

# Welcome to King Edward VI Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy

Educational excellence for our City



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

*Educational excellence for our City*



## As an Academy, we will support and guide you and ensure that you are able to explore a wealth of learning and enrichment opportunities, across the curriculum and the wider context of the Academy.

We will do this by:

- Looking after your physical and mental wellbeing.
- Helping you to live rich, fulfilled lives where you will present a positive contribution to society.
- Setting realistic high expectations and providing an outstanding education which is about more than teaching of knowledge and skills, but will also encourage you to be curious, think independently and develop exceptional communication skills.
- Providing opportunities to participate in a range of activities, such as in sport, music, drama and outdoor pursuits, and those relating to the wider community.
- Helping you to reflect on and develop your character, ensuring that you have a strong moral code and can effectively demonstrate a secure level of empathy and respect for others.

To help you get off to a great start, we have designed this book to inform you more about us as an Academy, with discussion of what the Year 7 experience will be like. We hope that you enjoy reading this.

I am looking forward to meeting you.

**Mr Qamar Riaz**  
Headteacher



## What will KEVI expect from me?

**All members of our community approach life inside and outside KEVI with the same positive attitude.**

We believe in being:

- **Hardworking**
- **Empathetic**
- **Agile**

### **Attitude towards learning**

We want all lessons to have an atmosphere where you can learn free of distractions and feel able to do your best. We also want everyone to feel safe and happy anywhere in the Academy so we have high expectations for behaviour at all times.

We will want you to always be:

- **Ready** – Prepared for your lessons and eager to learn
- **Respectful** – Showing respect for your teachers and other staff at the Academy, for other students and for yourself
- **Calm** – Reacting calmly and showing resilience when you are facing challenges

### **Rewards**

We believe in promoting good behaviour and attitudes so we have a system of rewards to recognise students who have shown a **'Ready, Respectful, Calm'** approach in their lives.

You can collect points which earn you badges, certificates, discounts on year-end trips and vouchers! We will also ring your parents/carers to let them know how well you are doing.

### **What if I need help?**

You can speak to any teacher but the best person to speak to will be your Form Tutor. We also have a Pastoral Team, led by Miss Liaqat, who are always there to help you.



## What will I need for my first day?



**We have high standards of presentation and we expect you to wear the complete and correct uniform from your first day.**

- Academy blazer
- Open white reverse blouse
- A V-neck grey Academy jumper is optional
- Long tailored trousers
- Black pleated knee-length or longer ankle-length skirt
- Black socks, ankle or knee-length, or black tights.
- Plain black headscarf (if worn)
- Outdoor coats must be dark



You will also need to bring your PE kit when it is on your timetable.

We will provide your parents/carers with a comprehensive list of what is needed and where to get it.

You will also need to bring the following items of equipment:

- School bag
- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- Geometrical equipment
- Coloured pencil crayons
- Reading book
- Scientific calculator

We will also give you your timetable and planner on your first day.

Remember to switch off and put any electronic devices away when you are on school premises.





## What happens on my first day?

**Everyone here remembers what the first day in secondary school feels like. We know you may be feeling excited and nervous and you may be wondering if you are ever going to feel at home. So we will do as much as possible to make you feel welcome and help you settle in.**

On your first day, you will be greeted by your Head of Year, your Form Tutor and some of the Transition Buddies, and you will then go to your new form room.

You will take part in a range of activities and will receive a copy of your timetable, planner and a copy of the Academy map, to help you locate the different classrooms. You will also attend your first assembly, before you go to your first timetabled lesson.

### **Friends**

You may be worrying about making new friends. Although you may know some pupils from your primary school, don't worry if you don't. Be brave and introduce yourself to some girls that you don't know already. You will soon make new friends.

By the end of the first week, you will find that you know KEVI very well.



## What does a typical school day look like?

**Each day, you will have six lessons and a morning and lunch break.**

8.45am to 9.35am	Lesson 1
9.35am to 10.25am	Lesson 2
10.25am to 10.45am	Break
10.45am to 11.35am	Lesson 3
11.35am to 12.25pm	Lesson 4
12.25pm to 1.10pm	Lunch
1.10pm to 2.00pm	Lesson 5
2.00pm to 2.50pm	Lesson 6
2.50pm to 3.15pm	Registration

You will move between classes for lessons. You will soon find your way around but you can ask anyone for help if you get lost.

### **Food**

We have a brilliant canteen where you can choose anything from snacks such as sandwiches and paninis to salads, pizza and even roast dinners.

Your parents/carers will pay into an online account for you, so you don't need to bring in any cash. In September, you will get an ID card and a card with a large QR code on. The two cards fit into one card holder. You will use the QR code to pay for food in the canteen. The card is linked to your Parent Pay account.



## What will I study?

You will study a broad range of subjects. Some you will be familiar with from primary school and some may be completely new to you.

Subjects studied in Year 7 include:

**Art Classics Drama**

**DT English French Geography**

**History ICT Mathematics**

**Modern Foreign Languages Music**

**PE PSHE RE Science Textiles**

Your teachers will be experts in their subjects and teach you in a variety of interesting ways.

### Home study

You will also be set regular home study. You will be expected to write down what you have to do in your planner. You will need to make time to complete it so that it is done to your best standard and on time.

This will be a big change from primary school, so plan out your time out of school to make sure you can fit in home study and any other commitments you have, such as hobbies.



## What extra-curricular activities can I take part in?

**Life at KEVI is about so much more than what you study in your lessons.**

We have a brilliant range of extra-curricular activities on offer.

There will be a breakfast club in the mornings and enrichment clubs that will take place during lunch or after school.

You can do sports such as **badminton, cricket, football** or **Sports Crew**, where you can try a wide range of sports.

You can explore other interests such as **chess, Anime, foreign films, book clubs, textiles, creative writing, cooking, foreign languages, card games, Pattern and Puzzle Society, crochet, dance, art** or our **Medicine club**, which is for girls who are interested in becoming vets, pharmacists, doctors, nurses or dentists.

We even have a wellbeing club where you can relax and do things such as colouring, reading and board games.

There is such a huge range of opportunities, so we know there will be something that you will love.

Extra-curricular activities also help you develop your character and get you ready for life after KEVI by developing essential skills. For example, they will help build confidence as you learn new skills. You will develop resilience and learn how to keep going when you have challenges – and lots more!

Extra-curricular activities are also a great way of making new friends.



Here is what our current Year 7 students have to say about their experience at KEVI and some advice for settling happily and confidently:

*At HWGA, I enjoy learning about the VAAs (Values, Attitudes and Attributes) and the ACPs! (Advanced Cognitive Performance Characteristics)*



*Always attend school and enjoy it.*

*At HWGA, I enjoy talking to the staff as I have so many ideas to share.*

“

*The teachers and students are always very supportive.*

”

“

*I enjoy the lessons, because the teachers always make it fun!*

”

“

*There is no such thing as a wrong answer at HWGA.*

”



*Just because you're not better than someone else at something, doesn't mean you cannot do it at all.*

”



# We look forward to helping you **achieve your dreams!**



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