



SIXTH FORM

Kensington  
Aldridge Academy





## PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Dear Parents / Carers,

It is with huge excitement that I welcome you to our sixth form prospectus. If you apply and are successful you will become part of something very special here at KAA: a sixth form partnership between state and independent schools which is totally unique in the UK education sector.

You will be our third cohort of sixth formers, benefiting from personalised tuition and expert teaching from subject specialists which is the hallmark of life at KAA. You will enjoy careful and detailed guidance on your applications into the competitive world of Higher Education.

We received our first set of national exams this summer and we are delighted with how well our students have performed. They achieved 61% A-C grades and 42% A-B. These AS grades indicate KAA is in the top 10% of UK schools in terms of "value added" - meaning our students achieved on average one whole grade higher than national expectations.

In short, you will be getting an incredible deal, and one that I know will rival anything you could receive at schools and colleges elsewhere, whether they be state or private.

I was fortunate enough to have a first rate education when I was younger, attending St. Paul's School in Barnes and St. John's College at Cambridge University. I know, first hand, what an excellent academic education looks like. And it is for this reason that I can give a firm, personal commitment to parents and students that the KAA experience will rival anything you could receive elsewhere:

- Expert teaching from highly trained and experienced subject specialists, all of whom have extensive knowledge of delivering A-Levels.
- Facilities which would be the envy of any school – the inspirational academy and leisure centre campus we have built here in Notting Hill speaks for itself.
- Through our partnership with Godolphin & Latymer and Charterhouse, there is access to expertise and opportunities that are totally unique in a state school. Over your two years here you will form friendships with their students and learn from their teachers. I don't doubt they will learn as much from you as you do from them.
- Through our Kensington Creates Business Centre, located in the heart of the academy, the chance to engage in real training in business and entrepreneurship in parallel with your academic studies. This is not just a work placement, it is the chance to work alongside our entrepreneurs throughout the two years you are here. The practical skills you develop will stand you in good stead whatever career you enter into.
- Through our partnership with the National Citizen Service, the chance to participate in personal development programmes with your peers from Godolphin and Charterhouse which will inspire you and do so much to enhance your CVs and UCAS applications.
- And through our focus on Performing & Creative arts, you will benefit from a culture that celebrates music, drama, art, dance and design, whether you study these subjects or simply enjoy them through the school. Our professional facilities and our unique partnerships with LAMDA and the Royal Academy of Dance underline our commitment to this.

The pages that follow offer more detail on sixth form life at KAA, including information about our entry criteria and how to apply. I would also encourage you to attend one of our open evenings to meet our teachers in person.

I wish you all the very best of luck for the important year ahead, and look forward to meeting you in person in soon.

David Benson  
Principal



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Dear Parents / Carers,

I'm delighted to welcome you to this year's sixth form prospectus. The governors and I are very pleased with the success of the sixth form to date, and proud that it is already proving so popular with students.

David Benson and the team at KAA have achieved huge success in founding and developing our school over the last three years. This can be seen from our growing reputation for excellence in this community and, indeed, nationally. The successful establishment of the sixth form has been just the latest chapter.



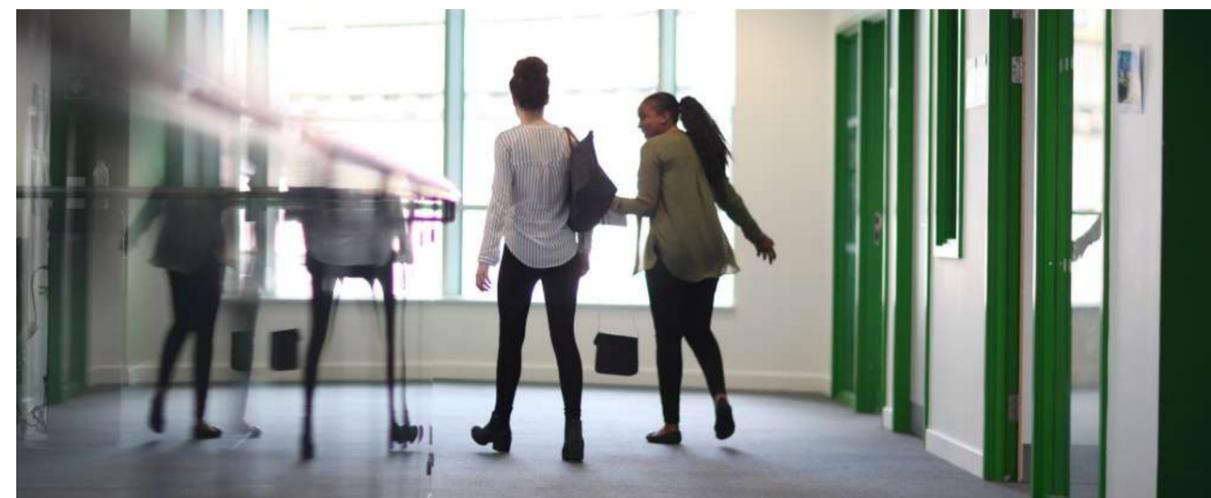
Anyone who enters the KAA school buildings will be struck by the calm yet busy atmosphere of Kensington Aldridge Academy. Orderly purpose is everywhere. This is the atmosphere that the governors want for all of your children, as well as for those who are thinking of enrolling soon. We currently have 960 students with us in Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13. We may be new, but we are growing fast, and in September 2018 we will be a full school with 1250 individuals.

