INTREPIDUS

Kensington Aldridge Academy

PROSPECTUS 2017

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am delighted to welcome you to Kensington Aldridge Academy (KAA). As you will see, we are a new, growing 11 – 18 academy situated in the heart of North Kensington. We opened in brand new buildings in 2014 and our facilities are second to none. We currently have 960 students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13. In September 2018 we will be a full school with all 7 year groups. Current Year 11 students considering joining us for Sixth Form should take a copy of our Sixth Form prospectus.

KAA is a school which has the very highest standards – both in terms of academic teaching and life beyond the classroom. In 2014 the Department of Education reported we are 'one of the best new academies they had ever seen' in terms of our planning and curriculum development. Miriam Rosen, former Chief Inspector of Ofsted, said, "KAA has got off to a remarkable start and is already securing highly positive outcomes for students." We look forward to our first full Ofsted inspection in due course and aim to achieve 'outstanding' in all areas.

All staff at KAA work tirelessly to ensure students are happy at school and committed to being the best they can be. We demand a lot, setting high standards for students and staff, with a 'no excuses' approach to attitude, work and discipline. But we also provide careful support. A distinctive feature of KAA is that teachers strive to know every student as an individual and closely nurture and challenge them all. Having opened another London academy from scratch and helped lead it to 'outstanding' in my previous role, I know the many opportunities that a start-up school affords, and how to make the most of them.

I know that choosing the right secondary school is one of the most important decisions a parent can make, and that choosing a school which is relatively new like ours may feel like a challenge. But I also know, having spent much time talking with parents and students, the huge excitement and enthusiasm there is for KAA within a great community. I hope that this prospectus and our website will give you a taste of what our exciting new academy has to offer and help you to make an informed decision.

David Benson
Principal

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Dear Parents / Carers,

Anyone who enters our 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. Already the school has 960 students 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 of 1,250 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, Aldridge Education and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. We are blessed too in the strength and commitment of our partner organisations – Charterhouse and Godolphin & Latymer schools, 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. We hold four meetings each year and are assisted by our two sub-committees – Business and Education. 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.

In doing all of this 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.

I have lived in the area for the past three decades, and know and love it well. I'm delighted to be involved with this exciting community project.

With my best wishes

Mick May OBE
Chair of Governors

KAA BOARD

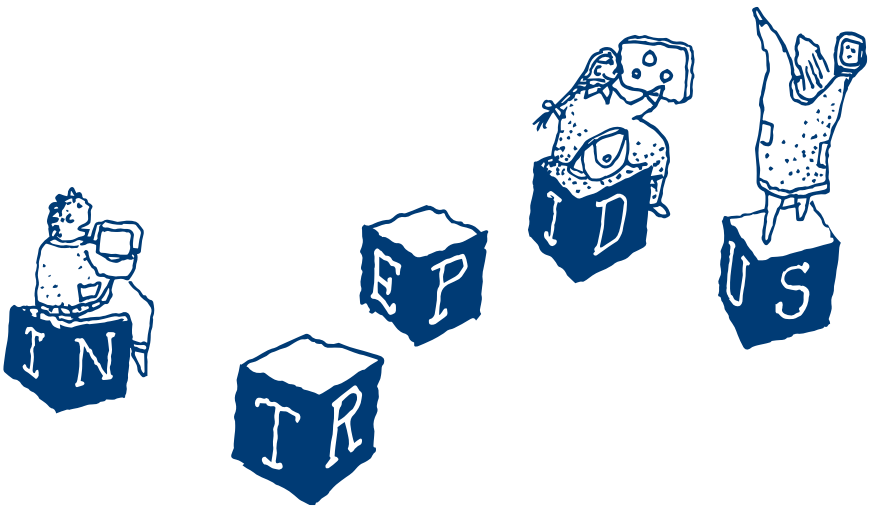
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS	
Mick May OBE (Chair)	Founder and CEO of Blue Sky
EDUCATION COMMITTEE	
Dunstan Hadley (Chair)	Head of Press, Russell Group Universities
Catherine Shaw	Former Headteacher
Cllr Emma Will	Cabinet Member for Family and Children's Services, RBKC
Stephanie Tyrer	Solicitor, Parent Governor
John Brown	Founder of John Brown Publishing and Founder of Notting Hill Preparatory School
Laura Abbott	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

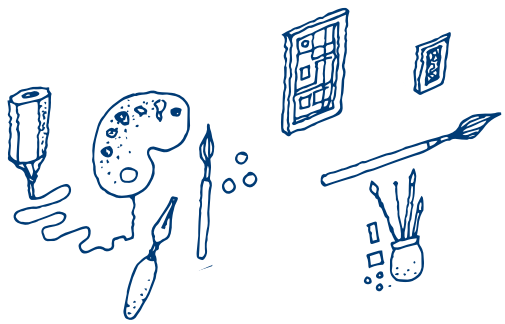


"I was inspired by my visit to KAA. There is a culture and ethos of high expectation and a belief from students that they can and will achieve."

