



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL

SHAKESPEARE'S SCHOOL

Joseph Harris (K.E.S. 2007-14)

The entire K.E.S. community has been shocked and saddened to hear news of the sudden death of Old Edwardian Joe Harris. After leaving school in 2014 Joe read Classics at the University of Warwick. He lost his life in a tragic road accident whilst undertaking charity work in South Africa as part of a post-university gap year.

A talented student who grasped every opportunity that came his way, Joe made his mark on King Edward VI School in many areas. His family have made it clear that he was very proud of his association with the school; the school was equally proud of him. Staff are unanimous in their view of him: Joe was great fun to teach – lively, witty, empathetic, enthusiastic and unwaveringly positive. He really was the “exemplary student”.

He was able to marry the significant academic and extra-curricular demands through determination, industry and a strong sense of commitment. For example, Joe took up competitive cycling as a junior and by the time he entered the Sixth Form had joined a sponsored racing team. At the age of 15 he participated in his first triathlon and three years later was selected to represent Great Britain in the Under 20 World Championships. He awarded the School’s highest sporting honour, the Victor Ludorum, in 2014.

Furthermore, he was a talented musician performing in the School’s award-winning Big Band; he took part in drama productions; completed his gold Duke of Edinburgh Award; volunteered at Welcome Hills School for over a year; and, he organised his own Sixth Form work experience in a hospital in Germany.

In 2013, he won the coveted title of ‘The K.E.S. Apprentice’. Showing typical modesty when he won the competition, he quietly donated his £100 prize money to the Dominic Beer Trust, a charity set up following the untimely death of his uncle.

He was a natural leader who was very popular with his peers and so it was no surprise that he was elected Senior Prefect in his final year at the School. Joe was tireless in fulfilling his numerous responsibilities, which he took very seriously. He was respected and well-liked by all, and had a particularly positive impact in encouraging younger students. He will be sorely missed by all that knew him.

Headmaster, Bennet Carr said, “I remember a fine young man with natural intelligence and a phenomenal athletic ability. However, above all, I remember the smile which never seemed to leave his face. He was utterly charming, personable and engaging company. Quite simply, Joe was one of our best and I will remember him as such.”

The funeral will take place at 1.30pm on Wednesday 20th December at Holy Trinity Church followed by a reception in the Levi Fox Hall at the School. All those who knew Joe are most welcome to attend. Donations to <https://www.justgiving.com/dominicbeer-memorialtrust>