GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys is a selective grammar school; it is a member of the King Edward VI Academy Trust Birmingham, which is a group of seven schools, six of which academically select their pupils. These schools, together with two independent schools, form the King Edward’s Foundation. The school moved from the inner city to its present location on the former Cartland Estate in 1956. Kings Heath is a pleasant suburb in South Birmingham with easy access to the M42, M40, M5 and M6 motorways, to Stratford and to the Warwickshire/Worcestershire countryside. In recent years, we have benefited from a new Sports Hall, Library, Sixth Form study area, laboratories and classrooms. We are planning to open a new extension to the 6th Form block before September 2018.

There are just under 850 boys on roll, of whom over 270 are in the Sixth Form. The school was three-form entry until September 2014, when it expanded to four-form entry, i.e. 120 boys at the age of 11. Nearly all of the students stay on at Camp Hill Boys to the age of 18 and proceed into Higher Education. Academic standards are very high – in 2017 the Attainment 8 score of its pupils was the fourth highest of any state school in the country. At A Level, 28.7% (the ninth highest state school figure in the country) of all entries were passed at A* grade and 88.3% at A*/B grades. The school also achieved the highest Progress 8 figure in Birmingham - a significant achievement, given the extremely high attainment of the students on entry. The school features prominently in national league tables. 15 boys have won Oxbridge offers this year (September 2018 entry).

THE PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

Staffing
Mr S G Tucker
Miss R Li
Dr V Hudgson
Mr J White (Part time Physics teachers)

Even in the context of this high performing school, the Physics Department has one of the strongest academic records. The school is fortunate to have a team of dedicated, long-serving and talented teachers. The popularity of the subject is indicated by the number of boys taking up A level in Year 12.

Accommodation

There are three dedicated Physics Laboratories and another two laboratories which are shared between all the sciences. All specialist teaching rooms are fully equipped with interactive whiteboards, projectors and sound systems. The work of the department is supported by experienced laboratory technicians.

Curriculum
The three sciences are taught separately from Year 7 to Year 9 in Key Stage 3. Lessons are 1 hour long and we have a two week timetable. In Physics there are two hours per fortnight in Years 7 & 8 with 3 hours per fortnight in Year 9. Practical work is an integral part of almost every lesson. The boys are expected to become confident with apparatus by the end of Key Stage 3. The department has designed and produced booklets for each of these years. These outline the work for the year and provide information and practice questions. There is an end of year examination for each year.

At Key Stage 4 in Years 10 & 11, the three sciences started the AQA GCSE in September 2016. This will lead to end of course examinations in June 2018. The department has designed and produces ‘in-house’ booklets for both years which contain all the specification content, useful notes and practice questions. We believe this course will offer an ideal preparation for A level Physics.

In Year 12 we study the AQA 7408 specification. This year we have four sets with a total of 63 students. Pupils are no longer entered at AS level. Physics is a very popular subject which is testament to the quality of teaching delivered throughout the school.

In Year 13 we maintain the same number of sets and expect to see only about a 10% drop in numbers.

The department encourages the appropriate use of ICT throughout all teaching and learning activities. We have a full set of student laptops. The department is also fully equipped with data collection and analysis equipment. We also have a very large number of PowerPoints, teaching resources, DVD’s and interactive programmes which are used through all Key Stages.

Other important issues

The department has high expectations of the boys throughout all years in exchange for excellent teaching. Each member of staff has a laptop and they collate weekly marks into an excel spreadsheet enabling effective tracking of the progress of individual pupils. All staff in the Physics department communicate effectively with each other via daily contact in the prep room and via weekly department meetings. This facilitates the exchange and distribution of good practice and ensures everyone is aware of the latest demonstrations, requirements, forthcoming meetings etc.

Pupils take part in extra lessons for the Physics Olympiad and the Physics Aptitude tests.

Examination Results

Key Stage 4:  Last year (2017) our GCSE results were 90% A* and 10% A grades.
Key Stage 5:  Last year our A2 results were 63% A* and A grades.

The department is rightly proud of the extremely high standards which are achieved across all Key Stages and results show continuous improvement year on year.
The Post

The post has been created by the retirement of the Head of Physics and the departure of a part-time Physics teacher. If an external candidate is appointed to Head of Physics it is unlikely that we will proceed with the recruitment of a Physics teacher. In that event, candidates will be informed before interview that the recruitment is not proceeding.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Candidates are asked to complete the application and attach a letter of application giving examples of achievements, skills and experience which match those sought in the job description provided by the school. These documents should be sent to the Headmaster as soon as possible, but by no later than 9.30 am on Tuesday 23 January. Interviews are scheduled to take place on Monday 1 March.

Please do not hesitate to telephone if you require any further information. Camp Hill Boys is a happy, flourishing and friendly community as well as an outstandingly successful grammar school. I look forward to receiving your application.

M J Garrod
Headmaster