



# King Edward's

## WITLEY

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### **Curriculum Policy 2023-24**

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King Edward's School is proud to offer to all its pupils a broad and balanced education, which is suited to pupils across the ability range and is appropriate to their needs. The School aims to provide an environment which nurtures children to achieve success in their chosen fields, to become happy, confident and independent learners, to develop academic potential as well as integrity, global awareness, wisdom, humility and a sense of duty.

#### **The aims of the curriculum policy are:**

- To ensure that all pupils receive a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum
- To support learning at all academic levels and inspire intellectual adventure
- To monitor the range of subjects taught and curriculum time allocated to each subject area
- To encourage independent thought, leadership and teamwork skills and a sense of responsibility and service towards others and the environment
- To provide continuity of learning and preparation for the next phase
- To develop problem-solving, communication and creative skills
- To develop a sense of inquiry

#### **Lower School & Third Form**

The Lower School is a two-year programme. All pupils take the core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, Latin, Religious Education, Art, Design Technology, Music, Computer Science, Drama and Physical Education. Pupils also follow a course in PSHE to equip them with the skills and mind-set to access all areas of the curriculum. All pupils in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd Form study one modern foreign language, either French or Spanish. All subjects are taught in form groups, except for English, Mathematics and Languages which are taught in sets. Pupils move to Middle School at the start of 3rd Form. The curriculum is similar to Lower School, with pupils taught in four form groups for Drama, Computer Science, History, Geography, Religious Education, PSHE and Science, Art, Design Technology, Food and Textiles, Physical Education and Music. There are four sets for English and Mathematics. Pupils choose one language from the following: French, German, Spanish beginners and Spanish continuers. A second option block allows a choice of Latin, Classical Civilisation and French and also includes options for English as an Additional Language and Learning Support where applicable.

## **Middle School (GCSE)**

The GCSE curriculum builds firmly on the foundation built in 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Forms. All pupils take IGCSE English Language, IGCSE Mathematics and IGCSE Science (double or triple award). Nearly all will take English Literature and a Modern Foreign Language, neither of which would be dropped without extensive consultation and a recognised SEN requiring a reduced curriculum. In Art, pupils follow the Fine Art Course which encompasses a range of artistic techniques such as Drawing, Printmaking, Ceramics and Photography; in Design Technology the courses focus on Resistant Materials or Food. The option blocks are constructed to meet the choices of individuals, but checks are made to ensure that pupils undertake a balanced programme and do not close educational or career doors. Pupils are taught in ability sets in English, Mathematics and Double Award Science. All pupils also follow a course in PSHE.

## **Pre-Sixth Form**

Since 2009, the school has offered a very successful Pre-Sixth course designed to offer those joining King Edward's in the 5<sup>th</sup> Form the opportunity to enhance their English language skills, if necessary, and to experience the full range of subjects on offer so they may make an informed choice of subjects for the Sixth Form. The main purpose of the course is not to obtain examination qualifications, although this is possible. Pupils have a rich diet of English Language, Mathematics, a Modern Foreign Language or Latin, Combined Science, Mathematics and Economics. They also take Drama and Art and the course includes Games, PSHE, Food Science and Music.

## **Sixth Form**

Pupils in the Lower Sixth next year will no longer have the opportunity to study the International Baccalaureate given that only 2 pupils had opted to pursue this program of study. This reflects the long-term trend away from the International Baccalaureate as European Boarding numbers have dropped markedly, and local day pupils make up an increasing proportion of the Sixth Form. The savings this confers enables us to offer a more extensive A-level curriculum that will, for the first time, include A-level Politics and also enable pupils to study both Latin and Classics. As we look ahead to next year's 5<sup>th</sup> Form and recruitment into the Sixth Form, there is, however, a recognition that the in-depth study A-level requires is not appropriate for all our pupils so the school anticipates alternative pathways for PE, Food Tech and Music Tech. The school also seeks to retain a focus on promoting pupils who are independent, reflective learners, equipped for life beyond school, by developing a 'KES Baccalaureate' predicated on 3 A-levels, the Extended Project Qualification, critical thinking and service.

## **Statutory requirements**

Marriage in the light of the *Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013* and Relationships and Sexual Education (RSE) are covered through PSHE lessons according with statutory requirements to deliver these topics to all pupils. Politics is covered in RS (issues relating to war, criminal justice system, equality, legal limits of abortion, euthanasia) and also through Geography, Modern Foreign Languages and of course in History (change in rule from Saxon to Norman, changing power of the monarchy in 16<sup>th</sup> century, civil war, causes of wars, Russian revolution, Watergate scandal, Hitler's rise to power, Cold War, rise of dictators). Fundamental British values are given due regard both within the curriculum in subjects such as History, Religious Education and PSHE and without the curriculum in Chapel, Assembly, tutor time and the Sixth Form Programme. This list is not exhaustive.

