



*"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 programme 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

*A Grammar school for boys since 1883*





# A Warm Welcome



C. Parker - Headmaster

*King Edward VI Aston School is renowned for its friendly and relaxed atmosphere, which is based on the good discipline, and high standards the school expects and gets from its students. We aim to educate, and prepare for life, able students from all backgrounds.*

The school is a caring, happy and supportive community. Our pursuit of excellence allows students to reach the highest possible academic, sporting, cultural and aesthetic standards. Young enquiring minds are stretched by lively lessons where knowledge, understanding, discussion and challenge are the order of the day. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and there is excellent rapport between students and their teachers.

Whilst healthy competition is central to the ethos of the school there are also many opportunities for students to enter into the wider life of the school. Service to the school and community is enthusiastically performed and high levels of leadership and responsibility are actively taken on by students at all levels. Though

mindful of our history, we believe that building on our tradition of excellence comes not from dwelling on yesterday's successes but performing tomorrow's tasks.

Our students are our greatest priority. The school's efforts are focused on providing the very best opportunities for their all round development. By the age of eighteen we expect all Aston students to be articulate, well educated young men, capable of independent thought with the confidence to face future challenges. We expect students to leave Aston knowing the value of integrity and the importance of tolerance.


Whilst the school is quietly proud of its past, its gaze is firmly fixed on the future and the relentlessly changing world into which it sends its young citizens.

C. Parker Headmaster

Mr G Dupree Chairman of Governors







*"They develop outstanding personal qualities thanks to a rich, varied taught curriculum and an extensive programme of additional activities beyond lessons. As one parent said, 'The school is able to maintain a balance between academic studies and a life out of school.'"*

Ofsted

# Admissions Arrangements

*King Edward VI Aston School is an Academy under the Academies Act, 2010.*

## Year 7 Admissions

The school admits 120 students into year 7 at the age of eleven. The full admission criteria are available on the school's website along with 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 ([www.schoolsofkingedwardvi.co.uk](http://www.schoolsofkingedwardvi.co.uk)).

## 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 all 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@keaston.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@keaston.bham.sch.uk)).

## 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 at 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 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.

## Minimum Entry Requirements

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

- Minimum seven A\* to C grades, including at least B grades in English Language and Mathematics. At least three passes must be at A\* or A grade.
- In subjects only offered at A Level – Government and Politics, Psychology, Philosophy and Economics – the department will select the most appropriate GCSE subject in which the student will be expected to achieve an A grade. This information will be published in each department's entry in the Sixth Form Guide available at the Open Evening.

All students entering year 12 will be able to choose from a number of different pathways. These include three A levels, three A Levels and an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), four A Levels or four A Levels and an EPQ. Students will also study an number of enrichment courses during year 12.

# 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 a timetabled enrichment programme, including options such as Photography, History, Music Technology, Relaxation and Meditation. These, amongst many others, provide students with time and space to pursue courses and areas of interest outside of the main curriculum.*



