

THE KING'S SCHOOL  

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CHESTER

EVERY OPPORTUNITY  
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES



## **Every opportunity. Endless possibilities...**

The time your child spends at King's will affect their life forever, with a broad and vibrant spectrum of experiences and opportunities. Our girls and boys gain skills and knowledge that will last a lifetime, helping them become well-developed, confident and responsible individuals. At King's, we strive to raise their expectations, helping them to discover more about themselves and their abilities, in preparation for the challenges ahead. Along the way, they'll have fun and make new friends, but also come to appreciate the rewards of hard work and application. Wherever their journey takes them in life, we'd like to think they'll always carry the spirit of King's...

# A tradition of excellence

The King's School has been creating opportunities for its pupils since 1541. We were founded by King Henry VIII following the dissolution of St Werburgh's Abbey, which became Chester Cathedral. For most of the following 400 years, we were housed in the former Monastic Refectory, but in 1876, we moved into new school buildings adjoining the Cathedral.

Fast forward to the early 1950s, and land was secured for the current 33 acre site on Wrexham Road. In 1960, the school moved in. The boys were first joined by the girls in 1998 and by 2003, King's had fully embraced co-education.

We continue to develop, with many new initiatives and facilities, but we also celebrate our past. Not just with a special service at the Cathedral each term, but also by maintaining a colourful tradition of excellence which spans more than 475 years.



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## Welcome to The King's School Chester

King's is a very special place, the moment you walk through the doors you can sense the warmth, purpose and energy of all the pupils and staff. This is a school which values positive relationships, opportunity and great learning above all else, thereby allowing our pupils to make the very most of themselves at a school they love.

As one of the leading co-educational day schools in the country, what we offer is quite simple; the very best academic education where pupils come first and have the freedom and confidence to grow in a caring environment. We want each and every girl and boy to achieve more than they ever thought possible whilst developing as resilient,

independently-minded and happy individuals who are eager to make their mark in society and live lives that matter.

King's is an exciting place for children to be, where they have fun learning and the opportunity to discover and develop their passions by involving themselves in a remarkably diverse programme of extra-curricular activities. We want every pupil to find their niche in terms of interests both in and out of the classroom; formative interests that will hopefully stay with them for the rest of their lives.

I hope you enjoy finding out more about this fantastic school and please don't hesitate to contact us if you want to come and see it for yourself.

George Hartley  
Headmaster



## Our vision

We hold an absolute commitment to do the very best for each of our students through great learning, opportunity and challenge, so that they gain the confidence to achieve more than they thought possible, at a school they love.

## Our values

### Aspire

- We want all our students to **aspire** to be the very best versions of themselves. This relates to both their academic achievement, where we want them to attain their 'sustainable best', and just as importantly to their personal development as unique individuals. Excellent qualifications remain important, but the nurture of attributes such as resilience, adaptability, emotional intelligence and curiosity are arguably even more significant in today's world.

### Respect

- We want our students to have **respect** for themselves and others in the school community, particularly their fellow students. We believe that allowing young people to be comfortable in their own skin, as well as respectful of difference in others with regard to diversity, are both essential. We also want our students to respect their surroundings in terms of the school itself, where they live outside school and with due regard to the global environment.

### Collaborate

- We want our students to **collaborate** effectively so that they can achieve more than they would on their own and learn how to work effectively with others. We also want them to collaborate positively as part of the broader school community and in doing so contribute to a higher purpose than simply advancing themselves. Human collaboration is only going to become more relevant in the years ahead.





## The building blocks for happy infant school days and a love for learning

Willow Lodge is self-contained, uniquely situated in the grounds of Chester's leading co-educational school, and specifically designed for teaching girls and boys aged 4-7 years.

Purpose-built for the needs of young children, it provides the latest modern facilities in an attractive eco-friendly building, with its own secure outdoor play area.

We feel that it's important for children to play and learn within an enriched environment, ensuring that they will love and thrive on the experience.



### **A love for life and learning begins at Willow Lodge**

We firmly believe happy children make happy learners! At Willow Lodge, infant girls and boys make the ideal start as they set out on the journey through the school. Playing happily indoors or outdoors, in a welcoming and safe environment, they don't even realise they are learning.

We know children perform their best when they are fully interested and engaged and, at Willow Lodge, they are gently introduced to the wonderful, exciting world of learning. Every day is a different adventure, packed full of play and participation in a huge range of activities.

From arts and crafts to drama, from dance and music to games and nature rambles in the school's forest area, as well as supervised trips and expeditions, your child's creativity and awareness of themselves and their world is gently nurtured and developed.

Day-by-day, they will discover more about their own potential and the endless possibilities that learning can open up for them.

**"He loves his teachers, he is very happy there, surrounded by a warm, friendly, caring, supportive environment. We are pleased with everything and the whole experience that you are providing."**

Infant School parent





## A safe and nurturing environment

All our activities are overseen by specialist infant teachers and teaching assistants in a safe and self-contained school environment. Each member of our staff has a love for working with young children and shaping young minds in a fun and exciting way, with the welfare, well-being and happiness of every girl and boy carefully attended to at all times.

We understand young children develop at their own pace, of course, and teaching at Willow Lodge is tailored to their individual interests, aptitudes, skills and learning styles. In small classes, with a superb range of facilities, play and practical learning are blended seamlessly to encourage each child to develop their communication, reading and number skills.

We teach a much enriched version of the National Curriculum with the flexibility to make the most of every single day. Our imaginative and innovative programme of learning is enriched by foreign languages, music and drama, state-of-the-art IT, games and P.E. These subjects all introduce new ideas and skills, taught with sensitivity to individual abilities and confidence levels.

At the heart of it all is learning through play, helping our girls and boys to pick up the social skills which will shape their lives forever.

## School days are happy days at Willow Lodge

Every parent loves to see a smile on their child's face when it's time for school: to be eagerly told what they've learnt today and what they're looking forward to tomorrow. Day-by-day, they discover more about their potential and can choose from a broad range of lunchtime clubs – to introduce them to new ideas, interests and experiences.

