Sixth Form Prospectus 2020-2021

www.kes.essex.sch.uk
At KES our students are at the centre of all that we do - helping them to achieve their ‘Personal Best’ in every aspect of Sixth Form life is what drives us in our pursuit of excellence. We inspire our students to continually aim high, improve and build on what they have already achieved.

Our Sixth Form is open to all, regardless of ability. We are confident that we run courses that suit a wide range of abilities and aspirations and aim to help all students develop the skills and mentality to be independent, proactive and resilient.

Even though we have a comprehensive intake, last year we achieved over 98% pass rate at A Level, with over 50% at A*-B. In vocational courses there was a 100% pass rate with 71% of grades at Distinction or Distinction*. All students who wished to go to university were successful – 60% of students moved on to Higher Education while 40% accessed higher level apprenticeships and local employment.

As well as preparing students for exams and university entrance, we ensure that our students also develop a range of other skills and attributes that will prepare them for adult life. All students are expected to build a portfolio of all their achievements. Students are motivated by a system of rewards and privileges and we endeavour to recognise all their achievements, in and out of lessons.

From the outset we set challenging targets for our students. Regardless of which programme they are on, we endeavour to help them achieve at the highest level. If you want to go to Oxford or Cambridge, we can get you there; if you want to be a carpenter then we will give you the tools for success.

“Our students and staff are enterprising and approach challenges with a ‘can-do’ attitude”

Achievement

At KES our students are at the centre of all that we do - helping them to achieve their ‘Personal Best’ in every aspect of Sixth Form life is what drives us in our pursuit of excellence. We inspire our students to continually aim high, improve and build on what they have already achieved.

Our Sixth Form is open to all, regardless of ability. We are confident that we run courses that suit a wide range of abilities and aspirations and aim to help all students develop the skills and mentality to be independent, proactive and resilient.

Even though we have a comprehensive intake, last year we achieved over 98% pass rate at A Level, with over 50% at A*-B. In vocational courses there was a 100% pass rate with 71% of grades at Distinction or Distinction*. All students who wished to go to university were successful – 60% of students moved on to Higher Education while 40% accessed higher level apprenticeships and local employment.

As well as preparing students for exams and university entrance, we ensure that our students also develop a range of other skills and attributes that will prepare them for adult life. All students are expected to build a portfolio of all their achievements. Students are motivated by a system of rewards and privileges and we endeavour to recognise all their achievements, in and out of lessons.

From the outset we set challenging targets for our students. Regardless of which programme they are on, we endeavour to help them achieve at the highest level. If you want to go to Oxford or Cambridge, we can get you there; if you want to be a carpenter then we will give you the tools for success.
We believe our students should have the opportunity to study subjects that are best suited to their skills, interests and abilities. Subjects that they are enthusiastic about and that allow them to use their creativity to access their full potential.

Uniquely in the local area, students are able to mix and match A Level and BTEC courses, allowing them to follow a broader curriculum that keeps their options open. It is our intention that most Level 3 students will follow A Levels (or equivalent vocational courses) plus the Extended Project Qualification. Level 2 students spend three days in school and two days in a work placement.

### A Levels
- Art
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Economics
- English Language and Literature
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- History
- Law
- Mathematics
- Core Mathematics (AS)
- Further Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Product Design
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology

### Level 3 Vocational courses (A Level equivalent)
- Applied Criminology
- Applied Science
- CACHE Childcare and Education (Early Years Educator) = 3 A Levels
- Health and Social Care
- Hospitality
- IT
- Music Performance
- Personal and Business Finance
- Sport

### Level 2 Vocational courses (1 year courses)
- Construction
- Public Services
- Health and Social Care
- Early Years Education and Care

“Our school is welcoming, inclusive, has a real community feel and is a place where everyone is valued”
We have active links with universities and local businesses to ensure that students achieve their career aspirations and are ready for the next stage – whether it be university or work.

We have our own Progression Manager in the Sixth Form, whose job it is to help support students get to the next stage. We arrange visits to universities, careers fairs and local employers and students can arrange work experience opportunities during non-contact time. Some students can complete internships in the summer between Years 12 and 13.

