



**KING EDWARD VI
KING'S NORTON
SCHOOL FOR BOYS**

Educational excellence for our City

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**KING EDWARD VI
FOUNDATION
BIRMINGHAM**

Educational excellence for our City

15th July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope that your son has enjoyed his experience of King's Norton School for Boys so far during Transition Day and the evening event. Now the summer holidays are approaching, your attention will undoubtedly be turning to what will be happening once your son starts in September. Therefore, firstly, we have some key dates that we would like to share with you for the arrangements for the first week of term:

- Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September are INSET days for staff only.
- Thursday 3rd September will be the Year 7 Induction Day, the first normal day for our new students, where for most of the day they will be the only year group in school, allowing them to settle in and find their way around. Students will be dismissed at 3.05pm.
- We will also be holding the Year 11 Induction assembly in the afternoon of 3rd at 1.30pm too.
- All other students will return to school on Friday 4th September.

Our usual school day begins at 8.30am, with the side gate (that boys entered on Transition Day) opening at 8.15. Students are supervised on the playground until 8.30 when they should go directly to their form rooms. A normal day ends at 3.05pm.

There are a number of other factors that we would like to draw to your attention regarding your son's transition to KNSB:

- KNSB is a cashless site. Students' accounts to buy food will need to be topped up online via ParentPay. It is vitally important that you register your details on ParentPay in readiness for September. Log in details will be issued in the summer holidays and will be emailed to you. If you have not received these details by Monday 31st August, please let us know.
- We are also a nut-free school so please carefully consider the food products that you send with your son to school; we have a number of students with severe nut allergies that can be easily affected by products containing nuts.
- We expect all students to be wearing their new KNSB uniform in September. Please refer to the uniform guide that was in the welcome pack that you received on Transition Evening, and which is also attached with this letter.

Medical Needs

Please ensure that we are aware of any medical conditions and additional medical needs that your son has prior to him starting in September, including any prescription medication that will need to be held on site by our Medical Officer, such as inhalers, etc.

Headteacher: Mr D Clayton

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Changes to Free School Meals (FSM)

We also want to inform you about some upcoming changes to the Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility criteria and what you need all need to do in preparation to starting at King's Norton School for Boys.

What's Changing?

- The government has updated the eligibility criteria for FSM. This means some families who were not previously eligible may now qualify, and others may see changes in their eligibility status.
- The main change is that from September 2026, all students from households receiving Universal Credit will be eligible for free school meals (FSM), regardless of their household's annual income.
- As a result, from 2026/27, there will be two categories of benefits-based FSM:
 - Targeted FSM: based on the old threshold (students in households receiving Universal Credit with an annual income of £7,400 or less)
 - Expanded FSM: covering students who do not qualify for targeted FSM, but whose households receive Universal Credit Free school meals (FSM).

To ensure we capture all eligible families, we are using the Online Free School Meal (OFSM) eligibility checker. We need ALL families to complete the checker to see if you are entitled to FSM from September 2026. Registering is quick and easy – it only takes approximately ten minutes to complete. Please visit the following website to submit your details:

<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/entrust>.

Please complete your registration before **Friday 21st August 2026**. This deadline is important to ensure we can update our records in time for the new academic year. If you have any questions, please contact the school office on 0121 6280010 or via enquiry@knbs.co.uk

Summer School

Boys who have signed up to the Summer School will have had letters either in the pack collected on Transition Evening or that we have posted to parents who were unable to attend. If you have signed up for this but not received your confirmation or your information pack at all, please get in touch with us, at enquiry@knsb.kevibham.org.

Frequently Asked Questions

We would like to say a huge thank you to those families who completed our feedback survey as there were lots of very useful comments on there, particularly in relation to what would help your son at this stage to settle into school. Therefore, we have compiled some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) and responses below which will hopefully be useful to all.

