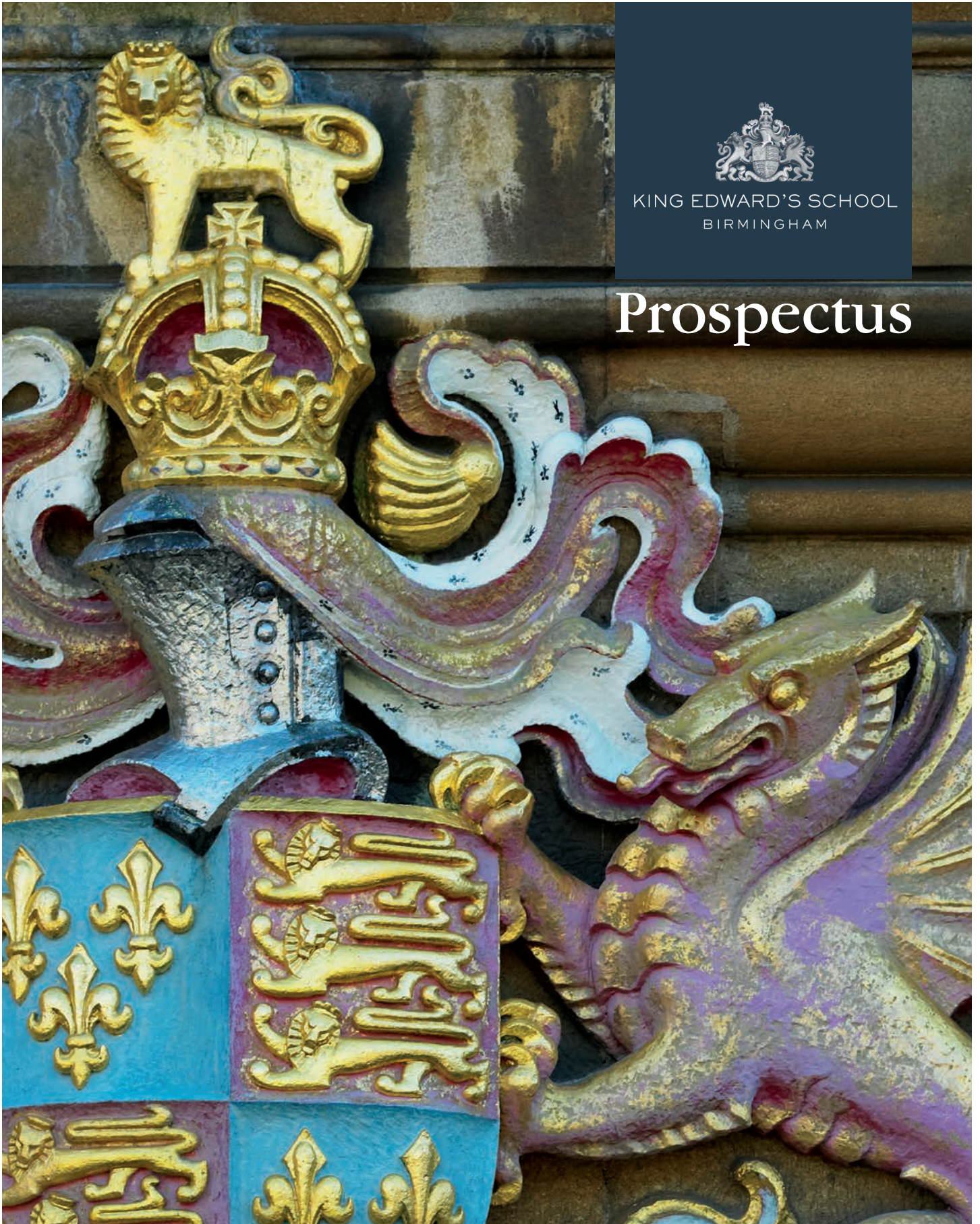




KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
BIRMINGHAM

Prospectus





Educating and
inspiring the region's

brightest
boys to
take on
the
challenges
the world
presents.

Welcome

For over 450 years King Edward's School, Birmingham has been educating the cleverest boys in the region. It has inspired them – and still does inspire them – to take on the challenges the world presents, to make a significant contribution to that world and, most of all, to enjoy doing so.