## **Academic Scholarships**

For 2023/24 all Academic Scholars will undertake the Bridewell Scholarship Programme. For pupils in the Lower and Middle school they will complete a carousel of workshops and activities every half-term in each of the six Faculties (Language and Literature; Languages; Humanities; Science; Maths and Computer Science; and Creative Arts. Academic Scholars in the Sixth Form will be attached to one Faculty where they will receive mentoring from a subject specialist and also support the programme of activities for Lower and Middle School pupils when they cycle through. Academic Scholarships confer 10% fee remission which can be increased to a maximum of 50% on a means tested basis at the Head's discretion in response to the pupil's circumstances.

## **Co-curricular and Enrichment**

All pupils are required to participate in a balanced range of Creative, Action and Service activities and academic enrichment. In the Lower and Middle Schools, pupils have Games and PE twice per week.

## **The needs of the individual**

It is also recognised that some pupils will need an adjusted programme of study. All pupils are screened for learning needs. Learning support can be provided for those who need help with literacy and numeracy (see Additional Needs and Inclusion policy). Specialist music tuition is also available. If it is appropriate to enter pupils for examinations at an early stage because they are ready for it, we will do so. All departments are expected to provide extension work for the more able.

Our unique and flexible curriculum is intended to enhance the development of all our pupils, preparing them for a full and engaged international life.

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## Curriculum 2023-24

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The number after each subject corresponds to the numbers of 55-minute periods allocated per fortnight

<u>1<sup>st</sup> Form</u> English 7 French/Spanish 6 Latin 2 History 3 Geography 3 RE 2 Mathematics 7* Science 8 Art 2 DT/FT 4 Drama 2 ICT 2 Music 2 PE 4 Games 4 PSHE 2	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Form</u> English 6 French/Spanish 6*  Latin 3* History 3 Geography 3 RE 2 Mathematics 7* Science 8 DT/FT 4 Art 2 Drama 2 ICT 2 Music 2 PE 4 Games 4 PSHE 2	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Form</u> English 7 Mathematics 7 Science 8 History 4 Geography 4 Religious Education 3 Languages, 1 x 5/6, 1 x 3/4 (see grid on page 5) Music 2 Drama 2 ICT 2 Art 2 DT/FT 4 PE 3 Games PSHE 1
<u>4<sup>th</sup> Form</u> English 8 Core language 6 Mathematics 7 Science 12 Option a 6 Option b 6 Option c 6 PE 3 Games 4 PSHE 2	<u>5<sup>th</sup> Form</u> English 7 Core language 6 Mathematics 7 Science 12 Option a 6 Option b 6 Option c 6 PE 4 Games 4 PSHE 1 Critical Thinking 1	<u>Pre-Sixth</u> English 8 Mathematics 7 Science & IGCSE Physics 18 Language 6 Economics 10 The Arts 4 (Drama 2, Art 2) PSHE 1 Games 4 Music 1 Food Science 1
<u>U6<sup>th</sup> IB</u> HL 9 (except HL Maths 10) SL 6 (except SL Maths 7) TOK 4 Games/Outreach 4		<u>L6<sup>th</sup> &amp; U6<sup>th</sup> A- level</u> 12 Games/Outreach 4

\* Subjects in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Forms taught in set grouping, not in a Form

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**3<sup>rd</sup> Form Languages Curriculum 2023-24**

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<b>Box A 6 or 5 if French or Latin in Box B</b>	<b>Box B 4 for French/Latin, 3 Others</b>
French (Continuers)	French (Continuers)
German (Continuers)	Latin (prior knowledge required)
Spanish (Beginners)	Classics (no prior knowledge required)
Spanish (Continuers)	Learning Support
English as Additional Language (for non-native beginners only)	

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## **4<sup>th</sup> Form Curriculum 2023-24**

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French – 2 groups  
Spanish- 2 groups  
German – 1 group  
EAL – 1 group

### **Options**

Pupils should select one subject from each of three boxes. It is not possible to do two subjects in the same box.

