



**KING EDWARD VI
FOUNDATION
BIRMINGHAM**

Educational excellence for our City

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Dear parents and carers,

At the end of what has been an exciting year for the King Edward VI Foundation, I wanted to let you know about some of the highlights and what we are looking forward to next year.

In January, we welcomed our 14th school into the Foundation: King Edward VI King's Norton School for Boys. There are now six comprehensive schools and six grammar schools within the King Edward VI Academy Trust and two independent schools in the wider charitable Foundation. We celebrate the diversity of our schools, which will always be a key strength of our unique organisation, and the way they strive together to make Birmingham the best place to be educated in the UK.

Several of our schools were inspected during the last year and it is with immense pride that I tell you that all 12 of the schools within our Academy Trust are now rated Good or Outstanding. For one of our schools, King Edward VI Balaam Wood Academy, it is the first time in 18 years that the community it serves has had a Good local school. We could not be prouder of everyone who has supported all our schools, be they staff, governors, pupils, parents or other partners.

When I think about collaboration, which is a core value of the Foundation, I am drawn to recall the very many events that have brought pupils, staff and governors together this year. There are too many to mention them all, but some of the highlights for pupils have been the Foundation Ceremonies, attended by all our new Year 7s in October, and cross-Foundation initiatives in debating, philosophy, enterprise, physics and ED&I, the many sports fixtures, the Qur'an in the City Study Day, hosted as part of the University of Birmingham's Culture Forward programme, and this month's first Year 9 Summer School, aimed at raising aspirations around Higher Education. We ask pupils for their feedback whenever we hold events like these, and they have told us time and again that they want more opportunities like these. And it isn't just pupils we are seeking to connect; we brought governors together at a conference in September, held our first Foundation-wide staff training day in January, connected school Leadership Teams in February, celebrated the impact of our staff at our first Foundation Awards in June, and continue to run a diverse range of subject networks for teachers.

The events and initiatives mentioned above capture the essence of what it means to study or work at one of our schools. We really mean it when we say that we achieve more together. For example, our schools buck national trends in so many respects, including in the achievements of disadvantaged pupils: on average, disadvantaged students in our schools make better progress than their non-disadvantaged peers nationally.

To make working together even easier, three of our Heads will become "Cluster Leads" in September. This means that they will encourage and support collaboration within groups of schools, supporting the Headteachers of those schools and representing the voice of our schools on the Foundation's Executive Committee.



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Southern Cluster

King Edward VI Balaam Wood Academy; King Edward VI Five Ways School; King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls; King Edward VI Sheldon Heath Academy

Cluster Lead: Becky Elcocks, Principal of King Edward VI Sheldon Heath Academy

Northern Cluster

King Edward VI Aston School; King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls; King Edward VI Handsworth Grammar School for Boys; King Edward VI Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy

Cluster Lead: Matt Brady, Headteacher of King Edward VI Aston School

Central Cluster

King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys; King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls; King Edward VI King's Norton School for Boys; King Edward VI Lordwood School for Girls

Cluster Lead: Karen Stevens, Headteacher of King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girl

All three Cluster Leads will still be responsible for their individual schools, where they will be supported by a senior leader, enabling them to combine their new responsibilities with ensuring that their own schools maintain excellence through this new arrangement. I know our Cluster Leads are looking forward to writing to parents across their clusters in the new school year.

Also in September, Kirsty von Malaisé will become Chief Master & Principal of King Edward VI High School for Girls and King Edward's School, additionally taking on the associated role of Headmaster of the Foundation, which means she will work to champion our educational vision across our schools.

I hope this letter leaves you with a sense of the energy that exists across our schools and our sense of purpose for the future.

With my best wishes for a restful summer for all our pupils and their families,

Jodh Dhesi

Chief Executive Officer, King Edward VI Foundation and King Edward VI Academy Trust