



Today's Prayer

Listen or read the Prayer for the Day and join in with thousands of others saying these words.

[Today's Prayer | The Church of England](#)

26/27 Issue No 4

Friday 2 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Our **Open Evening on Thursday** was a tremendous success and provided a wonderful opportunity to showcase everything that makes our school such a special place to learn and grow. I was immensely proud of our students, who were, without doubt, the stars of the evening. Hundreds of prospective families experienced first-hand the confidence, courtesy and enthusiasm that define our school community. Whether leading tours, speaking about their experiences, demonstrating their learning or supporting staff in departments, our students were exceptional ambassadors. Their pride in their school was evident throughout the evening and left a lasting impression on all who attended.

In assemblies this week, students have been looking at Black History month with Mr Shaw. This is to support and deepen their understanding about cultural history and tolerances for people of Black heritage.

This week has also been a special one as we have welcomed students and teachers from our partner school in **Shanghai**. For nearly twenty years, this partnership has provided invaluable opportunities for young people from both schools to learn from one another, develop lasting friendships and gain a deeper understanding of different cultures and perspectives. It remains one of the many aspects that makes our school unique and reflects our commitment to preparing students for life in an increasingly connected world.

As our visitors prepare to return home, we would like to wish them a very fond farewell and thank them for the warmth, friendship and enthusiasm they have brought during their time with us. The relationships developed between students and staff from both schools are a powerful reminder of the value of international partnerships and the

connections that can be forged across continents. We hope they leave with many happy memories of their visit and look forward to continuing this longstanding friendship and partnership for many years to come.

Shanghai Exchange Visit: A Week of Friendship, Culture and Learning



This week, we were delighted to welcome a group of students and teachers from Shanghai for an exciting week of cultural exchange, learning and friendship.

The visit began with the group's arrival from China and provided a wonderful opportunity for our visitors to experience life in Bury St Edmunds, immerse themselves in lessons across the school and build lasting connections with both students and staff.



The week started with a special Welcome Celebration, followed by tours of the school led by our students and staff. Throughout their stay, the visitors participated in a wide range of curriculum activities, including Geography, Science, Physical Education, Design Technology, English and Mathematics lessons. These sessions showcased the breadth of opportunities available at KEVI and allowed students from both schools to learn alongside one another.

Beyond the classroom, the group enjoyed exploring our local community. Highlights included a walking tour of Bury St Edmunds, a visit to St Edmundsbury Cathedral, and time spent with host families, giving our visitors a genuine experience of everyday life in Suffolk. These experiences proved invaluable in strengthening cultural understanding and developing meaningful international friendships.

One of the highlights of the week was a memorable day trip to London. The visitors experienced many of the capital's most famous landmarks, including Westminster, Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, Trafalgar Square, Covent Garden and the South Bank, as well as a visit to the British Museum. The day provided an excellent opportunity to share British history and culture with our guests.

Back at school, our visitors worked with colleagues and students to prepare for Open Evening, where they delivered a cultural exchange presentation and shared aspects of Chinese culture with prospective families and members of the local community. The week concluded with STEM activities at Abbeygate's XR Lab and a celebratory Party Night, where students reflected on their experiences and exchanged gifts and memories before saying their goodbyes.

As the group departed for Heathrow following a final visit to Cambridge, they left with many happy memories, new friendships and a deeper understanding of life in the United Kingdom.

Thank You

A visit of this scale is only possible because of the generosity, enthusiasm and commitment of so many people.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all staff who supported the programme, whether by hosting lessons, accompanying visits, supervising activities, helping with planning and logistics, supporting Open Evening, providing hospitality or giving their time to ensure our guests received a warm welcome.

Special thanks go to the staff who led and coordinated the visit, to our host families for opening their homes to our visitors, and to the many students who acted as ambassadors for the school throughout the week. Their kindness, confidence and professionalism made a lasting impression on our guests.

