



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL  
BIRMINGHAM

# Welcome to King Edward's School

*“A seriously brainy school where like-minded boys spark off each other and achieve extraordinary things. Parents know the school is an academic powerhouse, but they choose it because its spirit reaches far beyond, with untold riches when it comes to opportunities. ‘You can come here a rugby player and leave a hockey player,’ summed up one boy. It’s also meritocratic, socially inclusive, aspirational and actually, just really good fun. The focus on the individual is often the clincher too - ‘your know your son won’t get lost here.’”*

The Good Schools Guide



Turn the page to discover more...



# From the Chief Master & Principal

As we approach our 475<sup>th</sup> year, King Edward's School continues to provide an outstanding and scholarly education to the brightest boys, irrespective of their social or economic background, in the heart of Birmingham.

It is a great privilege to be Chief Master of KES from September 2024 in addition to my role as Principal of KEHS: distinctive and distinguished, there is so much that unites our brother and sister schools in our ambitions and values, and in the opportunities for pupils across our wonderful campus.

Life at King Edward's School is characterised by the pursuit of excellence and scholarship, and the expectation that every boy will make the strongest possible positive contribution to our community and to the world around him. Our outstanding sports, arts and outdoor pursuits programmes form the bedrock of an imaginative and wide-ranging co-curricular programme, in which every boy can find his particular enthusiasm, and begin to derive what may become lifelong fulfilment from his interests.

We are committed to providing an academically ambitious curriculum which develops intellectual liveliness, creativity, and the ability to debate ideas with purpose and understanding. Boys go on to achieve excellent results and go on to great

universities. Our outstanding achievements over the last ten years were recognised by the prestigious Sunday Times West Midlands Secondary School of the Decade award.

King Edward's School is one of the most diverse independent schools in the country. We foster a culture of open-mindedness and respect in a supportive environment where every boy is known and valued, and in which strong bonds of friendship are formed. A King Edward's boy will also look forward to being part of an international network of alumni, providing a unique source of support for his professional life.

I hope you will want to hear more about the distinctive King Edward's experience from our impressive pupils and staff. I look forward to welcoming you to this very special school.

**Mrs Kirsty von Malaisé**







# Growing intellectual curiosity

As one of the leading boys' day schools, we believe in inspiring intellectual curiosity and academic excellence, which lie at the heart of everything we do.

Our ambitious curriculum is designed not only to challenge our pupils academically but also to ignite their passion and enthusiasm for exploring the world around them.

In the first three years, pupils study a broad curriculum alongside the core academic subjects and a great deal of time is set aside for the creative subjects and sport. All pupils in the Lower School take School for Thought – our unique and exciting introduction to philosophical thinking.

We take immense pride in the academic accomplishments of our pupils. Our pupils are actively engaged in scholarly pursuits, contributing to academic journals, securing prestigious awards, and going on to study at renowned universities worldwide, including Oxford and Cambridge and other Russell Group universities, as well as Princeton and Chicago among other US universities.

Our educational ethos goes beyond the pursuit of exceptional results. We focus on providing an enriching and holistic education that nurtures the intellectual, emotional, and personal growth of our pupils. We empower our pupils to excel academically while also developing their individual talents and passions.

A KES education not only provides our pupils with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in any path they choose, but also instils in them the value of diligence, a love of learning, and resilience – traits pivotal to their personal growth and essential for life beyond school.







# *Meet* James

James has achieved notable academic success at KES, including securing straight 9s in his GCSEs and writing an impressive 4000-word essay in Further Maths. A standout moment was being one of only two KES students selected to participate in a prestigious summer programme at the University of Chicago, where he networked with peers from top schools worldwide.

James is an active member of the senior debating team, having debated at an international competition at the University of Oxford. This experience has complemented the strong academic foundation provided by KES, helping to sharpen skills and build confidence for his future ambitions.

Looking ahead, James hopes to read Mathematics at the University of Oxford, driven by the direction and passion discovered at KES.





A vertical strip on the left side of the page showing several shelves filled with books of various colors and sizes.

# Unlocking potential

*“KES has been instrumental in shaping my future, providing a strong academic foundation and the confidence to pursue my goals. The opportunities I’ve had, from achieving top GCSE grades to debating at Oxford, have prepared me well for my next steps.”*



# A supportive and nurturing environment

At King Edward's, we believe that the health, wellbeing and happiness of our boys underpins their development and success.

