

# MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES WITH KEHS



Making an entrance: The school's imposing exterior.



Bright futures: KEHS students celebrate their A-level results.

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\*HESA Performance Indicators 2007/08

**IN THESE increasingly competitive times, when university applications are on the up, but numbers of available places are falling, it would be easy to focus on outstanding A-level results as being the only way to securing that all important offer of a place and subsequent perceived satisfaction that a university education will bring.**

Whilst Eilghaston based King Edward VI High School for Girls (KEHS) has an unblemished track record of excellent A-level results, it recognises that academic achievements are only a narrow part of the aims it holds for its sixth form pupils.

The year's results are consistently high, with an impressive 28.41 per cent of all exams (excluding general studies), achieving Grade A\*, but it's the holistic approach to education at the heart of KEHS which sets its girls apart from their contemporaries.

Principal Sarah Evans believes education enriches all areas of life - work, personal, community life and leisure time can all be enhanced through experience gained at KEHS.

She said: "A well-rounded education can be the basis for all aspects of a satisfying life, not just academic achievement. At KEHS we strive to introduce our girls to a way of thinking, ideas



and approaches which will prepare them for life in whichever direction they choose to go when they leave us.

"KEHS is committed to nurturing girls as individuals, whosever their strengths may lie, and this is not purely restricted to the academic arena."

KEHS supports its pupils to become the leaders of tomorrow, and continually looks for ways to add to their educational experience during their time at the school. The introduction of the AQA Bacc is just one initiative which sets KEHS girls apart from their contemporaries.

The AQA Bacc is an over-reaching qualification studied alongside the existing A-level curriculum which recognises that education is not just about academic examinations.

"What I love about the AQA Bacc is that it's both rigorous and flexible," said Ms Evans. "It's based on A-levels and has to include general studies or critical

thinking, both of which ensure that even if girls have chosen to really specialise in their A-level subjects, they have a breadth of knowledge.

"We like the depth of A-levels - our students relish drilling down into subjects and having the time and freedom to read around topics that hugely interest them."

The Bacc extended project can be the jewel in the crown of a student's sixth form achievement. It is a piece of work outside of any A-level syllabus where students pursue a personal interest as far as they can. They take control of the planning, research and presentation that can take the form of a significant essay or include creative pieces such as poetry, film or a play.

Ms Evans said: "The girls have worked on some amazing topics."

KEHS also recognises the value of work experience and its strong links with local business gives girls the opportunity to gain valuable insight into the world of employment during their post-16 studies, enhancing university and job applications in later life.

KEHS is holding a late entrance exam for post-16 studies starting this September on August 27. Contact the school on 0121 472 1834 if you would like to find out about more post-16 opportunities at KEHS.