

# SIXTH FORM



EQUIPPING YOU FOR THE FUTURE



KING  
EDWARD'S  
SCHOOL  
BATH



I HOPE THAT THIS GUIDE WILL GIVE YOU A REAL TASTE OF WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SIXTH FORM AT KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL.

# WELCOME



Inevitably, given the many different aspects of Sixth Form life here, an introductory brochure such as this can only give you a flavour of the breadth and quality of the opportunities on offer and of the achievements of our pupils. Academic study is only

a part of what being a King Edward's sixth former is all about; it is the sense of community and the exciting atmosphere of learning with enthusiastic and talented peers in a supportive, caring and ambitious environment that embodies our Sixth Form. If you speak to our current sixth formers during tours, open evenings or on taster days, they will no doubt be keen to tell you all about this aspect of life here and I would encourage you to visit the School and meet the pupils so that you can find out for yourself what it is about King Edward's that makes being a sixth former here so special.

**Please enjoy looking through this guide. I look forward to welcoming you here, whether on a tour, at Open Day or at interview.**

**Peter Simonds**  
Head of Sixth Form



**KES Sixth Form gave me a passion for learning and the necessary communication and teamwork skills for my future career. The learning community offered a supportive environment to develop academic skills and the confidence to explore career options through work experience and careers events. Teachers inspire students to excel.**

**JO, KES OE**



**JOSH**  
YEAR 12



**If I'm joining KES Sixth Form as a new student, what kind of social environment can I expect?**

KES society has a place for everyone, and everyone joining in Year 12 seems to find their feet without much difficulty at all. Year groups at KES are, as a rule, relatively small, but rather than leading to insularism, it makes students all the more welcoming. Having been more or less stuck with the same familiar faces since Year 7, I for one was massively refreshed by getting to know new people, and this is the general mood across the year. There is also an excellent opportunity to make friends across the upper-lower Sixth Form divide, with Year 13s able to offer their Year 12 counterparts a hugely valuable and (potentially) more mature perspective on life in general.

**MINNIE**  
YEAR 13



**Why did you choose KES Sixth Form?**

I chose to go to KES Sixth Form as I knew that: firstly, I would have a fantastic Sixth Form experience in the brand new Holbeche Centre and secondly, the teachers are all extremely good and the class sizes are all relatively small, which I find really helpful for learning. Everyone here is so friendly so, if you're new, there will be no problem making friends. I also chose KES as the Art and Drama departments are amazing, both with fabulous facilities including a new Drama studio (aka 'The Rose'). Also, realistically, I knew I would be in safe hands academically and would have all the support and guidance needed to do the best I can in my A Levels and leave school with such a positive experience and amazing friends and memories that I can cherish forever.

# PASTORAL SUPPORT

ON JOINING THE SIXTH FORM YOU WILL BECOME PART OF ONE OF OUR TUTOR GROUPS, EACH CONSISTING OF PUPILS DRAWN FROM YEARS 12 AND 13.

This ensures that you have the opportunity to meet and learn from people beyond your own year group and from those who have trodden a similar pathway before you. This vertical structure enables both the sharing of academic wisdom as well as early social integration, and it is likely that a tutor group outing will be arranged before your feet have touched the ground!

Although your own tutor will always be your first 'port of call' for questions and support, you will also be assisted by three senior tutors and the Head of Sixth Form.

This team of staff takes pride in quickly getting to know pupils and their individual strengths. They will look to support and challenge you appropriately so that you can take full advantage of your time in the Sixth Form.



## WELL-ROUNDED INDIVIDUALS

**Independence and responsibility are nurtured while self-reflection, empathy and emotional intelligence are part of our varied PSHE programme which, with the help of thought-provoking speakers, also looks at the students' role in shaping our community and society as a whole in the years ahead.**



The Head of Pastoral and her team are widely praised, but students also rate their tutors' ability to support them through the helter skelter of school.

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

Pastoral care is a particular strength of the school.

ISI REPORT

JOSH  
YEAR 12



### Does KES do much to support mental health?

The two years of Sixth Form can throw you plenty of curveballs, as well as a fair bit of academic stress, and dealing with this isn't always easy. In my experience, the School's attitude towards issues like these has always been sensitive and helpful, and I've taken a lot of comfort from KES' support. From a simple email about wellbeing from the school nurse, to the excellent, confidential support of the School's counsellor, or even just a friendly chat with a tutor or other teacher, KES manages to be there for you, if you need it.

