

NEWSletter



SUMMER 2026

Another Successful Academic Year Ends

As I near the end of my time in this fantastic small school, I look back on the last seventeen years with mixed feelings.



I have found headship (and deputy headship) to be often exhausting, sometimes frustrating, occasionally baffling and yet deeply

rewarding.

I have always sought to be a 'proper' headteacher – active around school, continuing to teach and doing my fair share of the various duties, rather than exclusively quietly working on paperwork and policy behind the scenes. I remain convinced that this is the right way to lead a school, and whilst the hours spent on break and lunch duties probably add up to months and the number of bagels buttered is, I think, approaching 500,000, I would not have changed it.

As I get ready to clear out my desk (tidiness has never been my strongest suit), I reflect what challenges we have faced and what we have accomplished with the support of families.

This school has lost the best part of half a million pounds in annual funding since 2010-11. We endured the COVID pandemic. We have seen Education Secretaries come and go. We have seen OFSTED change the goalposts again and again. We have seen countless

government initiatives launched and then forgotten. We have suffered tragedies, like the death of our previous School Business Manager, Mrs Prescod. We have seen a Local Authority in rolling crisis with a constant churn in Education staff. Through it all, we have remained an island of stability, with low staff turnover, a brilliant track record of poverty-proofing the curriculum and building a cohesive school community and come out stronger than ever. With your support I have no doubt that the school will continue to build upon our strengths.

I consider my headship to have been a successful period for our school. In this time we secured a desperately needed new build, overcome significant financial challenges whilst protecting frontline staffing, we have become a heavily over-subscribed first choice school, academic results have improved sharply, we have been able to offer an incredible number and range of extracurricular and enrichment opportunities, our SEND provision has improved beyond all recognition and we have joined the King Edward VI Academy Trust.

However, whilst headteachers often serve as a lightning rod for school communities – taking the credit when things go well and taking the fall when they do not, the truth is far more nuanced.

The continuing and growing success of the school has been built by all of our staff, both current and past. I have been privileged to work with truly remarkable individuals. Our current staff, full of care, commitment and talent both make

leaving hard whilst also reassuring me that the school will continue to go from strength to strength.

I will also miss our pupils. From our leavers who have shown incredible resilience in their final exams, to the children in younger years who also find time to say 'hello' and show kindness. Two of my best memories in my time at this school come from this academic year. I witnessed pupils entering their exams, and in this moment of acute stress, their first instinct was to wish the peers success and offer reassurance. I spent the Leavers' Prom, as ever, on the door, ensuring that no unwanted visitors joined the prom. A surprising number of Year 11s took time out of their evening to pass some time with me and keep me company, telling me about their plans for the summer and their hopes for college – just out of kindness.

We hear a lot in the media about 'feral' children, and I see countless comments about 'selfish' and 'spoilt' children on social media. I can honestly say that the children who attend this school are superb human beings – interested, kind and engaged in the world around them. They fill me with confidence for the future.

I wish all of our children and their families every success and happiness in the future and would like to thank you for the support and patience. I am sure that this fantastic school community will be just as supportive of our brilliant new headteacher, Mrs Collins.

Mr Jones



GCSE Results Day
Thursday 20th August 2026

King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls

Northfield, Birmingham B31 4BP Tel: 0121 464 8346 Email: enquiry@nsg.kevibham.org Website: nsg.kevibham.org



School Summer Concert

The school community came together for a truly memorable evening at this year's Summer Concert, celebrating the incredible talents of our pupils across music, dance and drama.

The concert showcased a wide variety of performances, demonstrating the creativity, dedication and hard work of pupils from across the school. The audience was treated to outstanding musical performances from the school band, choir and ensemble, while a number of talented soloists impressed with confident and captivating performances.

Dance performances brought energy and excitement to the stage, with pupils displaying excellent skill, teamwork and enthusiasm. The drama department also contributed a series of engaging monologues, highlighting the confidence and acting abilities of our young performers.

Throughout the evening, it was clear how much commitment had gone into preparing for the concert. Every performer played their part in making the event a tremendous success, and the audience responded with enthusiastic applause and support.