Dr Katy Ricks
Chief Master

I first taught at King Edward's as a young English teacher in the 1980s, and found then what I find today: a place of learning in the very broadest sense, characterised by seriousness of purpose, lightness of spirit, and natural tolerance.

Our school is hugely diverse – perhaps the most diverse independent school in the country. As an IB World School we seek to develop in our pupils genuine intercultural understanding, an appetite for learning, and confident intellectual and social versatility.

We are committed to an academically ambitious curriculum, alongside an imaginative and wide-ranging co-curricular programme, in which every individual can find his particular enthusiasm and areas of expertise. Above all, we foster a culture of open-mindedness and kindness, an environment where every boy is known and appreciated, as we support their development from 11-year-old boys to young men, ready to contribute to the world beyond school.

Virtually every one of our pupils will go on to study at a great university. He will also become part of an international network of alumni, providing a unique source of support for his professional life.

If your son comes to King Edward's, he will join a great school, and leave with great friends. I hope you will want to come here and see for yourselves.

Dr Katy Ricks
Chief Master



An established *reputation*

King Edward's School has been at the heart of Birmingham life since it was founded in 1552. As the city grew so did the success of the School and for over a century it has been one of the country's leading schools; the school of Burne-Jones and Tolkien, Nobel Prize-winners Wilkins and Vane, Field Marshall Slim, Bill Oddie, Jonathan Coe and Lee Child. Today it provides an exceptional education that is rich and varied where boys excel academically and develop the qualities to succeed.

History

Founded by King Edward VI in 1552, for nearly 400 years the School stood in New Street at the heart of the city. From 1836 to 1936 it occupied an iconic building designed by Charles Barry and Augustus Pugin, the architects of the Houses of Parliament.

In 1936 the School moved to its present 50-acre site, shared with King Edward VI High School for Girls, which provides extensive space and facilities matched by few day schools in the country.

The School reflects the changing face of the city and is one of the most ethnically diverse independent schools in the country. King Edward's School is proud of its great history but is also conscious of its role in the modern city and has made substantial investments in state-of-the-art facilities.

Intellectual life

The School provides an education that is not only academically challenging but also intellectually exciting. In the first three years boys study a broad curriculum alongside the core academic subjects and a great deal of time is set aside for the creative subjects: art, music, design, drama, and for sport and PE. Latin is compulsory for three years and there is the chance to study Ancient Greek, German and Spanish.

Boys take 10 subjects at GCSE because 10 is enough. It is compulsory to study English and English literature, maths, one language and at least two sciences, and there are 10 additional subjects to accompany the compulsory subjects.

In the Sixth Form boys study the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, an internationally recognised education that is designed to provide an intellectual challenge and preparation for a global future. Boys study six subjects and they must study English, maths, a language, a science and a humanities subject along with a core element comprising a course in the Theory of Knowledge, an Extended Essay and Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS).

Results and beyond

Boys at King Edward's School enjoy considerable academic success, notable achievements in co-curricular activities and go on to the very best universities.

In a typical year, around 65% of GCSE results will be graded 9/8 (A*), and over 85% will be 9-7 (A*/A). In the IB Diploma around 45% of boys achieve a score of 40 points or above. On average, 15 boys each year gain places at Oxford or Cambridge, there is growing interest in international universities, with destinations including Sciences Po in France and Chicago, UCLA and Columbia in the United States, and there is a balance between scientific and mathematical subjects and humanities subjects.

Alumni enjoy careers in a range of disciplines and include: politician Lord Willetts; Ian Metcalfe, chair of Commonwealth Games England; and Ravin Jain, race strategy engineer at Scuderia Ferrari.



“A
school
with a
great
story
to **tell.**”

The Good Schools Guide



Inspiring excellence

The School is fortunate in its pupils, staff and space and the way in which they combine to create a unique atmosphere and culture which enables boys to flourish individually. There is also great respect for, and celebration of, variety and difference. This is a place where boys are encouraged to be inquisitive, active and ambitious and where talented boys, whatever their gifts, gain due regard.

First-rate facilities

The School's original 1930s buildings provide outstanding spaces: a hammer-beamed assembly hall called Big School, an extensive library, large laboratories, and impressive and extensive grounds. The School has eight rugby pitches, four cricket pitches, the use of three astro hockey pitches, five tennis courts, a rifle range, seven artificial surfaced cricket nets, a swimming pool and an international-standard athletics track.

