



**THE SCHOOLS OF
KING EDWARD VI
IN BIRMINGHAM**

In pursuit of educational excellence for all

Opening Doors

Welcome to Issue 4 of our Opening Doors magazine. We have recently seen over 5,500 children in the City take the 11+ entrance test. The Schools of King Edward VI Admissions Department manage this process not only for our own 5 free grammar schools but for another three grammar schools in the City. The organisation that goes on behind the scenes is extremely intense. Without the co-operation of all the grammar schools, along with our own independent schools, King Edward VI Sheldon Heath Academy, Langley, Light Hall and the very generous donation of space and subsidised parking from Aston University, we would not be able to accommodate the growing numbers of children who want to try for a place at the grammar schools in the City.

There are over 300 invigilators who oversee the entrance test along with other necessary agencies to assist with traffic management, queues and the nervousness of children and parents on the day. We are grateful to everyone who ensures this secure operation is carried out with as little disruption as possible.

One of the key factors influencing the growing number of children taking the 11+ is, I believe, our own Opening Doors strategy which is enabling us to widen access into the grammar schools. As I write this, The Learning Hub at Birmingham Airport is currently being refurbished. Once complete, we will calendar more activities for children, teachers and parents at this wonderful venue.

This will be the last Opening Doors message I write as Secretary to the Governors of King Edward VI in Birmingham as I am retiring at the end of the term after 30 years of working for this organisation. There have been many changes in education during my time here but I genuinely believe that our outreach work, familiarisation activities, professional development courses and community work are beginning to make a real difference to the lives of disadvantaged children in Birmingham. I will look forward to receiving my Opening Doors newsletter in the future and to see the positive outcomes this charity is achieving with children, teachers and parents across the City.

Finally, may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.



John Collins,
*Secretary to the Governors
The Schools of King Edward VI in Birmingham*

In this issue:

- Big Hoot - Watch This Space.
- The Children's University Graduation Ceremony.
- The Etherington Brothers at The Learning Hub.
- Science Enrichment Day.
- Activities Calendar.



For more information about Familiarisation 2016, our virtual learning programme or Forest School please contact openingdoors@ske.uk.net.

The Children's University Graduation Ceremony

at King Edward's School, Edgbaston. 22nd June 2015



Anderton Park and Clifton Primary School had the great opportunity to hold the graduation ceremony for the Children's University at King Edward's School Edgbaston. The awards were in recognition of the hours of learning children had completed outside the classroom. The awards were presented by the national charity, 'The Children's University.' There were 18 children from each school receiving their awards, nearly all of whom were accompanied by their parents.

The aim of the ceremony was to raise the aspirations of the children involved and see what opportunities they have around them. After the ceremony many parents and children commented on how they didn't realise such facilities existed so close and that their children could aspire to Grammar School and beyond. The children felt celebrated and spoke about the day for weeks after. The uptake of extra-curricular activities at our school since has been increased and many

have shown further enthusiasm to be involved in learning outside the classroom, in order that they might graduate.

It was great to work with King Edward's to make this event happen. They provided a stunning venue, which the children were overwhelmed with. They also provided a pupil to lead the ceremony and a Master to present the prizes (who was dressed in his gown). They both spoke about the importance of education and learning as well as making the most of the opportunities that children have to learn and experience new things. All of which we value greatly at our school.

On a personal note, it was great working with Sue and Tom, there was great communication which made things easy and everything came together on the day. We would hope to repeat this event, if the school would be willing, hoping to possibly involve some drama and possibly presentations of what the children have been learning.

2016 Familiarisation Dates

The following dates have been agreed:

IMPORTANT – *Handsworth dates start at 1.00 pm* *Aston dates start at 1.30 pm*

Aston	Handsworth Girls	Camp Hill Boys	Camp Hill Girls	Five Ways
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday 18 May• Wednesday 08 June• Thursday 15 June• Thursday 22 June• Wednesday 29 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday 18 May• Wednesday 8 June• Thursday 15 June• Thursday 22 June• Wednesday 29 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 07 June• Tuesday 14 June• Tuesday 21 June• Tuesday 28 June• Saturday 02 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 07 June• Tuesday 14 June• Tuesday 21 June• Tuesday 28 June• Saturday 02 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To be advised

Parents are most welcome to join us on the final sessions and schools will provide a tour and answer any questions they may have.

Schools who participated last year will receive more details on the course, early in the spring term.

Schools who would like to receive details please email openingdoors@ske.uk.net

