

# KESGRAVE HIGH SCHOOL



# WELCOME

We are more than just a school



Instilling the right attitude from day one is key to our students' success.



Thank you for your interest in our school. I look forward to building a relationship with you and your child.

We are proud of every student at Kesgrave High School and expect them to take pride in all that they do. Experience tells us that children thrive in environments with firm boundaries, consistent expectations, and building relationships that set the tone for learning. Our strong pastoral system, high academic standards and clear behaviour expectations create a safe and encouraging environment for all children to grow.

We hope our students will challenge their expectations and take themselves out of their comfort zone to experience the wealth of new opportunities on offer. Our positive, inclusive approach and state of the art educational facilities ensures that students make the most of their unique talents and potential.

We encourage students to take responsibility, to be curious and to have a thirst for knowledge. Our supportive learning environment values everyone, enabling students to learn from each other, as well as from their experienced and skilled teachers.

We know that for students to achieve their best, preparation starts early. Students engage in learning in Year 7 that sets the foundation for their future success, building on their work in Primary School. It isn't only the students who are continuously learning, our teachers professionally reflect on what they do and consider how to improve.

I look forward to welcoming you to our school in person and in sharing our pride in our young people with you.

Miss Julia Upton - Head Teacher



BE POSITIVE  
BE RESPECTFUL  
BE YOUR BEST



## OUR VALUES

We don't have a long list of rules, instead choosing the clarity of our three Bs which pervade every aspect of school life. We believe that if all students can enact these three core expectations, every student can thrive.

We value and acknowledge effort and achievement with a range of rewards that recognise doing the right thing day in, day out to promote pride and success through a commitment to hard work and effort. The rewards range from gaining the three Bs in every lesson, verbal and written praise on a regular basis, to the more celebratory presentation of awards, certificates and prizes. Reports, referrals for exceptional good behaviour and praise for excellent work all contribute positively to a student's development and confidence.





# PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR THE WORLD TODAY

Established in 1931, Captain Harrison, Headteacher, set out his vision for the young people of Kesgrave with these aims:

- Each student to reach ever higher standards
- Each individual to strive towards fulfilment
- An increase in motivation and self-confidence – through success and praise

Despite the passage of time, our ethos and aims remain built on this foundation. Our history and place within our local community is important to us. Today, we hope that we develop young people who have culture, character and currency.

We want them to have a broad and rich educational experience with learning that will sustain. We want them to develop the strength of character and resilience to cope with life in the modern world, being able to make a positive contribution to society when they step out into the world. Finally, we want them to gain qualifications that will open doors to the next phase in their lives, giving them educational currency long into the future.

# A COHERENT CURRICULUM

Our school day is designed to motivate and inspire students, offering a wide and varied curriculum with dedicated and specialist teachers for each subject. Our three-period day allows students to delve into a topic and explore how knowledge can be transferred and connected across different themes of learning.

In Year 7 to 9 all students study a full range of subjects, giving them breadth as well as depth. We want them to experience academic, practical, theoretical and creative learning. Students enjoy the range of subjects, delivered in modern, well-equipped classrooms.

Learning to read and write fluently gives students access to knowledge and learning. Knowing the right tone and style to communicate effectively, be that in speaking or writing, are important life skills. Whether it is a scientific report or a historical debate, we want students to be eloquent and sophisticated in their language use.

In Year 10 and 11, we give our students the opportunity to express their personal interests and specialise in subjects that will shape their future. With over thirty subjects to choose from, the combination of choices is limitless. Our core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, PE and PSHEe remain a bedrock of learning throughout. On progression from Year 11, the array of choice continues into our Sixth Form, with an offer of over forty Level 3 subjects.





# A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

At Kesgrave High School, we want students to take opportunities to learn and develop outside the classroom, as well as within. We offer extra-curricular activities at lunchtime and after school, allowing students to meet a range of people and experience things outside of their comfort zone. There are traditional sports such as football, tennis, athletics and netball, but also basketball, badminton, dodgeball and even goalball. You can use one of the many music practice rooms or join an ensemble or choir. Drama or dance, computer programming or crafts, art club or the media team; there really is something for everyone.

Wherever possible we look to take classroom learning out into the wider world, with trips to the theatre, geography fieldtrips and art exploration days. Visiting speakers are also commonplace, aiming to connect students to the world beyond our doors.

Bringing students together in different social settings also helps to broaden social experiences and develop students' interactions. From the Year 7 disco to the Year 11 Prom, there are moments across the years which students remember long into the future.

Alongside the use of external agencies we have a member of staff dedicated to providing information and opportunities to make informed choices for future career pathways. Our advisor attends pathways, options and parents' evenings and is available to speak to parents/carers at key transitional stages. The school has a dedicated and fully equipped Careers Information Room.

# ONE COMMUNITY

Whilst we are a large school, we are very much one community. We make connections with each other and champion that we all have something unique and valuable to offer. We take time to express our values explicitly. We support students to grow into the person that they want to be, teaching diversity and tolerance in assemblies and PSHEe, alongside an expectation of respect towards each other, day in, day out.

