



Moving into your future

KING EDWARD VI  
HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

# Where do you want to go?...

Your daughter is on the brink of a life-changing move. Secondary education will see her grow from a child into a young woman. Finding the right secondary school for her is a crucial task for your daughter and your family.

At King Edward VI High School for Girls, we understand that as parents you will want everything for your daughter. She will be ready for a new environment, excited by the thought of what lies ahead and perhaps a little apprehensive.

The years of secondary education will be exhilarating for your daughter and for you.

Girls come to KEHS wanting to learn and grow. They are curious about life, about knowledge, about people. We provide a school to satisfy that thirst.

KEHS has a tradition of liberal education offering girls intellectual challenge and wide opportunities to achieve individual excellence. KEHS girls are independent, well-informed, rigorous thinkers but most of all they are each different and each valued for being themselves.

We hope that as well as reading the information provided here, you and your daughter will want to visit us on one of the open occasions we have. We look forward to meeting you.



You are at the heart of our school.

“ KEHS taught me to believe in myself and gave me the confidence to succeed in a rather unusual career. ”



Flight Lieutenant Claire McLaughlin left KEHS in 1998 to read Mathematics and Philosophy at Bristol and is now a pilot in the Royal Air Force flying the Tornado F3 fighter jet.



“ I was so lucky to go to King Edwards High School for Girls, which offered such good facilities for the individual science subjects. ”



Sue Downs left KEHS IN 1992 and went on to study at the University of Manchester to read Medicine, gaining both a BSc Hons in Biomedical Science and an MBChB. She graduated in 1998, going on to become a House Officer and is now a Clinical Research Fellow currently studying for a PhD in Cancer Studies at the University of Birmingham.

You want her to be excited by ideas, understand the world she lives in, ask questions and find answers, listen to others and articulate her own thoughts.



# excited by ideas...

You want your daughter to grow intellectually while she is at secondary school. You want her to be excited by ideas, understand the world she lives in, ask questions and find answers, listen to others and articulate her own thoughts.

Here at KEHS, bright young minds come together in an atmosphere that encourages learning for its own sake, and girls discover a lot more than is



needed solely for examination success. We will inspire your daughter to find and follow her own intellectual interests.

We offer your daughter a broad based curriculum right through the first five years and beyond. She will follow a balanced programme that will allow her to study language, mathematics, literature, science, humanities and the arts as well as giving access to the physical challenge of sport and the opportunity to explore new technologies. A large core of subjects through to GCSE ensures this spectrum, then a little personal icing is added to the cake in the form of the girls' own individual option choices. At sixth form level, the choice

of A Level subjects is wide open. Courses balance the need to cover the examination programme whilst emphasizing broadening perspectives – learning by questioning and doing rather than just learning. At least 22 A Level subjects are offered.

When they reach external examinations, KEHS girls consistently achieve results that are not only the best in the region but also among the best in the country. Those results unlock the gates for them into their next field of endeavour.



“ KEHS gave me not only a first rate education, but also its wide range of extra-curricular activities opened my eyes to a world of possibilities in the performing arts. It gave me the confidence to pursue a challenging career which continues to give me great satisfaction’

Amy Marston joined KEHS for the sixth form. She is an actress working in theatre, film and television.



You want your daughter to have a wealth of opportunities. These are the years when she will be deciding not only how she wants to spend her working life, but how she will spend her leisure time.

“ We will offer your daughter plenty to experience to help her make these decisions. She may find that she excels in a particular area or she may enjoy being involved and learning as many new skills as possible.

There is not a great distinction between curricular and extra-curricular activities at KEHS. They are seen as equally important and valuable in your

daughter's development. An examination subject for one girl, may be a leisure activity for another. Girls taking science may enjoy being a member of a regular reading group, and girls with a strong emphasis on the arts may enjoy attending science lectures. Everyone learns a great deal whether they are in lessons or not, especially when they are thoroughly enjoying an activity they have chosen for themselves.

At KEHS, we offer a programme of over forty extra curricular activities enabling girls to experience new activities and ideas as well as to develop talents and skills they may already possess.



# a place for opportunity...

There is an exciting range of sports on offer both in curriculum time and outside. Girls can get involved at whatever level they choose, out of lesson time. We enjoy our frequent triumphs and also celebrate the creativity and commitment of the teams whether they win or not. We encourage girls to join clubs and training in addition to school, as well as with us. We run some outdoor activities, as well as Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme for older girls.

Many girls are heavily involved in performing arts. Most drama productions and concerts take place jointly with King Edward's School, the boys' school that shares our site. There are a number of

orchestras and ensemble groups for all levels and the schools use high profile Birmingham venues for concerts. The performances reach exceptionally high standards and take on the repertoire of professional companies and orchestras. We believe the performing arts are for everyone – from the most advanced practitioners to the most enthusiastic beginners. There are rehearsals going on for one event or another all the time. Dance features prominently in some girls' time. As well as having our own dance specialist, we welcome visiting choreographers to work with our dancers.

The exciting scientific world outside the classroom can be explored through research projects run by CREST, and the Education Engineering Scheme, as well as visiting scientists giving lectures and demonstrations.

