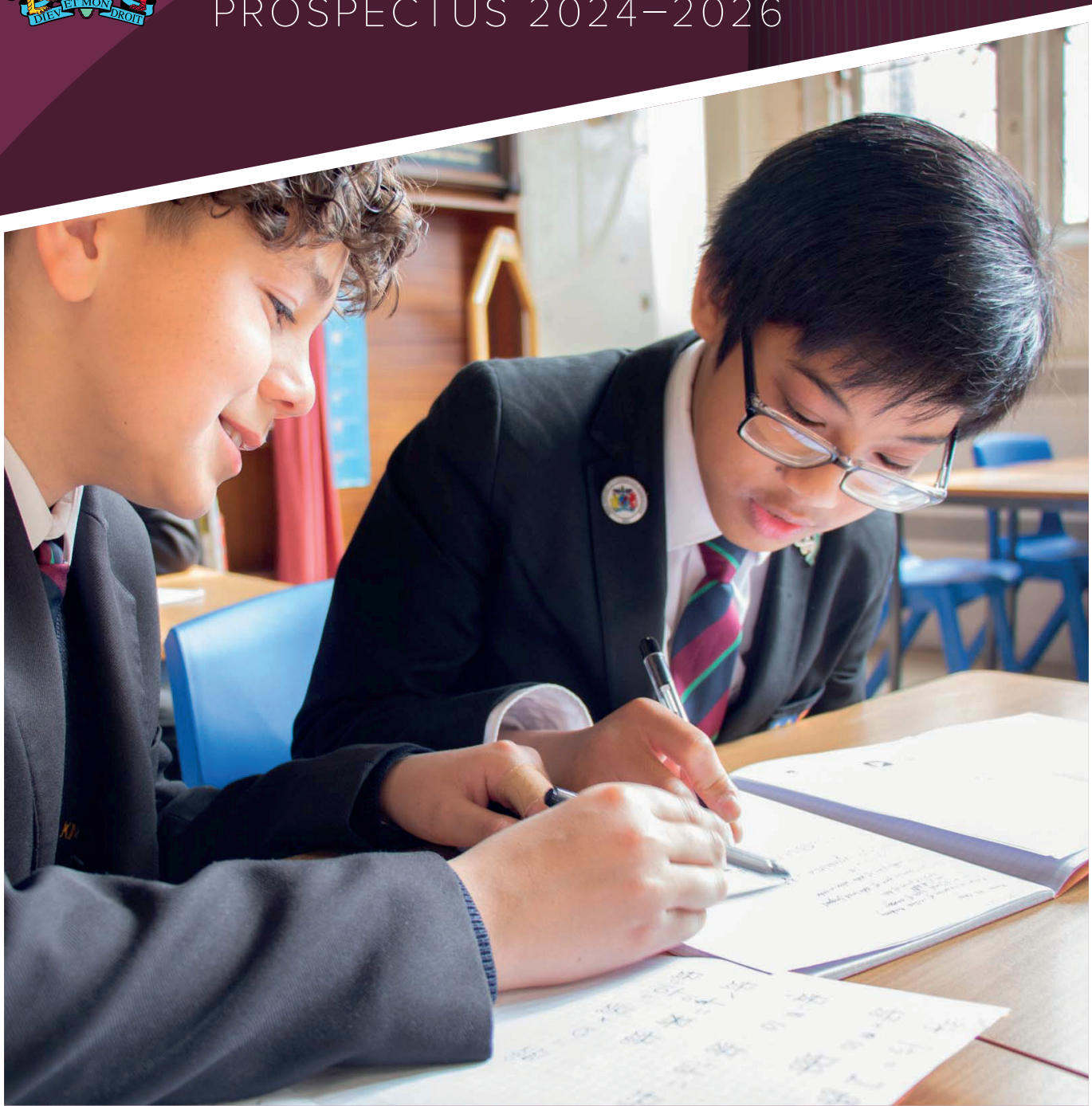




# KING EDWARD VI ASTON

PROSPECTUS 2024–2026



**KING EDWARD VI ASTON SCHOOL HAS BEEN A GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS SINCE 1883. THIS LONG AND RICH HISTORY HAS ENABLED US TO DEVELOP A UNIQUE ETHOS AS AN EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT.**

## WELCOME TO **KING EDWARD VI ASTON**

Our vision at Aston is to see all students thrive at school, as they become articulate, well-rounded global citizens who embody our core values; our pursuit of honesty, integrity, diligence and kindness is fundamental to everything we do as a school community together.

