



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL  
SHAKESPEARE'S SCHOOL

# PRESS RELEASE



## King Edward VI School UK State Secondary School of the Decade

**King Edward VI School** has been named **The Sunday Times State Secondary School of the Decade** by **Parent Power**, **The Sunday Times Schools Guide**, published in **The Sunday Times** and online this Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

**Parent Power** is widely acknowledged as the most authoritative survey of the country's best schools. The rankings in the secondary school league tables are determined by the percentage of examination entries gaining A\* to B grades at A-level (which is given double weighting) and the percentage of entries graded 9, 8 and 7, at GCSE and iGCSE.

Improvements at both A Level and GCSE lifted King Edward VI School to **12<sup>th</sup> place nationally** last year, having risen steadily in the rankings since 2010 when it was ranked 89th.

**Alastair McCall, Editor of Parent Power**, said: *"There are many schools that have achieved sustained academic excellence over the past decade, but few have shown the consistent pattern of improvement achieved at 'Shakespeare's School', rising in that time from around 70% A\*-B grades at A-level to nearly 90%. These are levels of attainment of which even King Edward VI's most famous pupil would be proud, worthy of a sonnet even.*

*Under the leadership of Bennet Carr the school is playing at the top of its game and sets standards to which all schools should aspire. It achieves success without being an academic hothouse, turning out able and well-rounded children ready to embrace the next stage of life. No wonder places here are so highly prized. It is a thoroughly deserving winner of our national State Secondary School of the Decade award."*

The 28th edition of **Parent Power** identifies the 2,000 highest-achieving schools in the UK, ranked by their most recently published examination results. A fully searchable national database by school name, local authority, town and postcode, together with regional rankings are available to Times and Sunday Times subscribers at: [thesundaytimes.co.uk/parentpower](http://thesundaytimes.co.uk/parentpower).

As well as assessment of all academic results on a school-by-school basis, **Parent Power** enables parents to compare the performance of a given school with other schools in the same town, local

authority or nationally. There are also live links to school websites and schools' most recent inspection reports.

**Bennet Carr, Headmaster**, said: *“There are many wonderful schools operating in a variety of different contexts, so I am obviously delighted that our work has been acknowledged in this way. I am delighted further by the fact that the award recognises not only our outstanding academic credentials at both GCSE and A Level, but our sustained commitment to pursuing the highest levels of achievement across all areas of School life. It is this exceptional wealth of educational opportunities which makes K.E.S. such a special place.*

*I am exceptionally proud of our students and the enthusiasm and commitment they demonstrate on a daily basis, and of the thoughtful and well-rounded young adults they become. They would be the first to acknowledge that our position as one of the leading state schools equally reflects an extraordinary amount of hard work and dedication on the part of their teachers and support staff.*

*I feel fortunate to have the privilege of leading this wonderful school and I am grateful to the parents for believing in our vision of education, and to the Governors and Trustees for their unstinting support. Just when I thought I could not be more proud of the School, I find that I am. Having said this, a key feature of all outstanding schools is that they do not stand still - so we won't be resting on our laurels!”*

**Victor Matts, Chairman of Governors**, said: *“This award appropriately reflects the tremendous commitment of the Headmaster, staff, students and parents. K.E.S. is an environment where everyone can succeed because it offers a truly holistic education.*

*“In the words of a former pupil ‘O this learning what a thing it is!*

*“The School feels a profound sense of, and duty to, its own history and the community, and all involved appreciate the importance of both preserving and building on it”.*

IF USING THIS INFORMATION, PLEASE CREDIT THE SUNDAY TIMES

The Sunday Times Schools Guide, Parent Power, was first published in 1993. The guide to the top 2,000 schools in Britain is published over two weekends: primary and prep schools on November 22, followed by state and independent secondary schools on November 29. As well as print sections, there is a fully-searchable online database – [www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/parentpower](http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/parentpower) – allowing users to search schools by postcode, town, local authority and school name. All schools are ranked by the latest available public examination data.

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For further information please contact:  
Suzie Vogiaridis  
T: 01789 293351  
E: [siv@kes.net](mailto:siv@kes.net)