## Key Stage 3

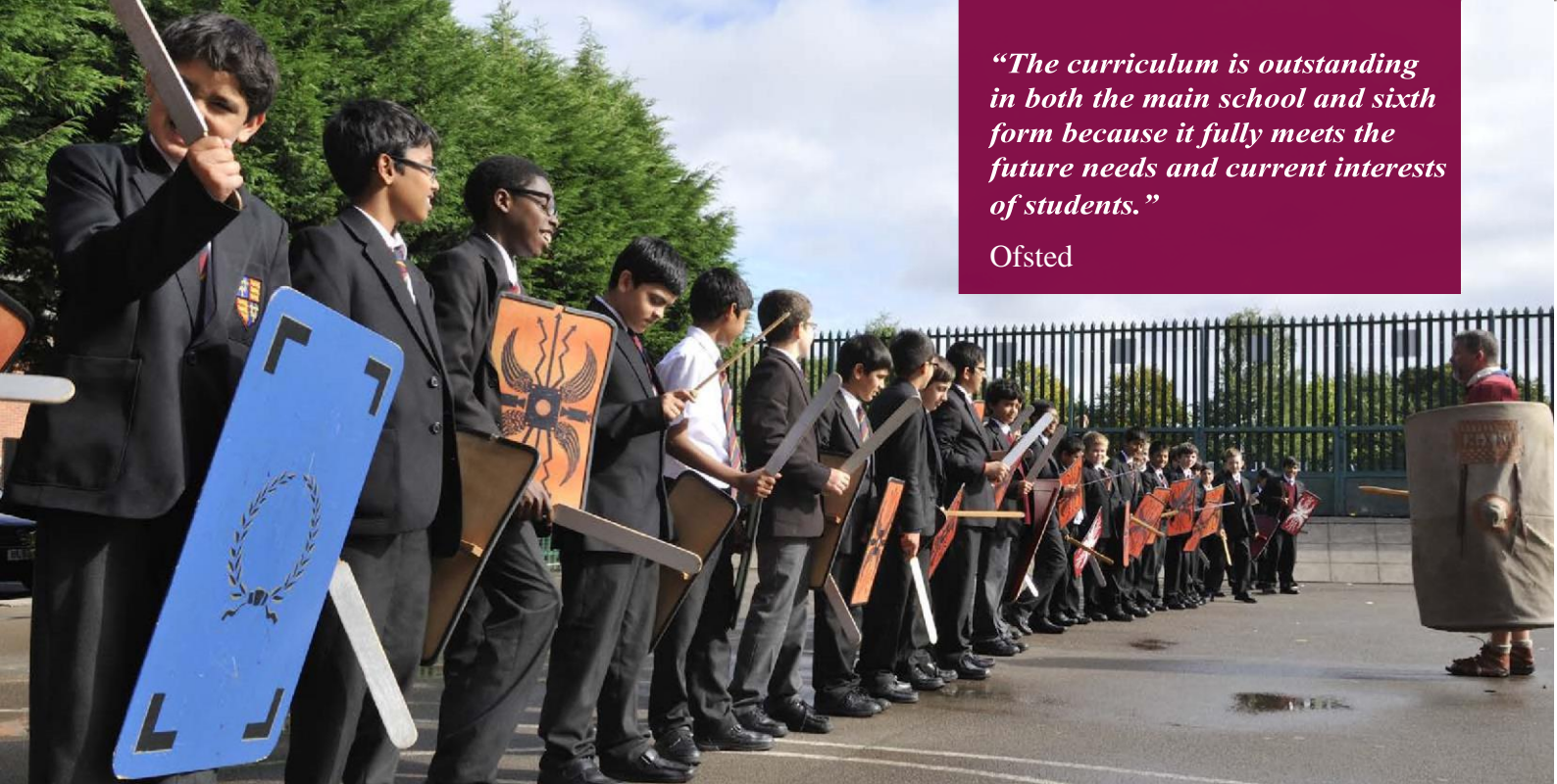
All students in year 7 to 9 study Art, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Design Technology, English, French, German, Geography, History, Maths, Music, Physical Education and Games, and Religious Education.

At Aston, the Religious Education scheme of work is broad and balanced, promoting the spiritual and moral development 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, with an Information Evening for parents and students taking place in January each year. Students are provided with support and guidance to make their options choices. In years 10 and 11, all students study the core subjects of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Religious Education, Physical Education and Games. They will choose one language from either French or German and one humanity from either Geography or History. They are able to pursue their interests by choosing options from Art, Music, Information Technology, Computer Studies and Design Technology. Students also participate in an enrichment programme which supports our aim and ethos of encouraging students to maintain breadth and balance within their studies.





*“The curriculum is outstanding in both the main school and sixth form because it fully meets the future needs and current interests of students.”*

Ofsted



## 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 of arts and sciences. In addition to subjects offered at GCSE, Economics, Further Mathematics, Psychology and Philosophy can be studied to A level. Art, Music, French, German and Government and Politics are all taught collaboratively with Handsworth Grammar School. All students also follow a wide and varied enrichment programme including PE and Games, as well as extracurricular opportunities in teambuilding, industry, finance, music and drama. 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

Three periods a fortnight are set aside for PSHEE in years 7-10 with two periods during year 11. Topics covered include Study Skills, Health Education, Environmental Issues, Esafety, Careers Education, Financial and Political Awareness, often using external speakers and agencies. Our approach to Sex and Relationship education recognises that parents are the 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 PSHEE. The policy is available on the school website.



