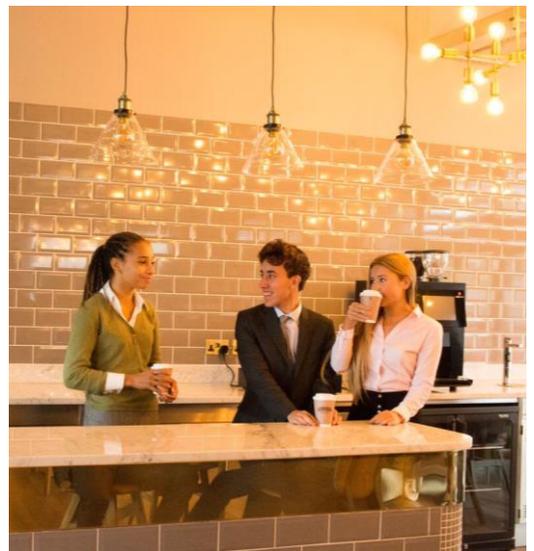




## Sixth Form Information and Admissions 2018



### External Applicants

Kew House School, 6 Capital Interchange Way, London TW8 0WX

[www.kewhouseschool.com](http://www.kewhouseschool.com)

020 8742 2038

[admissions@kewhouseschool.com](mailto:admissions@kewhouseschool.com)

# Kew House School

## Sixth Form Admissions September 2018

Admissions into the sixth form for September 2018 will see a combination of external applicants, who meet the admissions criteria, and our own internal applicants, join our post 16 programme. All candidates will be interviewed by a member of the Senior Management Team or senior subject staff. Parents may be invited to attend the key element of the interview process when an applicant is discussing subject options. For external applicants, in addition to an application form we will seek a confidential reference from the applicant's current school and seek predicted grade information. External applicants will be interviewed from January of 2018 onwards. All offers will be subject to candidates meeting the admissions criteria. All applicants are advised that, if they would like any information regarding the school or the sixth form provision at Kew House, an informal discussion regarding these matters, a tour of the school, or have any questions regarding sixth form matters they should contact KHS Admissions or the Head of Sixth Form (Richard.lees@kewhouseschool.com)

The admissions criteria for **external candidates** is as follows:

Achieving **5 grade A\*-B** (new grade 9 to 6) grades at GCSE including English and Maths  
Obtaining B (grade 6) grades or better in those subjects students wish to study at A level or equivalent

Meeting further subject specific entry criteria where applicable (e.g. obtaining a B(grade 6) grade in Maths to study A level Physics or computer science) – Details of these criteria are given on page 6

Obtaining at least GCSE **B** (grade 6) grades in English and Maths.

It is the norm in all schools admitting students into sixth form study that confirmation of a place is ultimately at the discretion of the Headmaster. Students' past school record and references will be taken into consideration in addition to academic attainment at GCSE.

### **Sixth Form Courses – September 2018 Entry at Kew House School.**

Sixth Formers will normally take a three A level courses in the first year (Year 12) and the second year (Year 13), equating to six three hour taught sessions a week. In addition to formal lessons all students will benefit from the provision of two hours per subject per week of independent learning time which takes place in our purpose built Independent Learning Center (ILC) in the sixth form building. This time is supervised by the ILC manager and its semi-supervised nature allows students to develop their independent learning skills and improve their ability to lead their own learning while still receiving support and guidance from staff, paper based resources and our online VLE. Three hours per week is put aside for students to complete the EPQ (yr 12), receive careers guidance and complete research necessary for the university admissions process in addition to continuing their engagement in the KHS Individuals in Society programme. Students will also participate in the senior school sports programme (yrs 11, 12 and 13) on Wednesday PM. Students will therefore have a comprehensive, full-time, programme of study.

Most student will study for the Extended Study Qualification (EPQ) in year 12.

