



KING EDWARD VI
HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Curriculum
BOOKLET

2023/24

Welcome

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



The first three years of life at KEHS will stimulate your daughter's intellectual curiosity, introduce her to new disciplines, and lay the foundations for a successful academic career at the school.

Our teachers are passionate about their subjects and harness the best aspects of both traditional and innovative teaching methods to deliver a rigorous and engaging curriculum. There are abundant opportunities for your daughter to extend her interests outside the classroom in our co-curricular activities.

This booklet provides an outline of the curriculum covered by our students. The curriculum is always under review and recent changes have seen the introduction of Computing GCSE, Design and Technology GCSE and Physical Education GCSE as well as Mandarin in the younger years.

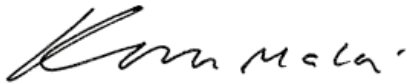
We have also introduced the 'Athena Programme' in which students are encouraged to explore subjects of interest beyond the confines of academic specifications. Interdisciplinary learning - when different subjects interconnect - is also encouraged.

Further information about topics taught in individual subjects, plus our extensive co-curricular programme, is available on the school website.

CURRICULUM BOOKLET

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) is taught through lessons from the Thirds to the Upper Fifth. In these lessons we help students develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to manage their lives, helping them to stay healthy, safe and prepare them for life and work. The course is taught by a specialist team of PSHE teachers.

I hope you will find this curriculum overview useful and look forward to seeing your daughter enjoy the opportunities here over the coming years.



Kirsty von Malaisé
Principal



@KEHSBHAM

Thirds

(Year 7)

Compulsory	Optional/Extension
Art Biology Chemistry Computing Design Technology Drama English Food Technology French Geography History Latin Maths Music Physical Education Physics Religious Studies PSHE	Athena Programme

Lower Fourth

(Year 8)

Compulsory	Optional/Extension
Art Biology Chemistry Computing Design Technology Drama English Geography History Latin Maths Music Physical Education Physics Religious Studies PSHE	Languages: Girls must choose two Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) from French, German, Mandarin or Spanish Athena Programme



Upper Fourth

(Year 9)

Compulsory	Optional/Extension
Biology Chemistry Computing English Geography History Latin Maths Physical Education Physics Religious Studies PSHE	Languages: Girls continue with the two MFLs from the Lower Fourth: French, German, Mandarin or Spanish Creative options: Girls choose two options from the following and study them throughout the year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Art ● Design Technology ● Drama ● Music Athena Programme

Lower Fifth

(Year 10)

Compulsory	Optional/Extension
<p>English Language and Literature Maths Physical Education</p> <p>PSHE</p> <p>Enrichment options, rotation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Enterprise Education● PPE 1● PPE 2● Food Studies● Wellbeing	<p>GCSE options: Girls select a further seven subjects, to include at least two sciences and one MFL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Art & Design● Biology● Chemistry● Computing● Design & Technology● Drama● French● Geography● German● Greek● History● Latin● Music● Physical Education● Physics● Religious Studies● Spanish <p>Athena Programme</p>



Upper Fifth

(Year 11)

Compulsory	Optional/Extension
<p>English Language and Literature</p> <p>Maths</p> <p>Physical Education</p> <p>PSHE</p>	<p>Maths: Girls can choose to take Additional Maths in addition to GCSE Maths</p> <p>GCSE options: Girls select a further seven subjects (based on their Lower Fifth choices), to include at least two sciences and one MFL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Art & Design ● Biology ● Chemistry ● Computing ● Design & Technology ● Drama ● French ● Geography ● German ● Greek ● History ● Latin ● Music ● Physical Education ● Physics ● Religious Studies ● Spanish <p>Athena Programme</p>

Lower Sixth

(Year 12)

Compulsory	Optional/Extension
Physical Education Enrichment Friday afternoon blocks	<p>A Level options: Girls select four subjects. Further Maths is permitted as a fifth subject.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Art● Biology● Chemistry● Economics● English Literature● French● Further Maths● Geography● German● Greek● History● Latin● Maths● Music● Physics● Politics● Psychology● Religious Studies● Spanish● Theatre Studies <p>Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) Athena Programme Subject extension lessons</p>



Upper Sixth

(Year 13)

Compulsory	Optional/Extension
<p>Physical Education</p> <p>Friday afternoon blocks</p>	<p>A Level options: Girls select four subjects (based on their Lower Sixth choices). Further Maths is permitted as a fifth subject. Some girls choose to continue with three subjects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Art ● Biology ● Chemistry ● Economics ● English Literature ● French ● Further Maths ● Geography ● German ● Greek ● History ● Latin ● Maths ● Music ● Physics ● Psychology ● Religious Studies ● Spanish ● Theatre Studies <p>Athena Programme Subject extension lessons</p>

Athena Programme

One of our aims is *'to impart the joy of learning and enquiry together with intellectual courage with the resilience and adaptability requisite for this.'*

To realise this aim *'we provide outstanding teaching through a forward-looking and challenging curriculum and a culture of scholarship, going beyond the confines of the exam specifications, and making connections across disciplines.'*

Recently the school renewed its approach to meeting this aim and introduced the Athena Programme, which encourages students to pursue intellectual interests beyond the taught curriculum. The programme involves students selecting a pursuit of enquiry from one of the following disciplines in turn: Arts, Humanities and Sciences.



