



KING EDWARD VI COLLEGE

STOURBRIDGE

— EST. 1552 —

Parent Handbook

2025/26



Welcome to King Ed's

Welcome to King Ed's! Our job is to do everything we can to steer your child towards a successful future: to do that, we need your support. In this guide you will find all the information you need to help your child to make a great start at college, to keep in touch with us whenever there is a need, and to stay informed about progress.

One of the great goals of being a sixth form student is to become independent, with the work ethic and organisational skills to tackle adult life. This means that there will be some differences to how things happened at school, with more communication directly with the student and less to parents, but the partnership between parents and college is still essential. We will keep you informed with regular emails – if you're not getting them, please call the college so that we can check we have the right details. The need to attend classes, do homework and treat others with respect is as important as ever, and we rely on parental support to help students get these things right.

I look forward to working with you and hopefully seeing you at one of our many concerts, events and performances. Thanks for reading this, and for choosing to join us.



Holly Bembridge
Principal

Our Mission

Forging a better future by giving talented youth the tools to be successful, independent and community-minded.

Our students are talented. It is our duty to help them build on that talent, but also to nurture broader capacities so that they make a positive contribution to wider society. We do this through helping them to:

- connect with each other and form bonds that will support them in their future lives
- make ambitious and courageous choices
- pursue knowledge and apply it to new contexts, creating new ideas and artefacts
- step into the world as resilient young adults

We want all of our students to have one of the most fun, enriching and transformative experiences life can offer – studying at a fantastic college!

Student Framework

Students joining us have ambition and a drive to succeed. It is vital that we stoke and nurture this ambition throughout their short time at college. We have very high expectations for our students, and we want to support them to develop all of the necessary skills and habits to be successful. The student framework makes clear the attitudes and behaviours we expect of our students, with three main foci: kinship, effort & discipline and self-knowledge (KEDS). The framework focuses on what is needed for success in their academic work, but also the importance of being a good citizen – of the college, but also the wider community and in their futures. Please talk to your child about the framework, and support them to ensure they are meeting the college expectations.



FUTURE M @ K E

Future-Mapping at King Ed's (FutureM@KE for short!) means that we start talking to students about what their future career goals might be right from day one. We know that many, or most, young people won't have a strong grasp of what they want to do next, but the more they can develop their ideas about the future the more motivated they will be to prepare, work hard and be successful. These are the different strands to FutureM@KE:

Reflection – students will spend time at the beginning of their studies (and regularly afterwards) considering their own unique strengths, areas for development, and big goals to work towards.

Experience – throughout October, there will be a range of experiences and activities to support students with thinking about careers – work experience, talks, visits and fairs. In June, we will be focused on community work, with plenty of opportunities for students to launch positive projects, do some good and enrich the lives of others.

Feedback – throughout their time at college, students will get regular checkpoints with opportunities to get 1-1 feedback from teachers, tutors, and careers staff, helping them to know if they are on track to meet their goals, and what they need to do if not.

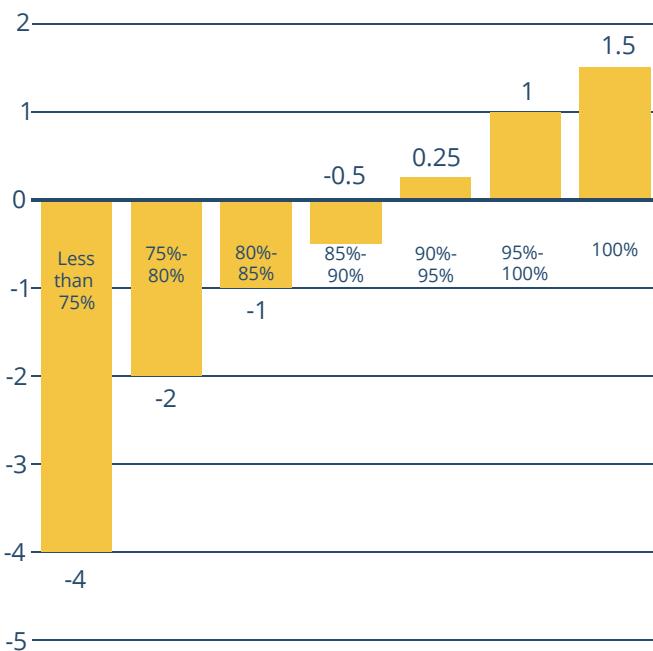
FutureM@KE forms a spine for students' college experience, so that they develop good and ambitious plans for their future lives, and that the work they are doing in and out of classes is getting them where they need to be.



