

WELCOME TO KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL, BATH



KING
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SCHOOL
BATH



'The success of the school lies in the strength of the ethos which permeates it from the Early Years Foundation Stage to the sixth form.'

THREE SCHOOLS ONE FAMILY

King Edward's School in Bath is a dynamic, vibrant, ambitious and caring school with a well-deserved reputation as one of the leading co-educational day schools in the country.

While the school is very proud of its academic success, this is only one of many strengths amongst the broad range of opportunities – in sport, music, art, drama and much more – which the school provides for boys and girls aged 3-18 years. In addition, at the heart of the school's success is its welcoming ethos of care, compassion, inclusion and engagement.

King Edward's is unique in being the only independent co-educational day school in Bath. The school remains proud of its grammar school roots and the confident yet unpretentious nature of the education it offers to pupils from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds.

We hope that the following pages will give you an initial flavour of this ethos across the King Edward's family of three schools (Pre-Prep, Junior and Senior). This publication should also be read in conjunction with the Edwardian, and the Yearbook for the Junior and Pre-Prep Schools, which provide a record of highlights from the school year, as well as a reflection on the breadth of opportunity, vibrancy and the individual character of each of the three sections of the school.

You are warmly invited to visit us during one of our Open Day events and to join us for a tour during the normal school day. This will provide an opportunity to discuss your child's needs and aspirations, and to find out how the King Edward's family of schools might be best suited to fulfilling them.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to King Edward's School, Bath.

Left: Martin Boden
Headmaster of King Edward's
School with pupils.

TRADITIONAL CONTEMPORARY

‘All three sections of the school encourage the pupils to strive for excellence and to achieve to the best of their ability in a stimulating environment so that they acquire a love of learning which goes beyond the formal curriculum.’

King Edward’s School was founded in 1552 and takes great pride in its long history as Bath’s oldest school.

We continue to have strong links with the city today, including hosting our annual Founder’s Day service in Bath Abbey, holding music performances in Bath’s historic venues such as the Guildhall and the Assembly Rooms and giving pupils the opportunity to train at Bath Cricket Club in the heart of the city.

Today King Edward’s has become one of the most successful co-educational day schools in the country and is consistently ranked amongst the very best schools of any type in the south west of England.

Comprising of three schools, King Edward’s has a Pre-Prep and Nursery located at Weston Lane, with the Junior and Senior Schools at North Road. In addition, there are extensive playing fields located in the delightful setting of nearby Bathampton.

As a former grammar school, our ethos is reflected in an emphasis on scholarship and ambition within a well-grounded and unpretentious community, where great value is placed on the development of a love for learning, whether in the classroom or through the many wider educational opportunities on offer, and a strong sense of citizenship.

The Senior and Junior Schools have far-reaching views over the World Heritage city of Bath and are adjacent to National Trust land, giving a feeling of space and calm and further enhancing the excellent teaching and learning environment.

In 2015, the modern three-storey Wessex Building at the Senior School was opened, providing a contemporary ground floor library, a large first floor dining room with outdoor terrace, and a multi-purpose second floor for hosting concerts, lectures, social events and enrichment activities, all with wonderful views over Bath and to the countryside beyond. This has been followed by the construction of a new Modern Foreign Languages Centre, an extended Sixth Form Centre and a purpose built drama studio.

At the Junior School, an award-winning building is centred around its lovely library, leading from which there are dedicated teaching rooms for Science, ICT, Art and Music, as well as the specialist Brenda Medlock Technology Centre. The surrounding environment with adventure playground, new all-weather astro, wildflower meadow, dipping ponds and greenhouse is ideal for outdoor learning and play.

Our Pre-Prep enjoys its own site at Weston Lane in a renovated Victorian mansion and has beautiful, secure and tranquil grounds. The school provides younger pupils with an excellent specialist learning environment tailored to their needs. The sensory garden, adventure playground, new all-weather astro, vegetable plots and dipping pond provide invaluable outdoor opportunities to support the educational development of the children.

