



KING EDWARD'S SCHOOL BIRMINGHAM

Teacher of Physics (maternity cover)

King Edward's School is seeking to appoint a fixed-term part-time (0.6) Teacher of Physics (maternity cover) to teach across the full age range from January 2027 until April 2027. It is an opportunity to join a strong, enthusiastic department in an exceptional school. We welcome applications from people of all backgrounds and no experience of working in the independent sector is required. The school teaches Edexcel IGCSE and AQA A-Level Physics courses. A willingness to participate in the wider life of the School with pastoral care duties and help with co-curricular activities is expected.

Science at King Edward's School

King Edward's has a long tradition of scientific excellence, having educated Nobel laureates such as Maurice Wilkins and Sir John Vane. Science remains at the heart of the academic life of the school today.

In September 2025, the department reintroduced the teaching of the AQA A-Level Physics course to Year 12 pupils. Physics has proven to be a very popular subject at A-Level and many of our pupils continue to study science subjects at university, with high numbers successfully applying for Engineering and Medicine, as well as Natural Sciences, Biomedical Sciences and other related subjects. This is an exciting opportunity to join the department and contribute to shaping the A-level syllabus.

The Physics Department

The Physics Department currently consists of a team of five full-time teachers, and two full-time, well-qualified Physics technicians. Members of the department are highly experienced and enthusiastic teachers of Physics. They set high standards in their teaching and continually seek the best for and from the pupils.

The Department has the use of four well-equipped specialist laboratories, with a further two laboratories available for Year 7 and 8 science classes, when required. The department is extremely well resourced for practical work, be this demonstrations or class experiments, and benefits from a full class suite of computers in one of the laboratories and a smaller number of computers in a second laboratory for Sixth Form classes.

In Year 7 all pupils follow our in-house combined science course, but from Year 8 onwards the three sciences are taught separately. Pupils begin studying Edexcel IGCSE Physics in Year 9 and at the end of the year have the option of continuing with three separate sciences or two sciences and a further non-science GCSE in Year 10 and 11. At the end of Year 11 over 50% of pupils have achieved grade 9 in IGCSE Physics, on average, over the last three years.

Extension and enrichment are important aspects of the department. Pupils are encouraged and supported to participate in the British Physics Olympiad, the Senior, Intermediate and Junior Physics Challenges, with many pupils achieving gold and silver awards. A Space club is run monthly by Sixth form pupils for students of all ages, and there are weekly extension sessions for students in the Sixth Form considering applications to top universities, such as Oxford, Cambridge, and Imperial, to study Physics or Engineering. Each year following an essay competition, the department takes three boys to CERN for a week to attend a Particle Physics Summer School run by the University of Liverpool, which gives them an incredible insight into the workings of a research physicist.

Job Description

The role holder will report to the Head of Physics.

A. Teaching

- Plan and deliver lessons in accordance with the department's scheme of work and which reflect the priorities of the school's Learning and Teaching Policy.
- Liaise with relevant colleagues on the planning of work for collaborative delivery
- Take account of pupils' prior levels of attainment and use them to inform planning and set targets for future improvement
- Set high expectations for pupils' behaviour by establishing a purposeful working atmosphere in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy
- Set appropriate and demanding expectations for pupils' learning, motivation and presentation of work
- Help organise and develop physics enrichment activities and opportunities for the students.

B. Assessment, Recording and Reporting

- Assess and return work within a reasonable and agreed time span providing constructive oral and written feedback, and clear targets for future learning as appropriate
- Report on pupil progress in line with school policy and as specified in the published calendar
- Keep parents informed of pupil progress by attendance at Parents' Evenings, and by other means as appropriate
- Maintain appropriate records of assessments in line with department and school policy
- Be familiar with the code of practice for identification, referral, assessment and monitoring of special educational needs

C. Pastoral Care

- Undertake responsibility for a form group as required, including tutor/tutee interviews

- Be the first point of contact for parents of pupils in the form
- Set targets for and monitor the social and academic progress of pupils in the form
- Undertake responsibility for the delivery of the PSHE programme to the form
- Promote good attendance and monitor in accordance with school policy

D. Professional Standards

- Support the aims of the school and adhere to the Staff Code of Conduct
- Support the implementation of all school policies and procedures as laid out in the Staff Handbook
- Treat all members of the school community with respect and consideration
- Treat all pupils fairly, consistently and without prejudice
- Set a good example to pupils in terms of appropriate dress, standards of punctuality and attendance
- Attend and participate in events such as open days and options evenings. Support those events in which form members are involved e.g. concerts
- Participate in the school's extracurricular programme, which includes activities, clubs and societies, sport, drama and music
- Take responsibility for professional development, participating in staff training and the school's arrangements for appraisal
- Participate in the management of the school by attending departmental and other staff meetings
- Ensure that all deadlines are met as published in the school calendar
- Take responsibility for matters relating to health and safety in line with school policy
- Undertake duties that may be reasonably assigned by the Head of School (directly or indirectly)

Responsibilities may be direct, joint or through devolved structures, but always in accordance with whole school policies. These details may be amended at any time by agreement, but in any case, will be reviewed during the appraisal process.

The candidate will visibly maintain the highest professional standards, have excellent interpersonal communication, presentational and ICT skills and have the ability to work flexibly within the school structure.

Person Specification

The ideal candidate would be expected to show evidence of many of the following skills and qualities. The following information demonstrates qualities that would be considered essential or desirable.

Qualifications and Training	Essential	Desirable
Qualified Teacher Status (UK)		Yes
Courses of further study relevant to the post		Yes
An honours degree in Physics or a related subject	Yes	
Evidence of involvement in personal CPD	Yes	

Experience	Essential	Desirable
Experience of teaching in a highly academic context		Yes
Experience of teaching the full 11-18 age range		Yes
Clear understanding and knowledge of current issues related to the subject	Yes	

Skills	Essential	Desirable
A clear understanding of how to engage with school data	Yes	
Ability to think originally and creatively and show initiative	Yes	
Commitment to high standards of Physics teaching and learning	Yes	
Ability to teach high quality lessons	Yes	
The potential to lead and motivate teams		Yes
Excellent organisation abilities	Yes	
High levels of ICT competency		Yes

Personal characteristics	Essential	Desirable
Ability to cope with pressure	Yes	
Ability to communicate effectively with parents, students and staff in a variety of ways	Yes	
Understanding and commitment to equality of opportunity for all	Yes	
Understanding of, and a commitment to the ethos of the school as a community	Yes	
Tact, discretion and diplomacy	Yes	
A genuine liking of people and the ability to show warmth, good-humour, empathy and sensitivity	Yes	

How to apply

To apply for this role, please forward a completed application form (available for download [here](#)) and a covering letter addressed to the Second Master (Ed Swanwick) by email to: recruitment@keschools.org.uk

The deadline for applications is **8:00am on Monday 12th October** with interviews provisionally scheduled for the same week. However, applications will be reviewed on receipt: early applications are encouraged. We reserve the right to bring forward the closing and interview dates if sufficient applications have been received.

If you have any queries about the role or would like to discuss it in more detail, please contact Rebecca Connelly, Head of Physics - R.Connelly@keschools.org.uk

King Edward's School and King Edward VI High School for Girls are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Applicants invited to interview will be required to provide proof of identity, preferably a birth certificate, although where this is not available, we will accept other forms of ID. Online searches will also be carried out for all shortlisted candidates, as required by Keeping Children Safe in Education. Successful candidates will be required to undergo an enhanced DBS check and other pre-employment checks. A copy of the School's Recruitment, Selection and Disclosure Policy is available on the websites www.kes.org.uk or www.kehs.org.uk