



**KING EDWARD VI
NORTHFIELD
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

Educational excellence for our City

Year 9 Books

Our Prospectus

nsg.kevibham.org

Headteacher's Welcome

King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls is a wonderful place to work and to study.

We have three aims for all the children who are part of our school: that they are happy, that they feel safe and that they are able to fulfil their academic potential.

We believe in nurturing our children's talents and supporting their ambitions. In order to do this effectively we ensure a calm and purposeful environment in our classrooms and around our school.

These foundations have seen our school's achievements surpass all expectations - from the academic (amongst the best GCSE results in the city in key subjects, with young people making outstanding progress over their five years with us), to the sporting - recent years have seen our Under-16 Netball Team win the Regional Championship, and our Year 8 Athletics Team win the Birmingham Championships in the NIA.

We are entering a particularly exciting time. Firstly, we have are making the most of our state-of-the-art building. A Sports England-sized Sports Hall, a Dance Studio, specialist rooms and equipment for Art, Technology, Graphics, Science, Computing and Music with every room equipped with a 'teaching wall' and the latest interactive technology to facilitate exciting and engaging lessons.

Secondly, we have joined with the best schools in Birmingham within the King Edward VI Trust. This development enables our small school to continue to develop the many strengths we already have and provide a truly exceptional and outstanding education for all our pupils. The superb teaching within the group of schools as well as the expert advice and challenge provided by the King Edward VI team will assist our brilliant staff in further developing their practice. One example of the changes we are already seeing is we are transforming our extra-curricular offer to match our new status as a King Edward VI school, from Saturday morning sports clubs to musical theatre, all of our pupils will enjoy opportunities well beyond those available in most schools (see page 07).

It is a privilege to be Headteacher of our wonderful school - please call 0121 464 8346 to meet with me and to tour our school – to see our responsible pupils and dedicated staff in action.



Neil Jones
Headteacher





Great Teaching and Learning

Our teachers are committed, highly motivated and talented classroom practitioners. Young people who attend our school benefit from specialist teaching by professionally qualified staff.

Many of our teachers are graduates from the Outstanding Teacher Programme, and all benefit from great staff training. We take great pride in the fact that all our teachers are subject specialists. This means that our teachers are able to design a rich and knowledgeable curriculum that stretches and challenges all.

Our teachers and support staff are a wonderful team of dedicated professionals who put the success and happiness of the children at our school at the heart of everything they do.





Pastoral Care

Introducing Sophie Summers

Because we understand that to be confident and successful you first need to feel happy, we devote a great deal of energy into making sure our new Year 7s feel at home, and that their parents don't feel that sudden loss of connection that often comes with the transition to secondary school.

Head of Transition and Year 7, Sophie Summers, is always on hand to support the children as they settle in. She is constantly talking to staff, identifying children who are feeling the shock of the change of school and to parents, letting them know any minor issues that arise and being a friendly face for parents to raise any anxieties they may have about their daughter's friendships or school work. Most of all, Mrs Summers takes the time to talk to the children, to reassure and encourage, to help overcome the uncertainties and celebrate the small successes.

Mrs Summers leads a team of specialist Year 7 Form Teachers, who strive to get to know every child in their form. Parents often comment on how much they welcome the chance to chat with their daughter's form teacher at the Support Your Daughter Evening, early in their daughter's time in our school. Pastoral support at King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls plays a huge part in the success of our students. From the mentoring and support offered by our expert Learning Mentors, Luke Atkinson, Jade Hall and Sharon Murphy, through to the high standards of behaviour actively encouraged by the Heads of Year.

We do not tolerate bullying and encourage our students to take on a full part in helping each other and the school. Our Year 11 PALS are always on hand to help our Year 7s find their way, build new friendships and to be a friendly face. Some students become 'peer mediators' helping younger students resolve fall-outs. Some Year 11s become 'ARnties', helping younger students in school develop their reading, as part of the Accelerated Reader (AR) programme.





Academic Success

Pupils at King Edward VI Northfield School for Girls achieve fantastic results in their GCSEs. In 2019 (prior to Covid-19 and grades relying on teacher assessment) the percentage securing a Grade 4 or better (equivalent to the old 'C' grade) rose to 70% in Maths and 74% in English.

The number of students securing higher grades, 5+ (equivalent to the old 'B') was also remarkable. Across a wide range of subjects, pupils achieved tremendous results, with over 60% achieving 5+ in English, 49% in Maths, 52% in History, 53% in Music and 47% in RE.

Our broad curriculum, which allows students to follow practical qualifications, has also allowed many students to secure a career path into public services with extremely high pass and distinction rates in all of our BTEC courses notably Health and Social Care, Dance and Sport.

A particularly pleasing outcome of 2019's exams was the number of students who achieved the very highest grades, 8s and 9s, notably in Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Placing these talented and hard-working students amongst the best and brightest in the country.