The visit was a wonderful celebration of international partnership, cultural understanding and the welcoming spirit of the KEVI community. We look forward to continuing to develop these valuable links in the future.



HONOURING BLACK BRITAIN 2026

In 2026, Black History Month are running **Honouring Black Britain 2026** — a national recognition initiative aligned with this year's theme.

This programme formally acknowledges Black individuals whose leadership, service and professional excellence have made a measurable contribution to British society — particularly those whose impact is felt within communities every day.

We invite students at KEVIS to take part.

Is there someone in your community whose contribution deserves recognition? Someone who gives their time, supports others, or makes a lasting impact?

Applications must be between 500-800 words and may include an image of the chosen person.

Submit a nomination by clicking the link:

<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/submit-a-nomination-honouring-black-britain-2026/>



Year 7 Halloween Disco



A letter has been sent to all Year 7 parents with information about our Year 7 Halloween Disco, taking place on Thursday 22nd October, from 5:30–7:00pm.

Students are welcome to come in fancy dress and enjoy an evening of music, dancing and Halloween fun!

Tickets are £5 and can be purchased through ParentPay by Friday 9th October.

All money raised will go towards Year 7 activities and trips.

We're looking forward to a spooktacular evening of fun!

An update on Bus services and issues Route service 47/47a – Brockley Road Closure:

Please see the following message from RM Transport Service (Operations)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Due to the road closure in Brockley and the 47/47A service which your child travels on bypassing Brockley, Hartest, Rede and Whepstead, we have arranged for an alternative bus route to serve these locations from Thursday

1st October until 16th October, when the road is due to reopen.

The bus will be operated by Felix Coaches, who will display 'BE047R – Hartest, Brockley, Rede, Whepstead' in the window so students will know which bus to board.

The timetable they will be completing is as below:

Hartest 7:40 am
Brockley, Birdbrook 7:43 am
Rede, Bus Shelter 7:55 am
Whepstead, Church hill 8:05 am
BSE, King Edwards 8:35 am
BSE, County/St Benedicts 8:45 am

BSE King Edwards 15:35
BSE County/St Benedicts 15:55
Whepstead, Church Hill 16:10
Rede, Bus Shelter 16:16
Hartest 16:30
Brockley, Birdbrook 16:35

Regarding King Edward VI slot at 15:35 - The operator is aware this is the time that the students day ends, and that it can be up to 5/10 minutes before they come out.

The bus will wait at the College bus stop on Out Risbygate.

Please accept our sincere apologies for the inconvenience that has been caused whilst these alternative arrangements have been made.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Abbeycroft Teen Chill (Youth Club)
Bury St Edmunds

A poster for Abbeycroft Teen Chill. It features a group of four teenagers (three girls and one boy) posing together on a green hill. The background has green diagonal stripes. The text is in bold pink and black.

BE YOUNG BE FREE, BE YOU!

AT TEEN CHILL

Find out more



Are you aged 10-16?

Our Teen Chill sessions are designed to give you the chance to get together with friends in a safe environment. Whether you want to play games, have a kick-about, or do nothing at all - you choose!

Wi-Fi Available

Commissioned by



Bury St Edmunds
TOWN COUNCIL

Turn up & pay
£1
a session

Abbeycroft
Let's Love Life

Woburn Community Centre, Bury St Edmunds, IP32 6TD
Monday 16:00-18:00
abbeycroft.org.uk

A poster for Abbeycroft Teen Chill. It features a group of four teenagers (three girls and one boy) posing together on a green hill. The background has green diagonal stripes. The text is in bold pink and black.

BE YOUNG BE FREE, BE YOU!

AT TEEN CHILL

Find out more



Are you aged 10-16 years old?

Our Teen Chill sessions are designed to give you the chance to get together with friends in a safe environment. Whether you want to play games, have a kick-about, or do nothing at all - you choose!

