



Issue No 11

Friday 26 November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We pride ourselves in the work we are doing here at King Edward VI School and are keen to make improvements where we can. Community well-being is important to us so we need your feedback on how we are doing. Please take a moment to complete this survey to help us to understand what is going well and where we need to further develop:



<https://forms.office.com/r/Z568LwJCiq>

Cyclists/Scooter Riders

As the nights are drawing in and the weather turns more wintry, we are mindful of keeping students safe. Please ensure your children have (working) lights. We encourage everyone to wear helmets and consider road safety when travelling to and from school.

Information for Year 10 & 11

- **Revision Websites** Students may like to look at the bottom of the Library page on the [school website](#) for links to online revision resources that have been 'cherry picked' as up to date and of great quality. Revision resources range from past papers to short videos on most topics.
- **West Suffolk College Open Event** Our students have been allocated the timeslot of 5.30-6.30pm on Thursday 2 December. Any Year 10 and Year 11 students who wish to visit the College must book via this link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/west-suffolk-college-open-event-thur-2-dec-2021-tickets-216274010387>. If you had already registered for this event, you need to re-book.

Delicious Christmas Dinner!

After the challenges of last year, we are keen to reinstate some King Edward's traditions. Keep an eye out for an email next week with details of our Christmas Dinner for students.

- Years 7 & 8 - Monday 13 December
- Years 9, 10 & 11 - Wednesday 15 December

Dinner will cost £4.30, tickets can be collected from Student Services, payment can be made via your cashless catering account.

Reading for Pleasure & Book Advent Calendar

The school really values the importance of reading and will be working in a number of ways to increase the profile of reading over the coming months.

Reading for pleasure is possibly the single-most important activity your child can do to improve achievement in school. Research has shown that reading helps cognitive development; a recent IoE study revealed that students who read at home do 'significantly better' across the curriculum – including 9.9% better in maths – than students who don't read. Linked to this is the fact that reading is the best way to improve vocabulary, essential for success in every subject.

Reading also has social and emotional benefits. It increases self-esteem and studies show that students who read are more empathetic. Growing up is tough -- reading can help young people explore complex problems from the safe fictional world of a book.

At King Edward's, we have a fantastic Library, led by our school librarian Mr Nichols (who can be contacted at DJN@king-ed.suffolk.sch.uk). Mr Nichols is incredibly knowledgeable about books for young people and is keen to give recommendations. Students can borrow books from the Library for free.

In English, we set 40 minutes of reading every week at Years 7 and 8 with a book log on MS Teams. However, all students in all year groups should be reading for at least 40 minutes a week.

This December, we are launching a **book advent calendar!** Students will be emailed with a book recommendation every day from the 1st to the 17th December. [The recommendations can also be found on our website.](#) For your information, we will share these in this Bulletin each week until the Christmas break. Keep an eye out for them for nifty Christmas gift ideas!

Even though we know reading is invaluable, it can be hard to convince students of the joy and pleasure of reading, especially in a world of screens and distractions. We will also be sending home tips and tricks for getting **reluctant readers** to read for pleasure. Our first tip is at the bottom of this Bulletin. Keep reading the Parent Bulletin email each week for a new tip!

Vaccinations

All Vaccinations take place in the Foundation Room. Students will be given appointment slips in tutor trays and need to ensure they attend at the time stated.

- **Flu vaccinations** The NHS vaccinations team will be in school on **Thursday 2 December** to complete the Flu vaccination programme.

- **COVID Vaccinations** The NHS immunisations team will be in school again on **Friday 3 December** to complete the COVID Vaccination programme. Students should wear PE tops and make sure they eat breakfast on the day. It will not be possible for students who have had COVID within the last 12 weeks, or who have turned 16, to have the vaccination at school. Please arrange for them to have the vaccination elsewhere. Details of how to do this are in the NHS poster below.

Year 7 Parents' Evening

Year 7 Parents' Evening will be held remotely on Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 December 2021 using the [School Cloud](#), our online booking system. The system is now open for Year 7 parents to book appointments with Subject Teachers. The booking window will close on Tuesday 30 November 2021.

And finally ...

Year 8 students Amelia-Rose Bonnett and Hannah Green organised a lunchtime book sale in the school library in aid of World Wildlife Fund. **£36.20** was raised; well done girls!



Beverley Tucker
Co-Headteacher



Tom Grey
Co-Headteacher

Reluctant Reader Tip 1: Find books with a connection to something they love. If they are football fans, look for footie fiction for teens – try *Booked* by Kwame Alexander; *Football School Star Players* by Bellos; or *Dan Freedman* or *Tom Palmer's* books. If they like military/action/war, then try the *Dog Tag* series by CA London or *Andy McNab's* teen books. If they like to watch Youtubers, try *Zoella's* book club. And if they are into gaming, try fast-paced chapter books or 'choose your own adventure' stories. (Tip: try teen/YA author *Alex Scarrow's* books – he was a professional video-game developer before he turned to writing; or *Jeff Norton's MetaWars* series, billed as 'a video game you can read').



COVID-19



Vaccinations for healthy children aged 12 - 15 years

11th November 2021

WHO?



You're eligible for a jab if you haven't had your vaccination yet...



this includes those who turn 12 on the day of vaccination...



you will only receive one dose of vaccine

WHEN?

You can get vaccinated now

You do not have to wait to be contacted by the NHS

WHERE?



Many children will receive their vaccine at school – your school will contact you



OR you can choose to go to a designated large vaccination centre



OR at a designated walk-in clinic or community pharmacy

HOW?

You can book an appointment through the NHS National Booking Service Website (www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19), call **119** or contact the Suffolk and North East Essex helpline – **0344 257 3961**. To find your nearest walk-in vaccination centre, visit: www.sneevaccine.org.uk

Thought for the Week

“We cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson