



Old Edwardians Association
Sheffield

Newsletter June 2026





Announcement from Linda Gooden, Headteacher

We have been advised of Linda Gooden's intention to retire from her post as Headteacher of King Edward VII School at the end of this academic year.

This is the communication Linda sent to all colleagues recently:

Dear Colleagues

I am writing to share some important personal news with you.

After a lengthy period of reflection and careful thought, I have made the decision to retire from my position as Headteacher of King Edward VII School at the end of this academic year. It has been a very difficult decision for me to make, but after ten very successful years as the Headteacher and twenty years as a member of the Senior Leadership Team, now is the right time for me to relinquish this remarkable responsibility after many incredibly rewarding years of leading our unique and very special School. King Edward VII School is in a very strong position as we look to the future.

It has been an enormous privilege to lead and serve this School and something that I always wished to do unconditionally. I have enjoyed working with such an intelligent, knowledgeable, committed, talented and principled staff. Together, we have navigated some challenging waters and change and come through them successfully, always with

the best interests of our students and School at the heart of all that we do. I am incredibly proud of our diverse and inclusive culture, the high expectations that we have for our students and each other, the strong and humane relationships that are the essence of our learning community and the professional autonomy that we can still exercise and place high value upon.

As I reflect upon my time as the Headteacher, I hope my legacy will be one of ambition with humanity - a caring School that values academic excellence and success for all young people, regardless of their individual starting points and circumstances; wellbeing and opportunities for all being central to this. I also hope that King Edward VII School remains a School that truly cares about its staffing body. I will share more at a later point.

My plan is to ensure a smooth and carefully considered transition for the School. The Governing Board will lead on the recruitment arrangements for my successor and further details will be communicated shortly. In the interim, we must all continue to focus firmly on providing the very best quality of education, experiences and support for our wonderful students.

Thank you for your professionalism, hard work, trust and commitment, not only to King Edward VII School but also to me personally. It has been an amazing honour to serve as Headteacher and I have valued the support I have experienced since I was appointed to the School.

*Kind regards
Linda Gooden
Headteacher*

On behalf of the Old Edwardians' Association committee and membership, we would like to thank Linda wholeheartedly for her long years of service - there is no doubt she has been an excellent headteacher for the school - and for her keen support and commitment to the Association and its ideals, highlighted at the recent annual dinner. We wish her all the very best in retirement.

Open Morning at the School

Saturday 27th June 2026 10.00-13.00

Headteacher Linda Gooden is delighted to invite all Old Edwardians to an open morning at the Upper School for a tour, food and drinks on Saturday 27th June 2026. No booking required, but just so we can get an idea of numbers, it would be great if you could let me know if you are coming by email to:

info@old-edwardians-sheffield.com

Hope you can all make it. Should be a great event!

School Newsletter

The latest Spring 2026 newsletter from school is available to read - click below:

[CLICK HERE FOR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER](#)

Members' Stories - David Beynon - Apologies

You may recall, in last month's newsletter, we were delighted to share David Beynon's very interesting story. My sincere apologies to David for the unforgivable spelling error on his name!! I do hope you all enjoyed the story notwithstanding poor editorial!

Obituaries

Alan Jkinson (1945-53)

Alan sadly died in November 2022 at the age of 87 and Steve Hoyland (1959-66) has very kindly sent us the following obituary:

Having been involved in trade union affairs for several years as a lay official in the two jobs I had been employed at, I was appointed as a full-time district officer of NALGO (National and Local Government Officers Association) in 1983.

When I was interviewed for the job, chairing the interview panel was the NALGO Deputy General Secretary, Alan Jkinson, who told me at the beginning of the interview that he too had been educated at King Edwards. Quite a coincidence!

Alan became General Secretary in 1990. In that role he organised the merger of NALGO with two other unions, NUPE and COHSE, to form the current largest trades union in the UK, UNISON. He retired in 1996.

Many thanks Steve.

Ken Whittaker (1950)

Sadly died on 3rd May 2026. Thanks to Mike Drake (1950-52) for the news.

Membership

Welcome to new members:

Graham Fox 1966-72

Dan Grant 1971-76
Mike Drake 1950-52

and many thanks, of course, to all our regular subscribers.

Your subscriptions, however big or small, are hugely important to the Association and to the School.

It's easy to subscribe and is only £10 min. – [CLICK HERE](#) for the website page with application form and bank details for your standing order!

Archivist

The school has an enormous archive full of all sorts of wonderful things and this used to be looked after by our famous OE John Cornwell, historian, governor, writer, and speaker on all things Edwardian.

Following John's death in 2024 we thought it was time to see if we can find a new archivist to take over the role and take care of the archive!!

If anyone is interesting please drop John Parr a note. He will be delighted to talk it though.

president@old-edwardians-sheffield.com

Help with Contacts

Many thanks to those of you who continue to take the time and trouble to advise us of email changes. It is most appreciated!

Our database is a live beast and we depend on you to keep us updated. Now that we have regular newsletters and communications it's even more important. We don't want anyone to miss out on news!

Any time, just send a note with any info you may have to:

info@old-edwardians-sheffield.com

Many thanks!

FINAL THOUGHT

Thanks to you all for reading the newsletter and for your comments.

Miss any newsletters or want to look back over recent ones?

Then check on the website. All newsletters and other mailings are logged on the 'News' page of the website for you to browse through at your leisure.

Click here www.old-edwardians-sheffield.com/blog

Many thanks

Pete Kersh

Check out our new website

www.old-Edwardians-sheffield.com

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