As well as being divided into year groups, every tutor group belongs to a House. Bader, Hilary, Keller, Nuffield and Royal reflect 20<sup>th</sup> Century notable historical figures who have excelled in personal and public achievement. The House system creates friendly competition and breaks down barriers between students of different ages. The competition culminates in our whole school sports day, but there are a range of challenges across the year. How would you fare in the Lip sync, capture the flag or chess challenge?

Across the school students take on leadership responsibilities. Students actively want to give back to their school. Peer Mentors help and guide our Year 7, leading activities in form time, supporting on the Year 7 field, guiding with reading and homework, as well as supporting students' social and emotional development. Our Year 11 prefects lead through one of six service strands: Literature, Media and Tech, Extra-curricular, Community, Environment and Standards.

Our School Council lead on our charity work, considering how to raise awareness for those in need and through this educate us all in the challenges that others face.



Which house group will you be in?



## BADER

INSPIRED BY

Fighter ace, international sportsman, constant rule-breaker and incorrigible escaper, Douglas Bader showed courage and determination in the face of crippling injuries, inspiring people all over the world, and still does to this day.



## HILLARY

INSPIRED BY

Sir Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa guide Tensing Norgay were the first humans to reach Earth's highest point: the summit of Mount Everest in the Himalayas. They reached the top at 11:30am on May 29, 1953. Hillary was knighted for his feat and in later years led many expeditions.



## ROYAL

INSPIRED BY

The Princess Royal, the second child and only daughter of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh. The Princess Royal is President or Patron of some 222 organisations. She is also Commandant-in-Chief of the St John Ambulance Brigade and more!



## KELLER

INSPIRED BY

Blinded and made deaf by an illness, Helen Keller continued to explore the world with her other senses, inspiring others with her courage and intelligence. A suffragette and socialist, Helen campaigned for equal rights for women and better pay for the working class.



## NUFFIELD

INSPIRED BY

The first and last Viscount Nuffield, born in 1938, motor manufacturer and benefactor, was born in Worcester, one of seven children. In 1943 he gave 10 million pounds to form the Nuffield Foundation as a charitable trust, a figure described as 'the largest in the history of the nation'.

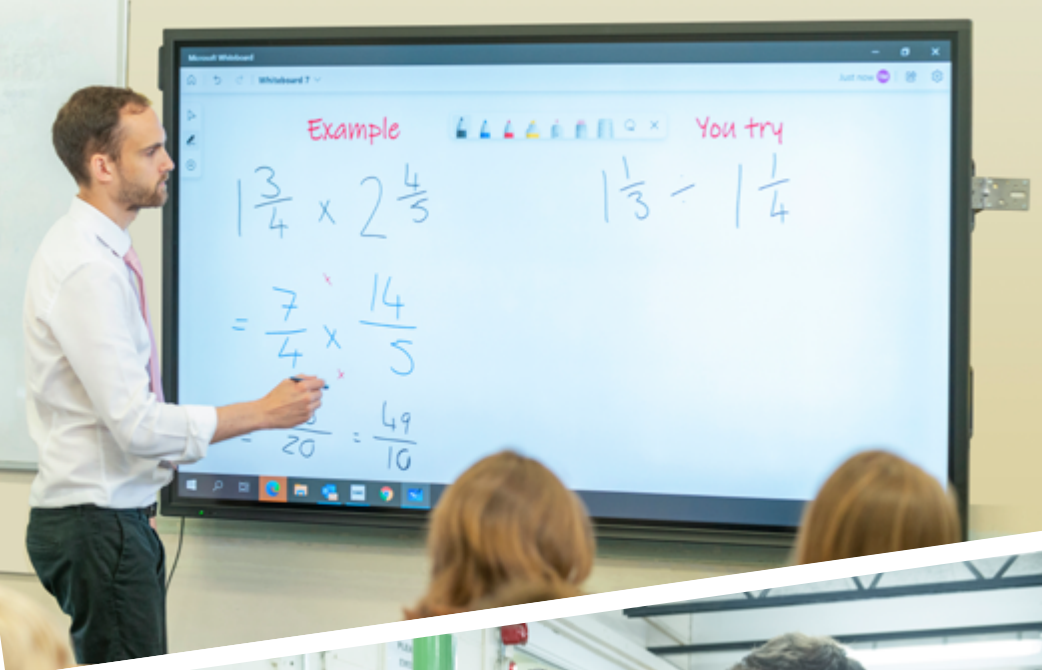
# OUR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

The front façade of our building hides a wealth of facilities behind. As the school has grown over the years, building work has been carefully thought through, keeping a coherence to the school site, but extending our facilities and enhancing our environment.

In the last five years we have been lucky to secure extra funding which has further improved our school site. We have replaced roofing across two blocks of the school, upgraded windows to all the original school blocks, increased IT facilities in our Sixth Form, created a new Sixth Form catering

facility (open all day) and created a new multi-use sports facility on the Year 7 field. We want our site to befit our expectations of students, giving them a learning environment that is inspiring.