Our curriculum is both enriching and challenging and we believe that this combination is essential as a selective school.

Well-qualified staff and an architecturally diverse campus provide a supportive context within which our students learn and develop. Located in the heart of inner-city Birmingham, we are proud of the multicultural community which we serve.

Consequently, all our learners, regardless of background or ethnicity, thrive in a caring, yet continually challenging environment.

When visitors come to Aston, they often comment on how friendly the school is.

We are very keen that you share this sentiment and look forward wholeheartedly to meeting you soon.

With best wishes

**MATT BRADY | HEADTEACHER**



*“King Edward VI Aston School is an outstanding school. Two carefully planned strands underpin the school’s successful maintenance of a lively dynamic learning culture. First, students achieve the very highest academic standards as a result of the excellent progress they make through the school. Second, they develop outstanding personal qualities thanks to a rich, varied taught curriculum and an extensive program of additional activities beyond lessons... The net result is a school ethos that creates enthusiastic, responsible and very well behaved students who thoroughly enjoy school life, throwing themselves into hard work, and play, with gusto.”*

**OFSTED**

## **KING EDWARD VI ASTON SCHOOL IS AN ACADEMY UNDER THE ACADEMIES ACT 2010. YEAR 7 ADMISSIONS**

The school admits 140 students into year 7 at the age of eleven. The full admission criteria are available on the school's website along with the information about the school's programme of support for applicants.

All places at the school are free and based solely upon the results of the entrance tests which are administered by the Schools of King Edward Foundation. The entrance test takes place in early September when students are in year 6.

Details of the tests and an application form are available from the Schools of King Edward Foundation Office <https://kingedwardvifoundation.co.uk/admissions/>

### **MIDYEAR ADMISSIONS**

Occasionally, places may become available in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 during the academic year. The school maintains a waiting list and if a place becomes available, we administer a test to students currently on the waiting list. Please contact the school office for further details of the procedure to be placed onto the waiting list ([enquiry@ast.kevibham.org](mailto:enquiry@ast.kevibham.org))

### **SIXTH FORM ADMISSIONS**

The school admits approximately forty students external students to the sixth form each September. We welcome applications from ambitious students from the Birmingham area and beyond who are keen to study at Aston. Financial assistance may be available for students currently studying in schools in the North West area of Birmingham.

In November of each year, the school has an Open Evening to provide an opportunity to visit the school, meet the staff and students and learn more about the courses on offer and the application process. All students and their families are invited to attend to gather information on all aspects of sixth form provision and to attend presentations from academic departments.

### **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

The minimum requirements for entry into Aston's Sixth Form are:

- To achieve entry into the Sixth Form in September 2024, prospective entrants (both existing pupils and external candidates) must achieve a minimum of seven GCSE passes at grades 9-5, including at least grades 6 in English and Mathematics.
- In order to study a subject at A-Level a student must have achieved at least a grade 7 at GCSE in that subject.
- In order to study Further Mathematics, a student must have achieved at least a grade 9 in Mathematics at GCSE level.
- In order to study Science, Mathematics and Computer Science, a student must have achieved 8, 7, 7 in GCSEs involving these subjects (for example to study Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry a student must have achieved an 8 in at least one of these subjects and 7's in the others).
- Further Mathematics is the fourth option for students on top of the entry requirements for studying 4 A-Level subjects (achieve 5 grade 8's or above with grade 8 in at least 3 of the A-Level choices).
- Pupils studying Physics must also study Mathematics

All students entering year 12 will be able to choose from a number of different pathways.

These include three A levels, A levels and an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), four A levels or four A levels and an EPQ. Students will also study a number of enrichment courses during year 12.

## **KING EDWARD VI ASTON ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS**

*“Leaders have designed a highly ambitious curriculum. This includes for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and for disadvantaged pupils. No one is left out. The planning of the curriculum enables pupils to build on what they have learned previously. Teachers’ excellent subject knowledge enables them to respond to pupils’ thoughtful questions. Leaders think carefully about how lessons are sequenced so that learning is cumulative.”*

**OFSTED 2022**

## KING EDWARD VI ASTON

# CURRICULUM

There is an emphasis in our curriculum on academic excellence and the need to prepare students for nationally recognised academic qualifications. There is also a commitment to providing a wide range of opportunities for students to enrich their learning through educational visits and through the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities that are on offer.