Sir David Carter, National School Commissioner

INTREPIDUS & OUR ENTREPRENEURIAL ETHOS

At KAA, we want to develop the business and social entrepreneurs of the future. We're lucky to have Sir Rod Aldridge, our namesake, a world famous entrepreneur and a KAA Governor, to help us to achieve this. We don't expect all students to follow this path – only those who want to. But they will all be given the opportunity to. Entrepreneurs create wealth and employment, and that is important to us.



Of course we have a strong academic focus here at KAA; as a secondary school it is our top priority to provide students with a first rate academic education. But alongside the academic offer we also give students an **entrepreneurial** outlook and attitude that will serve them well whatever they do in life. In lessons, KAA students are not passengers who see their role as simply to memorise information their teachers give them and then recite it later. Instead our 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.

Our school motto – **Intrepidus** – captures this spirit. Our students are bold, confident, creative learners. As Sir Rod Aldridge says to our students on his many visits to KAA: "It's not where you come from in life, but where you get to that counts."

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE KAA ENTREPRENEURIAL APPROACH:

- Excellent academic qualifications for all, including subjects linked to new technologies and industries such as maths, science, computer science and product design, as well as subjects that teach students to be effective communicators such as English, history, geography and languages.

- The **Kensington Creates** centre. Possibly the most distinctive part of our new academy, Kensington Creates is a unique business incubator situated in the central atrium of KAA. Creates is designed to help our students and the local community develop practical, entrepreneurial skills.

- An entrepreneurial, can-do spirit that is fundamental to all that we do at KAA - lessons, enrichment, the house system - everything. This is what **Intrepidus** is all about!

- Valuable entrepreneurial experiences for all students during their seven years with us, such as our Industry Days and Kensington Creates Club.

Entrepreneur is originally a French word which means, 'to undertake'. We'd like all KAA students to be people who take a proactive approach, and who have both the will and the knowledge to change the world for the better.

Core Values of KAA

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

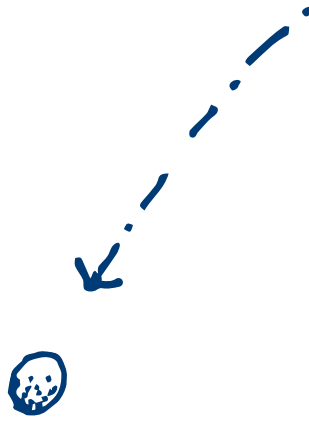
Resilience: We love a challenge, and understand that mistakes are just opportunities to improve.

