



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

Educational excellence for our City

Welcome to King Edward VI Handsworth Wood Girls' Academy

Educational excellence for our City



**Here is your guide to Year 7 at KEVI.
It has all the information you will need to
settle in quickly, confidently and happily!**

Can you give me some tips for getting off to a good start?

Moving to secondary school is a significant period of change in your life. We do everything we can to help you settle in as smoothly as possible, but there are some things that you can do to get off to a great start with us:

Attendance

It is very important to come to school every day. Any day missed obviously has an impact on your learning. Friendships and extracurricular activities are important too and missing school can affect those areas as well.

It is equally important to arrive at school on time. We recommend that you plan your journey to school so that you are on site before the start of the school day.

Routines

Each day, you will need the correct uniform, equipment, books and any home learning you have done. This is a big change from primary and you will be expected to take personal responsibility for coming to school with everything you need.

We have a few tips to help you:

- Pack your school bag the night before. This means that you are much less likely to forget anything. Mornings can be a bit hectic and it is easy to get in a muddle if you leave things till the last minute.
- At night, get your uniform ready for the next day and hang up your clothes so it is easy to find everything in the morning.
- Plan out when you are going to do your home study work so you know exactly when you are going to do it. This means that you won't be in a rush and not do your best or forget anything. It also means that you have time planned out to do the other things that are important to you during the week.



Meeting new people

A big part of your life at KEVI will be the friendships that you make here. At the beginning it may feel daunting if you don't know anyone in your form. It may help you to remember that everyone will be feeling nervous, however confident they may seem on the outside. So make the first move and introduce yourself to other students.

How will KEVI help me settle in?

KEVI will probably be much bigger than any school you have attended before. You may worry about getting lost as you go from lesson to lesson and wonder if it will ever feel like home. We give you a lot of support finding your way around in your first few weeks.

We can reassure you that you within just a couple of weeks you will know where everything is.

Transition Buddies

Older students will be assigned to your form as 'Transition Buddies' and help you find your classrooms and other various locations around the Academy. You can also ask them for any other advice about the Academy.

We are all very friendly here and any teacher or student will be very happy to direct you and will often take you to your class if you are lost.

Getting used to home study

You will do more school work at home than you did at primary but your teachers will support you with your home study tasks. You will be provided with a home study timetable which will show you when work needs to be submitted. If you have any difficulties, speak to your subject teacher, Form Teacher or Head of Year.



What does it mean to be a KEVI student?

High expectations

KEVI is a place where you will feel safe and confident so able to perform to the best of your abilities.

We want you to have goals for your future and we will support you in working your way to reaching them.

Academy virtues

Our Academy character virtues are at the heart of everything at KEVI. We will talk about them in more detail in your first term here.

They will help you develop intellectual, moral, civic and performance virtues and help you become a confident, compassionate and successful learner and an active and responsible member of society.



High Performance Learning World Class School

We believe that every student has the potential to be a high performer. We teach students the skills that they need to achieve their full potential.

KEVI student demonstrates the following attitudes:

Collaborative - working together and by giving and seeking feedback

Concerned for society - helping those less fortunate, demonstrating citizenship, celebrating everyone's cultural heritage and looking at ethics and moral issues

Confident - developing self-belief but also being able to adapt and deal with new challenges

Enquiring - being curious and by taking responsibility for your independent learning

Creative and enterprising - looking at new ideas and beliefs objectively

Risk-taking - dealing with uncertain situations confidently

Practice - repeating processes until you are proficient

Perseverance - not giving up when faced with problems

Resilience - bouncing back from setbacks and remaining optimistic and by helping others to overcome problems



What will I study?

In Year 7 you will study subjects that you are already familiar with and look at them in greater depth and more complexity. You will also study areas that are new to you.

Art and Design

You will study the basic elements of art and textiles by looking at line, shape, form, pattern, texture, colour and tone. You will study the works of some key artists and produce your own work.

Classics

You will study stories and fables and create and present your own versions. You will also submit work to the OVID West Midlands competition.

Drama

You will learn basic terminology used in drama, study a text in detail, look at the origins of theatre and film and script development and rehearse and perform a play.

Design and Technology

You will learn about equipment used in the food room, hygiene and health and safety, and look at product design and graphics, including use of tools and technology.