1. How do we find out school 'news' and upcoming events?

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Our weekly parental communications give you news from around school each week and important information about upcoming events, as well as helpful reminders. You can find examples of these communications on our website: [Weekly Updates | King Edward VI King's Norton School for Boys](#). Most of our communication is via email, and for more timely matters, text messages. This is why it is important that you let us know about any changes to your contact details as soon as possible.

2. What happens if my son gets lost getting to lessons?
We will provide a student-friendly map of the school for your son's first few days – this will help him to find his way around and hopefully prevent him from getting lost. However, if this does happen, it is likely that he will be with other students and rarely on his own, so hopefully this will be less daunting. Students and staff in school are on prepared for this at the start of the new year so Year 7s will only have to ask and someone will be happy to direct or take them to where they need to be. Teachers will also understand that this will happen and so new students need not panic about being late to lessons to begin with either.
3. How can I prepare my son for travelling to school on his own?
We recommend doing a number of dummy runs for the route to school, whether walking, cycling or getting public transport. Not only can this provide reassurance for you and your son that he can get to and from school safely, but it can also help you to pre-empt any issues that might arise (traffic, late buses, etc.) and discuss what your son might do in such eventualities.
4. What does a 'normal' day in secondary school look like?
On our Transition Zone ([Year 6 Transition Zone | King Edward VI King's Norton School for Boys](#)), there is a short video prepared by some students showing what a typical day at KNSB is like. It gives a snapshot of how the day might be different to primary school and will help to prepare your son for September. The moving around school will undoubtedly be new to most students but in our experience, they get used to this very quickly.
5. How much homework will my son get and how can we support him at home?
For most subjects, there will be one piece of homework a week or fortnight, depending on how many lessons that subject has. Core subject homework (English, maths, science) is set via Sparx which is an online platform that students really like using. The amount of time students will need to spend on homework tasks will vary but a good rule of thumb is 30 minutes per piece (some will take more, others less). We recommend that boys complete their homework on the night they receive it to avoid things building up. Having a dedicated workspace at home can be helpful and as mentioned at Transition Evening, all homework will be set on Satchel One, and parents can use their log in to support their son with completing their tasks.
6. If my son has a problem in school, who should he go to?
In the first instance with any issues around school, your son should speak to his Form Tutor. This is the person who will see him at the beginning and end of every day, and this gives two great opportunities to share any concerns or ask any questions. If issues arise during the day, any of your son's teachers or other member of staff that he encounters will be happy to help. We know that some issues can be particularly worrisome for new students but please reassure your son that there is no concern or issue that we cannot help to solve in school, so it is better to share this with us sooner rather than later, and certainly before he goes home at the end of the day.

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7. My son has not yet made new friends, and he is worried that this will not happen in September. It can time to make new friends, and this normally happens in the first couple of weeks or half term, rather than on Transition Day, which can be stressful and really full on for new students. Furthermore, they spend that day with their form group, whereas in September, they will likely only be with the majority of these students during form time and will be in different classes for many of his subjects. This will present lots of opportunities for meeting new students, all of whom are, of course, potential new friends. We are always on the lookout for boys who might not settle in and make friends as quickly as others so we will also be prepared to support if needs be too.
8. How will we find out about after school clubs, and how can my son get involved? Very early on in the term, boys will be notified about after school clubs via their Form Tutor, and a notice will be posted on their form noticeboard. We will also share information about these via the weekly parental updates. If your son is planning to attend any after school clubs, please impress upon him the importance of letting you know that he is doing so, to avoid any panic if he is late home from school.
9. Some days there will be a lot for my son to carry to school. How does he get a locker? If you would like your son to have a locker, you will have the option to make a small payment via ParentPay once your account is set up. Lockers will be available from around the second week of term.

Hopefully, these answers to some of the most commonly asked questions will help to alleviate any worries you or your son might have over the summer about him starting in September – we certainly hope so.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a fantastic summer break so that you are ready to make the most of all that we have to offer at KNSB in September.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Vanessa Bartlett
Senior Assistant Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr D Clayton

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