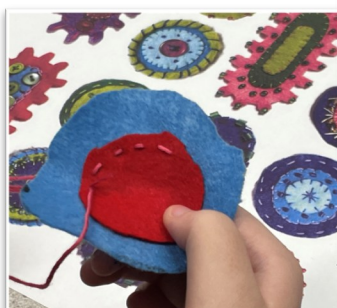
- **Creating artwork with chemical reactions**, where pupils experimented with materials.
- **Stitched and embroidered microbes**, using textiles to bring microscopic worlds to life in colourful, tactile designs.
- **Ceramic seedpods**, inspired by forms found in nature and the study of plant biology.
- **Digital optical illusion artwork**, demonstrating how technology and visual perception intersect.

- **Insect themed clay modelling**, combining observational biology with sculpture using air dry clay.
- **Picasso inspired sensory homunculus prints**, blending neuroscience and artistic abstraction to explore how our brains map the human body.

The atmosphere throughout the day was energetic and joyful, with pupils embracing the chance to experiment, collaborate, and express themselves in new ways.

Their final creations were as diverse as the activities themselves, showcasing both scientific curiosity and artistic talent.

Well done to all our Year 8 pupils for their enthusiasm and creativity, and a big thank you to the staff who led such engaging and imaginative sessions.



It was a memorable day that truly celebrated the rich connections between Art and Science.

Mrs Allen

Year 7 Blast Off to Symphony Hall

From the moment the first notes of Star Wars filled the hall, pupils were completely captivated. The orchestra swept them through galaxies far, far away before jumping through time with the unmistakable theme from Doctor Who. The energy in the room was electric as pupils recognised the music they knew from screens big and small.

The concert also introduced pupils to the power of classical music. A highlight was Beethoven's 5th Symphony, a piece with its own cosmic history, having been played in space in 1977 aboard NASA's Voyager spacecraft. The CBSO's performance brought its dramatic opening to life in a way that left many pupils wide eyed. Throughout the trip, pupils were engaged, enthusiastic, and wonderfully curious. Many commented

on how exciting it was to hear a live orchestra performing music they recognised, while others discovered new favourites they hadn't expected.

One thing was certain, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the performance. The visit to Symphony Hall not only sparked imaginations but also opened ears to the incredible variety and emotion that orchestral music can offer. It was a morning filled with inspiration, discovery, and plenty of smiles, an experience that will stay with Year 7 for a long time.

Miss Harding



Congratulations to the following pupils who have recently taken graded music exams on their instruments. These pupils work hard preparing for these exams by practising their instruments in their own time outside of school!

Chloe - Year 11 - Grade 1 Guitar

Elsie - Year 7- Adagio Music Notes Award - Saxophone

Sophie- Year 8 - Andante Music Notes Award - Clarinet

Sketchbook Circle

Friday after school in the art room is a little bit different. School staff were invited to participate in a sketchbook circle - always a lovely way to finish the week! We've experimented with stencils, pottery, collaging, and Gelli printing.

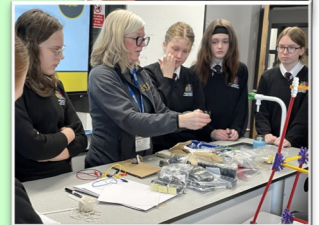
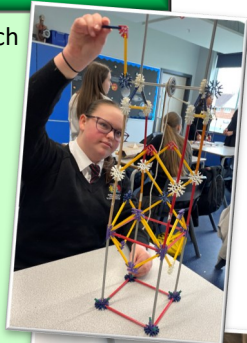
Our staff continue to inspire not only through their work in school, but also through the creative passions they pursue in their own time. Many colleagues have been spending their evenings and weekends immersed in a wonderful range of artistic hobbies from painting and crocheting to quilting and pottery.

We celebrate the talent, passion, and dedication of all staff who continue to make, design, and create - showing that inspiration doesn't end when the school day does.



Year 9 STEM Day

On Monday 16th March pupils in Year 9 participated in an exciting day filled with hands-on workshops and activities designed to boost their problem-solving skills and ignite their passion for STEM subjects. They wonderfully stepped into the roles of team leaders, mechanical, mechatronic and maintenance engineers to design and build battery driven vehicles and communication towers. Each team then presented their creative design process and (mostly) working creations. Huge congratulations to Maisie, Daisy, Esme, Lauren, Maize, Jess, Jasmine and Anna who won the overall design competitions.



Mr Parkes



SOCIAL MEDIA

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



Spring Competition

This year we had a varied amount of entries ranging from poems, cards, posters and a magnificent Egg-Citing Park creation from Paige in Year 8 who won first place, a tremendous creation!