Attendance

One of the most important things students can do to support their success at college is attend all their timetabled sessions. There is no substitute for being in the classroom when studying your courses. The graph below was produced for all A level students in sixth form colleges across the UK based on their outcomes. This is data collected for thousands of students and presents a very strong correlation and represents what happened to real students in terms of their A level results in summer. As soon as a student's attendance drops below 90%, there is a clear impact on results and how many grades below their projected grades they will be. This shows that there is simply no substitute for being in the classroom, even if students who have been absent can find lesson resources on Teams. Catching up following a missed lesson is never as effective as being in a live lesson face to face with a teacher.

Similarly, attendance at tutorials is vital for developing study skills and hearing about progression opportunities such as applying to university. We always challenge students whose attendance is falling or whose punctuality threatens their chances of academic success. You will be able to view attendance figures for your child through our 'ParentPortal' system. Please do study these carefully and where necessary, challenge your son/daughter over missed time at college. If you need further help or advice with this matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's Personal Tutor who will look support you.



Study Programme

A programme of study at King Ed's is not just about A levels. There are a number of other key elements to help equip students for their onward destination, whatever that may be. These additional elements include:

Tutorial Programme

Personal tutors oversee and facilitate a tutorial programme designed to develop the key competencies of the Student Framework and address how to keep themselves and others safe. The first few weeks of tutorials will concentrate on settling students into college and equipping them with the skills and habits required for successful study. Students will have a taught session every week with their tutor, and then one study session a week with their tutor and tutor group.

Support for Next Steps

The KE careers team provide students with excellent careers advice and guidance to ensure students are able to make the best decisions regarding their future. This includes impartial careers advice and guidance, support with finding work experience placements, university and apprenticeships guidance and opportunities to join a range of pathways and hear from guest speakers.

GCSE English and Maths

In line with government guidance, students who have not achieved a grade 4 or above in English or Maths are required to have the GCSE resit subject added to their programme.

Core Maths

The Core Maths qualification helps students discover how to tackle practical problems, analyse data and make informed decisions. Most students won't need to know abstract mathematical concepts going forward in their careers. Core Maths equips students with the practical mathematical tools needed for success in various fields, for example, financial maths, critical analysis and the maths that they will be using in their A levels. All students studying subjects with maths content, will be encouraged to take Core Maths. Students studying Psychology, Accounting, Geography and Economics who have not gained a 6 or above, and those studying Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Computer Science who have gained a 6 will be added to this qualification automatically.



Changing Subjects

Right from a student's first contact with the college, we work to ensure that each student chooses the right combination of subjects for their individual skills and aspirations. However, it is inevitable that some students will realise that they have chosen a subject they do not want to continue. For this reason, we allow students to change a subject within the first few weeks of starting their programme. Change requests are granted on the basis of available space, entry requirements and suitability. Once this course change window has closed, changes are only agreed in extraordinary circumstances. Students will have opportunity to meet with senior members of staff to support them in their subject changes.

Keeping Parents Informed

We appreciate that you will want to keep abreast of your child's progress. We have 3 subject assessment points (SA points) through the year that will allow you to see your child's progress. We also conduct Progress Reviews at the end of the Autumn Term of Year 12, these are meetings held online between subject teachers and students. You will be able to join your child for these meetings. Please check our regular newsletters for further information about these events nearer the time.