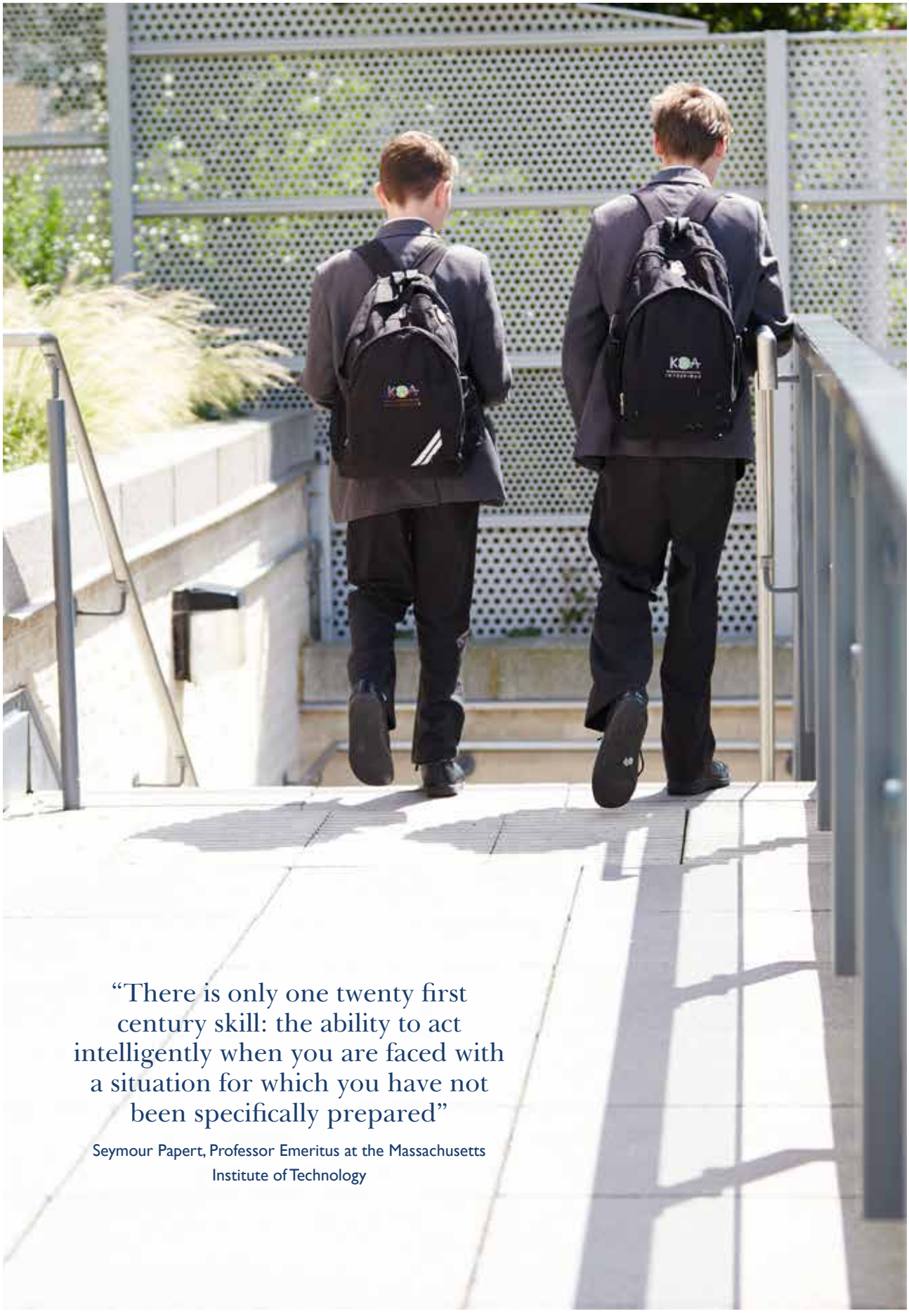
Creativity: In lessons, new learning is always presented as a problem to be solved, and creativity and original thinking are rewarded.

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.





"There is only one twenty first century skill: the ability to act intelligently when you are faced with a situation for which you have not been specifically prepared"

Seymour Papert, Professor Emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

OUR FACILITIES

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 hope to be back in our current building by the Summer term of 2018, or September 2018 at the latest. Our temporary accommodation, which is an excellent learning facility in itself, can be seen on open mornings, though we do not expect to be here next year when your child arrives.

Distinctive features of our building include:

- A professional theatre
- Our own sports hall and dance studio
- A safe, enclosed rooftop football / sports pitch
- Specialist performing and creative arts classrooms for drama, dance, art and performing arts
- Two music rooms and a professional recording studio
- State of the art design technology rooms, including Graphics, Resistant Materials, Food Technology and Textiles
- Flexible IT spaces – giving students safe access to the right technologies
- Three libraries
- The Kensington Creates Entrepreneurial Centre
- Access to the Kensington Leisure Centre and swimming pool next door to the academy

We are fortunate to have these facilities and 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.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The quote on page 10 captures our educational philosophy at KAA. We know that both students and staff need to be life-long learners and that education is not just about memorising answers to formulaic questions. Instead, each lesson should prepare students to solve the many new, unseen problems that lie ahead.

All KAA students will be taught demanding content and complicated ideas from a young age. They will learn how to think in a disciplined manner and show understanding of the core concepts in each subject, and never to just recall information or carry out rehearsed responses. Students will be taught:

- **new ways of thinking:** including creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making;
- **new ways of working:** including new forms of collaboration and communication;
- **new tools for working:** including the capacity to harness the potential of new technologies.

Our strong emphasis on teaching and learning and our commitment to ongoing training for all staff means KAA students enjoy a consistent diet of excellent lessons that inspire and motivate them and help them secure the very highest grades.