However, in recent times there has been substantial investment in new developments. In 2012 the Sir Paul and Lady Ruddock Performing Arts Centre opened, which provides a 400-seater concert hall, 120-seater drama studio, and a dance studio. The Andrew Brode Wing opened in 2013 and has provided new laboratories for physics and chemistry, a new Modern Languages Department and a bright and spacious Sixth Form Centre.

The School has also extended its sporting provision. The Southall Pavilion, comprising an astro hockey pitch and pavilion, opened in 2015, and the Andrew Brode Sports Centre in 2019, comprising a sports hall, cardiovascular fitness room, multi-purpose space, classroom and changing rooms.

The life of the mind

Boys at King Edward's are talented in academic terms, but they are also encouraged to be intellectually curious and questioning.

There is so much more than exam preparation and the intellectual life stretches far beyond lessons. The School has outstanding success in national competitions such as the Junior and Senior National Maths Challenge, Maths and Science Olympiads, and Schools' Challenge, and in gaining Arkwright Scholarships in Design and Technology. All of this is achieved by boys who are very active in all kinds of co-curricular activities, such as music, sport, drama and outdoor pursuits.

Teachers at the School are passionate about their subjects and focused on supporting boys to succeed to the best of their abilities. They teach above and beyond the curriculum, to ensure boys are challenged and stimulated, and are always available to provide encouragement and support.

To complement learning, a number of university academics, specialist academics and professionals of notable standing provide visiting lectures and boys and parents are also invited to attend the annual Tolkien Lecture, a series of academic lectures given by eminent speakers.

Friday afternoons

There are no academic lessons on Friday afternoons, which enables boys to try all sorts of different activities from additional sports coaching, learning to cook or trying out a new language to service, outreach activities with local schools, joining the Combined Cadet Force and developing their skills in KES Leadership.



"Inspiring, ambitious, encouraging and offering an exceptional all-round education, KES turns able young boys into confident young men, preparing them for life-long learning and living life to the full."

2021 parents' survey

Nurturing talent

Academic achievements matter but so do other experiences. This school is about activity and enjoyment and the sharing of life with others. These activities breed confidence, relationships and resilience. That's why we strive to have the widest range of activities, so that every boy can find at least one thing that enlivens and enriches his life.



"Everyone is encouraged to try a sport; even if sport is not your thing you are given a chance. I'd never played rugby before but now I am a member of the A Team because I was given the opportunity and great coaching."

Year 8 pupil

Music

The standard and scale of music is exceptional and the Ruddock Hall provides a beautiful venue for musical events, which are delivered in collaboration with King Edward VI High School for Girls (KEHS).

The School's Symphony Orchestra numbers 80 and plays a very demanding repertoire, which has recently included Mahler's *Symphony No. 4*, Copland's *Appalachian Spring*, Dvorák's *Symphony No. 7* and John Adams's *The Chairman Dances*. However, there are 12 groups boys can join ranging from a boys' choir of 100 to the Swing Band and Guitar Ensemble.

There are major concerts at Christmas and in the spring and summer term, and smaller concerts and recitals take place throughout the year. Boys are also regularly chosen to be members of the National Youth Orchestra or National Children's Orchestra.

Drama

Drama is as diverse and extensive as music and there are lots of ways to get involved through acting, set design, lighting, sound, publicity and drama clubs, and a full-scale musical can involve over 100 boys and girls.

Each year there is both a junior and senior production, run in conjunction with KEHS, and recent major productions include *Pride and Prejudice*, *Chicago*, *The Crucible*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Cabaret* and *The Winter's Tale*.

Sport

Sport is an integral part of school life and all boys get the chance to do PE and games throughout their careers. Sport is also central to the House system and there are House competitions in 10 different sports. In total, there are 19 different sports to play, whether in a school team or simply for enjoyment.

The major team sports in the winter terms are rugby and hockey and every boy gets the chance to play both of these sports in the first three years. The opportunity to play for the School is extensive as both rugby and hockey have more than 15 school teams and 200 fixtures each year. In the summer, cricket, athletics and tennis are the main options. However, there are other sports where the School achieves national success on a regular basis, in particular water polo and badminton. In all of these sports we have coaches of a very high level, including Olympic and international athletes.