The evening concluded with a particularly special and emotional finale. All performers returned to the stage to bid a fond farewell to Mr Jones, who has made a significant contribution to the school and its performing arts

programme. In tribute to him, pupils and staff joined together for a performance of his favourite song, *I Am the Resurrection* by The Stone Roses.

A huge congratulations to all of the performers and staff who helped make the Summer Concert such a wonderful success. It was an evening full of talent, enjoyment and unforgettable memories that will be remembered for years to come.

Miss Harding



Our music pupils have been lucky to experience a couple of trips this term. We started the term with our Woodwind players going to see the CBSO Woodwind players perform a lunchtime concert at the CBSO centre in Birmingham. This was a great opportunity for pupils to see their instruments being performed by professionals.

Year 10 also got the opportunity to go and see the CBSO perform at Symphony Hall. They saw them play Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto with the orchestra and soloist Inmo Yang. This piece of music directly linked to the GCSE music course they are currently studying and for many of them it was the first time they'd seen a live orchestra!

Miss Harding



Art and Music

This half term, the Art and Music departments joined together to run a competition to design the front cover of the Summer Concert program. We received several wonderful designs. The winning design was used on the front cover of the Summer Concert program and all designs were included in the Art exhibition. The winner was Danielle in Year 9 with second place by Mehek and Lucy in Year 9 and 3rd place by Hannah in Year 7! It was a difficult decision to make as all designs were excellent!

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ECO Day

This year's Eco Day was a fantastic success. Fourteen pupils who have consistently attended eco clubs throughout the year were invited to take part in a fun, creative, nature-filled day. Activities included making flower impressions with plaster, creating turmeric sun prints, and live drawing, giving pupils the chance to explore their creativity while connecting with nature.

To reward their hard work and dedication, pupils enjoyed a picnic on the field at the end of the day. It has been wonderful to see pupils from across KS3 come together,

support one another, and make a positive impact on local wildlife. We look forward to hosting more reward activities throughout the next academic year.

Mrs Kennedy



PRIMARY SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

Over the last few weeks 300 pupils from 10 primary schools have attended KEVI NSG for half a day and have taken part in different workshops. These workshops have varied between Maths, English, Science, Art, Dance, Music, Food, PE and Textiles. Pupils have completed a range of activities such as Forensic Science experiments, dance routines and tie dying.

Staff from all subjects have commented on how hard working, polite and enthusiastic these pupils were and that they were a real pleasure to teach.

Mr Chesterman



Culture Day

It's always special when a new school tradition begins. Our first Culture Day was a wonderful celebration of the diversity within our school community and a fantastic opportunity for pupils to share and learn about different cultures.

Although we started on a small scale this year, we hope to see Culture Day grow bigger and better each year. Pupils looked amazing in their cultural outfits, proudly representing their heritage and traditions. The canteen staff put on special cultural food including chinese stir fry and good old fish and chips!

around the world. Pupils enthusiastically shared their work with others and took part in question-and-answer discussions, creating valuable opportunities to learn from one another.

The day was a great success and demonstrated the respect, curiosity and pride that exist within our school community. We are already looking forward to building on this success and making next year's celebration even bigger and better.

Mrs Elliott



Friday 10th July was Artsfest Day - all of Year 7 were off timetable, enjoying a variety of workshops celebrating cultural diversity through the arts. These included South Asian dance with Sampad, beatbox poetry with Birmingham Poet, Laureate Jasmine Gardosi, Caribbean Carnival Dance with ACE Music & Dance, and Mendhi with BHS Education. We also had a series of sessions led by our own staff, including mixed media textile art, food styling, paper flower crowns, drama & graphics! A great day with lots of engagement and learning. Roll on Artsfest 2027!

Mrs Allen



At breaktime, every form hosted a table showcasing posters that pupils had created both collaboratively and independently. These displays highlighted a variety of cultures, traditions, foods, languages and celebrations from



LIBRARY NEWS

Mrs Dunnaker

As another busy term comes to a close, we're delighted to share highlights, successes, and library insights to summarise our outstanding year!

- Our Spark! Book Awards judges attended the Awards Ceremony and we won Spark! School of the Year 2026!
- We had another incredibly successful

World Book Day, where we were able to give away over 200 more books to our school community, with lots of book talk and reading encouragement throughout.

- We have also grown our popular library collections, adding 503 new titles, including a new range of non-fiction!