Willow Lodge also has access to many of the excellent facilities at King's Junior and Senior Schools, such as the swimming pool and Vanbrugh Theatre. Willow Lodge has its own parking area too; you can have complete peace of mind about your little ones' safety.

After a wonderful start to school life at Willow Lodge, your child will be ready and excited for the next challenge as they step up to our Juniors.







**"I feel that they genuinely care for my child and know her as an individual. All the staff are very approachable and welcome parents into the classroom. It is lovely that the Head also knows each child individually."**

Infant School parent







## Where the pupils are encouraged to grow into kind people, discover talents and develop a love of learning

**"I love the friends and how everyone looks after everyone."**

Sophie, 10



The Junior School pupils have a bubbling enthusiasm for learning. The school is colourful, vibrant and full of energy and fun. Excellent teaching and small classes, along with a wide range of activities and superb facilities, enable each child to develop academic and extra-curricular experience in an environment that is safe and supportive. Here, our pupils continue to discover the excitement of learning.

The Junior School is self-contained within the main school campus, featuring bright and airy classrooms, each with its own unique character. It is a hive of activity, with smiling faces everywhere and a busy buzz of excitement and enjoyment. Teachers and children work together as a team: we know that challenge and breadth of experience will enhance the learning process and help each individual child grow.



Time and time again we uncover latent talents in our boys and girls. Above all, King's Juniors is a happy and creative place to be, and the perfect stepping stone to life in the Senior School.







**"I like the variety of subjects; you can do so many."**

Junior School pupil

**"Teachers have high expectations and establish a supportive, stimulating learning atmosphere in which pupils are encouraged to embark on new challenges with the expectation that this will be fun and they can succeed."**

Latest ISI inspection report





**"Everyone thinks lessons are fun.  
The teachers always make you try to  
work your hardest, but in a fun way."**

Junior School pupil



In a word, what is life at King's Junior School like? Here's what some of our boys and girls had to say...

...amazing  
friendly  
extreme  
Fantastic

Our 'buddies' system begins before a child even joins the school, with an older pupil contacting them and arranging to greet them and guide them through life at King's Juniors. This system, which later in their time at King's becomes peer mentoring, comes from an ethos of caring and sharing. It helps even the most reserved of children build friendships, feel safe and secure, and understand that we can all learn from each other.

Living and working together by these principles makes King's Juniors a richly rewarding experience. Boys and girls throw themselves energetically into a huge range of subjects, sports and activities – these are not rivals for time, but part of a whole. Each child is encouraged to try new things, to play and study as individuals and as teams. All the while, their academic and social skills are being stretched and refined in preparation for Senior School. Support and advice are always

close at hand, as our pupils learn to discuss and debate with each other and with adults, confidently and constructively, in and out of the classroom, and in their clubs, societies and sports teams.

**"At King's everyone  
can be their own  
person."**

Junior School pupil

At King's Juniors, our pupils begin to blossom under a caring eye, growing in personality and performance as part of a thoroughly happy community of learning. They recognise each others' individual strengths and talents and truly celebrate stories of success with their classmates.

**"Teachers encourage pupils to  
be enthusiastic and excited  
by their learning."**

Latest ISI inspection report



**"I've met lots of great people and learned to interact intelligently and positively with them. They've helped me develop my confidence and been so supportive, especially the teachers, who are always ready to encourage you and answer all your questions."**

Fourth Year pupil, Year 10

## King's Senior School is all about opening minds to a love of learning and challenge

This is a time of adventure and challenge during which pupils discover themselves and their world, growing in knowledge and self-confidence along the way. Our role is to provide them with every opportunity to find out what they like and want to do in life and to encourage their curiosity. Our pupils respond: they revel in learning.

Our focus is on scholarship and academic excellence, as it has been at King's for centuries. But we keenly embrace new ideas and new technologies, wherever they enhance the established learning process and give our pupils an extra, winning edge. Our Enrichment Programme, for instance, introduces a wide range of often unusual options to complement the core academic subjects. You'll see the latest IT in action all around the school.



Though we've been around for over 475 years, King's Senior School never stands still. It is an exciting, energising and empowering community of learning.







**“We give our pupils a vast range of options to explore. So many that they can’t help but find those that they like and are good at!”**

Deputy Head, Academic



**"By the time they have finished the Sixth Form, pupils have matured into confident, well-informed and socially aware individuals, well prepared for the challenge of adult life."**

Latest school inspection report



**"Well-rounded, independent young people, who respected the views of others, were quick to celebrate the achievements of others."**

Latest school inspection report



A broad and balanced curriculum through Years 7, 8 and 9 provides Senior School pupils with the perfect foundation for making their GCSE subject choices for Year 10. Our teaching is lively and challenging, and learning is active. This is seen when teachers and pupils discuss and debate their interests in and out of the classroom, when pupils write blogs and magazines, in competitions, projects and independent research.

Questioning and thinking are very much part of life at King's, stimulating and stretching minds, and creating the good habits essential for success in later life.

King's Seniors happily take on tasks and responsibilities, from mentoring younger pupils to setting up and running many of the clubs and activities on offer during and after the school day. Their actions and commitment are applauded too, in a community that's both appreciative and encouraging. Personal and team achievement go hand-in-hand, along with a sense of service that sets our students apart.

The school provides an exceptional range of facilities, from the latest technology to first class sports and arts amenities. But perhaps the most important ingredient in the success of our students is that intangible human element, which helps to transform a young 11 year old to a confident 16 year old, ready and able to step up to the challenge of A Levels and beyond.



## Sixth Form at King's provides the ideal preparation for life beyond school

Along with their studies, which are of the highest standard, as can be seen from exam results and consistently high entry numbers to the top universities, King's Sixth Formers develop their skills for life, their spirit of independence, and their sense of community. To help bridge the gap between being a pupil and becoming a university student, every Sixth Former is encouraged to take on responsibilities inside and outside the school and within the House they are part of; from becoming prefects to using their time and talents to support local initiatives through our Enrichment Programme. They are likely, after all, to become future leaders in industry,

business, politics, the arts or whatever their chosen path may be. Sixth Form at King's represents an important step along the way.