### **KEY STAGE 3**

All students in year 7 to 9 study Art, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Design Technology, Food Technology, English, Geography, History, Maths, Music, Physical Education and Games, Religious Education and two languages from French, German and Mandarin

At Aston the Religious Education scheme of work is broad and balanced, promoting the spiritual and moral developments of students, emphasising the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance for those who adhere to different faiths or non.

There is also a strong emphasis on considering philosophical and ethical issues and questions. Collective worship is organised daily although not always on a whole school basis. Parents are reminded of their right to withdraw students from Religious Education and collective worship, either in whole or part.

### **KEY STAGE 4**

Options choices are made in the spring term of year 9 and an Information Evening for parents and students taking place in that term. Students are provided with support and guidance to make their options choices.

In Years 10 and 11 the curriculum is designed around a core GCSE curriculum made up of the following six subjects: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. In addition, all students will follow a non-examined core curriculum in PSHE, Physical Education and Religious Education

**Students will then study a further four GCSEs in the following; -**

- One Language from French or German or Mandarin
- One humanity from Geography or History or Religious Education.

Two free choices from the following subjects: Art

& Design (Fine Art), Computer Science, Design & Technology, Food Preparation and Nutrition, Music, Physical Education, a second Humanity (Geography or History or Religious Education), a second Language subject (French or German or Mandarin).

### **THE SIXTH FORM**

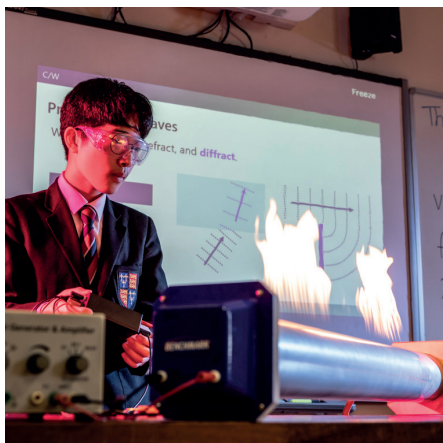
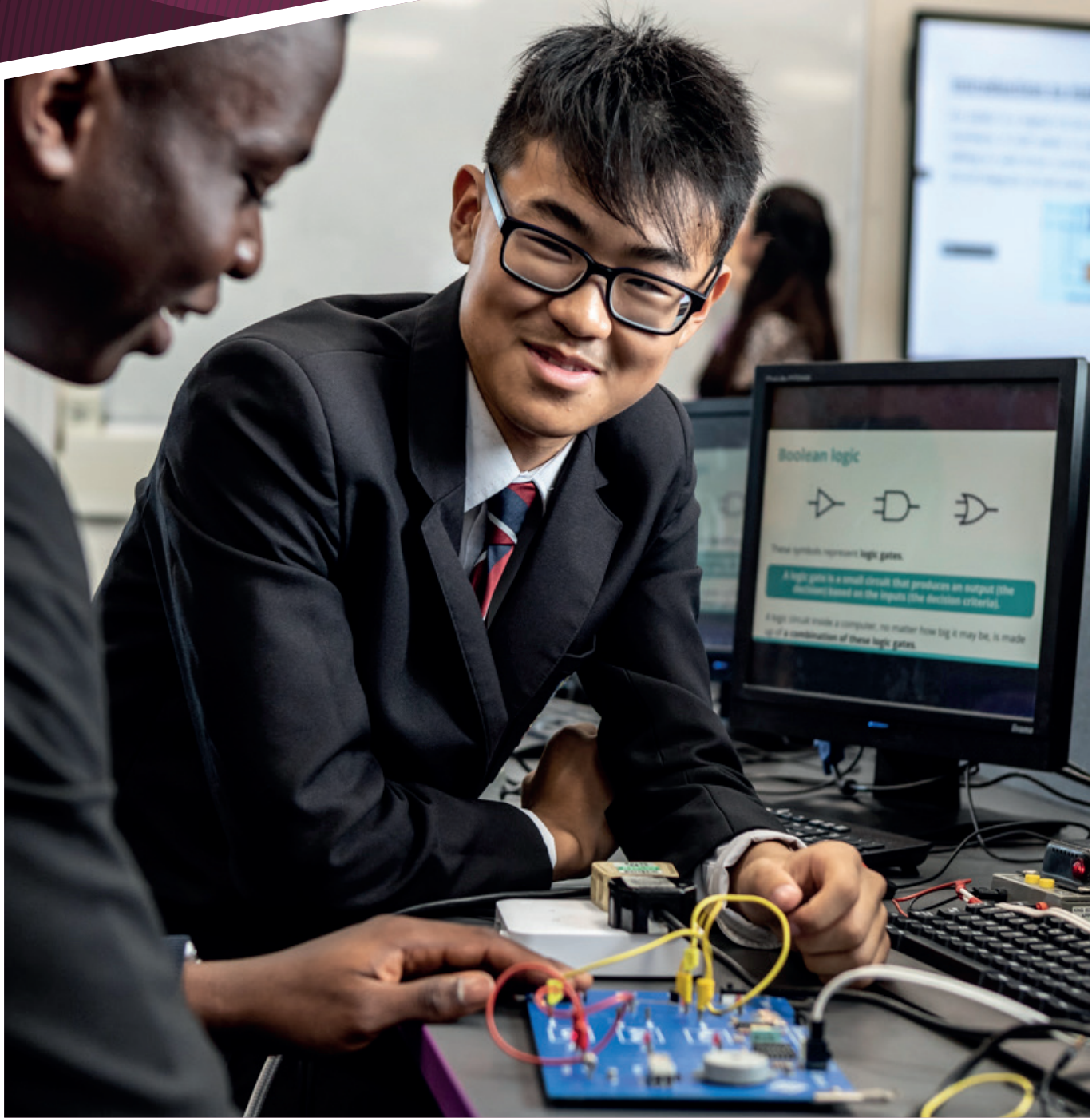
Most students stay on at Aston to continue their studies to A level. The options system is flexible to allow students to combine study or arts and science. In addition to subjects offered at GCSE, Economics, Further Mathematics, Government and Politics, Psychology and Philosophy can be studied to A level.