# *Excellence in teaching and learning*

*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.*

Our teachers are passionate about their subject and seek to challenge, engage and motivate all students. Excellent relationships between staff and students ensure a climate for active engagement, challenge, discussion and rigour. There is a sense of partnership between teachers and students with the focus being on all students achieving the highest levels. As students progress at Aston, they become increasingly independent and resilient in their academic studies. All teachers provide opportunities for students to learn using different strategies, to undertake personal research and have practical experiences to help them to hone their learning.

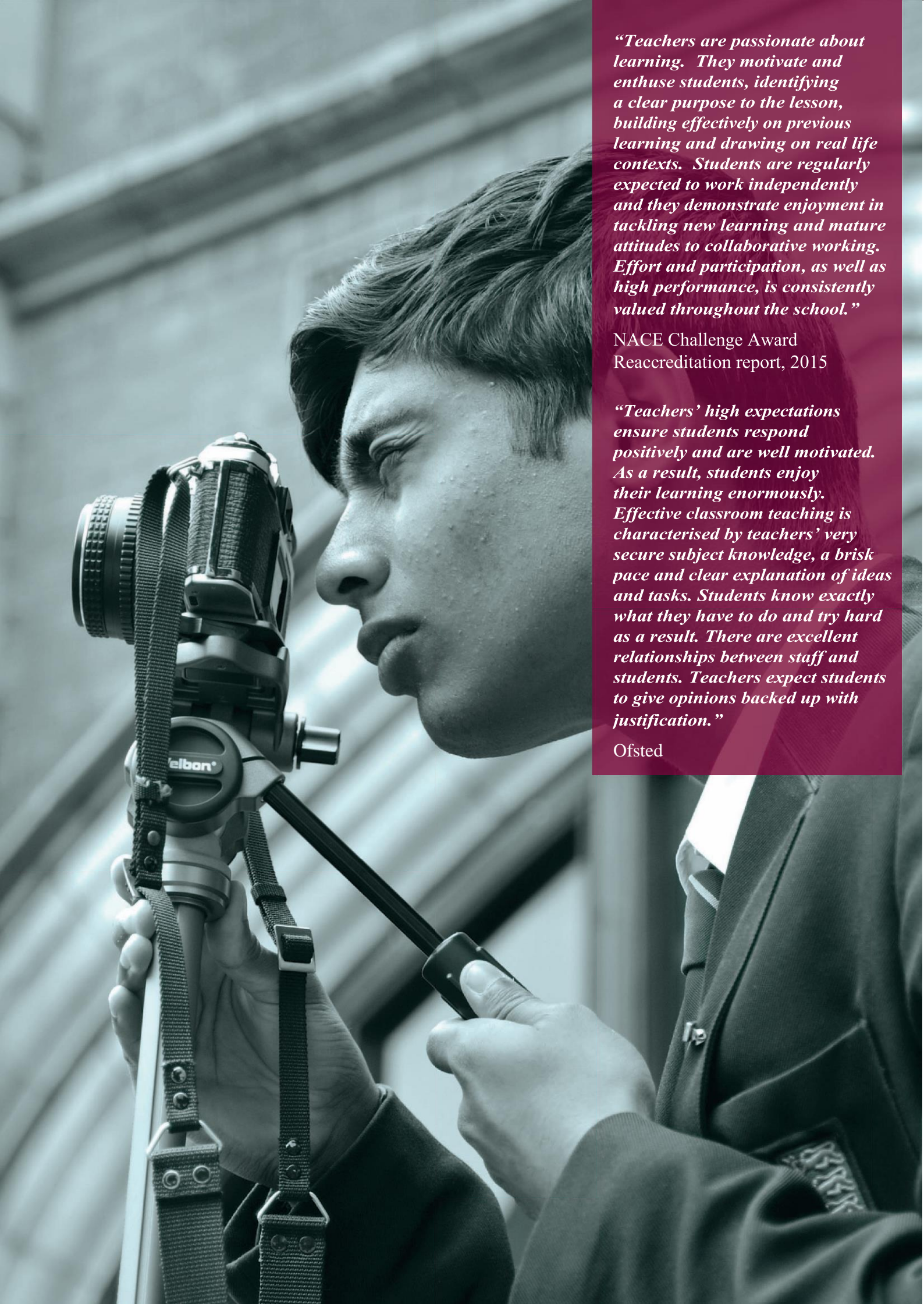
Our priority is to develop within the students a lifelong love of learning alongside developing approaches to learning which will serve them in the most challenging careers. The Building Learning Power approach underpins much classroom activity; it provides a language to discuss learning and opportunities for students to reflect on what and how they are learning. We believe this approach to be fundamental in preparing students for life at University and in future careers and the maturity and self discipline of the majority of our students in key stage 4 and 5 is a testimony to the emphasis that we give to this aspect of learning.



