



King's College
TAUNTON

ENCOURAGE
KING'S
COURAGE

SENIOR
SCHOOL



THE PLACE TO EXCEL

Our boarding and day school is renowned for providing an outstanding education for 13-18 year olds.

So your child will thrive here at King's College during their entire school journey, from Year 9 to Year 13.

Within our family-friendly environment, we nurture well-rounded and grounded individuals with a true sense of purpose – through exceptional teaching, superb facilities and small class sizes. Not to mention personalised support and genuine pastoral care.

That's why we consistently lead the exam results tables in Somerset.

WELCOME FROM OUR HEAD

"I am immensely proud and honoured to lead a school that promotes a lifelong love of learning and provides unrivalled opportunities for pupils.

King's is an outstanding school with a rich history dating back to 1880. What sets it apart today is its vibrant and dynamic family community, inspiring pupils to fulfil their potential and make a real difference in the world.

We're fortunate in being small enough to recognise individual needs and large enough to provide a healthily competitive environment.

I hope this prospectus conveys a sense of the spirit of this wonderful school and that it convinces you to visit us soon.

I look forward to meeting you."



Michael Sloan
Headmaster





INSPIRED TO LEARN AND THINK DEEPLY

Our excellent teaching goes above and beyond the prescribed syllabus.

This allows our talented teachers the freedom to share their passion for individual subjects during every lesson.

Because we go further than just achieving impressive exam results, your child will be encouraged to read widely, ask searching questions and fully explore their learning.

By being challenged, stretched and enthralled by their studies, they'll work and think independently – developing all the soft skills needed for future success.

A BROAD RANGE OF SUBJECTS TO ENJOY...

At GCSE level, pupils take core subjects (maths, English and three sciences) to which they add a further three or four subjects of their own choice, usually including at least one modern foreign language.

In Sixth Form, students choose from over 20 A-level subjects and two BTEC programmes. This is augmented by the EPQ and other enrichment opportunities.



Art
Biology
Business Studies (A-level &BTEC)
Chemistry
Computer Science
Dance (GCSE only)
Design Technology
Economics (A-level only)
English (GCSE only)
English Literature
Geography
History
Latin
Maths
Modern Languages (French, German, Spanish)
Music
Music Technology (A-level only)
Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education
Philosophy of Religion and Ethics
Photography
Physical Education
Physics
Sport (BTEC)



INSPIRING PUPILS IN THE CLASSROOM AND BEYOND...

From Year 9 to Year 13, your child will benefit from exceptional teaching here at King's. Our highly qualified specialists are all eager to inspire pupils with a love of their subject throughout each lesson.

Our blend of experienced practitioners and those newer to the profession create a vibrant educational community, collaborating and learning together to develop their pedagogical skills. Teaching and learning also has a dedicated member of the Senior Management Team overseeing it. This ensures we remain at the forefront of educational best practice, developing core skills required for life after school, including evaluative and analytical skills, collaborative and presentation skills, and utilising technology to enhance their learning experience.

All of our teachers go above and beyond the syllabus, inspiring pupils to develop a well-rounded appreciation for their subjects. This learning is augmented by academic enrichment and support, including study skills, academic societies, subject clinics, extended projects, national competitions and revision sessions.

In addition, we tailor academic tracking to individual pupil needs, enabling stretch, challenge or intervention as necessary. This is underpinned by our regular reporting of progress back to parents.

Every year we have pupils who gain nationally recognised awards, including the Senior Maths Challenge, Science Olympiads, essay-writing competitions in English, history and geography, and the Arkwright Scholarship for Design Technology.

The main outcome of our specialist teaching and learning support is outstanding GCSE results where King's pupils over-achieve in relation to their innate ability. This is followed by equally impressive A-level and BTEC results which ensure most pupils (80% in 2024) access their first choice university (half of which are Russell Group universities).

As you would expect, our pupils thrive at university. Their secure academic skills and broader life experience enable them to make the most of the opportunities afforded at degree level.

Above all, we add remarkable value to your child's educational journey, from Year 9 through to Year 13.





YOUR CHILD IS IN SAFE HANDS HERE...

As a Woodard School, pastoral care is at the heart of everything we do.

At Kings College, we pride ourselves in instilling in our pupils a culture of 'kindness'. The School upholds the belief that pupils will succeed academically, socially and in all spheres of life if they are happy, possess good self-esteem and are able to show consideration to others, be they fellow pupils, staff or other adults.

So, we prioritise the well-being of our pupils and strongly believe that happiness is the key to success in all areas of school life.

