



# Getting off to a good start

## How do we get the best from our students?



Thank you for taking an interest in our school. I look forward to building a relationship with you and your son or daughter.

We are proud of our students at Kesgrave High School and we expect them to take a pride in all that they do. We have a strong pastoral system, high academic standards and clear and fair behaviour expectations. Our experience tells us that children thrive in an environment that sets firm boundaries, is consistent in its expectations and which builds relationships that set the tone for learning.

We provide an environment in which our students feel safe and are encouraged to grow, often challenging their own expectations. Our positive, inclusive approach ensures that students make the most of their talents and potential. We are lucky to have a school environment which befits these expectations, investing in their futures through the latest technology and facilities.

We encourage students to take responsibility, to be curious and to have a thirst for knowledge. Students learn from each other, as well as from their experienced and skilled teachers, in a supportive learning environment, where everyone is valued.

We know that if students are 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. As a Teaching School, staff as well as students, continuously 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

*Julia Upton*

## YOUR MISSION

Your mission, should you choose to accept, is to craft this rather spectacular rocket and see just how much distance you can cover.

1



Take a large plastic bottle and cut carefully in half with scissors

2



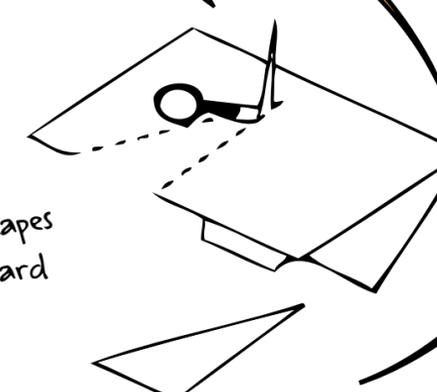
Take the upper half of the bottle and push over the base of the other bottle

3



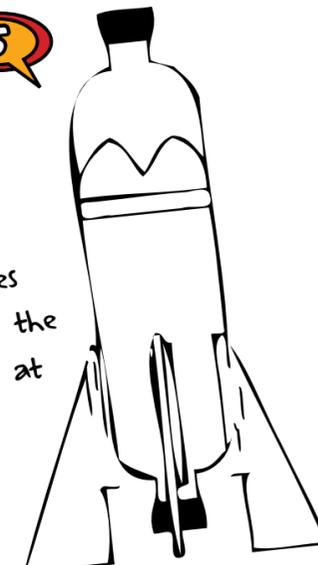
Stick tape around the join

4



Cut 4 fin shapes out of the card with scissors

5



Take the fin shapes and stick them to the base of the bottle at 90 degree angles

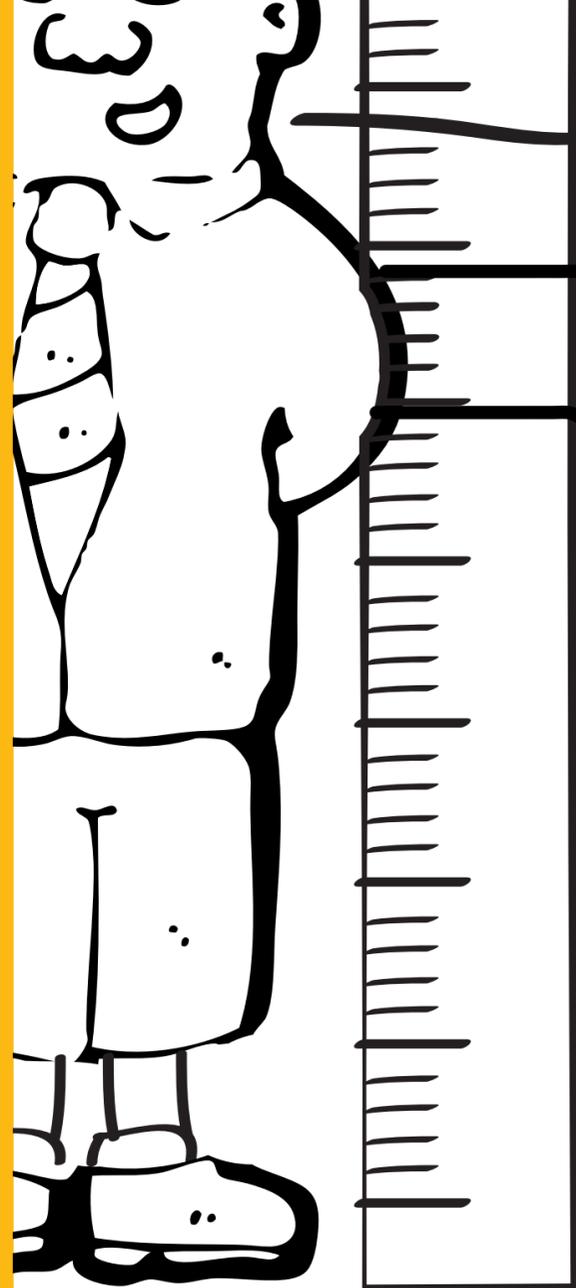
### GOOD LUCK ON YOUR MAIDEN VOYAGE!

