



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL BIRMINGHAM

Dear Colleague

You always know when a school is a bit special, don't you? I knew that about King Edward's as soon as I walked through the door and I think you will too. It's not just our amazing history; lots of schools have that. Neither is it the incredibly impressive academic results; quite a few schools can boast those as well.

So what is it that makes KES such a remarkable place? First and foremost, it's the boys. Not only are they all the things you might expect – bright, conscientious, biddable and the rest – but they are also incredibly nice, gentle and fun to be around. They are the most remarkably diverse bunch you could find in any independent school and yet they are extraordinarily tolerant, sensitive and kind to each other. KES isn't a place for big egos or macho behaviour; quite the reverse, I'm happy to say.

You'll definitely love teaching KES boys, but the staff are amazing too. Our teachers are incredibly committed and will always go the extra mile for the boys whether it's through running clubs and activities or providing that bit of extra support and care when someone's finding life a bit tough. It's also a highly supportive team where new people are immediately made to feel welcome and given the tools to succeed.

One colleague who joined the school recently had the foresight to write down all of the things that he really liked about KES before he forgot them. The list runs to two sides of A4, but here are some of my highlights:

- New staff induction that helps you grow into the role rather than just bashing you into shape to fit the system
- Receptionists that are busy doing something but look up and smile
- ICT that gets fixed within minutes, not months
- Pupils who think you're more of a person for cycling, not less
- Toast at break time, with occasional honey made by a boy in my form
- Alcohol whenever appropriate
- Reports that can be honest and where 120 is the word limit not a minimum requirement
- Lunch where you sit and talk to people
- Random acts of kindness left on my desk like a cake or a staple remover.
- Assemblies that can, for instance talk quite openly about sexual orientation
- Being comfortable enough to be personal, be serious, give a rebuke, be tolerant of being disagreed with and being able to poke fun at the boys without losing the crowd.

And so on...

Dr Mark Fenton MA MSc, Chief Master

King Edward's School, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham B15 2UA
Tel: 0121 472 1672 Email: office@kes.org.uk Web: www.kes.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 529051



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
BIRMINGHAM

I have the unique privilege of leading this incredible community and I am determined that we won't lose sight of any of the core values of the school as we strive to prepare our boys even better for the great challenges that the world will rely on them to solve in the future.

I hope very much that you will want to join our amazing team (why wouldn't you, frankly!) and I hope we may meet in the not too distant future.

With best wishes

Dr Mark Fenton
Chief Master

Dr Mark Fenton MA MSc, Chief Master

King Edward's School, Edgbaston Park Road, Birmingham B15 2UA
Tel: 0121 472 1672 Email: office@kes.org.uk Web: www.kes.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 529051