

King Edward VI Five Ways E-Newsletter

6th September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to a new School year! It was great to see familiar faces again and to offer a particularly warm welcome to new faces in assembly this week. As ever, no matter who you are or where you have come from, we are all now together as the Five Ways Family.

I'm delighted to introduce you to our new teachers who join us; a warm welcome to,

- Ms. Jordan as Deputy Head
- Miss. Ali and Mrs. Tyler in the English department
- Mr. Westcott and Mr Singh in the maths department
- Mr. Elmas as Subject Leader of Economics and teacher of mathematics
- and Mr. Ardill and Mr. Johnston in the sciences

We also welcome members of staff to their new position of responsibility: -

- Mr. Quinn - Assistant Head: Student Character, Conduct & Culture
- Mrs. Swinburne – Head of Science
- Mrs. Tyrie – Pastoral Head of Year 7
- Mr. Feeney – Pastoral Head of Year 8
- Mr. Turner – Pastoral Head of Year 11
- Mrs. Ryan – Pastoral Head of Year 12
- Miss. Walsh – KEFW Student Leadership
- Mr. Dhaliwal – Internationalism
- Mrs. Jones – Subject Leader of Politics and EPQ Lead
- Miss. Fox – Careers Coordinator for Year 11/Sixth Form (and Alumni Officer)
- And our new catering Company, Chartwells

I wish them every success and happiness in the year ahead!

Importantly, we must give thanks at the start of this year, to many people who have worked throughout the summer weeks, on our behalf, to get school ready for us; Our cleaning staff, IT Support staff, Laboratory Technicians, Grounds staff and our Office team. We are very grateful!

There are also huge thanks to give to our teaching staff who accompanied our summer trips. Our girls ventured to Barbados on sports tour and had a wonderful time. My thanks to Mrs Ryan, Mrs Hatton, Mrs Guthrie, Mrs Coley-Masters, Mrs Hollman-Bunn and Miss Griffith. At the same time, OSLA students were adventuring outdoors in the Alps, accompanied by Mr Bartlam, Miss Ward, Dr Squire and Mr Cockburn, so my grateful thanks to them also. 6 students – Anupran, Oskar, Marcel, Elliott, Riyaan and Harry - enjoyed one month in South Africa at Wynberg School for Boys on our annual rugby exchange, and I thank Mr Evans for his work in organising that. I also extend my thanks to the students who represented our School so well and were such good company. Just brilliant experiences!

During the summer break we've started on some improvements to our building. Essentially we're converting the Eyles Centre into a new Music department – but it's not yet finished! We're hoping it will be completed by October. The current music build is becoming another computing classroom and offices, so there is currently some disruption in there too. We've knocked down walls and decorated the Technology building, converted M2 into a computer room and S19 is now a new science laboratory. Technology and S19 should be ready to

use next week. We've also had new exterior windows installed in the science wing and hope to replace the 1950's windows in the Reservoir building in October. We are very lucky to have such great facilities and I am proud of the fact that our students value and respect them.

Next, our best summer news – examination results!

At GCSE, the results of our now L6 students, were outstanding! We improved on 2018 on every measure with – 24% L9's, 51% L9-8 and 75% of all entries awarded at least a level 7. Our progress measure places us in the top category of schools nationally and, in the only league table I saw, out of 6000+ secondary schools, independent and state, we are placed comfortably within the top 100 schools.

At A-Level, equally impressively in a year of tougher courses and dipping top grades nationally, we achieved 16% A*, 46% A*/A and 70% A*/B, 54 students achieved straight A and A* grades and 159 secured university places – 70% of which are at the top 22 Russell group universities. We celebrated the achievement of 8 Oxbridge places, 23 to read medicine/dentistry, 20 students to study Engineering and 10 students are progressing to read Economics.

All in all, I am delighted; our now L6 and past U6 students and their teachers have so much to be proud of and we applauded their success very warmly and loudly in assembly.