All three schools are equipped with a modern and secure ICT network, with interactive whiteboards and tablets being used. Each school has its own dedicated ICT suites.

CURIOSITY CREATIVITY

‘Throughout the three schools the pupils successfully achieve the school’s aim that each pupil should fulfil his or her own personal academic, sporting, creative and cultural potential.’

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Intellectual and creative curiosity are woven into the fabric of the school. Pupils are strongly encouraged to develop a love of learning both within and beyond the classroom.

Well-qualified, dynamic and dedicated staff bring the curriculum to life through outstanding teaching and an emphasis on explorative, experiential and independent learning. Educational trips and visiting speakers and performers, as well as links with organisations such as Bath Philharmonia, broaden horizons and offer distinctive opportunities for learning. Bright and motivated pupils thrive on intellectual and creative stimulation and this helps them to develop their self-confidence.

Wide-ranging opportunities exist at all levels for pupils to explore and express their creativity, whether through Music, Drama, Dance or Art. Supporting creative excellence sits comfortably alongside ensuring that all pupils are able to develop lifelong interests. The breadth of creative opportunity at the school reflects and complements the vibrant local and regional cultural scene, with London’s galleries, theatres and concert venues also within relatively easy reach.

Whilst academic success for each pupil rightly remains a very important aim of the school, the outstanding results which are regularly achieved by pupils are not at the expense of cultural, physical or social development, which are of vital importance to a pupil’s rounded development and future life chances.



‘The teaching staff have high levels of subject knowledge and, in many cases, passion for their subjects and teaching.’

ISI REPORT 2015

TEAMWORK INDIVIDUALITY

It is the uniqueness of every pupil which makes teaching such a rewarding vocation. Helping a young person to develop, whether intellectually, physically, culturally or socially, is one of life's great joys and privileges.

Recognising and celebrating individual pupil successes, in whatever field, is an inspiration to other pupils and brings a real richness and diversity to the school community. Many pupils join King Edward's with already well-developed interests and aptitudes, whilst many others only discover them whilst at school.

The honing of individual talents is of great importance, as is the ability to work together in different teams. Learning how to utilise the particular skills of each group member for the benefit of the whole team, as well as developing the associated qualities of empathy, leadership, motivation and tolerance, is also a vital preparation for later life. The school provides numerous opportunities for pupils to develop their individual skills and to work together, within and outside the classroom and in co-educational and single sex groups.

Group work and problem solving play an important role in the children's education at the Pre-Prep. Exciting outdoor challenges are incorporated into the curriculum, including weekly Forest School visits as well as the annual trip to Mill on the Brue

Outdoor Activity Centre for Year 2 pupils. In the Junior and Senior Schools, opportunities to work collaboratively include researching a topic and making a joint presentation, problem solving tasks, designing and conducting experiments, using film technology and taking part in local and national competitions, such as the National Gallery's Take One Picture competition for Junior School children.

Sport also plays a strong role in developing teamwork and is supported by extensive fixture lists at the Junior and Senior Schools. Team successes are achieved across a range of sports and individual excellence is regularly rewarded by county, regional and international representation. Sports Days at all three schools and inter-form competitions allow all pupils to benefit from team sport.

Musical ensembles, choirs and orchestras and drama productions at all levels of the school also provide excellent opportunities for pupils to learn together, and at the Junior and Senior Schools children take part in regional competitions, with individual successes including selection for the National Youth Orchestra.



‘The pupils’ excellent personal development is evident in the eager, enthusiastic children of the Pre-Prep School. A growing awareness of others and a sense of moral responsibility develop in the Junior School and continue into the Senior School. By the time pupils reach the sixth form they have become mature, kind, friendly, loyal and socially responsible young people who are well prepared to take their places as adults ready to contribute to society.’



SAFE CHALLENGING

Pastoral care at King Edward's School was judged as 'excellent' during the last ISI inspection, and the provision of a strong, caring and supportive framework enables pupils to thrive on many different fronts.