Progression

Towards the end of the first year, at Subject Assessment 3, students will find out whether they can progress to Year 13. Progression is straightforward for the vast majority of students but where there are issues around progress, attendance or attitude to work, there may be a requirement to agree an alternative programme for the second year or even to leave the college.



Timetable

Students are issued with their timetable at the induction day in September with the majority of students studying three A levels. We expect students to spend an additional five hours per subject on independent learning and completing homework per week.

Whilst some students may wish to complete their independent study time at home, all students are encouraged to make use of the library and other facilities in college to undertake some independent study during the college day. Enrichment activities are in addition to set lessons and each club or society will publicise the time it will take place. We expect all our students to take an active part in the wider college community and embrace all the opportunities on offer.

All subjects will run workshops in the middle of the day. Some of these sessions will be compulsory and some will be optional. It is important that students make the most of these sessions and attend as many as they can to support their studies.

	Monday	Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		
8.45 – 9.50	8.45 – 9.00 Staff Briefing	B		C		D		E		
9.50 – 10.55	9.00 – 9.55 CPD/Meeting Time	B		C		D		E		
10.55 – 11.10	10.05 – 11.10 A					BREAK				
11.10 – 12.15	A	F		A		F		B		
12.15 – 13.00	Y12 w/shop	Y13 Lunch	Y12 w/shop	Y13 Lunch	Enrichment	Lunch	Y12 w/shop	Y13 Lunch	Y12 w/shop	Y13 Lunch
13.00 – 13.45	Y12 Lunch	Y13 w/shop	Y12 Lunch	Y13 w/shop	Lunch	Enrichment	Y12 Lunch	Y13 w/shop	Y12 Lunch	Y13 w/shop
13.45 – 14.50	D		E		F		B		C	
14.55-16.00	E		D		F		C		A	

Student Support Team



Sarah MacKenzie

Assistant Principal
(Safeguarding Lead)



Laura Day

Senior Safeguarding
Officer
DDSL



Stuart Parks

Senior Tutor
DDSL



Becky Hall

Safeguarding
Officer
DDSL



Clare Bramall

Vice Principal
DDSL



Ajay Mehta

Faculty Director
DDSL



Alex Branton

Lead Tutor
DDSL



Medhi Didarzadeh

Lead Tutor
DDSL



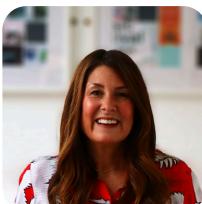
Emily Guest

Lead Tutor & DDSL



Sam Watkins

Lead Tutor & DDSL



Rebecca Williamson

Lead Tutor & DDSL



Aimie Chatfield

Medical Welfare Officer
(DDSL)



Mark Brown

Counsellor



Yvette Browne

Counsellor



Jay Rogers

Counsellor

Learning Support Team



Lowri Saenger
SENCo (DDSL)



Susan Clarke



Hannah Dulson



Vanessa King



Axelle Parker
SENCo
(Maternity cover)



Jo Preston

Personal Tutors



Zoe Emery



Louise Fulwell



Julie Gwinnell



Nicola Hadley



Karen Lloyd



Timothy Middleton



Molly Naylor



Rachel Oldham



Marie Prime



Sharon Rollason



Rikki Sehmbi



Angela Walker

Supporting Students

At King Ed's, we get to know our students as individuals so we can provide the motivation and encouragement they need to excel during the two years they are with us. Our academic and pastoral support teams will guide and support them, happily and successfully, on every stage of their journey with us.

Personal Tutors

All students are assigned a personal tutor (PT) who will be their first port of call and provide on-going support and guidance throughout their two-year programme. The PT will meet with their tutees in individual one to one reviews to discuss their personal, social and academic progress, set targets and address any issues.

Lead Tutors

Lead tutors work alongside the faculty directors (FDs) and have oversight of your child's programme of study. They also work closely with personal tutors (PTs), have safeguarding training and can signpost your child to services and advisors for additional or specialised support. You can always rely on there being someone available for students to sit down and talk to in a safe, supportive environment.

