

# 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:

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

Homework should take around 20-25 minutes per subject in the Shells, except for English which should take around 45 minutes.



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL  
BIRMINGHAM

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# 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  
Food Technology  
French  
General Science  
Geography  
History  
Latin  
Maths  
Music  
PE and Games  
PSHE  
School for Thought

## Removes (Year 8)

Art	Maths
Biology	Music
Chemistry	PE and Games
Computing	Physics
Design and Technology	PSHE
Drama	School for Thought
English	
Geography	<b>Languages (two from):</b>
History	French
Latin	German
	Spanish

## Upper Middles (Year 9)

### Compulsory subjects

Biology  
Chemistry  
Computing  
English  
Geography  
History  
Latin  
Maths  
PE and Games  
Physics  
PSHE  
School for Thought

### Subject options

**Languages (two from):**  
Classical Greek  
French  
German  
Spanish

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