GET READY FOR  
**BLAST OFF!**

5,4,3,2,1...

So how do you build a rocket using

- 2 empty bottles
- sticky tape
- card
- pencil
- scissors



YESTERDAY

LAST WEEK

LAST MONTH



It's not quite Ravenclaw, but the 'Royal' house does have a certain magic.

# grown up learning

Starting 'big school' can be an intimidating experience for any 11 year old. Even our caring and inclusive atmosphere may seem overwhelming at times. But with a dedicated form tutor who will stay with your child for their full five years, as well as a friendly and approachable Head of Year and a helpful network of support staff, we will do everything possible to ensure that the transition is a smooth one.

**Academic, sporty  
creative, musical  
- it takes 'all sorts'**

Within the school, we have created a very rare thing – a community. There is an absolute culture of respect, tolerance and mutual understanding. Our aim is for our students to not only achieve their full potential, but to look back and think 'I really enjoyed that experience' – knowing that they have been consistently encouraged and supported by the teachers, support staff and their peers. Exam results are important, of course, but so is becoming a well-rounded confident individual.

Students are organised into mixed ability groups and with the day broken into three sessions of learning, we find that these two factors allow us to bring out the very best from all students and engage them with a variety of activities in every session.

We believe that effort and achievement should be valued and rewarded; so we have developed a range of rewards which will promote pride and success in working hard. The rewards range from verbal and written praise on a regular basis, to the more celebratory presentation of awards, certificates and prizes. Written reports, referral for exceptional good behaviour or achievement and praise for excellent work being displayed all contribute positively to a child's development and confidence.

**“ We endeavour to teach the children how to live so as to get the best out of life; we strive to get down to realities. ”**

**Captain Harrison**  
(the first Head of the school), April 1935.

**We aim for-**

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

**We encourage-**

- A caring environment
- Students to take responsibility for themselves, and others
- Learning to provide challenges

**We provide-**

- A broad, balanced and relevant curriculum
- An approach that enriches the cultural, spiritual and moral dimensions
- Opportunities for self-development and discovery in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities



Eating sweets is fine - as long as it's for photography purposes



MACKENZIE TRAVIS

**Year 10 Student**

Kesgrave is such a great school because there are a wide range of extra-curricular activities to do,

whether you enjoy outside field sports or non sport activities. Not only do you get to take part in all these activities, the teachers are also very supportive of you.

## Classroom 43

In our science labs, in the library surrounded by books, outside in our outdoor classrooms or on the stage under the bright lights - we have the right location to get those creative (and productive obviously!) juices really flowing.