Safeguarding Team

Keeping you safe is the most important thing we do at college. Our safeguarding team are available to help whenever students feel unsafe, are at risk or in danger. We work with external agencies to secure the most appropriate level of support for students and, where appropriate, their families.

Mental Health Support

We have designated senior and deputy mental health leads who work with the mental health support team from Reflexions. Their Education Mental Health Practitioners work with our students experiencing a variety of mental health concerns including low mood, worry, sleep issues, panic and exam stress.

Counselling Service

Students have access to three fully qualified counsellors on-site who deal with a variety of issues in complete confidence. Students can refer themselves or be referred via their Personal Tutor, Lead Tutor or any member of staff. Students are offered an initial assessment and, if appropriate, this will be followed by a series of one to one sessions. Our counsellors have a wealth of experience in working with this age group and are available full time during term time.



Medical Welfare Officer

Students have access to a fully qualified Medical Welfare Officer who can support them regarding a number of health issues, offer advice and signpost to other health agencies. She is available for drop-ins, regular appointments and immediate first aid.

Learning Support

The college is a supportive and inclusive environment where all learning differences, physical disabilities, mental health and medical conditions are treated sensitively. Disclosing such a condition will enable us to support your child appropriately. Staff at King Ed's are here to assist students in achieving their full potential, and the Learning Support team can help to make the transition from GCSE to A level a smoother and less daunting process. We have a well qualified team of inclusion co-ordinators who can offer one to one support where appropriate.

If your child has already been diagnosed with a condition which qualifies for special examination access arrangements, such as extra time, the Learning Support team will work with you to ensure this adjustment is applied at college. If you suspect your child has a learning difference, please contact us so we can provide advice, guidance and support. Any questions should be directed to Axelle Parker, our Special Educational Needs Coordinator. Email learningsupport@kedst.ac.uk



Communicating With Us

MailChimp

We use a system called MailChimp to keep in touch with parents and carers. We collect your email details during the application and enrolment process and will use this platform throughout the year to communicate with you.

Parent Portal

Students use a system called 'Portal' to view their timetables, attendance and progress grades. They are shown how to use Portal during their induction. Parents can also access this information through 'Parent Portal' by going to parents.kedst.ac.uk.

It's really simple to use, just put in your email and it'll send you a code. It may be that your child needs to grant you access. This is really easy to do and they will have been shown how to do this in the first few weeks of term.

Parent
Portal
Click Here

Student Email

All students are given a college email account which is the main method of communication between the College and students outside of lessons. Details of how to access their email account will be provided on induction.

Reporting an Absence

If students are ill or unable to attend college unexpectedly, please inform the College by emailing: attendance@kedst.ac.uk at the earliest opportunity. They should also inform their Personal Tutor and teachers to find out what work they will be missing. If students know in advance that they are going to be absent for short events like appointments or university open days, they can email: attendance@kedst.ac.uk in advance of the day attaching a screenshot of the booking notification as evidence. If students are absent from college for more than two days, they must fill in a leave of absence form available from reception. Where possible, appointments such as driving lessons, driving theory tests and medical appointments should be arranged so they do not clash with timetabled lessons.

Payments to College

We use a system called myEvolve. This is used for all trips/visits payments, resources your child might need (e.g. art materials) and also tickets for events at the college. It is super easy to set up! Click the link [here](#) and follow the quick instructions. Make sure it's the same email that is listed as a contact for your child as it will automatically link the two accounts. There's also an app - just search for myEvolve in the App/Play Store.



We know that life can throw some curve balls every now and then. Where difficult situations arise, early communication is key. Please let us know if you have any worries that you think may affect the education of your child. Usually the best point of contact will be their Personal Tutor, who can then arrange to speak to you, or find the best person to respond.

If you are unhappy with the college's response, we have a complaints procedure and we will always put a remedy in place if we are at fault. Please be aware that like any other business we will not tolerate rude or aggressive behaviour towards our staff. So, if emotions are running high, please be thoughtful about how that gets expressed.