CURRICULUM

We offer a rich, varied curriculum at KS3, built around discrete academic subjects and delivered by passionate, expert teachers. The curriculum is designed to prepare students for success at GCSE and A-Level, and works backwards from the demands of those national exams. KAA students work longer hours than a typical secondary school – 30 rather than 25 hours of formal classes each week.

In Key Stage 3 we:

- Commit extra time to English and maths where needed to ensure all students quickly achieve the proficiency in literacy and numeracy they need to succeed in a range of subjects at GCSE.
- Emphasise history, geography and modern languages, as we believe that these subjects develop the critical-thinking and analytical skills that universities and employers want, as well as giving students a fuller understanding of the world around them.
- Give generous time to the expressive arts, using our specialist facilities and our partnerships to deliver the very best provision in music, art, drama, dance and design technology.

After Year 11, all KAA students are expected to progress onto Sixth Form and all are strongly encouraged to progress to university.

THE KEY STAGE 3 CURRICULUM						
English	Mathematics	Science	History	Geography	French & German	Dance
Religious Education	Design Technology (Food, Textiles, Graphics, Resistant Materials)	Art	Music	Drama	Physical Education	Computer Science

In Key Stage 4, students study the core subjects of English (language and literature), Maths and Science (either dual award or triple award), plus four options.

THE KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM						
Compulsory Subjects	English	Mathematics	Science	Core PE (not examined)	PSHE (not examined)	
Subject Options	Art	Computer Science	Dance	Design Technology	Drama	Food & Nutrition
	French	German	Geography	History	Music	Physical Education
	Psychology	Religous Education	Statistics			

OUR PARTNERS

KAA is partnered with four elite educational institutions. This means we offer students access to expertise and opportunities which are unique in the state sector. We are proud to have such prestigious partnerships and excited to be developing them in a range of ways.

Godolphin & Latymer

Godolphin & Latymer (G&L) is one of the most high-performing independent schools in the UK. Last year they sent 20% of their cohort to Oxbridge. 99% of all students progressed to Higher Education. G&L is also - importantly - only three short tube stops from KAA. This means our staff and students have extensive opportunities to work together. Each Head of Subject at KAA is partnered with their equivalent at G&L. They meet regularly to discuss curriculum plans. At sixth form, students at KAA benefit from G&L's significant expertise around university admissions, receiving advice from G&L staff on their UCAS forms, Personal Statements and even visiting G&L for 'mock' Oxbridge interviews. In Key Stage 3, KAA students collaborate with G&L students in a variety of ways – for example G&L sixth form students deliver creative writing and debating workshops to Year 7 at KAA.

CHARTERHOUSE

Charterhouse (CH) is one of the great historic schools of England and among the most beautiful. It is renowned for its high academic standards, great sixth form and prowess on the sporting field. As with Godolphin & Latymer, KAA and Charterhouse subject specialists work together on curriculum planning. For example, we hold an annual teacher conference at Charterhouse where teachers from KAA, G&L and CH come together to discuss best practice in terms of curriculum, assessment and preparation for Russell Group universities. This summer Charterhouse hosted residential trips for our new Year 7s, providing an opportunity for our students to develop their confidence, creativity and aspirations for the future.

LAMDA

LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art) is a world-class drama school and educational charity. With over 150 years' experience delivering exceptional training in the dramatic arts, they are a major contributor to the UK's cultural wealth, influencing the performing arts sector as a whole. They recruit on talent alone; auditioning everyone who applies, irrespective of their background or financial circumstances. LAMDA have given extensive support to KAA in planning our performing and creative arts offer. Our partnership takes many forms, but the most exciting aspect is the LAMDA Skills Award, which all students in KS3 will take. It is an accredited qualification in public speaking which carries UCAS points and which will help our students grow in confidence and articulacy. Having the award under their belts will no doubt help them to distinguish themselves from their peers when it comes to applying for university and the world of work.

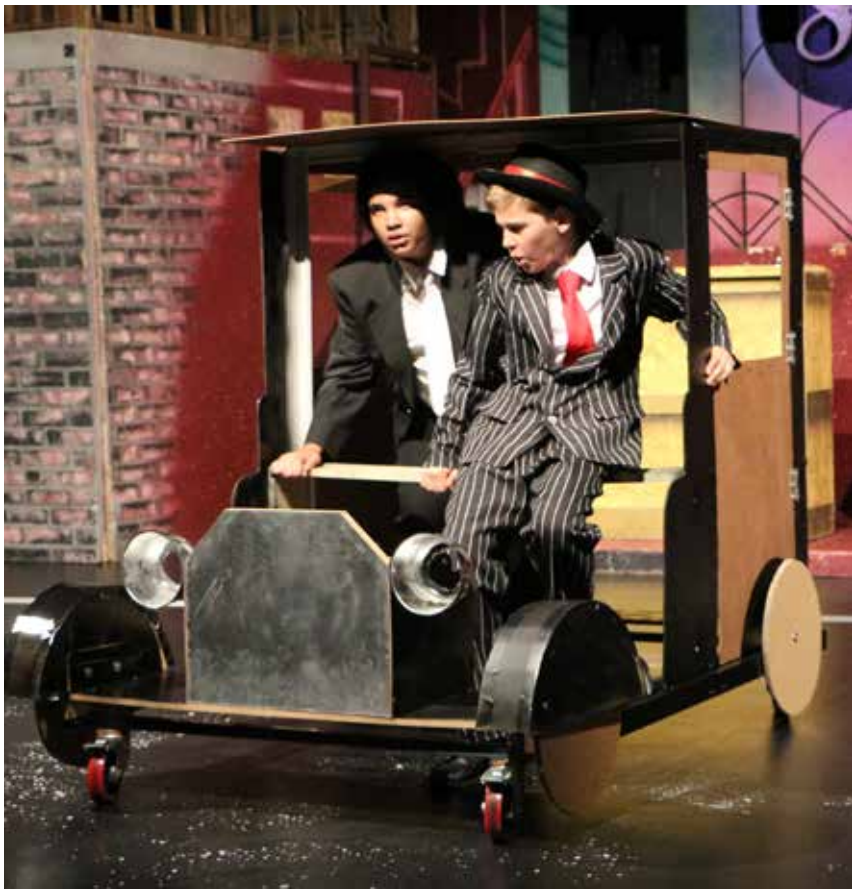
ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE

The Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) is an internationally renowned organisation that promotes knowledge, understanding and practice of a range of dance styles – from ballet to street dance. They provide education and training to students and teachers that is second to none. Like LAMDA, they are a recognised examining body and their qualifications carry UCAS points. RAD are involved in delivering enrichments to KAA students and host some national dance events in our theatre. They also provide teacher training to our staff and assist us with recruiting the very best dance teachers.

PERFORMING AND 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 within 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 a state school. Through LAMDA, our KS3 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. In time we expect some KAA students to progress on from Y13 to study full time at RAD and LAMDA.



THE HOUSE SYSTEM

At KAA all students and staff are a member of 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 at the end of 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 7 has a sibling at KAA they will join the same house.

FOUR HOUSES

DISCIPLINE

KAA has the very highest expectations of student behaviour. We operate a calm, orderly environment where students are required to be polite and courteous at all times. Our expectations are set out clearly in our Code of Conduct and all parents will be asked to sign a Home-School Agreement before they join the academy. Poor or disruptive behaviour from students is not tolerated.

UNIFORM

We are proud of our students and encourage them to be proud of their school. One key aspect of this is that they all wear our KAA uniform, consisting of a grey blazer, maroon jumper, white shirt or blouse (with tie in house colours) and dark grey trousers or pleated skirt. Our smart uniform supports a sense of community and demonstrates that students are ready to work.

