KING EDWARD VI COLLEGE
STOURBRIDGE
EST. 1552

A mark of enduring excellence.

PROSPECTUS
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There is a certain uniqueness about King Ed’s that attracts inquisitive and committed students to begin their post-16 educational journey here. It is this distinct quality which invites us all, students and staff, to listen, collaborate and learn from each other.

In the classroom our students engage with teachers who are experts in their fields, passionate about their subjects and dedicated to cultivating curious minds. Our teachers encourage and support our students throughout their academic journey. At King Ed’s our students get to know many of our excellent operational staff who ensure that the college runs smoothly and that every single student receives the support needed to excel. We have big hopes for every student who walks through our doors and we work hard to ensure our students have bright futures.

King Ed’s is a place where ambitious minds thrive, where diversity is celebrated and where individuality is valued. Our students develop academically, creatively and personally, respecting and appreciating each other’s achievements, while taking pride in their own.

It is this intricate balance which makes King Ed’s so distinctive and we look forward to welcoming you.
King Edward VI College is not only the largest, but also one of the most successful sixth form providers in the Black Country. Each year, around a thousand young people complete their A level qualifications at King Ed’s, going on to be just as successful in employment and at university.

Statistics published in 2019 by the Department for Education unequivocally demonstrate that King Ed’s students ‘stay the course’ and are statistically more likely to achieve three A levels than students at any other local provider. At King Ed’s more students progress from year 12 to year 13 and more complete all three of their A levels. The average grade achieved by a King Ed’s student is a B with 8 out of 10 results at C or above.

Furthermore, the most recent report from the Higher Education Statistics Agency reveals that if a King Ed’s student chooses to go to university, the preparation they receive at King Ed’s means that on average they are more likely to achieve a first or upper second class degree than students in the state and independent sectors.

On average our students are more likely to achieve a first or upper second class degree than students from other state schools or the independent sector.
Courses offered

A levels are challenging and exciting! We offer a large breadth of subjects, and many different course combinations, tailoring your programme of study to suit you. The majority of students will select three subjects; however, some students may decide to study four A level subjects. When making your selection, remember that students who choose subjects they enjoy tend to get the most out of their studies.

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What is accounting?
Accounting is the recording, reporting, presentation, and interpretation of financial information which takes place for businesses of all sizes. Chartered accountants operate at the highest levels of business management.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 5 in maths is required.

What will I study?
A detailed introduction to the subject, studying the role of the accountant and the underlying principles and concepts of accounting. You will learn about financial records, double entry bookkeeping, the presentation of financial information and the analysis of financial statements and business performance.

Assessment is focused on processing numerical and written data, presenting information in a prescribed format and interpreting information in written form.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
- Certificate in financial studies (level 3 qualification in personal finance)
- Finance baccalaureate (level 3 examination in financial products, markets & services)
- Speakers from professional accounting bodies and accounting firms

What can it lead to?
Many students go on to study accountancy at university or enter the profession through apprenticeships with major accountancy firms.

Biology

What is biology?
Biology is described as the 'science of life' and biologists work in many different and diverse fields, including cell biology, medicine, food production and ecology.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grades 6-6 in combined science or a grade 6 in biology (if studied as a separate science) and a grade 6 in maths.

What will I study?
The biology course is divided into six modules which cover a wide range of topics including cell biology, biochemistry, DNA structure, function and cell division, gas exchange in animals and transport in plants and animals, disease and the immune response. You will also study biodiversity and classification of plants and animals and look at the biochemistry of photosynthesis and respiration and research into genetic inheritance, control of gene expression, gene technology, cloning and biotechnology, and ecology.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grades 6-6 in combined science or a grade 6 in biology (if studied as a separate science) and a grade 6 in maths.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
- Teacher-led preparation for BMAT (BioMedical Admissions Test - an entry requirement for some medical and dentistry courses)
- Ecological study of Mary Stevens Park
- Optional residential field course, usually to Dale Fort, Pembrokeshire

What can it lead to?
A level biology is be a key component in higher education applications for medicine, veterinary science, healthcare science, dentistry, nursing, horticulture, teaching, fisheries and conservation work. Biology also develops key skills required for most other study or career options.
What is business?
Business is a dynamic subject which is relevant, engaging and topical. Studying the subject can give you the tools and information required to understand how businesses are created, managed and become successful.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
We have no specific entry requirements for business.

What will I study?
You will study business opportunities and functions, looking at concepts and theories within the four main areas of business (finance, marketing, operations and people). You will consider how businesses develop and implement strategy and look at the models and theories they use to help achieve delivery. You will also study the external influences on a business, including the political, economic and social environments that can impact on their decision making and performance. We will always aim to consider key topical areas which are relevant to businesses at a particular moment in time. These would include issues such as Brexit, new legislation being introduced, impact of new technology, changing social trends and business ethics.

Throughout the two years of the course you will develop higher order exam skills which will enable you to achieve high grades. You will have the opportunity to work in groups, participate in classroom discussions and debates and develop your independent research skills.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
• Visiting speakers from professional companies
• Visits to London and the Bank of England
• University master classes

What can it lead to?
Business students tend to progress on to a variety of different courses at university, or use their skills in business to enter employment or to take up an apprenticeship.