Pastoral care is at the heart of all that we do, and we aim to create an environment where pupils feel valued and supported, allowing them to achieve more than they imagined.

Staff and pupil relationships are built on trust and mutual respect, with genuine care for each pupil. The KES community works together to ensure mutual wellbeing, focusing on preventive support to minimise challenges and react swiftly when needed.

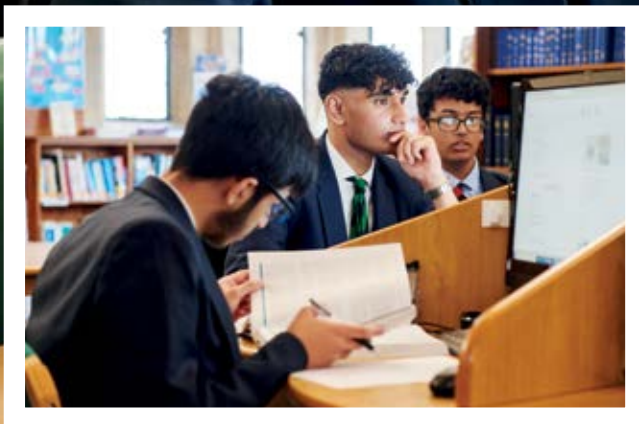
Each pupil is recognised as unique, with Form Tutors and Heads of Year tailoring approaches to ensure they are always thriving at school. Our pastoral structure helps pupils develop self-knowledge, emotional literacy, and social skills. Mindfulness is introduced in Year 8, and mental health techniques are taught in Year 9.

Older pupils support younger ones through a peer support scheme. Professional help is available from a school counsellor and mental health nurse, who also engage with parents and teachers.

The goal is for pupils to be relaxed and happy, enabling them to reach their full potential. The close-knit community notices small changes, recognises successes, and provides timely support. The environment fosters diversity, inclusion, and compassion, teaching boys to care for themselves and others with empathy and openness. Pastoral education at KES helps pupils lead balanced lives with meaning and purpose. It shapes them into individuals of strong character and resilience, ready to face life's challenges.







# *Meet* Joshua

Joshua is a dynamic pupil at KES, where he actively participates in Concert Orchestra, swimming, water polo, and athletics, while also exploring hockey, tennis, cricket, and rugby. Outside of school, Joshua trains with the Royal Ballet School and Elmhurst Ballet School, following successful auditions.

Despite being the only pupil from his primary school to attend KES, Joshua quickly made friends, thanks to the friendly and supportive environment. Joshua looks forward to new opportunities at KES, including joining debating and fencing, and aspires to become a prefect or School Captain in the future.





# A place to belong

*“KES is a school full of opportunities for boys and the teachers are very supportive. The facilities are excellent and there is a wide range of clubs to take part in, which makes this school unique. I believe this prepares us mentally and physically for all life challenges.”*



# Expanding horizons

We understand the most important lessons are not only learned in the classroom; we take that exciting intellectual enthusiasm and embed it in everything we do.

We seek to enable pupils to become well-rounded, exceptional, thoughtful and caring young men who are ready both to make the most of the modern world and to make it better for us all.

Part of what gives King Edward's its unique character is the exciting and diverse range of co-curricular opportunities on offer. With around 50 clubs and societies meeting during lunchtime or after school, there truly is something for everyone. From academic societies to creative and sporting pursuits, and those that teach practical skills, there's much to get involved in, and pupils can even set up their own.

Pupils get stuck in right from the start. Enthusiastic engagement with the co-curriculum is the best way to make friends, build relationships, and find enjoyment in school life. We help boys navigate the numerous clubs, practices, training sessions, meetings, discussion groups, and rehearsals that take place each week and encourage them to try new things. We also assure them not to worry if a particular activity isn't for them - there are always plenty of other options to explore.

We want every pupil to find activities that challenge, excite, and delight him mentally and physically. A pupil discovering who he wants to be is a pupil who is happy, excited, and inspiring. We know it's our job to help him along the way.









