



THE KING'S SCHOOL
CHESTER

HELPING WITH FEES

EVERY OPPORTUNITY
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

Contents

Support for your child's education	3
Our supporters	4
Means-tested bursaries and assisted places	4
Entrance Scholarships	5
King's Scholar Awards	5
Music Scholarships	5
Fergal O'Mahony Music Scholarship	5
Owen Jones Scholarships	5
Sixth Form Scholarships and Awards	5
Arkwright Scholarships	6
Childcare vouchers	6
Other sources of help with school fees	6
Frequently asked questions	7

Support for your child's education

Many parents decide that investing in their child's education is a main priority for them. A recent report by think-tank the Institute of Fiscal Studies showed that private education remains a good investment, with pupils doing well academically, gaining places at the top universities and securing employment.

King's regularly sees Sixth Form leavers heading to the top UK universities in large numbers: 80% and over to the top 30 universities,* and every year a number to Oxford and Cambridge. Academically King's is a high-achieving school with some of the best results in the country. See our website for results information: www.kingschester.co.uk

Whilst we are confident that independent education and specifically The King's School provides good value, we recognise that, for most families, fees are a significant financial commitment. To this end, we have help and support in place.

At King's, there are a number of schemes to help families manage the cost of school fees:

- Means-tested full and part bursaries
- King's Scholar Awards
- Music Scholarships
- Flexible payment schemes
- Childcare vouchers accepted for the Larks & Owls Breakfast and After School Club



Our supporters

King's has been incredibly fortunate to receive donations from a wide range of supporters and other channels to help assist children financially through the school. All of these donors recognise that King's provides an excellent foundation which can transform lives and support future success.

In 1541, King Henry VIII founded The King's School for "24 poor and friendless boys". Today, King's educates girls and boys in significantly higher numbers! Since its foundation, such philanthropy has helped hundreds of children enjoy a King's education. This heritage continues today, so it is fitting that donors continue to support pupils through the bursary schemes. While the bursary support is significant, typically 7% of Senior School pupils a year, the funding is never enough to support everyone who needs financial assistance. The school is committed to growing its financial support so it can carry on the tradition of enabling pupils of all backgrounds to access an excellent education.

King's receives donations from individuals, organisations, trusts and foundations, helping to augment the monies the school provides for bursaries from its own income. Their individual reasons for supporting King's vary but the common interest is a desire to help able young people to succeed.

Our King's 100 Challenge was launched in 2016 with the vision to raise £30m by our 500th anniversary to fund 100 more bursaries or assisted places.

Means-tested full and part bursaries

The bursary funds provide financial support for new pupils joining the school at Removes (Year 7) and for Sixth Form. This year we will be spending over £500,000 supporting over 50 families with the cost of fees, many of whom would have been prevented from sending their children to King's because of financial circumstances.

We are committed to helping low and middle-income families with bursary support from 5-100%, means-tested based on net disposable income which takes into account:

- Household income
- Savings
- Benefits
- Other income streams
- Other assets
- Equity in property
- Reasonable outgoings

The bursaries are means-tested and support is awarded based upon annual household disposable income and other assets. This means that parents will be asked to contribute to fees if their disposable income is sufficient.

The decision on the allocation and awarding of bursaries is final and there is no right of appeal. Applications for bursaries are accepted on this basis.

We are always oversubscribed and allocated bursaries based on the filtering criteria:

- Academic ranking
- The family's financial need
- The criteria set by the donor of a specific bursary, e.g. limited geographical area

The application process may include a home visit and an interview. It is very important that the bursary form is completed fully and correctly, as re-assessment is not possible once the means-tested assessment is complete.

For more information see page 7 for frequently asked questions and read the full Bursary Policy here: www.kingschester.co.uk/about-us/policies



Scholarships and Awards

Entrance Scholars

Up to 20 entrance scholarships are awarded to new Removes (Year 7) based upon the results of the entry examination in Maths and English. These pupils will be awarded £50.

King's Scholars

King's Scholar awards are made during the course of the lower years of the Senior School. The awards of £250 are based on the results of examinations. These pupils will have the honour of KS after their names until they reach Sixth Form.

