



**KING EDWARD VI  
HANDSWORTH WOOD  
GIRLS' ACADEMY**

*Educational excellence for our City*



# Prospectus

Scholarship-Character-Community

[www.hwga.org.uk](http://www.hwga.org.uk)



# Welcome from the Head Teacher



King Edward VI Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy is proud to serve the community of Handsworth and North West Birmingham. We are a non-selective, comprehensive, thriving, diverse and academically successful school for girls aged 11-18. Our Academy is part of the King Edward VI Academy Trust and we are committed to delivering our shared values and resolutely believe that education can:

- Raise aspirations to transform the lives of young people and to enhance the well-being of individuals and the community.
- Give young people the chance to live rich, fulfilled lives and to contribute to society.
- Provide more than the teaching of knowledge and skills.
- Develop curiosity and independence of mind.
- Create a love of learning, which will foster creativity, imagination and the capacity to communicate.
- Provide the chance to participate in sport, music, drama, outdoor pursuits and involvement in the wider community.
- Build character and relationships, along with a sense of morality, care and respect for others.



Regardless of their background or starting points, we expect all our students will achieve the highest academic standards. We also believe if we equip our students with the universal values of scholarship, character and community it will serve them well at university, in training, the workplace and their lives.

We are committed to the value of a broad and balanced curriculum, which is flexible and responsive to the needs of our students and well-matched to their aspirations.

If you would like to come and see the Academy in action please contact us by phone, our website, or via email at [enquiry@hwga.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@hwga.org.uk) and we will be delighted to show you around our Academy, which we are extremely proud of.

**Mr Qamar Riaz**  
Headteacher



# Ethos, Aims and Values

## **Vision**

Our vision is to work together to achieve educational excellence and full personal potential.

## **Mission**

Our mission is to unlock a thirst for learning for all so that students can successfully access a range of opportunities in an ever-changing world. To overcome barriers and embrace challenges to enrich themselves and our community.

## **Values**

Scholarship  
Character  
Community



## **Intellectual Virtues**

Reflection  
Critical Thinking

## **Moral Virtues**

Tolerance  
Respect  
Gratitude

## **Performance Virtues**

Resilience  
Ambition  
Confidence

## **Civic Virtues**

Social Justice  
Volunteering





# High Performance Learning

**We use the High Performance Learning philosophy and framework in our school. This means that we believe that all the students can be high performers, and we teach with these expectations in mind.**

Using the research-based High Performance Learning approach helps us to systematically build the cognitive competencies that lead a young person to thrive in school and in later life.

We embed the HPL philosophy throughout our school. We never tell our students they cannot achieve; it is just they are not doing it yet but with practice and persevere it will happen. If you want to discover more about High Performance Learning please visit [www.highperformancelearning.co.uk](http://www.highperformancelearning.co.uk)



## **ACPs**

Advanced  
Cognitive  
Performance  
Characteristics

## **How to think**

Meta-thinking  
Linking  
Analysing  
Creating  
Realising

## **VAAs**

Values  
Attitudes  
Attributes

## **How to behave**

Agile  
Empathetic  
Hard-working



# Character Education

**Character Education fosters the development of ethical individuals by empowering students to embrace good values. Aristotle once wrote, “we are what we habitually do.” The habits that children learn and practice when they are growing up follow them through into adulthood. Character Education reinforces the “whole child” agenda that shifts the emphasis from academic achievement to long-term learning and personal development.**

Whilst KEVI Handsworth Wood Girls’ Academy are committed to ensuring that all students achieve their personal best, we are also dedicated to ensure that students flourish and become the best version of themselves by:

- Teaching students about the positive traits that inform their motivation whilst guiding conduct.
- Providing them with the knowledge, core values and skills necessary for success throughout life.
- Helping students grasp what is ethically important and how to respond appropriately in a range of situations.

Teaching students to consider the right course of action that correlates to a given situation, basing decisions for the right reasons.



At KEVI Handsworth Wood Girls’ Academy, we strongly value the development of the whole child. We know that strong examination results are important for future success, however, we strive to provide a fully rounded education whereby our students become great citizens who can function effectively throughout life in modern Britain. To that end, our Academy virtues are at the heart of all we do; we reflect upon these across the Academy. Our 10 virtues are embedded across the curriculum, through our rewards events, assemblies, tutor time, PSHE and personal development days.

Human flourishing requires the acquisition and development of intellectual, moral, civic and performance virtues. All are necessary to succeed in life. KEVI Handsworth Wood Girls’ Academy take pride in promoting our 10 Academy virtues to develop confident, compassionate students, successful learners and responsible citizens.

These virtues (amongst others) can be “caught” from interactions in our community, “taught” through educational experiences and reflection, and “sought” out by people who come to pursue and direct their own character development.