Teaching and support staff get to know the pupils extremely well as individuals and work with them in setting and reviewing developmental targets. They provide outstanding guidance, care and support, especially during any difficult periods.

To ensure that children and teenagers have the best possible chance of successfully navigating their way through their important school years, we work hard to encourage the strongest possible partnerships between parents and school.

Support with medical conditions and dietary requirements and carefully developed induction programmes for entry to the school at all levels help to guide and reassure pupils and parents. We have a highly successful integrated Learning Support department across the three sections of the school to offer further support to pupils and to help academically able children with mild specific learning needs to grow in confidence and to achieve their potential.

Pupils are continually challenged and supported within and outside the classroom in developing new skills and belief in their abilities. Carefully structured PSHE programmes help to raise awareness of a variety of age-specific issues as pupils progress

through the caring and nurturing environments of each of the three schools. These may include topics such as road safety, not talking to strangers, safe internet use, cycling proficiency, eating disorders, alcohol and drugs, mental health, safe driving and sex and relationships. The programme recognises the need to encourage the development of personal independence and learning how to make informed choices, both at school and in preparation for life beyond King Edward's and Bath.

Residential and day trips play an important part in providing opportunities for developing independence and self-reliance. Pupils as young as Year 2 embark on an annual residential trip, and the Junior and Senior School actively participate in the popular end of summer term Activities Week programme, which has included Year 6 residential trips to France, cultural visits to Barcelona, Berlin and Paris, and numerous opportunities to develop skills and overcome challenges at outdoor centres across the UK. A huge range of subject-based visits and exchanges, co-curricular trips, conferences, tours, charity and outdoor pursuit challenges ensure that pupils develop confidence and an understanding of their own strengths and weaknesses.



'Pastoral care is a particular strength of the school. It fully meets its aims in offering a strong, caring and supportive pastoral framework, working closely with parents, to ensure that pupils are safe and happy and that all members of the community feel respected and valued.'



‘The pupils’ social development is evident in their strong contribution to the life of the school, taking on positions of responsibility from an early age, as illustrated by the effective school councils.’

ISI REPORT 2015

LEADERSHIP CITIZENSHIP

Pupils increasingly relish the many and varied opportunities to take on responsibility and, in so doing, to develop important leadership skills and become responsible citizens.



Taking on responsibilities starts at an early age, with Playground Buddies at the Pre-Prep School. There are talk-partners and Head Boy and Head Girl roles in the Junior School, and a variety of form reps, prefects, and Head Boy and Head Girl in the Senior School. School Councils are very active in the Junior and Senior Schools, and the Sixth Form Committee provides a further opportunity to contribute positively to school development.

Leadership opportunities are varied and widespread, for example Junior School pupils writing stories to read to boys and girls in the Pre-Prep.

Many pupils benefit from being team captains, leaders of musical ensembles and orchestras, or taking lead roles in drama productions in all three parts of the school.

Outdoor pursuit activities, in particular the Duke of Edinburgh’s award scheme and the annual Ten Tors expedition, along with the Combined Cadet Force, offer further opportunities to lead and motivate other pupils, as well as providing exciting opportunities for pupils to challenge themselves individually and as part of a team.

A group of very dedicated and well-informed pupils make up the Environmental Action Group, helping the school to achieve its Green Flag status and working to enhance the outdoor learning space for all pupils by managing the wildflower meadow, growing vegetables and setting up bird boxes.

Charity representatives are very active and creative in raising funds for local, national and international good causes, averaging in the region of £20,000 each year. Sixth form community service and local projects in Activities Week are popular and underpin the school’s aim to help pupils to develop into responsible citizens.



Continuing its strong local links, King Edward's works with a number of schools in Bath and the surrounding area to provide a variety of opportunities for local children to benefit from our excellent teaching and facilities.

There are regular musical performances in the community, from concerts in the city's historic venues to recitals at local residential homes. The Junior School steel pans band has added a popular extra dimension to these, playing in the city as part of the opening night for the Bath International Music Festival.

