King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls aims to provide a full range of quality experiences, within a forward thinking and supportive environment. We strive to develop independent thinking, mature young women who achieve their best and make positive contributions to school and the wider community.

King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls is a very special place, with a long track record in providing an academically challenging and creative education. Girls from all backgrounds thrive here and are encouraged not only to develop their own talents but also to learn the importance of contributing both to the school and wider community.

Education at the school is focused on a curriculum which simultaneously offers breadth, depth, balance and challenge. Students are also encouraged to participate fully in the school’s rich extracurricular life with its myriad of opportunities for academic, cultural and social enrichment.

The success of the school and its students speaks for itself. Judged by OFSTED to be Outstanding, King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls consistently achieves top positions in national Performance Tables. A learning environment is created where girls are given the opportunity to achieve the highest possible standards in all areas of school life, in the belief that this will lead to the full development of individual potential. They are encouraged to acquire the understanding, knowledge, skills, qualifications and interests that will help them to find fulfilment in their future lives and careers.

One of the five voluntary aided, selective, 11-18 grammar schools which belong to the Foundation of The Schools of King Edward VI in Birmingham, Camp Hill School for Girls gained Academy status in 2011. Entry is by examination and there are no fees. Students come to the school from all parts of Birmingham and from adjacent areas. From September 2014, the annual Year 7 intake increased to a five form entry of approximately 150 students, from more than 90 different junior schools. After very careful thought, the decision to expand all of the King Edward VI Grammar Schools was taken with the intention of improving the life chances of some of the children in the City who are from less privileged backgrounds – the charity was returning to some of its original purpose, from as long ago as 1552. The school is committed to widening accessibility through a variety of activities undertaken with local Birmingham primary schools and the admissions criterion from September 2015 reflects this aim. In addition girls join the Sixth Form from a range of other schools.
Outstanding Facilities

The King Edward VI Foundation has supported the school in the development of our buildings and resources, so that we can continually update and improve the school environment.

The school occupies an attractive, extensive, landscaped site on the former estate of the Cartland family in Kings Heath which it shares with King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys. The schools are separate but share some facilities and have curriculum, music, drama, and social links.

Accordingly, the school benefits from excellent facilities, many of which have been built or refurbished in recent years, including the locker area, the Library, the school Dining Room, the IT building, nine full-size science laboratories, an indoor swimming pool, and music performance and practice rooms.

The Art and Design and Technology Centres provide specialist classrooms and an exciting modern environment for budding artists, designers and engineers. The Learning Hub includes Geography classrooms and Biology laboratories, while The Sixth Form Centre provides bespoke (and very popular) accommodation for our senior students.

“We are currently undertaking exciting work to develop an outside learning environment...”

A large Sports Hall is shared with Camp Hill School for Boys, offering separate facilities for each school and the flexibility to open the space for major school sporting events and community use. The building also includes classrooms, a fitness room and a dance studio.

Students are also able to take excellent advantage of the extensive grounds, not only for playing sports such as hockey, tennis, netball and athletics, but also for practical work in a range of subjects, particularly art, geography and science.

We are currently undertaking exciting work to develop an outside learning environment, which will offer opportunities for students both in school but also in the wider community. 2016 will see an extensive new build of three new classrooms and two Science laboratories, offices and technician areas to support the anticipated increase in student intake.
Unique, Diverse and Creative

We provide an unrivalled breadth of curriculum for our students, with the emphasis on innovative teaching and learning.

“The curriculum is broad and balanced and aims to cater for different needs and abilities.”

A specific focus is to provide intellectual challenge for all our students both in the way they are taught and through the scope of our enrichment programme.

All National Curriculum subjects are studied, and the curriculum is enhanced by providing creative opportunities in drama and PE and support for all aspects of personal development in PSHE. The sciences are taught separately to ensure that robust practical skills are developed from Year 7. Three modern foreign languages, French, German and Spanish, are offered throughout the key stages along with Latin in Year 7 from September 2014.