Such growth can only come from very sound foundations, and the evidence of our first three years is that these are manifest. We owe a great deal to our sponsors, the Aldridge Foundation and the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea. We are blessed too in the strength and commitment of our partner organisations – Charterhouse and Godolphin & Latymer Schools, and the Royal Academy of Dance and LAMDA. Perhaps most importantly we have worked hard to recruit an outstanding staff team. This is underpinned by a strong and well-qualified board of governors, single-minded in ensuring that we fulfil our commitments and responsibilities to you and your children. Our job is multi-faceted, but includes supporting the staff as well as holding them to account for the realisation of the high ambitions the academy has. The success of the sixth form is a top priority for the Governing Body.

In conducting our duties as governors we aim to ensure parents can be confident that the school is delivering on its promise. And this is about more than just meetings and governance structures, important though these are. There are one or more governors in the school most weeks of each term. Whether at more formal gatherings or by just bumping into one another we look forward to getting to know you and hearing your views and opinions.

With best wishes,

**Mick May OBE**  
Chair of Governors



## KAA BOARD

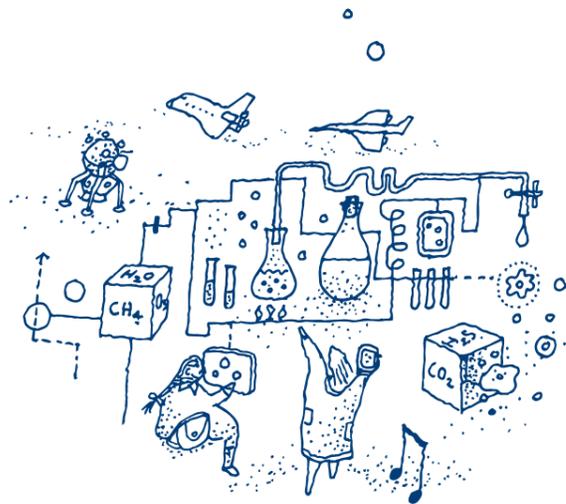
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS	
Mick May OBE (Chair)	Founder and CEO of Blue Sky
EDUCATION COMMITTEE	
Dunstan Hadley (Chair)	Head of Press, Russell Group Universities
Catherine Shaw	Former Headteacher
Cllr Emma Will	Cabinet Member for Education, RBKC
Stephanie Tyrer	Solicitor, Parent Governor
John Brown	Founder of John Brown Publishing and Founder of Notting Hill Preparatory School
Laura Davies	Staff Governor
BUSINESS COMMITTEE	
Bruno Paulson (Chair)	Managing Director, Morgan Stanley
Sir Rod Aldridge OBE	Chairman, Aldridge Foundation
Sir Merrick Cockell	Former Leader of RBKC Council
Adam Balon	Founder of Innocent Drinks and JamJar Investments
Lucy Morris	Trustee of CHK Charities

## Intrepidus (adj.)

*Definitions:* Undaunted, fearless, bold

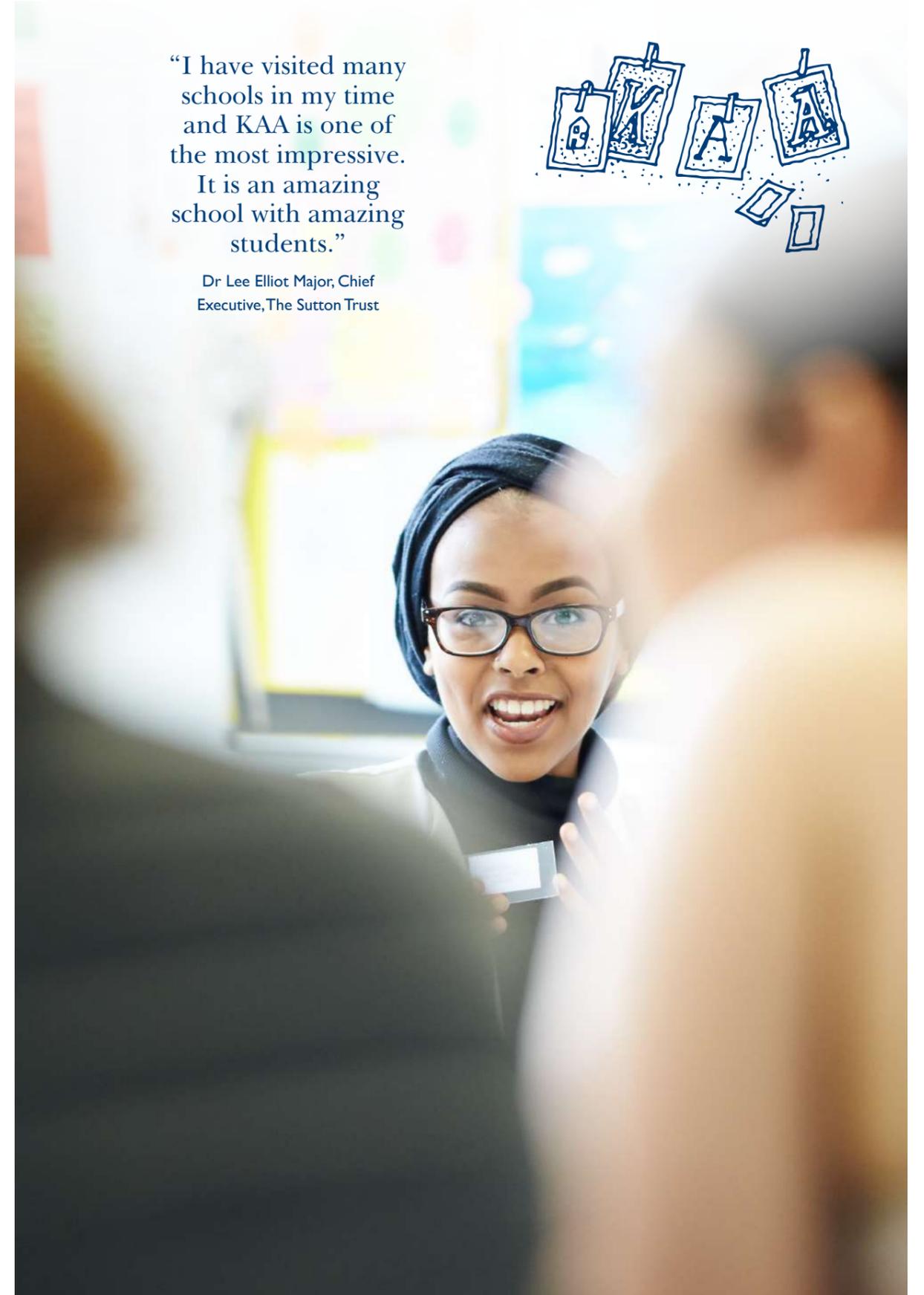
“Some see things as they are and ask, why?  
Others dream things that never were,  
and ask, why not?”