We ensure that every one of our pupils is known and valued as an individual, closely and effectively supported by our professional team. In fact, our ISI Inspections consistently award us the highest accolades possible for our level of pastoral care.

Your child will have their own personal tutor to support them throughout their entire school life, not just their academic studies.

These tutors are hugely experienced and thoroughly adept at ensuring each pupil is happy, thriving and growing as an individual.

At King's, all staff are responsible for maintaining our excellent pastoral care, backed by dedicated pastoral staff to support pupils as well as parents:

- One of our two Deputy Heads is specifically responsible for all elements of pastoral care.
- Houseparents and the boarding team, have regular pastoral meetings together, as well as safeguarding training, to keep a close eye on the social and personal development of all pupils.
- Our School Chaplain supports our pupils in their spirituality and is available for advice and counselling.
- A School Counsellor is available for pupils who want help working through any issues.

Our School Nurse also assists all pupils in all aspects of school life.



FULL SUPPORT AND EXPERT GUIDANCE

There are no barriers to achievement here at King's College.

That's why any pupil, regardless of learning needs (such as dyslexia, dyspraxia and language processing) and disabilities, will benefit from our individually tailored learning programmes and specialist teaching. This applies equally to EAL (English as an Additional Language) pupils.

Our Learning Strategies (LS) department, situated at the centre of the school, is a lively and welcoming resource, offering support and advice for pupils, parents and staff alike.

Above all, we encourage pupils with unique learning needs to adopt good working practices and become independent learners by understanding their strengths, finding effective strategies, and boosting self-esteem and confidence.

We support pupils in all subjects across the curriculum, starting in Year 9 through to GCSE, A-level and BTEC studies, as required.



OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED: FROM KARATE TO KARAOKE...

Chess, dance, drama, music, cookery, debating, rowing, climbing, kayaking, badminton, pilates, choir, squash, horse riding, tennis, fencing, photography, big band, maths club, water polo...

Just a selection of the vast choice of co-curricular activities available for your child to try here at King's... Not to mention the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

We also host inter-house competitions including debating, music and general knowledge events, as well as running inter-school debating, public speaking and Philosothon teams. Many of our academic departments also run their own co-curricular societies.

Finally, the CCF runs a Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Army section. We're particularly proud of our service activities which encourage leadership skills. All our Year 9 participate in the Chindits; in Year 10, they choose between CCF sections. In Year 11, options range from the CCF, Community Service (working in local schools, retirement homes, charity shops or hospitals), sport leaders award (acquiring national qualifications from The FA and England Athletics), theatre technical group, and King's Sustainability Society.

All of these co-curricular activities are designed to empower your child to widen their interests and enhance their confidence.

CELEBRATING OUR SPORTING SUCCESS

You may have already heard about our remarkable reputation for sporting achievement.

After all, King's College is nationally renowned for its sporting prowess, particularly on the cricket pitch. Many of our pupils play for their counties, some for their countries. We are, indeed, a centre of sporting excellence in the South West.

But it's not all about winning. We believe in the uncomplicated, old-fashioned and honest joy of taking part. That's why sport is such an integral part of school life here.

The skills and values developed in physical education lessons are vital to overall development – so we aim to give each pupil a lifelong passion for keeping active.

Research confirms a correlation between sporting involvement and improved academic results. Most importantly, however, sport should be fun!

Sports:	
Athletics	Netball
Cross-country	Rugby
Equestrianism	Squash
Hockey	Swimming
Football	Tennis





THE ART OF CREATIVITY

You'll notice our pupils' brilliant artwork throughout the school, reflecting the high standards and adventurous approach of our art department as well as the excellence of our award-winning Design & Technology department.

Our Silvermead studio offers a large open-plan working space and mezzanine, with a computer suite for research studies and presentations. This allows pupils to work collaboratively and on large-scale projects in disciplines including drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, textiles and photography.

With the expertise, equipment and materials at King's, imagination can be turned into reality. All our teachers are practising artists and visiting professional artists add fresh perspectives.

And did you know we also boast one of the most highly acclaimed and best equipped Design & Technology departments in the UK? Pupils from the DT department consistently win Arkwright Scholarships and progress to study on a wide variety of design and engineering university courses.



THE SHOW MUST GO ON...

The drama department puts on numerous productions throughout the year, from the experimental and innovative to the huge blockbuster on an epic scale.

In fact, we try to squeeze in as many drama productions as possible, including curriculum drama, pupil-led plays and outdoor productions in our wonderful amphitheatre.

Throughout their time at Senior School, your child is invited to get involved: from acting, dancing, singing and playing in the band, to backstage costume and make-up artist work, set building and lighting.