Our spacious and self-contained Sixth Form provides a lively yet focused environment for learning. Along with the academic areas for work, a lecture theatre, library and IT facilities, there are social spaces and quiet places for relaxation and a common room with a café.

Being on the same campus as the Senior, Infant and Junior Schools brings great advantages over a separate college environment. Not simply because of access to additional sports and arts facilities, but also because King's is a community of learning, where every pupil

is personally cared for and guided through each stage of their development. Many students from other schools choose to join us at Sixth Form level, for this very reason.



**"King's Sixth Formers are encouraged to develop a sense of community, responsibility and leadership, helping them get organised for their future, beyond school and university. We care about the individual and want to enable them to achieve whatever they want to do in life."**

Head of Sixth Form



**"The staff help you look beyond the bare necessities of a qualification, encouraging you to gain that extra insight and knowledge that can make all the difference when you are applying for a much sought-after place at a top university."**

Lower Sixth Form student, Year 12



**“The support given to you in the Sixth Form is incredible. The teachers go out of their way to provide advice and help when you need it, face-to-face or by email, even at the weekends.”**

Lower Sixth Form student, Year 12

Every Sixth Form teacher at King's is a highly trained and experienced professional who knows their subject inside out, leading lessons which often take the form of small discussion groups and university-style tutorials. The emphasis is on self-motivated and self-disciplined study, personal research and fieldwork, under a gentle guiding hand, with help always available to answer any academic, or personal, needs. A Level study is challenging, and King's offers outstanding pastoral care as well as scholarly excellence. Sports and social activities play a key role too, in a busy and balanced Sixth Form programme.

Our focus is very much on the individual as a person and a pupil. From the first days of Lower Sixth, we encourage them to think about what they want to achieve in higher education and beyond, so they can plan the best way to fulfil their aims. As they strive to get there, we support them every step of the way, encouraging, challenging and helping them to develop the personal strengths and learning skills which will set them up for their journey through life.







**"I think it's great that you can set your own society or club up, and get support from the school and teachers when you need it."**

Lower Sixth Form student



## The pursuit of academic excellence inspires everything we do

**"Our aim is to engender a passion for academic enquiry, learning and knowledge which doesn't just stay in the classroom, but which lasts a lifetime."**

Head of History

The pursuit of academic excellence inspires everything we do at King's. It is the keystone of a proud and long established reputation for high achievement, with an impressive number of pupils progressing on to the very best universities, year after year.

We believe that academic excellence must always be based on the principles of disciplined work habits and that these qualities come from a passion for, and pleasure in, learning.

This philosophy has helped us develop the challenging and creative curriculum which is so distinctively 'the King's way'. Although firmly focused on the recognised core subjects, our curriculum offers extensive opportunities for each pupil to explore and enjoy many subjects in their early years, before they make the choices which will shape their future lives. Along the way, they are encouraged and emboldened by talented and committed teachers and tutors who take the time to work with them, individually, on



**"Even at junior level, the academic focus is crystal clear. Our girls and boys work hard, but have plenty of fun doing so. We want them to be engaged and curious, taking risks and being stretched to the best of their ability."**

Head of King's Juniors



**“Our rigorous academic curriculum creates a clear route to the top universities, and to the best and most rewarding careers.”**

Deputy Head, Academic



their weaknesses and strengths. The result is not just great exam results, but well-rounded and immensely capable young people.

King's students are intellectually accomplished and confident pupils who understand the merits and rewards of studying hard, in order to achieve the excellence which will enable them to progress towards their ultimate aims.

**“The curriculum is greatly enhanced by teaching staff who are not only academically outstanding, but many of whom are also experts in their own fields. Many have a wealth of experience in higher education. This brings extra texture and quality to their teaching.”**

Head of Biology





**"You can't help but be enthusiastic when your teachers obviously love their subjects so much!"**

Shells pupil, Year 8



**"We get so much support from the teachers. They bring their subjects to life and are always ready to talk about any questions you have, or areas you're struggling to understand. When I talk to friends at other schools, I realise what a difference that makes."**

Third Year pupil, Year 9

**"Looking back at Junior and Senior School life, I can see now how well prepared I was for the academic challenges of studying for my A Levels."**

Lower Sixth Form student, Year 12







**"Pupils are guided and taught the way that suits them best, in each lesson. Everyone is stretched, not just the brightest, with staff regularly working one-to-one with them to provide support and encouragement."**

Deputy Head, Academic

Small classes, attentive personalised tuition and an industrious, enthusiastic approach to learning are the hallmarks of academic life at King's. The foundations of an exceptional education are laid from day one, and continue to be built upon throughout each pupil's time at the school. Independent thinking and self-motivation are carefully nurtured and nourished by high quality input from teachers and tutors, working in partnership with each other, and with the pupils and their parents.

The progress of our Juniors is assessed and as long as this progress and their general

behaviour is in line with expectations, they will move seamlessly up to the Senior School, without having to take the entrance exam\*. They are fully prepared for the step up in intensity of lessons which gradually increases from Removes (Year 7) to Fifth Year (Year 11). Their capacity and capability for learning grows in a stimulating, transformative environment, and studies lead to GCSEs. These qualifications enable pupils to demonstrate their ability. They are then ready and able to face, and enjoy, the academic challenges ahead in the Sixth Form, where teaching methods move towards the tutorial and group seminar model.

From Removes (Year 7) to Sixth Form, education at King's is a fascinating and fulfilling journey. For over 80% of our pupils that journey takes them regularly to the top 30 universities, with all going on to further study where the academic excellence they have developed during their time with us helps them travel onwards to further success.

King's has been rated the best performing school in the North West for university destinations.



\*This does not apply to children joining the Junior School after the start of J3.



