

# Education Brochure

Your potential, our expertise

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## Kingston Smith – one of the leading advisers of schools and the wider education sector

At Kingston Smith, we have been serving the education sector for more than 20 years. Our clients include top independent schools, academies and performing arts schools. We also look after a growing number of Oxford colleges, exam boards and professional training providers.

We believe it is our personal, friendly and dedicated service that sets Kingston Smith apart from others. We recognise that every organisation is different, with its own specific needs. We take a collaborative approach, listening and taking the time to understand your circumstances. The wide-ranging skills and experience of our education sector team allow us to tailor-make practical solutions to meet your requirements.

## Helping you meet your challenges

We understand the checks and balances needed when running centres of learning excellence. We are immersed in the sector and work proactively to ensure our clients remain sustainable and secure, now and into the future.

The current challenges – maintaining student numbers, increased competition, finding school development funding and escalating costs – mean that getting the right advice can make the difference between success and failure. Kingston Smith delivers a comprehensive range of services, specially created for schools and the wider education sector.

## Your potential, our expertise

We want to help you to reach your potential. That's why each client, irrespective of size, is allocated a dedicated team. Headed by an experienced specialist partner, the team is fully conversant with the issues you face today.

We aim to provide you with the practical and innovative solutions you need to meet your strategic objectives. Our expertise within the sector allows us to definitively assist you in your decision-making process. This might be as a sounding board on general management issues or dealing with a specific technical query. Whatever your needs, we strive to deliver a service that goes beyond your expectations.

## Specialist services to support your development

We are more than just accountants. By listening to your needs, we have built a range of specialist services, demonstrating that we go the extra mile to support your strategic development.

## Audit and accounts

Our thorough understanding of the regulatory and financial environment of schools and the education sector ensures that we carry out audits efficiently and effectively. Our expertise provides a high level of assurance to governors and other interested parties. It also enables us to identify opportunities for improving financial management and minimising operational risk.

## Tax and VAT

We guide you through the regulatory maze, identifying the most efficient way of limiting your exposure and liability. We help with VAT, PAYE and tax health checks, VAT planning for building projects and partial exemption methodologies, trading structures, dealing with HMRC visits, Gift Aid administration, PAYE advice on the treatment of benefits in kind and paying peripatetic teachers.

## Governance and business advice

Effective governance and management functions are essential to any organisation; the education sector is no exception. In an environment where schools are under constant scrutiny, accountability underpins everything you do. Internal processes and governance are continually in the spotlight.

We can help you to develop best practice in governance, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements and improving management processes to add value to your organisation. Our services include bespoke governor training, skill audits, performance benchmarking and risk management.

## HR Consultancy

Our HR team and employment consultants have a practical approach which delivers positive solutions to all aspects of personnel management. We assist with HR audits, employee and contractor benefits, employee surveys and pay benchmarking. We can also help with recruitment across a wide range of roles, including bursars, finance staff and governors.

## Impact reporting and fundraising

We are the only auditing firm to have our own fundraising and management consultancy. The team provides additional support to our clients in developing best practice in fundraising, and establishing new fundraising activities. In particular, the team helps charities improve their relationships and fundraising activities, like raising large gifts from high net worth individuals, trusts, companies and legacies.

The team has also developed impact measurement products to help schools develop their existing impact reporting and consider new approaches. Our work is based on accepted international standards and consistent with the principles of social return on investment.

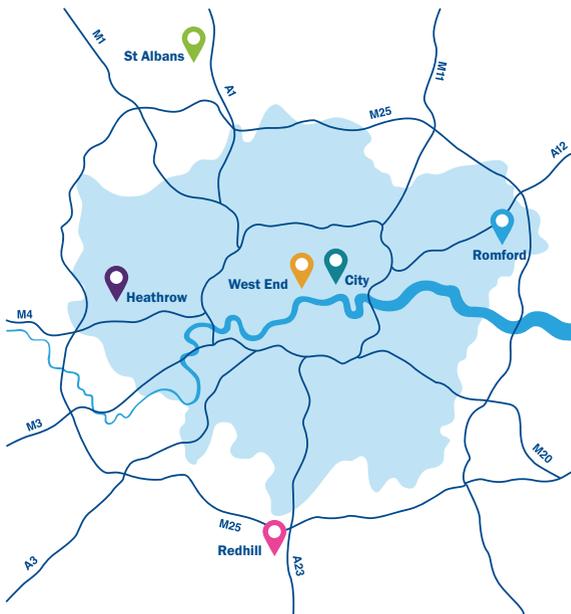
## GDPR and data security

Our GDPR consultancy, ClearComm, provides easy-to-implement solutions for schools to ensure they are fully compliant in their operation; we can train key personnel to ensure that the school remains so.

## International services through Morison KSi

As a founder member of the international accountancy association Morison KSi, we offer our clients the strength and experience of 163 accountancy firms across 84 countries to support their international work. Morison KSi is a global association of leading professional services firms, serving clients' cross-border accounting, auditing, tax and consulting needs.

# Contact Kingston Smith's education team



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