Wi-Fi Available

Commissioned by



BURY ST EDMUNDS
TOWN COUNCIL

Turn up & pay
£1
a session

Abbeycroft
Let's Love Life

Tuesday 05.30pm - 08.30pm
Marston Hall Community Centre,
Symonds Rd, Bury St Edmunds, IP32 7SS
abbeycroft.org.uk

Healthy Living Services

Please see the flyer below with details of Suffolk Healthy Living Service



The service supports families with children aged 0 – 19 (up to 25 for a young person with a special educational need or disability) where the child/young is living with excess weight (on the 91st to the 97.9th BMI centile) and lives within Suffolk. We offer 6-8 sessions and work with the family as a whole, supporting with a healthy lifestyle, signposting to other services where appropriate.

Referrals can come into our service from young people themselves, parents/carers and all professionals. Many of the referrals we

receive come from Child Health Screening Practitioners (CHSPs) who are identifying children above a healthy range category, through the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) completed in primary schools within Suffolk.

If you would like further information, Virtual meeting or collaboration please contact on the details below.

Enquiries into the Healthy Living Service may be made by:

- Suffolk County Council Portal [Healthy living service - Suffolk County Council](#)
- Telephone 01473 263700
- Email healthylivingservice@suffolk.gov.uk

Online Safety

We are concerned that in recent weeks a number of students have mentioned the use of Omegle online. So, we wanted to take this opportunity to share with you a parent guide to enable you to be more aware of the risks this platform poses to children.

See the link here: [Omegle-Parent-Guide.pdf](#)



Contact with strangers

Omegle is specifically designed to encourage users to talk to strangers, by either using the website's chat function or video calling within

Omegle. Whilst chat is initially anonymous, many users choose to share personal information including names, ages, locations, email addresses, phone numbers or social media handles.

Explicit and adult content

Adult content is prevalent on Omegle, including pornographic content and adult language. Users have no control over what they may see or hear when matched up with a stranger. Some people use Omegle with the intention of engaging in sexually explicit conversations or participating in live sex acts, including with children and young people.

Lack of safety settings

Omegle does not allow users to report, flag or block chats that may be distressing, inappropriate or illegal. The website states: "Use Omegle at your own peril. Disconnect if anyone makes you feel uncomfortable."

Please talk to your child further about the use of this website and add it to your parental controls to restrict access moving forward.

The big Future



A message to children from Dame Rachel de Souza Children's Commissioner for England:

Please help us by completing the attached survey. ONLY 3 WEEKS LEFT TO HAVE YOUR SAY!

"The Big Future is asking children and young people about their lives, their experiences and their hopes for the future. I will be using what they tell me to build a national picture of what matters to children today and to ensure their views are heard by Government.

The survey takes just a few minutes to complete and can be accessed here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

Thank you to all who take part.



Please see the latest news and events from Sendiass:

[SENDIASS news and events 25 Sep 2026.pdf](#)

[SENDIASS sessions autumn 2026.pdf](#)



**SEND Stars
After-School Roadshow**
Free soft play, information and support for families

Join Sarah, our Family Support Team Lead, for a relaxed after-school support session for children and families.

While children enjoy free soft play, parents and carers can meet local SEND services, access advice, ask questions and explore support available.

Connect with other families in a safe, inclusive and supportive environment.

30th September 4pm - 6pm

Partyman World
9 Cavendish Street
Ipswich, IP3 8AX

Suitable for children under 12

Advanced booking is required. Pop us an email:
send@families-together-suffolk.org.uk

Families Together
Suffolk

01579 628552
Registered Charity No. 1127760



Organisations and services joining us on the day to share information, offer advice and answer your questions:

- Activities Unlimited**
Provides grants and support for inclusive activities, short breaks and personal budgets for children and young people
- Suffolk Family Carers**
Providing support and advice for parent carers
- SENDIASS**
Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service
- Ipswich Opportunity Group**
Supporting families who have pre-school children with a wide range of additional needs
- Harriet Wakeling, Assistant Director SCC**
Strategic Partnerships & Children's Service Delivery Children and Young People's Services
- Suffolk County Council**
Leading on co-production of a joint SEND Commissioning Strategy and would welcome views from families on what is important to them with regards to jointly commissioning services for children with SEND