# the right environment

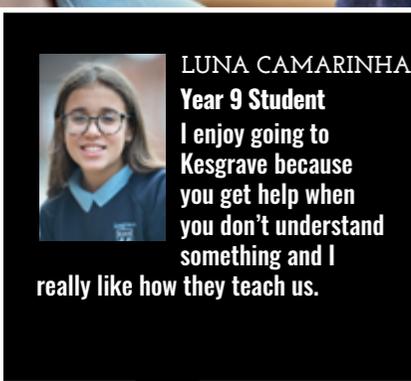
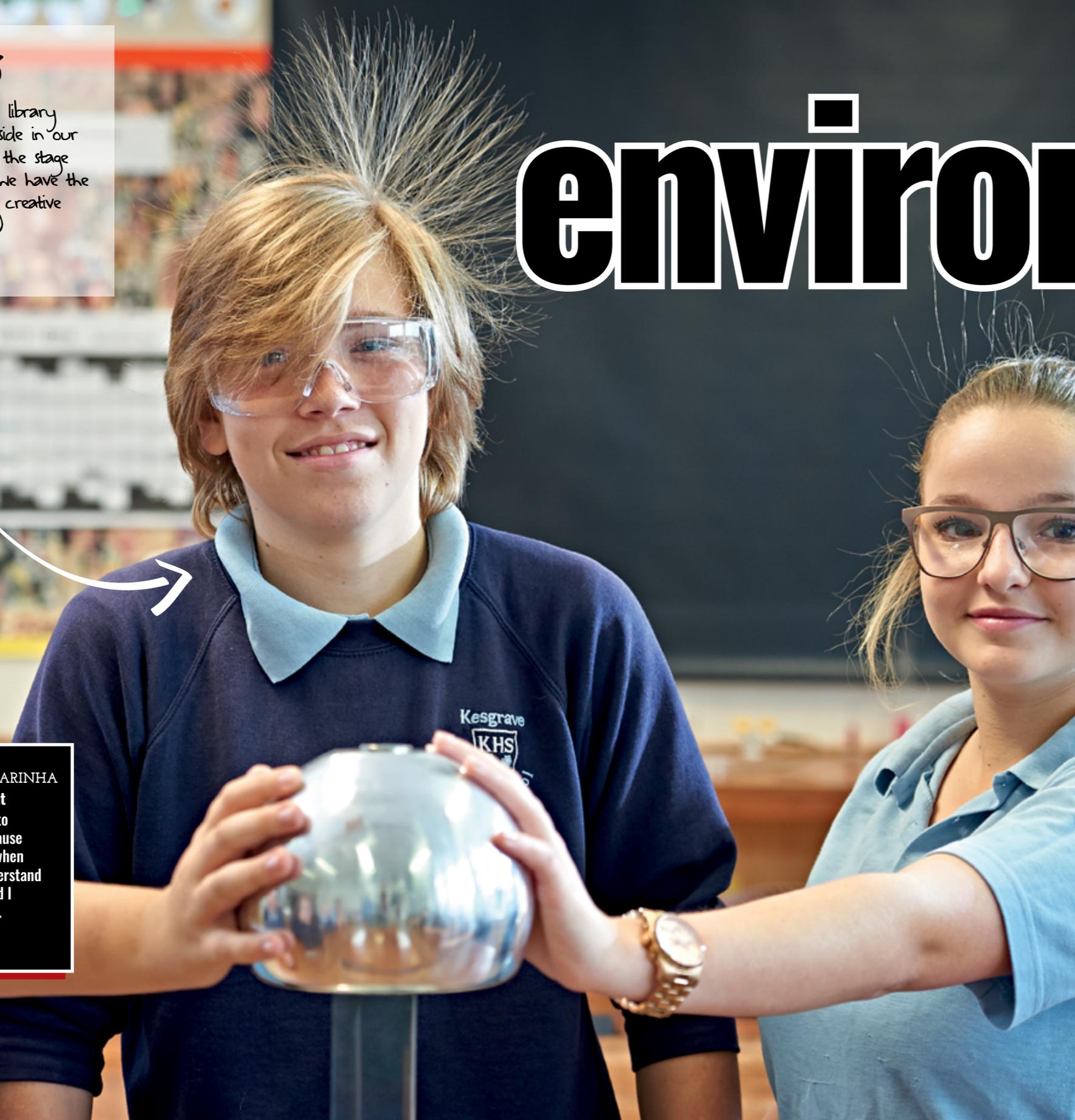
for the right lesson

Instilling the right attitude from the word 'go' is key to our students' success

Starting as we mean to go on is crucial to the long-term development of our students. We are fortunate to have invested heavily in our school, particularly over the last 10 years, and we're dedicated to providing the best that we can for the students to be motivated. Although from the front our school has the typical appearance of a retro 60's façade, once you step behind you will be staggered by the array of buildings, facilities and modernisation that has taken place behind the doors.