The school has a strong choral link with Bath Abbey and works in partnership with Bath Philharmonia, as well as with local theatres, choirs, sports clubs, charities, health services and the community police.

Local visits to the Roman Baths, art galleries, museums, woodlands, farms, fieldtrips and studies of the history of the surrounding area all connect pupils with their immediate environment.

The school also encourages pupils to raise their eyes beyond the hills of Bath with an extensive programme of enrichment lectures, visiting speakers and, at the Pre-Prep, exploring other cultures through national festivals, such as Chinese New Year and Diwali.



'At all ages numerous opportunities are provided at home and abroad to fulfil the school's aim for pupils to acquire a passion for discovery and adventure.'

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International trips feature strongly in the Senior School, from studying Art and Photography in Morocco to taking part in sporting tours to the Caribbean. The school has well-established international links with schools in Kenya and China, which support the school's aim to develop a broader cultural understanding and equip our pupils for the increasingly global society in which they will live and work.

'The school's extra-curricular provision is outstanding. For younger pupils there is a rich programme of appropriate clubs and coaching sessions, designed to extend appreciation of the world around them and to develop their skills as well as giving them much enjoyment.'

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FAMILY FRIENDS



‘The quality of the links between the school and parents is excellent and strongly supports the school’s aim of being one community.’

ISI REPORT 2015

The Pre-Prep and Nursery, Junior and Senior Schools, which make up the King Edward’s family of schools, are very closely linked and share the same core educational values and aspirations.

Each section of the school also has its own individual character and atmosphere, reflecting the ages of the children and benefiting pupils who remain at King Edward’s throughout their school careers.

A well-developed induction programme alongside a carefully managed transition between each of the schools allows both those children joining from other schools and those moving to the next stage within King Edward’s to settle in, get to know each other and quickly become part of the school community.

The Whole School Management Team works closely with the Governing Board to make best use of the school’s resources, in order to ensure that all pupils at King Edward’s School benefit from the best possible educational opportunities available.

The wider school community is extremely supportive, loyal and proud of its links to King Edward’s. The KES Parents group organises social events throughout the year, raising funds for those additional high quality items that enhance the pupils’ learning experience at the school. Our Old Edwardians are also very active, organising events to help those who have studied here stay in touch with the school and with each other.

Friendships which develop over the years at King Edward’s, whether between pupils, parents, staff or other ‘adopted’ members of the wider school community, are often strong and long lasting. It is always a delight to hear news of members of this extended community and they are always made most welcome when they return to visit the school.



‘One of the school’s aims is to be a community for all its pupils; affirmation of this aim is manifest in the high percentage of pupils who remain at the school throughout their education.’

ISI REPORT 2015

TODAY TOMORROW



Independent learning, a positive work ethic and high personal expectations are strongly encouraged, and these attributes enable sixth form pupils to be ambitious in their Higher Education aspirations.

The ten percent of Oxbridge places achieved in an average year is just one part of a much bigger picture in which UCAS and Higher Education advisors at the school, the sixth form pastoral team and heads of department work together to guide and support individual pupils in making important choices for the next stage of their lives.

The vast majority of pupils continue into Higher Education, with a significant proportion studying at their first choice of Russell Group universities, whilst other talented pupils develop their skills at prestigious Art Colleges and Drama schools. GAP years remain popular and the discipline of having to work to finance plans can prove as valuable, if not quite as inspirational, as international travel itself.

Former pupils become lifelong members of the Old Edwardians' Association, which provides many opportunities for them to continue their involvement with the school, from attending social events to sharing their experiences of career choices and working life with current pupils.

In regularly reviewing both the curriculum and wider educational opportunities on offer, the school aims to ensure that pupils are fully prepared to face the challenges that lie ahead in a rapidly changing 21st century world.



'Great attention is paid to preparing children for the next step in their education by giving them a love of learning and confidence to try new experiences.'

**KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL
SENIOR & JUNIOR**

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