



# Old Edmundians Newsletter

Issue 1 June 2017



Welcome to the very first edition of the Old Edmundians Newsletter. Your new name has been given to you by 2017's Year 13 (pictured). We are hoping that you, as Old Edmundians, will be able to contribute to this newsletter. Please feel free to update with your latest news (jobs, family). We would also like your favourite memories of KES – with photos of your time here.

But first, a welcome from our Headteacher:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Old Edmundians Alumni Association and to the first edition of your newsletter. Here at KES, we love to hear from former students and where their paths in life have taken them so far. We are also looking forward to reading about your memories of KES when you were here, however long ago! Please do contribute to the letter and to the association. This will hopefully be the beginning of many activities and events for former students, or should I say – Old Edmundians?

We are looking ahead to summer 2018 and the launch of our very first event, this will be a great opportunity for you to meet up and share stories. More details will follow in the next newsletter. I look forward to seeing you at a future Old Edmundians event!

Jonathan Osborn

Focus On:

## CLASS OF 2009

It was the year Katie Price divorced Peter Andre; the King of Pop, Michael Jackson, died and Rage Against the Machine's Killing in the Name, beat X Factor winner Joe Mc Elerry to a Christmas Number One single and the UK had the worst snow fall for 20 years. It was also the year the following Old Edmundians took their GCSEs.

# Lauren Waller

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I started KES in 2004 (see my year 7 picture) and was really nervous about coming here. I was mainly scared about getting the contract bus into school as it was daunting getting on it with so many 'big kids' especially since everyone had 'their' seats. I was a total geek at school (and still am, hence why I am still here) and I always wanted to do well. My mum didn't go to school and my dad didn't have much of an education either so I wanted to do well to make them proud.

For my GCSE options I took Dance, French and Geography (with Mrs Cooke). I enjoyed the lessons and the teachers were interesting (which helped). The teachers that helped me get through KS3 were Mrs Cooke, Miss Bancroft, Mr Doyle, Mr Gansuell, Miss Arber, Mr Agguini and Mr Heap.

I continued at KES for sixth form where I studied Applied Business, Btec Business and Personal Finance, Biology and English combined. I found the courses really hard and had to work harder than before. I found Biology the hardest and left the course in order to focus on my other subjects. I would say that my favourite time at KEs was in sixth form, the lessons were more relaxed and we got to learn interesting topics, for instance in English



we had to make magazines so I had to model for my friend (see picture). We also had a number of 'school uniform' days where we wore uniform when the rest of the school didn't (see pic). My favourite subject would have been English as we had pure banter in class, my teacher gave me the nickname of 'the ghetto girl of the class' and we always had a laugh in there. I think it is at this time that you start to learn who you are; it was at this time that I decided I wanted to become an

English teacher.

The pressure of exams and deadlines was tough over the years, but the school offered so much support and guidance. I am glad I came here!



# Sophie White

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Overall my experience at KES was a good one! I was lucky to like most of my teachers, the ones who really stand out are Mrs Ticehurst, Mrs Watling and Mrs



Darby all three were Food Tech/Catering teachers, Mr Rhodes (Maths), Mr Field (Tech), Mr O'Flaherty (Science). These

teachers were fun, understanding, passionate about their subjects, and no question was a stupid one.



The highlight of my time at KES was the catering trip to Italy; it was beautiful and so interesting to learn about the culture and the food. We also went to Venice for the day, it was stunning there, it smelt so bad for the first couple of hours though.

I went through year 7-11 without any bumps along the way really, I kept my head down and got on with my work. My best subjects were Catering, History, Science and English, I found them all interesting and I enjoyed the lessons. My worst subjects were Maths and Drama, I didn't enjoy these lessons at all, especially drama, I hated standing in front of the



class acting out a scene I had just come up with another student.

I was pretty quiet at school and shy unless I was around my friends. During year 11 I decided to apply for sixth form, I got a place and my chosen subjects were Catering and Hospitality, English Language and Literature and Sociology. I hated sociology with a passion! I didn't enjoy any of my lessons and to be honest I dropped



out of that class. I loved hospitality and English though, these are the subjects that I was really interested in, and I done well in them. Half way through year 12 I got some massive news that would change my life forever, at the age of 16 I found out I was pregnant. The school



were very supportive of my decision and helped me in every way they could, I carried on until the Summer holidays and then I would go on maternity leave until January as my baby was due in November. I was very worried about the rumours that would be spread around and the horrible looks I would get and did get, the whispers as I walked passed in the corridor. But in the end I didn't really care, at least I was sticking with my education. I carried on my school work at home during my maternity leave and I worked so hard to make sure I got good grades. I passed my English AS exam but I then

dropped out in the second year as the work was too great for me to keep up with on top of being a mother. I still had hospitality to do and I passed both years and got a really good grade. The teachers who stand out to me most from my time in sixth form were Mrs Watling and Mrs Ticehurst my hospitality teachers and Mr Field my tutor during sixth form. These teachers were very supportive and helped me with my work



and were very supportive of my pregnancy and the birth of my daughter.



In January I went back to school three days a week and would spend the other two days working from home, it was hard but it was possible. I am very grateful for all the support I had from the teachers, Mrs Nichol and my friends. I wouldn't change a thing about my time at KES.

Make the most of your time at school, grab every opportunity available to you, talk to your teachers ask them the 'stupid' questions and enjoy every minute.



## Lydia Fraser

One of the lows of KES would probably be when Mrs Darby, head of our year, died. But one of my highs was Mr Doyle helping me pass my GCSE maths.

Like anyone, I had my down points at school, but overall I enjoyed my time at KES. My best subject was Music, and thanks to Miss Sharp and the school orchestra, I was able to feel like I was a part of something and valued. If I miss anything, it's Monday night rehearsals and meeting up with friends on the late bus home.

**Clarisse Levitan 2004- 2009**

Highs of school life =

- The people you meet
- Obviously the things you learn in lessons, more so the lessons you enjoy. So for me it was P.E mainly, in which I pursued through college and university.
- The easy life, no worries or stress. (For me at least) feel free to play Hakuna Matata as you read this.
- As for the things I enjoyed the most, I think that is going to be the friends I made who I'm still friends with.

Lows of school life = The realisation in year 11 I should have had more help than I got as I had/needed extra help all through primary school and none in secondary school.

The main teachers I remember the most for helping was Mr O'Flahaty (was my tutor and science teacher) and Miss Hill who taught me public services in sixth form. I remember both showing support through the tougher times.

**Adam Bickers 2008=2011**

Life at KES was the best times of my life. I made the best friends anyone could ask for while spending it at a good school, that always encouraged you to do your best, regardless of how good or bad you were at it.

Loved PE and cooking classes, but really didn't like IT! Science was always made interesting with being a more hands on lesson. The experiments were interesting!

General school life has its ups and downs, but overall a great school and one that I miss!

**Stephanie Pavitt 2004-2009**

Thanks to the class of 2009 for contributing pictures and memories of their time here at KES. As Mr Osborn wrote – we love hearing from you.

If you would like your year group featured, send in photos and memories to:

[lucycooney@kes.essex.sch.uk](mailto:lucycooney@kes.essex.sch.uk)