Reporting a Safeguarding or Bullying Issue

If you or your child are worried about their safety, or the wellbeing of a friend, you or they can contact their Personal Tutor, Lead Tutor or a member of the safeguarding team. You can email: safeguarding@kedst.ac.uk

We have a duty of care to young people and take our responsibilities for child protection very seriously. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of our students, both within the college environment and outside. We aim to promote a positive, supportive and secure environment in which students feel respected and valued. High self-esteem, confidence, supportive friends and clear lines of communication with trusted adults are important elements of prevention. We recognise that safeguarding incidents could happen anywhere, so all staff are trained to be alert to any possible causes for concern. King Ed's has a comprehensive anti-bullying policy. All accusations and incidents will be fully investigated and dealt with appropriately.

We also have a safeguarding reporting tool for students which will also enable them to remain anonymous. Research has shown that being able to report anonymously is an important part of listening to students, building trust and a significant step in removing the barriers which might prevent people from sharing concerns. Many people, after initially wishing to remain anonymous when reporting a safeguarding concern, actually go on to seek support in person. Students do have the option to include their name if they wish to be contacted and offered support. If they don't want to leave their name, they can simply put 'Anon' in the relevant box.

Reporting Tool
[Click Here](#)

Holidays During Term Time

We do not authorise students to take holidays during term time. The evidence from research conducted in the sixth form colleges sector demonstrates a strong correlation between absence and underperformance in examinations. Given the strength of this research, our position is that no leave of absence, for any reason, is approved during term time.

Please be aware that if a student's absence drops below 90%, regardless of the reason, they may be subject to monitoring through our student intervention system, which keeps an eye on any potential under performance and provides appropriate support.

Financial Support

Bursary
Information
[Click Here](#)

16-19 Bursary Fund

Financial support may be available to students who need assistance to help them study at King Ed's. The broad focus of the support is to help those students with essential costs where paying for them would be a barrier to them remaining in education. Students who come from households where the annual income is £30,000 or less may get assistance towards the following costs (an increased limit will apply to households with more than 4 children).

Transport

Travel costs can be a major consideration when deciding where to study. To help with this, students who live in excess of 1 mile from King Ed's may be able to get their travel cost fully reimbursed. Students from outside the Network West Midlands area may be able to get further support towards the additional cost of college transport, train travel or other bus operators.

Other Costs

Eligible students will receive all relevant course items such as books, equipment, stationery, compulsory trips etc. It is worthwhile emailing the Bursary Administrator via bursary@kedst.ac.uk to request additional support.

Free Meals

Free meals is a completely separate entitlement to the 16-19 Bursary fund. However, we assess eligibility for Free Meals whilst assessing Bursary applications. Acceptance of your application for Free Meals will mean the student will receive breakfast and lunch whilst they are in College.

How to Apply for the 16-19 Bursary

Fund eligibility for the 16-19 Bursary Fund and Free Meals will be assessed upon completion of a 16-19 Bursary Fund application through our online portal. The application portal and guidance notes are available on the King Ed's website in the Finance section under Student Support or through this link [here](#).

Alternatively, you can contact the 16-19 Bursary Fund Administrator.

Email: bursary@kedst.ac.uk



Commitment to All

We're justifiably proud at King Ed's of our proactive stance on equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI). The college is committed to celebrating diversity, challenging inequality and stereotypes and treating all students and staff with dignity and respect.

We encourage our students to involve themselves in EDI in numerous ways.

EDI Staff

We have a dedicated member of staff supporting students and staff across the college. Throughout the year the lead organises events celebrating our diverse community at the college and also supports teachers and students within lessons and the curriculum.

LGBTQ+ Society

A popular group which meets regularly to discuss relevant issues and raise awareness of the LGBTQ+ community.

Wellbeing Week and Cultural Events

Regular wellbeing and cultural activities are events which help to raise student awareness and provide opportunities to celebrate equality, diversity and inclusion at the college. If you have a question or a concern regarding an EDI issue, please contact the college via your child's Personal Tutor.