The Spark! Book Awards ceremony took place on Tuesday 23rd July, where our dedicated pupil judges found out who was voted book of the year across the country! We firmly put our support behind **Darren Simpson**, voting his creepy folk horror **'Thirst'** the top

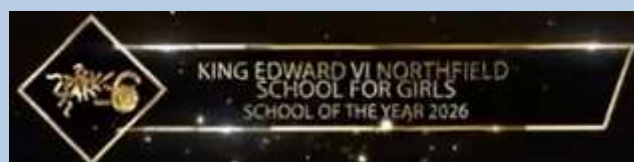


choice this year, although there were some serious debates about each title.

Ultimately the brilliant **'I Dare You'** won the top spot nationally which did please some of our judges. Our pupil judges also shadowed the Picture Fiction category this year and saw our favourite **'Once I was a Tree'** take the prize home.

During the fantastic award ceremony, we saw all five categories name their winners and we saw our fabulous competition entries win runner up in the

secondary competition! In the biggest surprise though, King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls was given the **School of the Year** prize by the organisers of the awards, due to our participation and enthusiasm in engaging in the awards. We are the **very first secondary school** to be awarded this title, so a huge congratulations to every pupil who participated in Spark! this year!



Library Insights

We have: A clear progression by age



Strong "series completion behaviour". Pupils aren't just sampling; Multiple volumes from the same series are borrowed repeatedly which means that once engaged, pupils **sustain reading independently**.



Visible TikTok / trend-driven reading. Many titles explicitly tagged or known as social media-driven appear frequently in our circulations (e.g. *Powerless*, *Better Than the Movies*, *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*, *This Book Kills*), meaning student reading choices are **highly influenced by social media trends**.



Funded by retired engineers from Austin Motors some of our Year 9 pupils attended a STEM day for girls at the British Motor Museum in Gaydon. They had a talk about the vast variety of jobs within the car industry, revealing that it requires not only engineers but people from as varied fields as design, HR and finance.

They participated in a wide range of interactive activities including designing their own model cars with safety devices which included crumple zones and harnesses for the driver.

These model vehicles were then tested using a miniature crash test dummy, the winning group only lost one body part from their crash test dummy, unfortunately it was their head!

They spent time talking to experts in their field from a senior engineer at Lotus to designers crafting models of cars in clay to test the look and aerodynamics.

They also had to construct bridges to hold as many weights as possible. This activity taught them how important it was to test their designs as they went and learn to adapt their plans where necessary. Pupils enjoyed touring the motor museum seeing a wide range of vehicles. All girls were really engaged and took part in the wide range of events during the day.



Science Extracurricular Clubs

It has been an exciting and rewarding term for our Science extracurricular clubs, filled with hands-on activities, special events and outstanding pupil achievements.

One of the highlights of the term was the arrival of our new science pets, including Mr Jones and David Attenborough the goldfish. They have settled in brilliantly and are already enjoying all the extra attention (and food!) they receive from our pupils. Watching them swim around has quickly become a favourite pastime for many pupils.



Our Science clubs have embraced a summer theme this term, offering pupils a wide range of engaging activities. Pupils have enjoyed making their own bubbles, sowing and harvesting wildflower seeds, creating papier-mâché flower lanterns and inflating balloons through chemical reactions. As always, pupils have shown tremendous enthusiasm and curiosity, and staff have been incredibly impressed by their effort and commitment. As a reward for their dedication, pupils who have consistently attended extracurricular activities have been invited to take part in our Eco Day during the final week of term. The day will include a variety of fun environmental activities, as well as a picnic to celebrate their hard work.

We are also delighted to celebrate the success of a group of Year 8 pupils who won Gold in the STEM Civil Service Competition for their innovative ideas on making cities more sustainable. The team was then invited to attend the First Annual University of Birmingham School Sustainability Symposium, where they presented their ideas to an audience of approximately 75 pupils. Not only did they demonstrate remarkable confidence when speaking in front of their peers, but they also represented the school with exemplary behaviour and enthusiasm. Congratulations to Elina, Esmae, Layla and Alba, who made us all incredibly proud.