A LEVEL STUDY GIVES YOU THE CHANCE TO SELECT THE SUBJECTS THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN AND TO DEVELOP THESE INTERESTS IN REAL DEPTH.

Inspiring teachers, smaller classes and an increased maturity and motivation mean that sixth form lessons take place in a stimulating and enjoyable learning environment. Pupils develop a thirst for knowledge and intellectual challenge and become increasingly independent in their learning. Developing this sense of independence and self-motivation during the Sixth Form is excellent preparation for heading off to university or college within just a couple of years.

# ACADEMIC STUDY



ADITYA  
YEAR 12



**How does teaching and lessons in the Sixth Form differ from lower down the School?**

In a literal sense, teaching in most subjects is structured into two parts, with two teachers for each of your A Level subjects. In terms of the style of teaching, I find that teachers expect a lot more in the way of self-reliance from us in our learning; we are responsible for noting and absorbing the information. Since with A Levels, you're likely to be quite interested in your chosen subjects, lessons are often structured around discussion, especially with three of my own chosen subjects History, Politics and Economics. In Politics, for example, teachers restructured our course in order for US elections to be taught directly in the context of the US presidential election that was unfolding at the time. In Economics, we often learn about types of policies and their impacts through the lens of currently occurring policy changes, such as by analysing a budget in the wake of Covid-19.

## DO YOU KNOW?

Most of the subjects that are available at A Level will have been studied at GCSE, but there are also others that will be new to you, such as Psychology, Economics and Government & Politics. Most pupils study four subjects (or five if taking Further Maths) in Year 12, with the majority continuing with three or four in Year 13.

KES remains at the top of the academic pops in Bath and beyond.

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There are around 30 subjects on offer in the Sixth Form, with almost any combination possible. Although there are many different factors to take into account when making your choice of subject, enjoyment and likelihood of success will inevitably rank high amongst the considerations.





# CO-CURRICULAR LIFE

WITH A HUGE ARRAY OF ACTIVITIES ON OFFER, YOU ARE ALMOST CERTAIN TO FIND SOMETHING THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU.

It wasn't just academically that I benefited; KES offered me a host of new opportunities by way of co-curricular activities. Quite simply, the variety of activities at KES is superb.  
**KIERAN, KES OE**

There is the opportunity to excel in some high-quality sport involving weekly matches, strength and conditioning, plus intensive fitness and skill-based sessions. The School fields two or three senior teams in each major sport, so catering for a full range of abilities.

On the cultural front, there is a major drama production each December, with sixth formers being cast in the majority of the lead roles.

School musicians perform in orchestras, ensembles, choirs and less formal groups, such as KES Soul. Big 'show case' events include the Carol Service in Bath Abbey, the Soloists' Concert at the Holburne Museum, and the Gala Concert in the Assembly Rooms or Guildhall in partnership with the City's professional orchestra Bath Philharmonia.

Other opportunities for you to show your creative side include taking part in the annual Art and Photography Exhibition and writing for the short story, journalism, and poetry competitions.

This vast range of co-curricular activities helps to create a platform for increased self-confidence and strong peer support, whilst educational trips, which in recent times have included visits to Morocco, Amsterdam, Greece, Berlin and Kenya, help to open eyes and broaden horizons.

Activities on offer outside normal lessons include Model United Nations, Debating Club, Socrates Club (philosophical debates and current affairs), Literary and Cultural Discussion Group, Creative Writing Society, and esports.

Sixth formers invariably take a lead in running and organising these clubs, with some of the most successful being initiated by the pupils themselves.

## DO YOU KNOW?

**Community service is an important part of KES Sixth Form life, with senior pupils engaged in a wide variety of activities across Bath and the local area. Supporting others is a valuable experience for our pupils, helping them to develop into socially responsible citizens who respect the dignity of others, whilst also nurturing personal skills such as leadership, teamwork, confidence and independent thinking.**



**MEG**  
YEAR 13



### What are the co-curricular activities at KES like?

KES has all sorts of clubs and societies, ranging from the traditional ones like hockey squad and orchestra, to more niche activities like Lego Robotics Club and Textiles Club. If you have a particular interest, support is available for you to start your own club.

# LEADERSHIP

WE LOOK TO SIXTH FORMERS TO BRING THEIR ENERGY, ENTHUSIASM AND SKILLS TO A BROAD RANGE OF LEADERSHIP ROLES ACROSS OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

Prefects are linked to junior forms and carry out associated daily duties, whilst the Sixth Form mentors and specialist prefects, such as medical or careers prefects have specific roles within the School, such as inducting new pupils, supporting the school nurse or helping to run careers events.