*George Bernard Shaw*



“I have visited many schools in my time and KAA is one of the most impressive. It is an amazing school with amazing students.”

Dr Lee Elliot Major, Chief Executive, The Sutton Trust



## INTREPIDUS & OUR ENTREPRENEURIAL ETHOS

Intrepidus – our motto – is the unifying idea which binds all the aspects of our school community. Intrepidus is at our core: it is a simple, powerful ethos of aspiration and achievement. It has great meaning to all students, staff and parents alike.

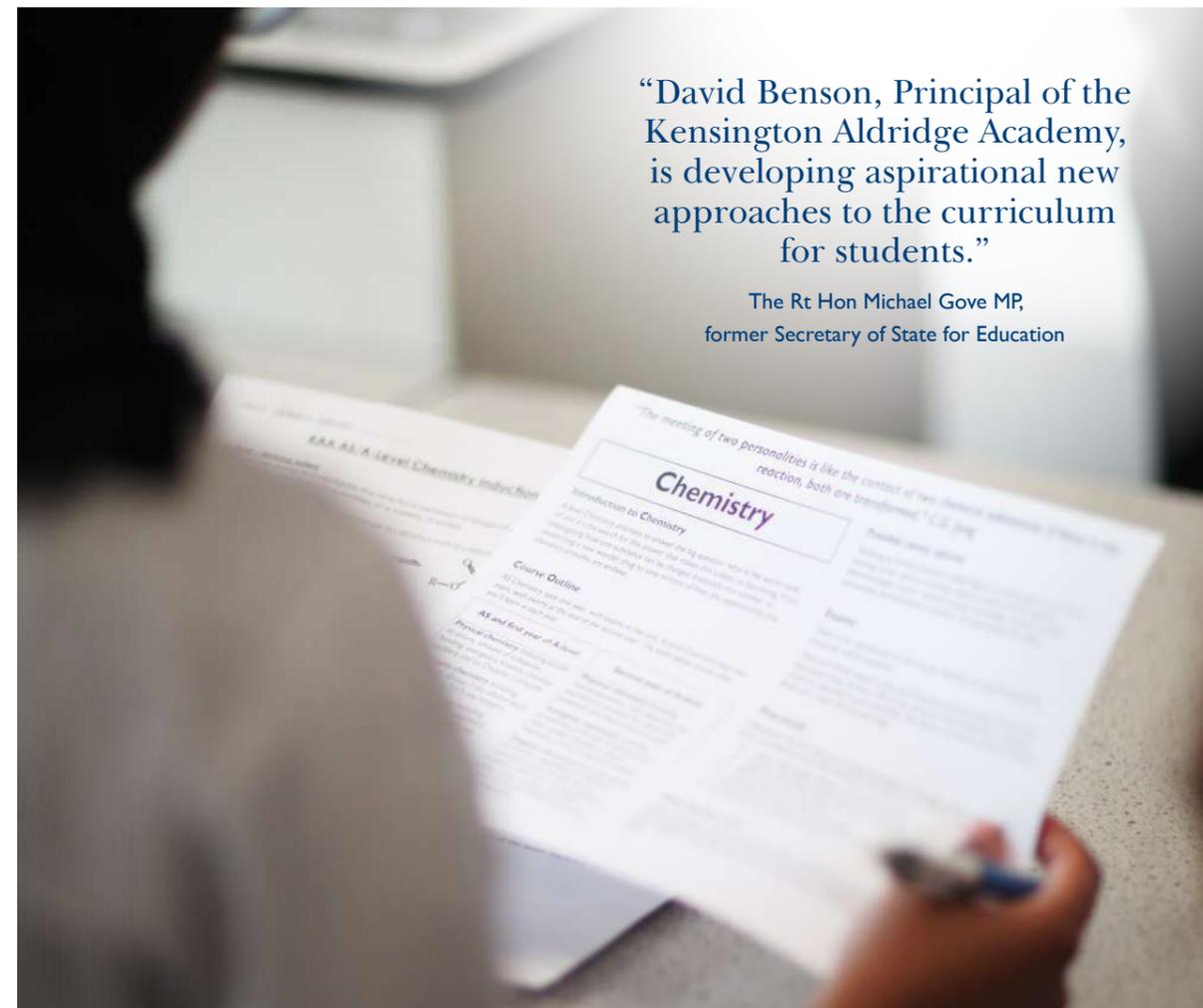
Intrepidus is about understanding that it's always better to try and fail than to never try at all; that mistakes are an inevitable part of learning; and that it's very unlikely you will ever be inherently or irreversibly 'bad at' something, but that through hard work and persistence we can all master new skills in new subjects.

