



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL

SHAKESPEARE'S SCHOOL

## Physical Education Department

Reading through the following information will only give you a flavour of the strength of sport at King Edward VI School. It should, however, be clear that sport plays a very significant role in the life of the School.

Our Saturday fixture card in rugby (Michaelmas and Lent) and cricket (Summer) features A and B team fixtures across the age groups against some of the strongest independent and grammar schools in the Midlands, and with some success. We continue to “punch above our weight” in rugby, having been the inaugural Daily Mail Cup winners at Twickenham, and have enjoyed considerable success in cricket in recent years, being County Champions in 2014 at under 15. We have quantity as well as quality, of course. Hockey has a growing mid-week fixture list, our athletics programme enters numerous events as do a wide range of other sports - from Tennis to Triathlon.

Our 92 year-old Boat Club, which has always benefitted from the School's close proximity to the River Avon, competes successfully in numerous regattas, the 1st IV boys and girls both recently won the national Ball Cup whilst our fencing club, Shakespeare's Swords, are arguably the best in the country, being crowned National Champions at all three age levels for the past three years. For more information see the PE Department's Twitter feed (@KES\_PEDept)

We are fortunate to benefit from excellent sporting facilities. There is a large multi-purpose Sports Hall, a gymnasium, a strength and conditioning suite, nine Concept 2 indoor rowers and an outdoor netball court on the main campus and our sports ground is less than a mile away. These already excellent facilities, maintained by our full-time groundsman, are set to be improved still further with the implementation of well-advanced plans for an all-weather surface.

However, the success of the Physical Education Department, as in any school, has been determined largely by the skills, personalities and enthusiasms of the people who have worked within it. The Department is made up of three full-time members of staff (one is a former professional rugby player) and they are ably supported by specialist coaches and numerous non-specialists from the Staff Common Room. In addition, each year the School employs three Australian Gap Year students who live on-site and work in the Department on a day-to-day basis.

Curricular Physical Education is compulsory throughout the School with all year groups also having weekly Games afternoons. A Level PE is taught in the Sixth Form (AQA) and we are pleased by the level of interest in the course, both from our students and the talented sportsmen and women applying to join us from outside. The successful applicant for the Director of Sport will therefore have an exciting opportunity to continue to develop the teaching of this academic subject alongside curricular and extra-curricular Physical Education.

Much of the Department's success would not be possible without the support of our Parents' Association: SportKES (@SportKES1). They work tirelessly behind the scenes to raise money to enhance the sporting life of the School. In the last academic year they raised in the region of £40,000. This fundraising provided equipment and supported the rugby tour to Argentina, a cricket tour to Barbados, a netball tour to Spain and enabled our fencers to compete all over Europe. SportKES are a key part of the strategic arm of the department and the Director of Sport will be expected to help support, drive and maintain the level of energy within the committee for the benefit of the student body, the School and the department.

It is undoubtedly a very exciting time to lead and develop sport at King Edward VI School. The successful candidate will possess the talent, skills and enthusiasm to lead both our extensive extra-curricular sports programme and our curricular provision. They will possess expert knowledge, organisational ability, stamina and the drive to increase participation levels whilst in turn having the required skill set to enable those who are capable to access high performance programmes. In return they can look forward to being welcomed into a friendly and supportive environment which will offer a huge range of opportunities and rewards.