



Kensington Park  
SCHOOL

### **1. Why am I being asked to transfer from CIC to KPS?**

The outbreak of Covid-19 and subsequent pandemic has presented significant challenges not only to international student recruitment, but to the independent education sector as a whole. These challenges have presented an opportunity for Astrum Education to focus its resources, however, so that we can continue to offer the very best education to our pupils. In order to allow us to continue delivering exceptional teaching and outstanding university preparation, we are proposing that from September 2020, Chelsea Independent College students transfer to our sister school, Kensington Park School. Although classes will remain small, students will enjoy being part of a larger learning community, enabling better interaction and opportunity for dialogue which will, in turn, create even greater academic opportunities. This integration will also allow us to widen our existing course offering and provide an even broader range of A-level subjects.

### **2. What is KPS?**

Kensington Park School is an independent day and boarding school for students aged 11 to 18, situated in the very heart of London. While the school was founded by a group of teachers with experience leading some of the country's oldest and most traditional independent schools, for example, St Paul's School, St Paul's Girls School, and Westminster, we have a modern and dynamic approach to teaching and learning. The majority of our students are local, London families living in and around our home in Kensington, however, we also have a vibrant international cohort.

The school is split across two sites on either side of Hyde Park: the Lower School, for students aged 11 to 16, is situated at 40-40 Bark Place, while the Sixth Form is located at 59 Queen's Gate. This allows us to cater for different key stage groups, delivering expert A-level and university preparation in the Sixth Form where our students are taught by experienced A-level subject subjects. Furthermore, our beautiful boarding house, Princess Beatrice House, is within easy reach of KPS Sixth Form: just a 20-minute walk or one tube stop away.

### **3. Will the location of my A-level studies change?**

Following a review of our plans for next term and feedback from our school community, for the next academic year Kensington Park School Sixth Form will remain at its current location on 59 Queen's Gate, and the Chelsea Independent College buildings will not be in use.

Staying in our current location will ensure that all our students can now benefit from the exciting partnerships that KPS Sixth Form has been developing over the last two years. Our A-level students have the opportunity to eat lunch in the dining rooms at Imperial College University (a 5 minute walk from the school building), for example, which has been immensely popular with our students, and students also have free access to Ethos Imperial Sports Centre, just a ten minute walk away. As we enter this next chapter in the school's history, with the integration of CIC students into the wider KPS school community, we are keen that our Sixth Form students remain close to the Lower School site on Bark Place which is also within walking distance of the Sixth Form building. The Lower School features a purpose-built theatre space which our Sixth Formers can benefit from, and our older students play a key role in acting as mentors and role models for the younger KPS cohort.

Our boarding house is still within easy reach of the Sixth Form: roughly 20 minutes on foot, or one stop on the tube (Earl's Court to Gloucester Road).

KPS Lower School (ages 11 to 16) will remain in its current location at 40-44 Bark Place.

### **4. Will the name Chelsea Independent College change?**

Yes. From September 2020 current Chelsea Independent students will become part of Kensington Park School.



Kensington Park  
SCHOOL

**5. Will the One Year GCSE Programme and International Foundation Programmes continue at Kensington Park School?**

The one year GCSE programme and the International Foundation Programme will not be offered at Kensington Park School. Applicants who were signed up to these programmes have been contacted and been offered alternative programmes.

**6. Will I have the same A-level teachers?**

The start of every new academic year brings adjustments to the timetable depending on the number of students studying each A-level subject, as well as the subjects on offer. While we will do everything possible to maintain current classes and teacher allocations, there may be some changes. All of the teachers who teach A-levels are subject specialists, however, and have years of experience preparing students both for entry to top universities and exam success.

**7. Will the same A-level subjects still be offered?**

Yes. We will continue to offer the same A-level subjects as Chelsea Independent College has offered this year, and going forwards students will have access to an even greater choice and range of subjects. From September 2020, Kensington Park School will offer the following subjects at A-level:

- Accountancy
- Art
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Economics
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- French
- Further Maths
- Geography
- Government & Politics
- Graphics
- History
- IELTS/EAL
- Italian
- Mandarin
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Music
- Philosophy
- Photography
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Textiles

**8. Will my A-level exam boards change?**

Although we will do our utmost to keep current classes and exam boards the same, as we match the skills, experience, and expertise of our teachers and academics with the A-level subjects we have on



Kensington Park  
SCHOOL

offer, there may be some changes. As experienced A-level specialists, our teachers are familiar with the requirements of all the major exam boards, however, and will ensure that our students are fully supported throughout any transition.