As Aston, we are also keen to embrace technology to support students in their learning and enable them to prepare fully for studying at University and into the world of work. All students and parents have access to our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which allows access to resources, assessments and learning inside and outside of the school day. This development is supported by a wifi network offering unlimited connectivity across the school site. The use of tablet technology at Aston is growing to ensure that students can learn using the very latest resources, collaborate with each other and their teachers to develop deeper understanding and engagement with their learning.

Students are expected to take responsibility, ask questions, solve problems, apply their skills and defend their arguments with clarity and determination. We encourage their independence and critical engagement with ideas, and challenge them to take intellectual risks. Our lessons are creative, imaginative and exciting, and we work hard to ensure that learning is always enjoyable. As a result, our students and staff are engaged, highly motivated and confident in their abilities.






*“Teachers are passionate about learning. They motivate and enthuse students, identifying a clear purpose to the lesson, building effectively on previous learning and drawing on real life contexts. Students are regularly expected to work independently and they demonstrate enjoyment in tackling new learning and mature attitudes to collaborative working. Effort and participation, as well as high performance, is consistently valued throughout the school.”*

NACE Challenge Award  
Reaccreditation report, 2015

*“Teachers’ high expectations ensure students respond positively and are well motivated. As a result, students enjoy their learning enormously. Effective classroom teaching is characterised by teachers’ very secure subject knowledge, a brisk pace and clear explanation of ideas and tasks. Students know exactly what they have to do and try hard as a result. There are excellent relationships between staff and students. Teachers expect students to give opinions backed up with justification.”*

Ofsted





*"The sixth formers are outstanding role models and ambassadors for the school. They serve the school extremely well, helping it achieve its ambitions and future targets. This helps them develop the skills and qualities beneficial in their future studies and employment. They leave the school confident, thoughtful, insightful, tolerant and with strong moral responsibility for caring for others."*

NACE Challenge Award Report, 2011

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



The sixth form have excellent facilities with a sixth form centre, study areas and access to ICT. The school caterers provide a bespoke service at recess and lunch for the sixth form students. Teaching and learning in the sixth form develops the learning habits instilled during key stages 3 and 4, allowing students to mature as learners. There is an expectation that they will engage fully with their academic curriculum but also to 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-Captains, House Captains and House Vice-Captains. Students undertake these roles with pride and dedication and serve as ultimate role models for the rest of the school.



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 for the UCAS application process is provided through a week of events organised in year 12, visits to Universities including Oxford and Cambridge, and one to one interviews with a UCAS advisor and form tutor. Senior staff support students with their references for Universities and the majority of students go on to study courses at their first choice of University.





## *Aims & Provision for Sport*

*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 first class facilities for rugby, cricket, football, netball, tennis, basketball and hockey. This investment and development is one 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.