Intrepidus is at the heart of our vision of becoming an **entrepreneurial** academy. The simplest way to explain our approach to entrepreneurship is to break it out into two sections:

### AN ENTREPRENEURIAL MIND-SET

We have a strong academic focus here at KAA. Ours is a traditional curriculum built around the different disciplines – Mathematics, English, History, Languages and so on – all taught by subject specialists. But, in lessons, KAA students are not passengers who see their role as merely to memorise the information their teachers give them and then recite it later. Instead, students are constantly challenged to extend their thinking, and encouraged to develop their own passion for learning and enquiry. They are creative, resilient learners, who see problems as puzzles to be solved and mistakes as opportunities to improve. This is never more true than in our Sixth Form.

This is what we mean when we say we are an entrepreneurial school. Not every child will be encouraged to go into business, but every child will develop a confident, 'can-do' mind-set, which will prepare them for success at university and in the world of work.



“David Benson, Principal of the Kensington Aldridge Academy, is developing aspirational new approaches to the curriculum for students.”

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP,  
former Secretary of State for Education



“I was inspired by my visit to KAA. There is a culture and ethos of high expectation and a belief from students that they can and will achieve.”

Sir David Carter, National School Commissioner

### ACADEMIC RESULTS

We are very pleased with the results we have seen from our “founder cohort” of Year 12s in the exams in June 2017. Results indicate we are in top 10% UK Schools for value added, with students getting on average one whole grade higher than national expectations. 61% of all entries have been graded A-C and 42% of those are As or Bs.

We had exceptional performance in English, Maths, History, French, Drama, Psychology and Religious Studies in particular, with over 80% of students taking those subjects getting A to C grades. Several of these departments were ranked in the top 3% of departments nationally, based on this summer's AS grades.

## Core Values of KAA

**Excellence:** Not just in academics, but in everything we do.

**Resilience:** We love a challenge, and understand that mistakes are just opportunities to improve.

**Creativity:** In lessons, new learning is always presented as a problem to be solved, and creativity and original thinking are rewarded.

**Citizenship:** Together we are greater than the sum of our parts.

*Above all, this very simple phrase captures our school spirit:*

**Work hard, be nice.**





## THE KAA SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

Opposite is a full list of A-Level courses available to study at KAA<sup>1</sup>. Students typically study four AS Levels in Year 12, dropping to three A2 Levels in Year 13. Our current policy of continuing AS examinations is in line with what we consider to be the best interests of our students, however we will keep this under review in the coming years.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

8 GCSE grades at grade 5 or above (including both English and Maths), with a 6 or above in the subject to be studied (or closest equivalent). In unreformed subjects, where the old A\*-E grading system is still in place, a C grade counts in the 8 overall grades required, with a B to study the subject.

### SUBJECT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- English & humanities subjects: Grade 6 or above in English (Lit and / or Lang)
- Humanities subjects: grade 6 or above in English language.
- Maths: grade 7 or above in Maths.
- Further Maths: grade 8 or above in Maths.
- Science: triple award: grade 7 or above in the science to be studied; dual award (Combined Science) grade 7-7 or above.
- Psychology: grade 6 or above in a science, plus grade 6 or above in English language.

### PROGRESSION TO YEAR 13

The aim is always to find the subject mix which allows every student the best chance of success. Progression to Year 13 is therefore not automatic, and depends on hitting target grades (which are based on attainment at GCSE). If students miss their targets, a discussion will be had about the best future direction;

re-doing Year 12 with different subjects (depending on space and the above subject requirements), finding alternative qualifications (BTECs or apprenticeships) or in certain circumstances, moving through to Year 13 in a reduced number of subjects. The academy will not enter students for exams, where there is clear evidence that they will not pass; failing grades on the permanent academic record are in nobody's interest.

### PERFORMING ARTS COURSES

We acknowledge that excellence in the performing and creative arts is not solely measured by academic results, and that practical experience of performing is also relevant. Accordingly, candidates for Dance, Drama, Music, Art or Product Design, who feel they may not fully meet the academic requirements, but have extensive practical experience may still apply.

### STUDYING AN A-LEVEL AT GODOLPHIN

Whilst all KAA sixth formers benefit greatly from our partnership with Godolphin & Latymer, only a very small number will be able to actually study an A-Level there. The option is only open to female students and only in courses where Godolphin have availability once their own students have made their choices (This is not something they can fully confirm until the summer term). If there is space, applicants would need to meet the entry criteria for Godolphin (seven grades at GCSE at A\* - B, with an A or above in the subject you wish to study) and pass a Godolphin interview. For these reasons we strongly recommend that you choose KAA because you want to study here, benefiting from the partnership in its wider form, and not solely because of the chance to take a subject at Godolphin. Applicants may only apply for one subject at Godolphin, and should have a back-up KAA option in case they are unsuccessful.

## SUBJECTS AVAILABLE AT AS & A2-LEVEL

Students must choose one subject in each option block; the current blocks are shown below, and may be different on the application form. On the application form, students will be given the chance to express additional preferences; if there is sufficient demand, the option blocks can be changed when the timetable is constructed.