English

You will study prose and poetry and both historical and modern texts and write and present a speech on a topic you have chosen.

Languages/Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

You will learn common vocabulary and phrases and grammar. You will read and translate text and become familiar with spoken languages and modern foreign languages.

Geography

You will study globes, atlases and maps, including Ordnance Survey maps and learn how to interpret and use them. You will look at how humans interact with the environment. You will look at rivers, and study particular geographical areas and how geography has impacted on their history.

History

You will look at water and health from the Iron Age to the beginning of the 20th century, at the Norman conquest, life in the Middle Ages, the Reformation, Renaissance and Tudor England.

Computing

You will learn about using the KEVI network, basic IT skills, E-Safety and basics of computing.

Maths

You will look at place values, base 10, axioms and arrays, factors and multiples, graphs and their practical uses, geometry, fractions and ratios.

Music

You will study basic music theory, develop an understanding of rhythm through using percussion instruments, keyboard and guitar. You will become familiar with different genres of music. You will also compose some of your own music.

PE

You will learn about strategy, competition and cooperation by playing football, netball, volleyball, basketball, badminton, rounders, cricket, athletics and handball. You will also do dance, gymnastics and fitness activities.

Religious Studies

You will look at the origins of religions and their search for the meaning of life, the lives of key religious leaders and how they influence society today, how religion impacts on believers' lives and consider similarities between religions and worship and how they impact on a believer.

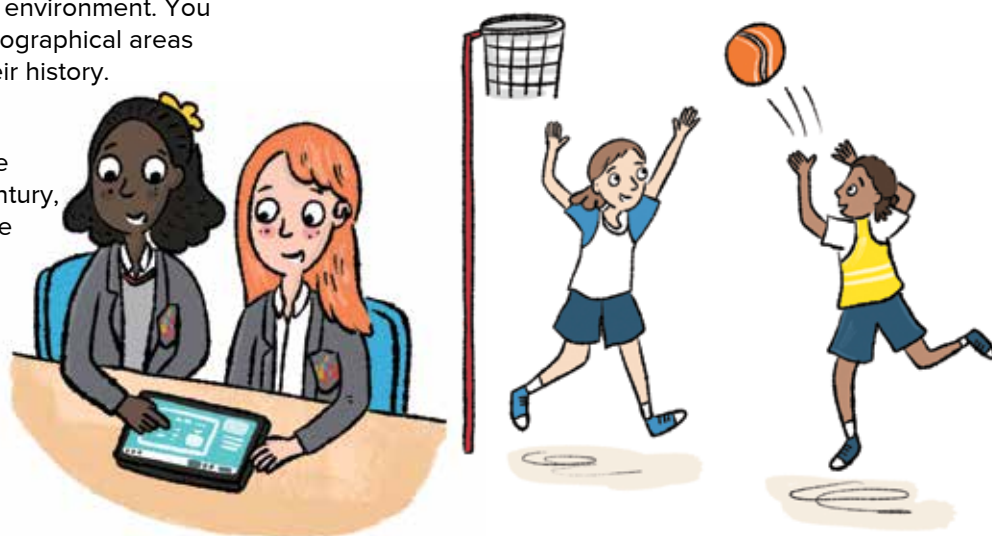
Science

You will conduct experiments in a lab and how to conduct them safely. You will look at plant and animal cells using microscopes. You will look at the particle model and the periodic table. You will study human reproduction and genetics. You will look at electricity. You will also study revision techniques.

Your teachers will teach you in a variety of interesting ways. You will also see some crossover in themes over the subject areas e.g. the environment.

We will check your progress regularly through tests, your contribution in class and home study. This allows your teachers to provide extra support if necessary or recognise when you are doing well.

We will also give your parents/carers lots of advice about how they can support you with your studies.



Where do I fit in?

KEVI house system

As well as being a member of your form, you will be part of a school house. The house system includes students from across KS3 and KS4 year groups.

Houses take part in regular competitions throughout the year which focus on developing aspects of your characters such as self-confidence, self-esteem and resilience. You will also build relationships with other students in other year groups which will help you feel part of the wider school community.

Each house has a Director of Character and Personal Development, a House Co-Ordinator and House Captain, who will be a senior student. The House Captain will promote participating in house activities and lead competitions.