Art, Design Technology Music, French, German and Physical Education are all taught collaboratively with both KE Handsworth Girls and KE Handsworth Boys. All students also follow a non-examined enrichment programme with a wide varied range of elective options including Games, Fitness, Photography, Music, Languages and STEM based activities.

Many students choose to take an Extended Project Qualification allowing them to pursue an area of individual interest, and through tutorial supervision, study this to the highest level and achieve a significant national qualification.

### **PSHEE AND SEX EDUCATION**

Two periods a fortnight are set aside for PSHE in years 7-9 with one period during year 11. Topics covered include Study Skills, Health Education, Environmental Issues, E-Safety, Careers Education, Financial and Political Awareness often using external speakers and agencies. Our approach to Sex and Relationship Education recognises that parents are key figures in helping their children to cope with the emotional and physical aspects of growing up. The delivery of the sex education policy is through the programmes of study for Biology and PSHE. The policy is available on the school website.



**THE SCHOOL IS HIGHLY AMBITIOUS AND FORWARD THINKING WITH REGARD TO TEACHING AND LEARNING. THERE IS A LONG TRADITION OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT AT ASTON WHICH IS THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERY LESSON.**

## EXCELLENCE IN **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

King Edward VI Aston School is a forward-thinking institution with a strong commitment to teaching and learning innovation, actively incorporating educational research to inform and enhance its teaching practices.

The school's long-standing tradition of academic excellence forms the bedrock of every lesson taught and we prioritise nurturing a lifelong love of learning in our students, equipping them with skills that will serve them in the most demanding careers.

Our teachers are deeply passionate about their subjects and strive to challenge, engage, and inspire every student. The excellent rapport between staff and students fosters an environment that encourages active participation, rigorous discussion, and intellectual challenge. This collaborative approach aims to ensure that all students achieve their highest potential.

As students' progress at Aston, they develop greater independence and resilience in their academic pursuits. Our educators offer diverse learning strategies, opportunities for personal research, and practical experiences to enhance and refine students' learning processes.

At Aston, we fully integrate technology to support and enrich our students' learning experiences, ensuring they are well-prepared for university and their future careers. Microsoft Teams is at the core of our digital learning environment, providing a seamless platform for communication, collaboration, and access to educational resources.

Each sixth form student uses a stylus-enabled device, allowing for interactive and dynamic learning. These tools empower students to collaborate effectively with peers and teachers, engage deeply with their studies, and leverage the latest technological advancements to enhance their educational journey.

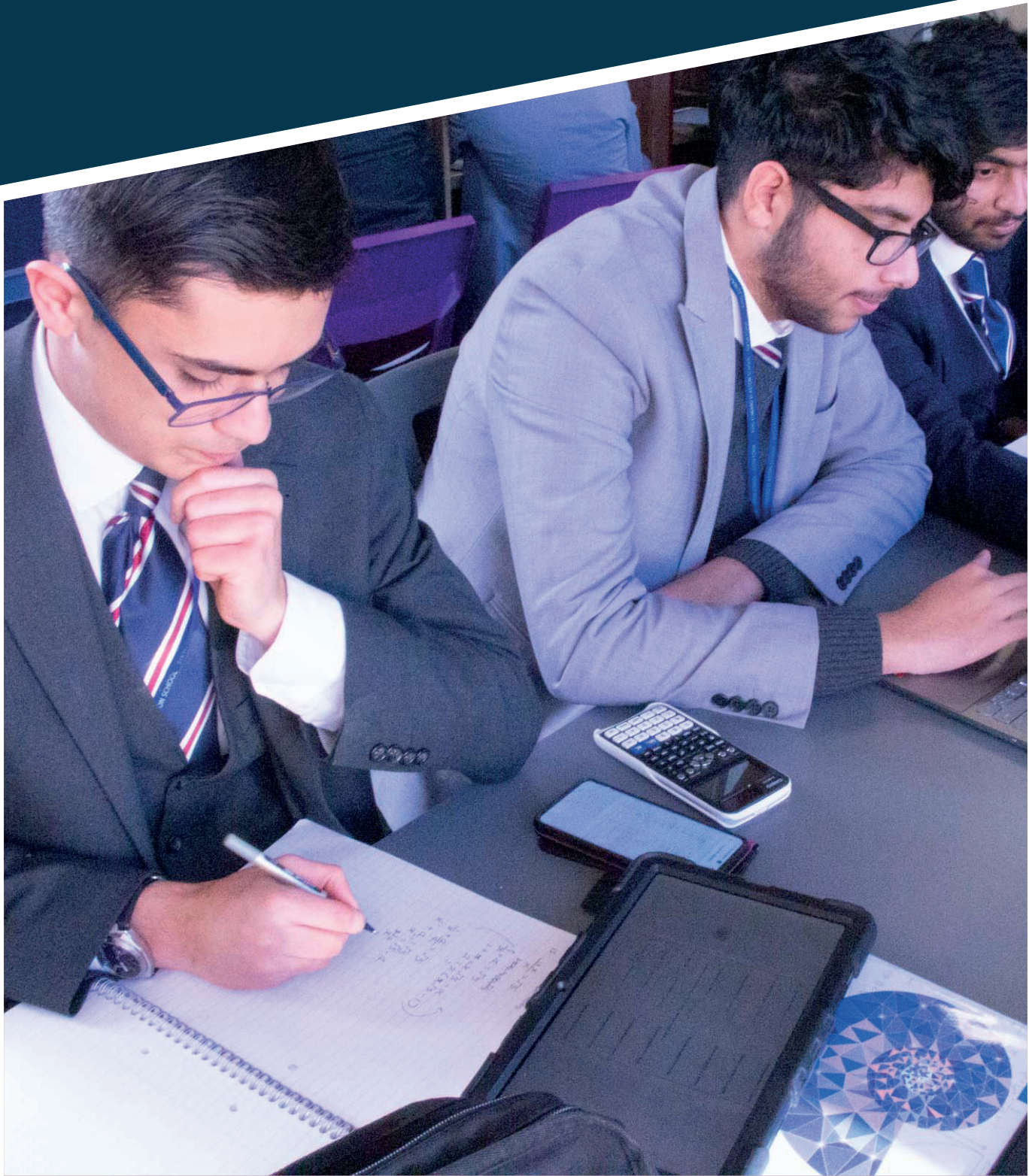
Students at Aston are encouraged to take responsibility, ask questions, solve problems, apply their skills, and defend their ideas with clarity and determination. We cultivate their independence and critical engagement with ideas, challenging them to take intellectual risks.