Incredible Student Progress

Our Overall Progress 8 (how secondary school performance is measured by the government) continues to be one of the best in the area.

We believe that children need the chance to discover their strengths and passions. Therefore, we believe in a broad and balanced curriculum, rather than an 'exam sausage factory.' The confidence and belief that some children find in Dance, Athletics or Art is not a distraction from Maths and English - it enables success in these core areas.



'Students are courteous, polite and helpful.'

Ofsted





Extra Curricular

Our list of clubs and enrichment activities is a remarkable testament to the enthusiasm of our students and the commitment of our staff. Clubs include:

- Science Club
- Technology Club
- Languages and Culture Club (Italian, Spanish and German)
- Self Defence Club
- Chess Club
- Kindle Classics
- Cookery Club
- Food Science and Food Styling Club
- Photography Club
- Gardening Club
- Singing Club
- NSG Newspaper
- Musical Theatre
- Rock and Pop Academy
- Orchestra
- Book Club
- Maths Puzzlers
- Keyboard and Performance
- Music Theory Club
- Band Club
- Art Club
- Aspire Club (for young people aiming to attend one of the top universities)
- Netball
- Football
- Trampolining
- Dance
- Badminton
- Pound
- Fitness
- Gymnastics
- Rounders
- Tennis
- Yoga
- Archery
- Drama Club

Every afternoon we run a supervised homework club until 5.00pm (4.30pm on Friday), providing a safe space for pupils whose parents are at work as well as a supportive environment for those challenging homeworks!

Saturday Morning Clubs

On Saturday mornings we run a variety of clubs including Drama, Sports and Gardening Clubs offering our pupils a healthy, active and social way to kick off their weekend!

All clubs, whether after school or on the weekend are free for all pupils.

This incredible range of opportunities means our young people will develop as rounded individuals with a broad range of interests. It is a testament to the dedication of our staff that we are able to offer such a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities, far more than schools which are twice as large as our school.

The Importance of Educational Trips

Every single pupil at our school will go on two or three educational visits to theatres, museums, art galleries and historical sites, fully funded by the school each year. This will ensure that no child misses out on crucial opportunities for enrichment. These visits include Art Galleries, Museums, the London sights and other activities across the country.

In addition to these 11 core educational visits, our young people will enjoy a range of additional trips and opportunities from residential visits to France and Germany and a Welsh activity centre to college and university taster days. Our approach to educational visits mirrors our ethos – we believe that every pupil should enjoy their time at school and be able to take advantage of all the opportunities we can provide.

In addition to these educational visits, any Year 7s who arrive at our school without a reasonable competency in swimming are taken for a weekly swimming lesson.

Supporting the needs of all our pupils

The Special Educational Needs Department works exceptionally hard to make sure all of our young people are able to access their learning and find success in their studies.

We do this through building close relationships with young people and their parents, making sure that parents feel part of their daughter's journey through school. Our team of Teaching Assistants combine experience with enthusiasm, with expertise ranging across a wide range of needs. Please contact our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Nicola Davies, via the school office, to have a tour of our facilities and to meet the team.

The most academically able pupils are pushed to succeed in all aspects of school life. We have a strong record of success in achieving the highest grades across a wide range of subject areas. This is in part down to excellent and inspirational teaching but also testimony to the work ethic fostered from year 7 onwards.

These young pupils will be further supported through the Aspire Club and a dedicated member of staff. The Aspire Club includes visits from leading academics, masterclasses by the very best teachers within the King Edward VI Schools and visits to top universities in the school holidays.





Uniform

Our uniform is smart, practical and affordable, comprising of:

- Black blazer with school badge
- White shirt
- School tie
- Black knee length skirt or school trousers
- Sensible flat black shoes
- Plain white or black socks or plain black or natural tights
- A PE uniform comprising of black polo shirt with school badge and pupil's initials and black leggings, joggers or shorts with pupil's initials

Our uniform is available to purchase from a number of local stockists at very competitive prices. Parents have the freedom to buy school uniform from other outlets. We also keep a stock of second hand uniform in good condition - please contact Sharon Murphy (0121 464 8346), if financial issues mean you require confidential assistance.

Admissions, Open Evening, School Visits

We follow the Birmingham Local Authority guidance on admissions.

For your daughter to join our school at the start of Year 7, please indicate a preference for our school on the Local Authority form (return by 1st October). For in-year admissions (if you have moved into the area or have other reasons for seeking a change of school for your daughter), please call Donna Smith (0121 464 8346) or collect a form from our reception.

Visit our website for open evening details: <https://nsg.kevibham.org>. We welcome visits during the school day - so you can see our school in action. Please call 0121 464 8346 to arrange a tour with the Headteacher, Neil Jones or the Head of Year 7, Sophie Summers.





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