**"I can still remember being greeted by the friendly face of my mentor on that first day at King's. When you've got an older pupil as a mentor, you've got someone you can relate to, turn to and trust. Now I'm enjoying being a mentor myself. Looking after each other is such a great part of school life."**

Lower Sixth Form student, Year 12

## Pastoral care is not separate. It's what we do, all the time

Every conversation in a corridor, every older boy and girl mentoring a younger pupil, every teacher teaching and leading a tutor group, is part of our care for pupils as individuals. The structure, with each pupil tutored in a small group and part of a House, is strong. But at the heart is the importance given to time with pupils. Discussions and pastoral support help pupils to broaden their horizons, work together and be at ease with themselves and the world.

Communication is the key, and parents and pupils alike are always able to access support and confidential advice face-to-face, by phone or by email. The first point of

contact is the pupil's tutor, with whom they are encouraged to build an open and honest relationship based on trust and respect. There are frequent opportunities for pupils to talk to their tutors; however, other members of staff, from teachers to our medical team, are always ready to listen to them as well. Parents are kept very much 'in the loop' too. Along with providing regular progress reports, we actively encourage them to communicate directly with teachers and tutors, any time they want.

We feel it's important for pupils to consider the welfare of others as much as their own needs, and this is reflected in the mentoring

scheme which runs through every year of the school. Even before a child starts as a Junior, they are contacted by an older pupil, who welcomes them and helps them adjust to school life. As they progress into Seniors, they have their own personal Sixth Form mentor. In due course, they become mentors themselves, and perhaps one of the prefects who monitor each tutor group. Pastoral care is a team effort, involving all and caring for all. Just one of the things which make King's such a joyous place to be.







**"Through our House system, we are able to carefully monitor each pupil's well-being and progress."**

**"We keep an eye on the way they work, as individuals and as part of a team, their social interaction and their behaviour, so we can address any problems, actual or potential, in a sensitive and caring partnership with them and their parents."**

Deputy Head, Pastoral

## The King's Enrichment Programme does exactly what the name suggests

It enriches and enlivens the curriculum for all of our Senior School students, broadening their experience and setting it in the wider context of the world outside school and home.

On one afternoon a fortnight, most of our Seniors explore routes outside of the traditional academic core subjects. The aim of enrichment is to nurture and develop some of the qualities which will help our young people throughout their lives and careers, free of the confines of examinations. Academic curiosity, problem solving and creative higher order thinking, for instance. Initiative and motivation. Independent learning. Self-acceptance and the courage and conviction to go out there and make a difference.

As well as broadening horizons and adding to a well-rounded education, Enrichment gives King's Seniors the extra knowledge and ability that can make all the difference to their success. In the Sixth Form, for example, University Extension classes take students considering application to Oxford and Cambridge and the like, well beyond A Level requirements, enabling them to engage with a greater level of debate and analysis. Exactly what many of the best universities are looking for.

**"You can feel the buzz of excitement on Enrichment days."**

**"The breadth of the programme offers our pupils the chance to opt for subjects and activities they wouldn't otherwise have had the opportunity to explore."**