Our lessons are designed to be creative, imaginative, and stimulating, ensuring that learning is an enjoyable experience. Consequently, our students and staff are highly engaged, motivated, and confident in their abilities.

We invest significantly in the continuous professional development (CPD) of our staff. Our robust CPD programme ensure that teachers stay at the forefront of educational best practices and technological advancements.

This ongoing professional growth translates directly into further improved teaching quality and innovative classroom experiences, creating a more engaging and effective learning environment for our students.

By prioritising staff development, we enhance our ability to deliver an education that supports every student's success.



Understanding or relevant app  
References to religion app

- Reasoned consideration of a logical chain of reasoning if relevant evidence and inform
- Clear reference to religion.
- Reasoned consideration of a logical chain of reasoning if evidence and information
- OR
- Recognition of different points evidence
- Maximum of Level 2 if there
- Point of view with reasoning
- OR
- Nothing worthy of credit

*“Sixth formers are extremely well prepared for life beyond school. In the words of students, there is ‘a stupendous enrichment programme’. Opportunities for work experience are closely linked to their future destinations.”*

**OFSTED 2022**

## KING EDWARD VI ASTON

### SIXTH FORM

The majority of students choose to continue their studies at Aston, building upon the secure foundation provided at Key Stages 3 and 4.

The focus of the Sixth Form is twofold; providing opportunities to study a broad and balanced curriculum underpinned by academic excellence along with the expectation that students flourish and leave Aston as mature, responsible and confident young men, equipped for future study and challenging careers.

Every opportunity is provided for students in years 12 and 13 to broaden their school experience through extracurricular provision, enrichment lessons as part of the school curriculum and opportunities to complete an Extended Project Qualification.

Excellent advice and guidance throughout the UCAS and post-18 apprenticeship application process is provided, including our Next Steps Week which gives students the chance to speak to universities and companies about what is available after Sixth Form.

Throughout the process a dedicated UCAS coordinator and careers lead are available to support, along with opportunities for practice interviews and discussions through our extensive Old Boys network.

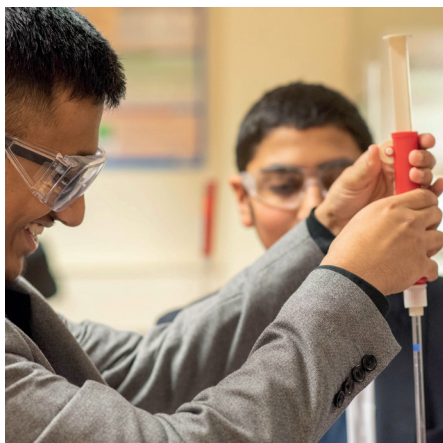
Senior staff support students with their references and the majority of our students go on to study courses at their first choice of university or move into an apprenticeship of their choice.

The sixth form has excellent facilities with a sixth form centre, study areas and access to ICT.

Teaching and learning encourages students to further develop the learning habits instilled during key stages 3 and 4, providing them with a strong foundation for independent work.

They are expected to engage fully with their academic curriculum but also offer service to the school. Many sixth form students are selected as senior prefects in year 13, along with those students who hold positions of responsibility such as School Captain, School Vice-Captain, House Captain and House Vice Captains.

Students undertake these roles with pride and dedication and serve as ultimate role models for the rest of the school.



**LEADERS PLACE AN EQUAL EMPHASIS ON PUPILS' PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING AS ON THEIR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.**

## CULTIVATING **SPORTING EXCELLENCE**

The school has a local, regional and national reputation for sporting excellence, particularly in the traditional team games. A strong focus is placed on competitive sport against other schools, and students are expected to represent the school when selected.

We are very fortunate to have excellent facilities on the main site and at Trinity Road. In April 2013, the Simpson Building at Trinity Road was opened marking the completion of an extensive refurbishment programme. Trinity Road now offers high-class facilities, and access for rugby, cricket, football, netball and tennis. The investment and development are designed to benefit Aston students, our partner schools and the local community. The sports hall on the main site was also refurbished in Spring 2014 and enables students and the community to undertake basketball, badminton, trampolining, table tennis, cricket, volleyball and tennis. We have also developed a Multi-Use Games Area, allowing students easy access to play cricket, rounders, softball, football and hockey, while we also use the Astro Turf in Aston Park, where we play many of our Hockey and Football fixtures.