In early May, Eco Club celebrated Sir

David Attenborough's 100th birthday with a special party. Sir David has been a source of inspiration for generations, and it was wonderful to see so many pupils and staff come together to celebrate both this milestone and his contribution to environmental awareness and conservation. A life-sized cardboard cut-out of Sir David also joined the celebrations and proved to be a popular attraction for photographs throughout the event.

June saw the return of the annual 30 Days Wild Challenge, in which pupils were encouraged to complete a different nature-based activity each day. The challenge aims to inspire young people to spend more time outdoors, learn about local wildlife and explore their creativity through nature-themed activities. Spending time outdoors has been shown to benefit mental health and wellbeing, while also helping to reduce screen time.



Pupils who completed the challenge received a reward of their choice and were entered into a prize draw. First place won a wildlife-themed hamper packed with goodies, while second and third place received themed prizes and, of course, plenty of chocolate. Congratulations to all our participants and winners!

Looking ahead to next academic year, we are pleased to announce improvements to our club reward system. While we have retained the most popular rewards, including film-and-popcorn events, sweets and stationery prizes, we have also introduced a range of exciting new rewards to better recognise and celebrate the dedication and hard work of our pupils. We are also excited to announce next academic year, we will be choosing a new club mascot, getting more pets and there will be also a new initiative open to form groups next year.

Overall, it has been a fantastic term for Science and Eco club, and we look forward to building on this success with even more exciting opportunities next year.

Miss Haywood

Race for Life 2026: A Record-Breaking Achievement



Despite the extreme heat, our pupils once again amazed us with their resilience, determination and energy as they crossed the finish line of this year's Race for Life. Their enthusiasm and commitment made the event truly memorable, and we are thrilled to announce that, including Gift Aid, we have raised an incredible **£17,096**.

This remarkable achievement is a testament to the strength of our school community. Reaching such a fantastic total is only possible when staff, pupils and families come together with a shared purpose, and we would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who helped make the event such a success.

A huge thank you goes to our form tutors for sharing key information, encouraging participation and supporting pupils throughout the fundraising journey. We are also grateful to the PE department and all staff who helped Year 7 complete their own Race for Life event, ensuring every pupil had the opportunity to be involved.

Every contribution, whether large or small, played an important role in making this event such a tremendous success. While the fundraising total is an achievement we can all be incredibly proud of, what matters most is the impact it will have. Together, we have raised a phenomenal amount of money for a cause that is close to the hearts of many in our community, while also creating an unforgettable experience for our pupils.

Thank you to everyone who took part, donated, volunteered and supported the event. This has truly been a Race for Life to remember.

This Girl Can and she did!

Miss Ryan



£17,096





After 13 wonderful years at the school, it is time for me to say goodbye. I first joined when it was Turves Green Girls' School, and it has been a privilege to see it grow and change over the years.



As a PE teacher, I have been fortunate to witness the incredible talent and determination of so many pupils, particularly when representing the school in competitions. One of my personal highlights each year has been taking girls swimming and watching their confidence grow from starting out in armbands to learning to swim independently. Moments like these have made my time here truly special.

I have many happy and enjoyable memories from my years at the school. It has been a fantastic place to work.

While I will truly miss both the pupils and my colleagues, I am also looking forward to the next chapter in my life and the opportunities it will bring. I would like to wish all staff and pupils all the very best for the future.

Mrs Shackell-York

Many of you may not know, after 28 years as an Attendance Officer, the time has come for me to hang up my socks and retire.

During my 28 years at the school, I have witnessed many changes, from the days of Turves Green Girls' School in the old building to moving into our new building and becoming part of the King Edward VI Foundation.

I have enjoyed so many happy years here and have made countless wonderful memories. When I first started, staff would put on a Christmas pantomime for the pupils. It was always great fun, with laughter from start to finish and staff throwing sweets into the audience.

I have also enjoyed taking part in school trips to Alton Towers, Weston-Super-Mare and Drayton Manor. Although they were often very tiring days, they

were always rewarding and memorable experiences.

In my 28 years here, we've only had three Headteachers, and while many members of staff have dedicated a large part of their careers to the school, I am proud to say that I have been here the longest.

It has been a privilege to work alongside such dedicated colleagues over the years. I will truly miss being part of this school and will greatly miss both the staff and the pupils.

Thank you all for the memories I wish the school continued success and happiness for the future.

