

Elective Programme – FAQs

Whether it is Chess, Pizza Making, Rugby or being a part of the King Alfred's Academy Production, the Elective Programme provides opportunities not to be missed. King Alfred's teaching and non-teaching staff devote considerable time to running elective activities and see this as key to maximising students' development.

If you have any ideas about electives that you would like to see on offer, then please let us know and challenge us to run it! Many thanks for your support with our unique offer to students.

When Do Electives Run?

Although Electives run every day of the week, the main days when most are provided are Tuesday and Wednesday when the buses collect students at 4.30 pm. Electives sessions run from 3.30-4.20 pm. The programme runs continuously during each 'large' term.

What Choice Of Electives Are There?

Each 'large' term (ie. Autumn, Spring and Summer) offers a new set of electives. Some will continue running from the previous term but students will need to sign-up again for their choices.

How Do Students Sign Up For Electives?

During their tutor time, students will be given a list of all of the electives which are available to them. The current list is always available on the King Alfred's website and the student VLE. This allows families to discuss choices together. Once a choice has been made, it is expected that students will remain on that elective until the end of the large term. Even if the student decides early on that the activity isn't necessarily their favourite, electives rarely run for more than 12 sessions, and a bit of persistence and resilience are skills that we all need to develop!

How Is Allocation To Over-Subscribed Electives Made?

Some electives have an upper limit for safety reasons. We will do our best to ensure that students who have not previously attended the elective get a chance to do so before repeat visitors!

Is There a Charge For Electives?

Almost all electives are free. However, there are occasionally a small number of electives which require payment to specialist outside instructors. This is clearly indicated in the elective information. If you opt for such an elective, please do not send any payment until your child has confirmation that they have been allocated a place.

Is Every Elective Open To Every Student?

Broadly the answer is 'yes'. However, there are a few electives that are run with specific students in mind and your child will be invited to apply for any such electives.

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Is Doing Electives Compulsory?

Electives are optional but it is difficult to imagine a circumstance when a student wouldn't attend at least one elective a week; there is such a broad range that there will always be something to suit everyone.

Important Health and Safety Details

- If your son or daughter catches a school bus they have the opportunity to attend electives on both Tuesdays and Wednesday when buses will collect them at 4.30pm, unless of course you decide that your son or daughter will not be attending an elective and going home instead by alternative arrangements; if this is the case you will be asked to return a form confirming that your child will be travelling home using transport other than the bus every week during the Autumn term.
- Attendance at electives is compulsory once a student has signed up. The welfare of students is paramount, and it is vital that we know the whereabouts of students at all times during electives. Eg. Students may not decide that they feel unwell at 3.10pm and walk off site if they have signed up for an elective. The same rules apply as during the working day; ie. a student must report to the office and wait until the office have contacted home. We cannot support any circumstance by which a student loiters between sites, or goes into town, and then returns to catch the bus at 4.30pm as during this time we cannot account for their safety.