# *Meet* Daniel

Daniel has had an outstanding rugby career at KES, benefiting immensely from the school's sports department. The dedicated rugby coaches have provided invaluable advice and support, helping Daniel improve his speed, strength, and overall performance. Throughout his time at KES, Daniel has accumulated numerous memorable experiences, from leading his team in challenging matches against top-ranked teams to cherishing the opportunity to play alongside his older brother on tour in South Africa.

Beyond rugby, Daniel is involved in various activities, including playing for the 1<sup>st</sup> team water polo, playing both the saxophone and clarinet, participating in school bands and contributing to school productions. KES has played a significant role in shaping Daniel's future, fostering his passions, and instilling a strong sense of organisation, discipline, and ambition.



# Elevating potential

*“KES has set me up for the future by helping me find what I enjoy and am passionate about. The school’s busy nature has made me more organised and disciplined, while its ambitious environment has driven me to work harder than I ever thought I could. I hope to one day play rugby professionally, all thanks to what I’ve learned at KES.”*





# Developing talent

Sport is an integral part of school life, and all pupils get the chance to do PE and games throughout their time with us.

The major team sports in the winter terms are rugby and hockey and every pupil has the chance to play these sports in the first three years. The opportunity to play for the school is extensive with more than 15 rugby and hockey school teams and 200 fixtures each year. In the summer, cricket, athletics and tennis are the main sports. We are consistently named in *The Cricketer* magazine as one of the top 100 secondary schools for cricket. There are other sports where the school achieves national success regularly, particularly water polo, badminton, squash and fencing. In all these sports, we have experienced coaches, including Olympic and international athletes.

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

Some of our sportsmen are outstanding, competing at club, county and national level. Others are not, and never will be. Both need individual and transformative player-focused coaching, support, encouragement and development – we want to help pupils to be the best they can be whatever the level.

We are privileged to have exceptional facilities including eight rugby pitches, four cricket pitches, three astro hockey pitches, five tennis courts, a rifle range, international-standard athletics track and seven artificial surfaced cricket nets. The Andrew Brode Sports Centre provides a large sports hall, including indoor cricket nets, a cardiovascular fitness room, multipurpose space, classroom and changing rooms. There is also a 25-metre indoor swimming pool.







# *Meet* George

George has excelled in both academic and co-curricular activities, particularly in fencing. Starting at the age of seven, George's passion for fencing grew through early competitions, culminating in representing the U14 England Squad at the Paris Marathon Fleuret Challenge. With the support of the KES sports department and fencing coach, George has achieved notable success, including securing 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the U14 British Youth Championships.

George has thrived in other co-curricular activities. As a member of the U14 badminton team, he helped secure 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the National Magazine Cup. Regular participation in the art club and involvement in debating and chess clubs highlight the diverse opportunities available to pupils at KES.





# Shaping future champions

*“KES has provided me with unparalleled support and opportunities, helping me to excel in fencing and beyond. The friendships I’ve formed and the guidance I’ve received have been invaluable, preparing me for future challenges and successes.”*

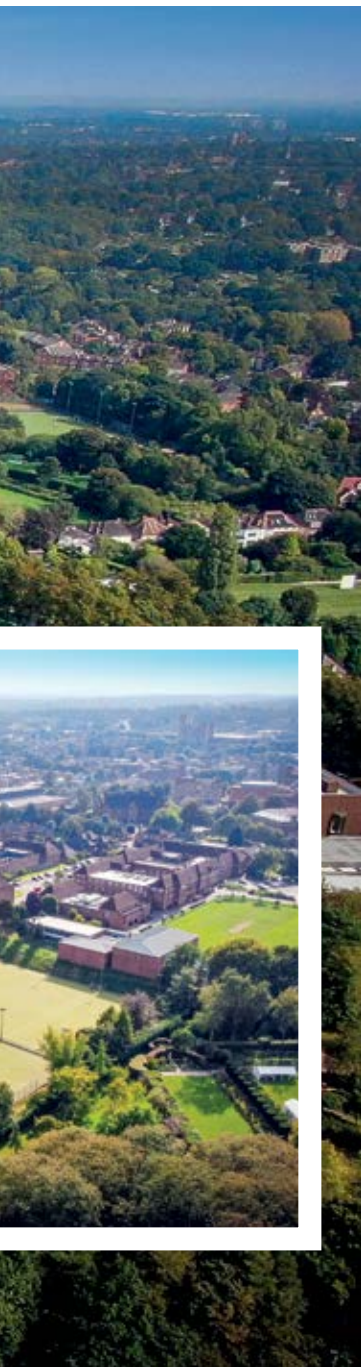




King Edward's School is situated on a beautiful 50-acre site next to the University of Birmingham, which it shares with its sister school, King Edward VI High School for Girls. Few, if any, day schools in this country enjoy such space and quality of buildings, and yet we are less than three miles from the city centre.









