



THE SCHOOL AND BATH

Founded in 1552, King Edward's School, Bath (KES) is an Independent Co-Educational Day School made up of a 'family' of three Schools: Pre-Prep (3-7), Junior (7-11) and Senior (11-18). There are currently around 850 pupils in the Senior School (including 250 in the Sixth Form), 200 in the Junior School and 75 in the Pre-Prep (not including the Nursery). The Pre-Prep School occupies a magnificent Victorian building in a delightful, leafy setting on Weston Lane, to the west of the city. The Senior School moved to its current location, a beautiful 14 acre site on North Road on the south-eastern edge of the city, in 1961. From its fine setting, it enjoys wonderful views of Bath and the surrounding hills. The Junior School, which occupies discrete, purpose-built accommodation on the same site as the Senior School, relocated to North Road in 1990. KES' impressive playing fields are situated around a mile away in Bathampton.



King Edward's Junior School



King Edward's Pre-Prep & Nursery

The centre of Bath is within easy walking distance, and the School benefits greatly from being a part of this thriving and culturally vibrant city, which has been designated as a World Heritage site by UNESCO. In addition to its many beautiful buildings and world-renowned history, Bath is blessed with an array of superb museums, art galleries, theatres, shops and restaurants and hosts annual music, literature and culinary festivals. Fans of sport are catered for by, amongst other things, the presence of Bath Rugby at the Recreation Ground in the heart of the city, Team Bath Superleague Netball based at the University of Bath, whose outstanding sporting facilities are also in many instances open to the public, and Bath Racecourse, located a few miles to the north. In addition, the attractive and much larger city of Bristol, which has seen significant investment and growth in recent years, is just a short train ride away. London is accessible within 2 hours by car and in under an hour and a half by train, whilst the coasts of Dorset, Devon and Cornwall can be reached in 2-3 hours.

EXAM RESULTS

The School is, by any measure, very successful. Academically, it is Bath's top performing school and last year achieved 73.5% A*/A at A Level and 90% 9-7 at GCSE, making KES one of the leading co-educational independent day schools in the country and one of the top performing schools of any kind in the south-west of England. Most pupils progress from the Sixth Form to university, with typically between 85-90% gaining entry to their first-choice institution, around 80% of which are members of the Russell Group. Some students also choose to study at Ivy League institutions. A significant number go on each year to Oxford or Cambridge.

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

The School has a thriving co-curricular programme of clubs and societies on offer, most of which take place at lunchtime. Traditional strengths include creative writing (there is a published annual anthology of the best short stories and poems), debating (including award winning Model United Nations delegations), and coding and esports. The School has an enviable and growing reputation in Drama and Music, being named Performing Arts School of the Year in 2018 by the Independent School Parent Magazine, and has produced several winners of the Bath Young Actor and Young Musician of the Year awards in recent years. In a typical year, around 150 pupils take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme (at all three levels), and the School has also enjoyed great success for many years in the Ten Tors Challenge, whilst our Combined Cadet Force is one of the oldest School CCFs in the country. KES also has a great sporting heritage and profile, with traditional strengths in rugby, netball, hockey and cricket (these last two fielding teams for both girls and boys). The girls have been Senior County Netball Champions on 8 of the last 10 occasions on which the competition has taken place. Many pupils take part in elite representative sport, with some progressing to a professional pathway, but we are equally proud of the number of pupils who represent the School across a wide range of teams.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is a considerable strength of the School, with this aspect being strongly praised in successive ISI inspection reports. The Senior School is divided into 4 pastoral sectors, each with its own Head of Sector. Year 7 is a single year-group sector and has a dedicated Head of Year who always oversees Year 7 so that the crucial year of transition to secondary education can be successfully managed. Tutor groups are mixed up as pupils move into the Middle School (Years 8 and 9) in order to encourage new friendship groups. Those groups continue into the Upper School for Years 10 and 11. The Heads of Year for these four years follow their tutees through the School.

SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form is arranged vertically, with pupils from Years 12 and 13 in each tutor group. A Senior Tutor (an equivalent post to a Head of Year) in charge of 5 tutor groups (there are 4 Senior Tutors in total, including the Head of UCAS). Alongside the more traditional morning and afternoon registration times, the work of tutors lies in developing good relations with their tutees and their parents, liaising with subject teachers and guiding pupils towards the many clubs, societies and academic and pastoral support groups in the school.





King Edward's School's Partnership with Bath Philharmonia and the Holburne Museum

PARTNERSHIPS

King Edward's is proud of its engagement and of its many partnerships within the local and wider community. This includes working with organisations such as Bath Philharmonia, the Holburne Museum and Bath Cricket Club, as well as with several local maintained schools. Both directly through our own work and indirectly through partnerships with other bodies, the School has been able to offer enrichment opportunities to KES pupils and also to support outreach programmes for hundreds of local children covering areas such as music, art, drama, sport, curriculum extension, especially in Maths and English, Higher Education and Careers advice and much more besides, and we have been delighted to see the number and range of partnerships grow each year.

FACILITIES

In recent years, KES has invested significantly in both staff and facilities, in part a reflection of the needs of a growing school, but also of a clear ambition to offer the highest quality of education at every level. Since 2015, the Senior School alone has seen the emergence of the stunning Wessex Building (library, dining hall and multi-purpose performance/conference space), a new AstroTurf facility, an extended and refurbished Sixth Form Centre, new academic block for MFL, The Rose, a suite of state of the art studio spaces for teaching, learning and performance in Drama and a fully equipped Creative Media Suite. In September 2022, the Senior School completed the development and refurbishment of five new Science laboratories. Further to this, a new academic and pastoral block is likely to be constructed in the next two to three years. These are, indeed, exciting times at King Edward's!



The Wessex Building and our Creative Media Suite

King Edward's is a member of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference and, as a former Direct Grant school which also benefited significantly from the Assisted Places Scheme in the 1980s and 1990s, has always aimed to educate pupils from a wide variety of backgrounds. Although most pupils pay full fees (£16,950 per annum in the Senior School for 2023-24), around 20% in the Senior School benefit from means-tested bursary support, including up to 100% of remission of fees. There are also a limited number of non means-tested academic scholarships and special talent awards in music, art, drama and sport. Many pupils live in Bath itself, but the School also attracts pupils from a wide area, including from Gloucestershire and the more rural parts of North Somerset and West Wiltshire, as well as from nearby towns such as Chippenham, Bradford-on-Avon, Trowbridge and Frome.

Following the recent full ISI inspection in January 2023, the School was judged to be 'excellent' in all areas. In relation to the 'Excellent' quality of KES pupils' academic and other achievements, the ISI noted that "pupils' overall achievement across all age groups is outstanding and represents [the] successful fulfilment of the School's aim for pupils to strive for excellence," adding that "this level of attainment is a consequence of the pupils' highly positive attitudes to learning, supported by teaching which shows strong subject knowledge combined with comprehensive learning resources."

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KES turns out young people who are not merely hard-working and well-educated, but passionate and thoughtful to boot.

The Good Schools Guide 2021