Sixth formers are always encouraged to demonstrate their leadership, whether by helping to direct school plays, organising charity events such as cake sales or foodbank collections, running music groups or helping to coach sports teams.



My confidence, organisation and sense of responsibility improved greatly whilst at KES, as it's a very independent environment to develop in.  
**ISABELLA, KES OE**

## DO YOU KNOW?

Over recent years many very successful initiatives have been instigated and then run by the students themselves; if you have a good idea, you can make it happen!



Activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award and the Ten Tors Challenge are very popular and, alongside the School's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) or working on behalf of one of the School's charities, provide plenty of opportunities for you to develop your leadership and teamwork skills.

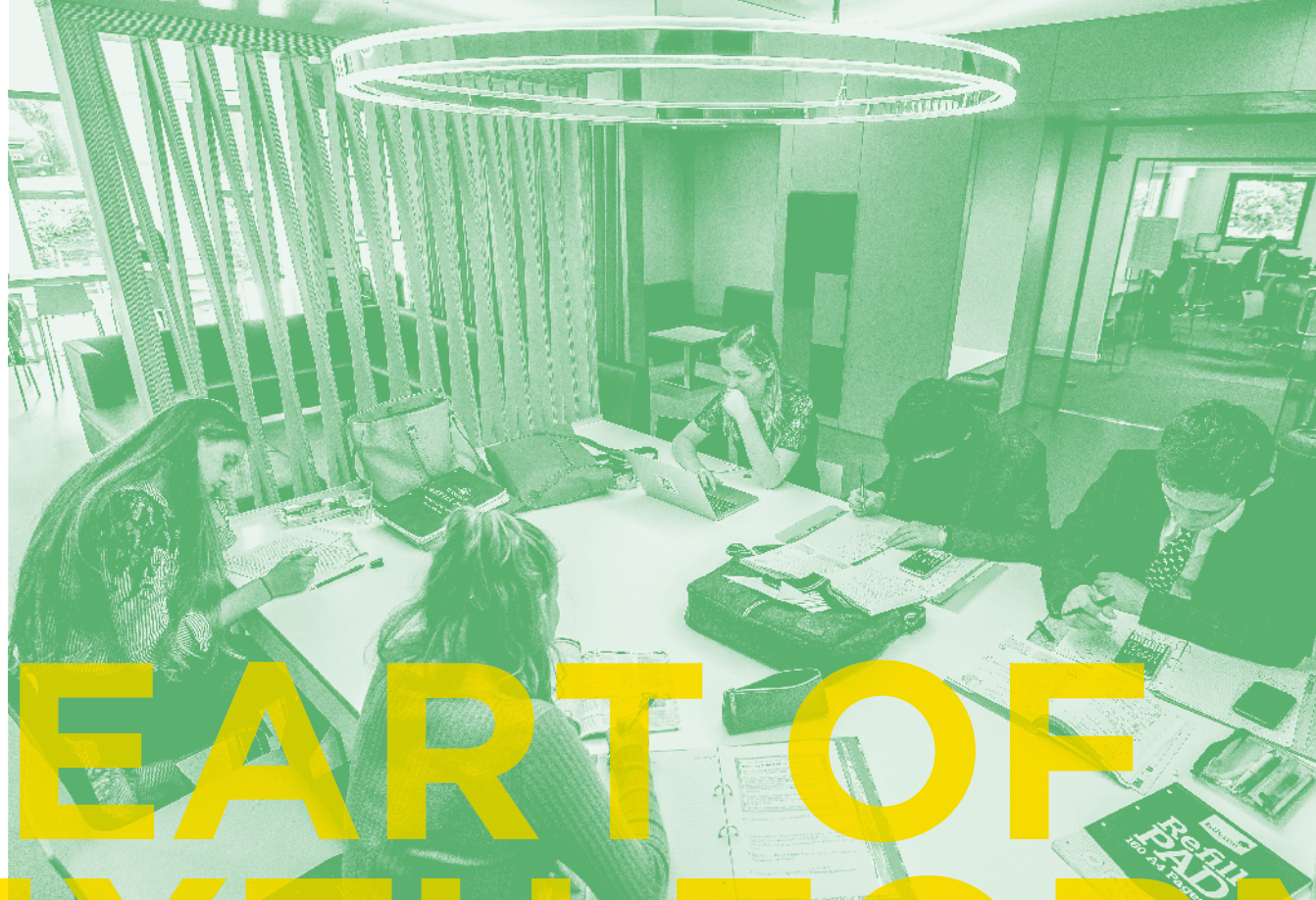
**POPPY**  
YEAR 13



**What opportunities are there for new students joining KES Sixth Form?**

From the very beginning of sixth form, new students are given the exact same opportunities as pupils who have been at the School since primary school. Consequently, I became a prefect in the first term and when I initially started at King Edward's, the head girl was a student who had joined at sixth form.