<b>Block 1</b>	<b>Block 2</b>	<b>Block 3</b>
Computer Science Economics Food Science Geography Latin Physical Education Religious Education	Classical Civilisation Economics History Music Physical Education Triple Science	Art Design Technology Drama Food Science Geography History

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## **5<sup>th</sup> Form Curriculum 2023-24**

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French – 2 groups  
Spanish – 2 groups  
German – 1 group  
EAL – 1 group

### **Options**

Pupils should select one subject from each of four boxes. It is not possible to do two subjects in the same box.

<b>Block 1</b>	<b>Block 2</b>	<b>Block 3</b>	<b>Block 4</b>
Economics History Physical Education Triple Science	Computer Science Design Technology Geography Music Physical Education Religious Education	Art Classical Civilisation Drama Design Technology Economics Food Science	Computer Science Drama Food Science Geography Latin Triple Science

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## **Pre-Sixth Form Curriculum 2023-24**

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This course is designed for pupils from overseas or those seeking to relocate to the United Kingdom. It provides a one-year course that would help to prepare 15-16 year olds for the Sixth Form.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Number of lessons per fortnight</b>	<b>Comments</b>
English	8	A choice of courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• B2 First certificate for Schools, taught by the English/EAL Departments</li><li>• An IGCSE course in English language for native speakers and those proficient in English, taught by the English Department</li></ul>
Mathematics	7	Most pupils follow the IGCSE course; Additional Mathematics is also an option
Science	18	Shared between Biology, Chemistry and Physics with the possibility of a IGCSE in Physics.
Language	6	A choice of courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• French/German/Spanish (according to previous experience), with the possibility of an IGCSE</li><li>• Latin (according to previous experience) with the possibility of a GCSE</li><li>• Latin for beginners with the possibility of a GCSE</li></ul>
Humanity	10	Economics (with the possibility of an IGCSE)
The Arts	4	Three periods per fortnight each of Art and Drama. Music lessons will be available (at extra cost) to those who wish to have them in place of one of the components
PSHE	1	Non examined course
Games	4	Non examined course followed by the rest of the year group with total integration
Music	1	Non examined course
Food Science	1	Non examined course

The aim is not necessarily to put a heavy emphasis on examination entries, although a good range is available for those who want this and are motivated by it. The main purpose is to allow for the development of language skills and the acquisition of thinking and learning skills that are required on the IB course.

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## ***A-level Curriculum 2023-24***

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Pupils should select three or, in some cases, four A-level subjects from below (Maths and Further Maths count as separate A-level subjects). EPQ will also be offered in the L6th.

The courses in the list below are the ones that we hope to offer. It may not be possible to run all of them, if demand is not sufficiently great.

### **Lower Sixth**

<b>Block A</b>	<b>Block B</b>	<b>Block C</b>	<b>Block D</b>
Biology Business Management Further Maths Geography History	Chemistry Classical Civilisation Design Technology Further Maths Geography Maths Music Theatre	Art Business Management English Literature Physical Education Physics Politics Psychology	Computer Science Economics Latin Maths Philosophy Psychology

### **Upper Sixth**

<b>Block A</b>	<b>Block B</b>	<b>Block C</b>	<b>Block D</b>
Biology Business Management Chemistry Computer Science Textiles	Classical Civilisation Design Technology English Literature Further Maths Maths Philosophy Physical Education Theatre	Business Management Geography Physics Psychology	Art Biology Economics Further Maths History Maths Music



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## **IB Curriculum 2023-24**

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### **U6th Form**

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6
English A Language & Literature	French B	Economics	Biology	Maths Analysis & Approaches (HL only)	Business Management
English B	German A Language and Literature	Geography	Environmental Systems and Societies	Maths Applications and Interpretations (SL only)	
	German B	History			
	Native Speaker Self- Taught Language and Literature (SL only)	Visual Arts*			
	Spanish B				
	Spanish ab initio				

- Pupils choose one subject from each box, three at Higher Level and three at Standard Level. In addition, each pupil will follow a course in Theory of Knowledge, complete CAS and write an Extended Essay.

**The acronyms used in the Curriculum Policy can be interpreted as follows:**

CAS	Creativity, Activity and Service – a core component of the IB course
EAL	English as an additional language
FT	Food and Textiles
HL	Higher Level IB course
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IGCSE	International version of the GCSE
KS3	Key Stage 3 (the curriculum for 11 -14 year olds)
OCR	One of the examination boards
PE	Physical Education
PSHE	Personal, Social and Health Education
RE	Religious Education
SL	Standard Level IB course
ToK	Theory of Knowledge