Bright colours, interesting displays and changing landscapes; these all contribute to a stimulating environment for the children to learn in. We like to encourage the students to make their spaces their own, and will always proudly display artwork, excellent illustrations and well-written essays to inspire and motivate others. This sense of pride and ownership that we instil ensures that our school is well looked after and treated with respect by all.

Just your typical Thursday afternoon at Kesgrave - navigating across the dangerous terrain that is the classroom.



**LUNA CAMARINHA**  
Year 9 Student  
I enjoy going to Kesgrave because you get help when you don't understand something and I really like how they teach us.

Creating a better learning environment

# Teaching inside and

# out

The excellent facilities that we have here at Kesgrave help to create a positive working environment and with these resources, it affords our students the best possible atmosphere in which to learn, grow and develop as individuals. Over the last 10 years, the school has been lucky enough to have implemented several major building programmes that have enhanced the facilities in all areas.

At Kesgrave we not only have 'Open Learning Spaces' where students can work independently, trusted by the teachers, but we also have an outdoor classroom. Located in the Site of Special Scientific Interest, this interactive and open environment encourages discussion and a deeper exploration of the natural surroundings of the school.

Take some time out from the teachers, imagine sitting here with your friends for lessons



ISLA WHEATLEY  
Year 7 Student

From day one, I felt helped and supported from all staff. When I have worries or when I feel upset I know there are people and staff I can talk to which makes me feel better.



JOSHUA EARYE  
Year 8 Student

I enjoy coming to school every day because I know that something new is going to happen. I enjoy seeing my friends, my classmates and my teachers and talking to new people I don't usually talk to. The teachers are all very supporting and is why I enjoy coming to school every day as the support and help from teachers is something that really helps me.

# DEEPER

# learning

without the fear of drowning



We welcome any interested parties to the school - diving ability is not a necessity



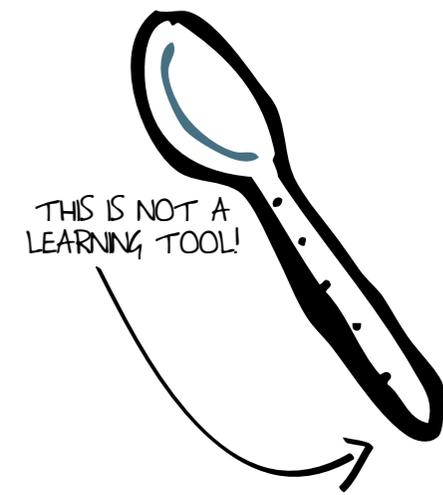
With our unique timetable of three 90-minute lessons a day, it gives students the time to really explore a subject in-depth and develop a keen interest. It allows teachers to be more creative with lesson planning, and results in a deeper learning experience - meaning that students do more than just scratch the surface.

Exploration, personal development and the ability to express themselves (however strange it might seem - see left) is all actively encouraged at Kesgrave.

**A little responsibility goes a long way**  
We believe in encouraging independence from the outset of your school career

We put trust in our students and encourage them to take responsibility for their own decisions and actions. Being firm but fair, and stressing the importance of the value in each individual is an important part of the Kesgrave ethos.

In our experience, we've found that the prevention of problems is best achieved by stimulating the individual to value his/her strengths and understanding the part they have to play within the school's setting.



**JESSICA DORSET**  
Year 11 Student

Being at Kesgrave has allowed me to grow and flourish both academically and personally. The staff here are a great support network for whatever is going on in your life and I have made invaluable friendships and connections with my peers.

**We don't just teach people to pass exams!**

Last year GCSE students achieved fabulous results including 92% achieving 9-4 in English and 76% in Maths. 25% of all grades were Grade 9-7. The majority stayed on to take their A Levels within our popular Sixth Form.

Whilst students achieved their results in August 2020 in different circumstances, these results still represent much hard work from both students and teachers, and have been borne out of a school that is both traditional in its values, and stimulating and creative in its atmosphere.

