KING EDWARD VI
HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Information for candidates

The School

King Edward VI High School for Girls (KEHS) is one of the leading girls' schools in the country with outstanding academic results and a large and varied programme of extra-curricular activity. The School was founded in 1883 and counts the actress Lindsay Duncan and the BBC correspondent Reeta Chakrabarti amongst its alumnae. The School is an independent day school with 650 girls aged 11-18 and is part of the King Edward VI Foundation, which has 12 schools in Birmingham. The School is situated on a beautiful 50-acre campus in Edgbaston, which it shares with King Edward's School (KES).

At KEHS, we provide an outstanding education for able girls who relish original ideas and new challenges. Staff are passionate about their subjects and seek to inspire a love of learning for its own sake, in a remarkably supportive community. Girls combine a rigorous academic education with a huge range of high quality extra-curricular activities, preparing them for a wide array of Higher Education courses and careers.

The school is synonymous with intellectual ambition, with a mission to provide the best possible education for the brightest girls in and around Birmingham irrespective of their social or economic background. Over 20% of pupils have some kind of financial support and almost 10% pay no fees at all. The funds for this are provided by the King Edward VI Foundation and through the generous donations of alumnae and other organisations.

Following the appointment of Kirsty von Malaisé as Chief Master & Principal of KES and KEHS from September 2024, the two schools are about to embark on an ambitious strategic development, which will see the schools working more closely with each other whilst retaining their distinct identities.

Academic success

KEHS regularly ranks as one of the top-performing academic girls' schools in the country. Academic standards in the school are extremely high: in 2026, 38% of A Level grades were A*, 75% were A*/A and 91% were A*-B. GCSE results were similarly outstanding, with 57% of grades being grade 9, 81% being grades 9/8 and 91% being grades 9-7. The school has a long history of sending girls to the very best universities including Oxford and Cambridge. KEHS has been named West Midlands Independent Secondary School of the Year for Academic Excellence for the fifth year in a row by The Sunday Times' Parent Power guide for 2026. The school has also been rated the UK's Best Value Independent School for the second year running by The Telegraph.

The School

Extra-curricular activities

Our co-curricular programme is central to girls' intellectual and character development, as they grow in resilience, confidence and a sense of the difference they can make.

There are over 70 extra-curricular activities on offer each week, ranging from Chess to Model United Nations to Ultimate Frisbee.

The school produces music and drama of an exceptional quality, with a biennial performance in Symphony Hall in Birmingham. These activities were enhanced further by the construction of the Sir Paul and Lady Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, a joint £11 million facility shared with King Edward's School, which opened in 2012. There are many opportunities for students to perform, whether in the Junior or Senior Productions, or simply in Drama Clubs. The Dance Production is an annual highlight, with over 150 participants each year.

Sport is also a vital part of school life, and many teams compete at regional and national level in hockey, netball and rounders along with other sports including water polo, fencing and Ultimate Frisbee. The school has its own sports hall, gym, swimming pool, two astro pitches and several netball pitches and tennis courts on site, together with an international-standard athletics track in partnership with the University of Birmingham and King Edward's School.

Girls have access to a wide variety of educational visits and trips, from language exchanges to music and sports tours, with more local visits to museums such as the National Space Centre in Leicester and field trips to Malvern and Dorset. We are pleased to welcome visiting academics and alumnae to offer talks and lectures to the girls.

We have a developing Partnerships programme with local primary schools and girls are also encouraged to give their time and energy to make a difference to others through charitable service.

Pastoral support

Pastoral care at KEHS is focused on knowing girls as individuals, as well as being proactive about the issues they are likely to experience collectively. Our school is characterised by diversity and inclusion with a compassionate approach.

The School

Location, campus and buildings

The school moved to its current Edgbaston site from the centre of Birmingham in the 1930s and the main school buildings date from that time. However, they have been significantly enhanced in recent years. The Sir Paul and Lady Ruddock Performing Arts Centre provides a 400-seater auditorium for large-scale performances, a drama studio, a professional-standard dance studio and many practice rooms, and is shared with King Edward's School. Our exclusive Sixth Form facilities were transformed in 2021 and a £3m Design Centre opened in 2023 and features an enhanced exhibition space, modern classrooms and workshop facilities.

The school continues to invest in its facilities, with the development of an ambitious new home for Mathematics, Economics and Business, alongside a dedicated hub for enterprise, entrepreneurship and careers education. Due to open early in the 2028/29 academic year, the new building will provide modern, flexible learning and event spaces shared by KES and KEHS, creating further opportunities for collaboration, innovation and engagement with the wider community.

The extensive site is surrounded by the University botanical gardens, a lake and nature reserve. And yet, it is only a ten-minute bus ride from the cultural heart of the UK's second city where you will find Birmingham Symphony Hall and the Hippodrome, home of Birmingham Royal Ballet.

KEHS benefits from a number of excellent transport links including multiple bus routes, cross- and inter-city train lines, and a newly extended cycle highway. Neighbouring suburbs, including Harborne, Bournville and Moseley, are attractive and affordable, and there are many other appealing residential areas in the region, both urban and rural, to suit all tastes, families and budgets. There are also many good primary and prep schools, with which KEHS has good links.

The Foundation and its schools

The Schools of King Edward VI in Birmingham, more usually referred to as the King Edward VI Foundation, is one of the most significant educational charities in the UK. KEHS is one of two independent schools in the Foundation, the other being King Edward's School with which KEHS shares its campus. The Foundation also sponsors an Academy Trust, comprising six outstanding selective grammar schools and six comprehensive secondary academies. Further expansion is envisaged, helping the Foundation to fulfil its long-term aim of improving the life chances and educational experiences of more children in Birmingham in line with its ambition to make the city the best place to be educated in the UK.

The Foundation makes an annual grant to KEHS which pays for many of the Assisted Places.
The Foundation Office is located next to KEHS and it is from there that the various administrative and support services are run under the leadership of the Chief Executive. The Foundation provides a number of services to KEHS and is the legal employer of staff.

Employee benefits

Employee benefits

King Edward VI High School for Girls offers a comprehensive benefits package for its employees, including:

- Competitive salaries and pay progression
- Access to training courses and funding towards role-related professional qualifications for eligible employees
- Enhanced family leave for eligible employees
- Discount on KES and KEHS school fees (pro-rata for part-time employees), subject to meeting the Schools' admissions criteria
- Free lunch, tea, coffee and other refreshments during term-time if working at the times that these are available
- Free parking on the School site
- Discounted and free tickets to School productions, concerts and events at the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre
- Opportunity to join the KEHS/KES Choral Society, a mixed choir involving employees and pupils
- Free access to gym, pool and yoga sessions
- Free access to an Employee Assistance Programme offering free, 24-hour confidential assistance
- Annual flu vaccinations
- Death in service benefit through pension provider
- Corporate Eyecare vouchers
- Long service award
- Uniform and clothing provided free of charge if required for the role
- Access to Birmingham Hospital Saturday Fund (BHSF) for cashback on health-related purchases.

For Teachers:

- A programme of Continuing Professional Development
- Defined Contribution Pension Scheme (APTIS)

For Support Staff:

- Defined Contribution Pension Scheme, where the employer matches up to 8% when employee contributes 5%
- Either 20 or 22 days' holiday per year, increasing based on length of service to a maximum of 28 days, plus 8 bank holidays and 4 concessionary days when the School is closed.

These non-contractual benefits may be subject to change at any time.