Boys can also take part in basketball, cross-country, Eton fives, fencing, golf, martial arts, sailing, squash, swimming, table tennis and volleyball, competitively or for enjoyment, and clubs are run for all abilities.

“The standard
of and **sense** of
community
around **KES music**
has inspired me to
pursue
it as a **career.**”

Year 13 student





In a typical year around 85% of GCSEs are graded 9-7 (A*/A), over 45% of boys score 40 points or above in the IB Diploma and 15 gain places at Oxford or Cambridge.

The 876 boys in the School are from over 200 junior schools and 68 boys are at the School for free.

Boys study, on average, 40 different courses at university ranging from Aerospace Engineering and Medicine to Ancient History and Mathematics.



There are over 30 School concerts and music recitals and almost 20 drama performances in the £11m Ruddock Performing Arts Centre each year.

The School has raised almost £14m for Assisted Places in recent years.

Almost 100 boys sing in the boys' choir and the Symphony Orchestra is made up of 80 boys and girls.



On average 40 boys undertake the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award each year and there are 150 boys in the Combined Cadet Force.

There are around 50 clubs and societies for boys to participate in and Friday afternoons are dedicated to co-curricular activities.



Boys take part in 19 different sports and compete in 84 teams in just under 750 fixtures.



Sports facilities include 8 rugby pitches, 4 cricket pitches, 3 astro hockey pitches, 5 tennis courts, 1 rifle range, 1 international-standard athletics track, 7 artificial surfaced cricket nets, 1 swimming pool, 1 sports hall, 1 fitness suite and 1 weights room.

In a typical year there are over 140 trips to 16 countries ranging in length from 1 day to 3 weeks.

The School is in touch with over 5,000 Old Edwardians in 51 countries. Alumni include JRR Tolkien, Lee Child, Bill Oddie, Lord Willetts and 2 Nobel Prize-winners.



A school for *everyone*

King Edward's is probably the most socially and ethnically diverse independent school in the country. The boys are individuals, diverse in their backgrounds and interests, but all have an overwhelming desire to learn. We celebrate this diversity and the individuality of our pupils and spend almost £2m per year to ensure we fulfil our central aim to provide education for able boys, regardless of the financial circumstances of their families.



"It was really easy to settle in. I knew one boy from my junior school but by the end of the first day it felt as if I knew all my class well. The older boys and the staff were really supportive when I got lost and turned up to the wrong lesson!"

Year 8 pupil

The School community

From the moment boys join the School, if not before, they are supported through the strong system of pastoral care, which relies upon the careful attention of all members of staff and their constant communication.

Forms consist of 25 boys and Form Tutors work closely with boys and teaching staff to monitor their progress. If a boy does need support, there are several ways in which it can be provided, through subject help lessons, Mentoring provided by senior boys, and Learning Support, and every pupil is carefully watched over. A dedicated Study Centre extends the facilities for Learning Support and Mentoring.

A thriving part of school life is the House system and boys are allocated a House through which they can form friendships with boys from different forms and years. Most inter-school competitions, ranging from sport to music to drama to mathematics, are based on the Houses, so it provides another opportunity for boys to get involved.

Assisted Places

The central aim of King Edward's School is to provide education for able boys, regardless of the financial circumstances of their families. The School spends almost £2m per year on Assisted Places and the number available has grown by 50% in recent years through the generosity of alumni.

There are approximately 20 Assisted Places available at 11+, all of which could be free places if that is what the boys needed, and some financial support is also available at 16+. Assisted Places are means-tested up to a total family income of about £72,000. An income of less than £20,000 could entitle a boy to a free place and it is then a sliding scale to the income threshold.

Scholarships

There are approximately 25 academic scholarships available at 11+ ranging in value from 5% to 50% and a number of music scholarships. Outstanding candidates at 16+ may also receive an academic scholarship.



A world of *adventure*

Beyond the life of work, music, drama and sport there is another world of activity available to boys through an extensive programme of trips and co-curricular activities. Trips vary greatly in purpose, scale and cost so that every boy can participate in something. In particular, there are lots of short and cheap trips for boys in their first year so that they get the chance to join in and make friends.



