



**KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL**  
SOUTHAMPTON



# Recruitment Information

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Head of Biology  
Full time  
September 2021





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# About KES

King Edward's is steeped in tradition with a rich cultural heritage. Educating children since 1553, we are Southampton's oldest school with roots deep in the city's history through our founder, William Capon.

## History

Today, KES is one of the south coast's leading co-educational day schools academically, with an annual school roll of around 980 students and selective admission. The School has occupied the [Hill Lane site](#) since 1938, and is ever expanding with extensive site refurbishments and the acquisition of Stroud School in Romsey as our preparatory school in 2012.

King Edward's is renowned for our outstanding record of academic achievement: over 90% are awarded A\*-B or 9-6 at GCSE, and over 80% A\*-B at A Level. Almost all students go on to higher education institutions, with over 80% attending Russell Group universities with an average of 10% taking up places at Oxford and Cambridge.





## Partnerships

All pupils at KES are encouraged to be outward-looking and to contribute to the community, whether local or global. Pupils regularly support the work of charities with events throughout the year, and volunteer from Portsmouth to the New Forest, to South Africa.

In addition, the school works with local primary schools through:

- Reading scheme
- Science Club
- Art Club
- Philosophy Shop
- Musical workshops
- Digital Leaders sessions
- Invitation to our Science and Arts Festivals, as well as matinee theatre productions

## Facilities

The School has invested over £20 million in its infrastructure over the past decade with the complete refurbishment of all of its teaching accommodation. Some notable additions include:

### Library

In 2019, our two-floor library underwent significant refurbishment and extension. Well-stocked and beloved by all members of the school community, it is a popular study space for pupils of all ages, and the location for many timetabled reading lessons for the younger students.



### Dobson Theatre

The state-of-the art Dobson Theatre, refurbished in 2017, sits at the heart of a dynamic creative arts programme. The impressive space not only acts as a hub for dramatic and musical activity, but is a popular forum for outside lecturers and student public speaking.



## Wellington Sports Ground

The six tennis courts, four netball courts, astro pitch and pavilion that make up our thirty-three acres at [Wellington Sports Ground](#) (purchased in 2004) are located on Stoneham Lane, ten minutes from Hill Lane, where there are additional sports facilities including an indoor sports hall



## Lovaton Rural Study Centre

With easy access to Dartmoor and accommodation for 24 students, the [Lovaton Rural Study Centre](#), purchased in 2004, is often used as a base for the Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions and for fieldwork weekends.

# Working at KES

Our aim is to encourage students to develop a life-long love of learning through a disciplined, yet enjoyable, approach to study.

We combine the pursuit of academic excellence with a range of opportunities and challenges to develop self-confident and independent young people who have a strong sense of community and will become responsible and reflective future leaders.

## Academic

Our teachers are highly qualified, talented and dedicated. Small teaching groups are supported by the very latest technology and modern facilities. Our extensive use of 1:1 digital learning allows for a demanding and stimulating environment where everyone can thrive, and is encouraged in lessons with our younger students. A full list of the subjects KES offers at GCSE and A Level can be found on the '[Curriculum](#)' section of our website.







## Co-Curricular

King Edward's offers a wide range of co-curricular activities to complement the academic curriculum and provide pupils with opportunities beyond the classroom. All members of the teaching staff are expected to play a full part in this aspect of the School's life, with numerous field trips, curriculum visits, and in-house activities.

Sport is a vital part of provision, supported by regular sports tours to far-flung corners of the globe. If you have any sporting experience, it is highly likely that you will be timetabled to teach a games session, regardless of your department.

An adventurous spirit is a key characteristic of so many of the students at King Edward's. We want them to expand their horizons, particularly through the extraordinarily wide range of national and international expeditions that we offer to students each year.

We offer over fifty co-curricular clubs and societies, from astronomy and philosophy to cookery and archaeology. The School also runs a well-established and popular Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, supported by many members of staff.



# The Biology Department

Biology is one of the most popular and successful subjects at King Edward's. All students follow Edexcel separate science IGCSEs from the beginning of 3rd Year (Year 9) and we usually have over 50 students each year begin A level (Edexcel Syllabus A). We are housed in a suite of 6 laboratories and a large prep room. Students enjoy a wider range of practical, ably prepared and supported by our full time technician. We believe that this, together with our academic rigour, lies behind our success.

Recent examination results are very high, in the past 5 years with over 80% achieving a Grade 7 or better at IGCSE and 65% achieving an A or better at A level. In recent years several students have been nominated or received prizes for their performance at a national level. Just a pleasing is the indication of the value added at both IGCSE and A level and that in many years no student achieves below a 4 at IGCSE. Biology results are consistently among the best in the school.

There are a team of 8 staff who teach at A level and a few more who contribute to the teaching of IGCSE. Several department members teach Junior Science, a combined programme followed by our First and Second years (Year 7 and 8).

Annually we take our A level students away on an ecology field trip as part of their course. Younger students complete investigations on the school grounds. Students take part in a range of co-curricular activities from Junior Science Club for the younger students, through to Biology dissection club and helping run Science activities for our partnership Junior Schools. We also take part in the national competitions 'Biology Challenge' and the 'Biology Olympiad'.

Many students apply for medicine and Oxbridge entrance and are supported by the weekly Medical Society and support with applications and interviews. Others apply to Biology related fields at a range of Russell Group Universities or just enjoy learning Biology before heading off to an unrelated field. Our hope is that the intellectual curiosity and skills they have developed with us will stand them in good stead whatever their future.



# Remuneration and Benefits

The KES salary scale is competitive with new members of staff starting on the point on the salary scale which is appropriate to their experience. This post comes with an additional Head of Department allowance.

## Benefits include:

- Member of the Teachers' Pension Scheme
- Use of onsite gym at any time
- School fee remission for KES and Stroud Schools
- School iPad and laptop
- Free school lunches and refreshments
- Private medical insurance
- Enhanced sick and maternity pay
- Generous CPD budget
- On-site accommodation (single occupancy)





# The Recruitment Process

King Edward's are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Consequently, all applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with the Disclosure & Barring Service and past employers.



## Application Process

The [application form](#) can be downloaded from our website. Candidates should complete all sections of the application form and submit together with completed equal opportunities monitoring form to [hr@kes.hants.sch.uk](mailto:hr@kes.hants.sch.uk) by 9am on the day of the deadline.

Please note that references may be taken up before the interview. If you would not like us to contact your referee prior to interview, please indicate this on your application form.

## Selection Process

The selection process will typically involve spending a day at the school. The day will consist of:

- A tour of the school site at Hill Lane
- Lesson observation
- Lunch with the department
- An interview with the Deputy Head (Academic) and appropriate Head of Department
- An interview with the Head and Senior Deputy Head

Please note during Covid-19 we have amended our interview process to adhere to the current government guidelines.