Girls are encouraged in activities that join the school with the wider community. Many community service projects are undertaken, both by individuals and groups of girls, such as the annual party run by sixth formers for elderly Birmingham people. The school has links with other West Midlands schools as well as the business and professional communities. Organized schemes such as

Young Enterprise and work experience ensure girls make contact with the world of work outside the school doors.

Societies spring up to offer all the absorbing things there is never quite time for in lessons. Whether your daughter wants more technology, maths, Shakespeare, creative writing, photography, history, debating there will be a club or society for her. And if there isn't, we will encourage her to start one!



You want your daughter to have a wealth of opportunities. These are the years when she will be deciding not only how she wants to spend her working life, but how she will spend her leisure time.



“ I have enjoyed meeting the girls in various music groups and studying Greek with them at A Level has certainly made for some interesting lessons! ”



Laurence Moule is in the Sixth Form at King Edwards' School. He works with the girls in the joint A Level Greek lessons and has played the trumpet along side girls in many combined music groups.

## Life values...

Your daughter will want to do her best, to be her best.

This isn't about examination results. It is about the human values she absorbs as she is growing up. Home gives her these and school, too, will suggest that some ways of living your life are better than others.

The school's expectations make it clear to all members of the community that being truthful and honest is the right way to live. We encourage girls to be sensitive to the needs of others, to be aware that the choices they make will affect other people too, for better or for worse.

Girls at KEHS have an enormous amount to give - to

their friends, to their families, to their work place, to their community and ultimately to the world. KEHS shows girls that to be their best, they will live a life that is, in some way, about service to others.

The most important and lasting values take time to grow. They come to us in many ways. Girls at KEHS see and hear the life enhancing values every day. In morning assemblies, in the way everyone in the community speaks to each other, in the topics we consider important in lessons, in the Personal Decision Making Programme that runs throughout the school, in all the opportunities and encouragement that are given to get involved in community service. Sixth Formers spend part of their



time in regular work for the wider community and everyone is encouraged to think about what our world needs to be a better place and what we can do about it.

Girls come from a variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds. Everyone is encouraged to understand and reflect on what religion means to some people and to reflect on spirituality in their own life. Assemblies are inclusive times to share what is common in our spiritual lives and include periods of silent reflection.

We believe the academic and pastoral sides of school are inseparable. We all work best in an atmosphere where we feel cared for and valued. At KEHS we have a generous teacher/pupil ratio that

ensures everyone can feel noticed for who they are. Our teachers teach individuals not just subjects. Form tutors are supported in their pastoral work by four pastoral coordinators, all highly experienced in steering young women through the ups and downs of adolescence. We cannot promise 100% happiness but we can promise care, concern and lots of support for your daughter.

We enjoy close contact with parents, not just through the normal round of yearly meetings and written reports but in less formal ways too – those many happy occasions when parents come to school to share in their daughters' extra-curricular activities.

Our Parents' Association organizes social events for parents and supports the school in a number of ways.

Ideas and people will influence and help form your daughter as she grows up, as will the different environments she experiences. The school environment is about bricks and mortar as well as people and ideas. KEHS moved to its present site in 1940 and since then it has been adapted and extended. Generations at KEHS have looked after and loved its buildings. Down the years, time and care has been given to creating a living and learning environment with space to think and grow.

In the learning heart of Birmingham, with the university and King Edwards' School its neighbours, the school is an oasis of calm a mile from the city centre, with excellent public transport links.

Parts of the building still have a traditional feel about them. The hall with its grand organ and beamed ceiling, and the Gordon Russell library speak of the academic values that the school sustains. Other parts reflect the cutting edge of technology with which your daughter will become familiar. The nine science laboratories are airy and well equipped. The sports facilities are in demand by sports people throughout the West Midlands. The Art workshops include gallery space to exhibit the girls' work.



Your daughter will want to do her best, to be her best.

# A journey begins...

KEHS will be a life forming experience in its own right. It is also a part of the pathway of your daughter's life. It will give her a bench mark by which to judge what else happens to her on her journey.

Girls in our Sixth Form tell us they cherish their final two years in school. Staff/student relations are particularly valued and many girls embark with enthusiasm on a large number of new activities.

These are designed to encourage awareness of the world beyond school and this is especially important in the area of careers and Higher Education.

Your daughter will have many pathways to consider. Her time with us at KEHS will ensure that she will have the opportunity to be among the best in whatever field she chooses.

We are immensely proud of the achievements of our pupils when they are at school and afterwards. Girls from KEHS have succeeded in an enormous variety of fields, some as well-known public figures, some as sustainers and nurturer of their family and local community. Like parents, we are ever mindful that girls will be leaving us to find their own way in a challenging world.

All the adults in her life, will hope that the values she has developed will sustain her in the coming years, that she will have the self discipline and individual drive to succeed in what ever way she wants, that she will leave KEHS a confident, capable and cultured young woman with much to give.



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KEHS gave me an outstanding all-round education fostering a love of literature and creative writing and boosting my passion for sport, laying the basis of my future media career. The liberal, tolerant atmosphere, lack of pressure and opportunity to pursue my own enthusiasms rather than being bound to a narrow exam syllabus gave me the confidence to apply to Oxford and become the first member of my family to attend university.

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Sally Grant is a writer and broadcaster and was Britain's first networked female TV sports presenter.



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