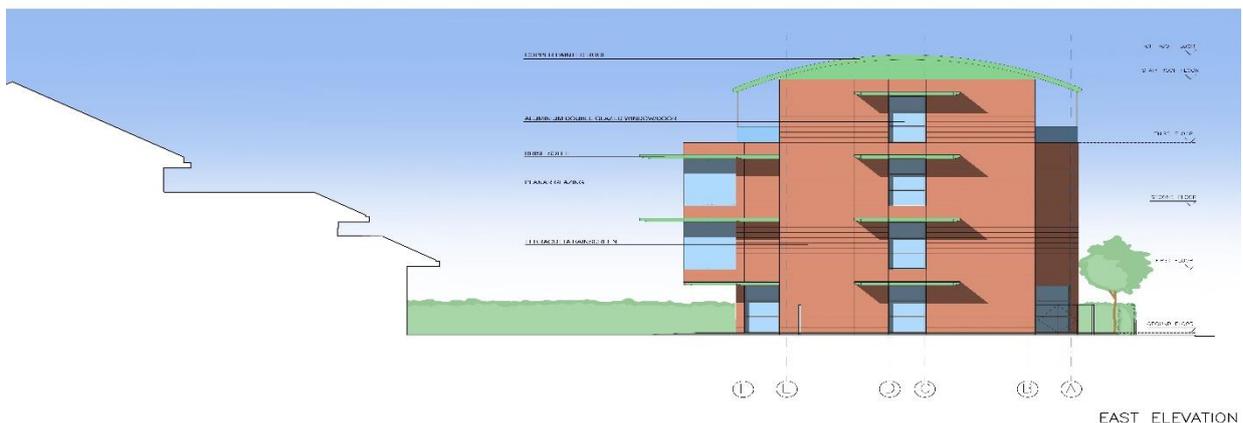


## Sixth Form Information and Admissions 2017



Artwork of Kew House 6<sup>th</sup> form centre opening September 2017

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**Kew House School**

## Sixth Form Admissions September 2017

Admissions into the sixth form for September 2017 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 and 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. Internal applicants will be interviewed in the spring term 2017. External applicants will be interviewed from January of 2017 onwards. All offers will be subject to candidates meeting the admissions criteria.

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

Achieving 5 grade **A\*-C** grades at GCSE

Obtaining B grades or better in those subjects students wish to study at A level or equivalent

Obtaining B grades in Maths to study A level Physics or computer science (where a student may not have studied Computer science at GCSE and attained a B grade or better.)

Obtaining at least GCSE C grades in English and Maths for some subjects.

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

Achieving **5 grade A\*-B** grades at GCSE including English and Maths

Obtaining B grades or better in those subjects students wish to study at A level or equivalent

Obtaining B grades in Maths to study A level Physics or computer science (where a student may not have studied Computer science at GCSE and attained a B grade or better.)

Obtaining at least GCSE B 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.

Internal candidates failing to meet these criteria students will receive alternative guidance to enrol onto another form of full time education such as an apprenticeship or to move to another educational provider more suited to meeting their needs

### **Sixth Form Courses – September 2017 Entry at Kew House School.**

All Sixth Formers will normally take 3 A level courses in the first year (Year 12) and the second year (Year 13), equating to 6 three hour taught sessions a week. Taught sessions will be supplemented by 3x3 hours Independent Learning\* sessions and the opportunity to participate in sports activities on Wednesday PM. Students will therefore have a comprehensive, full-time, programme of study.

All students normally complete a 3 A-level equivalent programme and this can include a combination of academic or applied A-Levels Level 3 courses where appropriate. Most student will study for the Extended Study Qualification (EPQ) in year 12.

**Why do we offer 3 courses?** University admissions will base their offers on 3 grades at A level. In most cases it is better to devote your time and effort to just 3 courses.

**Is a fourth course possible?** Yes. 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. Most of our students will be encouraged to study

for the **Extended Project** which is the equivalent of half an A level. See below for further details.

*\*From September 2017 our independent learning centre (ILC) will be available as part of our new 6<sup>th</sup> form building. Students will also study our IS course and EPQ in this time.*

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

The structure of most A-levels is changing 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. This comes into effect for some courses from 2016 other will move to this in subsequent years. Coursework has in many subjects been removed or reduced and formally examined work increased. The full A-level grade is determined only by the examinations sat at the end of the 6.2 year. Some Level 3 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. 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.

These changes will present challenges to students but as the school has no established sixth form curriculum or procedures and we are able to embrace these changes with minimal 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.

As part of our careers commitment lower sixth students will be invited to participate in a two week work placement programme during July. 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.

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

The extended project is valued by Universities and enables admissions officers to discriminate between candidates with a similar academic profile. Candidates are able to obtain this half A level equivalent to an A\* grade. Our approach to the Extended Project is to enable 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 which are normally concluded by December of upper sixth form. This schedule will then enable student to shift their focus for the remaining two terms of sixth form to critical examination preparation.

**\*A level Subjects available for students in September 2017**

Art and Design  
Food Technology  
Maths (AS and full A level)  
English (AS and full A level)  
History  
Geography  
Product Design  
Physics  
Chemistry  
Biology  
Spanish  
Latin  
French  
German  
Drama  
Computer science  
Physical Education  
Economics  
Government and Politics

**\*From 2017 it is expected that we will add:**

PE  
Music  
Statistics  
Further Maths  
Psychology\*\*  
Business studies  
Health and social care or Catering\*\* Subject to new specification.

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

Computer Science or Psychology	GCSE B or better in Maths and/or Sciences
Drama	GCSE B 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 preferred
Physical Education	GCSE Biology
Statistics	GCSE Maths

*\*All of the above courses are subject to confirmation by uptake numbers.*

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 Hudson*

Headmaster

## 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 before making decisions. This guide is intended to assist you in your decisions.

Timetable for sixth form admissions

### **Internal Candidates**

September - students to outline sixth form process

Autumn term Open event: November 17<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> form admissions booklet issued with application forms, meeting with subject teachers/SMT

December Application forms submitted

March Final Interviews, confirm choices.

August GCSE results- final confirmation of courses.

### **External Candidates**

Open event January 17<sup>th</sup> 2017 6<sup>th</sup> form booklet and applications forms issued.

January- deadline for application forms. Interviews take place

March- interviews- choices confirmed

August GCSE results- final confirmation of courses.

**The admissions criteria** for both internal and external candidates is as follows:

Achieving at least 5 grade A\*-C grades at GCSE

Obtaining B grades or better in those subjects students wish to study at A level\*

Obtaining B grades in Maths to study A level Physics

Obtaining GCSE C grades in English and Maths for the following subjects:

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.

Internal candidates failing to meet these criteria students will receive alternative guidance to enrol onto another form of full time education such as an apprenticeship or to move to another educational provider more suited to meeting their needs

\*Where A level subjects are not offered at GCSE or where Btech courses may be offered staff will review the combination of GCSE subjects and grades attained on a case by case basis.

### **Sixth Form Courses – September 2017 Entry at Kew House School.**

All Sixth Formers will take the equivalent of 3 courses in the first year (Year 12) and the second year (Year 13), equating to 6 three hour taught sessions a week (3 days). Taught sessions will be supplemented by 3x3 hours Independent Learning sessions and the opportunity to participate in sports activities on Wednesday PM. Students will therefore have a comprehensive, full-time, programme of study.

All students normally complete a 3 A-level equivalent programme and this can include a combination of academic or applied A-Levels courses where appropriate.

**Why do we offer 3 courses?** University admissions will base their offers on 3 grades at A level. In most cases it is better to devote your time and effort to just 3 courses to maximise your grades.

**Is a fourth course or A level possible?** Yes. Some students may be invited to study 4 A level courses provided these courses are consistent with their GCSE results and staff are confident they can manage the workload this will present. Many of our students will be encouraged to study for the **Extended Project** which is the equivalent of half an A level. See below for further details.

**The Extended Project** (EPQ) is highly regarded by universities and will prepare students effectively for the types of independent research and study required at degree level. It will enrich their academic experience by both broadening and deepening their knowledge and allows the student the freedom to pursue a study of a topic of personal interest and enthusiasm that may, for example, be related to an intended course of study at university.

The **AS Mathematics** course is aimed at students who wish to gain a Mathematics qualification but not full A-level Mathematics. This combination may suit those students intending to study three Arts based A-levels, or to add to a combination including one or two sciences.

The **AS English** course may suit those students wishing to study three Science or Arts subjects and looking for either a contrasting or enriching subject. (AS/Short Course Pre-U exams are taken alongside A-levels in the Summer of the Upper Sixth.)

## 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 in the field I am interested in?

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 subject will enable an extensive range of courses to become available, especially when combined with other specialist courses at A level.

### **The Russel Group Universities.**

Many of the top universities belong to the Russel 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=54kKLOkoFzk>

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 )**

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.