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, Cross Country, Football, Hockey, Rugby and Tennis. In addition, there are opportunities for individual students in Badminton, Swimming, Table Tennis and Gymnastics. All students participate in the annual Sports Day held at the Alexander Stadium 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 and Sports Leadership Awards. Overseas sporting opportunities include rugby tours to a variety of international locations.





## *Supporting and nurturing our students*

*The well being 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 of the classroom.*

All students are members of a form, which in turn is part of the house structure. The four houses, named after the first four Headmasters at Aston (Temperley, Floyd, Manton and Brandon), are integral to the identity of 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 termly certificates and twice yearly rewards afternoons. Parents can use the VLE to access information about their son's achievement and

behaviour points, and work in partnership with the school to offer care and guidance.

The school has a well established Special Educational Needs department, with a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO), Deputy SENCO and teaching assistants 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 school's policy can be found on the website.

The school's expertise in education for the exceptionally able has been recognised through our reaccreditation of the NACE Challenge Award. All of our students are gifted, many with unconventional talents. It is our job to discover these talents through a rich spectrum of opportunities and chances, and to give our students direction and opportunities for them to flourish and realise their full potential. Our philosophy of an inclusive approach to identify gifts and talents and nurturing students as they develop these permeates all aspects of the life of the school.



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 first priority is your son's welfare and therefore there may be occasions when our concerns about your child means that we have to consult other agencies even before we contact you. The procedures we follow have been laid down by Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board. As a result we may also have to disclose your son's personal data to statutory bodies where it is considered necessary and within the Data Protection act.

If you want to know more about these procedures, please speak to the Designated Senior Person for Child Protection, Mr Welsby.

Our provision is designed to nurture and support students, and developing in them the confidence to offer the same to others, a certainty that they will be 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.





*“Behaviour is exemplary and this is based on strong, trusting relationships throughout the school. Pupils recognise that their teachers go out of their way to encourage them and to support them to achieve. Students relish the range of learning opportunities which they have at Aston and speak with enthusiasm about the ways in which wider aspects of development are nurtured alongside academic excellence. Effort and participation, as well as high performance, is consistently valued throughout the school. Pupils actively support each other and celebrate others’ achievements and contributions.”*

NACE Challenge Award  
Reaccreditation report, 2015





# *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 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 Miserables*, *Anything Goes* and *Our House* showcasing the musical and dramatic talents of our 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 the subject leader for music, Mrs Parrans-Smith.

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, and 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 in 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 and as part of its outreach programme runs a range of Masterclasses in a large number of 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.