Music Scholarships

One of King's strengths is the quality and depth of its music. Singing, orchestras and ensembles are all outstanding, with a number of our pupils performing at national level. In order to recognise musical talent, the school provides a music scholarship each year to candidates joining King's at Removes (Year 7). This scholarship is allocated following auditions with the Director of Music and is equivalent to a year's tuition in an instrument of their choice.

The Fergal O'Mahony Music Bursary 2019



The Fergal O'Mahony Music Bursary is means-tested and worth £500. The bursary will cover tuition for the equivalent of one 30 minute lesson per week for one year. The recipient of this award will be an outstanding musician who has reached Grade 5 or above and they will be expected to commit to a playing future and contribute to the Music department. Fergal was a student at King's from 1998-2001. He went on to study at

Manchester University, The Royal Northern College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music in London. He frequently performed throughout the UK and Europe as well as in USA. He was an accomplished composer, and as a concert pianist he performed with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Manchester Camerata amongst others.

Fergal sadly died suddenly and unexpectedly in 2014 and this scholarship was funded by The Fergal O'Mahony Memorial Trust. Everyone who remembers Fergal recalls his smiling, happy and friendly personality and we are indebted to his family for their kind donation. Fergal's family would like to meet the recipient of this award and attend concerts where he/she is performing.

Owen Jones Full or Part Bursaries

King's works in partnership with Chester Municipal Charities to award **up to** two full bursaries each year (one for girls, one for boys) to new Removes (Year 7) who attend one of our partner primary schools in Blacon or Lache. Candidates are put forward by our partner primary schools and take the Entrance Exam in January. These bursaries are means-tested and awarded based on the same criteria as the King's bursaries.

Sixth Form Scholarships and Awards

There are several scholarship opportunities for Sixth Form study at King's:

- Investec Scholarship worth £1,000 – this is awarded in the autumn of a student's Fifth Year (Year 11) and is based on a competitive exam.
- McAlpine Award of £1,000 for an outstanding engineer – this is awarded during the Lower or Upper Sixth year and is based on a competitive interview.
- The Keith Oates Scholarship worth £1,000 for an outstanding Economist – this is awarded during the Lower or Upper Sixth year and is based on a competitive interview.

- Up to four King's Scholarships worth up to £1,000 for pupils joining the Sixth Form from other schools – these are awarded in the November prior to starting King's the following September. Scholarships are awarded based on interviews and predicted grades and are conditional on gaining eight grade 7-8 (A*/A) GCSEs.
- Up to five King's Scholarships worth £500 for pupils joining the Sixth Form from King's Fifth Year (Year 11) – these are awarded in the November prior to starting King's Sixth Form the following September. Students are invited to apply for scholarship interviews on the basis of GCSE performance and are conditional on gaining eight grade 7-8 (A*/A) GCSEs.



Arkwright Scholarships

King's Design and Technology Department regularly submits students for Arkwright Scholarships. Applicants normally need to be studying Design Technology, Physics or other engineering-based subjects for A Level. Successful Fifth Year (Year 11) candidates are offered payments of around £600 over two years towards tuition fees for A Levels and offered work experience and encouragement to study engineering at university.

Childcare vouchers

The successful Larks & Owls Breakfast and After School Club (available to Infant and Junior school pupils) can be funded with the help of childcare vouchers. These are accepted from a wide range of providers to pay for sessions. In addition, for children in the Infant Reception class we can accept childcare vouchers against school fees up until the term they reach the age of five.

Other sources of help with school fees

Flexible payment schemes

We recognise that families need to plan their finances carefully so we provide a number of ways to pay school fees:

- Annually – Payment by 31 August in advance of commencement of the academic year, with discount given for early payments.
- Termly Direct Debit – Payments in September, January and May in advance of the commencement of each term.
- Monthly Direct Debit – Payments each month from August through to July with each term divided into four instalments.



Frequently asked questions

1. How do I apply for a bursary?

When you submit an application to King's, simply indicate on the form that you would like to be considered for a bursary by ticking the box provided. We will then send you a Bursary Application Form prior to the entrance examination and a general information booklet. It is very important that the information on the form is correct. Once an assessment has been made, there is no possibility of a re-assessment. If you need advice or help completing the form, please contact the Finance or Admissions Office.