# Fostering creative expression

Life at KES means pupils will discover a world of artistic possibilities, with exceptional opportunities in drama, music, and art and design.



Our vibrant performing arts programme includes 20 annual productions, providing ample opportunities for pupils to showcase their talent and technical skills. Held at our Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, these productions benefit from industry-standard facilities, accommodating over 400 attendees.

The school's musical tradition is one of the finest in the country, and one that remains flourishing: 27 small-scale concerts and recitals take place in our own concert hall each year and are complemented by large-scale concerts involving a variety of our full bands and orchestras, including our KES/KEHS Symphony Orchestra. Performances take place in world-class venues including Birmingham Symphony Hall and the Barber Institute. The repertoire has included Berlioz's Symphony Fantastique, Mahler's 4<sup>th</sup> Symphony, Prokofiev's Violin Concerto and Stravinsky's groundbreaking masterpiece, The Rite of Spring.

Many of our co-curricular music and drama activities are run jointly with King Edward VI High School for Girls.







# *Meet* Asher

Asher, a gifted violinist, has captivated the school community with his musical performances. He cherishes memories of rehearsals, performances, and trips, particularly recalling two standout moments: the Margaret Davies Lunchtime Recital at the University of Birmingham, where he played Saint-Saëns' Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso, and his mesmerising performance of Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No. 1 with the Symphony Orchestra.

Balancing his musical pursuits with academic studies, Asher has excelled in both areas. The support from his teachers, especially the Director of Music, has been instrumental in his personal development. He is grateful for the opportunities and encouragement he has received, which have been pivotal in his growth at KES.

Looking ahead, Asher is excited to pursue a career in medicine at University College London. He is driven by a desire to understand the human body, help people, and contribute to medical research.

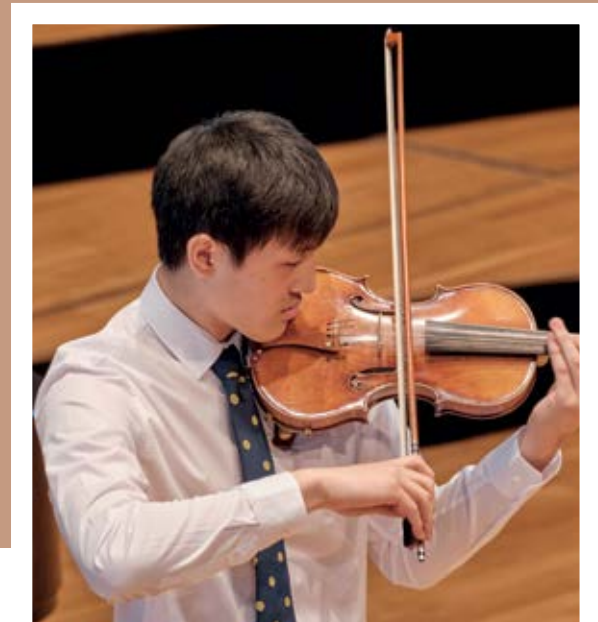






# A holistic education

*“KES has been incredible in supporting my musical and academic pursuits. The opportunities, the friendships, and the guidance from teachers like Dr Leigh have been invaluable. This school has truly shaped who I am today and prepared me for the future.”*



# A world of adventure

Beyond the life of work, music, drama and sport there is another world of activity available to pupils through our extensive programme of trips.



Over 140 trips and expeditions take place every year from small-scale trips within the UK to destinations further afield. Trips vary greatly in purpose, scale and cost so that every pupil can participate in something.

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 Lapland, Costa Rica to study biodiversity, a trip for physicists to CERN, scuba diving in Gozo, skiing in Canada, cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats and also various cycle tours in Europe. Recent sports tours have taken the rugby team to South Africa, the hockey team to the Netherlands, and the cricket team to Dubai and the West Indies.