Runners up were Grace Year 8, Danielle Year 9 and Esmai, Seerat and Wasifa in Year 7. Well done to all pupils who receive a certificate and Easter egg. We look forward to next year's entries.

Mrs Smith



Bikeability - Ride with Confidence

Last week, we welcomed the Bikeability team for a hands-on cycling programme aimed at teaching pupils the essential skills needed to ride a bike safely and confidently. For many pupils, this was their very first experience on two wheels, and the excitement outside was unmistakable.

Qualified instructors worked patiently with pupils, starting with balance and basic control before moving on to pedalling, steering, and braking. Using a supportive, step-by-step approach,

Bikeability helped even the most hesitant riders gain the confidence to push off independently. Helmets, cones, and practice zones transformed the school grounds into a safe learning environment where pupils could progress at their own pace.

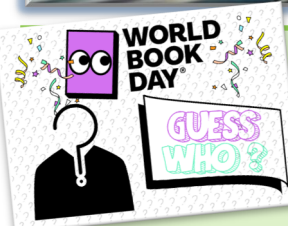
Mrs Shackle-York





LIBRARY NEWS

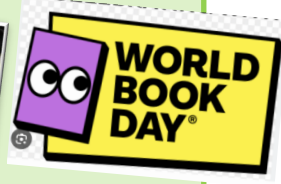
Mrs Dunnaker



Our fourth year of celebrating World Book Day with a big book giveaway and a day-long game of Guess Who? Pupils used bookish clues to identify members of staff and had the chance to take home a book to keep.

One pupil was chosen at random from all the entries on the day to win all 14 of the books available... and the winner is Paige from 9W.

Over 250 books were given away to pupils, including our annual SPARK! Raffle where five lucky pupils were gifted a bundle of the shortlisted SPARK! Books from the 11+ category.



SPARK! 2026

FICTION FOR 11+ SHORTLIST

The SPARK! Pupil Judges are working hard to read through the two shortlists that we are shadowing this year. There are some clear favourites, but it's all to play for until we vote next term!

Reading opens doors to new ideas and worlds, helping us grow our understanding of ourselves and others. It strengthens the mind, fuels imagination, and gives us knowledge that can shape our lives.

A room without books is like a body without a soul." - Cicero

New Books!

Every term, we survey our pupils to ensure that they can access the right books for them. This term, with some help from Mr Jones, the library has been able to purchase around 200 new books using our pupil's input. These will be available to borrow over the next few weeks as the library processes these.



Author Virtual Visits

16th March 2026 – SPARK!

Ross MacKenzie 23rd March 2026 – SPARK!

Darren Simpson 20th April 2026 – SPARK!

Tamsin Winter 27th April 2026 – SPARK! Bex Hogan

Blackwell – Aspire trip

Year 7 visited Blackwell Adventure on an Aspire trip, the aim of this visit was to build their resilience and develop team working skills. They took part in indoor wall-climbing, working in groups. While one pupil climbed the wall another was responsible for 'belaying' the rope and a third pupil for 'tailing' it to keep their climbing partners safe. Some pupils were very intimidated by the idea of climbing up high, but pleasingly all had a go and challenged themselves. After climbing they played games to see who could get on the correct coloured climbing holds the quickest. This is when I saw the competitive spirit shine particularly in pupils who had previously struggled with the height element of climbing. All pupils worked together extremely well and had a very fun and productive afternoon.

Year 10 Aspire pupils visited Blackwell Adventure to develop their team leadership, problem solving and communication skills through outdoor laser tag. They discussed their strategies before starting and one team played much more offensively and the other one defensively. The defensive team got surrounded and out-numbered by the offensive team in the initial games. Pupils each took on different roles and over time developed a range of strategies, problem solving as they went along and working out different approaches to cope with various scenarios. In the final game they also had to retrieve the flag of the opposing team



from their base and return it to their own base. This required pupils to be responsive and willing to adapt quickly according to what the other team did.

This demanded a lot of on-the-spot decision making and quick and decisive agreements with their team-mates. Some pupils stood out as natural team leaders. The quieter more defensive team came into their element in this final game and took their flag before the other team had even realised what had happened.

Ms Hufton



Physics Olympiad

At the end of January Year 11 triple scientists entered the Physics Olympiad, a prestigious annual physics competition for secondary school pupils. They performed extremely well with 24 Bronze Awards, 6 Silver Awards, and 2 Gold Awards. Special congratulations to Kariss and Alaika who received gold.



Meet Luna our new school therapy dog!