A discrete STEM lesson is embedded within the curriculum in Year 7, and from September 2015 this will also be offered to Year 8 students. Following the success of our Extended Project Qualification for Year 13 students, we have also devoted curriculum time to delivering the Higher Level Project to all students in Year 9. This is an independent study project that teaches skills in effective research and enquiry, as well as encouraging creativity.

Teaching groups are of the same age and, generally, of mixed ability. As in all secondary schools, students sit their linear GCSE Examinations in Year 11, with preparation for Biology, Chemistry and Physics starting in Year 9. At all stages of their education, they are encouraged to be independent and creative thinkers.
Enriching Experiences and Opportunities

The school values the cultural, academic and community activities which extend the learning experience outside the classroom.

Excursions and other enrichment activities, frequently cross-curricular, are arranged in all subject areas, including visits abroad – recently, foreign travels have been arranged by the Art, History, Geography, Mathematics, Music, Religious Studies, Physical Education and Modern Foreign Languages departments, including exchanges to Spain and Germany. There are calendared visits from professional experts and intensive activity days in areas ranging from forensic science to creative writing. The school also runs an ‘Enrichment week’ towards the end of the Summer Term, which offers all students a range of exciting opportunities to enjoy local, national and international visits, alongside in-school programmes led by expert practitioners.

An increasing number of students undertake independent, externally certificated research projects in areas of interest to them outside the taught curriculum. The ‘Tuesday After School’ lecture series provides students from all key stages with the opportunity to hear eminent speakers from the Arts, Sciences, Law, Politics and to engage in discussion and debate on a broad range of topics and issues.

Participation in extra-curricular clubs and sport is one of the ways in which girls are able to develop new interests. Clubs range from Amnesty International to learning languages, including Russian and Latin. They also include subject clubs such as Science Club, Maths Club, Politics Club and a range of religious and cultural societies, along with environmental action groups such as the Eco-Schools Group.

Debating is popular and students regularly take part in local and national competitions.

There are many sports teams and events in which girls can participate including rounders, tennis, athletics, hockey, netball, football, karate, trampolining, cross-country, cricket, indoor rowing, badminton, swimming and cycling. Each year, several girls represent the school at regional or even national level either in teams or individually.

We encourage our girls to develop their leadership skills. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is enormously popular and makes a strong contribution to this programme.

School Council and Sports Leadership are enthusiastically supported and, in addition, sixth-formers increasingly take on responsibility for leading both whole school initiatives through the House System and supporting younger students as mentors.

Everything the school does is geared towards helping each individual to do their very best and set and reach their own targets for successful and fulfilling lives when they leave.
Supportive

“A sense of community is fostered, while ensuring that each girl is valued as an individual.”

“Students in all years have regular opportunities to discuss their work in personal interviews...”

All staff work conscientiously to ensure that girls are enjoying school, are involved in activities and that any problems are dealt with quickly and effectively.

The high levels of attendance indicate the students’ engagement with Camp Hill and the opportunities it offers.

The pastoral care system supports individual students and their learning and is essential to academic progress. Key Stage Co-ordinators and Assistant Key Stage Co-ordinators lead and support the work of the form tutors who have daily contact with their tutor groups and offer everyday advice and care. Students in all years have regular opportunities to discuss their work in personal interviews and set themselves appropriate targets.

Girls have access to a range of associate staff to support them in their learning and their personal development. These include discussions with our Learning Mentor, our Bilingual Co-ordinator and the School Counsellor. Teaching staff also provide additional help and train sixth-formers to act as subject-specific mentors or as peer mentors for younger students.
Building our Community

The school reflects the diverse multicultural population of Birmingham and the West Midlands.

There is a strong sense of community here; religious, cultural and moral values are promoted and emphasis is placed on developing self-discipline, emotional resilience and personal responsibility.

Behaviour which enhances the life of the school community is encouraged and praised. Students are expected to show consideration and respect for others at all times. The Code of Conduct ensures the safety of students and the smooth running of the school.

The strong house system allows girls to participate in a range of regular sporting, cultural and charitable activities and house points form part of the rewards system.

Girls are also encouraged to contribute to the wider community beyond school.

