

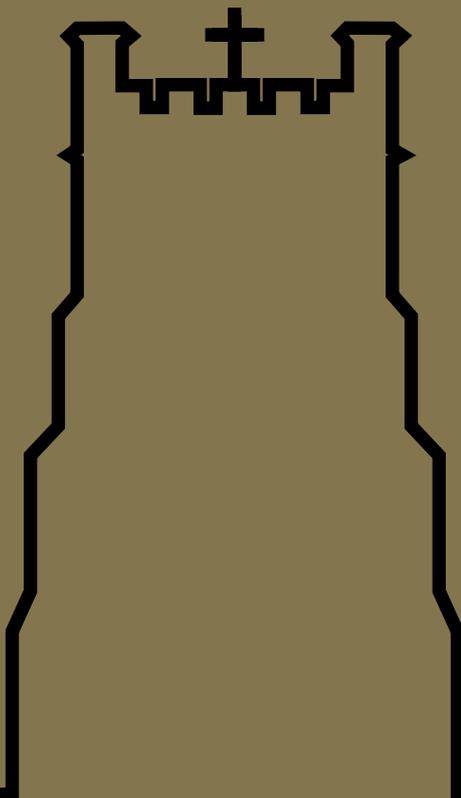


KING HAROLD
ACADEMY



Challenge • Support • Inspire

KING HAROLD ACADEMY



King Harold Academy works collaboratively with our sister school Debden Park High School to ensure the very best outcomes for all students.

Head of School's Welcome

It is my passionate belief that a school should be a place where young people can thrive and grow into the best possible versions of themselves. A school shouldn't be an exam factory hellbent only on achieving high grades at the expense of a child's mental health. However, it must be a place where all students can achieve the best they are capable of in whatever field they choose. They will achieve because they have high expectations of themselves and an in-built ambition to succeed; some will have that already others will gain it along the way.

We want our students to leave as confident well-rounded individuals who are as prepared as any young person could be for the life after school. School should be a place of hard work and of enjoyment. A place where students can have positive experiences that they will happily remember for the rest of their lives. Students only get one real opportunity of attending a secondary school and we all need to ensure that theirs is one they will always look back on fondly.

As school leaders, our role is to provide an environment where young people can feel safe and want to come into school. We need to be able to promise our students and you as their parents that the learning environment will be one where the students can concentrate and work without interruptions. We need to be able to promise you that whatever the ability of the student, they will be able to make progress in all areas that is at least as good, if not better than they would achieve at other schools.

We know that not all students are the same and that their interests will vary greatly. We know that in order to thrive as adults, we will need to equip them with skills picked up in sports, dance, drama, public speaking, computing and languages as well as English maths and science.



In all subjects, the minimum expectation for you and your children is well planned lessons that are carefully structured to help them learn and to remember what they have learned. You should all expect well considered feedback that is designed to not tell them what they don't know, but instead inform them about the best ways to improve.

It is my role to oversee what happens at the school. I have to make sure that the biggest possible percentage of money, goes directly into your child's learning and that none is wasted needlessly. To ensure that your children are provided with the best possible teachers and that those teachers are provided with all the resources and training they require to help your children learn. You will see that we set high standards here and that we have high expectations, I cannot imagine that as parents and guardians of our young people, you would want anything else.

Your sincerely

Mr Steven Fisher
Executive Headteacher

Teaching and Learning

“Where teachers love teaching and students love learning.”

Teaching and Learning is everything at King Harold Academy. The most important aspect of the day to day life at King Harold Academy is what happens in the classroom, science lab, gym and sports field. We know that for children the most important part of their schooling is the teaching they receive. Central to everything we do is the belief that *“Learning happens when you think hard.”*

Our teachers are highly skilled practitioners who are passionate about their subjects. They are constantly trained in teaching techniques that have been proven to maximise students learning. We put a primacy on teachers constantly improving.

As part of the Kemnal Academies Trust we work collaboratively with our sister school Debden Park High School in order to share teachers, resources, ideas and research. By investing in teachers’ development, we are investing in student’s education.

Students are required to “think hard” in lessons. They are challenged to go beyond what they thought possible. Lessons are ambitious in the depth and breadth of subject content along with the necessary skills needed to use new knowledge.

“Struggle is not a sign of failure but of progress.”

Student progress is regularly evaluated and communicated to both parents and students. Feedback is given which is timely, alongside support so that students can improve.

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Time	
8:30 - 9:00	Lesson 1
9:00 - 10:00	Lesson 2
10:00 - 11:00	Lesson 3
11:00 - 11:20	Break
11:20 - 12:20	Lesson 4
12:20 - 13:20	Lesson 5
13:20 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:00	Lesson 6
15:00	Finish

Tuesday

Time	
8:30 - 9:30	Lesson 1
9:30 - 10:30	Lesson 2
10:30 - 10:50	Break
10:50 - 11:50	Lesson 3
11:50 - 12:50	Lesson 4
12:50 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 14:30	Lesson 5
14:30	Finish

During lesson 1 students spend half an hour with their tutor preparing for the day and being taught a full programme of PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education). This covers a wide range of topics including healthy behaviours, self-esteem, managing stress, as well as, learning about real life issues and current affairs In addition to this timetable, students in examination years are offered a “golden lesson” once a week after school in a subject they need extra support in.

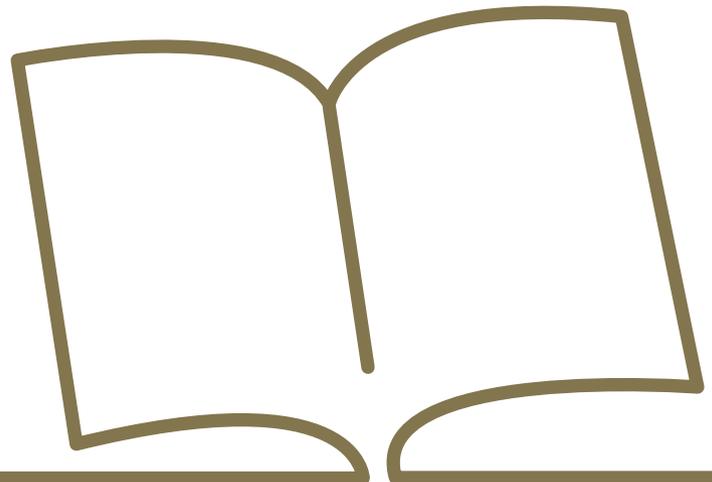
Lessons are characterised by purpose and focus. A rigorous behaviour management system and incredibly high expectations of student conduct ensures that all students’ progress in their time at King Harold. We expect students to demonstrate kindness and politeness inside and outside of the classroom at all times. We are very proud of King Harold Academies uniform and insist that it is worn correctly and with pride at all times.

At King Harold Academy exceptional behaviour and attendance are both acknowledged and rewarded. We regularly contact parents about student successes. When people visit the school they always comment on how polite and welcoming our students are.

Students are given a range of opportunities in lessons to work individually, as well as, in pairs and groups. Lessons are designed to engage and inspire our students to learn as well as they can, deepening their understanding and developing their academic skills.

Homework is provided to consolidate and extend the learning that has happened in the classroom. Students are expertly guided by their teachers on not just what to learn but also how to learn.

In addition to great lessons in the classroom, students are provided with numerous opportunities to go on trips and have experiences whilst learning. From trips to the Battlefields of France and Belgium to ski trips and football tours to performing in the local community and beyond. We believe in the enrichment opportunities for all our students.





“Since joining King Harold my teaching has improved significantly. The focus on teachers and the development of their craft means that students get the best possible learning experiences”



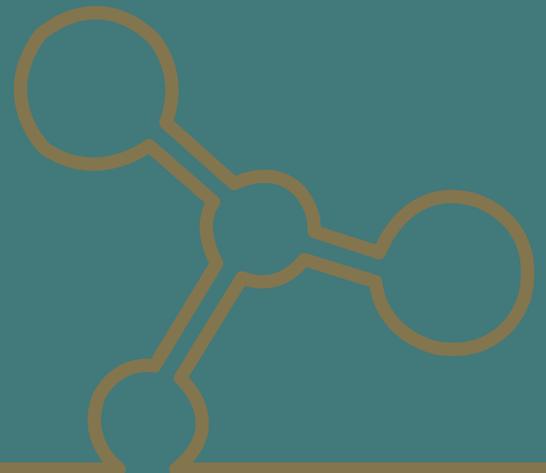
Curriculum

Our Challenge, Support and Inspire Curriculum ensures that students study a broad range of subjects at both Key Stage 3 and 4.

The rationale behind our Curriculum is the belief that students should be versed in the “The best which has been thought and said” along with understanding the modern, changing world in which we live. In essence students are taught to think logically, critically and morally within a framework of subject disciplines.

All students study a programme at Key Stage 3 which covers the foundations of English, Maths, Science, Computer Science, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Art, Technology, Music, Drama, Dance, French, German and Physical Education. At Key Stage 4 all of these are studied further with the addition of; Sociology, Animal Care, Food Technology, Business Studies, iMedia, Food and Nutrition, Health and Fitness and Child Care. In each year students also study a comprehensive programme of Personal Social and Health Education ensuring they are fully equipped to make informed decisions about their lives.

Students are inspired by our curriculum because while academically rigorous it is planned and delivered in an inspiring way. To us “learning is not a spectator sport” we require students to “think hard” and inspire them to do so by teaching methods that foster independent learning. In addition, we give students a range of opportunities to engage and participate in activities outside of normal lessons. Trips to Universities, sixth forms, along with work experience, and excursions abroad help students to engage in the wider world beyond the school gates.





“All students are given the opportunity to follow appropriate courses that allow them to achieve their potential; ensure they are confident; and inspire them to progress into further education and employment.”

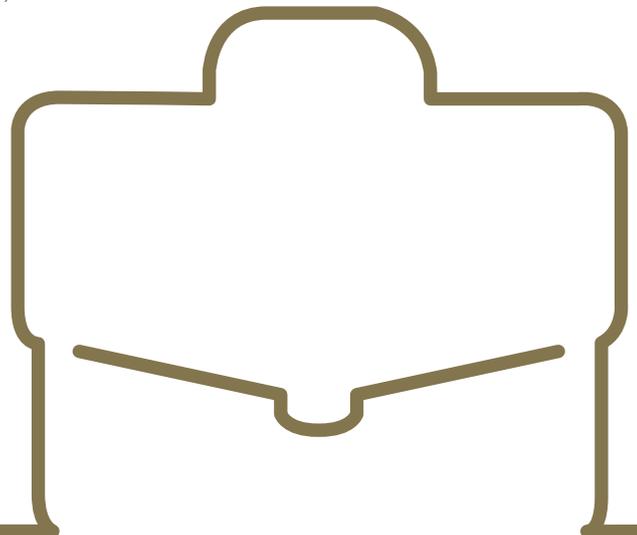
Careers Advice and Guidance

At King Harold Academy, we offer exceptionally high-quality careers advice and guidance to our students. The support they receive provides them with a clear pathway to their future. Careers education starts in Year 7 and continues in every year group all the way through to Year 11.

At every stage, we expose our students to many opportunities to help them make informed decisions about their future. Our sister school Debden Park High School in Loughton offers excellent A-level provision and we provide many opportunities for students in Year 10 and 11 to visit Debden Park High in order to gain a genuine understanding of A-levels.

We have a wide business network available to us and we are involved in the Yes Partnership, the World of Work Conference, and Business Breakfasts. In addition to this, we also invite in external speakers to provide students with personal experiences, send our students to attend industry days, visits to colleges, organise an annual career fest, mock interviews, and work experience for Year 10. We also provide all our students with one-to-one interviews with our own qualified Careers Advisor and provide them with access to a career's library.

We use our programmes and resources to form an essential part of your child's education so that they are prepared and inspired to have a successful future.





Learning Outside the Classroom

We value the importance of enrichment as highly as we do academic success. The aim of our enrichment programmes is to inspire our students to become involved in new experiences and engage with our local community. We truly believe in educating the whole child and finding each child's strength, both inside and outside of the classroom.

We take great pride in the achievements of our students as they take an active involvement in our community by serving as excellent ambassadors when they represent the school. All students are provided with the opportunity to explore the clubs fair, held in September, where departments such as: Music, Art, Drama, Science, English, and Food Technology all inspire our students to become involved with subjects outside of normal lessons.

Our Music department reaches out into our wider community by performing at local events such as: the Carol Concert at Waltham Abbey Church, the Waltham Abbey Town Show, the Cavalcade of the Light procession, and at the Town Hall for many official events. Our students are also provided with opportunities to take part in national competitions as part of our Samba band or 'The Kings Strings' ensemble. Music performances are a regular and popular feature in our school calendar which provide students with the opportunity to showcase the immense talent that we have within the school.

Our PE department provides students with numerous opportunities to represent the school at a recreational level through a variety of sports clubs. They also provide many opportunities for our teams to successfully compete in both local and national competitions. Through their love of sports our students have travelled to Europe to compete on an international level and develop their sporting experiences.

Our students get the opportunity to visit France and Belgium to explore their language skills as well as to discover the First World War Battlefields. The Zoolab Project visits our school to enhance our Geography and Art curriculum.

As part of educating the whole child, we provide many opportunities for students to develop their communication, teamwork, creative and independent skills outside of the classroom. We offer a variety of options to engage as many students as possible such as external music workshops, guest speakers to assemblies, PSHE workshops, Museum Take Over days and Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. Our enrichment programme grows every year and our staff feel passionately about widening our student's experience.





Student Responsibilities

At King Harold Academy, we believe that our students should be actively involved in their learning and work together with the staff to constantly improve the school.

Our Year 11 students go through a challenging application process to represent the school and to be a part of our Student Leadership Team. The team is led by our Head Boy and Head Girl who are true ambassadors and role models for the younger years. They are supported by a team of deputies and prefects.

All members of our Student Leadership Team have focussed roles to help develop the school. Some of our team will be seen in local primary schools, as they are our Transition Ambassadors. We also have members of our team as Media Ambassadors who will liaise with the local press and publish articles for our school website and newsletters. To focus on community spirit we have members of our Student Leadership Team who are dedicated Fundraising Ambassadors whose aim is to think of creative and innovative ways to engage our community to help others.

We believe in students having their voice heard in every year group and our newly appointed Student Voice and Well-being Ambassadors will ensure that this happens. As a community school it is essential that we are part of local life and that we take an active role in our town, therefore we have appointed two Community Ambassadors.



APPLYING TO KING HAROLD ACADEMY

Admissions:

Application forms may be obtained from Essex County Council by contacting them on **0845 603 2200**, by email to **admissions@essex.gov.uk** or apply online at **www.essex.gov.uk**



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