King Edward VI Academy
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Principal: Mr M Wilkinson

18th September 2026

Dear KEVI Families,

We've had another brilliant week at KEVI with the highlight being a wonderful non-uniform day to celebrate the really strong start to attendance. We know how key attendance is to achievement and we are going to continue to promote it. We also know that attendance, like education, works best when there is a joined-up approach with school and families working together. Thank you so much for supporting our work by ensuring that your children are in school and ready to learn.

Next week is our annual Open Evening and we can't wait to show off our school community. Please do share this short film which shows life at KEVI https://youtu.be/wntQRlI9QIo

Stars of the Week

Each week our house leaders nominate their Star of the Week to recognise those students who are living our values.

Our Stars of the Week for this week are:

Y8: Ruby T – Value: Respect. Picking up litter outside of school even though she was not the one who dropped it.

Y8: Ella H – Value: Ambition. For taking part in the House Limbo and producing an excellent performance and coming 2nd in KS3.

Y7: Frei G – Value: Respect and Courage. Frei has had an amazing start to Year 7. Giving respect and courage to not only his teachers but to his peers by supporting them around school.

KEVI Facebook Page

Please follow our school Facebook page because it provides a convenient platform for staying updated on important school announcements, events, and activities. This ensures that parents are informed about their child's education, including academic calendars and extracurricular opportunities.

King Edward VI Academy | Spilsby | Facebook

Teen Support

Vaping: What Parents and Carers Need to Know

We are increasingly concerned about the use of vapes by children and young people. Although vaping is sometimes presented as a safer alternative to smoking for adults, vaping is not harmless for children and young people.

The Children's Society reports that nearly 1 in 10 secondary school pupils currently vape, and around 1 in 4 young people aged 11–15 have tried vaping.

Vapes often contain nicotine, which is highly addictive. Regular use can quickly lead to dependence, and young people who become dependent on nicotine may experience irritability, difficulty concentrating and problems sleeping when they are unable to vape.

There are also physical health concerns. Vaping exposes the lungs and respiratory system to chemicals which can cause inflammation and irritation, with concerns about potential longer-term effects. Nicotine use in young people can also affect learning and concentration.

Vapes can be particularly attractive to children because of their colourful packaging, sweet flavours and relatively low cost. They are also easier to conceal than cigarettes because they do not leave the same lingering smell.

There is another important safeguarding risk. The Children's Society has highlighted links between vaping and criminal exploitation. In some cases, adults have provided children with vapes as part of the grooming process, before creating a sense that the young person now "owes" them something in return. This can leave vulnerable young people open to further exploitation.

It is illegal to sell nicotine vapes to anyone under the age of 18, and it is also illegal for an adult to buy a vape on behalf of someone under 18.

How families can help

We encourage parents and carers to talk openly with their children about vaping. Ask what they know about it, discuss peer pressure and make sure they understand that something being common amongst young people does not make it safe.

Please also be alert to signs that your child may be vaping, including possession of unfamiliar small electronic devices, sweet or fruity smells, unexplained spending, increased thirst, or changes in behaviour where nicotine dependence may be developing.

If you have concerns about your child vaping, please talk to us. Our priority is to work with families to educate and support young people while keeping them safe.

For further information, we recommend The Children's Society's guidance: "Behind the smoke: How are vapes affecting young people?" Behind the smoke: How are vapes affecting young people? | The Children's Society

Word of the Week: Reactivity

Reactivity is a measure of how easily a chemical substance undergoes a reaction, either by itself or with other materials, often releasing energy.
Similar words: Responsiveness, Sensitivity
Etymology: This word started appearing in English in the early 1600s to describe things that respond to an action. Emerged in the late 19th century as the field of modern chemistry expanded.

Example sentences

1. Because of its high **reactivity**, sodium must be stored under oil to prevent it from reacting with moisture in the air.

2. The study looked at how temperature changes can alter the **reactivity** of a catalyst during a chemical process.
3. The teacher used a simple experiment with water and various metals to demonstrate the concept of chemical **reactivity**.

Supporting Your Child with Social Media, Relationships and Sexual Health – Parent Training Evening

As children and young people navigate an increasingly digital world, conversations around social media, relationships and sexual health can sometimes feel challenging for parents and carers. It is not always easy to know what young people are seeing online, what questions they may have, or how best to support them. To help with this, we are delighted to invite parents and carers to a practical and informative training evening led by **Wayne Stevenson**, an experienced professional who has worked with young people for more than 30 years. With a background as a sexual health nurse and extensive experience supporting young people, Wayne offers a knowledgeable, engaging and respectful approach to topics that can often feel difficult to discuss.