In excess of twenty–seven different sporting opportunities are available to students during their time at school. Our aim is to develop physical, athletic, coordination and leadership skills; giving as many students as possible the opportunity to take part in competitive sport, be it at House or full school level. At Aston, sport is not just about winning. The opportunity for all students to participate through competition at their own level and, above all, in a sporting manner is of paramount importance.

There are school teams in Athletics, Basketball, Cricket, Football, Hockey, Rugby, Badminton, Table Tennis and Tennis. In addition, there are opportunities for individual students in Gymnastics, including Trampolining on 3 Olympic sized trampolines. All students participate in an annual Sports Day, which has previously been held at Alexander Stadium, Wyndley Athletics Track and Norman Green Running Track, providing one of many focal points in the school year for students to compete on behalf of their House. The school offers all students at Key Stages 4 and 5 the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Overseas sporting opportunities include rugby tours to a variety of international locations, previously including Ireland, France, Spain, Canada, South Africa, Singapore and Australia.





*"Pupils behave exceptionally well and their conduct around the school is exemplary - they are polite, courteous and well presented. Pupils get on very well with each other and respect those with different backgrounds and lifestyles."*

**OFSTED 2022**

## SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS **AND KEEPING THEM SAFE**

The wellbeing and safety of our students are paramount and form the foundation for our entire way of school life. We place great importance on students feeling safe and secure at school; it is only then that students will be able to achieve their academic potential. The school is conscious of all individual needs, and is able to address those needs in a way that students can feel happy inside and outside the classroom.

All students are members of a form, which in turn is part of the house structure. The five houses named after the first five Headmasters at Aston (Temperley, Floyd, Manton, Brandon and Hawley) are integral to the identity of the students at Aston. Students compete for their house in both sporting and academic events. This allows students of different ages to get to know each other, to integrate quickly, and offers a myriad of opportunities for leadership and participation. Students are fiercely proud of their houses and this pervades their time at Aston.

Each form is supported by a form tutor who is responsible for the day-to-day pastoral care of the students; with each year group having a year leader along with a member of the school's leadership team who has overall responsibility for pastoral matters at school. Students are rewarded for excellent effort and achievement with achievement points which contribute towards rewards, certificates and rewards afternoons. Parents can use Edulink to access information about their child's achievements and behaviour points and work in partnership with the school to offer care and guidance.

The school has a well-established Learning Support department, with a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO), teaching assistants and practitioners, expert in their SEND areas to support those students with individual learning needs. We have an inclusive and proactive approach to support students with special educational needs to be fully integrated into the life of the school. More information along with the school's policy can be found on the website.

The school also has an Inclusion Hub, where our Director of Inclusion, Pastoral Support Manager and Pastoral Behaviour Manager support students in a myriad of ways. The Hub allows students to access any support they may need throughout their time at our school. We also have a Wellbeing Counsellor who supports our school staff in keeping students safe and happy in school.

Our provision is designed to nurture and support students, developing in them the confidence to offer the same to others, a certainty that they will be resilient and ready to confront and resolve any difficulties they encounter, and the self-belief to carry them through. We want our students to take away this ability to face life's challenges with calm assurance.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Our top priority is your child's welfare and we encourage positive dialogue between parents/carers and school staff. To enable this, we have a dedicated team of Designated Safeguarding Leads and Pastoral Leads to support your child in staying safe.



*"Pupils have a very extensive range of sporting, musical and other cultural opportunities. The school council enables pupils to feed back their views, which has led to increase in additional activities and equipment. There is a very extensive range of after-school activities.."*

**OFSTED 2022**

## KING EDWARD VI ASTON

# THE WIDER LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

The school has a strong tradition in the arts, especially music and drama. Facilities for music are outstanding. There is a music suite with two teaching rooms, ten practice rooms, a recording studio and recital hall.

Students at Aston are encouraged to continue with their musical studies or to embark upon learning a new instrument. We offer a wide range of ensembles, many of which perform in at least two concerts per year as well as school events such as the Aston Community Carol Concert and workshop concerts at local primary schools. Every other year there is a residential music course at Ingestre Hall for members of all the main school bands and also an overseas tour for members of the Big Band Concert Band and String Orchestra

Every year, Aston presents a musical show together with King Edward VI Handsworth school. Most recently, the school enjoyed outstanding productions of *Les Misérables*, *Anything Goes* and *Our House* showcasing the musical and dramatic talents of the students.