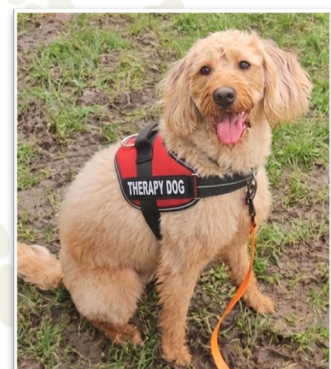
We're thrilled to share some wonderful news. After months of training, Luna has officially qualified as a therapy dog and will be joining us on site after the Easter break!

Luna is 15 months old, full of friendliness, and already has a favourite job - making people smile. Her calm nature, gentle personality, and love of meeting new friends make her perfectly suited to her new role.

As part of our wellbeing support, Luna will be helping pupils across the school, offering comfort, motivation, and a reassuring presence wherever she goes. She cannot wait to meet everyone and start spreading joy in her new school home.

We're so excited to welcome Luna to the team, get ready for plenty of wagging tails and happy moments ahead!

Mrs Campbell



Success at The Great Big Dance Off!

What an evening! On Tuesday, our fantastic school dance team lit up the stage at the Great Big Dance Off – West Midlands Heat. Their high energy disco medley had the audience cheering from start to finish, showcasing their incredible commitment, confidence, and flair.

We are thrilled to announce that the team achieved an outstanding **3rd place overall**—just **one point** away from second place! This remarkable result reflects their hard work, passion, and brilliant teamwork.

A huge well done to every dancer involved. You made us exceptionally proud!

Miss Adey



Delivering Hope

6888

On Friday 13th February, five schools from the King Edward VI Academy Trust came together to share the powerful story of the 6888th Central Postal Battalion - an all female African American unit stationed at King Edwards during WW2. Tasked with clearing a 17 million item postal backlog in six months, the Battalion achieved the impossible, completing the job in just three, through round the clock shifts and unwavering determination. Their motto captured their mission perfectly: **"No mail, low morale."**

Inspired by the Netflix film *The Six Triple Eight*, Miss Adey developed and led this ambitious Trust wide creative arts project, recognising the unique historical link between the Battalion and the Trust. She aimed to ensure that pupils across all schools could learn about and celebrate the extraordinary achievements of these remarkable women.

More than 250 pupils contributed to the project, creating a moving performance of dance and spoken word at the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre - the very site where the 6888 were once stationed. Each school collaborated with a professional dance artist to portray a different chapter of the Battalion's journey, from gruelling army training and racial discrimination to unity, resilience, and their ultimate success in reuniting soldiers with messages from home.

Alongside the performance, a vibrant art exhibition showcased pupils' creative responses to the Battalion's story. The exhibition featured original artwork, historical photographs, and newspaper clippings from the Trust's

archives, giving visitors a deeper insight into the women's experiences and the scale of their achievement. The emotional impact and creativity on display were widely praised by staff, families, and community members.

To extend the project's educational reach, a dedicated PSHE lesson was developed so that all schools within the Trust could explore the historical significance of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. This resource enabled even more pupils to understand the themes of courage, discrimination, teamwork, and hope that lay at the heart of the project.

The project became more than a performance—it was a meaningful experience that brought together pupils from different schools, encouraging collaboration, confidence, and new friendships. Many pupils described the process as inspiring and empowering, helping them build a sense of belonging within the wider Trust community.

Reflecting on the project, Miss Adey shared:

"This has been the most ambitious project I have ever undertaken, and it has been an absolute privilege. To help share the story of the phenomenal women of the 6888 Central Postal Battalion and to play even a small part in continuing their legacy has been truly humbling. Watching pupils support one another, collaborate, and form new friendships was incredibly moving. The title was 'Delivering Hope' - we did exactly that, and in the current climate, it was most definitely needed."



Athletics - All Birmingham Finals

A big well done to both Year 7 and Year 8 athletic teams who won the local district competition to qualify for the all Birmingham finals, which took place on Tuesday the 24th of March. The girls put in many hours training in the run up to the event, perfecting their skills, from running, jumping and throwing to baton changes and speed bounce. They were a credit to the school and themselves in the way they

conducted themselves at the event and had some notable victories in some events. Overall the teams placed 5th and 4th respectively. Well done girls. (Year 7 Maisie, Bella, Olivia, Samia, Ava-Rose, Wasifa, Kadriel, Eva, Abigail and Year 8 Deborah, Rose, Mya, Phoebe, Haddy, Ruby). We are looking forward to transferring our athletics skills to the

outdoor track in the summer term!

Miss Ryan