Students are often inspired by visits from noted authors and artists, key industry figures, and even the odd famous face. There is also the opportunity for students to experience different cultures on the various school trips on offer each year. There have been trips to Europe recently, as well as day trips and outdoor pursuits in the UK. Year 12 students attend the Roadster experience with free driving lessons and road safety awareness. In addition, Wednesday afternoons are enrichment time, with students able to choose options such as yoga, Arts award, Young Enterprise, team sports, cooking or learning a foreign language.

We run a wide range of after school activities that enable our students to explore other avenues of learning and develop team working skills and leadership capabilities. Students can be involved in performing arts and sporting activities or run events and competitions. We encourage our Sixth Formers to start their own clubs and societies, or run them for others. Our students regularly complete volunteering projects, are active in the local community and have raised large sums of money for charity.

Students are encouraged to take responsibility at every stage; Sixth Form students are selected to become Head Boy and Head Girl and lead the student leadership team as well as run events and charity projects. In addition, our students regularly get involved with mentoring or coaching younger students, participating in the paired reading scheme, and acting as subject ambassadors.
Environment

In order to deliver excellent teaching and learning, you need to have excellent facilities and an environment where students feel safe and happy.

We have excellent facilities and specialist staff who enable students to excel in their chosen subjects.

Our classrooms have excellent ICT facilities with cutting edge technology in science, media, music, product design, catering, sport and construction. Our science labs have recently been refurbished with state of the art work space and equipment on hand for the highest level of study.

Our students enjoy relatively small class sizes with teachers who are enthusiastic and committed to their education. Relationships between staff and students reflect that our Sixth Formers are young adults who want to deepen their understanding of the world. Our students are treated as individuals and we aim to meet everyone’s needs.

The Sixth Form block boasts its own purpose-built and attractively furnished common room, as well separate study and dining facilities. Students contributed to the design process and are expected to take responsibility for their environment.

For those joining us from Year 11, we offer a familiar environment where students feel relaxed and secure. We know you as students and you will already know how much we will drive and support you to achieve your very best. However, the Sixth Form is a genuine fresh start; we appreciate you have chosen to join us and we will encourage you all the way.

New students can be reassured that you will be warmly welcomed on arrival. We will buddy you up with other students and ensure that you settle quickly and make rapid progress in your new environment. Students who come to us from other schools tell us that they very quickly feel like they have been here all along.
Expectations

We expect high standards from our students - standards that we believe help them to achieve their full potential.

The Sixth Form continues to operate a continental style school day. The day starts at 07.55 and finishes at 14.10 with two 25 minute breaks and five periods of learning. This allows for a full day of study as well as time to attend the many extra curricular activities after school has finished. We believe that students achieve better results if they have a busy timetable and are not distracted by other things.

Our Sixth Formers do not have to wear uniform, but we expect them to follow the Sixth Form dress code and ensure that their appearance is appropriate for school.

We expect our students to work hard, but we understand that Sixth Form study can be more challenging than it has been in previous years. Therefore we provide space in the day for students to study independently. Supervised study sessions allow students to complete some of their work during the school day, however we expect students on Level 3 courses to be doing around three extra hours, per subject, per week, independently outside school hours.

“Our students and staff treat each other equitably, fairly, with kindness and with mutual respect”
Support

In the Sixth Form we continue with our belief that a strong partnership with parents and carers allows students to achieve their best.

Sixth Form students are young adults and we treat them as such, however this doesn’t mean that we don’t recognise the strong role of families in supporting them.

We will contact parents when students have unexplained absences and we will keep parents fully informed about a student’s progress. There are termly progress grades, an annual report, target setting/review meetings as well as an annual parents’ consultation evening. We are always available should you have any concerns.

Each student has a personal tutor and the Sixth Form team work hard to ensure that students stay on track to achieve and then exceed their target grades. Early intervention, when students encounter difficulties, enables us to solve issues quickly and effectively and our strong pastoral system ensures that everyone feels supported throughout.

We have a full time learning mentor to help students to manage their workload and overcome obstacles to their learning.

There is a Sixth Form bursary for students who may be struggling financially; this can be used to pay for trips, books or special equipment. Please contact us as soon as you enrol and we will set up regular payments if you qualify.

Contract buses continue to transport students to and from school if you are from Wakering and Canewdon. The school subsidises the cost of this service.

Should a family need further support at any time, the Rochford Extended Services team are based on site at KES and are able to provide assistance. The team recently won a nationally recognised award for the services they provide.

“Our school is one where everyone is encouraged and supported to achieve their personal best”