BLOCK A	BLOCK B	BLOCK C	BLOCK D
Maths	Maths	Maths	French
English Literature	History	English Literature	German
Chemistry	Chemistry	Chemistry	Fine Art
Drama	Computer Science	Computer Science	Physics
Physics	Biology	Psychology	Psychology
Product Design	Religious Education	Biology	Biology
Geography	Government and Politics	Religious Education	Geography
Spanish	German	Music	Dance
History		Physical Education	French
Psychology			Further Maths

TAUGHT @ GODOLPHIN & LATYMER (FEMALE STUDENTS ONLY)	
Economics	Italian
Russian	Classical Civilisation
History of Art	Mandarin
Ancient History	Latin

All courses (both at KAA and at Godolphin) are dependent on sufficient numbers of students; where there is insufficient demand, a course may be withdrawn.

### CHOOSING YOUR COURSES & APPLYING

Choosing the right courses is a complicated issue and we would encourage you to think very carefully about your choices, complete all the necessary research, and consult with parents and teachers well in advance. Some key points on this:

- We have two open evenings where students and parents can meet Heads of Department here at KAA and talk through in detail the requirements of each course. They start at 6.30 p.m. and take place on Thursday 5th October and Thursday 9th November. This year these will take place in Notting Hill Prep School on Lancaster Road. Please visit our website for more information.

- Details of how to apply can be found at [kaa.org.uk/sixthform](http://kaa.org.uk/sixthform). Electronic applications are preferred though hard copies of the application form can be taken from reception. The deadline for applications is Friday 1st December.
- Candidates whose applications indicate they will meet the minimum entry criteria will be called for interview between December and February.

<sup>1</sup>Please note that in extreme circumstances, a course may have to be withdrawn due to lack of student demand. This is, however, highly unlikely.



**FACILITIES & BENEFITS**

The £66 million KAA Campus, which includes the academy and the new Kensington Leisure Centre, needs no fine words to describe it. Our beautiful new building speaks for itself – it is a world class learning environment and we are extremely privileged to have it. We are also very grateful to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea who gifted £16 million pounds to the project to help realise this exciting new school.

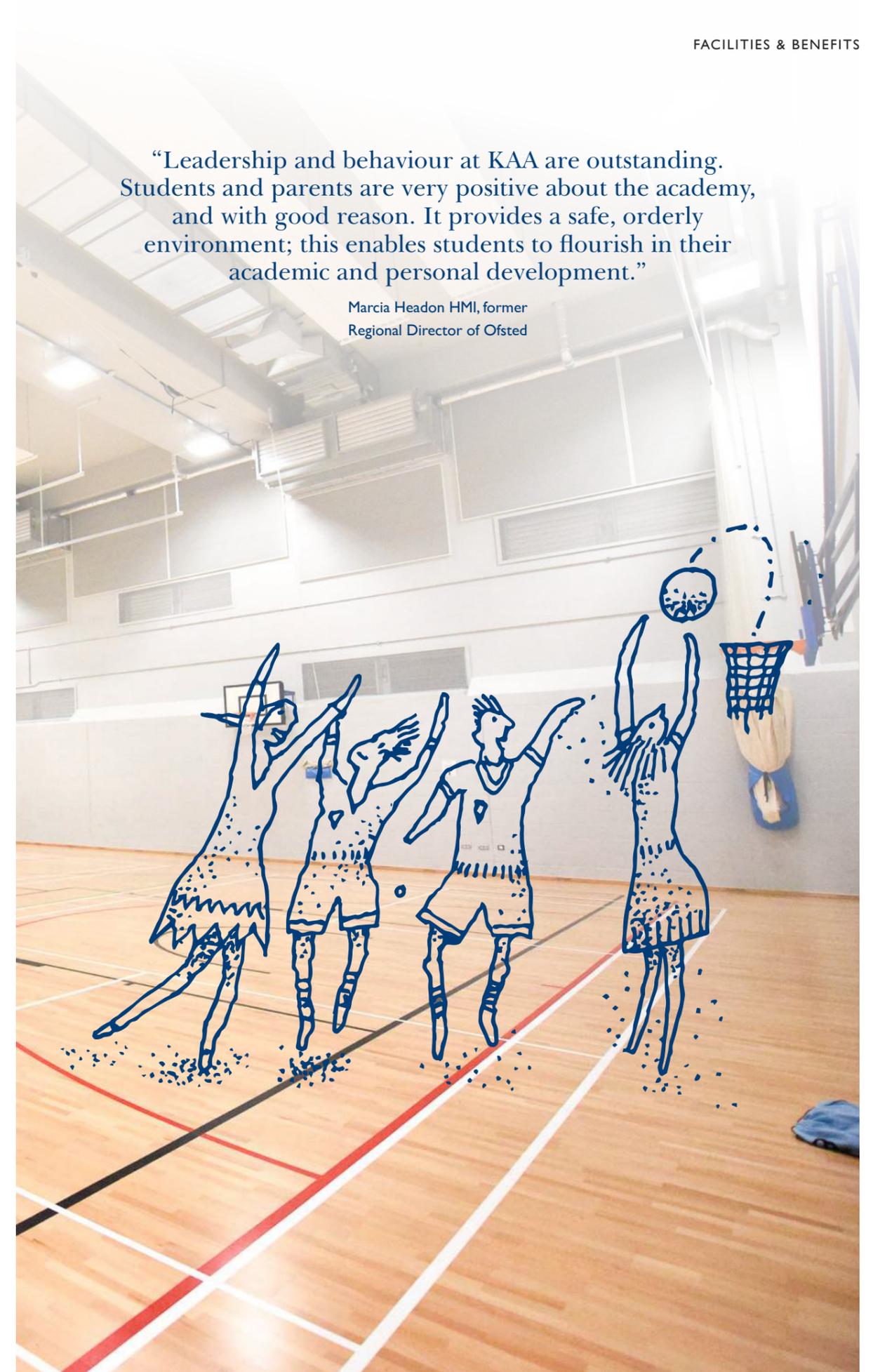
Distinctive features of our building include:

