

PRINCIPAL'S WEEKLY UPDATE



WORD OF THE WEEK – HERITAGE
WORSHIP THEME OF THE WEEK – CULTURE AND IDENTITY
CORE VALUE OF THE WEEK – DEMOCRACY/INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY
BIBLICAL REFERENCE OF THE WEEK – 1 CORINTHIANS 1V12-30 (NT)

A week of celebration and excitement

It has been an amazing week for all of us connected with the school. I hope you have been able to keep abreast of all the fantastic news that we have shared on social media. It has been simply amazing, and we are all bursting with pride. I wanted to share the achievements and some exciting news on the new build, earlier than normal this week. It is important we share and celebrate our successes as soon as we can and with everyone involved. Our theme this week is culture and identity and I firmly believe it is our culture and unique identity that enables our children to flourish in the manner they do and develop confidence and expertise to be recognised by others.

World Class Schools Mark

St Edward's, alongside other schools in our Trust have been working all year to demonstrate that all our children are 'world class' and so is our learning environment. A group of Y7 and Y8 children have been working incredibly hard with Miriam, our Chaplain, to detail, log, and evidence all of the amazing work they have done since they started. They have been able to demonstrate and evidence key characteristics and show how they learn, the opportunities they receive, the leaders they are becoming and the model citizens they are. Our expert teaching, our INVOLVE clubs, our careers work and our pastoral care were all key areas the children could draw from. We were confirmed as a school that has achieved 'World Class School Mark' status this week and while this is testament to the work of Miriam and our 20 students on the project, it also reflects on all our school community. I am sure you are delighted to hear the news too.



World Class School of the Year 2023 and Students of the Year 2023

Our great news continued. Due to the quality and quantity of evidence provided by our children, our assessor nominated us, alongside 4 other schools in the country to be shortlisted for 'World Class School of the Year 2023.' There are 147 schools with the mark, to be one of only five shortlisted is amazing and a further indication of the great work being done. The winning school will be announced w/c 3rd July by the World Class Schools team. Please keep your fingers crossed and your eyes peeled for the result.



Even better news was that the assessor identified four of our students to be shortlisted for World Class Student of the Year 2023. Only 43 students across primary and secondary schools were chosen and there are six categories to be a winner in. What a truly amazing achievement by our four students. They are already winners but let's hope that at least one of them ends up a 'World Class Student of the Year'. Each student is pictured below with the reason given by the assessor for nominating them.

Tilly Batty – nominated because she is 'unafraid to take risks and never gives up'.

Daisy Hardy – nominated for 'being someone who is extremely committed to learning'.

Alex Plimmer – nominated because 'he is a great #worldclass all-rounder, who starts things up if they are not started already.'

Nicola Doxey – nominated because of 'the huge amount of work she does for charity and her community. Nicola raises money but always ensures that she completes her schoolwork.'



Keresforth Close site - Our new build is on the move!



Rob Marsh (Executive Principal) and I had the pleasure of doing our first site visit this week. We met the Bowmer and Kirkland Project Lead and our Site Manager, a really experienced team of experts who will be delivering our school. As you can see from the photos there has been a great deal of work being done underground and on the foundations. One of the countries largest drilling rigs has been drafted in and has been used to ensure the foundations on a number of ground levels are secure and ready for the next phase of the build. In the first week of July all of the steel work will be constructed on site, so we will be able to see the building take physical shape, alongside this the lift shaft will be created. We will be doing a further visit in July, and I will keep you updated with photos as the our school rises up. There will be chance in July and next academic year for some of our students to visit the site and see the developments. We will also be doing various exciting competitions and events with Bowmer and Kirkland that our children can get involved in.

Eastgate Extension

While this has been going on at the main site, I have been meeting weekly with BMBC, the Department for Education and Portakabin to develop an extension of our Eastgate site to welcome a further 180 children in September. These meetings have been very positive, and we have a plan for September. In the next academic year, we have three new classroom blocks that will extend our curriculum further. This will include a fully functioning DT suite so we can deliver resistant material and other design subjects. We have been able to draw down the equipment from the new build early to do this. I'm so excited to see what our children will create as we add the Technology and Engineering aspects of our STEM work to the curriculum. The other classes will enable us to deliver existing subjects to a further 180 students. Barnsley College have continued to support us, and we will again utilise Honeywell facilities and Shaw Lane for our PE curriculum. If you recall, we have this delay due to the protected species of bats that were roosting in the old buildings at Keresforth, something that was totally out of our control.

Portakabin are a nationally recognised company that will start the works on our Eastgate extension in the next few weeks and through the summer. Through our partnership with BMBC and Barnsley College, our site will extend into the bottom car park of County Way and I am delighted to say that our existing car park will become the new yard area for our children. This is a much bigger and better space for them to have their free time. Portakabin have worked with me to create safe fenced areas that will ensure our school boundary secure. I am thoroughly delighted with the work we have done collaboratively and to ensure our curriculum and standard of education can not only be maintained, but extended for a further year at Eastgate. As it stands, we are working towards a move to the new build at the end of next academic year, 2023/24. For safety reasons and to allow a full and smooth transition, that includes moving all our current equipment and furniture to the new site, we will move into the new build and open it in September 2024.

Please do get in touch via contact us should you have any further questions. I'd be happy to answer them.

Dates for your diary/upcoming events

Monday 19th-Wednesday 21st
Kingswood Residential Group 1

Wednesday 21st-Friday 23rd Kingswood
Residential Group 2

Tuesday 20th
ESPORTS INVOLVE club at Barnsley
College