**Why do we offer three courses?** All university admissions departments base their offers on three grades at A level, therefore in most cases it is better for students to devote their time and effort to maximise their grades in these required qualifications, rather than risk lowering them with the addition of a fourth. The time within the curriculum where students are not studying one of their three subjects is directed specifically to maximise the quality of the student's application through the careers / UCAS programme, extra curricular activities such as volunteering or student council events, and completion of the EPQ and Duke of Edinburgh awards (see below). A student who opts for four courses must recognise that in addition to the workload generated by the fourth A Level, they will also be expected to complete these additional aspects of the curriculum because of their benefit to the quality of their UCAS application. In addition to this, students opting for four A-Levels must be prepared for admissions departments at universities to offer places based on all four grades. A dip in performance caused by workload at some point in the course could therefore prove detrimental for the students' admissions prospects.

**Is a fourth course possible?** Yes. We are confident that some students will be able to demonstrate the required academic potential and commitment to study that a four course programme entails. Some students will be invited to study four A level courses provided these courses are consistent with their GCSE results and staff are confident they can manage the workload this will present.

#### **National A-Level reform.**

The structure of A-levels has recently changed so that these qualifications have become linear, to be tested only at the end of the 2-year programme. The AS qualification has been decoupled from the A-Level course and will be assessed in its own right as a stand-alone qualification. Any grades achieved for the AS qualification are not transferable to the full A-level qualification (e.g. any exams sat in year 12 will have to be sat again in year 13 and the results gained in the first sitting will not count) and must be included on the UCAS form. Coursework has, in many subjects, been removed or reduced and formally examined work increased. The full A-level grade is then determined entirely by the examinations sat at the end of year 13. Very few courses remain unaffected by the reforms in terms of structure and continue to be a rigorous programme of continuous assessment over the two years of the course and a terminal exam.

There are strict national guidelines in terms of deadlines and the amount of feedback that staff are able to give students for courses with a coursework element. All deadlines are published one year in advance and staff are required by the External Awarding Body to stick to this 'Assessment Plan'. There are also strict guidelines regarding plagiarism and all students will be made aware of this during the induction period for their course. Time management, personal organisation and independent working are key skills required for employment or successful study at post 16 and this will establish skills for post 18 study at University. Kew House School has kept abreast of national debate and the views of Higher Education and employers and will continue to provide the very best opportunities for students to achieve. As the sixth form at Kew House is only two years old we have been able to develop procedures and strategies that are aligned to these changes in policy and so minimise the impact to our teaching and learning structures. The time consumed in exam preparation and testing at AS level will be highly valued and fully utilised by staff during year 12.

## **UCAS and the Careers Programme**

The careers provision within the sixth form curriculum at Kew House has been developed to deliver successful applications to competitive universities, including the Russel Group and Oxbridge. Very few students are interviewed by universities. A successful university application is no longer dependent solely on grades and requires students to demonstrate the commitment, skills, knowledge and experience necessary to complete their chosen course of study successfully. Universities look to admit candidates with a broad range of experiences, interests and skills and expect students to demonstrate in their applications how these experiences have influenced, and would benefit their performance on their chosen course of study and the career path it may define. Students who are able to demonstrate this in their UCAS application form have significant advantages over those who are only able to provide evidence of academic ability.

Careers guidance, research and planning are timetabled to take part in IS lessons although students are expected to take the lead in determining their course and institution preferences and integrate this research into their independent study time. The general layout of the careers programme is as follows:

### **Year 12**

All students are given an initial careers interview within the first two weeks of term. This is to find out careers aspirations and identify any goals or issues early in the process (eg English qualifications for EAL students or the intention to study abroad). Applications to universities outside the UK are fully supported, hence the early start to take account of required tests (eg SAT tests for US admissions).

Careers advice and research is guided throughout year 12, and by Easter students are encouraged to have narrowed down their possible fields of study to facilitate selection of possible venues for their work experience placements (see below). Attendance at university open days is encouraged to allow students to make an informed choice of institution.

The UCAS admissions process itself will begin before students leave for work experience. Students will register online, meet admissions tutors, complete workshops on course / institution selection and personal statements and have the opportunity to work with subject mentors and receive informed feedback on their options. Specific advice and guidance will be available for students looking to apply for Oxbridge or competitive courses such as medicine and dentistry throughout the year through dedicated support groups which will lead students through preparation for admissions tests and provide enrichment activities to support applications.