- A high-spec, dedicated Sixth Form Common Room for students to relax in and engage in independent study
- A professional theatre, built to a West End standard
- Our own sports hall and dance studio
- A safe, enclosed rooftop football / sports pitch
- Specialist performing and creative arts classrooms for drama, art and performing arts
- Multiple music classrooms and practice rooms and a professional recording studio
- State of the art design technology rooms, including Graphics, Resistant Materials, Food Technology and Textiles
- Flexible IT spaces for independent work
- A dedicated sixth form library
- The Kensington Creates Entrepreneurial Centre

We are fortunate to have these facilities and will put them to the service of our students. However, we also know the building alone is not the answer; it is the school's values, our strong ethos, and our focus on curriculum, assessment and teaching and learning that will be the keys to our success.

There are additional student benefits for those that come to study at KAA:

- Bursaries of up to £3000 to help with the cost of university life, or to support any student entrepreneurs in developing their business. These will be awarded to students who make an exceptional contribution to the academy during their time with us.
- A chance to spend two years studying in one of the greatest parts of London! KAA is just minutes from Portobello Road, Notting Hill Gate and Holland Park – three areas which are world famous for their shopping, parks, restaurants and culture. North Kensington is a vibrant, buzzing, creative community and here at KAA we are proud to be right at its heart.



“Leadership and behaviour at KAA are outstanding. Students and parents are very positive about the academy, and with good reason. It provides a safe, orderly environment; this enables students to flourish in their academic and personal development.”

Marcia Headon HMI, former Regional Director of Ofsted



## UNIVERSITIES & CAREERS

From the very start of their time at KAA new sixth formers will be encouraged to look to their future. The sixth form at KAA is very much a bridge into university and the world of work and this starts from the first day you will spend in the academy.

### UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

Our Higher Education team at KAA will work closely with their colleagues in the HE teams at Charterhouse and Godolphin to ensure early planning for university entrance. The deadline for UCAS applications to, for example, Oxford and Cambridge, is early in the autumn term of Year 13. Therefore, preparation must start early in Year 12. Also, the choice of universities is

wider than it has ever been (including overseas universities), so guidance through the complexities of the various admissions processes must be provided by experienced and supportive staff.

We will use the extensive expertise of our independent school partners to help KAA sixth formers navigate their way through this process. Support from Godolphin and Charterhouse will include: joint seminars on university choices, subject seminars to deepen and extend learning, and mock interviews for Oxbridge candidates. It is unlikely that any other state sixth form could offer this level of detailed and expert university guidance, all free at the point of delivery.

## CAREERS GUIDANCE

Training for the world of work starts with sixth formers spending time each term working with businesses in Kensington Creates. Kensington Creates provides hands on training for the world of work. Here, sixth formers will have early exposure to life skills which are essential for their future. But this is just a start – the placements are part of an extensive support and advice programme our careers team will provide you with during Years 12 and 13. This will include opportunities to explore a full range of career options through meetings, lectures, seminars and more extended work placements. Again, we will work closely with the Careers Departments at Godolphin and Charterhouse to deliver this important aspect of the KAA sixth form education.



A recurring complaint from UK employers is that school and university graduates are not “work ready” when they start their careers. An important 2015 YouGov survey reported:

- Over 50% of employers say almost all graduate recruits start work without vital attributes such as team work, communication, and the ability to cope under pressure.
- Just 17% of employers focus mainly on academic qualifications when hiring new recruits.
- The skills top employers want are: commercial awareness; business acumen; an entrepreneurial approach; excellent communication skills (spoken as well as written); teamwork; negotiation and persuasion.

We believe that our rounded sixth form offer, with its distinctive entrepreneurial element, will mean that all employers will never make these complaints about KAA alumni. Our aim is that students leave us with a great enthusiasm for further academic study and with the confidence and skills they need to succeed in the real world. This is, after all, what Intrepidus is about.



## PERFORMING & CREATIVE ARTS

As a Performing and Creative Arts specialist academy we are committed to excellence in art, music, drama, dance and design technology. This means excellent facilities and – most importantly – excellent teaching in these subjects. We believe performing and creative arts provide essential cultural knowledge to our students and develop a wide range of talents, helping them become confident, expressive communicators. Universities increasingly require applicants to demonstrate these skills and provide examples of success that are not purely ‘academic’.

We harness the expertise of our partners LAMDA and the Royal Academy of Dance to give students opportunities that you would rarely find at state school. Through LAMDA, KAA students receive tuition in public speaking and drama. Our dance provision is growing quickly, with the number of genres we teach being added to each year. Royal Academy of Dance teachers work with us to deliver enrichment classes to our students each week. It will be a proud day when the first KAA students progress on from our Sixth Form to study full time at RAD and LAMDA.



## ACADEMIC SOCIETIES

Every week, every student will attend an academic society of their choice. These take place on Monday afternoons, and are an opportunity to go beyond the syllabus and to step away from exam requirements.

These sessions will be a mixture of teacher-led extension, which will stretch participants to degree level thinking, student-led presentations or seminars, and external speakers. These societies provide the structure in which wider reading, intellectual endeavour and independent research become a reality.

## ‘THE EXTRA’

KAA is more than just academic lessons and outstanding results. We have a wide range of opportunities to supplement our academic studies.

**Enrichment:** our broad enrichment programme is open to Sixth Formers. This includes drama, music and sport, as well as other clubs and activities. In an average week, there are around 60 enrichment activities on offer. We have competitive sports teams in the major boys’ and girls’ sports.

