



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
BIRMINGHAM

Curriculum BOOKLET

Lower School Curriculum

A King Edward's education aims to develop the things that matter most: liveliness of mind, critical thinking and humanity. These qualities manifest themselves in our pupils' curiosity, their open-mindedness, and their focus on interconnectivity, the transfer of knowledge and understanding, not just knowledge itself. They demonstrate boldness in the pursuit of discovery, versatility, the ability to work independently, resilience and self-reflection. We provide them with the means, freedom and opportunities to feed these instincts. We seek to help our pupils develop a love of learning that will stay with them for life.

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 and sport.

Shells (Year 7)

Art
Computing
Design and Technology
Drama
English
French
General Science
Geography
History
Latin
Maths
Music
PE
School for Thought

Friday Afternoon Activities
PSHE in Form Time and Friday Afternoon Activities



@KESBHAM

Removes (Year 8)

Art
Biology
Chemistry
Computing
Design and Technology
Drama
English
French
Geography
History

Latin
Maths
Music
PE
Physics
School for Thought

Friday Afternoon Activities
PSHE in Form Time and Friday Afternoon Activities

Upper Middles (Year 9)

Compulsory subjects

Biology
Chemistry
English
French
Geography
History
Latin
Maths
PE
Physics
PSHE
School for Thought

Friday Afternoon Activities

Subject options

Languages (one from):
Classical Greek
German
Spanish

Creative options (two from):
Art
Design and Technology
Drama
Music

Spotlight on: School for Thought

All pupils in the Lower School take School for Thought – our unique and exciting introduction to philosophical thinking. They take four courses per year, each one framed around urgent and enduring questions that exist within such areas as ethics, politics, religion, identity, education and logic.

Pupils “listen” to voices from the past by reading a range of texts, explore ideas in a structured whole-class conversation and then clarify and express their own thoughts through written reflections. Groups are kept small to create the conditions necessary for developing the skills that underpin productive discussion and deliberation.

Examples of questions and themes covered in the courses include:

- An exploration of violence and Eastern philosophy
- Is it ever right to break the law?
- Philosophical themes in the Odyssey
- How should we live together? An introduction to political philosophy
- A philosophical exploration of the life of Jesus
- Loaded language and exposing logical fallacies
- Multitudes: an exploration of personal identity
- Issues of race
- Is gender socially constructed?

Not only is School for Thought important in and of itself, it is also wonderful preparation for pupils who wish to study Religious Studies at GCSE and/or Philosophy for their IB Diploma.

Homework

Each form has its own homework timetable, which sets out when each subject will set homework and how much time is allocated per subject.

We are aware that boys’ previous experiences of homework will be very different and some will need a lot more help managing it than others.

If a particular piece of homework is taking significantly longer than the allocated time, we encourage parents to stop their son and to write a quick note in his planner to explain to his teacher. We don’t want boys spending hours trying to complete tasks each night!

Here is an example of a homework timetable for one of our Shells’ forms in 2023/24:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Maths	French	Art/DT	English	French
Geography	Music	Drama	Art/DT	Science
	Latin	Maths	School for Thought	History

Homework should take around 20-25 minutes per subject in the Shells, except for English which should take around one hour.