Because creative expression and imagination are always highly valued here at King's – and we believe drama is invaluable in teaching key life skills such as confidence and conviction, teamwork, co-operation, listening, problem solving, communicating, reflection and evaluation.

Finally, drama also helps develop a sense of morality and values, and supports learning in other subjects.



FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC

We aim to enhance your child’s appreciation of music – within a variety of genres, playing a wide range of instruments, and gaining a solid grounding in musical theory. After all, music plays an integral part in all our lives.

More than a quarter of our pupils are currently taking weekly instrumental lessons, alongside 13 ensembles rehearsing in the music school each week.

Our music department has a busy schedule of rehearsals every week, leading to small-scale Octagon concerts for players of all abilities, full orchestral and choral concerts in the Chapel, and external concerts given by choirs and bands. Thanks to a well-equipped recording studio and the teaching expertise to match, several pupils have also launched careers in the music technology industry.

Chapel Choir is the flagship ensemble of the College and takes a central role in the weekly Wednesday morning eucharist. They also perform one evensong each term, either at King’s, or in churches around Somerset, and sing in concerts in the wider Taunton area.

One of the annual highlights is the Christmas Carol Service based on a traditional service of nine lessons and carols during the final week of Michaelmas term. The annual Spring Concert culminates with a performance of a major choral work by the Chapel Choir. Membership is open to all and all scholars are members of the group.

Meanwhile, past pupils from Chapel Choir have gained choral scholarships at King’s College, Cambridge, scholarships to leading conservatoires, and fame and fortune in the pop world as composers and performers.





HOME FROM HOME

Our close-knit community comprises of children from the South West, further afield in the UK and overseas – who are all fiercely loyal to King's and love living here.

That's why a palpable sense of happiness pervades the corridors of our houses, each one home to approximately 60 to 80 pupils across all five year groups.

All day pupils can board at least one night per week (a free night is part of the day fee package) and many choose to take advantage. As children move up the school, the freedom and sense of responsibility grow accordingly.

The house system is the foundation of our exceptional pastoral care. A network of support starts with the houseparents and runs through the house tutors, matrons and house prefects, to the Chaplain, medical centre sisters and the myriad of teachers.

But it's the pupils themselves who make sure everyone is happy and looked after.

As a result, there is a healthy tradition of co-operation and friendship across year groups. The school is small enough to retain our family atmosphere and keep an eye out for all, remaining true to our Christian ethos of looking after each other.

So you can be totally reassured that your child will feel welcome, valued and supported when boarding with us.



THE NEXT CHAPTER

We're proud that the vast majority of our Senior School pupils choose to progress onto our Sixth Form.

And why wouldn't they?

- Our new Sixth Form Centre is an excellent setting for studying and socialising: the creative learning rooms, dedicated silent study space and café provide a versatile space that prepares young people for the freedom and independence of university.
- Our teachers are dynamic and inspirational, fostering a love of learning that relates to the world around us. Students are given greater autonomy within the classroom and challenged to take ownership of lesson content; while managing their free time.

- Outside the classroom, Sixth Formers acquire invaluable life skills, including the responsibility of leading younger students - from being part of the Prefects Team to offering academic or sports coaching, or playing a key role in musical ensembles and drama productions.
- Our Futures Programme provides personalised, one-to-one guidance: from applying to Oxbridge and specific career courses to studying abroad and interesting work experience opportunities.
- Our Sixth Formers consistently achieve the best A-level results in Somerset.



At King's Sixth Form, we treat all students as the individuals they are.

By studying subjects of their choice for the first time and in greater depth, and following their own lines of thought while working closely with outstanding teachers and enthusiastic peers, the academic results achieved by our Sixth Formers speak for themselves.

We also believe in nurturing well-rounded individuals with a sense of purpose – and enjoyment. So the bonds formed here at King's will never be broken.

Above all, young people leave us feeling confident and enthusiastic about their future.

For more information on our Sixth Form, please scan the QR code >



JOINING US

To learn more about how to become part of the King's family, our admissions process and calendars are available on our website. Please take a look to find out more about forthcoming events, scholarship deadlines and entrance assessments.

Our selection process includes an academic assessment and is designed to identify those who have the potential to benefit from our well-rounded curriculum and make a positive contribution towards the life of the school.

Why not experience the warm and welcoming King's atmosphere for yourself?

Please get in touch to arrange a visit:
admissions@kings-taunton.co.uk
or **01823 328 204**.



We encourage.
We are courageous.
We are King's.



King's College Taunton
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