All students and staff are able to access the school IT network and use a professional-standard Cloud Learning Environment with school software from home, taking learning beyond our doors, giving access to all.





# WELL-BEING FOR ALL

Our commitment to well-being starts with the route most students take to school. Over 80% of our students and staff walk or cycle to school, bringing physical and mental health benefits to them every day. This commitment to everyone's well-being continues through our six strands, which are interwoven into all aspects of school life. We recognise that just like our physical health, we can take positive steps to look after our mental health. We live through the strands of be: connected, energised, positive, open, generous and here.

BE Connected	BE Energised	BE Positive	BE Open	BE Generous	BE Here
Connectedness and strong relationships are vital for our well-being. Developing our social and emotional skills helps us to nourish relationships with ourselves and others.	Physical activity plays an important part in our mental well-being. A balanced diet, sufficient sleep and exercise all play a part in our mental health.	We all have strengths, sometimes we forget these. A positive view can help in relationships and work, and inspire others to be more creative and take more chances.	We will experience more if we are prepared to "give things a go". Failure, or not being perfect is part of learning. We don't need to be brilliant at something to get enjoyment from it.	Helping others has as many benefits to the giver as to the receiver. Helping others can be beneficial to us when we have our own struggles.	Taking notice of how we feel is an important stage in managing our well-being. To manage them we first need to recognise our emotions. We must "drop into ourselves".

From the day that they join us on transition, we consider building these skills, passing on our learning so that students stay healthy and hence can face new challenges and opportunities.

We also take the well-being and workload of our staff seriously, ensuring a content, healthy and committed workforce.



“Kesgrave is such a great school because there are a wide range of extra-curricular activities to do. Not only do you get to take part in all these activities, the teachers are also very supportive of you.

YEAR 11 STUDENT



# INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

As part of East Anglian Schools' Trust we recognise the importance of being connected with others working in education both locally and nationally. Students and staff alike continuously reflect on what they do and consider how to improve. By working with our feeder primary schools as well as other secondary settings we use the latest research to inform our practice and improve what we do. We don't expect the students to stand still in their learning and we expect the same from ourselves.

Staff enjoy working at Kesgrave High School and we are lucky that many of them stay for a long time, some for their whole career. This stability of staffing brings great strength to the expertise that we retain and the relationships that we build. However, we know that change is healthy in our workforce. We work with a range of training providers, growing the next generation of teachers, support staff and leaders. Growing our own means that we build in our expectations and ethos from day one.

# SO WHAT NEXT?

In order to apply to the school parents and carers need to complete a CAF1 form. Our admissions are centrally managed through the Local Authority and details can be found here:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/children-families-and-learning/schools/school-places/>

Places are then ranked according to our Admissions Policy criteria, all details of which can be found:

<https://www.kesgrave.suffolk.sch.uk/main-school/admissions/>

Once your child has gained a place at Kesgrave High School our relationship with you starts. Key members of our pastoral team visit the primary schools, liaise with colleagues, sharing and gathering information that support the transition process. Parents and carers are invited to a transition information evening in the Summer Term, where we share key information about the management of your child's smooth and successful passage to High School. In the Summer Term prior to joining us, our future Year 7 cohort join us for a day at the school. They meet their form tutor, experience a normal school day and spend time mixing with students from other schools.

All this and more means that students join us in Year 7 ready to learn, excited about the new opportunities ahead.



# THE KHS LOOK

We do enforce a strict uniform at Kesgrave. We believe that a smart appearance will contribute to the learning experience and, more often than not, makes a student stand a little taller.

A uniform also makes sure each child is equal, regardless of their financial status.

## PE KIT

### Choose from

- Vapour or Haze polo shirt
- Shorts or skort (skirt and short combination)
- White sport socks
- Trainers (non-marking soles)
- Football boots

### Optional items:

- Fleece
- Tracksuit bottoms – no stripes
- Rugby shirt for outdoor wear
- Football socks

[www.swischoolwear.co.uk](http://www.swischoolwear.co.uk)



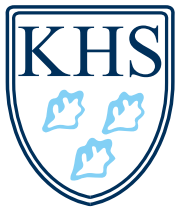
## BOYS

- Dark grey school trousers.
- Plain navy round-necked or v-necked sweatshirt or cardigan with school crest from PMG Schoolwear/COES.
- Light blue polo shirt with school crest from PMG Schoolwear/COES.
- Black socks – plain.
- Black shoes (not trainers, boots or plimsolls).



## GIRLS

- Dark blue trousers from PMG Schoolwear/COES.
- Plain navy round-necked or v-necked sweatshirt or cardigan with school crest from PMG Schoolwear/COES.
- Light blue polo shirt with school crest from PMG Schoolwear/COES.
- Black socks – plain.
- Black shoes (not trainers, boots or plimsolls) - WITH LOW HEELS.



# KESGRAVE HIGH SCHOOL

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