Year 12 students will complete a two-week work experience placement during June / July which can be extended into the summer holidays if appropriate so students will be able to refer to their experiences and skills gained in their applications. Further work-related experience may be recommended or supported for certain courses.

## **Year 13**

Students will be expected to complete the initial drafts of their personal statements over the summer holidays and will work closely with trained staff, subject specialists and their PT's to refine them early in year 13. UCAS references will also be completed by subject and pastoral staff early in the new academic year which will enable UCAS forms to be submitted well before the published deadlines.

Students applying for Oxbridge and competitive courses who are likely to attend interview will receive help and support to prepare and students who are looking to apply for medicine, dentistry and other biomedical sciences will receive additional support when preparing for and sitting the BMAT or UKCAT admissions tests.

This schedule will then enable the student to shift their focus for the remaining two terms of sixth form to critical examination preparation while they benefit from the continual support and advice available from the careers team, their personal tutors, and subject teachers.

### **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)**

All students are encouraged to complete the extended project qualification (EPQ). The EPQ is highly valued by Universities and enables admissions officers to discriminate between candidates with a similar academic profile. The EPQ qualification is equivalent to half an A level (UCAS points) and students are able to obtain grades up to an A\* grade. Our approach to the Extended Project is to add breadth to students' Sixth Form studies by teaching skills, approaches, presentation techniques and research methods through this broad-based course. The course seeks to expose them to new disciplines, areas of thinking and subjects, before they are helped to choose and then research a question of their own choosing.

Students will then embark on the research, planning and writing of a 6000-word dissertation. Students end the course by giving a presentation on their dissertation to an invited audience with a question and answer session to follow. This presentation is also assessed.

The course is designed to develop skills in research (including critical analysis of documents and source evaluation), analysis, presentation, ethical enquiry and philosophical argument.

The course is intended to be academically rigorous and will provide them with application materials for their UCAS Personal Statements.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award**

Duke of Edinburgh awards will be offered to Gold level for 6<sup>th</sup> form students. Students who have achieved Bronze and Silver are highly recommended to pursue Gold as the skills gained are highly regarded by employers and Universities. If students have not completed the Bronze award before joining the sixth form at KHS they are still able to participate as candidates can start on the Silver award without completing Bronze with some additional requirements.

## A level Subjects available for students in September 2018

Maths  
Further Maths  
English Literature

Physics  
Chemistry  
Biology  
Psychology  
Computer science

History  
Geography  
Government and Politics  
Economics  
Business Studies\*

Spanish  
Latin  
French  
German

Physical Education  
Art and Design  
D&T: Product Design  
Food Science and Nutrition (WJEC Level 3 Certificate or Diploma)  
Music  
Drama\*

### **Where the A level is a new subject for a student the following minimum admissions criteria will apply:**

Computer Science or Psychology GCSE B (Grade 6) or better in Maths and Sciences

Drama GCSE B (Grade 6) English Literature and practical experience

Economics or  
Business studies GCSE Maths and English, Geography or History

Product Design or Art GCSE Art or DT; a portfolio of supporting work. Computer literacy is also taken into account due the CAD element in the DT course.

Politics GCSE History (Grade 6) preferred

Physical Education GCSE Biology (Grade 6) preferred

Further Maths will require a minimum of an A grade (grade7) GCSE.

*\* Courses are subject to confirmation by uptake numbers.*

Students are required to select three (or four) subjects, although we will be operating an option block system to allow timetabling to take place. As such students will be required to pick one subject from three blocks. Internal candidates' subject preferences will be taken into account when placing subjects into blocks with the aim of accommodating internal student preferences. Although changes to subject choices are possible throughout the admissions process once option blocks are decided (spring term) it may not be possible to accommodate changes.

Students may be offered an AS over and above their three A levels as a preference to a fourth full A level only in exceptional circumstances

It is our intention to provide students with an exciting and challenging programme of studies. Students are expected to consider their aspirations for post sixth form study and select subjects and combinations of subjects that will enable them to move onward in their education. Our course structures and facility for independent study will equip students for their futures.