THE NEWLY REFURBISHED SIXTH FORM CENTRE IS THE HUB OF SIXTH FORM LIFE AT KES, COMBINING SPACES FOR STUDY AND SOCIALISING, HELPING TO PREPARE OUR YOUNG ADULTS FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES AND WORKING PATTERNS OF THE 21ST CENTURY.



# THE HEART OF THE SIXTH FORM

KES Sixth Form has been a great experience. It's very social, full of opportunity and most of all fun!  
**NEVE, KES OE**

This new contemporary space has been designed to engage and motivate our sixth formers, accommodating a range of workstyles and study needs and serving as a backdrop to the more independent approach to learning at this stage of education, whilst echoing the style of environment found in co-working hubs in cities and at universities.

The open plan setting is gently zoned, offering areas for smaller groups to work together or interact socially. These collaborative spaces are ideal for pupils participating in group work around laptops, actively engaging and sharing ideas or simply catching up with friends. Enriching the social experience further, the Centre is served by a café which offers a range of drinks, snacks and light meals.



## DO YOU KNOW?

**Beyond the main open plan environment, the Centre offers several designated rooms for self-directed, quiet and silent study, with wi-fi access and data ports available throughout.**

**MINNIE**  
YEAR 13



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### What are free periods like?

There is something for everyone and always a place for you to settle down and work in your own space. I mostly used the 'Silent Room' during my study periods and found that the work environment was extremely motivating as it was easy to focus without the distractions from anyone around.

**JACOB**  
YEAR 12



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### Is KES a nice place to be socially?

Speaking as someone who joined KES later in their school career, I have never encountered a community more welcoming than KES. The School offers many facilities to socially engage students, including the Porter Library and Holbeche Centre for sixth formers.

THE SIXTH FORM YEARS ARE OFTEN THE MOST MEMORABLE OF ONE'S SCHOOL CAREER, AND HERE AT KING EDWARD'S THE EXPERIENCE INVARIABLY LIVES UP TO THAT BILLING.

Being at the top end of the School brings so many exciting challenges and opportunities both in and out of the classroom, as well as the responsibilities inherent in being a leading member of the KES community. The deep friendships that form and develop during these two years can last a lifetime, and a winning mix of ambition and achievement makes for a very successful recipe indeed.

The academic results gained each year by our leavers help to rank King Edward's as one of the leading schools of its kind in the country and one of the top performing schools of any kind in the south-west of England. But beyond the delights of superb A Level grades and outstanding university successes, we remain rightly proud of the fantastic partnerships and relationships that are forged here and of all the wonderful virtues and qualities of our pupils that help to make the Sixth Form at King Edward's such a dynamic and enjoyable place to be.

**Martin J Boden**  
Headmaster

KES turns out young people who are not merely hard-working and well-educated, but compassionate and thoughtful to boot.

**THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE**



# FROM THE HEADMASTER





PUPILS AND PARENTS RECEIVE ADVICE FROM OUR EXPERIENCED HEAD OF UCAS AND HIGHER EDUCATION AND OUR CAREERS EDUCATION COORDINATOR, AS WELL AS FROM TUTORS AND SUBJECT TEACHERS.

In Sixth Form, this advice begins with various presentations from both internal and external speakers early in Year 12 and continues throughout the two years of sixth form. Some pupils decide to take a gap year and use it to travel or gain valuable work experience.

All Year 12 pupils are provided with guidance on both UCAS and apprenticeships (including degree apprenticeships), from the beginning of their Sixth Form journey. Pupils can join Careers Mentoring programmes throughout Year 12, which allow them access to top-rated members of their selected profession. At the end of the Summer Term, all pupils are supported and encouraged to find relevant Work Experience placements, many of which are with exciting and innovative employers that can really open doors.