A focal point for this is fundraising and thousands of pounds are collected each year for a range of different causes, locally, nationally and internationally. Our students also offer service within the wider community. The Senior Citizens’ Party is a highlight for Year 10, who organise a themed party for local residents, family and friends of the school each summer. Sixth Formers make contributions in many ways, including through the Envision scheme. Some help in infant school classes or in special schools while others have found placements in charity shops or retirement homes.

Involving Parents

Parents are an integral part of the school community. They are encouraged to participate fully in their daughter’s schooling and to get in touch whenever they have a concern.

Parents are invited to give their views at focus groups and via questionnaires. The school is aware of the importance of prompt and effective communication with parents and guardians, and a number of electronic systems are used to keep parents up to date with what is happening in school.

All students receive either one fully detailed report or an interim report sheet each term.

There is one Parents’ Consultation Evening and one Information Evening for each year group per academic year. There are parent representatives on the Governing Body and there are other opportunities to get involved, including the Association of Friends of the School (AFS), which raises funds and organises social activities, such as family quiz nights and the annual Year 7 disco. Many parents support the school by providing placements for work experience, conducting interviews and attending dramatic, musical, sporting and charity fund-raising events.
The Sixth Form

The school has a very successful Sixth Form with the great majority of Year 11 students opting to continue their studies for A Levels. They are joined by students from other schools.

There is a wide range of courses on offer and girls study four A Level subjects from Year 12. Girls also have the opportunity to extend their independent learning by studying for the Extended Project Qualification in Year 13.

A rich extra-curricular programme is provided and girls are encouraged to take on additional responsibilities for leadership in many different areas of school life, including house and prefect duties.

Sharing a site with Camp Hill Boys’ School, enables us to pursue a small number of Sixth Form courses and a range of other activities jointly. Music is an area where collaboration between the schools is strong, and the Music departments offer a broad range of concerts and events across the year. Full details of our Sixth Form provision are outlined in our Sixth Form prospectus.

Almost all students go on to Higher Education and the school has long and successful experience in supporting students with their applications. Girls are also made aware from Key Stage 3 onwards of the wide-ranging professional career opportunities available to them and taster visits to universities take place for students from Year 9 upwards.

Specific careers advice is embedded in the PSHE curriculum, supplemented by presentations on a range of career pathways and individual interviews with specialist, external careers advisors.

In the Sixth Form, students are encouraged to take opportunities for work experience, while many take good advantage of short vocational courses and university summer schools.

“A close-knit school community was something I became very aware of very quickly after joining Camp Hill Girls in year 12. I never felt this more than during the annual house events in which, despite fierce inter-house competition, students’ support of one another is incredible”
Joining the School

Entry to the school is by examination. Parents complete two application forms – for The King Edward VI Grammar Schools test and for the Local Authority.

The tests are usually held in September preceding the year of admission. Full details are contained on the accompanying information booklet.

Visiting the School

This prospectus gives an outline of what to expect but is no substitute for a visit and we look forward to welcoming you on our open days. These are held twice yearly for girls wishing to join the main school.

Details and dates are available on our school website. Prospective Sixth Formers have the opportunity to look round the school and discuss course options at the Post 16 Evening held in November each year.

In addition we have Welcome Days and Induction Days for those students who have already received an offer of a place from us.
History

The King Edward VI Foundation

When in 1547, a Royal Commission dissolved the Gild of the Holy Cross, certain influential men of Birmingham petitioned Edward VI for the return of the gild lands in the form of an endowment for a free grammar school.

On 2nd January 1552 letters patent were sealed, granting this request and appointing 20 of the foremost inhabitants of the town as Governors of a school to be held in the old gildhall in New Street.

By an Act of Parliament in 1831 the Governors were empowered to create other schools and between 1838 and 1853 eight elementary schools were opened. However, by the 1870s the elementary schools had outlasted their usefulness, and the pressing need was for grammar schools. The structure of the Foundation was changed once more and grammar schools were created at Aston, Camp Hill (Boys and girls), Five Ways, and Handsworth.

Camp Hill School for Girls gained its grammar school status in 1883 and its first headmistress, Miss Harriet Grundy, was appointed. In 1958 the school moved from Camp Hill to its current site in Kings Heath where it has flourished ever since.