**Leadership:** the prefect system, the house system and the school council all provide opportunities for leadership. We also expect our Sixth Formers to take leading roles in the enrichment programme and in service in the community.

**Mentoring:** we have a wide ranging programme with a number of partners that provides individual mentoring to our Sixth Formers. This includes special links with the National Citizen Service, whose head office was in our building until June 2017.

**Duke of Edinburgh:** we have a DofE programme, which complements the opportunities provided by NCS and our enrichment programme.

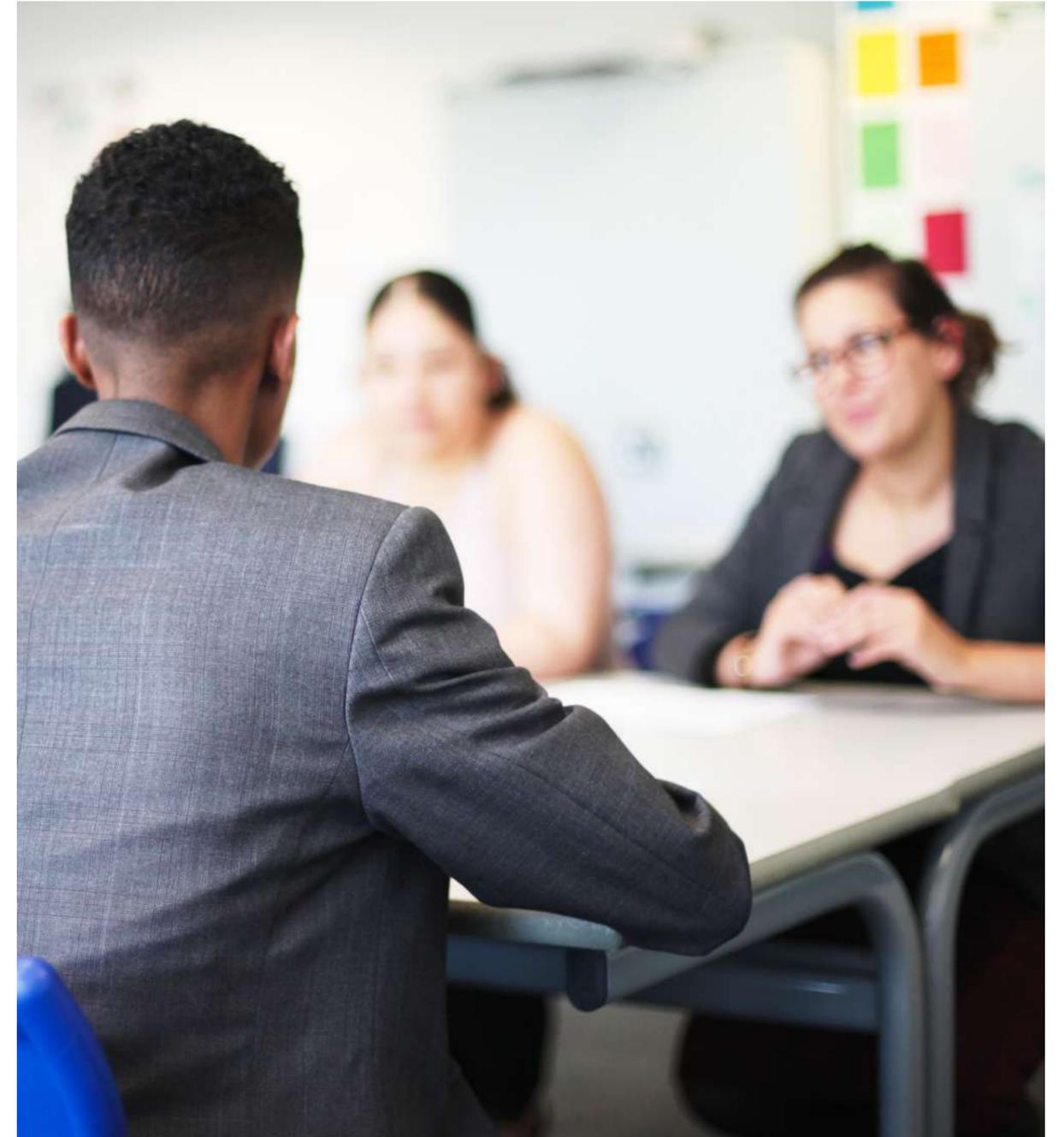
**Bursaries and summer schools:** we have a range of holiday opportunities, including good links with university or Sutton Trust summer and Easter schools, and a travel bursary, which allows two students per year to go on a wilderness adventure in Canada.



## THE HOUSE SYSTEM

KAA has a strong and well established house system, and all new sixth formers will join one of our four houses. The house system creates 'schools within schools' – smaller communities of students and staff that develop a sense of belonging, identity and healthy competition. The house system provides a focal point for academy events and rewards, and mixes all ages to allow older students to mentor their younger peers. We have six 'major'

house competitions each year (one per half term) and they are hotly contested! The house points are added up each half term and shared with students in the final assembly. Our major competitions are: House Art & Design; House Charities; House Music; House Drama; House Debating and of course House Sports Day. If a new Year 12 has a younger brother or sister at KAA they will join the same house.



## UNIFORM

We are entrepreneurial academy with great ambitions for our students and this is reflected in our sixth form dress code. Professional, business dress is required – with suits of matching cloth, colour and pattern preferred. Trainers, T-Shirts, jeans etc are not allowed during school hours.