“Wow! I hadn’t been on a plane for about three years, and what an experience, full of many memories, this trip was. However, if I had to pinpoint the best moment of the trip it would have to be the husky sledding, especially when there were six huskies meaning the sledge went faster and was much more fun. It was an experience I will truly never forget.”

Year 7 pupil on a trip to Norway in February 2022

At home and away

Over 140 trips and expeditions take place every year from small-scale trips within the UK to destinations further afield. In Year 7, whole forms spend three days on ‘Shells Camp’ learning how to orienteer, abseil, camp out and work as a team. This is extended to a five-day hostelling trip in Year 8 to the Lake District and Wales called ‘Rems Week’.

There are also trips with greater ambitions, some subject-related but also those to provide

enjoyment and adventure. In recent times these have included expeditions to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, and Guyana to study biodiversity, a trip for physicists to CERN, climbing Kilimanjaro, and cycling from Land’s End to John O’Groats. Sports tours have taken the rugby team to South Africa, the hockey team to India and Sri Lanka, and the cricket team to Dubai.

Giving back

Perhaps one of the most significant activities boys undertake is through the School’s commitment to charity and giving something back to the local community. Boys organise and take part in many activities from fancy dress days and cake sales to



“One of the best things about KES is the opportunity to try new things and excel at them”

music competitions and rowing the distance equivalent to crossing the Atlantic Ocean, raising thousands for charity every year. They also support our thriving outreach programme with local primaries.

Something for everyone

There are just under 50 clubs and societies which meet during lunchtime or after school, so there really is something to interest everyone. From Art and Sustainability to Scientific and Warhammer societies there's much to get involved in and boys can even set up their own.

Debating and Schools' Challenge are amongst our most successful societies with a history of success in national competitions.

Year 8 pupil



“Doing the IB was an amazing experience”

Aaron Hundle, former pupil, who went on to study Medicine at Oxford



Preparing for the future

The energetic and rich way of life at King Edward's gives boys the chance not only to work hard, but to experience a wide range of activities, to take responsibility, to lead others, to form friendships, to work with adults and to extend their horizons. We believe that all of this is critical as a preparation for life at university and beyond.

Taking a leading role

KES Leadership enables boys from Year 10 upwards to develop relevant skills for the challenging world of work. A Mentoring programme enables younger boys to receive academic support from Sixth Form pupils specialising in the areas they need help in. Senior boys also coach younger boys in sport, take commanding roles in CCF and participate in outreach activities with local junior schools.

Careers and university advice

A wealth of university and careers support is provided in Sixth Form. Boys have timetabled careers lessons and attend a UCAS day and a university and gap year fair. There is a designated Head of Oxbridge Admissions to support candidates through the application process for those universities and a dedicated US admissions advisor supports boys investigating study opportunities across the Atlantic.

During their time at School boys can utilise the experience of King Edward's School alumni through the Old Edwardians' Careers Network. A number of professional networking events are organised for boys in Year 11 upwards to discuss specific careers, such as medicine, law and engineering, with Old Edwardians working in those professions. Boys can also access work experience, placements or advice from the impressive and extensive list of Old Edwardians.

Old Edwardians network

Boys become Old Edwardians on leaving the School and will receive regular communications with news from the School and their peers, invites to events, reunions and talks, and will find it a unique source of information for professional life.

In the early years of leaving School the Old Edwardians Association provides a good way of keeping in touch with peers and accessing professional advice from older alumni. As Old Edwardians progress through their careers there is the opportunity for them to professionally network with other Old Edwardians and to contribute to the School through the Careers Network.



“Put simply, there are few places in the country a boy could hope to leave as rounded and prepared for life.”

Rajiv Gogna, former pupil, pictured while studying for a degree in Chemical Sciences at the University of Oxford.





“School was
absolutely
everything
to me”

Bill Oddie, Old Edwardian



Join us at one of our Open Days

The best way to find out more about King Edward's School and experience school life is to join us at one of our Open Days.

There is an Open Day each term when parents and boys have the opportunity to see all aspects of the School, meet current pupils and parents, and take part in talks and activities. If you can't attend an Open Day, individual visits can be arranged at any time during the academic year.

For more information about Open Days and visiting the School, go to:

www.kes.org.uk/opendays



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