During the session, parents and carers will explore:

- Social media and online safety
- Healthy relationships and personal boundaries
- Consent and peer pressure
- Sexual health and age-appropriate conversations
- The influence of online content and social media
- Practical ways to talk to your child and answer difficult questions
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The evening is designed to equip parents and carers with useful knowledge, practical conversation starters and helpful resources that can be used at home. Whether your child is in Year 7 or Sixth Form, this session offers valuable guidance for all families.

Previous attendees have described Wayne's sessions as:

"A must for everyone. I thought I was aware of the dangers of social media, but Wayne educated me on other areas to be concerned about and gave clear advice in supporting my son."

"Wayne is extremely well informed and explains issues clearly. I am now more confident in speaking to my children."

Event Details

🗓️ **Date:** Thursday 15 October 2026
🕔 **Time:** 5.00pm to 6.00pm
👥 **Who can attend:** Parents and carers (18+ only)
📝 **Booking:** Places must be booked in advance using the Microsoft Form
⏰ **Booking deadline:** Thursday 8 October 2026

We strongly encourage parents and carers to take advantage of this opportunity. You do not need to wait until there is a concern to start these conversations. Feeling informed and confident can make a real difference in supporting your child as they grow and navigate the challenges of modern life.
We hope to see you there.

As Children's Commissioner, I'm writing to ask for your support in helping children at your school or college take part in my national survey, The Big Future.

Your students can take part here: http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture
As schools and colleges return for the final weeks of the academic year, this is a valuable opportunity for children and young people to reflect on their experiences, share what matters most to them, and tell us about their hopes and ambitions for the future in their own words.

I would be hugely grateful if you could share the survey directly with pupils through your school or college email systems, as well as with parents and carers across your wider school community. Direct student participation is essential to ensuring that young people's voices are heard and represented.

To encourage engagement, I am inviting schools and colleges to identify student champions who can help promote the survey among their peers. Student champions who generate particularly high levels of participation will receive a formal thank you from my office, recognising their contribution to amplifying young people's voices. This is also an excellent example of leadership and participation that students may wish to reference in future personal statements, CVs and applications.

I want to hear from children and young people aged 0–18 from every background, in every part of the country. The survey asks about the things they enjoy, the challenges they face, the changes they would like to see in their communities, and what they believe a good childhood should look like today.

Participation in The Big Future also provides schools with an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to civic engagement. The findings will help inform national conversations and decision-making about children's lives and futures at the highest levels.

Schools and colleges with the highest response levels will receive formal recognition and will be invited to attend my final Festival of Childhood, celebrating the voices and contributions of children and young people from across England.

To support you, I have created a pack of resources, including an introductory video, lesson materials and FAQs, all available on my website.

I will publish the findings next year, and they will help shape the conversations and decisions being made about children's lives and futures for years to come.

As ever, thank you so much for your support.

Dame Rachel de Souza
Children's Commissioner for England

House News

House Limbo Results!
The results are in from our first House competition of the new school year – House Limbo!

It was fantastic to see so many students getting involved, representing their Houses and seeing just how low they could go!

3rd Place – Arete
Joint 1st Place – Apollo & Mercury

A huge congratulations to Apollo and Mercury, who couldn't be separated and share the victory!

We also had two individual Limbo champions: KS3 Champion – Jayden. KS4 Champion – AJ

Well done to everyone who took part and earned points for their House. It's already looking like it could be a very competitive year between Arete, Apollo and Mercury!

Harvest Festival Foodbank Collection
This week and next week, we are collecting donations for our Harvest Festival, with everything collected being donated to our local foodbank to support people and families in our community.

We would really appreciate students bringing in any suitable non-perishable food items they are able to donate. Tinned foods, pasta, rice, cereals and other long-life products are all great examples.

Every donation, big or small, will help us build a fantastic Harvest Festival collection and make a positive difference in our local community.

Thank you in advance for your support and generosity!

Gino's Update

Menu – Autumn Term

<u>KEVI breakfast</u>

A reminder that your child can happily enter Gino's (the school canteen) from 7:45am each day if they arrive early to school.

This is a safe, warm and staffed part of the school with seating and free breakfast food.