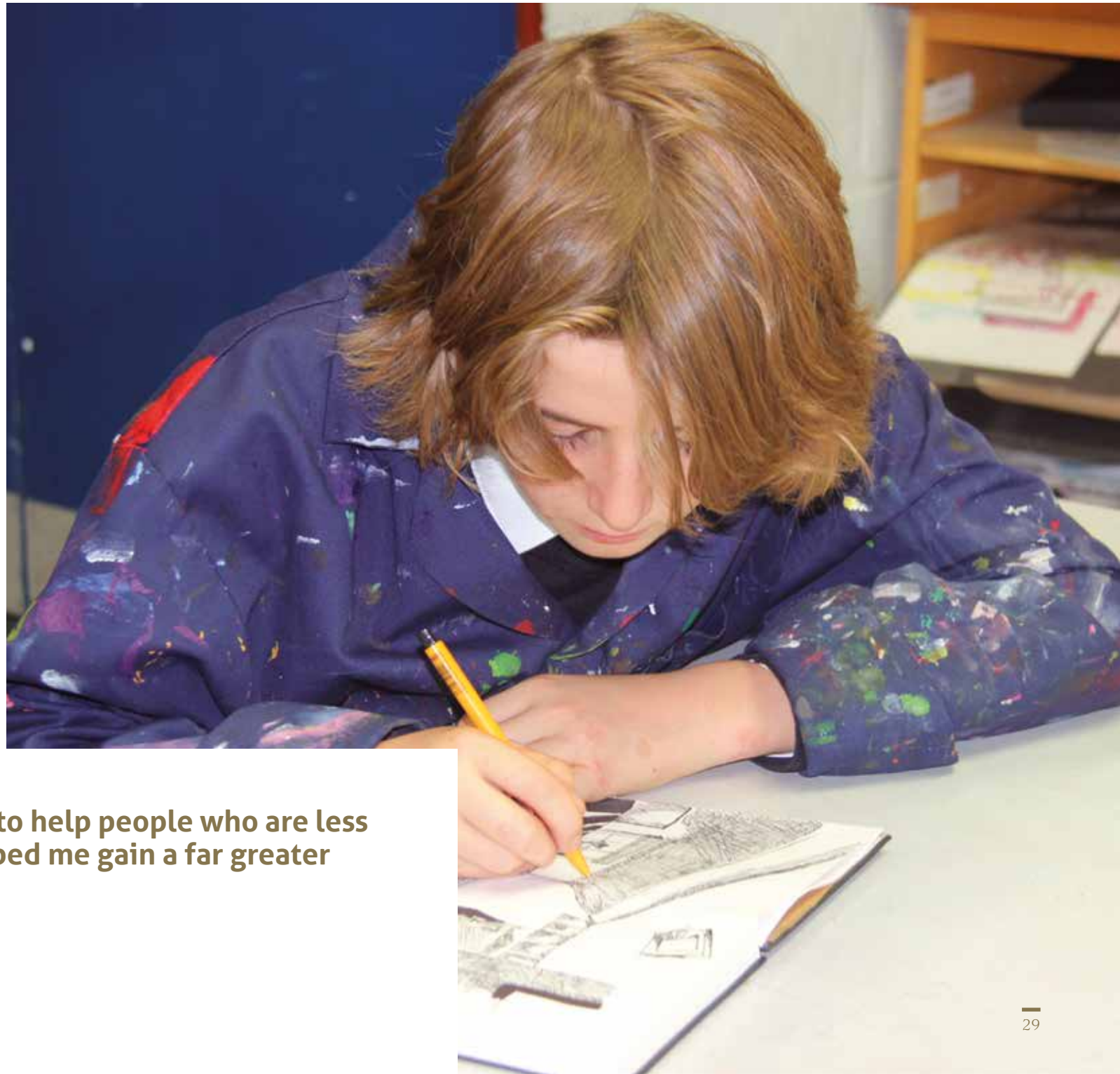
Head of Enrichment







Along with these personal qualities, the programme encourages teamwork and a spirit of community. It brings extra colour and vitality to the curriculum, it enables our students to pursue their special interests and it helps them explore and express new skills. Above all, it enriches their lives.



**“Going outside the school to help people who are less fortunate than us has helped me gain a far greater sense of responsibility.”**

Upper Sixth Form student, Year 13



**“The Drama Department at King’s strives to build confidence and creativity in every individual so that they can achieve their full potential whilst in school and beyond.”**

Director of Drama

## King’s has an outstanding reputation for the arts

King’s excels across a broad spectrum of musical genres and age groups, delivering enormously well-received and acclaimed theatrical productions and nurturing a marvellous range of talents across the fine arts, from painting to sculpture and modern multi-media.

We have produced a wealth of musical, dramatic and artistic talent through the years. The arts are woven into the very fabric of the school. Every pupil takes part, whatever their ability, from learning an instrument in our well-equipped and staffed Music School to solo or

orchestral concert performance in our splendid, modern Vanbrugh Theatre. This wonderful 300-seat venue provides our students with a professional performance environment, which is perfect preparation for the tours and concerts undertaken by our musical groups.

The drama department regularly runs theatre trips and recently took a group of students to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, as well as participating in the annual Shakespeare for Schools Festival. The Vanbrugh Theatre hosts a spectacular programme of student and professional

performances and the mix of work is always delightfully eclectic, from concerts and music master classes to Shakespeare and Beckett. Many of the productions are directed by students, and the ethos is again to give everyone who wants to be involved a role to play on stage or behind the scenes.

This all-embracing policy applies to every area of the arts. Our belief is that developing a love and talent for self-expression through the arts is very much part of the formative experience, and a gift which is to be cherished for a lifetime.