Student Responsibilities

Dress Code

At college, we don't have a uniform. We value self-expression and individuality, and we recognise that students may choose to dress in a wide variety of styles. However, college is a shared and professional learning environment, and we ask all students to dress in a way that's appropriate for study and respectful of others.

To maintain a positive and inclusive environment, please don't wear:

- Hats, caps, hoods, or coats worn in lessons (unless for religious or medical reasons)
- Clothing that deliberately exposes underwear
- Outfits that are excessively revealing
- Items with language or images that could be considered discriminatory, violent, or offensive

We understand that styles vary and that expectations evolve. This guidance is not about judging anyone's personal choices—it's about setting shared expectations for a respectful, inclusive, and safe environment.

Registration

Attendance for all taught lessons and tutorial will be recorded and monitored.

Lanyards and ID cards

For safety and security, it is important that we are able to see at a glance that everyone who is on campus has the right to be here, so all students and staff are required to wear their college ID card and lanyard. We expect all students to wear their lanyards throughout the day and use them to gain access to the college site. Lanyards are vital to ensure the safety and security of all members of our college community. If students do not have their lanyard when they arrive at college; they are likely to have to pay for a new card or will be sent home to collect their lanyard.



Valuables

Unfortunately, the College cannot accept responsibility for valuable items brought onto the site. Students should keep valuables with them at all times.

Student Agreement

All students are required to sign an agreement based on the student code of conduct at the start of each academic year. By signing the student agreement, students commit not only to attend all lessons and complete all work as might be expected, but also to treat all members of the college community with respect at all times. This expectation extends to social media and we encourage parents to take an interest in their child's use of these online applications. Where a student is not fulfilling the terms of their contract, we intervene to support them. Stronger disciplinary procedures may be implemented for serious breaches of the agreement.

Illness or Injury

Our Medical Welfare Officer will attend to any incident which requires immediate attention and if the student is unable to travel home alone a member of the team will remain with them until they are collected. If a student needs to leave college due to illness, they should complete a self-certification form, available from reception, either before they leave, or when they return.



Student Code of Conduct

By following the Student Code of Conduct, your child will contribute to creating an environment in which they can flourish and fulfil their career and further study aspirations.

- Show respect for all members of the college community
- Be polite and courteous
- Take responsibility for your actions and choices
- Attend all timetabled commitments and meetings
- Wear your college ID card and lanyard at all times
- Use mobile phones responsibly and know when to put them down
- Respect the college buildings and other property
- Meet deadlines
- Take pride in all aspects of your work
- Understand the expectations placed on you
- Complete all work and study diligently
- Follow reasonable instructions and requests made by members of college staff
- Contribute to good communication and read college emails at least daily
- Respect members of the public around the town and bus and rail stations
- Arrive punctually and prepared for all activities

Sometimes, students do not always meet our high expectations for work and attendance. In these cases, we aim to support students get back on track through limiting their free time during the college day outside of lessons and providing supervised study sessions to help students catch up. At times, these may also be after the college day if students are not using opportunities during the day to improve their attitude to learning.

Getting to College

Public Transport

The college is a five-minute walk from Stourbridge Interchange, the combined bus and train station which provides excellent links across the West Midlands and beyond. The public transport fares available to students depend on where they live. Students who live in the Network West Midlands (NWM) region* can apply for a 16-18 Photocard which allows them to buy a season ticket and pay fares on buses and trains at child rates (50% discount). Application is via the network's website. Click the link to find out more.

* NWM student rates are available for students who live in West Midlands Combined Authority i.e. Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Students travelling by train from outside the West Midlands (predominantly students living in Worcestershire) can buy a West Midland Trains (WMT) Scholar's Season Ticket which offers around 25% discount on the cost of travel with WMT. In order to purchase Scholar's tickets, students must first obtain a West Midlands Trains photocard from any staffed ticket office. Photocards are free of charge and students need to provide a passport size photograph. On the photocard will be a number which should be quoted when purchasing the season ticket online from. Click the link to find out more.