## FINALIST

**KES is a finalist in this year's Independent School of the Year Awards, for its Student Careers Programme.**



# FUTURE READY

BEING EQUIPPED FOR LIFE AFTER SCHOOL IS ABOUT MORE THAN JUST EXAM RESULTS, WITH THE MODERN WORKPLACE CALLING FOR RESILIENCE, FLEXIBILITY AND PROBLEM SOLVING, AMONG OTHER PERSONAL SKILLS.

Here at KES we look to develop the attributes needed for the future both within the classroom and through participation in the wider opportunities available.

For example, leadership can be found both on the sports field, as mentors, as well as in our advocacy-led clubs or school forums. We value equally the importance of empathy, analytical and creative thinking, which students can learn through the wide variety of subjects and experiences on offer at KES. Indeed curiosity and an appetite for lifelong learning is very much in the DNA of our school aims.

## TOP 10 WORKPLACE SKILLS IN 2025

- Analytical thinking and innovation
- Active learning and learning strategies
- Complex problem-solving
- Critical thinking and analysis
- Creativity, originality and initiative
- Leadership and social influence
- Technology use, monitoring and control
- Technology design and programming
- Resilience, stress tolerance and flexibility
- Reasoning, problem-solving and ideation

Source: Future of Jobs Report 2020. World Economic Forum.

## KES UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS

Most popular university destinations for KES leavers since 2017:

- Exeter
- Leeds
- Bristol
- UCL
- Cardiff
- Cambridge
- Birmingham
- Durham
- Oxford
- Manchester



**85-90%**

of KES pupils who apply to university/HE are successful in gaining entry to their preferred course and institution

