

Three years of AQA Bacc success at KEHS

King Edward VI High School for Girls (KEHS) was one of the first schools to pilot the AQA Baccalaureate and now has a track record of three years tremendous success behind it.

The AQA Bacc is an overreaching 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 Sarah Evans, KEHS Principal. "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. Mrs Evans said: "The girls have worked on some amazing topics. Many may well have found a lifetime's passion in their subject."

It is not surprising the school sees the strength of A Levels as it consistently achieves outstanding exam results at A Level. 2009 was no exception with 95.3 per cent of all exams taken being at A or B grades.

KEHS was named the top performing independent girls' school in the country by *The Independent* newspaper's recently published table of A Level results.