



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL  
BIRMINGHAM



# Head of French

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# The School

**King Edward's School, Birmingham is a remarkable school and a supportive community, where there is a shared belief in the transformative power of an accessible education in a young, ethnically diverse city. It is also one of the most successful and significant boys' schools in this country.**

Founded in 1552 by Edward VI, King Edward's School is the founding father of the King Edward VI Foundation and has always been a central institution in the city of Birmingham which it serves. It is located on a stunning 50-acre site in Edgbaston, which it shares with King Edward VI High School for Girls (KEHS), and educates 860 day boys, aged 11 to 18.

In recent years, the Chief Master and Governors have strengthened their commitment to King Edward's School as a catalyst for social mobility, a place of academic excellence and a community whose strength derives from its social diversity and multi-cultural understanding.

The School's mission is to ensure we provide the best possible education for the brightest boys in Birmingham, whatever their background. There is a strong belief in the power of education to transform lives and a commitment to a truly challenging, intellectual, rich and broad education. The International Baccalaureate Diploma was introduced in September 2010 to enhance the intellectual life of the School and to provide an education appropriate to the challenges of the 21st century.

## Academic Life

King Edward's is an academic school and an intellectual school. It is a school where the results are exceptionally good and where boys are clever and hardworking, full of character and originality, and are well respected by their peers. Being an academic school means that everyone strives for the highest academic standards and performance. King Edward's is recognised as the best academic school in the West Midlands and among the best nationally in public exams and university entry. In 2019, of the 120 boys taking GCSEs, 32 boys achieved at least 10 grades 9/8, a further 22 achieved nine grades 9/8, and half of the cohort achieved grades 9/8/7. Overall, the percentage of 9/8 grades attained was 66% and 84% were 9-7. At IB, the average scores have been above 39 out of 45 for three of the last five years (the world average is about 30 points). The School's commitment to the IB is total: a challenging, rigorous and broad education has always been a hallmark of a KES education, and the IB equips boys superbly for the demands of university and the diversity of the world beyond. King Edward's boys are very active in academic competitions in Mathematics, Science, public speaking and debating, and teams regularly win national competitions.



# The School

## Culture and Sport

Life outside the classroom is vitally important at King Edward's. It complements and supports the academic pursuits of the boys, making them more fulfilled, relaxed and rounded as well as developing essential qualities and experience: resilience, teamwork, commitment and leadership.

There is a very wide range of expeditions and outdoor activities for younger boys and, each year, a large number of boys undertake the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award; the CCF also thrives with RAF, Army and Navy sections. In total, there are over 140 trips and expeditions annually for boys of all ages in term time and the holidays.

Sport is central to life at the School and benefits from excellent facilities, indoors and out. The School has extensive grass facilities and the use of three hockey astro pitches, one of which has a modern pavilion, opened in 2015, and a new athletics track in partnership with the University of Birmingham. A new £5m Sports Centre opened in May 2019. A great variety of sports are offered at King Edward's, including water polo, fencing, table tennis and archery, in addition to rugby, hockey and cricket.

Music is quite exceptional, and supported by a number of music scholarships. Drama is likewise of outstanding quality. There are three major concerts in the year, including one, biennially, in Birmingham's Symphony Hall, and several dramatic productions. There are also numerous opportunities for smaller ensemble playing and student-led drama performances. The stunning Ruddock Performing Arts Centre is the focus for these activities and all activities and facilities are shared with King Edward's High School for Girls next door. Design and Art are central to the boys' experience. The Barber Institute, one of the country's finest small art collections, is across the road.



# The School

## Location, Campus and Buildings

The School moved to its current site from the centre of Birmingham in the 1930s and the main school buildings, including Big School (the main assembly hall), date from that time. However, they have been significantly enhanced in recent years through the immense generosity of several alumni and other supporters of the School. The Sir Paul and Lady Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, opened in April 2012, provides a 400-seater hall for large-scale music performances, a drama studio, a professional-standard dance studio and many practice rooms. The Andrew Brode Wing, opened in September 2013, houses the Modern Languages department, well-equipped Science laboratories and a wonderful Sixth Form centre. There have been significant investments in specialist indoor and outdoor facilities for sport.