Mrs Cund



Marathon Success

This year I was incredibly fortunate to be offered a charity place to take part in The London Marathon. Taking part in The London Marathon was a truly unforgettable experience and the fulfilment of a lifelong dream. For many years, I had watched the event on the television, and to finally stand on that start line and become part of such an iconic event was a moment I will never forget!

I was so proud of myself to raise £2,823 for The Royal British Legion, a charity that means a great deal to me. Every autumn, I volunteer for the Poppy Appeal, coordinating the appeal itself across Northfield, Longbridge, and Kings Norton.

Crossing that finish line was emotional, and there were a lot of tears! Knowing that I had fulfilled a lifelong ambition, on what is a very special year for myself as I am also getting married this summer.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported me, donated to The Royal British Legion, and helped make this lifelong dream a reality.

Miss Barstow



KEVI Foundation Awards 2026

June saw the King Edward VI Foundation host its inaugural Awards Ceremony at the Midlands Arts Centre, Cannon Hill, celebrating the outstanding contributions of teachers, leaders, and support staff across the organisation.

The event featured nominations from all Foundation schools and recognised individuals who embody the Foundation's core values of Excellence, Ambition, Collaboration, Accessibility, Care, and Integrity. Awards were also presented for long service and other notable achievements.

Our staff were nominated across a range of categories, with each nominee receiving a Highly Commended Award. We were

especially proud to see Jenny Adey win her respective category.

In addition, Sharon Killeen (Office Manager) received the prestigious CEO's Special Award, while Siobhan Tucker, Alison O'Grady, Linda Tucker, and Sonya McAuley were recognised with Long Service Awards, marking an impressive 25 years of dedicated service to the Foundation.

Congratulations to all recipients on these well deserved achievements.



Biology Challenge

In May, our Triple Science class took part in the UK Biology Challenge, an annual competition that tests pupils school curriculum knowledge, problem-solving, and general natural history knowledge. 42 000 pupils across the country participated and we had some great achievements in our school: Micaiah scored in the top 10% achieving a Silver Award and Chloe, Ilham and

Misbah all achieved a Bronze Award with many others receiving highly commended. Well done to all of those that took part.

Miss Haywood



NEW HEAD AND DEPUTY HEAD GIRLS 2026/27

I am delighted to announce that Poppy, Maisy and Charlotte have been successful in their applications and have been appointed Head Girl and Deputy Head Girls for the next academic year.

Congratulations to all three girls on this well-deserved achievement. We look forward to seeing them thrive in their leadership roles and make a positive contribution to our school community.

Mrs McAuley



Poppy
Head Girl



Charlotte
Deputy
Head Girl



Maisy
Deputy
Head Girl

'This Girl Can' Sports Day

Staff and pupils enjoyed our first full outdoor Sports Day in many years, as the weather gods cooled things down just enough for the whole school to come together and take part. Pupils represented both themselves and their forms brilliantly throughout the day, showing great enthusiasm, determination and sportsmanship.

The 'This Girl Can' spirit on the day was fantastic, with a wonderful atmosphere as pupils cheered each other on in every event, from the egg and spoon race to the 100m and 60m sprints, and the ever-popular tug of war. Pupils wore their form colours with pride and helped create a sea of colour around the field with their flags and banners.

Alongside the sporting action, everyone enjoyed visits to the tuck shop and the ice cream van, which were a huge hit throughout the day. A huge thank you to all the staff who worked so hard to make the day such a success, and to all the pupils who participated so positively and supported one another.

Finally, congratulations to P Form, who were crowned our overall Sports Day champions.

Miss Ryan



IMPORTANT - FREE SCHOOL MEALS ARE CHANGING



From September 2026, eligibility will expand so that all children from households receiving Universal Credit will qualify for free school meals, removing the current £7,400 income gap.

All families currently in receipt of FSM will need to reapply and if you have not done this yet we urge you to do it before September to enable a smooth transition and not to interrupt any free school meal allowance discrepancies.

Correspondence has been sent out regarding this and if you have already applied/re-applied you do not need to do again, school is notified on the outcome.

ALL FAMILIES IN RECEIPT OF UNIVERSAL CREDIT ARE URGED TO APPLY FOR FSM and this can be done by clicking on this [Online FSM Application](#)

If you need any assistance please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Mrs Smith