



# King Edward's

## WITLEY

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### **Curriculum Policy 2024-25**

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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, Food Science 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Form. The curriculum is similar to Lower School, with pupils taught in five form groups for Drama, Computer Science, History, Geography, Religious Education, PSHE, Art, Design Technology, Food Science, Physical Education and Music. Pupils choose two options from German beginners, French, Spanish, Spanish beginners, Latin, Classics, Learning Support and English as an Additional Language. One of the choices must be a Modern Foreign Language.

Pupils start their GCSE studies in the Third form in the Core Subjects of English, Maths and Science. There are five sets for English, six for Mathematics and Science is taught in 5 Forms.

## **Middle School (GCSE)**

The Middle School curriculum builds firmly on the foundation built in 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Forms and the iGCSE programs pupils embarked on in core subjects. All pupils continue with IGCSE English Language, IGCSE Mathematics and IGCSE Science (double or triple award). Nearly all will take English Literature which would not 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**

As we look ahead to next year's 5<sup>th</sup> Form and recruitment into the Sixth Form, there are significant changes as far as the curriculum is concerned. The A-level curriculum remains broadly the same but we are not offering Textiles, as there was no demand, and we are introducing A-level Spanish. In the absence of the IB Diploma, we are introducing BTECs in Sport, Music Technology, and Food Technology. By far the most popular of these has been Food Tech, which mirrors the expansion from 1 to 2 sets at GCSE, with 7 pupils enrolled on this course. BTEC sport has 3 pupils enrolled and Music tech 2 pupils. The school also seeks to retain a focus on promoting pupils who are independent, reflective learners, equipped for life beyond school, by continuing to develop the 'KES Baccalaureate' predicated on pupils augmenting their program of A-levels/BTECs, with the Extended Project Qualification, critical thinking and service. A highlight of the Upper Sixth calendar this year was the exhibition of completed EPQ projects in which pupils pitched their research and findings to peers, parents, teachers and The Treasurer.

## **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**

All Academic Scholars 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 2024-25***

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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, 2 x 4 Music 2 Drama 2 ICT 2 Art 2 DT/FT 4 PE 4 Games 4 PSHE 1
<u>4<sup>th</sup> Form</u> English 7 Mathematics 7 Science 12 Option a 6 Option b 6 Option c 6 Option d 6 PE 4 Games 4 PSHE 2	<u>5<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 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>L6<sup>th</sup> &amp; U6<sup>th</sup> A-level 12</u> 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 2024-25**

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<b>Box A (4)</b>	<b>Box B (4)</b>
French (Continuers)	French (Continuers)
German (Beginners)	Spanish (Beginners)
Spanish (Beginners)	Spanish (Continuers)
Spanish (Continuers)	Latin (prior knowledge required)
Classics (no prior knowledge required)	Classics (no prior knowledge required)
	Learning Support

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## **4<sup>th</sup> Form Curriculum 2024-25**

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### Options

Pupils should select one subject from Block A and 3 subjects from Blocks B to E. It is not possible to choose 2 subjects from the same box.

<b>Block A</b>	<b>Block B</b>	<b>Block C</b>	<b>Block D</b>	<b>Block E</b>
Food Science French Economics History Spanish	Computer Science Economics Music Religious Education	Drama German Geography History Physical Education	Art Design Technology Physical Education Latin	Classical Civilisation Design Technology Food Science Triple Science Geography

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## **5<sup>th</sup> Form Curriculum 2024-25**

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French – 1 group  
Spanish- 2 groups  
German – 2 groups  
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 A</b>	<b>Block B</b>	<b>Block C</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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## **Pre-Sixth Form Curriculum 2024-25**

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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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## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Curriculum 2024-25

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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. 3 BTECs are also offered, Sport needs to be chosen in 2 blocks as it is the equivalent of 2 A Levels.

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

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Level 3 Food Science	BTEC Sport BTEC Music	BTEC Sport	
Art Biology Business Management Chemistry Classical Civilisation Computer Science German Philosophy Spanish	Chemistry Economics History Maths Physics Theatre	Business Management Economics English Literature Further Maths Music Physical Education	Design Technology Further Maths Geography Latin Maths Politics Psychology

### Upper Sixth

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
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

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

EAL	English as an additional language
FT	Food and Textiles
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