Head of Computer Science

We are looking to appoint a well-qualified and enthusiastic Head of Computer Science for this academically selective school. The person must be able to teach to A Level. This is a full-time, permanent position to commence in September 2025, though part-time applications will be considered.

We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds, and no experience of working in the independent sector is required. A willingness to participate in the wider life of the school with pastoral care duties and help with co-curricular activities is expected. We welcome applications from those looking for their first middle leadership role as well as those with several years' experience as a head of department.

Early applications are most welcome; depending on the number of applications received, we reserve the right to bring the closing date and interviews forward.

The Computer Science Department

This is an exciting time to join the Computer Science Department at KEHS: our first cohort of GCSE candidates achieved excellent outcomes in summer 2024 and Computer Science A Level was introduced this year. Computer Science lessons take place in two purpose-built computer suites in our newly built Design Centre. We use Windows 11 PCs; all staff and students have Microsoft 365 accounts.

All Key Stage 3 pupils have weekly Computing lessons. They follow a curriculum that encourages problem solving and computational thinking alongside the development of programming and digital literacy skills. From Year 9, all pupils are taught how to program using Python; this is the language they continue to study if they opt for GCSE and A Level Computer Science.

Computer Science is a popular GCSE option: we have two sets in both Year 10 and Year 11, studying the OCR J277 Computer Science specification. Our first sets of results were excellent: 70% achieved grade 9 and a further 20% achieved a grade 8. Our first A Level course is now underway; we follow the AQA 7517 Computer Science specification. We expect excellent outcomes next summer; several pupils wish to apply for Computer Science courses at university.

Members of the department play an active role in the broader life of the school, contributing to extra-curricular activities linked to the subject area and beyond. Our pupils participate in national competitions, including the annual Bebras Challenge and CyberFirst Girls Competition. Sixth Formers lead a weekly Computing Club in which Lower School pupils undertake activities including using Microbits and undertaking coding and logic challenges. We are keen to continue to develop our extra-curricular and enrichment provision: the successful candidate will be expected to contribute to this.

Job Description: Head of Department

A Head of Department at KEHS is expected to undertake the following duties:

Teaching and Learning
- Teach an appropriate allocation of lessons.
- Be an outstanding practitioner and role model for teaching and learning, displaying a deep understanding of how young people learn.
- Engage actively in the performance review process.
- Maintain an up-to-date knowledge of curriculum and pedagogical developments in their subject.

Leadership of the Department
- Oversee the smooth running of the department.
- Set high expectations of staff and pupils.
- Work towards and support the school vision and the current school objectives outlined in the School Strategic Plan, formulating a departmental development plan that aligns with it.
- Monitor the progress of all pupils within the department, liaising with SEND and pastoral colleagues and overseeing interventions.
- Embed robust quality assurance procedures to ensure that teaching and learning is inclusive and consistently excellent across all teaching groups.
- Guide, support, and appraise academic teachers, assisting with induction and development and providing opportunities for responsibility.
- Collaborate where appropriate with your counterpart at King Edward's School for the academic and co-curricular benefit of pupils at both Schools
- Ensure that lessons are prepared and delivered in accordance with the departmental schemes of work and regulatory standards.
- Assist and guide pupils with university applications, conduct mock interviews, and write references.
- Attend parents' meetings and oversee communication with parents in academic matters.

General Requirements
- Support and contribute to the school's responsibility for safeguarding pupils.
- Work within the school's health and safety policy to ensure a safe working environment for staff, pupils and visitors.
- Promote equality of opportunity for all students and staff.
- Help sustain a school culture and curriculum which promotes an ethical education for all including promoting positive strategies for challenging discrimination of any kind.
- Maintain high professional standards of attendance, punctuality, appearance, conduct and positive, courteous relations with pupils, parents and colleagues.
- Contribute to the school's programme of extra-curricular activities.
- Undertake other reasonable duties related to the job purpose required from time to time

KING EDWARD VI
HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Person Specification

The ideal candidate will be expected to show evidence of many of the following skills and qualities.

Qualifications and Training	Essential	Desirable
An honours degree in Computer Science or a related subject	✓	
Qualified Teacher Status (UK)		✓
Courses of further study relevant to the post		✓
Evidence of involvement in personal CPD	✓	

Experience	Essential	Desirable
Experience of teaching in a highly academic context		✓
Experience of teaching the full 11-18 age range	✓	
Clear understanding and knowledge of current issues related to the teaching of Computer Science	✓	
Experience of subject leadership in Computer Science		✓
Experience of quality assurance of teaching and learning to secure continuous improvement		✓

Skills	Essential	Desirable
An understanding of safeguarding in schools	✓	
A clear understanding of how to engage with school data	✓	
Ability to think originally and creatively and show initiative	✓	
Commitment to high standards of teaching and learning	✓	
Ability to teach high quality lessons	✓	
The potential to lead and motivate teams	✓	
Excellent organisation abilities	✓	
High levels of ICT competency		✓

Personal characteristics	Essential	Desirable
Ability to cope with pressure	✓	
Ability to communicate effectively with parents, students and staff in a variety of ways	✓	
Understanding and commitment to equality of opportunity for all	✓	
Understanding of, and a commitment to the ethos of the school as a community	✓	
Tact, discretion and diplomacy	✓	
A clear motivation to work with young people	✓	
A commitment to promoting the wellbeing and safeguarding of children and young people	✓	
A genuine liking of people and the ability to show warmth, good-humour, empathy and sensitivity	✓	

How to apply

To apply for this role, please forward a completed application form, equal opportunities monitoring form (both available for download at https://kehs.org.uk/about-us/work-with-us/) and a covering letter addressed to the Head of School by email to: kesrecruitment@keschools.org.uk.

The deadline for applications is Tuesday 25th February 2025 at 0800, with interviews provisionally scheduled for the week beginning Monday 3rd March 2025. However, applications will be reviewed on receipt and early applications are encouraged: we reserve the right to bring forward the closing date and interview date if sufficient applications have been received.

If you have any queries about the role or would like to discuss it in more detail, please contact the current postholder, Liz Brown, by email: E.Brown@keschools.org.uk.

King Edward VI High School for Girls is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants invited to interview will be required to provide proof of identity, preferably a birth certificate, although where this is not available we will accept other forms of ID. Online searches will also be carried out for all shortlisted candidates, as required by Keeping Children Safe in Education. Successful candidates will be required to undergo an enhanced DBS check and other pre-employment checks. A copy of the School's Recruitment, Selection and Disclosure Policy is available on the website www.kehs.org.uk.