Tomorrow is our Entrance Examination and, no doubt, you will all have your own memories of that day! I am grateful for the generous support of 50+ Sixth Form students; without their help we could not run the day so smoothly.

Thank you, as parents, for your ongoing support and for ensuring students are in attendance, are punctual and wear their uniform with pride. Please do join us for events throughout the year – the termly calendar is available for you on our website.

As you may know, each week at Five Ways has a theme, with accompanying quote. This week it is 'Challenge' with... *"Challenge yourself. Jump off the deep end and learn to swim"* by Carson Kressley. As you would expect, our students are already rising to this and, as I walked around school during first and second lessons today. I wished that's Ofsted was walking by my side... there can't be many Heads who would say that! I was so impressed; students' attitudes have embraced our new mantra – 'Ready, Safe, Respectful' and some great learning was on show – Long may it continue

Y L Wilkinson
Head

Charity Afternoon - Tuesday 16th July 2019

The Charity Afternoon we held on the final Tuesday of summer term, proved to be a fun and highly successful event. The weather was beautiful and we raised lots of money for really good causes. We had a great mix of stalls, with everything from sponge painting, to penalty shoot out and even a relaxation zone inside a gazebo!

9TW did incredibly well, raising the largest amount of any form group, £193.55, with their waffles stall.

In total, we managed to raise £1,603.73, and will be sending cheques off to Epilepsy Surgery Friends, the National Deaf Children's Society and Acorns Children's Society.

Well done to all students and staff and thank you to all those families who supported us in whatever way they could.

Free School Meals

Anyone who thinks their child might be eligible for Free School Meals should follow the link www.link2ict.org/fsm. Please do not type the information into a web browser as it will not work.

Clubs

Climbing club and Kayaking club will begin in the week commencing the 9th of September.

Wednesday

Lunchtime Climbing Club
year 8 & above.

After School Kayak Club Year 9 & above

Thursday

Lunchtime Climbing Club year 7 only
After School Kayak Club
Year 8 only

Climbing- Meet at the indoor climbing wall in the Sports Hall at the start of lunch. Students will need PE kit- shorts or trousers, no gym skirts.

Kayaking- Meet outside MC1 where all equipment can be provided. Students will need swimwear to wear underneath a wetsuit and shoes suitable to wear in the water. Please bring shorts and t-shirt to wear over your swim wear and a towel.

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

Participants are reminded that they WILL NOT be allowed to undertake their assessed expedition unless they have at least two sections completed and assessors reports approved on eDofE. This should be done before Friday 13th September. Students should take any queries to the DofE clinic in MC1 on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday breaktime. Well done to those Y10 students who have completed two or three of their Bronze sections.

Ski Trip 2020

For those going on the Ski Trip 2020 to Italy in February, please note that payment of £300 for the third instalment is due by 30 September. £460 should already have been paid. There will be a meeting for parents and pupils on Thursday 3 October. An email regarding this will be sent to parents shortly.

Food Preparation and Nutrition Practical and Test dates

Tuesday 10th September 2019

Yr7B Fruit Salad

Thursday 12th September 2019

Yr11 Research practical

Friday 13th September 2019

Yr10 Chicken and Mushroom Pie
Yr8C Chicken or Chickpea Curry

Student News

If your son or daughter has experienced any success out of school, such as a special achievement in sport, theatre or music for example, we'd love to hear about it! If you would like to share the news with

us so that we might celebrate it via the school website, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube or other publications, please email your 'articles' to (schoolnews@kefw.org), photographs are also very welcome.

Instagram, YouTube and Twitter

Do you use YouTube? Follow our channel on

<https://bit.ly/2RcyVwX>.

Did you know, in the last 28 days over 10 hours worth of video was watched on our YouTube channel?

Are you on Instagram? Follow us at KEFWschool.

Are you on Twitter? Follow us at @KEFWschool.

Did you know, in the last 28 days our tweets earned over 60,000 impressions?! We love to celebrate our school news, join the Five Ways family on Twitter and follow us, #KEFWWearTheCrest.