There are a range of activity options at varying levels that students can choose from under these categories. Most categories have an activity that encourages an awareness of the local area and another activity that allows them to see the links across different subject areas.

Activities include and are not limited to: reading books from a carefully compiled reading list, conducting research, completing online courses, listening to recommended podcasts and watching themed videos.

Students work independently on the activity they have selected, and have the opportunity to reflect on and discuss their output.

Students in the Upper School are encouraged to work on an activity throughout the year.

Students in the Lower School are given three weeks free of academic homework with the aim being for students to work throughout the year on topics that they have a particular enthusiasm for.

Scan the
QR code
to find out
more about
the Athena
Programme



Homework Policy

The purpose of homework:

- Homework allows students to pursue their studies in greater depth and breadth, thus extending what they learn in school.
- It helps them to develop the skills, confidence and personal organisation needed to study effectively on their own.
- It provides opportunities to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding developed at school.
- It permits the completion of work not well suited to the constraints of the classroom.
- It helps to accommodate the particular demands of GCSE and A Level coursework.

Thirds - Upper Fourth

Each form has its own homework timetable. The homework timetable is a guide to the time that is likely to be taken but any girl who finds herself taking considerably more or less time should seek the advice of her teachers.

Repeated concerns raised by a subject teacher about the quality of completed homework by a student will be discussed by the Form Teacher and Head of Year and strategies may include involving parents.



Lower Fifth - Upper Fifth

Girls in the Lower and Upper Fifth are expected to maintain a steady homework pattern, in order to consolidate class work at this important stage in their education, and to help them progress confidently to the GCSE examinations. In those subjects where GCSE coursework is a key component, assignments often have to be completed for homework. Girls are expected to hand in homework on time, and individual responsibility for this is encouraged. The greater self-discipline required in the Lower and Upper Fifth in both the organisation and completion of homework is seen as essential preparation for study in the Sixth Form and beyond.

The individual nature of the girls' timetables in the Lower and Upper Fifth means that it is no longer possible to send home to parents a copy of the form's weekly homework timetable as we have done in the Lower School. An indication of the amount of time that girls should be spending each week on each subject is shown on the following pages.

Sixth Form

A Level subjects - 4 hours a week each.

Homework Diaries

Thirds to Upper Fifths will be provided with personal organisers to record homework and parents will not be expected to sign these unless a girl's homework is being monitored. Subject staff may also record details in personal organisers if homework is not done. Sixth Formers have a slightly different personal organiser.

CURRICULUM BOOKLET

Homework Allocations Per Subject Per Year Group

	3rds	L4	U4	L5	U5	L6/U6
Additional Maths				30	30	240
Art	30	30	30	60	60	240
Biology	30	30	30	60	60	240
Chemistry	30	30	30	60	60	240
Computing	-	-	-	60	60	
Design & Technology	-	-	-	60	60	
Drama	*	*	*	60	60	240
English	45	45	45	80	80	240
French	30	30	30	60	60	240
Geography	30	30	30	60	60	240
History	30	30	30	60	60	240
Latin	30	30	30	60	60	240
Mathematics	45	45	45	60	60	240
Modern Foreign Language	-	30	30	60	60	240
Music	*	*	*	60	60	240
PSHE	-	-	-	-	-	
PE	-	-	-	60	60	
Physics	30	30	30	60	60	240
Politics	-	-	-	-	-	240
Religious Studies	30	30	30	60	60	240
	360	420	420	600	600	960
Hours per week	6.0	7.0	7.0	10.0	10.0	16.0

*Independent study tasks are set out at the start of the year and it is expected that pupils complete at least 3 tasks per term.



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While the indication of the amount of time to be spent on each subject weekly remains constant, the number of pieces of work set and the completion date for a piece of work may vary. Because of the more demanding nature of the work involved in GCSEs, subject teachers may wish to set work several days in advance of the completion date. This will require girls, with the help of their subject and form teachers, to take greater responsibility for the longer-term planning and organisation of their work. Careful recording of homework tasks and completion dates will therefore be essential.

Coursework

Deadlines are set by each department and it is important that students complete work by the required deadline as this has implications for the right to appeal the mark. Further information regarding internally marked work can be found in the KEHS Internal Appeals Policy.

Assessment

Subject teachers will carry out assessments throughout the year, informally in lessons, and more formally in topic tests to monitor how students are progressing. The school encourages students to see these formative assessments as part of the learning journey and we urge students to use feedback to inform future work.

Eventually, students will sit more formal GCSE and A Level examinations and to help them develop study and revision techniques and experience examination conditions, each year group has more formal summative examinations in the summer term. During times of examination preparation, we encourage students to maintain a healthy work-life balance and continue with co-curricular activities, and the Thirds examination week features enrichment activities alongside the assessments.



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