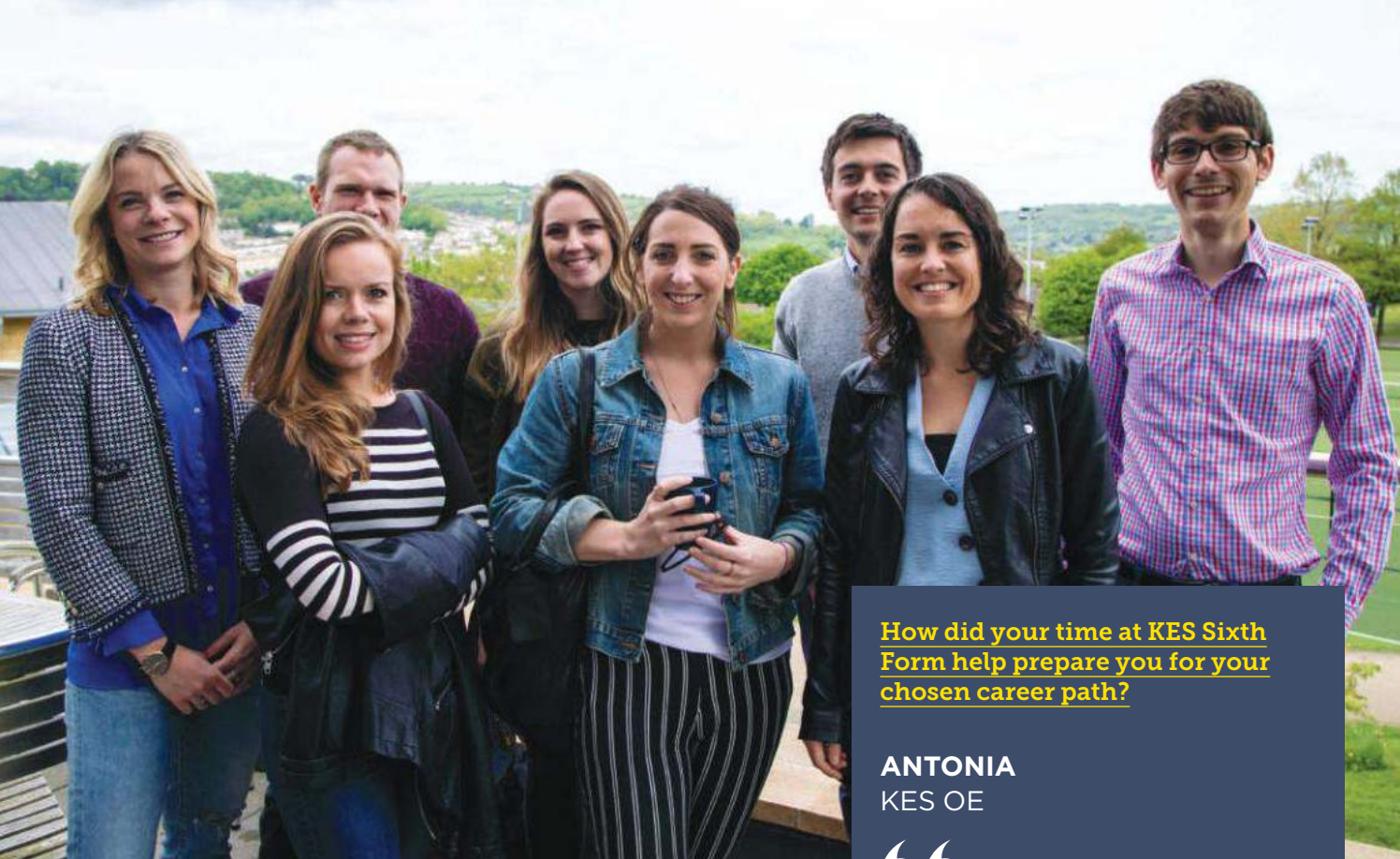
**80%**

of pupils typically go on to study at Russell Group universities

The diversity of subjects studied at university reflects the all-round strength of the academic departments here at KES, with pupils' recent ambitions leading them to pursue degrees in:

- Mathematics
- Liberal Arts
- International Relations with Spanish
- Mechanical Engineering
- Law
- History of Art
- Classics
- Economics
- Physics
- Virology
- Game Design
- Natural Sciences
- Medicine
- Music Production
- Costume Design
- Aerospace and Astronautic Engineering

and so many others.



# SUBJECT CHOICES

## SUBJECTS WE OFFER

- Art
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Classical Civilisation
- Classical Greek
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Economics
- Electronics (AS level only)
- English Language
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- German
- Government and Politics
- History
- Latin
- Maths
- Further Maths
- Music
- Philosophy
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Spanish

We do our best to accommodate all choices but cannot guarantee that all subject combinations will be possible, or that the subjects offered above will run. A subject will only run if there are sufficient takers to make it viable within the curriculum and given staffing constraints.

# JOIN US

For full details about our Year 12 Entry Requirements, Sixth Form Entrance Awards and Bursaries, please visit our website:

[www.kesbath.com/admissions/admissions-process/sixth-form-entry-process](http://www.kesbath.com/admissions/admissions-process/sixth-form-entry-process)



**BEING PART OF THE KES COMMUNITY**  
THE FORMATIVE EXPERIENCE OF LEARNING AT KING EDWARD'S, ALONG WITH STRONG FRIENDSHIPS FIRST MADE AT THE SCHOOL, PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A LIFE-LONG CONNECTION WITH KES.

## DO YOU KNOW?

Every two years a large careers convention is held at KES, involving successful people, many of whom are Old Edwardians or are from our parent community, who can provide valuable insights into their range of careers.

**How did your time at KES Sixth Form help prepare you for your chosen career path?**

**ANTONIA**  
KES OE



Sixth Form was a great mix of academic life, interspersed with extra-curricular sports and senior prefect duties. The busy environment definitely helped me develop skills of prioritisation and planning, both of which are exceptionally useful as a junior doctor!

**GIRI**  
KES OE



My interest in the tech industry stems from my time at KES, especially through how Physics, Maths and Computing mix together to create amazing physical and digital products. The solid grounding in these core subjects at A Level through KES set the foundation for my time at Imperial College London, and eventually the MBA (at London Business School) and my current role at Sky.

**MEG**  
YEAR 13



**What opportunities for further education do KES students usually choose?**

Currently, the most common path that KES students choose for further study is university. Every year, a large number of students go to top universities across the UK, with some even choosing to study abroad - in the last couple of years, there have been some applicants to American universities as well as British. Around 30-50% of students choose to take a gap year beforehand. We also have a staff member responsible for helping students to apply for apprenticeships, which are becoming a more popular option every year, and often provide a more cost-effective and hands-on alternative to a degree structure.



One of the best things about the Sixth Form experience is probably the independence and freedom, not only with what you wear, what you study and where you study, but also the fact that teachers treat you more like adults and you're just considered more mature.

**SOPHIE, YEAR 13**

I have found the guidance for certain universities and careers amazingly helpful, taking us through the UCAS process which has been really thorough as well as looking at prospective careers – I've managed to consider things that I would never have considered before, tailored to what I want to do.

**GUY, YEAR 13**



 **KESBath**

**KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL  
SIXTH FORM**

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