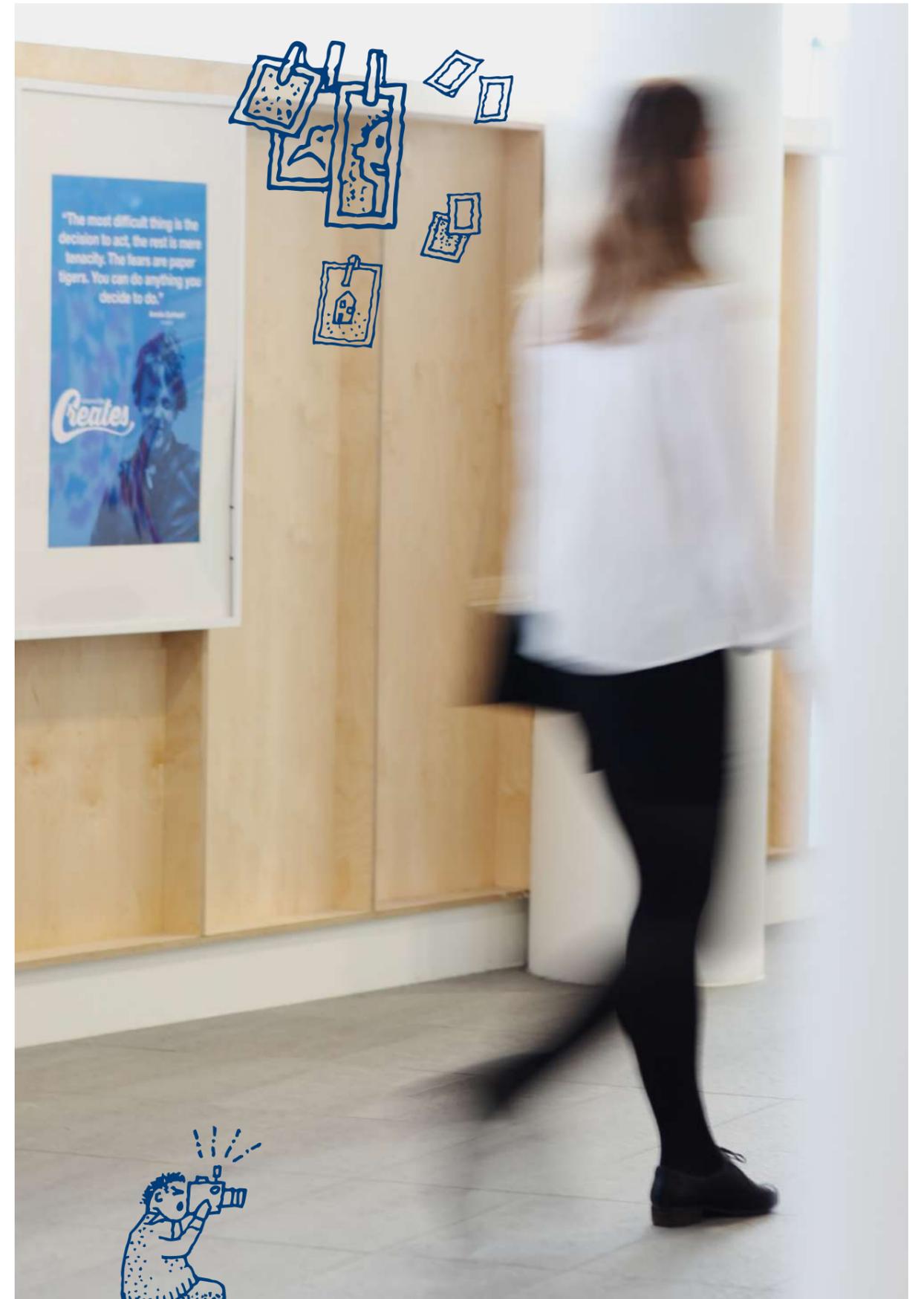
### DISCIPLINE

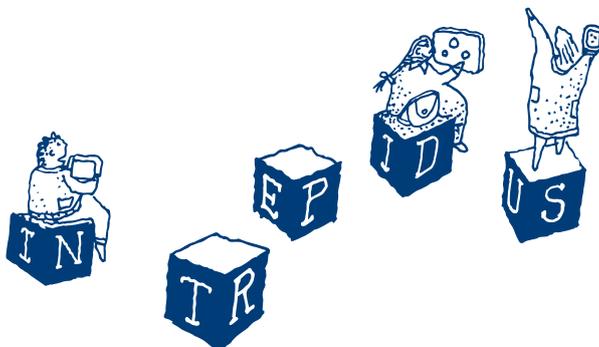
KAA has the very highest expectations of student behaviour and these extend to our sixth formers. We recognise that with increased maturity comes increased independence – for example KAA sixth formers are free to eat offsite at lunchtime. But we also run a very tight ship! KAA is a calm, orderly environment where students are required to be polite and

courteous at all times. Our culture is one of no excuses and high expectations. These expectations are set out clearly in our Sixth Form Code of Conduct and all students and parents will be asked to sign a home / school agreement before they join the academy.



### EDUCATION PARTNERS





Principal – Mr David Benson

Kensington Aldridge Academy, 1 Silchester Road, London W10 6EX

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Temporary address, Scrubs Lane, London, W12 0HU

**RBKC Admissions**

[www.rbkc.gov.uk/children-and-education/schools/join-school/admissions/secondary-transfer](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/children-and-education/schools/join-school/admissions/secondary-transfer)

T: 020 7745 6432 / 6433 / 6434

[school.admissions@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@rbkc.gov.uk)