We encourage our students to achieve the best of their potential, and appreciate entirely that not everyone has the same strengths in the same areas. Each child develops at their own pace, and it is our job to nurture and encourage this.



# The School day



It's not as bad as it looks, just 3 lessons a day gives you a little more time to focus in lesson and enjoy your subjects.

## The Normal Day

09.00 - 09.30	Form time
09.30 - 11.00	PERIOD ONE
11.00 - 11.20	Break
11.20 - 12.55	PERIOD TWO
12.55 - 13.55	Lunch
13.55 - 15.35	PERIOD THREE

### School classes tailored for all students

Offering a wide and varied curriculum with dedicated teachers for each subject, our school day is designed to motivate and inspire students. Teaching the tools to really delve into a topic will allow students to focus and explore how knowledge can be transferred across a wealth of subjects.

At Key Stage 4, we give our students the opportunity to express their personal interests and study subjects that they really enjoy. We want to create well-rounded individuals and so our core subjects will remain for the entire five years.

Handwriting, spelling, maths, and homework clubs are all available for students who feel that they need a little extra encouragement or support.

## Personal, Social & Health Education Day (PSHE)

09.00 - 10.00	PSHE
10.00 - 11.20	PERIOD ONE
11.20 - 11.40	Break
11.40 - 12.55	PERIOD TWO
12.55 - 13.55	Lunch
13.55 - 15.35	PERIOD THREE



Although we have all the latest computer gear, you'll still need all the basic stationery for day-to-day learning

## So what will you be studying?

At Key Stage 3, a National Curriculum is provided for all students. Each of the five academic areas is studied for three sessions a week.

### The six curriculum areas

### Key Stage 3

Maths/Technology	Creative/Physical	Science	Humanities	Communications	PSHE
Maths	PE	Science	History	English	Tutor work- Records of Personal Achievement
Design/Technology	Art		Geography	French or German	Cross Curricular Themes
	Drama		Ethics & Philosophy	Computing	Citizenship
	Music				

### Provisional option structure

### Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, a similar core curriculum is offered with the opportunity for some choice in the five curricular areas. The subjects currently on offer are detailed below.

Core	PE/Dance	Communications	Technology	Humanities	Creative/Physical	Personal Social & Health Education
English & English Literature	BTEC PE	French	Food Preparation + Nutrition	Business Studies	Drama	Tutor Period
Maths	GCSE PE	German	BTEC Engineering	RE	BTEC Music Performance	Careers
Maths Statistics	Dance	Spanish	Electronics	Geography	GCSE Music	Cross-Curricular themes
Triple Science		GCSE Media Studies	Graphics	History	Art	Asdan
Double Science		Computing	Textiles	Psychology	Photography	Citizenship
		ICT	Design + Technology	Sociology		
		Film Studies		Life Skills		
		BTEC Creative Media Production		Health & Social Care		
				BTEC Child Development		
				Economics		

# The high school



## Sport facilities

With full-sized football pitches, tennis and netball courts plus a fully equipped state-of-the-art sports hall, there's something for all sports enthusiasts to enjoy.



All-singing, all dancing  
The Kesgrave Performing Arts Suite houses all the budding stars of the future.



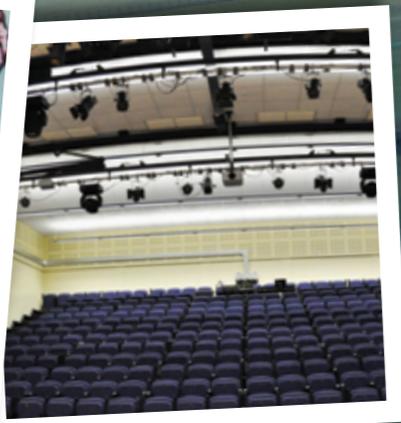
## Impressive IT skills

There's exceptionally good access to IT facilities for all students, exclusively for curriculum related work and to ensure every child is digitally literate.



## Hitting the right notes

With recording decks, soundproof studios and every instrument imaginable, our music facilities are impressive.



