



Kents Hill
Junior School

23rd September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to share some exciting news for the 2026–2027 academic year: **KHJS is introducing an Academic Excellence Programme, including free 11+ tuition for our pupils!**

At KHJS, we have a simple but powerful belief: every child deserves the opportunity to achieve great things and it is our job to help them see what is possible.

During our staff INSET in September we discussed our vision for our pupils. Our vision is focussed on the people our children become, the opportunities they experience and the confidence they develop. We never want a child's background, circumstances or starting point to place a ceiling on their future.

Our Academic Excellence Programme is one way we are bringing this vision to life: opening doors, raising aspirations and helping every child discover what they are capable of.

Opening doors and removing barriers

We know that 11+ preparation can come with significant costs. We believe a child's opportunity to explore a grammar school pathway should never depend on their family's ability to pay for private tuition. That's why we are investing in free 11+ tuition for KHJS pupils, ensuring financial circumstances are not a barrier to accessing support. This will also benefit children considering secondary schools outside our immediate catchment area, where entrance assessments may be required.

This initiative is about much more than the 11+! Problem-solving, verbal and non-verbal reasoning, logical thinking and tackling unfamiliar challenges are valuable skills for all children. By embedding these into everyday learning, we can help pupils become more confident, resilient and independent thinkers.

This is why we want these opportunities to become an increasingly natural part of everyday learning at KHJS. We are not simply preparing children for one particular assessment; we are helping them develop skills, confidence and ambition that will benefit them throughout their education and beyond.

This is not about labelling children, creating pressure or turning learning into a competition. It is about opening doors, raising aspirations and ensuring that we never underestimate what our children can achieve.

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Our plan for 2026–2027

We are developing the programme in phases to build a strong foundation and create meaningful opportunities for our pupils.

AUTUMN 2026

This term, we are:

- Expanding our existing 11+ Club to include Year 4, alongside Year 5.
- Introducing an adaptive online learning platform, giving every pupil access to personalised 11+ content.
- Developing staff expertise in 11+ requirements and selective secondary school pathways.
- Recruiting specialist 11+ tutors to join us from January.
- Continuing to build a culture of ambition across the school, encouraging children to think about their futures and the opportunities available to them.

The online platform will tailor learning to each child's current level, adapting as they progress and providing instant feedback. This will help children practise key skills at their own pace, while allowing teachers to identify where further support or challenge may be beneficial. **Every pupil will have access, whether or not they are considering the 11+.**

SPRING 2027 - Launching Free Tuition

From Spring 2027, we plan to launch our free tutoring programme, starting with Year 4.

Specialist tutors will provide one-to-one and small-group tuition, focusing on key areas of learning, helping children strengthen their skills and build confidence. Sessions are planned both during the school day and after school.

BEYOND SUMMER 2027

We have many ideas on how we would like to grow this offer for our families further through either free or heavily subsidised provision of summer school, parent workshops and more. Further details will be shared as plans progress.

Our Academic Excellence Programme sits alongside everything that makes KHJS special. We want our children to enjoy a broad, exciting education that nurtures curiosity, creativity, independence and a genuine love of learning.





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Through our wider focus on vocabulary, oracy, debating, reasoning and independent thinking, we will create opportunities for children to embrace challenge, share their ideas and experience success.

This is all underpinned by our commitment to high expectations in a calm, happy and disruption-free learning environment, where every child feels safe, is ready to learn and is supported to flourish.

We want every child to leave KHJS believing in themselves, knowing there is no ceiling on their potential and feeling excited about the possibilities ahead.

Help us spread the word! You will begin to see us advertising our free 11+ tuition and Academic Excellence Programme more widely. We want as many children and families as possible to benefit from the opportunities we are creating and we are incredibly proud to offer this support to our pupils at no cost to our families.

We are so excited about this next chapter for KHJS. Our Academic Excellence Programme is another important step in bringing our vision to life: providing an exceptional educational experience, with high expectations in a calm, happy and purposeful learning environment, where every child feels safe, is ready to learn and is supported to flourish. We believe that when children are happy, feel secure and have the space to learn without disruption, they can truly thrive.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Parkes
Headteacher
Kents Hill Junior School