# Developing future leaders

To the great joy of pupils and staff alike, there are no academic lessons on Friday afternoons, which enables pupils to try all sorts of different activities and develop new skills.

KES Leadership offers Year 12 pupils the chance to mentor Year 10 and 11 pupils, imparting essential leadership skills through practical activities.

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) provides a disciplined environment for pupils to develop character, resourcefulness, and leadership skills. The CCF comprises three sections - Royal Navy, Army, and Royal Air Force - led by dedicated staff volunteers.

Year 9 students have the chance to participate in the KES Expeditions Awards, offering a valuable outdoor experience and preparation for the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Our pupils are encouraged to make a difference through numerous initiatives. From organising charity events like fancy dress days and rowing challenges to playing chess with refugees, pupils engage in meaningful activities that benefit the community and foster a lifelong commitment to service. They also contribute to our thriving partnerships programme with local primary schools.









# *Meet* Ehan

Ehan's dedication to community service shines through his involvement with St Chad's Sanctuary, a charity for asylum seekers and refugees in Birmingham. On Friday afternoons, Ehan and a group of his peers deliver donations from the KES food bank and help organise food, clothing, and hygiene products.

Ehan along with other pupils helped initiate a chess club at the sanctuary, providing refugees with the opportunity to learn and play chess, improving their English, and building relationships in a fun, supportive environment.







# Creating a lasting impact

*“I am most proud of putting a smile on the refugees’ and asylum seekers’ faces. The friendships we’ve built at St Chad’s Sanctuary are invaluable, and seeing familiar faces every week is refreshing. Many who come here have endured immense trauma, and it’s comforting to know that this charity provides a safe place for them. I’m proud to be part of something that brings joy and hope to their lives.”*



# Life in our Sixth Form

Life in the Sixth Form at King Edward's School is busy and exciting. Pupils have opportunities to delve deeply into the subjects they love and to develop qualities and interests that will lead to a rich and fulfilled life at university and beyond.

A robust academic programme delivered by our highly qualified teachers inspires each pupil's imagination and helps him to pursue his intellectual passions, ultimately gaining entry to a leading university where his academic abilities will further flourish.

Pupils also benefit from a vast range of co-curricular activities where they can take the lead on projects, developing crucial skills for their future. Whether performing in the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, participating in sports on our first-rate grounds, or enjoying many trips and visits, pupils have the chance to explore and develop their talents with guidance from expert staff and state-of-the-art facilities.

Our Sixth Formers benefit from exclusive spaces where they can socialise, study and enjoy refreshments. This includes private study spaces, a well-equipped computer suite, and a contemporary common room complete with its own catering facility. These facilities are designed to enhance independent learning and provide a tailored social environment for Sixth Form pupils.

Friday afternoons are transformed as pupils lead sessions for younger years in leadership, sports, and the Combined Cadet Force (CCF), or visit other schools as part of our Partnerships activities. We ensure that pupils reflect on their participation and learn from each experience, building confidence and preparing them to continue their passions into adult life.

In short, the aim of our exceptional Sixth Form experience is to enable our pupils to leave us as well-rounded and confident young men who are ready to take on the challenges the world presents.







# *Meet* Aaryan

Aaryan's journey at King Edward's School is marked by academic excellence and a diverse range of co-curricular activities. Inspired by his parents' careers and nurtured by KES, his passion for science has led to prestigious opportunities, including acceptance into the Research Science Institute at MIT.

Beyond academia, Aaryan has shown leadership as School Captain and achieved success in sport, notably reaching the squash national finals; one of his highlights at school. He also founded the Wilkins-Franklin Workshops, a science outreach initiative that inspires young learners in primary schools across Birmingham, reflecting his commitment to giving back.

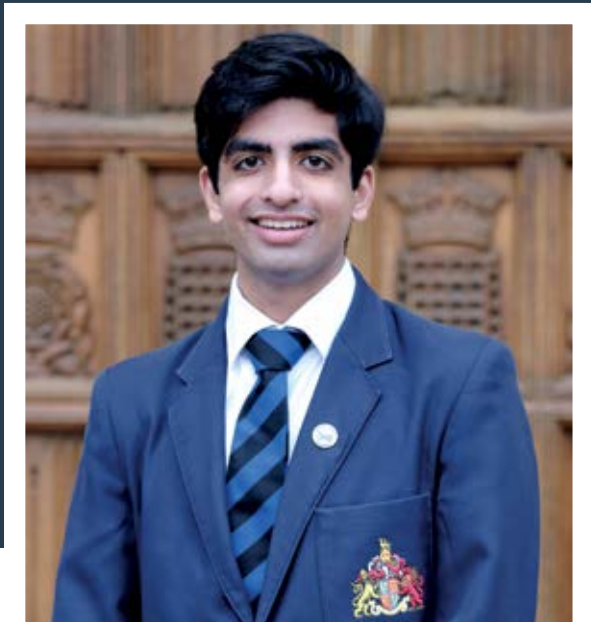
Balancing rigorous academic pursuits with involvement in Symphony Orchestra, Model United Nations, the Combined Cadet Force and more, Aaryan has developed into a well-rounded individual, well-prepared to pursue his ambitious goals beyond KES.





# Freedom to thrive

*“King Edward’s School has been the driving force behind my scientific and personal growth. The support from teachers, the diverse opportunities, and the inclusive community have all played a pivotal role in shaping who I am today and who I aspire to be in the future.”*



# Building future foundations

At King Edward's, we seek to cultivate resilience, adaptability and a care for others, preparing our pupils to confidently navigate whatever lies ahead of them and pursue their aspirations with purpose.

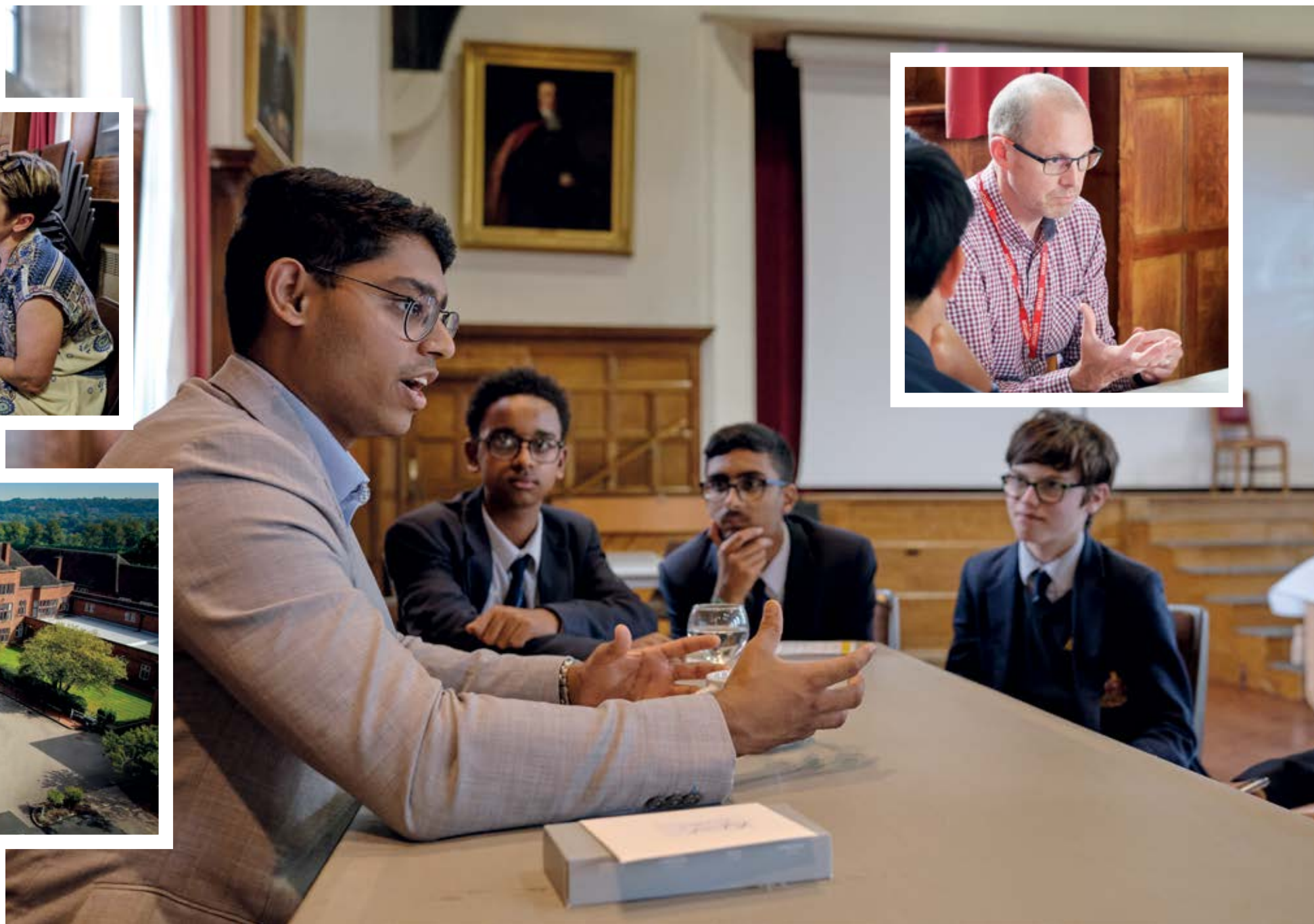
Our approach is highly individualised, recognising the unique journey of each pupil and providing guidance tailored to his specific needs and goals. Through a diverse range of events, lessons, and one-to-one sessions, we provide comprehensive careers education, information, advice, and guidance. Our dedicated team of careers and higher education staff work closely with pupils to explore their interests, strengths, and skills, helping them to identify fulfilling career paths.

Career development is integrated into our curriculum and co-curricular activities, empowering pupils to discover their passions and talents. We encourage self-reflection, helping pupils identify the tasks, environments, and subjects that resonate with them most.

Throughout the year, we host assemblies, invite guest speakers, conduct interview skills workshops, and organise visits to employers and higher education institutions. Our active alumni network enriches these experiences, offering insights and networking opportunities through career panels and events. We are also grateful for the involvement of our parents and alumni, who generously volunteer their time and expertise to support our students.







# Our community

We are part of and supported by some superb networks that strengthen the feeling of community that runs throughout our school.

Our Old Edwardians Association is a vibrant network, where former pupils – known as Old Edwardians (Old Eds) – stay in touch with the school and one another. We are incredibly grateful for the many Old Eds who give up their time and expertise in support of the school. Hundreds of alumni across myriad industries are members of CareersLink, offering valuable networking opportunities, being visiting speakers and acting as careers mentors to current pupils and relatively recent leavers.

Many also generously support Assisted Places, making a significant impact on the education of our current pupils in a tangible way. Being a KES pupil really does give you access to a lifelong community of friends!

We are also incredibly grateful for the support of our dedicated and hardworking Parents' Association (KESPA), which raises money to enrich our facilities, administers a fund to provide financial help for pupils in need and organises social events to enable parents and pupils to make strong connections. Many parents also share their skills, experience and contacts, to enable pupils to find out about future university or career choices.

We are proud to be part of the King Edward VI Foundation, which aspires to make our city the best place to be educated in the UK. A unique blend of independent, grammar and comprehensive schools educating more than one in ten secondary age pupils, the Foundation is committed to raising aspirations, widening access and transforming the lives of young people no matter their background. We are delighted to be part of this, and our staff give of their time to collaborate with their Foundation colleagues.









# KES

## in numbers



One in three Old Edwardians have donated to the school, generously funding our vital Assisted Places scheme

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



Our boys raise thousands of pounds for charity, supporting many different causes across Birmingham and nationally

In 2024, 88% of GCSEs, were graded 9-7 (A\*-A) and over 30% of boys scored 40 points or above in the IB Diploma

Every year more than 200 primary schools take part in our partnerships programme







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

We were founded in 1552 and moved to our beautiful 50-acre Edgbaston site, which we share with King Edward VI High School for Girls, in the 1930s

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



14% of KES pupils are on an Assisted Place

Boys take part in 17 different sports and compete in 80 teams in just under 700 fixtures each year



In 2024, 20 pupils secured university places to read Engineering and 18 to read Medicine or Dentistry



Our average GCSE class size is 17 and our average Sixth Form class size is 8

In a typical year there are over 140 trips in the UK and abroad, ranging in length from one day to three weeks

We have around 900 pupils, and our Year 7s are drawn from more than 40 primary schools



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





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