Further information available regarding ND pathway via the local offer website
www.suffolklocaloffer.org.uk

ACTIVITIES **COMMUNITY**

Sixth form Open Evening



Thurston Sixth Form

Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 15 October 2026 18:00 - 20:00

   www.thurstonsixth.org

St Nicholas Hospice Care

Hospice Care Week:

Hospice Care Week takes place from 5-11 October, highlighting the compassionate care that hospices provide every day.

Hospice care is about so much more than managing symptoms. It's about helping people continue doing the things they enjoy, spending time with loved ones and living as well as possible.

As part of the week, we'll be hosting a number of activities at our Hardwick Lane site, including a Faith Communities Drop-in Session and a free educational session exploring advance care planning and managing difficult conversations.

[Hospice Care Week 2026 - St Nicholas Hospice Care](#)

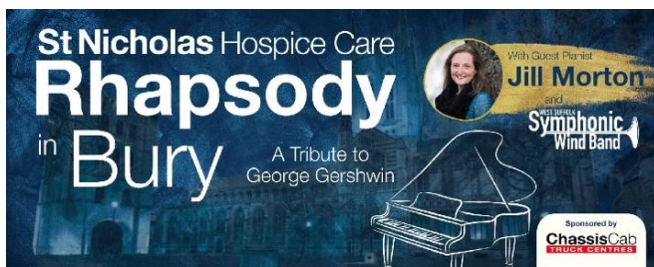


Join us on 7 November for a magical evening beneath the historic skyline of the Abbey Gardens.

With spectacular fireworks, food and drink, fairground rides and family entertainment, it's set to be another fantastic community event. We're delighted to be working alongside St Edmundsbury Theatre Services and Bury St Edmunds Town Council to bring the evening to life.

Advance booking is recommended as numbers are limited.

[Abbey Gardens Fireworks 2026 | St Nicholas Hospice Care](#)



Join us on 14 November for Rhapsody in Bury, an unforgettable evening of music in the stunning surroundings of St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Featuring the West Suffolk Symphonic Wind Band and acclaimed pianist Jill Morton, the programme includes Gershwin's iconic Rhapsody in Blue, alongside music from Broadway, jazz and Latin America.

Every ticket sold helps support St Nicholas Hospice Care, and we're grateful to Chassis Cab for sponsoring this special event.

[Rhapsody In Bury 2026 | St Nicholas Hospice Care](#)

Christmas Cards



Our Christmas range is now available online and in our shops, making it the perfect time to start planning for the festive season.

Choose from a selection of Christmas cards, including contemporary designs and local scenes that celebrate the places we know and love. We're also stocking our popular diaries for the year ahead.

Every purchase helps support St Nicholas Hospice Care, so whether you're sending festive greetings or organising your year, you'll be helping make a difference to local people and their families.

[Order Christmas cards and diaries - St Nicholas Hospice Care website](#)

Follow us on Facebook

[King Edward VI School Facebook](#)

Follow us on Instagram

[King Edward VI School Instagram](#)

Follow our SEND Instagram page

[KEVI Learning Support Instagram](#)

Everyone at King Edwards would like to wish you a very happy weekend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Grey'.

Mr T Grey
Interim Headteacher

Dates for your Diary Term Dates 2026-2027 Additional information can be found on the calendar page of the website.	
School Tours	6, 7 and 9 October 2026
GCSE Mean Girls Trip	14 October
Open Evening	1 October 2026 6-8pm
Half Term	26-30 October 2026

Question of the Week:

Mental Health: What helps us when we feel overwhelmed?

All past issues of this Newsletter are available [on our website.](#)