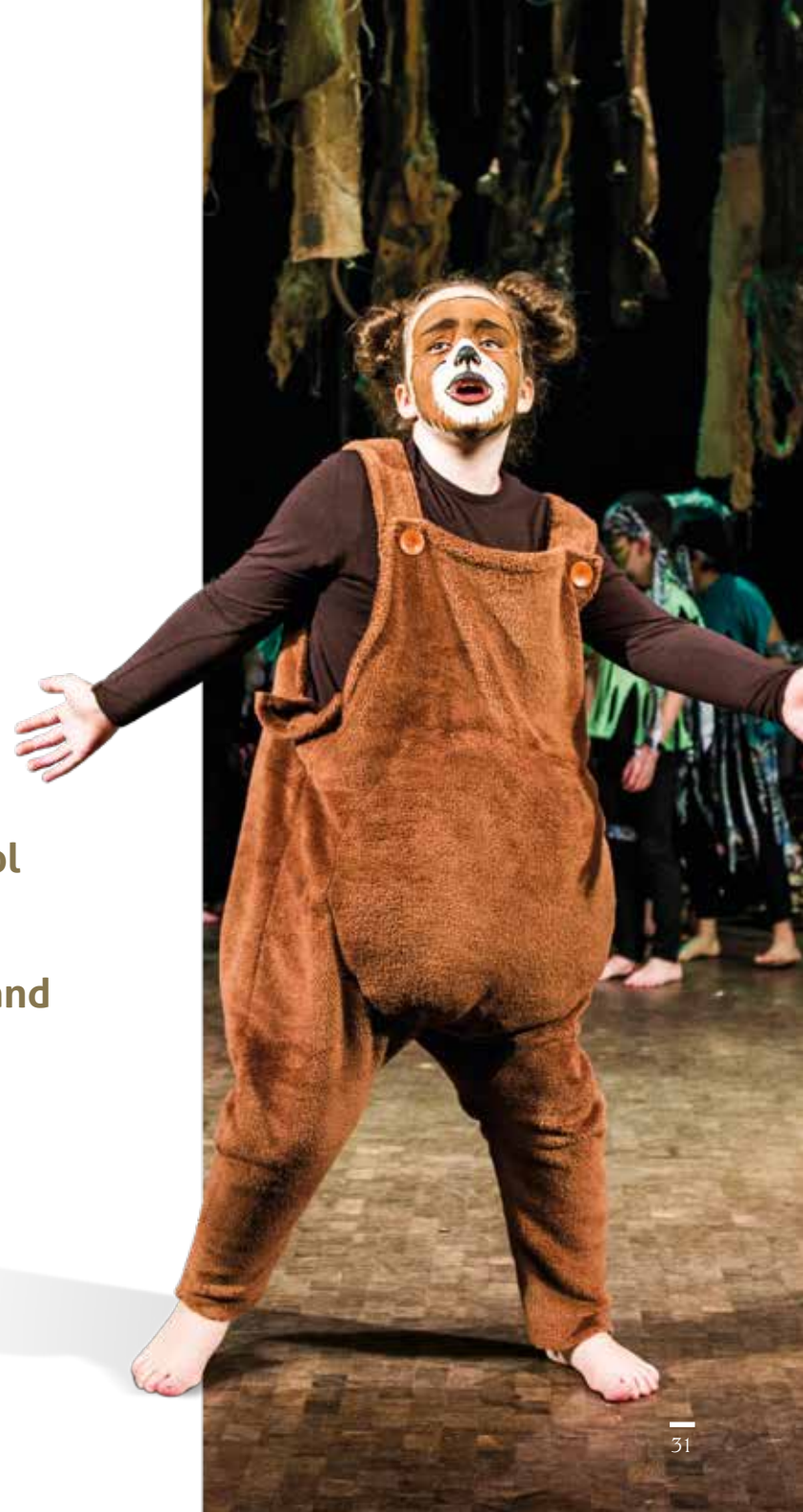






**"Music is the aural  
backcloth to school  
life; we relax to it,  
worship to it, are  
entertained by it and  
educated in it."**

Director of Music





**"You can always join in, and the teachers and coaches are really encouraging and helpful."**

Removes pupil, Year 7

## **We aim to ensure that everyone discovers a sport they can play and enjoy for life**

Everyone enjoys sports at King's. From the most senior Sixth Formers to the younger girls and boys, we all share the joys and triumphs, the trials and challenges and the simple pleasure of taking part.

Though talent and dedication are encouraged and developed, our approach is always inclusive. No one is ever turned away. All are encouraged to play, to have fun together and to respect each other whatever the level of their ability. Small group sizes allow each pupil to get one-to-one attention and the mixture of individual and team sports ensures that all pupils are able to explore a range of opportunities both within and outside of the curriculum.

Sport is for all, and the role it plays in developing individual and group skills and confidence is keenly appreciated. We believe that the team spirit and valuable lessons learned, on the fields, during P.E. and within our huge range of sporting clubs and activities, stay with them for life.







**“Look out over our wonderful playing fields on a typical Wednesday afternoon, when we play other schools. You’ll see huge numbers of King’s students of all ages taking part in football, rugby, hockey and other games in a competitive yet sporting spirit, with room in the teams for all who want to take part, whatever their skill levels.”**

Director of Sport

Our £4.5 million Sports Centre opened in April 2019 and is designed to offer an array of sporting opportunities to all pupils. The Sports Centre boast a sports hall; a multi-purpose studio for classes such as Pilates, yoga, gymnastics and aerobics; a fitness gym suite with a dedicated area for ergo rowing machines; classrooms and deli café with an outdoor viewing terrace.

The centre is also the base for the King’s Combined Cadet Force (CCF).





## At King's we believe that sport for all and excellence belong together

Every student at King's is given the opportunity to take part in a wide range of sports, and to make the most of an impressive array of facilities. Over the years, we have established a proud tradition of excellence and success, on both an individual and a team basis. From the swimming pool to the rowing boathouse, and from the fencing club to the gym and the netball courts, King's students are able to explore many sports, and discover and develop their skills. Many go on to be leaders in their fields, including Olympians in many of the recent games.

King's has particular strengths in football, hockey, netball and rowing, winning many regional and national trophies. We are involved in developing national school strategies for hockey and football, too. But whichever sport a student chooses, our highly qualified and committed sports teachers will encourage them to work hard to get better.

*Olympian and  
Double Gold  
Medallist:*  
Tom James







**“It’s not just about producing top class sportsmen and women. It’s about producing top class people who enjoy their sports.”**

Director of Sport

King’s students have every opportunity to achieve excellence and many represent county and country. But whatever level they attain, they will have lots of fun and learn lessons for life, every step of the way.



## There's something for everyone; from fencing and football to dance and poetry

There's a constant air of busy excitement in and around King's, with a huge range of activities happening at lunchtimes and after school, enthusiastically organised and embraced by pupils and teachers alike. Over 130 clubs and activities provide exciting and interesting options for each pupil to choose from in the Seniors, including a very active Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Many of our clubs have been set up by pupils, giving them an early opportunity to develop their leadership skills. They'll always have the support and guiding

hand of our staff available, of course, and each activity is discreetly overseen, but King's is a school where young people are encouraged to share their interests and show their own initiative.

Most clubs and activities are open for anyone to dip into and see if they like what's going on, and many cross age groups. Some are team based, some provide a platform for individual expression, and many lead to performances, presentations and displays which are enjoyed and applauded by the whole school.

**"Everyone joins in with the activities. I take part in Socratic Debating and Model United Nations, with a bit of netball, too!"**

Lower Sixth Form student, Year 12



All these clubs and activities add to the fun and vitality of school life, and are an important part of developing well-rounded and fulfilled young people. Not just by stimulating new interests, but also by socialising, sharing and problem solving together. From tackling a philosophical problem to getting stuck into a sporting challenge, a chess game or a craft competition, there's always plenty to get involved with at King's.

**"Whatever you can think of, there's a club for it, and you're encouraged to do it. There's never a dull moment."**

Third Year pupil, Year 9





**"Teachers stay behind after school and help with the clubs.  
They've got some of the same interests as us!"**

Junior School pupil



**"There's an amazing  
choice of clubs  
and activities, and  
it's great to share  
your interests and  
encourage others to  
join in."**

Fifth Year pupil, Year 11

**"I like the fundraising and  
charity things, like the fun  
run and playing netball in  
pyjamas!"**

Junior School pupil





## At King's, adventure and exploration extend well beyond the classroom

Our pupils are able to expand their horizons, broaden their experience and learn more about the world and themselves, with a fantastic range of trips, visits and expeditions.

From theatre land in London to the battlefields of Flanders, from the ski slopes of California to the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, King's pupils of all ages are encouraged to take part in our many out-of-school activities. These expeditions are enjoyable adventures, of course, but more importantly they make a major contribution to the all-round development of each child, and to their education.



Their leadership, mentoring and social skills come to fore outside of the usual school and home environment, and many trips make a contribution to the communities they visit and share time with.







