



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
BIRMINGHAM

ADVICE TO PARENTS OF CANDIDATES PREPARING FOR THE
13+ ADMISSION EXAMINATION

Your son will sit two one and a half hour examinations in **English, Mathematics and a one hour exam in Verbal Reasoning.**

It is assumed that the work of all candidates will have been based on the relevant material of the National Curriculum up to the end of Year 7 and the examinations will reflect this. The questions will be set on the assumption that the normal syllabus for those of their age in English and Mathematics has been covered.

In **Mathematics** it is expected that candidates will be tested up to and including Level 6 of the National Curriculum (Key Stage 3). Questions requiring knowledge of computers will not be set. A calculator will be needed for some questions.

In **English** candidates will be expected to show ability in the following areas:

- (1) They should be able to read a poem and a passage of fiction or non-fiction with reasonably full comprehension, and to answer a range of questions on them. Questions might call for an understanding of the explicit meaning of the passage; for an understanding of some of its implications and under-tones; for a reasonable description of its tone and attitude; or for an explicit discussion of some of its technical features, such as vocabulary, imagery, structure and characterisation.
- (2) They should be able to produce, independently, a piece of continuous writing of reasonable length on a set subject. This piece should be correctly paragraphed and clearly organised, written in a style appropriate to the kind of writing (eg story, autobiographical fragment, argumentative essay) and should demonstrate the candidate's ability to develop ideas, arguments, episodes or scenes to appropriate length and in appropriate detail. Spelling and punctuation should be accurate, and presentation neat. Candidates are expected to know the basic parts of speech (noun, verb, adjective etc).

The **Verbal Reasoning** test will be similar to the nationally recognized and commercially available tests leading to an age-standardised score.

Past papers for English, Maths and Verbal Reasoning are not available. However, there are sample questions for the 11+ English and Maths exams on the website: www.kes.org.uk/admissions. For the Verbal Reasoning paper *11+ Practice Papers (Standard)* NFER-Nelson (now taken over by GL Learning / Letts) may be helpful.