Peripatetic lessons are available on a wide range of string, brass, woodwind and percussion instruments. The music department has some instruments to loan to students, but as far as possible, parents are encouraged to provide their sons with an instrument. There is a policy of charging for instrumental lessons – further details are available from Mrs. Mackereth (Director of Music).

There is also a strong tradition in fine art and work from students is regularly exhibited through the school and in local galleries. We have excellent photography resources, including a specialist dark room to support students to take photography for either enrichment or as part of an examined course. We also offer in-house certificates in photographic skills.

The annual Festival of Cultures is a highlight of the school year, giving us the opportunity to showcase the wide variety of cultures represented in the school.

### **OUTREACH PROGRAMME AT KING EDWARD VI ASTON**

The Schools of King Edward VI Birmingham are all involved in a widening accessibility programme, which they hope will benefit the young naturally gifted and talented children of Birmingham.

King Edward VI Aston School is fully supportive of the aims of this as part of its outreach programme runs a wide range of Masterclasses in many subjects throughout the year. Taught by both staff from the school and outside lecturers, these extend the learning of primary school pupils in the subjects they study and inspires them to extend their learning beyond the primary school curriculum.

As well as this programme, Aston takes part in the Familiarisation Programme run by all the King Edward VI Grammar Schools. Designed to help disadvantaged pupils prepare for the 11+ entrance exam, this is a series of two-hour classes looking at the different parts of the exam and helping students to familiarise themselves with the style of the questions. Pupils are selected by their primary schools and the sessions run in May and June of each year.



# KING EDWARD VI ASTON GETTING HERE

Please visit our website [www.keaston.bham.sch.uk](http://www.keaston.bham.sch.uk) for a more in-depth welcome to our school. All compulsory school policies are also available on the school website. If there is something you are looking for but can't find on the school website please email [enquiry@ast.kevibham.org](mailto:enquiry@ast.kevibham.org).

## **ASTON OLD EDWARDIANS**

Aston Old Edwardians represent the old boy's association of the school, which remains an important element of the school's tradition. They hold an annual dinner each November and arrange a wide variety of activities based at the sports ground in Sunnybank Avenue. More information can be found on the school website or by emailing [d.smart@ast.kevibham.org](mailto:d.smart@ast.kevibham.org).

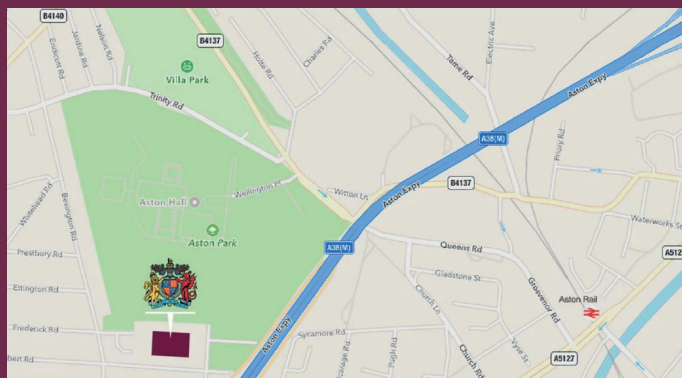
## **THE PARENTS' AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION**

Aston's very active Parents' and Friends' Association has been supporting the school since 1938. Their efforts are responsible for raising funds each year. These funds make a substantial contribution to the purchase of additional equipment and facilities for the students. In recent years, this has included providing stage curtains and curtains in the hall, a new sound system in the hall and music department, cooking equipment in the new cooking suite, photographic equipment for the department, and water machines around the school. The involvement and active participation of all the parents is greatly welcomed. More details can be found on the school website or by emailing [pachair@ast.kevibham.org](mailto:pachair@ast.kevibham.org).

## **ENDEVOUR COACHES**

At Aston, many students make use of the Endeavour Coaches which has bespoke routes for our students, dropping and collecting them at the school gates.

For more information, please visit [www.endeavourcoaches.co.uk](http://www.endeavourcoaches.co.uk).



## **KING EDWARD VI ASTON SCHOOL**

Frederick Road, Aston Birmingham, B6 6DJ

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