# Curriculum

**Driven by our ethos and values, our curriculum enables students to study the subjects important to them, develop the skills they will need to shape them as citizens ready for a prosperous future in modern Britain or globally.**

We have very high expectations for every student, with challenging, aspirational and shared potentials. Students at Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy are supported academically and emotionally developing skills, attitudes and abilities which will enable them to achieve their life goals.

Our curriculum is sequenced to ensure that students gain knowledge, connect key concepts, acquire new skills and learn how to apply this confidently in different contexts. Our curriculum leaders have carefully considered what knowledge should be secured and how best do we ensure that pupils learn that knowledge in a way that means they remember it and can use it? In 2020-2021 we have become a High Performance Learning (HPL) Pathway school and are at the start of a two year journey of implementing the HPL framework alongside our curriculum content.



The HPL framework underpins the learning culture and educational fabric of the academy. The HPL ethos chimes with our academy values: scholarship-character – community and drives us in our mission to unlock a thirst for learning for all to successfully access an ever-changing world. To overcome barriers and embrace challenges to enrich themselves and our community. We are strongly aligned to the belief that high performance is for the many, not just for the few, as we embark on our journey to be a world class school.

*High Performance Learning is a research-based, pedagogy-led philosophy that responds to our growing understanding of human capability. It normalises high performance for all students and uses a unique teaching and learning framework to systematically develop the cognitive skills, values, attitudes and attributes needed for lifetime success. (Deborah Eyre)*

Our curriculum approach continues to evolve as we embed the HPL framework of how learners think (Advanced Cognitive Performance) and how learners behave – (Values, Attitudes, Attributes) into our curriculum and culture. We will be building the HPL cognitive competencies into our subject curriculum alongside knowledge and disciplinary skills over the next two years.

The overarching aims of our curriculum is to drive the following outcomes:

- Increasingly strong academic results year-on-year leading to good post school destinations.
- Well-motivated and engaged students; school-ready, college-ready, work-ready and life ready.





# Curriculum

**At KEVI Handsworth Wood Girls Academy our broad and balanced curriculum provision is extended to KS4. You will see that we offer a variety of KS4 courses that will meet the needs and aspirations of our students.**

## **Art & Design**

We explore areas of art that are valuable, interesting and relevant to the National Curriculum or assessment criteria. Students enjoy learning and create artwork that is individual, creative and innovative.

## **Business Studies**

Students will develop their knowledge around the fundamentals of starting and running a business. As they delve deeper they will learn about how to grow a business on an international scale.

## **Computing**

Students learn about the underlying concepts and principles that lead to future developments, equipping them with valuable skills that will enable them to solve deep multi-layered problems. They will be taught about the fundamentals of how computer technology works, using electronic devices safely, programming fundamentals and digital literacy.

## **Health & Social Care**

Students will gain an understanding of the health and social care needs of people throughout the different stages of human life; how development and needs are affected by life events, lifestyle choices and relationships; how to interpret health and lifestyle data; and an insight into the skills and care values of service providers.



## **Drama**

We aim to develop creativity, empathy and a curiosity for the world in which we live, in an environment of trust and intrigue, developing confidence, communication and every opportunity to think outside the box.

## **Textiles**

Using creativity and imagination pupils will design and make products that solve real and relevant problems considering their own and others' needs. They will develop a critical understanding of products and their impact on daily life and the wider world.

## **Child's Play Learning & Development**

Students learn how children are expected to grow, develop and learn; any factors which may affect this; and how to support the individual needs of children effectively. They will understand the role of an Early Year's Educator, and hopefully be inspired to work with children.

## **Music**

Music inspires creativity, builds confidence and provides lifelong skills. Learning an instrument translates theoretical knowledge into fine motor skills and promotes emotional wellbeing. Students are regularly given the opportunity to spectate and perform on stage which builds self-esteem.

## **Product Design**

Students develop creative, technical and practical expertise needed to perform everyday tasks confidently and to apply these to the real world. We promote a love of learning by encouraging our students to be resourceful, innovative, and creative problem solvers in the 'real world'.

## **PE**

We want to give students the tools and understanding required to make a positive impact in their own physical health and well-being. They will experience a wide variety of sports and physical skills which will enhance life-long fitness and life choices.

## **Psychology**

Studying Psychology requires looking beyond common sense and personal opinions for explanations on human and animal behaviour. The goals of studying psychology are to describe, explain, predict and ultimately seek positive change in human behaviour.

## **Sociology**

Sociology can enable students to successfully navigate through everyday life, by raising awareness of the social world. With a strong focus on analysis and evaluation, students will not only gain theoretical knowledge but will become active citizens intentional about changing social issues impacting society today.





# Careers

**Careers Education, Guidance and Employability play an important part in the lives of students at KEVI Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy. The aim of our programme is to provide students with the skills and knowledge to make wise and informed choices regarding their future and develop skills to prepare them for their working life.**

Careers Education, supported by personalised information, advice and guidance (known as CEIAG) begins in Key Stage 3 where students are introduced to the world of work through assemblies and through curriculum activities. During year 9 students have focused time around Careers and choosing options and in the later years (including 6th Form) help and advice is given to students so that each one is able to make an informed choice about continuing in education, jobs and training.