**9. With more students, will class sizes be larger?**

No. Our small class sizes have always been a defining characteristic of our schools, and we pride ourselves on maintaining this. Although the overall student body will grow, opening up more space for interaction and dialogue and creating further academic opportunities, our teaching groups will remain small and below the average class size of other schools.

**10. Will my personal tutor change?**

While we will do everything possible to keep students with their current personal tutors, there may be some new faces in the new academic year. All of our A-level teachers are highly qualified, however, and have years of experience acting as personal tutors to students studying a broad range of A-level subjects and preparing for a variety of goals. We will ensure that you are matched with a personal tutor with interests and experience relevant to your own, and that they are well-equipped to help you to achieve your exam, university, and career aspirations. Furthermore, our Student Services Manager, Natasha Ketter, will remain with us at Kensington Park School, and will therefore be able to assist in making sure that all your information is conveyed to your tutor.

**11. Will I still receive university preparation?**

Of course. We will continue to support all our students as they make their university applications and are excited that our now combined resources will allow us to both expand and better our current provision. We will continue to run additional Oxbridge, Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine programmes, as well as practise interview and careers events, and SAT/ACT preparation for those applying to Ivy League and other US universities. A larger student body will open up even greater academic opportunities for our students, ensuring they are in the best possible position to make competitive applications to universities, both in the UK and beyond.

**12. Will the structure of the school day and timetable change?**

We plan to operate as normal from September 2020, with the same school day starting at 8.30am and finishing at 4pm. We are closely following government guidelines on safety measures relating to Covid-19, however, and may have to adapt the school day in order to balance face-to-face teaching with social distancing. We are in the process of developing a contingency plan should lockdown measures still be in place in September 2020, and will communicate this to you in the nearest time.

**13. Will there still be clubs and societies on offer after school and at lunch?**

Absolutely. Kensington Park School runs an extensive after-school co-curricular programme which will add to and augment the current provision at Chelsea Independent College. Concentrating our resources in Kensington Park School will allow us to not only develop our existing range of clubs and societies, but also introduce new ones.

**14. Will I be required to wear a uniform? Will the dress code change?**

Kensington Park School A-level pupils are not required to wear a school uniform. Students are expected to dress smartly, however. All pupils studying in Years 7 to 11 at Kensington Park School Lower School are required to wear a school uniform which must be ordered in advance. Details can be found on our website: <https://www.kps.co.uk/uniform.aspx>



Kensington Park  
SCHOOL

**15. Will you still offer accommodation in the boarding residence, Princess Beatrice House?**

Yes. From September 2020 we will continue to offer accommodation in our state-of-the-art boarding residence, Princess Beatrice House. You can view a 360 degree tour of the residence here: [https://www.kps.co.uk/Boarding\\_House\\_Tour.aspx](https://www.kps.co.uk/Boarding_House_Tour.aspx)

**16. Will my tuition and accommodation fees change?**

No. We have frozen accommodation fees for 2020/21, so these will remain the same. You will pay the KPS tuition fee which is also frozen for the academic year 2020/21. KPS tuition is £25,000 per year and pupils who are progressing from year 11 will be eligible for the lower fee of £24,500. Scholarships and hardship grants will not be affected.

**17. Who hold my deposit now and how will it be returned?**

Your deposit will be automatically carried over to KPS: you do not need to do anything. The same Terms and Conditions will continue to apply.

**18. Do I need to change my visa?**

Current students (i.e. those moving from Year 12 to Year 13) do not need to apply for a new visa and can travel back to the UK as normal in the Autumn Term. We will notify UKVI of the change of circumstances on your behalf.

New students and current offer holders will need to sign Kensington Park School acceptance documents and apply for a visa with a KPS CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies).