Ofsted graded the School as Outstanding in every category in our last inspection:

- Behaviour: Outstanding
- Personal Development and Welfare: Outstanding
- Post 16 Provision: Outstanding
- Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment: Outstanding
- Outcomes: Outstanding
- Leadership and Management: Outstanding
- Overall Effectiveness: Outstanding
King Edward VI Handsworth Grammar School for Boys (HGS) is a selective school that admits boys from the age of eleven and both boys and girls who wish to join the Sixth Form. Although our students come from all over Birmingham and beyond, a significant proportion live within three miles of the School, thereby helping to maintain a strong community aspect.

This is the oldest surviving selective school in Birmingham, but we are forward-thinking: reaching for the future while supported by traditional foundations which emphasise the importance of hard work, self-discipline, behaviour and achievement. From that basis, we are able to help our students face and meet the demands of our fast paced and rapidly changing world.

At HGS we understand that while academic qualifications are important, education also serves a broader purpose. Through the ethos and activities of the School, we strive to make a positive impact upon the students’ spiritual, moral, social, cultural and academic development and values. We want our students to be a force for good.

We are confident that successful, hard-working applicants will find the activities of the School both challenging and stimulating. Our expectation is that our students will enjoy a happy and successful school career, leading to good qualifications at both GCSE and A level.

After gaining an impression of life at the School from reading our prospectus you may want to join us for one of our Open Evenings – you would be most welcome. If you have any further questions, do contact us and we will be pleased to answer them.

We look forward to meeting you – for further detail and guidance about our School please visit [www.handsworth.bham.sch.uk](http://www.handsworth.bham.sch.uk)
We seek to confirm the School as a Centre of Excellence, retaining the traditional values of its foundation while embracing the opportunities offered by the technological developments of the modern world and serving the locality and the wider Birmingham conurbation.

We aim to:

• provide a balanced curriculum, serving the needs of each student;
• challenge our students to give of their best in all areas and support them in this endeavour;
• develop self-respect, independence and initiative;
• promote a climate of tolerance, trust, openness, compassion and co-operation;
• develop a sense of community at the School and amongst those associated with the School;
• enable our students to move confidently into the next phase of their education or the work place.

We seek to achieve this through:

• employing outstanding teachers who know and can teach their subjects and students well;
• the policies and procedures of the School;
• working in co-operation with all members of the School community so that we are both in and of the wider community;
• seeking to provide excellent teaching facilities and improving them where necessary and possible.

OFSTED 2017 graded the School as Outstanding in every category, comments from the inspection include:

“Students make excellent academic progress and disadvantaged students make even better progress than their peers.”

“Teachers have expert subject knowledge and high expectations of all students.”

“A wide and impressive array of enrichment activities, opportunities and visits complements the taught curriculum which contributes strongly to students’ personal development.”
THE SCHOOL AND ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

The School

King Edward VI Handsworth Grammar School for Boys is an Academy and member of the King Edward VI Academy Trust Birmingham and the King Edward VI Foundation. The School has been situated in Grove Lane, Handsworth since 1862. It is the oldest surviving Grammar School in Birmingham and has grown from 52 students in 1862 to well over 1000 now.

An extensive programme of building work has been carried out in recent years, including two new MFL (Modern Foreign Languages) classrooms, an Administration block, a new ICT (Information and Communications Technology) room, a Maths room, a new Sports Hall, three IT (Information Technology) classrooms and a new Library. In addition, we have built a new extension housing an Art room and Literacy room. Most recently we have built a brand new £1.6 Million Sixth Form Centre, refurbished our Dining Room and Design Technology laboratories and built an Astro Turf pitch on the main site. The School playing fields are just over a mile away in Handsworth Wood, on a pleasant site off Romilly Avenue which have also enjoyed considerable investment with 2 new Astro Turf pitches being built and the Pavilion being refurbished of late.

Admissions Arrangements

The Governors have agreed a planned admissions limit of 150 students in Year 7 each September, with the places allocated on the basis of the 11+ arrangements. Other places occasionally become available in other year groups and parents of older children should contact the School to receive up-to-date information. Entry to the main school is for boys only; however, the Sixth Form is co-educational and entry by girls is encouraged.

A very large number of applications are made for entry at 11+. The admission process for boys at 11+ begins in September, when information leaflets about admission are available and Open Evenings are held to encourage parents and students to visit the School and learn something about its approach to education. Contact before that date about the tests can be made with the School and/or the Grammar Schools in Birmingham. Parents, including those living in other education authorities, need to register for the tests with the Grammar Schools in Birmingham and must also complete the relevant Local Authority school preference form.

For absolute clarity in all respects of the admissions process, please refer to the current Admissions Brochure for the Grammar Schools in Birmingham and also visit the website at www.birminghamgrammarschools.org.
A full education involves more than time spent in the classroom and collecting qualifications. One way in which education is broadened is through the School’s extra-curricular activities and House programme. These range from sporting and musical activities, to the Technology club and inter-house quiz. Students are encouraged to fill the gaps they spot, although a friendly member of staff is needed to support the activity.

The School regularly puts on concerts and drama productions, which encourage the students to gain self-confidence by performing in front of an audience or working behind the scenes. Many students partake of instrumental tuition at the School, ranging from the guitar to the trombone and from the piano to the dhol. As a result, we can boast an orchestra, wind band, brass group, string and guitar ensemble and other groupings.

The students take part in several trips over a year, including field and ski trips and overseas trips to France and Germany. Other activities have included raising funds for local and national charities, Envision, volunteering in primary schools and helping to run Science and Maths Master classes.
PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The active involvement of parents is fundamental to the success of students at any school and HGS is no exception. We seek to work with parents in their children’s education, sharing any issues of concern in the hope that parents will do likewise.

At the start of a student’s School career, a Home-School Agreement is signed, which helps to emphasise the sense of working together and establish expectations. Progress grades are issued at regular intervals during the year and formal reports are sent home once a year. These are important documents and we ask parents to spend time with their child in discussion of the contents.

Student Planners, Show My Homework and Schoolcomms accounts are issued at the start of each year and are intended as an important conduit for communication between teachers and parents and also to help the students organise themselves. Parents, particularly of students in Year 7, are asked to check the planner and Show My Homework account every day.

In addition, all parents are expected to attend the annual Parents’ Evenings. These provide a vital opportunity for dialogue, enabling the teachers to give information on a student’s progress and allowing parents to respond to this or to express their own concerns. As such these meetings are seen as vital.

Should a parent have concerns at another time, we encourage contact being made with the School, so that any issue can be dealt with as quickly as possible. Concerns of a pastoral nature should usually be brought to the attention of the Form Tutor; academic concerns should normally be expressed directly to the teacher involved or the relevant Head of Department.

“At Handsworth Grammar School, students come from a variety of faiths and cultural backgrounds. The Governors are aware that many students and their families have a variety of deeply held religious beliefs and practices. In order to maintain impartiality, we do not cater for special dietary requirements on religious grounds. All students are offered a healthy and varied selection of vegetarian and non-vegetarian food in the Dining Hall: this selection ensures a healthy meal for every student.”

Statement from the Governing Body
The Careers Education Independent Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programme is designed to help students to develop an appropriate career plan, guided by accurate and impartial advice, in preparation for the opportunities, challenges and responsibilities of adult working life. Students refine their skills, awareness and understanding through group discussions, role-playing exercises, individual discussions and interviews. The programme enables students to:

- develop an awareness of their own strengths and interests, and to identify strategies to overcome their weaknesses;
- gain an understanding of the full range of career opportunities available;
- learn how to make and implement well-informed and realistic decisions about those opportunities;
- manage changes and transitions within and between education, training and work.

Our well-stocked Careers Library contains a wealth of up-to-date materials on the full range of opportunities at 14+, 16+ and 18+, along with access to careers software and the internet for research. Students are expected and encouraged to use the facilities during breaks and lunchtime and to develop their own solutions and perceptions.

Besides delivering CEIAG sessions through the Enrichment Days, the programme’s activities include:

- organising and managing the Work Experience in Year 10 for all students and, where appropriate, for students in Years 12 and 13 in their own time;
- interviewing all Year 11 students regarding their Action Plans;
- giving extensive advice to students preparing their UCAS forms and employment applications, and providing ongoing support and information during the application process;
- operating a drop-in service for students during term time and a ‘surgery’ for students receiving their GCSE, AS and A level results in the summer;
- organising visiting speakers from a range of employment areas and arranging visits to specific employers on request;
- co-ordinating visits to universities for Open Days;
- supporting students’ voluntary work experience;
- providing mock interviews for all students who require them.

“Students personal development and welfare is outstanding and they receive excellent careers education.”
CONTINUING EDUCATION

We seek to underpin the work of the academic departments by ensuring that our students have a secure foundation of social, moral, cultural and economic awareness, which provides a framework in which learning is enhanced.

As the students’ intellectual curiosity and maturity develops, they are encouraged to reach out beyond the confines of their academic studies to learn from each other, and to express themselves clearly and coherently. Throughout their education at HGS, and after they leave, we provide the resources, opportunities and professional guidance to help students make appropriate decisions and gain the experiences which enable them to aim high, and achieve their ambitions.
Sporting activities at the School include...

Athletics, badminton, swimming, basketball, cricket, hockey, fitness training, gymnastics, rugby, short tennis, soccer, table tennis, volleyball, rounders, softball, dodge ball and Gaelic football. Teams participate in the local leagues and cups and in City-wide competitions, with frequent success being enjoyed. To provide for all students, inter-house competitions are also offered.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education can develop social skills, self-esteem, well-being, tolerance and a sense of loyalty. We aim to:

- encourage students to learn physical skills and reach the highest possible level of fitness and health;
- give students a chance to compete against each other, and to experience group participation and interaction;
- develop an awareness of the opportunities that exist in leisure and recreation activities outside the School.

We have specialised coaches in some sports who run after-school clubs – these are for all students whether they are beginners or excel in the particular sport.

The National Curriculum is taught fully through Years 7 to 11. GCSE PE and the JSLA are taught in Years 10 and 11.

Our facilities include a Sports Hall, three Astro Turf pitches, three grass football pitches, a rugby pitch and an artificial cricket wicket.

We also have the use of the Local Authority’s swimming pool.

THE ARTS

Music and Art are central to the student experience at HGS. Each area serves to make a significant contribution to the life of the School and to the personal development of the students.

The Music Department provides more than 100 of our students with tuition on piano, woodwind, brass, guitar and dhol. Our musicians enjoy a wide range of extended curricular activities, including orchestra, big band, woodwind and guitar ensembles, chamber groups and rock bands. Our events calendar includes the annual Christmas concert, ‘Young Musician’ competition, Summer Soirée and musical productions in collaboration with local schools.

Art is a strength of the School, with outstanding work being produced by the students for external exams, productions and displays. Collaborative work with other schools and organisations has resulted in both temporary and permanent public exhibitions of the students’ work.
The Sixth Form offers great opportunities for students to show initiative and take responsibility in ways that will benefit the whole school community and indeed the local community. It also offers an environment in which students can pursue a wide range of their own interests.

Many Sixth Form students serve as Prefects and Committee members; others help in the Library and at School functions. Sixth Form students play an important role in organising meetings of the School’s Religious Societies, which reflect the diversity of our students and a tolerant atmosphere of which we are proud. Students have the opportunity to represent the School in a wide range of sports and recreational activities.

There are also opportunities for involvement in the School, for example in music, drama and visits to Europe. In addition, many students are involved in activities to support and raise money for local and national charities and other community work which sees them volunteering in Primary schools, hospices and care homes.

All students may undertake at least one week of Work Experience out of school time, to broaden their experience and in some cases, clarify career or university choices. In some career areas such as dentistry, medicine, pharmacy and veterinary science, it is particularly important to undertake relevant work experience to support a university application.

For our Sixth Form entry requirements please visit the Sixth Form area of our website: www.handsworth.bham.sch.uk

“Students enjoy school and the Sixth Form provides outstanding teaching and a wealth of broader opportunities.”
PASTORAL CARE

The Form is the basis of the organisation of our pastoral system and Form Tutors are the first reference point for students and parents. Form Tutors are led by Heads of Year and Key Stage Coordinators. This work is supported by members of the senior leadership team, with overall pastoral policy being directed by the Deputy Headteacher.

Considerable importance is attached to maintaining an effective pastoral system which provides a framework of support, care and guidance for each student.

The following extract from a recent Ofsted inspection report helps to illustrate the principles behind our pastoral care support and the aims which we continuously strive to achieve, in close partnership with parents.

“The social and moral development of students is outstanding.”

“The students make an excellent contribution to the community.”

“Attitudes to the School are excellent. Students show enthusiasm in their lessons and a very positive approach to learning. They enjoy coming to School and taking part in out-of-school activities.”

In all that we do, we do not lose sight of our aim of supporting the development of our students and promoting their achievements within a caring, supportive and harmonious community, which is characterised by equality of regard.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Religious Studies is taught to all students throughout the School. The scheme is based upon the Birmingham Locally Agreed Syllabus and is interpreted in light of the needs of the School.

Parents have a right to withdraw their child from Religious Education lessons following consultation with the Headmaster or Deputy Headteacher. It is not normally possible to provide more than general supervision to such students.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Collective worship is mainly Year Group based, with different Years having an assembly on any one day. On days when a group does not have an assembly, a Thought for the Day is provided in the tutor groups.

Assemblies vary in style and content, but are broadly Christian in character, in line with statutory orders. The students are encouraged to participate in assemblies and visiting speakers are sometimes used.

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

King Edward VI Handsworth Grammar School for Boys is committed to the highest standards of promoting the welfare, protecting and safeguarding the children entrusted to our care.

Our School/service will support all children by:

- promoting a caring, tolerant, safe and positive environment within the School;
- encouraging self-esteem and self-assertiveness;
- effectively tackling bullying, harassment and extremism.
ALL THESE WERE HONOURED IN THEIR GENERATIONS AND WERE THE GLORY OF THEIR TIMES.

1914~1918

DRAKE

TO THE EVERLASTING MEMORY OF THE OLD BOYS OF THIS SCHOOL WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR 1914~1918