When purchasing, 'Stourbridge Town' should be identified as the destination. Scholars Tickets are only valid for their respective term and need to be renewed before the start of each term (usually about one month in advance).

Cycling

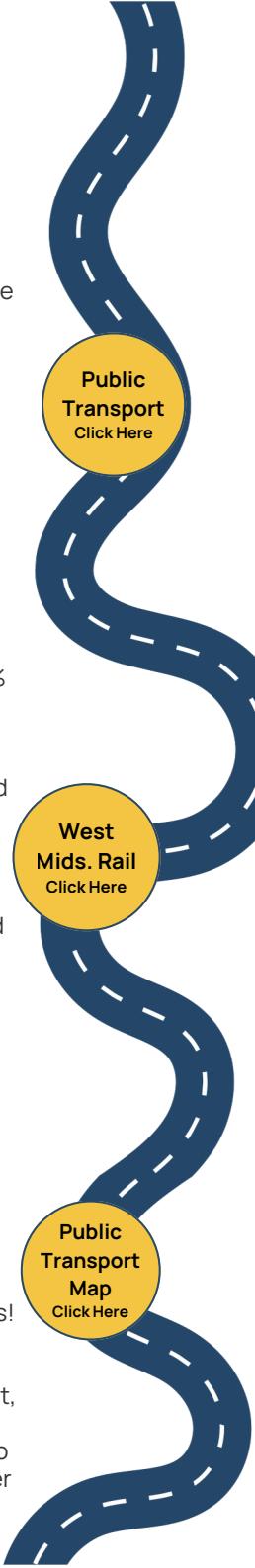
A bicycle shed is available on campus outside the Maurice Wilkes building. Students are required to provide their own locks. There are shower facilities available.

Student Parking

Although there is no parking on campus for staff or student cars (other than for those who are blue badge holders), there are public car parks close by. If students choose to park on a street, they should be considerate of local residents and businesses. Police and parking wardens are very active in the area and will not hesitate to give out fines!

Dropping Off Points

We ask that students are dropped off and collected in Lower High Street, as Duke Street has a high volume of student pedestrians at the beginning and end of the college day. To ensure their safety, we need to minimise traffic on this road; therefore, we would ask you to find another suitable location for drop-offs and pick-ups.



College Transport

The College provides chartered coaches aimed at assisting students who live in areas where there is little or no public transport to Stourbridge.

Current routes:

- Bridgnorth
- Cleobury Mortimer (via Bewdley)
- Bromsgrove
- South Birmingham (Longbridge, Northfield and Rubery)
- West Worcestershire (Martley, Great Witley and Stourport)
- Wolverhampton

The subsidised cost for all of the routes from September 2025 is as follows:

Year 12 students = £60 x 9 payments on 1st of each month
(from 1st October)

Year 13 students = £60 x 6 payments on 1st of each month
(from 1st October)

To express an interest in using these services, and to state which route and stop you would want to use, please email: travel@kedst.ac.uk

(details and 'live' information is available on our transport leaflet on the website)

Help with Travel Costs

Students who are eligible for financial assistance from the 16 -19 Bursary Fund can claim support towards the costs of travel.

Although payments do vary, for many students this payment will cover the total cost of travelling to college.



College
Transport
Map
Click Here



Opening and Closing Times

During term time students can access buildings from 7.45am. Classrooms and study areas should be vacated by 4.30pm (there are spaces around college to continue independent studying). Other college services are available as follows:

Reception (and switchboard services)

Monday - Tuesday: 8.00am - 4.30pm

Wednesday - Friday: 8.00am - 4.00pm

The Library

Monday - 10.00am - 6.00pm

Tuesday - Thursday: 8.00am - 6.00pm

Friday - 8.00am - 4.15pm

During study leave the librarians advertise any changes to these opening hours as required. However, during the holidays the library is closed.

College Closure Procedures

Sometimes we are forced by circumstances to close the college, for example, due to severe weather conditions, power failure or loss of heating. Where possible lessons would move online.