What is chemistry?
Chemistry is the study of substances, what they are made of, how they interact and what role they play in living things. Chemistry is a highly valued and necessary qualification, required by universities when applying to study degrees in chemistry, medicine, veterinary medicine, pharmaceuticals and dentistry.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
We have no specific entry requirements for chemistry.

What will I study?
The first year of the A level course will cover organic chemistry, including alkanes; alkenes; alcohols; haloalkanes and organic synthesis reactions. The course also covers inorganic/physical chemistry including moles; bonding and structure; redox reactions; energy changes; reversible reactions and equilibria. In the second year you will develop a deeper knowledge and understanding and prepare for the external examinations. The course also includes a non-exam assessment practical endorsement.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
• The chemistry Olympiad
• Student-led medical ethics enrichment activity

What can it lead to?
Students progress to degree programmes including chemistry and chemical engineering, medical courses such as medicine, pharmacy, optometry, biomedical science, veterinary medicine and dentistry. Biochemistry and related subjects are also followed.

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Computer science

What is computer science?

Computer science is not about using computers; it is about controlling and shaping the digital world through programming. It is about controlling and shaping the digital world through computer science; it is about controlling and shaping the digital world through computer science. It is about controlling and shaping the digital world through computer science; it is about controlling and shaping the digital world through computer science.

What will I study?

You will concentrate on developing problem solving approaches and practical skills of programming which will give you insight into how the computer works. We use python as the main teaching language but you will be introduced to a range of programming languages and techniques and explore technology developments such as Cloud computing, functional computing and big data.

What can I lead to?

Many students continue to study computer science or related courses at university, and go on to careers in computer gaming, engineering, finance and software development.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE grade 7 in maths or a GCSE grade 6 in English literature or history.

Classical civilisation

What is classical civilisation?

Classical civilisation explores the values and cultural beliefs of classical Greece and Rome, the two societies which are the bedrock of modern European society. Classical civilisation is an academically demanding, exciting and engaging course that develops a huge variety of skills related to literature, philosophy, history, art and architecture.

What will I study?

You will study three units over two years: ‘The World of the Hero’ is split over two years, Homer’s Iliad, the first and greatest epic, in year 12 followed by Virgil’s The Aeneid in year 13. This is complemented by ‘The Invention of the Barbarian’ which uses Herodotus’ Histories and Athenian tragedy to discuss and explore political, historical and philosophical events and beliefs.

The final unit is the ‘Politics of the Late Republic’ exploring the people (Julius Caesar, Pompey the Great, Cicero et al) and events, such as the Civil War that led Rome to change from being a republic to becoming an empire.

Trips, visits and enrichments:

- Visits to the theatre, conferences and the British Museum
- Annual trips to Greece and Rome
- There is an informal Greek lunchtime class, an extension class to help expand your knowledge of the classical world
- A student-led classics society

What can it lead to?

What many students go on to study classical subjects at university, the analytical thinking and writing skills students develop through the subject will help in so many other areas of study and are also highly valued by universities and employers.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE grade 5 in either English language, English literature or history.

Criminology

What is criminology?

Criminology is the scientific study of crime, criminals and the criminal justice system. An understanding of criminology is relevant to many job roles within the criminal justice system and social and probation work. It also has relevance for those students seeking to progress into higher education in subjects such as sociology and psychology. Students targeting specific destination universities should check their admission policies before taking this subject; this is a level 3 course (not an A level).

What will I study?

The criminology course is divided into four units. In unit one, you will explore different types of crime and how crime reporting affects the public perception of crime and criminals. We then go on to study how campaigns are used to bring about change and you will plan a campaign of your own. In unit two, you will discover and assess all the theories that have been put forward to explain why crime occurs. In unit three, you will gain an understanding of the process of criminal investigations, the prosecution of suspects and reviewing criminal cases. In unit four, you will study every aspect of the criminal justice system and the types and purposes of punishment in England and Wales. The qualification is achieved through two controlled assessments units 1 & 3) and two external exams units 2 & 4).

Trips, visits and enrichments:

- Trips to Crown Court and barristers’ chambers
- Guest speakers from industry professionals

What can it lead to?

Students studying criminology tend to progress on to a variety of different courses at university. There are many careers that a criminology qualification would be useful for, from social work to entering the police or working within the law.
Dance

What is dance?
Dance is an exciting subject that challenges you physically, academically and creatively. If you want to be physically active, enjoy watching live and recorded performances and want to discover more about the history and developments of dance, this is an ideal course for you.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Recent dance experience at a dance or theatre school, and/or GCSE/BTEC in dance.

What will I study?
You will widen your experience and knowledge of dance through technique lessons, creative exploration and theoretical analysis. In practical lessons you will develop your choreographic skills and develop the technical and expressive skills required to perform solo and in groups for practical assessment.

Theoretical work is based on areas of study and set works, which allows you to engage critically with dance and understand the interrelationship between the creation, presentation and viewing/appreciation of dance.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
• Regular trips to see performances by a range of choreographers, some of which are complemented by practical workshops led by professional dancers
• All A level dance students take part in public performances
• Being a part of the college dance company provides additional high level performance opportunities in a range of dance styles

What can it lead to?
Students choose to study dance for a variety of reasons; it may be a passion, future career aim or perhaps to contrast two purely theoretical courses to add variety to their programme of study. Dance can be the first step towards working within the arts industry and there are numerous degree courses at universities and specialist vocational dance and performance schools to further your studies.

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What is drama and theatre studies?
You will explore what makes great theatre work: the craft of the playwright, the director’s interpretation, the work of performers, and the contribution of technical and design elements.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 5 in either English language or English literature, some stage experience is desirable.

What will I study?
You will study two challenging and exciting set plays and practically explore three others, performing substantial extracts from each. You will also have the opportunity to devise an original piece of theatre from a stimulus.

All of your practical work will be informed by your research into the very best theatre practitioners.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
- Theatre visits to the West End
- College productions
- Staff and student-led enrichment groups

What can it lead to?
Students go on to study a range of subjects at university. Many of our students have gained places at prestigious drama schools before pursuing successful careers in theatre and performance. Former students have taken lead roles in West End productions of War Horse, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time and Dirty Dancing. Drama is an excellent qualification for a very wide range of professions.

What is economics?
Economics is the study of choice and decision-making in a world with limited resources. It examines how societies allocate resources to meet the needs and wants of their citizens.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 6 in GCSE English language or literature and a GCSE grade 5 maths.

What will I study?
You will investigate both micro and macro-economic topics during the two years. Micro topics include how markets work, why markets fail, market structures and labour markets. Macro topics will cover aggregative supply and demand, fiscal and monetary policy, financial markets and international trade and globalisation.

All students will complete three exams at the end of their two-year study programme.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
- University masterclasses
- Bank of England trip
- A finance baccalaureate is offered as an enrichment activity which is a basic introduction to the financial services industry with a level 3 examination in financial products, markets and services

What can it lead to?
Many students go on to study economics at university as it is a highly regarded degree choice and provides opportunities for careers within government, banking, accountancy, management and investment.
English language and literature

What is English language and literature?
This course combines the most enjoyable parts of literature and language study. You will develop your skills as a reader, writer and communicator, learning how language works in a range of situations.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 6 in either English language or English literature.

What will I study?
You will compare Dracula by Bram Stoker and Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare, exploring how each author uses language to present key characters and themes.
You will also enhance your ability to identify how language is used for specific audiences and purposes and learn how to critically respond to a range of texts, alongside writing your own fiction and non-fiction pieces for coursework.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
- Trips to the theatre and cinema to see productions of set texts and study days
- Creative writing

What can it lead to?
Most students who study English language and literature go on to study similar courses at various universities, including Oxbridge and Russell Group universities. English is a core subject that can lead to a wide variety of careers.

English literature

What is English literature?
You will study prose, poetry and drama texts and develop your skills in critical analysis. You will review modern texts and texts from previous centuries whilst undertaking independent reading.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 6 in either English language or English literature.

What will I study?
You will study a wide range of texts and will be encouraged to become an active reader and offer opinions and ideas based on your own interpretations of literary texts, as well as considering the opinions of others.
The texts you study will be from different social and historical contexts, including Shakespeare. You will also have the opportunity to study poetry published post 2000 and to develop your skills in analysing unseen poetry.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
- Trips to theatres, study days and a wide range of revision lectures
- Various student-led enrichment groups, including creative writing
- Write for the college magazine

What can it lead to?
Universities view English literature favourably, as you have carried out extensive reading and critical analysis. It is also an excellent qualification for a very wide range of professions.

Film studies

What is film studies?
Film studies mixes the academic study of modern British and American film with the study of classical Hollywood and foreign cinema in context. It also focusses on the practical aspects of film making and developing scripting, storyboarding and film making skills.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 5 in either English language or English literature.

What will I study?
You will study a range of popular British and American cinema, learning about film language elements such as sound, lighting, editing, performance and cinematography, as well as theoretical elements such as representation, spectatorship, narrative, ideology, critical debates and auteur theory.
Films we currently study include Inception, La La Land, Shaun of the Dead and Pulp Fiction.
Students are also encouraged to keep a portfolio workbook of their practical work and film ideas.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
- Trips to working film sets where possible
- Annual trip to Warner Brothers’ Leavesden studio

What can it lead to?
Students choose to pursue either full academic, or practical film making degrees at university and a number of ex-students work in the film, television or media industries, including on shows like The Apprentice and Britain’s got Talent.
What is fine art?
Fine art is an exciting course that will challenge your creativity, your technical ability and your conceptual knowledge. It is a broad course that allows you to develop as an artist and as a creative thinker. You will learn how to use a wide range of traditional and contemporary media. You will also develop your critical thinking skills through discussions, analysis of works and visiting galleries.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 5 in a visual arts subject or submit a portfolio of current work for inspection by a member of the visual arts team.

What will I study?
The first part of the course will be studio-based sessions exploring a wide range of media and disciplines. You will learn about media that you may not have used and stretch your knowledge of those that are familiar to you. This will cover both traditional media and contemporary methods, giving you the chance to explore media such as oil painting, etching, digital photography, sculpture and film.

You will be given opportunities to explore your own concepts in a series of smaller projects, approaching your media choices to suit your intentions. Assessment occurs through two major projects, where you will again choose your focus and the methods that best suit you and your ideas. This gives you the power to investigate what you are interested in.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
• Studio time will occur throughout the week, allowing you to work independently as an artist.
• There will be opportunities to visit galleries around the country, including major exhibitions in London.
• There will be the opportunity to visit a European city.

What can it lead to?
Many of our students progress to study an Arts Foundation course. Students have studied a broad range of course at university including Fine Art, Architecture, Illustration, Interior Design, Photography and Film.

What is French?
French is a widely taught language and is spoken in 29 countries by over 300 million people in the world.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 6 in French.

What will I study?
The A level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity.

You will study an interesting spectrum of social, intellectual, historical and political cultural themes throughout the course across four defining themes and study both a film and piece of literature. You will be asked to undertake a research piece into an area of personal interest in France or a French speaking country to further develop your cultural awareness.

What can it lead to?
The subject content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or to further study, including a modern languages degree. Students go on to study language at university leading into many different careers. Being fluent in a second language is highly respected in the business world.
What is geography?
In today’s rapidly changing world the role of geography is of paramount importance. It involves the examination of environmental, social and economic changes and issues in both human and physical environments.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 5 in GCSE English language or English literature.

What will I study?
Your study of A level geography will be delivered in two areas, physical geography and human geography. In physical geography the topics you study are tectonic hazards, glaciated landscapes, water and carbon cycles and the weather and climate. The topics studied in human geography are changing places, global migration, governance of the oceans, energy challenges and 21st century challenges. You will also develop data collection and analysis skills throughout the course which will help you in the completion of an ‘independent investigation’ that forms the coursework component.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
• Field trips locally, nationally and internationally

What can it lead to?
Former students work as environmental impact officers, conservation officers, flood protection managers, climate and location analysts, urban regeneration planners, surveyors and heritage managers.

Geology
What is geology?
Geology is a detective story where you get to unravel how the planet works and gain an insight into its history and possible futures.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
We have no specific entry requirements for geology.

What will I study?
Over the two-year course you will learn how to identify and interpret minerals, rocks, fossils and geological structures; how rocks form and deform through the study of plate tectonics; and how to interpret past climates using evidence. You will also study how natural resources form and how we exploit them, as well as various geo-hazards and how we can mitigate them.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
• Local day trips and a residential trip to the Lake District
• There are also optional international trips

What can it lead to?
Many students study geology at university, leading to careers as geoscientists, who are in demand to search for natural energy and mineral resources and study global climate change.
What is graphic communication?

Graphic communication is the process of communicating and problem-solving through visual means. Graphic designers create, control and combine symbols, images and text to communicate visual meaning, messages and moods.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 5 in a visual arts subject or submit a portfolio of current work for inspection by a member of the visual arts team.

What will I study?
The course will enable you to develop your visual awareness and your creative response to design briefs, training you to work methodically by embracing the design process. You will cover many topics and develop your skills by exploring traditional and digital techniques including drawing, illustration, typography, photography and print-making, working with both 2D and 3D media and processes. Through concept-based design briefs, you will be introduced to a wide range of applications for design work. You will learn to develop and apply your graphic techniques and will be asked to record your ideas and show their development.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
- Trips to the Black Country Museum
- Visit to an annual graduate design exhibition such as ‘New Designers’ or ‘New Blood’

What can it lead to?
Many students go on to study visual communications, graphic design, illustration, photography and print-making, working with both 2D and 3D media and processes. Through concept-based design briefs, you will be introduced to a wide range of applications for design work. You will learn to develop and apply your graphic techniques and will be asked to record your ideas and show their development.

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- Visit to an annual graduate design exhibition such as ‘New Designers’ or ‘New Blood’

What can it lead to?
Many students go on to study visual communications, graphic design, illustration, photography and print-making, working with both 2D and 3D media and processes. Through concept-based design briefs, you will be introduced to a wide range of applications for design work. You will learn to develop and apply your graphic techniques and will be asked to record your ideas and show their development.

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Law

What is law?
Law is a subject which impacts on us all; you’ll study how laws are made and the main principles of the English legal system.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 5 in either English language or English literature.

What will I study?
In developing the skills of analysis and interpretation, you will look at a wide range of examples of art and architecture drawn from Ancient Greece right through to the present day. You will study two themes - Identities and Nature. These themes enable you to look at developments in art and to make connections between movements and periods across time and place. You will also study two specific historical periods in depth – renaissance art in Italy 1420–1520 and modernism in Europe 1900–1939.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
• Two trips a year to major art galleries and current exhibitions

What can it lead to?
Many students have gone on to study history of art at university and gained careers in museums and art galleries. However, studying history of art is a stepping stone to a wide range of degree subjects and can lead to careers in many diverse areas such as architecture, law and advertising.

Mathematics

What is mathematics?
This course is a great opportunity to enhance your problem solving skills, add depth to your prior GCSE knowledge and discover new mathematical concepts. You should choose maths if you enjoy being challenged, if you feel the reward from persevering until you find a solution and you want to further develop your logical thinking skills.

What will I study?
A level maths is an intellectually stimulating course, two-thirds of which is the study of pure mathematics developing your skills in algebra and trigonometry and new topics such as calculus. One-sixth of the course is the study and application of statistical and probability models to allow for analysis in real-world contexts.

The final part is the study of mechanics, the mathematics of forces and motion, which builds on prior knowledge from physics GCSE.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 7 in maths.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
• An annual trip for students in Year 12 to Alton Towers looking at mathematical modelling of real-life contexts
• Many students take part in the UKMT senior maths challenge each year

What can it lead to?
Mathematics at A level will give you the basic tools of a working mathematician, and most of our students go on to university to study subjects in mathematics, physics, engineering, medicine, psychology, economics and accountancy.
What is media studies?
Media studies interrogates the media’s role in society, culture, politics and the economy. Focusing on communication processes and their impact on the lives of the individual, we explore a range of media platforms such as television, music videos, the radio, advertising, newspapers and video games.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 5 in English language or English literature.

What will I study?
In year 13 students study A level media studies. You will study pure mathematics which allows you to develop your skills in algebra and trigonometry, as well as introducing you to new topics such as calculus. You will also study the application of statistical and probability models to allow for analysis in real world contexts. The final part is the study of mechanics, the mathematics of forces and motion. In year 13 these concepts are extended and new ideas, such as complex numbers, matrices and hyperbolic functions are introduced in A level further mathematics.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
• Annual trip to Alton Towers to mathematically model real life contexts
• UKMT senior maths challenge
• Compete for the regional team maths challenges

What can it lead to?
Degree level study at a top university in mathematics or a related subject.

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What is music?
Music develops practical skills in performing and composing as well as much deeper engagement with music history, theory and analysis. The core repertoire studied is classical music from 1750–1930, plus some musical theatre, but students can also perform and compose in a wide range of other styles.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Two of the following three:
• Grade 5 level on instrument or voice
• Knowledge of basic music theory (equivalent to ABRSM Grade 3)
• GCSE music grade 5 (if this was unavailable at your school please contact us to discuss your options)

What will I study?
You will learn to compose music in the style of Haydn and other classical composers supported by a detailed analysis of how this musical language works. In the second year you will develop your skills in free composition, writing music in any style of your choice.

You will study the classical and romantic symphony, music of the early twentieth century and a range of musical theatre. In the exam your knowledge will be tested through listening exercises, a range of analytical questions and an essay.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
• Subsidised music lessons
• Trips to concerts both regionally and nationally
• Be part of our extensive range of choirs, orchestras and other ensembles

What can it lead to?
Music students either choose to specialise in performance at a conservatoire or to take a more academic qualification at university with many students attending Oxbridge and other Russell Group institutions.

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What is mathematics and further mathematics?
Mathematics and further mathematics is a challenging double A level, designed for students with a love of and talent for mathematics.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 8 or 9 in Mathematics.

To continue into the second year a grade B is required in Mathematics A level in Year 12.

What will I study?
In year 12 students study A level mathematics. You will study pure mathematics which allows you to develop your skills in algebra and trigonometry, as well as introducing you to new topics such as calculus. You will also study the application of statistical and probability models to allow for analysis in real world contexts. The final part is the study of mechanics, the mathematics of forces and motion. In year 13 these concepts are extended and new ideas, such as complex numbers, matrices and hyperbolic functions are introduced in A level further mathematics.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
• Trips to conferences such as Media Live! in Paris
• Trips to media places of interest
• Guest speakers

What can it lead to?
Degree level study at a top university in mathematics or a related subject.

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• Compete for the regional team maths challenges

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Degree level study at a top university in mathematics or a related subject.

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Media studies interrogates the media’s role in society, culture, politics and the economy. Focusing on communication processes and their impact on the lives of the individual, we explore a range of media platforms such as television, music videos, the radio, advertising, newspapers and video games.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 5 in English language or English literature.

What will I study?
Media studies focuses on key issues and debates in relation to language, representation, the media industry and audiences. In order to explore the topics at A level, a range of critical and analytical frameworks will be employed to evaluate the way that the media is constructed and operates.

Your understanding of media will be developed through theoretical perspectives such as semiotics, feminism, post modernism and post colonialism.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
• Trips to conferences such as Media Live! in Paris
• Trips to media places of interest
• Guest speakers

What can it lead to?
Media studies can lead to a wide range of degrees with many students going on to work in communication, cultural studies, journalism, business and marketing.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
• Subsidised music lessons
• Trips to concerts both regionally and nationally
• Be part of our extensive range of choirs, orchestras and other ensembles

What can it lead to?
Music students either choose to specialise in performance at a conservatoire or to take a more academic qualification at university with many students attending Oxbridge and other Russell Group institutions.
What is physical education?

Have you ever wondered why some people are faster than others, how personality affects performance, or how technology can improve your performance? Then this subject is for you.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

We have no specific academic entry requirements for physical education; however, involvement in one of the practical sports/activities is required.

What will I study?

The main areas of study include physiological aspects of physical activity on the body systems; biomechanics and how they help improve performance and prevent injury; the psychological aspects of sport, how memory models can improve movement skills, and how psychological concepts may affect participation and performance in sport. You will also develop your knowledge of the emergence, ethics and evolution of modern sport.

Trips, visits and enrichments:

• Representation of the college/clubs in your chosen team sport/activity
• Representation of the West Midlands AoC regional team (if applicable)

What can it lead to?

Physical education can lead to many exciting and fulfilling careers, such as teaching, sports development, sports medicine, sports management and physiotherapy.

Philosophy

What is Philosophy?

Philosophy is the study of the underlying nature of everything from knowledge and existence to morality and the mind. You will learn how to analyse and construct arguments on a range of philosophical topics. An enquiring and analytic mind are a must!

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE grade 5 in English language or English literature.

What will I study?

During the course you will study epistemology (theory of knowledge) and moral philosophy in the first year, going on to philosophy of religion and philosophy of mind in the second year.

Trips, visits and enrichments:

• Opportunities to attend master classes and events at other universities
• The college runs a philosophy student conference
• Trips to conferences and events nationally

What can it lead to?

Students go on to study a variety of degree courses as the analytic and logical skills developed in philosophy are respected by many professions.
What is physics?

Physics involves the study of the universe. It is essential to our understanding of the world around us and challenges our imaginations with concepts like relativity and quantum mechanics.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE grades 6-6 in combined science or a grade 6 in physics (if studied as a separate science) and a GCSE grade 6 in maths.

What will I study?

The course content is split into six modules: module one is development of practical skills; module two covers the foundations of physics; module three focuses on forces and motion; and module four studies electrons, waves and photons. In year 13 students complete module five which is the Newtonian world and astrophysics along with module six which is particles and medical physics. Lessons will incorporate an extensive range of experimental work to enhance the learning experience.

Trips, visits and enrichments:

- Physics Olympiad competition opportunities
- Support for the physics aptitude test for applicants to Oxford University
- Regular guest speakers

What can it lead to?

The analytical, numerate and critical skills developed in physics open up a wealth of career opportunities from mathematical, scientific, medical and computing areas to the business and financial professions.

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What is politics?

The study of politics is the understanding of events which are happening now. These events are not restricted to parliament and congress but impact everyday life for us all.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE grade 5 in English language or English literature.

What will I study?

You will look at the British political and electoral systems, political parties, pressure groups and protest movements. You will study the UK Constitution, UK Parliament and the European government. Research will be done around the American political system, their constitution, congress, and presidency and how their civil rights, courts and pressure groups function. The course includes the study of political ideologies including conservatism, socialism, liberalism and feminism.

Trips, visits and enrichments:

- Field trips to the parliament and party conferences
- Opportunities to meet visiting MPs, professors and journalists

What can it lead to?

Students go to university to study everything from politics and international relations to history, law, English, psychology, modern languages and medicine.
Psychology
What is psychology?
Psychology is the scientific study of the mind, brain and behaviour, allowing us to analyse and explain the link between them in understanding human behaviour. It’s about recognising what makes people tick and how these factors can help us address many of the problems and issues in society today. For example, are criminals born or made? And what impact would this have on rehabilitation?

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 5 in maths.

What will I study?
The course is divided into three core areas. The first is foundations of psychology. This includes social psychology looking at obedience and prejudice, cognitive psychology investigating human memory, biological psychology considering the brain and behaviour.

Applied psychology looks at criminal and clinical psychology in how theoretical knowledge has benefited society. Clinical psychology considers topics such as schizophrenia and treatment. Criminal psychology looks at criminal behaviour and courtroom psychology and the impact that has on the verdict.

The final area considers the wider impact psychology, answering questions such as ‘Does social control created by psychology negatively impact society?’ and ‘How ethical is psychology?’.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
• Trips vary each year but examples of previous trips include the Natural History Museum, the Freud Museum and visiting Auschwitz.
• Visits to universities to experience hands on psychology, taking part in research.
• Other events have included inhouse conferences such as the ‘Behind Bars’ company and ‘Brain Days’!

What can it lead to?
Psychology can lead to further study in clinical, forensic, educational and occupational psychology. It also provides an excellent stepping stone to other subject options varying from medicine, social work to marketing and business.

Religious studies
What is religious studies?
Religious studies explores a range of philosophical and ethical issues surrounding religion, appealing to those who are curious about the ‘deeper things’ in life and the role and impact of religion on modern society. You do not need to be religious to study this, and we take an academic and critical approach to religious claims.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 5 in English language or English literature.

What will I study?
The course is divided into three areas: philosophy of religion, ethics and Christianity. You will study the issues surrounding whether God’s existence can be proved and the complexities surrounding religious language and miracles. In ethics, you will study both religious and non-religious ethical theories, investigating their strengths and weaknesses.

In Christianity, students study the history, developments, teachings and practices of one of the world’s most important religions and consider how far Christianity has evolved to meet the challenges of being a religious believer in the modern world. This unit involves elements of history, sociology, psychology and literary criticism and students will find that it complements these other subjects well.

Trips, visits and enrichments:
• Annual trip to Rome.
• Visit to Auschwitz with the Holocaust Education Trust.
• Excellent links with universities mean we go to at least one conference a year.
• In recent years we have visited London, Manchester, Worcester, Oxford and other cities/universities to enjoy conferences and other extension opportunities.

What can it lead to?
Religious studies is an excellent preparation for many humanities and social science degrees and is well respected by employers as evidence of well-developed religious literacy and skills of interpretation, analysis and evaluation.
Sociology

What is sociology?
Sociology is the study of social groups and social life in modern societies, and the interaction between individuals within these groups.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 5 in English language or English literature.