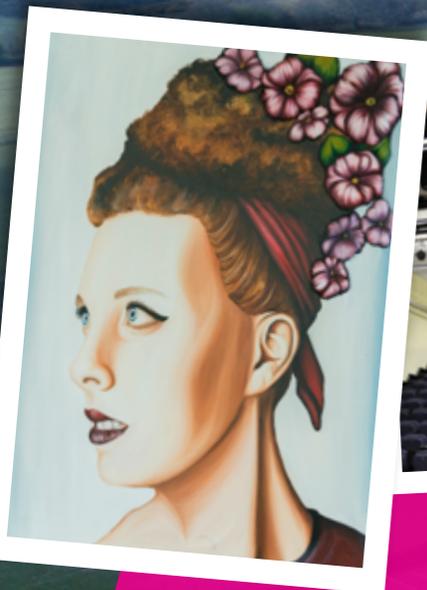
## Arts Award

The Arts Award is a range of unique qualifications that supports anyone to grow as artists and arts leaders, inspiring them to connect with and take part in the wider arts world through taking challenges in an art form - from fashion to digital art, pottery to poetry. With the support of our trained adviser, you will create an arts log or portfolio, evidencing how you have met the criteria. Our £2.2 million Creative Media block features the Thomas Theatre and specialist art, photography and music technology studios.



## Duke of Edinburgh Award

Many students relish the challenges that the Duke of Edinburgh Award present. Students start Bronze Award in Year 10 and can progress all the way to Gold if they wish in the Sixth Form.



# EXTRA ACTIVITIES

At Kesgrave, we recognise the importance of creating well-rounded individuals. Academic prowess is vitally important, but so is balancing that with interactive, stimulating activities.

We're pleased to be able to offer a wide variety of extra-curricular activities; in fact we have over 100 lunchtime and after-school clubs. We will always try to accommodate requests from students about new interests they would like to pursue. Most of the major sports are covered, with our football, rugby and netball teams all having great success across the county. But it's not all about sports; and with our debate team, table top gaming club, choir, Hogwarts club and musical theatre group (to name but a few) on offer, there is hopefully something for everyone.

Where possible and relevant, we try to enhance the typical classroom learning experience with museum and theatre visits – which works particularly well when studying Shakespeare plays for example. Seeing them in context, in a real theatre production, brings the story to life for our students. We've found that this resonates much further, than just simply parroting the text of Act 1, Scene 2 at them.

Activities Week is our annual event, which allows students to try out a new skill, activity or opportunity whilst Year 10 are on their Work Experience placements. There really is such a diverse mix, from freshwater fishing, to Kesgrave's Got the Strictly Factor, Cornwall; Have You Got The Bottle?, Windsurfing, Life like a Saxon, and even the interestingly named 'Liquorice Allsorts'.



## The House system



Sports Day sees Kesgrave divided into House colours for the ultimate prize – The House Trophy

As well as being divided horizontally into years, the school is also divided vertically into five Houses: Bader, Hilary, Keller, Nuffield, Royal. The House names reflect 20th Century contemporary figures who have excelled in various areas of achievement, both personal and public.

We would like these inspirational personalities to influence our students, and the system provides them with an opportunity to embrace responsibility as well as their rights. House Captains are elected from Years 8 and 10, and inter-house competitions promote a healthy competitive spirit. The House Points system enables staff to reward student's efforts, initiative and helpfulness.

### Which House group will you be in?

#### Bader

##### Famous for

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.

#### Hilary

##### Famous for

Hilary 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. Hilary was knighted for his feat and in later years led many expeditions.

#### Keller

##### Famous for

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

##### Famous for

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'.

#### Royal

##### Famous for

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!

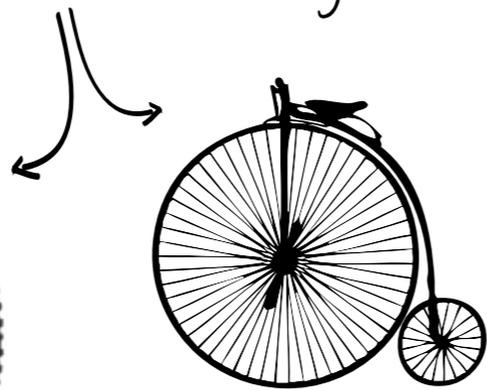


The best way to get to school

# on your bike



With the local cycle paths and large storage areas for bikes, nearly 60% of our students find cycling the best way to get to school. From a Penny Farthing to the latest trends on the street, the choice of bike is down to you.



