



KING EDWARD VI HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

GCSE Options Process and Curriculum Details

2024 - 2026

Introduction

In the first three years of education at King Edward VI High School for Girls, choices of subjects are kept to a minimum so that breadth is ensured.

In order to offer sufficient depth of study and a degree of personalisation, we operate an options system for the Lower and Upper Fifth years. Our programme is designed to allow pupils to take a maximum of 10 GCSE subjects.

Core

All pupils will study 10 GCSE subjects comprising a core of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, a Modern Foreign Language and at least two Sciences.

Our expectation is that the majority of pupils will continue to study all three separate sciences, particularly if they are considering a career in engineering, medicine, pharmacy or veterinary science, or if they are unsure about their future career plans, as we would not want them to limit their choices in the future. There may be valid reasons for some pupils to choose to study two of the three sciences, to enable them to pursue a different academic pathway and select another subject in place of the third science; this is an option we would consider in discussion with the individual and her parents.

Options

In addition to the compulsory English Language, English Literature and Mathematics, pupils choose **seven** subjects from the following list:

Art & Design
Biology
Chemistry
Computing
Design Technology
Drama
French
Geography
German
History
Latin
Mandarin
Music
Physical Education
Physics
Religious Studies
Spanish

Additional GCSE Courses

Pupils can study for the Additional Mathematics qualification, which is examined at the end of the Upper Fifth. In addition, pupils can opt to study Greek GCSE as an eleventh (lessons are arranged outside of normal timetable time such as lunchtime, before/after school).

Timetable

The School tries to meet the choices of all pupils, indeed it designs the timetable around the options chosen by the girls. However, it is unlikely that every single subject combination will be possible. If this happens, pupils will be informed as early as possible, to enable them to make an alternative choice.

If numbers choosing any particular subject are not large enough for a viable group, then the option course **will not run**. We will inform pupils if it becomes clear that the numbers for a course are not viable, so that they can make an alternative choice.

The rest of the L5 curriculum consists of the following;

- Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE)
- Enrichment
- Physical Education

Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE)

This course continues throughout the Lower Fifth and Upper Fifth.

The PSHE curriculum follows the statutory guidance for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE). The curriculum has three strands: health and wellbeing; relationships and living in the wider world.

The overarching aims of the PSHE curriculum are to:

- promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school
- prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life in wider society

The intended outcomes of the PSHE programme are:

- to help pupils know and understand themselves, show empathy and the ability to work with others, enabling them to form and maintain healthy relationships
- to equip pupils to live safe, productive, capable, responsible, healthy and balanced lives
- to provide opportunities to reflect on and clarify personal values and attitudes and explore the complex and sometimes conflicting range of values and attitudes they encounter now and will in the future
- to develop essential skills for future employability and better enjoy and manage their lives
- to build their confidence, resilience and self-esteem, and to identify and manage risk, make informed choices and understand what influences their decisions

Content

Health and wellbeing:

- Emotional wellbeing and mental health
- Exploring influence
- First aid
- Yoga
- Independence

Relationships:

- Respectful and healthy relationships of all kinds
- The law on sex, relationships and young people
- Sexual health
- Contraceptive choices and pregnancy
- Addressing extremism and radicalisation

Living in the wider world:

- Careers and financial decision-making

Physical Education

The aim of the Physical Education curriculum in the Lower and Upper Fifth years is to give the pupils an opportunity to experience a range of skills and techniques appropriate for different sports. This includes Basketball, use of the fitness suite, Volleyball, Indoor Rowing, Badminton, Lifesaving, Leadership skills, Rounders and Tennis.

Through delivering a variety of sports, pupils are able to work with their peers and experience various roles within a sporting context from coach to official.

Upper 4th Option Choices

2024-2026

Timetable of Key Dates

January

- Mr Lea speaks to the Upper 4th in the Lecture Theatre
- A letter will be sent home with details of the options and a link to an electronic option form.

January

- Information Evening for parents, 11 January 2024.
- There will be an introduction to the new languages offered at KS4: Greek. These will take place in language lessons.
- The Upper 4th Parents' Evening, 30 January 2024, will provide an opportunity to discuss progress generally and also any issues relating to option choices.
- Deadline for the completion of GCSE Option Choices Microsoft Form: Monday 5 February. Microsoft Form can be found [here](#).

February

- Information will be given to Form Tutors, Head of Careers and subject staff relating to choices made by students.

February

- Timetabler finalises option blocks.
- If students wish to make any alterations to their choices from this point then they must see Mr Lea; he will then see whether it will be possible to accommodate any changes given the size of particular classes or the position of certain subjects within the option blocks.