KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL BATH

THE SCHOOL

Founded in 1552, King Edward's School, Bath (KES) is an Independent Co-Educational Day School made up of a 'family' of three Schools for children aged 3-18 years: Pre-Prep and Junior School (3-11yrs) and Senior School (11-18yrs). There are currently around 872 pupils in the Senior School (including 244 in the Sixth Form), 291 in the Pre-Prep and Junior School (not including the Nursery).

The Senior and Junior Schools are based on a beautiful 14-acre North Road campus on the south-eastern edge of the city, with wonderful views over Bath and the surrounding hills. KES' playing fields are around a mile away in Bathampton. The Pre-Prep and Nursery are currently based at Weston Lane, but the School is moving towards a single, unified campus by bringing the Pre-Prep together with the Junior School on the North Road site by September 2027. This once-in-a-generation development will invest at least £3 million in the existing Junior School buildings and outdoor areas, creating a purpose-built environment that enhances opportunities for every child and inspires learning, creativity and personal growth.

King Edward's Senior School (View of the Wessex Building)

King Edward's Pre-Prep and Junior School (North Road site)

BATH AND THE LOCAL AREA

The centre of Bath is within easy walking distance, and the School benefits greatly from being a part of this thriving and culturally vibrant city, which has been designated as a World Heritage site by UNESCO. In addition to its many beautiful buildings and world-renowned history, Bath is blessed with an array of superb museums, art galleries, theatres, shops and restaurants and hosts annual music, literature and culinary festivals. Fans of sport are catered for by, amongst other things, the presence of Bath Rugby at the Recreation Ground in the heart of the city, Team Bath Netball based at the University of Bath, whose outstanding sporting facilities are also in many instances open to the public, and Bath Racecourse, located a few miles to the north. In addition,

the attractive and large city of Bristol, which has seen significant investment and growth in recent years, is just a short train ride away. London is accessible within 2 hours by car and in and 70 mins by train, whilst the coasts of Dorset, Devon and Cornwall can be reached in 2-3 hours.

EXAM RESULTS

THE SUNDAY TIMES
SCHOOLS GUIDE 2026
INDEPENDENT SECONDARY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR
SOUTH WEST

The School is, by any measure, very successful. Academically, it is Bath's top performing school and achieved 62% A*/A at A Level and 77% 9-7 at GCSE (2025), making KES one of the leading co-educational independent day schools in the country and one of the top performing schools of any kind in the south-west of England. The School was recently awarded Independent Secondary School of the Year in the South West by the *Sunday Times Parent Power Guide* 2026.

Most pupils progress from the Sixth Form to university, with typically between 85-90% gaining entry to their first-choice institution, around 80% of which are members of the Russell Group. Some pupils also choose to study at Ivy League institutions. A significant number go on each year to Oxford or Cambridge.

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME

The School has a thriving co-curricular programme of clubs and societies on offer, most of which take place at lunchtime. Traditional strengths include creative writing (there is a published annual anthology of the best short stories and poems), debating (including award winning Model United Nations delegations), and coding and esports. The School has an enviable and growing reputation in Drama and Music, being named Performing Arts School of the Year in 2018 by the Independent School Parent Magazine, and has produced several winners of the MSF Bath Young Actor and Young Musician of the Year awards in recent years. In a typical year, around 150 pupils take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme (at all three levels), and the School has also enjoyed great success for many years in the Ten Tors Challenge, whilst our Combined Cadet Force is one of the oldest School CCFs in the country. KES also has a great sporting heritage and profile, with traditional strengths in rugby, netball, hockey and cricket (these last two fielding teams for both girls and boys). In 2025, KES celebrated an amazing achievement by winning the Rosslyn Park National Schools Sevens Under 18 Vase: the largest school rugby tournament in the world and the pinnacle of school sevens rugby. Many pupils take part in elite representative sport, with some progressing to a professional pathway, but we are equally proud of the number of pupils who represent the School across a wide range of teams.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is a significant strength of the School and has been consistently praised in successive ISI inspection reports. The Senior School is organised into four pastoral sectors, each led by a Head of Sector. Year 7 forms its own sector, with both a Head of Year and the Head of Sector focused on ensuring that the transition to secondary education is carefully supported. As pupils move from Year 8 through to Year 11, teaching groups are regrouped and subject choices widen, enabling pupils to broaden their social networks and strengthen their sense of belonging within the wider year group, while maintaining continuity of pastoral support.

SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form is overseen by the Head of Sixth Form, supported by a Head of Year 12 and a Head of Year 13, each of whom follows their year group throughout the Sixth Form journey. Alongside daily registration, tutors play a central role in developing strong relationships with their tutees and their families, liaising with subject teachers, and guiding pupils towards the wide range of clubs, societies, and academic and pastoral support available across the School. A dedicated Higher Education team provides bespoke guidance to support each pupil's future ambitions, with specialist roles including Higher Education & UCAS Co-ordrinator, Careers Co-ordinator, Head of Medical and Veterinary Applications, Head of Competitive Courses (including Oxbridge), and Head of Overseas Applications.

King Edward's Sixth Form

PARTNERSHIPS

King Edward's is proud of its engagement and of its many partnerships within the local and wider community. This includes partnerships with organisations such as Bath Philharmonia, the Holburne Museum, the Egg theatre and Bath Cricket Club, as well as with several local maintained schools. Both directly through our own work and indirectly through partnerships with other bodies, the School has been able to offer enrichment opportunities to KES pupils and also to support outreach programmes for hundreds of local children covering areas such as music, art, drama, sport, curriculum extension, especially in Maths and English, Higher Education and Careers advice and much more besides, and we have been delighted to see the number and range of partnerships grow each year.

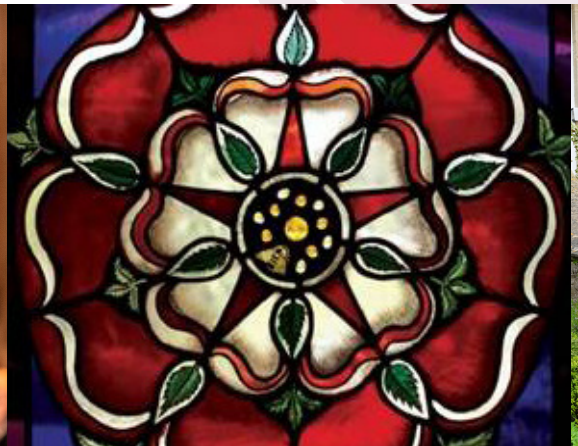
King Edward's School's Partnership with Bath Philharmonia and the Holburne Museum

FACILITIES

In recent years, KES has invested significantly in both staff and facilities, in part a reflection of the needs of a growing school, but also of a clear ambition to offer the highest quality of education at

every level. Over the last decade, the Senior School alone has seen the emergence of the stunning Wessex Building (library, dining hall and multi-purpose performance/conference space), a new Astroturf facility, an extended and refurbished Sixth Form Centre, new academic block for MFL, The Rose, a suite of state of the art studio spaces for teaching, learning and performance in Drama and a fully equipped Creative Media Suite. In September 2022, the Senior School completed the development and refurbishment of five new Science laboratories and in 2024, opened a fully equipped gym. Further to this, a new purpose-built academic block, The Thomson Building, was recently completed and is the new home for our English, Geography and RS departments. Alongside these developments, the £3 million Pre-Prep and Junior School merger project is well under way. Altogether, this marks a particularly exciting period for King Edward's.

Refurbished Senior Science Labs and Gym

King Edward's is a member of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference and, as a former Direct Grant school which also benefited significantly from the Assisted Places Scheme in the 1980s and 1990s, has always aimed to educate pupils from a wide variety of backgrounds. Although most pupils pay full fees (£22,590 per annum (incl. VAT) in the Senior School for 2026-27), with over 100 pupils in the Senior School in receipt of a means-tested bursary, including up to 100% of remission of fees. There are also a limited number of non means-tested academic scholarships and special talent awards in music, art, drama and sport. Many pupils live in Bath itself, but the School also attracts pupils from a wide area, including from Gloucestershire and the more rural parts of North Somerset and West Wiltshire, as well as from nearby towns such as Chippenham, Bradford-on-Avon, Trowbridge and Frome.

Following the full ISI inspection in January 2026, the School was judged to have 'met all of the relevant standards'. The inspection praised the School's strong leadership, excellent teaching, and the exceptionally warm and supportive environment in which pupils thrive. The ISI also awarded KES a Significant Strength, a distinction reserved for a very small proportion of schools. Inspectors identified this strength in the way pupils grow into "curious, resilient, kind, compassionate and responsible members of the school community," inspired by the sense of belonging and support they experience each day.