The travel arrangements for students will be given particular attention in the decision making and communication processes.

The primary source of information regarding college closures will be the college website which will show details about both closure and expected re-opening. We will communicate college closure notifications and updates via student emails and social media.



Extra-curricular Activities

A programme of study at King Edward's is not just about A levels. There are a number of other key events and programmes to help students develop and become enriched by their experience at college.

Enrichment

The college offers a wide range of opportunities for students to engage in, such as societies, sports activities, music and performing arts. We have common time slots on the timetable when most activities will occur. The range of activities is extensive and includes a wide variety of sports, music and performing arts groups, Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award and specialist interest clubs and societies. Students sign up for these early in the autumn term and their choice of activity becomes part of their programme of study.

Trips and Visits

The college runs many trips throughout the year and is proud of maintaining these opportunities for its young people. Recently these have included history students visiting Boston; geography and geology students visiting Iceland; a mixed group of students spending a week in The Gambia; theatre visits, art exhibitions and ski trips, as well as visits to conferences and university lectures. For students experiencing financial hardship, support for trips and visits may be provided through the bursary fund. Guidance can be found on the college website along with the application portal. Students taking part in trips and visits are expected to have a good attitude to work and a good level of attendance.

The Aspire Programme

Our Aspire programme is mandatory for all students with GCSEs that meet the criteria for getting into top destinations, and open to any student looking to maximise their potential and develop their skills beyond their A level curriculum. We provide a range of activities and opportunities designed to challenge, inspire and guide you.

Students joining the Aspire programme can expect:

- Presentations and debates on a wide range of topics, developing thinking and reasoning skills
- Inspirational talks and lectures by visiting speakers
- Open Day visits to top universities, including Girton College Cambridge and Oriel College, Oxford
- Information about summer schools and masterclasses offered by universities
- Guidance on planning independent research into university choices
- Opportunity to complete the Extended Project Qualification
- Preparation for university admissions tests (e.g UCAT, BMAT and LNAT)



After King Ed's

After their A levels, our students leave King Ed's well-prepared for their next adventure, whether they're moving on to higher education, vocational training or the first steps into a worthwhile career.

Throughout their time at King Ed's, they can access one to one careers appointments with one of two qualified and impartial careers advisers and we deliver careers and progression information through weekly tutorials. Students can use Unifrog software to research their university and apprenticeship options, and Venture software to consider gap years and studying abroad.

Students interested in specific careers, such as teaching, medicine, law or engineering, are able to sign up to the King Ed's 'Pathway Schemes', which ensure they have access to a variety of specialised opportunities and support needed for their chosen careers. They are also able to access support in gaining work experience, apprenticeships and employment, and in their university applications for destinations such as Oxbridge.

Throughout the year, there are talks from a variety of universities and apprenticeship providers, and the opportunity to attend UCAS conventions and local progression events. The college hosts careers events, with delegates representing a variety of careers, providing information to both students and parents. We also host progression events where university delegates and apprenticeship partners deliver talks to students focused on possible HE destinations and apprenticeships. We also hold talks where former King Ed's students discuss their experiences at university and vocational training.

UCAS

Students are fully supported throughout the UCAS process, researching options, creating a personal statement, making their applications, and applying for student finance.

Students can also access mock interview support, if the student is applying for courses or universities requiring a more focused and specific interview, and can also access specially tailored mock interviews and one to one appointments.

Work Experience

The careers team assists students who, in line with the expectation that all students should gain meaningful employer engagement, seek to secure work experience and offers support with covering letters and CVs. This includes a DBS check for school experience, mock MMI (Multiple Mini Interviews) for potential medical students and signposting to a range of additional events and talks from which they may benefit.



Senior Leadership

Holly Bembridge	Principal	BA, Cambridge University
Clare Bramall	Vice Principal	BA, University of Durham
Stuart Eaves	Assistant Principal	BSc, Staffordshire University
Sarah MacKenzie	Assistant Principal	BA, Birmingham Polytechnic MSc, Birmingham City University



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