What will I study?
Sociology students go on to study a wide variety of subjects at degree level, including sociology, criminology and psychology. Many courses such as nursing and midwifery specify sociology as a preferred A level subject.

What will it lead to?
Sociology is respected in the business world. Being fluent in a second language is highly respected in the business world. Students go on to study language at university leading into many different careers. Students often go directly to a degree course in a range of disciplines. Former students work in the design studios for H&M, Top Man and River Island.

Textiles

What is textiles?
Textiles incorporates surface pattern and constructed textiles; these areas then lead onto designing items including wallpaper, stationary, fabrics, garments and accessories.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 5 in a visual arts subject.

What will I study?
The practical applications of correlation and regression, including their application in the world of business. Probability theory is expanded with the introduction of binomial and normal distribution. We also study a variety of hypothesis tests which many of the students meet in their other A level subjects. This course strongly supports the statistics needed in other subjects at A level and university courses.

What can lead to?

Statistics is used to research, model, understand, analyse and predict data for situations which involve uncertainty or variability.

SPECIAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
GCSE grade 5 in maths.

What will I study?
The subject is taught in a practical way, with multiple mini experiments, practical activities and opportunities to collect data and investigate real problems and their solutions using different methods of sampling. The course builds on the topic of data handling, the practical applications of correlation and regression, including their application in the world of business. Probability theory is expanded with the introduction of binomial and normal distribution. We also study a variety of hypothesis tests which many of the students meet in their other A level subjects. This course strongly supports the statistics needed in other subjects at A level and university courses.

What can lead to?

Trips, visits and enrichments:
• Opportunity to take the Statistical Problem Solving qualification

Textiles

What will I study?
The A level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity. You will learn an interesting spectrum of social, intellectual, historical and political cultural themes throughout the course across four defining themes and study both a film and piece of literature. You will be asked to undertake a research piece into an area of personal interest in Spain or a Spanish speaking country to further develop your cultural awareness.

What will it lead to?
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What will it lead to?

Trips, visits and enrichments:
• Trips to the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool
• Seminars or lectures at local universities
• Seminar or workshops at world famous institutes

GCSE grade 6 in Spanish.

What will I study?
This is a demanding academic subject, involving theoretical debates and arguments, supported by empirical (evidence based) research. You will study socialisation and culture, with the main topics covered being culture and identity, families and households and education.

What will it lead to?
You will also study methods of sociological enquiry and you will experience first-hand the application of various research strategies. You will cover power and stratification with topics including inequality and world sociology.

What will it lead to?

Specialist staff are encouraged to visit exhibitions and to submit a portfolio of current work for inspection by a member of the visual arts team.

King Edward VI College, Stourbridge | www.kedst.ac.uk | admissions@kedst.ac.uk

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Applying to King Ed’s

The entry requirements are six GCSEs at grade 5 or above. Please check the subjects individually, as some of them hold their own entry requirements. At King Ed’s we have a simple online application procedure. Please check our website for the key dates of our admissions process. To find out more information, please visit the courses section on our website www.kedst.ac.uk/courses

Beginning of October
Applications open
From this date, you can apply to King Ed’s via the online portal. In addition to providing your personal details, you will need to enter the subjects you are most interested in studying and a short personal statement outlining your study, career and personal interests. Your subject selection and statement will form the basis of the discussion at your course consultation.

Once you have applied, be sure to continue monitoring your email inbox, as this will be the way that we will communicate with you.

End of February
Application submission deadline
All applications should be submitted to us by the end of February.

November – March
Course consultations
Most applicants are invited to attend a course consultation. This is a process of impartial one-to-one advice and guidance about your subject choices and career path. Please check the College website for specific dates.

Within two weeks after the course consultation, you will receive a letter confirming your programme of study. In this letter there will be details of any specific entry criteria you will need to meet.

First week of June
Deadline for accepting your place
Applicants who receive an offer of a place are asked to confirm that they wish to continue with their application.

End of June, after GCSE exams
Welcome to college days
We will invite you to join us for a taster day during this week. This is a first opportunity to experience an A level lesson in your chosen subjects. You will also be able to find out more about our many enrichment programmes, familiarise yourself with the campus and ask any questions you may have about the college.

GCSE results day
Shortly before results are published you will receive an email from us with a link that will allow you to upload your results to the college’s system. From results day there will also be staff available in college to advise you if you feel you need to talk to someone before enrolling.

Enrolment day
On enrolment day you will be asked to come in to college for a short appointment to complete your enrolment. If you have any last-minute subject change requirements, we will seek to accommodate them on this day.

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Student Support

Becoming a student at King Ed’s does require you to have a level of independence, but we fully support you during your time with us. Our specialist teams ensure that your pastoral and additional academic needs are met, allowing you to thrive and reach your full potential while you study with us.

Personal tutors
All students are assigned a personal tutor (PT) whose primary focus is to provide support and guidance throughout your studies. Your PT is someone whom both you and your parents can contact at any time if you have concerns. You will meet with them on a regular basis for both individual and group tutorial sessions; they will monitor your academic progress and be your first point of contact if you need help outside the classroom.

Lead tutors
Our lead tutors work closely with our personal tutors and have overall responsibility for your pastoral care. They have access to an array of services and advisors, whose help can be called on for additional or specialised support.