Lunch Menu

Week Beginning September 21st 2026

	Planet Friendly Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	Vegetarian Pasta bolognaise G & mozzarella M V	Chicken korma M Mixed rice & naan bread G	Beef lasagne G M & garlic bread G	Roast gammon, Yorkshire pud G E M & gravy G	Spicy chicken G
Option 2	Macaroni & broccoli cheese, G M, V	Falafel & spinach burger bap VGN	Mexican beef quesadilla G M & Mexican salad	Greek moussaka M & pitta bread salad G V	Quorn BBQ wheels G M C SO V
Option 3	BBQ Jackfruit & vegetable rice wrap V G SO C	Folded flatbread filled with Chinese chicken & stir fried vegetables G	Oriental Vegetable noodles G E SO V	Chicken wrap G	Jacket potato with various fillings including Chicken Tikka M
Sides	Salad Bar Peas & sweetcorn	Salad Bar Herby diced potatoes G	Salad Bar, Sweetcorn,	Salad Bar Mashed potato, Carrots & broccoli	Salad Bar Potato wedges G Minted peas
Dessert	Apple flapjack G & custard M Fruit Yogurt pots M	Fruit salad Yogurt pots M	Lemon & apple cake G	Fruit salad Yogurt pots M	Fruit salad Yogurt pots M

Available daily- Salad bar, cold meal deals

Menus may be subject to change

Allergens G- Gluten, E-Eggs, F- Fish, M- Milk, C- Celery, L-Lupin, MU- Mustard, N- Nuts, P- Peanuts, S- Sesame seeds, SO- Soya, SD- Sulphur Dioxide, MO- Molluscs, CR- Crustaceans VGN- Vegan

Gino's

Price List – September 2026

Gino's Menu

Breakfast

07:45-08:30

Free

Toast

Crumpet

Cereal

Hot drinks

Start the day the right way at our friendly Breakfast Club. Every morning, students can enjoy a free, nutritious breakfast in a warm and welcoming environment, helping them feel energised, focused, and ready to learn.

FOOD HYGIENE RATING 0 1 2 3 4 5 VERY GOOD

Brunch

11:05-11:25

Brunch Muffin	£1.25
Beans on Toast	£0.60
Wraps	£2.20
Fruit Bread	£0.60
Brunch Swirl	£1.25
Chicken & Rice	£1.80
Folded Flatbread	£1.80
Bread Twists	£0.40
Crumpets	£0.40
Fruit & Yogurt	£1.00
Soup	£0.80
Soup & Roll	£1.00
Fruit Salad & Greek Yogurt	£1.00
Fresh Fruit	£0.60

King Edward VI Academy

Lunch Menu

12:35-13:15

Gino's serves three delicious hot meal choices each day, alongside a healthy dessert and access to our fresh salad bar.

All options are available to our Free School Meal students.

Main Meal	£2.60
Meal Deal	£2.90

NOTHING BRINGS PEOPLE together LIKE GOOD FOOD

Lunch MEAL DEALS £2.90

A choice of:

- **Hot main meal & dessert** *(Choice of hot or cold dessert)*
- **Cold option** *Large sub (wrap, baguette, bagel)* *Served with* *Fruit, yogurt & Popchips*

Daily spend limits in Gino's are set at £6.00 per day. The Free School Meal (FSM) daily allowance is £2.75. Please contact the School Office at office@kingedwardacademy.co.uk if you would like this to increase or decrease for your child, stating your required daily spend limit. We ask that you please do your best to not let your food account go into a negative balance.

Sports Enrichment

It was a successful afternoon of sport against JSTC, with both the Year 8 football and netball teams securing impressive victories. The teams showed great teamwork, determination, and skill throughout their matches, earning well-deserved wins.

The Year 10 football team faced a tough challenge and were unfortunately defeated. However, they put in a strong performance, worked hard from start to finish, and showed excellent attitude and resilience throughout the game.

Congratulations to all players for representing the school so positively.

Specialist Teaching Team
Inclusion Service

Dyslexia Outreach

Support Your Child's Learning at Home

A free, online workshop, for parents and carers, to support your knowledge and understanding of how to support your child with their learning at home.

We will be sharing recommendations for effective ways to support your child at home to ensure the best outcomes for your child.

Wednesday 30th September 2026 at 7:00 – 8:00pm

If you would like to attend, please email
dyslexiaoutreach@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Lincolnshire COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future

Dates for the Diary

14th – 25th September – Harvest Festival

22nd September – Open Evening 5:30pm

28th September – Open Week

29th September – Y11 Parents' Evening In-Person 4pm-6pm

1st October – Flu Vaccinations

20th October – Y7 Settling-In Evening 4:30pm-6:30pm

22nd October – Night at the Musicals 5:30pm

1st December – Y9 Parents' Evening Virtual 5pm-7pm

8th December – Y11 Parents' Information Evening 4pm-6pm (Invite only)

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Mark Wilkinson
Principal