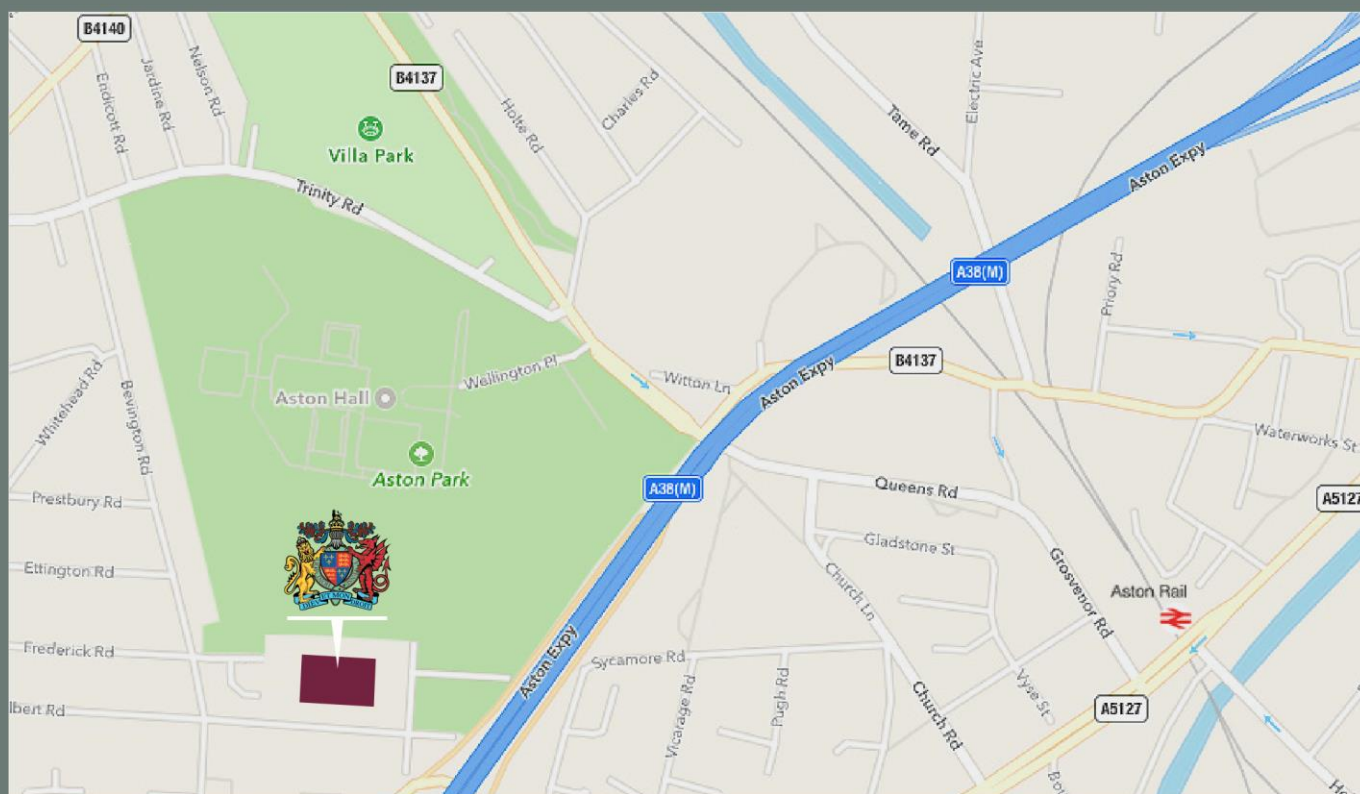
As well as this programme, Aston takes part in the Familiarisation Programme run by all of the King Edward VI Grammar Schools. Designed to help disadvantaged pupils prepare for the 11+ entrance exam, this is a series of two hour classes looking at the different parts of the exam and helping students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





# Getting here

*Click to view in Google Maps*



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 school policies are available as well as a virtual tour of the main site and Trinity Road.

## 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.

## The Parents' Association

Aston's very active Parents' Association has been supporting the school since 1938. Their efforts are responsible for raising around £20,000 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 parents is greatly welcomed. The Parents' Association meet monthly and more details can be found on the school website or by emailing [pachair@keaston.bham.sch.uk](mailto:pachair@keaston.bham.sch.uk)

## The Green Bus

At Aston, many students make use of the Green Bus Company which has bespoke routes for our students, dropping and collecting them at the school gates. For more information, please visit [www.thegreenbus.co.uk](http://www.thegreenbus.co.uk)



**KING EDWARD VI  
ASTON SCHOOL**

*In pursuit of educational excellence for all*





# KING EDWARD VI ASTON SCHOOL

*In pursuit of educational excellence for all*



## ***King Edward VI Aston School***

Frederick Road, Aston

Birmingham, B6 6DJ

Tel: 0121 327 1130

Email: [enquiry@keaston.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@keaston.bham.sch.uk)

Website: [www.keaston.bham.sch.uk](http://www.keaston.bham.sch.uk)

Follow us on Twitter: @KEASTONVI



### **Challenge Award**

FOR EXCELLENCE IN PROVISION FOR  
ABLE, GIFTED & TALENTED PUPILS  
NACE RE-ACCREDITED SCHOOL JULY 2015



*Headmaster Mr C Parker*

*Chair of Governors: Mr G Dupree*

*King Edward VI Aston School, a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, Company number*



07656224. Registered office: Frederick Road, Aston, Birmingham, West Midlands, B6 DJ

*All images in the prospectus have been created and produced by the  
students and staff.*