Employability skills and work experience is a major focus in year 10 and 12 in preparation for work experience and in year 11 and 6th form a robust programme is in place to ensure that students are very well prepared for their next phase of life.

The school works closely with an external and impartial Careers Advisor, who visits the school regularly. In addition to individual interviews and group sessions the Aspirations Leader will offer drop-in lunch time sessions and Careers guidance is available at parents evenings. Students have access to up-to-date information about their future options in the Careers sections of the Library where leaflets, books, magazines and university prospectuses are available and the academy has invested the web-based package Unifrog which can be accessed at home as well as in the academy.

We have links with employers such as West Midlands Police, Shakespeare Martineau Law Firm, Aecom and BMW and work closely with The Universities of Aston, Birmingham, UCB, Oxford and many more.

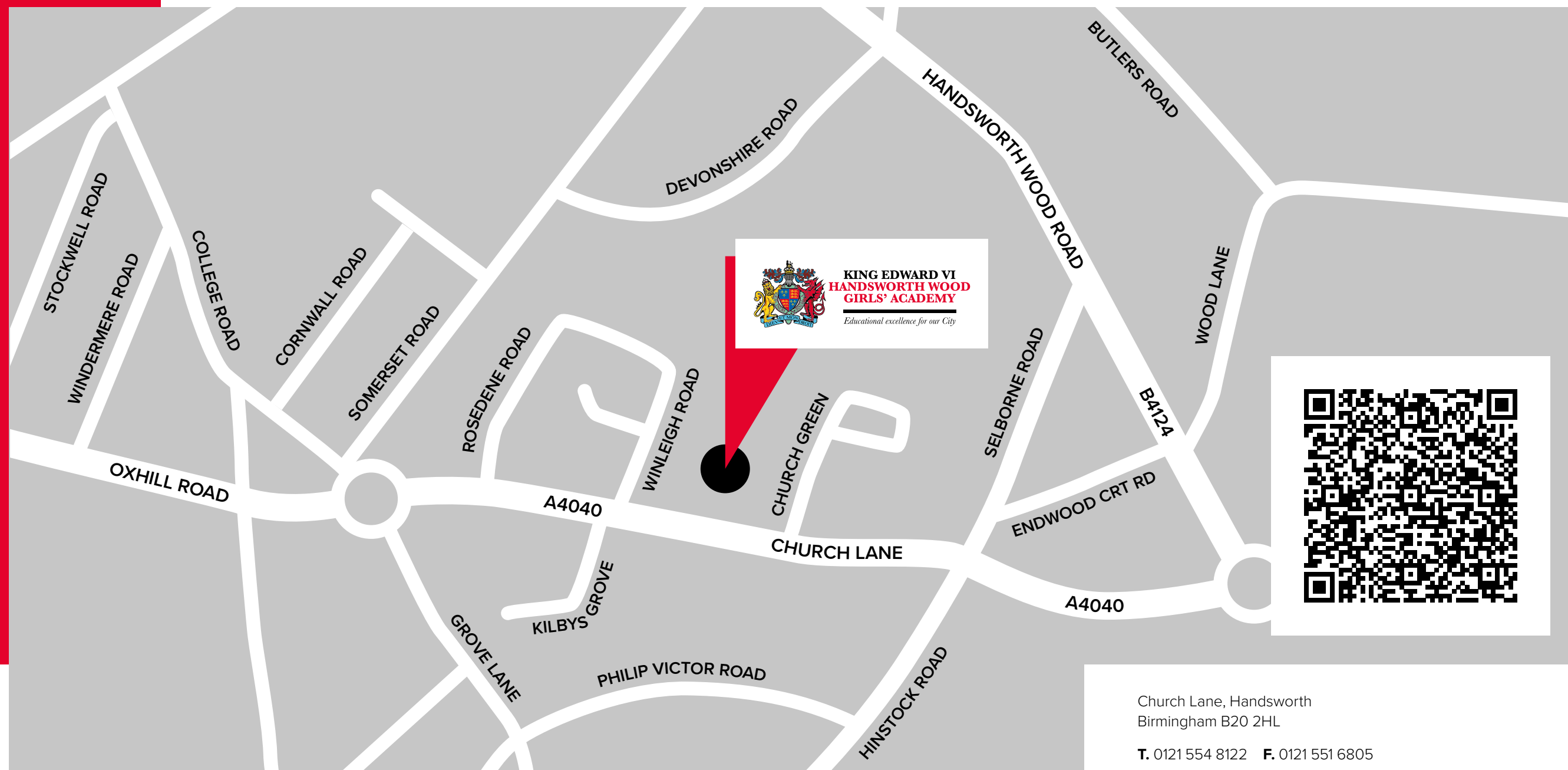






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