## Learning through adventure

Where better to improve language skills than in the country where the tongue is spoken? To study bio-diversity than on location in the Galapagos Islands? Or, nearer to home, to see Shakespeare's works in the setting of the Elizabethan Globe? On their travels, near and far, King's pupils are exploring more than just new places, they are bringing their studies to life.







## King's Alumni. Some ties last a lifetime

From Bishop George Lloyd back in the 1570s and influential dramatist and baroque architect, Sir John Vanbrugh in the 1600s, through to our golden Olympians in 2012, King's has a long and distinguished line of famous Alumni.

King's pupils have found their way to success and fame, fulfilment and sometimes fortune, in almost every field of achievement! Business and commerce, stage and screen, politics and government, medicine and law, literature and art, science and engineering – King's Alumni have made their mark in them all.

We are constantly hearing from, and about, more and more King's former pupils through the work of the Alumni office. We are immensely proud of them all and celebrate their success, as we do for the thousands of old boys and girls who have gone on to contribute greatly to their communities and country. Many speak affectionately of their school days, and what a positive effect King's had on them, colouring their lives, and those of the people around them. Even more pleasingly, many return to share their stories and to inspire and encourage the next generation.

*Above from left:*

**Sir John Vanbrugh**  
Dramatist and Architect

**Thomas Brassey**  
Greatest International  
Civil Engineering Contractor

**Viscount Rowland Hill**  
Commander in Chief,  
British Army

**Matthew Hancock**  
Secretary of State for  
Health and Social Care

**Andrew Lillico**  
Economist

*From left:*

James Fair  
Tom James  
Chris Bartley  
Olivia Whitlam





**"The school helped me link hard work with success, both academically and on the field of play. This has stayed true throughout my sporting career."**

Chris Bartley, Olympic Silver Medallist



**"The intensity and uninhibited sense of belief in King's young actors is always moving and inspiring to watch."**

Ronald Pickup, Actor

**"Studying at King's was one of the best decisions I have ever made. The school's nurturing environment allowed me to make the most of my individual strengths and achieve not just academically but at World and Olympic level."**

Olivia Whitlam, Current President of Chester Association of Old King's Scholars (CAOKS)

Visitors like Martin Lewis, TV and financial celebrity, are an inspiration to our pupils and show them there are no boundaries to where they can go in life. To find out more about some of our famous Alumni and their often fascinating stories visit: [www.kingschester.co.uk](http://www.kingschester.co.uk) and click on Notable Alumni. From pioneering scientists and war heroes to an Elizabethan double-agent doctor, there are some colourful tales to tell!



**Martin Lewis**  
Money saving expert and broadcaster

## Student support services

### SEND Provision

The King's School has good provision for children with special education needs and disabilities. Although, as an Independent school, we cannot access all Local Authority Services for SEND, the school ensures staff are fully trained so that excellent and inclusive teaching can be delivered in the classroom. For children needing additional support, the Learning Support Team offers a range of group and 1:1 support lessons\*; ranging from literacy and maths to social skills. The Learning Support Team also offers study skill workshops which are available to our Senior School students, with a particular focus on exam classes.

Pupils can also access an experienced counsellor. The counsellor liaises closely with the pastoral and medical teams to provide additional therapeutic support when needed.

### Medical

King's, unusually for a day school, has its own well-appointed medical rooms, operated by a Registered General Nurse, who is supported by a Medical Room Assistant. The nurse is always available to pupils, for personal advice and support as well as addressing their specific medical needs and any bumps or injuries which might arise. With our own medical team on the school campus, we can respond quickly and efficiently and organise medical support for pupils with specific needs, in partnership with their parents.

### Larks & Owls Breakfast and After School Club\*

Infants and Juniors of all ages, and Removes from the Senior School, are welcome to enjoy a wide and varied range of activities through our fully-supervised Breakfast and After School Club: Larks & Owls Club. The club is managed by qualified playworkers and is run on a flexible basis to suit parents' needs. Art, crafts, games and lots of fun activities are on offer, together with a supervised area where boys and girls can get on with their homework and other studies or enjoy breakfast, tea or a snack.

### The Wickson Library

Enjoyment and excitement in learning is seen in the Wickson Library as much as in the classrooms. Spacious, well-stocked and busy, it gives off the buzz of a university library as well as being a place to work quietly and complete individual assignments. The Head Librarian and Archivist and her assistants help to locate material, give advice and even classes on research skills and actively encourage enthusiasm for literature with reading groups and review competitions. The library provides an on-line catalogue and interface with wider academic collections and a class-sized IT suite. The library is quite literally at the centre of the school's activity and vision.



**"It's reassuring to know that the nurse is always on hand. There can't be a child in the world who hasn't needed a plaster or bandage at some time, and another friendly face to chat to."**

Junior School parent

\*Please note: there is a small fee for these services.





**"The library is a great place to get down to some serious homework in peace and quiet, and then spend some 'me time' reading and using the IT equipment!"**

Fifth Year pupil, Year 11



## Bursaries and funding

### Admissions and Entrance Assessments

The majority of children join Willow Lodge at 4 years old, in the Reception class, or at 7 years old for J1 (Year 3), although there may be occasional places available for all years. Entrance is subject to an assessment which looks as much at their potential as their achievements.

Many children progress to the Senior School directly from the Juniors. For others wishing to join at Senior level, entry is by examination held each year in January. Children must be over 11 and under 12 years of age on 1 September following the examination.

Admission to the Sixth Form is by interview and a minimum entry requirement. Around 20 to 30 Sixth Formers join us from other schools.



### Fees

Details of fees can be found on the school website: [www.kingschester.co.uk](http://www.kingschester.co.uk)  
Please note that fees include: books, resources, examination fees, most lunchtime and after school clubs and activities (unless a charge is stated on the clubs list on the website), music groups, sports teams and drama. They do not include: essential educational trips, lunches, re-taken examination fees, uniform, team kits, private musical instrument tuition or non-compulsory trips.