2. Is there a bursary deadline?

Yes, if you would like to be considered for a bursary, please submit the completed Bursary Application Form by, the absolute latest, **2 December 2019**. All supporting documentation must be included with the bursary application form. Incomplete application forms will not be considered.

3. How do you decide which pupils receive a bursary?

Each application for financial support is assessed by a panel. We take into account a family's income, expenditure, assets, equity and outgoings to determine whether a bursary or assisted place is needed to enable a child to attend King's, and if it is, how much it should be. Where the financial review indicates the family can contribute to fees, they are expected to do so.

4. How much will the bursary be worth?

It depends. The amount will be calculated through the means-tested process and will be based on an assessment of what proportion of the school fees a family can afford.

5. What are my chances of receiving a bursary?

We consider each application carefully but the reality is that we only have the financial resources to help a handful of applicants in any one year. Typically at Year 7 we have 30-40 applications and are only able to help around 4-5 families.

6. Is there a home visit to assess whether we qualify for a bursary?

Yes. In most cases, this will involve a home visit and interview.

7. My child is very bright. Does this mean they will receive a larger bursary?

No, all children have to meet our academic selection criteria before being considered for a bursary. The amount of bursary awarded is based on financial need and not academic ability. However, where total applications exceed the funding available, the bursaries are awarded to those achieving the best results in the entrance exam or application for Sixth Form.

8. Why are bursaries only available for entry into Removes (Year 7) and Sixth Form?

The demand for bursaries is greater than the financial support available, so we have to prioritise where we feel they will have the greatest impact. Currently, this is when the children enter Senior School or Sixth Form.

9. Are bursaries available for current King's pupils applying for Removes or Sixth Form?

Families of children already studying at King's are generally not entitled to apply for bursaries unless there has been a significant and permanent financial change of circumstances outside the family's control, in which case they can apply to the hardship fund (outlined in point 14). For information about applying for a bursary from a current parent, please see more detail in the Bursary Policy here: www.kingschester.co.uk/about-us/policies. Current pupils must sit the external exam.

10. How long does the bursary or assisted place last for?

The financial support may continue for the length of time the child attends King's, but is subject to annual review to ensure that the funding continues to help those in greatest need. As with all pupils, those in receipt of bursaries are expected to maintain a high standard of work and behaviour. Bursaries can be reviewed in cases of poor performance. Any change in financial circumstances must be communicated to the school.

11. Should I apply to other schools too?

We would advise any family applying for a bursary to apply to more than one school and have an alternative plan should you not receive a bursary award.

12. What is the difference between a scholarship and a bursary?

The terms scholarship and bursary are often used interchangeably but at King's a scholarship may be given to recognise academic achievement and is not means-tested. All scholarships at King's are one-off, relatively small awards. A bursary refers to means-tested financial support and can be a substantial amount equivalent to 100% of the fees.

13. Who else might be able to help with the cost of school fees?

There are a number of trusts and foundations that provide some limited support for children attending independent schools. The internet is the best way of finding out what is available.

14. What happens if we get into financial difficulties whilst at the school?

Please get in touch with the Fees Officer as soon as possible who will discuss with you the best course of action. Short-term plans and in some circumstances support may be available from the hardship fund. The purpose of the hardship fund, which is limited in amount, is to allow pupils to continue their studies despite such difficulties at critical times, particularly during key examination years. The hardship fund generally provides support for up to one year, which should enable families to make appropriate future plans.

15. What are the long-term objectives of financial support?

The impact of receiving financial support continues long after leaving King's and influences many aspects of pupils' lives. We want to attract pupils who would like to be part of King's because of the opportunities we offer, irrespective of their financial circumstances.

Further information

If you would like more information about joining The King's School or wish to apply for a bursary, please contact the Admissions Manager on:

Telephone: **01244 689553**

Email: admissions@kingschester.co.uk

For guidance on the bursary process, please visit the Bursaries section on our website under the Admissions and Fees tab at: www.kingschester.co.uk

If you have specific questions about fees and financial support, please contact the Fees Officer:

Telephone: **01244 689539**

Email: fees@kingschester.co.uk

The King's School, Wrexham Road, Chester CH4 7QL
www.kingschester.co.uk

This information is correct at the time of printing: October 2019 and may be amended after this time.
For the latest information, please contact the Admissions Manager.

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