Tutorial support sessions
Sessions are run by your personal tutor to develop transferable skills, which are essential in preparing you for your next step, be that further study, apprenticeship or direct employment. The skills you will develop as part of the tutorial programme include problem solving, teamwork, independence, leadership and resilience.

Additional learning support
King Ed’s is a supportive and inclusive environment and our trained team treats disclosures of any learning, physical or mental health issues sensitively. We ask that any issues be disclosed at application as this allows us to make appropriate arrangements and, where required, source special equipment. The team will then work with you throughout your studies to ensure your needs are met.

Careers advice
We have an experienced and fully qualified careers team who offer you one-to-one advice regarding careers, university applications and apprenticeships; they will work with you to develop your plans for the future. They arrange relevant work experience, hold progression events throughout the year and also deliver our pathways programmes.

Financial support – 16–19 bursary fund
Each year the college distributes government money provided to assist students who may be experiencing financial hardship. Money is allocated on the basis of household income and can be used by students for anything related to their studies, including transport costs. More guidance can be found on the college’s website along with the relevant application form.

Travel support
Whilst most students living in the West Midlands can make use of the excellent public transport links to travel to college at child rates, there are many young people who join King Ed’s every year from further afield. Each year the college provides additional subsidised bus services for students living in areas less well served by public transport links to Stourbridge, including Bridgnorth, Bromsgrove, Cleobury Mortimer and parts of rural Worcestershire.
Enhancing your programme with us

Being a student at King Ed’s involves much more than just studying for your academic qualifications. We want to ensure that your time with us prepares you for the future. We have carefully developed a careers and enrichment programme, which increases your skills and helps to prepare you for your next steps.

Careers support
Further to providing advice and guidance, our experienced careers team has established a number of additional programmes, which aim to support your exploration into your next steps.

Career pathways
Students with clear career aspirations can join one of our bespoke pathway programmes that offer additional activities for careers in banking/accounting/finance (BAF); dentistry; engineering; law; medicine; pharmacy and teaching. Each individual programme is tailored specifically and offers talks from industry professionals, relevant work experience, assistance with university applications and aptitude tests.

Meaningful Employer Engagement (M.E.E.)
M.E.E. includes any and all activities that help you develop plans for your future career. M.E.E. includes work experience and we have extensive links with industry, commerce and the public sector to ensure that your work experience really will deliver the insights you need to make informed decisions about your future.
Enhancing your programme with us

Aim high – the Aspire programme

King Edward’s has an excellent track record of enabling students to progress to competitive universities and high-flying careers. Our Aspire programme supports high achieving students in reaching their goals, through a range of activities and opportunities designed to challenge, inspire and guide. Students joining the Aspire programme can expect us to provide:

• Presentations and debates on a wide range of topics, designed to develop all-round thinking and reasoning skills
• Inspirational talks and lectures by visiting speakers
• Open Day visits to top universities, including Girton College Cambridge and Oriel College Oxford
• Information about summer schools and masterclasses offered by universities
• Guidance on planning independent research into university choices
• Opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The Aspire programme is open to any student looking to maximise their potential and develop their skills beyond the A level curriculum.

Clubs and societies

King Ed’s provides a wide range of enrichment activities for students and all year 12 students are asked to participate in at least one activity. There really is something for everyone, with staff-led groups which can be both recreational and support your programme of study. There are also student-led groups that cater to every interest, from ‘medical ethics’ to ‘Harry Potter appreciation society’. We have very active dance and drama companies and offer a wide range of musical ensembles such as choirs and orchestras, and many of our students form their own bands.

For students who want to participate in a college sports team we have plenty of opportunities to get involved with swimming, cricket, football, netball, hockey and rugby teams. We also have an extensive programme of sports and exercise activities and a fully equipped gym which is available to all students.
Additional qualifications

We offer a range of supplementary qualifications that you can take in addition to your core programme. You can apply for these as part of the start-of-year enrichment sign-up process. Please note that some of these opportunities have limited availability.

Extended project qualification (EPQ)
The EPQ is a project-based qualification which you can undertake on something you are passionate about or can be linked to something you are studying. You will gain around half an A level, which also holds a UCAS points value. The submission could be either a report, essay, creative artefact or an event or performance. You will agree on your area of study in year 12 and undertake most of the work in year 13.

Finance baccalaureate
The finance baccalaureate is for students who are seeking careers in the financial sector and wish to gain experience. You will get to work with the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment. You will follow a programme which includes numerical work at degree level, additional qualifications used in the banking sector and exposure to the square mile through immersion days with RBS.

Level 3 certificate in financial studies (CeFS)
The CeFS qualification is awarded by the Institute of Finance University College, carrying up to 70 UCAS points and is assessed by two external exams. You will cover a range of areas such as making and considering options, handling data, and financial capability. You will experience teamwork and communication skills and have a better ability to understand the financial services sector and the products on offer.

Level 3 mathematical studies (core maths)
This one-year qualification carries a maximum of 20 UCAS points and will build on your existing GCSE maths knowledge by developing problem-solving skills, the ability to communicate your mathematical ideas in the areas of statistics, finance and estimation. You will need to have achieved a GCSE grade 5 in maths to do this course.