## Support for your Child's Education

We are confident that an education at King's represents good value and an investment in your child's future, but we also understand that, for most families, school fees are a significant financial commitment.

In recognition of this, and to encourage opportunity for more and more talented children, we, with the invaluable help of our generous supporters and donors, have established a number of support systems to help families manage the cost of school fees:

### Means-Tested Bursaries

These funds provide financial support for new pupils joining the school at Removes (Year 7) and for Sixth Form. Our bursary scheme is means-tested, which ensures that financial support goes to those who need it most.

For more information about bursaries, visit the website admissions pages at [www.kingschester.co.uk](http://www.kingschester.co.uk) to request our Helping with Fees booklet.

### King's Entrance Scholars

Up to 20 entrance scholarships are awarded to new Removes (Year 7) based on the results of the entry examinations.

### King's Scholars

King's Scholar awards are made at the end of the Third Year (Year 9). The awards are based on the results of examinations.

### Music Scholarships

One of King's strengths is the quality and depth of our music. In recognition of musical talent, the school provides music scholarships each year to candidates joining King's at Removes (Year 7). These scholarships are allocated following auditions with the Director of Music and are equivalent to a year's tuition in an instrument of their choice.

### Sixth Form Scholarships and Awards

There are several scholarship or award opportunities for Sixth Form study at King's.

### Arkwright Scholarships

King's Design and Technology Department regularly submit students for these scholarships. Applicants normally need to be studying Design Technology, Physics or other engineering-based subjects for A Level. Successful candidates are offered work experience and encouragement to study engineering at university.

### Child Care 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.

For more information about scholarships, visit the website admissions pages at [www.kingschester.co.uk](http://www.kingschester.co.uk) to request our Helping with Fees booklet, or contact the Finance Office on: **01244 683534** or email: [bursar@kingschester.co.uk](mailto:bursar@kingschester.co.uk)

### Flexible Payment Schemes

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

### The Next Step

Why not come along and see King's for yourself? Over the page you will see details of the many opportunities we offer for you and your child to experience life at King's at every level, from Infants through to the Sixth Form.

If you'd like to know more about Admissions, please call: **01244 689553** or email: [admissions@kingschester.co.uk](mailto:admissions@kingschester.co.uk)



## Come and see us

The best way to find out more about life at King's is to come and visit us. We offer a wide range of organised opportunities to visit the school, meet the staff and some of the pupils and ask any questions you may have. But if you'd prefer to visit in private, we'll be happy to organise that for you, too.

### Infant and Junior Discovery Days

An opportunity for mums and dads considering Willow Lodge or the Junior School to bring their children along for a couple of hours to observe some lessons and join in with our pupils. Parents are invited to have a tour of our Infant and Junior Schools.

### Senior Discovery Days

A chance for children to experience what it is like during a typical day at King's Seniors with our pupils – sampling the lessons, the life and even the lunches!

### Sixth Form Evenings

These are ideal for anyone interested in joining King's Sixth Form. The Head of Sixth Form and every Head of Department is available to talk to about their subjects and answer all of your questions about studying for A Levels, and beyond, at King's. We can also arrange taster days for anyone considering King's for Sixth Form study.

### Open Days

On a King's Open Day, our doors are flung wide open, so children and parents can explore the Infant, Junior and Senior Schools and our Sixth Form Centre. There are lots of demonstrations, music, science experiments, sample lessons, sports fixtures and other fun activities to see and take part in, giving you a real flavour of life at King's.

### Open Door Afternoons

On these special afternoons, the school operates as normal, but mums, dads and children are free to pop their heads into our classrooms for an insight into what happens and what fun learning can be.

### Themed Events

Through the year, we hold a range of specialist days such as, Play in a Day, English and Art sessions. These interesting events give children with specialist interests an opportunity to experience our exceptional facilities and the teaching we provide in their chosen areas.

### Meeting the Staff and Headmaster

If you'd like to meet the Headmaster, Head of Willow Lodge and the Junior School or other members of the King's staff, we'd be happy to arrange it for you.

For the dates for all these events visit:

**[www.kingschester.co.uk](http://www.kingschester.co.uk)**

or ring the Admissions Manager on:

**01244 689553**

or email:

**[admissions@kingschester.co.uk](mailto:admissions@kingschester.co.uk)**







## How to Find Us

### By road

The King's School is located on the A483 Chester-Wrexham Road, 1 ½ miles south of the city centre and about half a mile from the A55 Chester southerly bypass.

### From M6/M56

Take M53 Chester/North Wales and continue south (it becomes the A55). Take the A483 Chester/Wrexham exit, follow signs to Chester. The school is on the right, immediately after the second roundabout.

### From A56/A51/A41 Whitchurch

Turn south onto A55 and then as above.

### From A41 Birkenhead

Follow signs through Chester to A483 Wrexham/North Wales. The school is on the left, a mile south of the city.

There is visitor parking in front of the main entrance under the clock tower.

### By bus

- Wrexham-Chester: 1
- Mold-Chester: X44/X55
- Ince/Ellesmere Port-Chester Business Park: DB8
- Nantwich/Tarporley
- Whitchurch/Malpas/Broxton/Waverton
- St Asaph/Northop

Please contact the Admissions Manager to refer you to the appropriate organiser for information on costs and to confirm the availability of seats. Early application is advised.

### By train

Chester railway station is a 10 minute taxi ride away. The Wrexham bus stops at the station.

### By air

Manchester Airport is less than 45 minutes by road. There is a direct rail service to Chester which takes about an hour.

To arrange your visit, or for more information, please call Admissions on: **01244 689553** or email: **admissions@kingschester.co.uk**

The King's School  
Wrexham Road  
Chester CH4 7QL

Willow Lodge (Infants):  
01244 689470

Junior School:  
01244 689520

Senior School and Sixth Form:  
01244 689500

[admissions@kingschester.co.uk](mailto:admissions@kingschester.co.uk)

[www.kingschester.co.uk](http://www.kingschester.co.uk)

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