There are more than 30 acres of playing fields, natural and artificial, immediately adjacent to the main School buildings, which are surrounded by the University's botanical gardens, a lake and nature reserve. And yet the school is only a ten-minute bus ride from the cultural heart of the UK's second city where you will find Birmingham Symphony Hall and the Hippodrome, the home of Birmingham Royal Ballet.

King Edward's benefits from a number of excellent transport links including multiple bus routes, cross- and inter-city train lines, and a newly-extended cycle highway. Neighbouring suburbs, including Harborne, Bournville and Moseley, are attractive and affordable, though there are many other appealing residential areas in the region, both urban and rural, to suit all tastes, pockets and families. There are also many good primary and prep schools, with which King Edward's has good links.

## The Foundation and its Schools

The Schools of King Edward VI in Birmingham, more usually referred to as the King Edward VI Foundation, is one of the most significant educational charities in the UK. King Edward's School is one of two independent schools in the foundation, the other being King Edward's High School for Girls (KEHS), with which KES shares its campus. The Foundation also sponsors an Academy Trust, comprising six outstanding selective grammar schools and three non-selective secondary academies. Three of these schools have joined the Academy Trust in the last two years and further expansion is envisaged, helping the Foundation to fulfil its long-term aim of improving the life chances and educational experiences of more children in Birmingham.

The Foundation makes an annual grant to King Edward's School of approximately £1.4 million which pays for many of the Assisted Places. Significant capital investments at the School have been funded by generous alumni and benefactors.

The Foundation is located at the top of the driveway to King Edward's School and it is from there that the various administrative and support services are run under the leadership of the Executive Director, who supports both the Foundation and Academy Trust boards and, through them, all ten of the Foundation's schools. The Foundation Office provides a number of services to King Edward's School and is the legal employer of staff.

# The Role: Head of French

## The Modern Foreign Languages Department

The study of foreign languages is central to the life of any IB school. Every boy studies at least one language; many study two to IGCSE and beyond. The department is therefore large and varied. Fifteen teachers, of whom seven are part-time, assisted by five foreign language assistants, teach three European languages. French, Spanish and German are on offer in various combinations to IGCSE in the first five years and at IB. In Years 12 and 13, Standard and Higher Level courses in all three languages provide the opportunity to build on existing knowledge. There is also the option to start a new language from scratch by choosing an *ab initio* course.

We aim to be as flexible as possible and all pupils have a free choice of languages from Year 10 onwards. Exam results at all levels are excellent. We use the IGCSE syllabus offered by Cambridge Assessment International Education (CAIE), finding it to be a thorough preparation for the IB and suitably challenging for King Edward's pupils.

At IB we offer a total of nine options in each of Years 12 and 13. In most years, beginners' or *ab initio* courses are on offer in all three languages together with Standard and Higher Level courses. In a typical year, the majority of our pupils can expect to achieve a 6 or 7 on the IB's seven-point scale and we have a strong track record of providing talented, thoroughly grounded undergraduates to some of the best universities including Oxford and Cambridge. Just as important, every King Edward's student, whatever his chosen degree course, leaves the school able to communicate confidently in at least one foreign language.



# The Role: Head of French

## The Role

King Edward's School is seeking a permanent, full-time, well-qualified candidate to teach French across the full age range from 1 September 2020.

This is a newly-created position which will offer the successful candidate considerable scope to shape the future of French teaching at King Edward's. He or she will be a fluent French speaker with a good degree in the language, ideally supported by the ability to teach a second language up to at least IGCSE. A track record of engaging, innovative and rigorous teaching, first-rate administrative skills and the flexibility to work comfortably in a team are the foremost requirements. We expect to appoint someone with the imagination and flair to embrace and promote new ideas within a lively, collaborative department, leading by example and helping to sustain not only our excellent examination results but the enjoyment of language learning which we endeavour to instill in all our pupils.

## Job Description

The Head of French will take prime responsibility for the teaching of French at King Edward's and will report directly to the Head of Modern Languages.

### A. Teaching, Learning & Assessment

The Head of French will:

- lead the department in all aspects of French teaching, learning and assessment, including teaching materials, online resources, the IGCSE and the IB;
- foster the growth among all pupils, including those at Key Stages 3 and 4, of an approach to learning that draws inspiration from IB principles and insights;
- model best practice and encourage the further development of an 'open door' culture in which teachers regularly observe each other's lessons and share ideas;
- take responsibility for the assessment of pupils in French, including the design, marking and administration of Module Tests and internal examinations, delegating where required and following up results which give cause for concern.

### B. Staffing & Resource Management

The Head of French will:

- coordinate the work of our fourteen French teachers and two French language assistants, encouraging the sharing of ideas and materials and delegating responsibility where feasible;
- ensure that the French language assistants are deployed to the boys' best advantage at each point of the year where their timetables are rewritten;
- review and develop the department's French teaching resources, ensuring, within budgetary constraints, that materials presented to pupils are current, relevant and appealing;
- take the lead in creating fresh French resources at all levels of the school and encourage their dissemination throughout the department;

# The Role: Head of French

- acquire, under the Head of Department's guidance, a confident working knowledge of the software and IT skills crucial to the smooth running of the department;
- review and develop the department's French Schemes of Work, ensuring that they are regularly updated in the light of developments and experience.

## **C. Networking & Research**

The Head of French will:

- keep up to date on all aspects of French teaching relevant to the school through attendance at courses and conferences and networking with other educational institutions;
- become the point of contact between KES and the worldwide network of IB French teachers, contributing to and learning from the experience of other IB schools and practitioners.

## **D. Pastoral & Extra-Curricular**

The Head of French will:

- contribute towards the flourishing of the Modern Languages Society and seek other opportunities to encourage boys to engage with foreign language and culture at other points in the week, including during extra-curricular time;
- foster the expectation that all language teachers will contribute towards the leadership of foreign trips and expand the opportunities available for pupils to visit French-speaking countries;
- take responsibility for or delegate the planning and leadership of our all future trips with a language focus to French-speaking countries.

## **E. Academic & Administrative**

The Head of French will:

- provide or arrange the extension and enrichment support for any boy in the Sixth Form who intends to apply to read French at university, including Oxford and Cambridge;
- attend, contribute towards and, occasionally, chair departmental meetings;
- conduct the professional review of the French teachers.

# The Role: Head of French

## Person Specification - Head of French

The following person specification indicates those areas of skills and personal characteristics, qualifications, training and experience that are either essential or desirable.

Qualifications and Training	Essential	Desirable
Qualified Teacher Status (UK)		✓
Courses of further study relevant to the post		✓
An honours degree in French or an equivalent qualification	✓	

Experience	Essential	Desirable
Experience of teaching in a highly academic context	✓	
Experience of teaching the full 11-18 age range	✓	
Experience of the IB Diploma Programme		✓

The successful candidate will be expected to undertake any other reasonable duty related to the department that the Chief Master may delegate.

# How to apply

## How to apply

To apply for this role, forward a completed application form (available for download at <https://kes.org.uk/about-us/vacancies/>), a CV and a covering letter addressed to the Chief Master by email to: [recruitment@kes.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@kes.org.uk).

The deadline for applications is midday on **Friday 24 January 2020**.

Interviews will take place on or around **Tuesday 28 January to Thursday 30 January 2020**.

If you have any queries about the role or would like to discuss it in more detail, please contact David Ash, Head of Modern Languages ([dja@kes.org.uk](mailto:dja@kes.org.uk)) or Jo Ollier, Acting HR Manager ([recruitment@kes.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@kes.org.uk)).

*King Edward's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All successful candidates will be required to undergo an enhanced DBS check. A copy of the School's Recruitment, Selection and Disclosure Policy is available on the School website.*