Dame Kelly
Holmes



Victoria
Pendleton



Dame Ellen
MacArthur



Ellie
Simmonds



Isa
Guha

Our houses are named after inspirational female role models in sport:

- Ennis-Hill, named after Jessica Ennis-Hill
- Guha, named after Isa Guha
- Holmes, named after Dame Kelly Holmes
- MacArthur, named after Dame Ellen MacArthur
- Pendleton, named after Victoria Pendleton
- Simmonds, named after Ellie Simmonds

These women have overcome adversity and demonstrated commitment and passion for their sports, and are brilliant role models for all of our students.

How can I get more involved with school life?

Student leadership

To get the most of your life at KEVI, we encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity available. Getting involved in student leadership is a fantastic way to enrich your life by:

- developing skills in leadership and team-working
- learning how to communicate with a range of students and adults
- having a say in decision-making and a chance to contribute to Academy life
- making new friends

All the skills that you will develop will also help you in your life after KEVI. And it is FUN!

Opportunities range from Form Ambassadors to Year Prefects, House Captains, Deputy and Head of Key Stage and Head Girl.

What if I need help?

Everyone has worries and problems and you moving to secondary school is a big change which may mean you feel you need help more than usual.

Talking about mental health

We talk about mental health in PSHE lessons and give advice about how to look after your own wellbeing but also recognise when you need extra help.

Getting help

It really helps to talk and we encourage you to let us know if you are having problems. The best person to speak you will be your Form Tutor as you will see them every day. You can also speak to your Head of Year. We also have a dedicated pastoral team who are there to give advice as well. We can refer you to expert support agencies outside of KEVI and also give advice to your parents/carers.

Keeping you safe at KEVI

We take bullying very seriously and it is not tolerated at all. If it is happening to you or another student, let a member of staff know straight away. Don't worry about getting anyone into trouble. We have a system in place and it will be OK.

We also take E-Safety very seriously. As part of your IT lessons, we will talk about this in detail and also provide advice to your parents/carers. If you are worried about anything you may have seen or shared, let a member of staff know straight away and they will help.

Frequently asked questions

It is quite normal to have worries about starting at a new school, and even more so when you are moving from primary to secondary, so here are answers to the most frequent questions from Year 7 students:

What happens if I am lost or late?

If you get lost, ask a member of staff or older student and they will help. Don't worry if everything seems big and confusing – you will soon settle in.

However, if you arrive at school after 8.45 am, go straight to Mrs Morgan, our Attendance Officer, to sign in and provide a reason for your lateness.

When can I use the toilets?

Normally, you are not allowed to go to the toilet during lesson time as this disrupts your learning. So, make sure you use the toilets during break times. We know that sometimes there are emergencies, so if you really need to go, ask your teacher.

What happens if I feel ill during a class?

If you feel ill during a lesson, let your teacher know. If you become ill or are injured during break or lunch, please report to reception. If we think you need to go home, we will contact your parents/carers to make arrangements for you to be collected. You are not allowed to go home without permission if you feel ill, so always speak to a member of staff.

What happens if I have a dental or other medical appointment in school time?

If you have a medical or dental appointment that can only take during school hours, your parents or carers must contact Mrs Morgan and provide a copy of your appointment letter or card. Attendance is very important so we ask that your parents/carers arrange appointments outside of school hours if possible.

What happens if I am absent?

Your parents/carers should ring the school to explain why you are absent before school starts in the morning. We encourage you to attend every day and we will only authorise absence for illness or serious family issues.

If you have any other questions, please speak to your Form Teacher or Transition Buddy.



What makes KEVI such a great school?



Seven for seven!

Here are seven things to achieve in Year 7:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get to know some new students. If you have some friends from primary, look out for others who don't know anyone and reach out. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Join a club or do an activity in something you love already. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Join a club or do an activity in something you are interested in but haven't tried before. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Join a club or do an activity in something completely new and outside your usual comfort zone. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get involved with KEVI life. Either as a class rep or another position of responsibility in the school, or through things like fundraising activities. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have excellent attendance. Not only does it help you keep up with your studies but it helps you develop and maintain friendships. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask a teacher to check your understanding or if you haven't done well in some work. It is OK to ask for help and OK to not get things right first time. |



At the end of Year 7, have a look back at this. You will have achieved more than you ever thought possible!

We look forward to helping you achieve your dreams!



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