## Travelling to school

With more students biking to our school than any other in Europe, cycling is an important part of the Kesgrave culture. Students and parents must ensure the roadworthiness of bikes, and that all appropriate safety equipment is supplied, to help us continue our successful cycling ethos.

Cycling not only encourages a healthy lifestyle, but also gives the students an added independence and teaches them important road safety lessons – which will come in exceptionally handy when they reach 17 and driving lessons begin!

## Bus Services

We have buses arriving from villages and surrounding towns every morning, which means the cyclists must not only take care, but also that no matter how far away you live, a safe and comfortable ride is available at no additional cost.



There's plenty of space with storage racks for up to 850 bikes



## Cycle checklist

Cycle helmet

We do encourage that all those cycling to school have a helmet for safety purposes (and because they look extra cool these days too)



Cycle lock

Just in case someone has a matching bike, you'll want to make sure only your key fits the lock on your bike!



Cycle lights

Particularly important during the winter months, even on the cycle paths that are dotted around Kesgrave

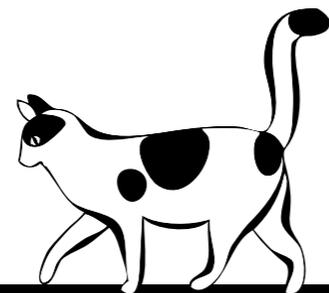




## School dress

We do enforce a strict uniform rule 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.



Time to get  
on that  
Catwalk

Where do I get the Kesgrave High School uniform from?

Simply take a look at-

[www.pmg-schoolwear.co.uk](http://www.pmg-schoolwear.co.uk)  
[www.coesschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.coesschoolwear.co.uk)  
[www.swi.co.uk](http://www.swi.co.uk)

- 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).

### PE Clothes

- Vapour polo shirt
- Shorts
- White sports socks
- Trainers (non-marking soles)
- Football boots

### Optional items:

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

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

for the  
*boys*



- 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 the PMG Schoolwear/COES.
- Black socks – plain.
- Black shoes (not trainers, boots or plimsolls) - WITH LOW HEELS.

for the  
*girls*



### PE Clothes

- Vapour or Haze polo shirt
- Shorts or skirt (skirt and short combination)
- White sport socks
- Trainers (non-marking soles)
- Football boots (football, rugby/hockey)

### Optional items:

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

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

# Our ethos

It's all about building

## Relationships

### Reports and Parents Evenings

Yearly reports are issued so students and parents can track progress; receive praise and commendation for things that are working well. There is also:

**Year 7**  
Informal Parents Evening in September

**Year 7-13**  
Parental Consultation Evening with all subject teachers annually

**Year 10**  
Careers Information Evening for Parents in September

An unofficial 'open door' policy operates across the school and it's important to stress that both parents and students are free to speak with Form Teachers, or Heads of Year, at any time should any problems or concerns arise.

## Homework

A great deal of importance is attached to homework at Kesgrave, both by teachers and parents. It establishes independently learning habits, allowing students to work at their own pace, using a range of resources. Homework will never be set to be completed by the next day as we recognise that many children are involved in a variety of worthwhile activities during the evenings: Guides, Scouts, music lessons, babysitting - we want all of our pupils to become well-rounded adults and these experiences that they have out of school can significantly influence this. We want to help them to plan their time and develop good time-management techniques.



## Kesgrave High School School Term Dates

### Academic Year 2021/2022

#### Autumn Term

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 to Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021  
(Half Term: week commencing Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021)  
Non-student Days: Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

#### Spring Term

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
(Half-Term: week commencing Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022)  
Non-student Days: Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

#### Summer Term

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 to Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022  
(Half Term: week commencing Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022)  
Bank Holiday: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022



the place to  
**enjoy**  
school

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