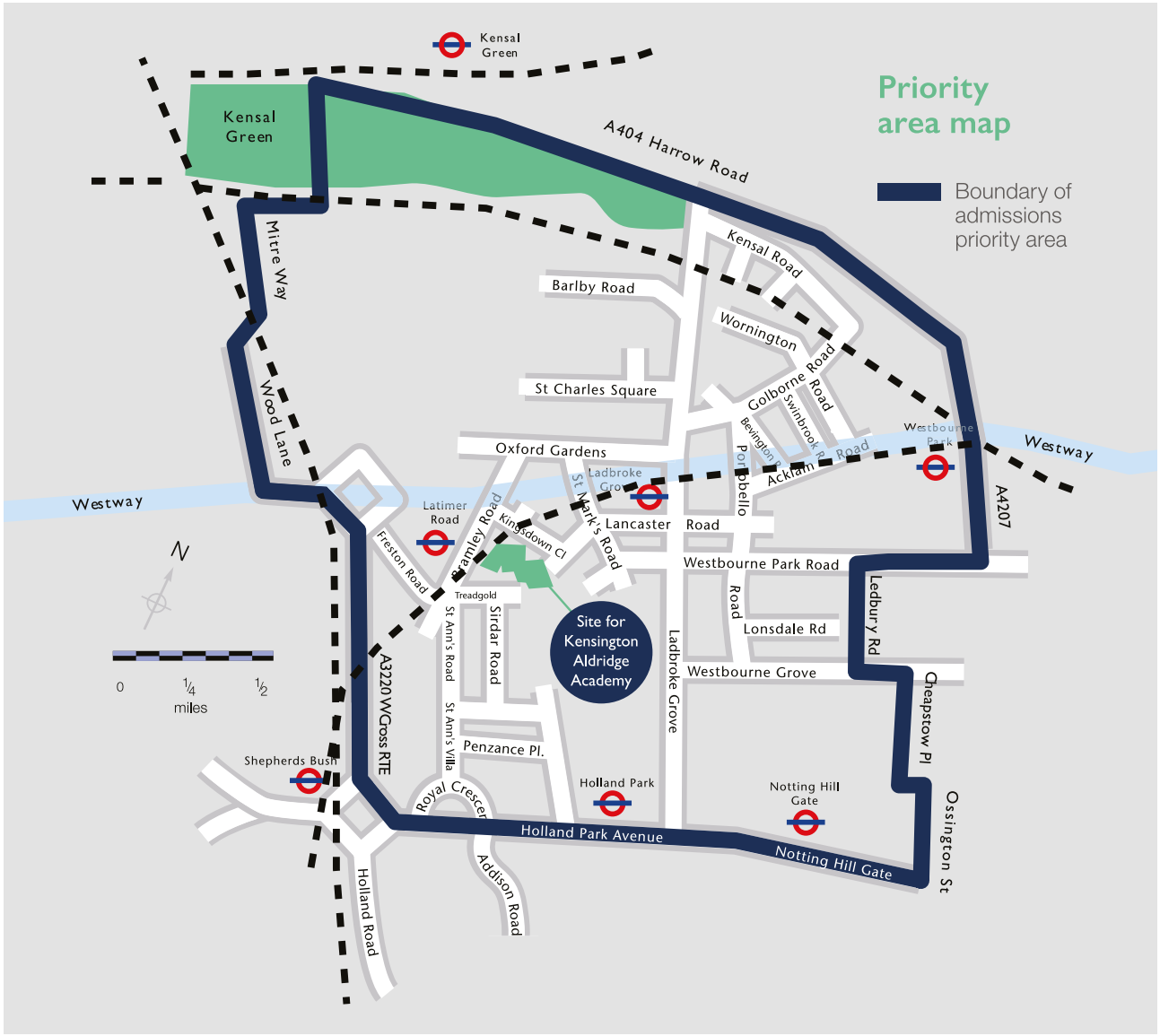
TRANSITION TO KAA

Our experience over the last four years has shown we are able to provide students with an exceptionally smooth and positive transition from primary to secondary school life, giving individual support at every step.

At KAA we work very closely with our local primary schools and our new parents to get to know our students and understand their academic and social needs prior to them starting with us formally in September 2018.

Every student who joins us is visited at their primary school by a senior member of KAA staff during the summer term of Year 6, so we can talk to them about our expectations, answer any questions and meet their Year 6 teacher. In addition, every new student and parent will meet with either the Principal or other senior teacher in the summer term of Year 6 to go over the Home-School Agreement, a contract that demonstrates our shared commitment to putting in the effort each child needs. We will also hold a Parents' Information Evening in July of 2018 to go over the detailed arrangements for your child joining the academy.

ADMISSIONS



The academy is non-selective and follows the standard admissions policy within the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. This means places are allocated according to proximity to the academy and there is no selection on the grounds of ability or religion. The academy has a priority admissions area (shown above) but parents are able to apply from outside this area as well.

The admissions number (the maximum allowed in each year) is 180 including four places available in the KAA Autism Centre. Admissions to the Autism Centre are coordinated by the Special Education Needs department at the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Where the number of applications for admission is greater than 180, applications will be considered against the criteria set out on the RBKC website.

Queries about admissions should not be directed to the academy. Instead please contact RBKC at school.admissions@rbkc.gov.uk or by telephone Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, on 020 7745 6432 / 6433 / 6434

For further information on admissions to KAA please visit: www.rbkc.gov.uk/children-and-education/schools

Principal – Mr David Benson

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RBKC Admissions
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