*M J Hudson*

Headmaster

## **For Students – Making your sixth form choices**

Kew House School is offering an extensive range of key subjects, some not available at GCSE. It is vital that you understand the nature of the course, its content and assessment arrangements before making decisions. This guide is intended to assist you in your decisions. Please note some combinations of subjects are not desirable. These will be discussed as part of your interview process.

### **Timetable for sixth form admissions**

#### **External Candidates**

Open event January 17<sup>th</sup> 2018: 6<sup>th</sup> form booklet and applications forms issued.

20<sup>th</sup> February: Application forms submitted\* Interviews take place in weeks following

March / April - choices confirmed

August 23<sup>rd</sup>: GCSE results day, PM - final confirmation of courses.

\*Kew House will entertain late applications subject to availability.

### **HOW DO I CHOOSE?**

Start by looking carefully at your aspirations for the future, what interests you, what do you hope to study or do in the future? The universities will suggest subjects and grades for admissions. Look at the courses on offer at Kew House. What combinations of subject are compatible with your aspirations? You must remember that these are two year courses and you are committing to study these right through to their conclusion. You should seek advice, your personal tutor and teachers will assist. Careers guidance will be offered to you.

#### **Ask yourself:**

Will I be good at this course and will it sustain my interest?

Will the course enable me to proceed to University or employment?

Does the course build upon my academic strengths based on my GCSE success?

Studying a course that interests you is most important. Taking a subject just because it is 'useful' may not yield the success you seek. In the final analysis you will select a range of subjects to suit your needs and interests. Not all combinations of subject are desirable. You must also be aware that not all combinations of subject will be available due to timetable constraints.

### **So what are Universities looking for?**

Universities expect their conditional offers for more competitive courses to be three, very good, A-level grades. These are often referenced in University prospectuses.

Include subjects that are appropriate preparation for your preferred degree course.

Some Universities may indicate certain subjects that include a substantial element of practical skill to be of less value, take advice about choosing more than one of these subjects in your three unless they are part of your preparation for a single, specialist field of study in Higher Education.

Conversely some courses restrict access to courses unless key combinations of study are in place. Most engineering degree courses will require Maths **and** Physics with Product

Design, Chemistry A level valued. Medicine will require Chemistry and Biology. Some universities take a more liberal approach to subjects studied.

**The facilitating subjects are considered to be:**

Maths  
Physics  
Chemistry  
Biology  
History  
Geography  
Languages  
English Literature

Any of these subjects will enable an extensive range of courses to become available, especially when combined with other specialist courses at A level. The Russell Group advise that, as a rule of thumb, students who are not sure what to study at university should aim to study two facilitating subjects out of their three as this will keep a wide range of course options open to them.

**The Russell Group Universities.**

Many of the top universities belong to the Russell Group. They include Oxford and Cambridge (Oxbridge) Universities. If you aspire to attend one of these Universities, you are strongly advised to read the booklet they issue and watch the video on-line to familiarise yourself with their systems.

Advice can be obtained on-line in text or video form using the following links:

<http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices>

Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GHqJ8dvfVU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4bx7OI2-t5g>

The Russell Group's principal concern is that the subjects that students choose for their three A levels/Full Pre-Us are the right ones. They advise students to make sensible choices that keep their options open in two of the three subjects. We advise all students and their parents to read/view this advice carefully. None of it conflicts with the advice we give students.

The Russell Group includes the following 24 universities: Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Imperial, King's, Leeds, Liverpool, LSE, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Queen Mary, Queen's (Belfast), Sheffield, Southampton, UCL, Warwick, York.

**Further information is readily available through the Careers advice, university websites, and UCAS ([www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com))**

Please note all universities make offers based upon your final predicted grades at A level, your GCSE grades, some offer an interview, some seek a portfolio. All applications are supported by your personal statement, details of other attainment and achievement, DofE for example, relevant work placements and evidence of your commitment to study and your career. Some universities, especially the Russell group, may ask you to sit pre admission tests. You must be aware of this requirement as you may be asked to attend for testing at very short notice.