KINGSTON
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
FOUNDED 1561
Welcome to Kingston Grammar School

#workwellandbehappy
Kingston Grammar School is one of the most successful co-educational schools in the country, and has a long tradition of developing individual talent and encouraging high aspirations. Our students are bright and enthusiastic; their joy in life and spirit of curiosity makes education here a real pleasure.

Inspirational teaching and a deep commitment to pastoral care mean that students grow in confidence and understanding, and individual talents and creativity are able to flourish. International GCSEs, the introduction of Mandarin into our curriculum and Extended Projects interweave with more traditional examinations to produce an exciting and vibrant academic diet, designed to challenge expectations and to engage students in a love of learning.

We make sure that our students are drawn into investigation and enquiry beyond the confines of the various examination specifications. They develop their skills and thinking in ways which give them the fullest advantage at university, and the resilience and flexibility to make the most of the opportunities that come their way.

Our co-curricular programme plays a central part in this. The opportunity to engage in an extraordinary range of trips, expeditions and activities allows students to enhance their self-awareness, skills and competence in all sorts of ways and contributes significantly to the rounded individuals they become.

For many, the world outside the formal academic curriculum will provide the key to their future lives. The book Physical Education and Sport in Independent Schools by Malcolm Tozer contains a survey of the number of sporting internationals to have come from independent schools since 2000. Kingston Grammar School is ranked equal fifth, and third for Olympians – quite an achievement for a school of our size.

You will also find a strong tradition of theatre, art and music here, with Kingstonians making their mark on the stage, in performance and in all aspects of the design world. For all our students, whatever their skill or ambition, the opportunities we provide both inside and outside the curriculum are enriching and empowering. Staff give generously of their time to support and make possible all these ventures.

Our educational partnerships across the world open up all sorts of opportunities in fostering international understanding, collaborative enquiry, leadership, exploration and adventure.

There is no substitute for coming to visit us, and I look forward to meeting you here, so you can see for yourself what makes Kingston Grammar School so very special.

Stephen Lehec
Head Master

1 M. Tozer & A. Tozer, Physical Education and Sport in Independent Schools, 2012, John Catt Educational Ltd
aspiration
integrity

32 academic subjects are offered to KGS students
Pastoral care is central to all we do. Our Ac Laetari (‘Be happy’) wellbeing programme is integrated into daily life at KGS and students are encouraged to support each other, either in the academic, pastoral or co-curricular sphere. We are rightly proud of our pastoral provision and it is widely acknowledged to be one of the best in any school in the UK.
The average number of co-curricular clubs and societies on offer at KGS.
Our co-curricular programme provides opportunities for students of all ages and interests to work as part of a team, take responsibility, face new challenges, acquire new skills — and have fun. It has been designed to add breadth and depth to the students’ own interests and experiences.
consider
compete

26 appearances by KGS alumni in the Olympic Games
Ditton Field is the home of KGS Sport. It covers 22 acres of playing fields situated on the banks of the Thames, opposite Hampton Court Palace.

A £1.2 million redevelopment was completed in 2014, and our state-of-the-art sport facilities now include 6 netball courts, 6 cricket nets, a long jump pit, 4 football pitches, 4 cricket squares, 8 tennis courts, 2 AstroTurf hockey pitches, an AstroTurf practice area, pavilions and a boathouse.

In 2018 we relaid one of our hockey pitches which means that we are now one of the few schools in the UK which has two pitches less than five years old.
independence

£1,045,000

has been invested in scholarships
and the fee assistance programme
in the academic year 2017/18
Our fee assistance scheme has grown in recent years, meaning we are now able to offer even more support to those who would benefit from what KGS has to offer.

Our alumni are actively involved in helping develop our fee assistance programme as well as making possible the capital projects we have recently undertaken and plan to execute over the next few years.
opportunity
engagement
80% of KGS leavers (on average) go on to Russell Group universities with other students joining prestigious establishments such as RADA and the Royal College of Drawing.

Over 90% of students went to their first choice university, college or career in 2018.

On average 10% of KGS students go on to study at Oxford and Cambridge and in 2018 over 12% of applicants secured medicine and veterinary medicine places.
Being a part of the Sixth Form is both a challenging and stimulating experience. We create an environment in which our students achieve superb examination results, whilst also developing their personal and leadership skills.

Students will leave KGS with the confidence and resilience to succeed and be happy in the outside world.
We hope that past students look back on their time at KGS with fondness, and see it as a pivotal point in their education where they developed the skills and personal qualities to be well-informed and independent individuals.
What type of school is Kingston Grammar School?
We are a co-educational selective independent day school for children aged 11–18.

How many students are at KGS?
We have approximately 830 students.

What is the daily routine?
Students arrive at school by 8.30am for an 8.35am registration. There are 6 lessons per day of 50 minutes each, with a 20-minute tutor period and a morning break of 25 minutes. Lunch is from 12.55pm–2.05pm, after which lessons continue until 3.50pm.

Tell me about the School’s pastoral care
Kingston Grammar School is a medium-sized school and much emphasis is placed on producing a friendly and supportive atmosphere in which boys and girls can develop their own particular talents.

All students have a Form Tutor whom they see each day, and who ensures that each child is fully settled and performing at their best. In the First Year, the Form Tutor is also assisted by two prefects, chosen for their ability to help younger students establish themselves at school. Form Tutors are supported by Heads of Year and Senior Tutors in each year group. In addition, we have a full-time school nurse who oversees the health and wellbeing of all students and the school counsellor visits twice a week to provide a confidential service to students should they need it.

When does the School open and close?
Students may come into school from 7.15am, and breakfast is available from 7.30am. All students are expected to leave the premises by 4.30pm unless they are involved in an after-school activity or working in the Library (which closes at 4.45pm). Reception closes at 4.30pm.

Are students taught in sets?
In the First Year students are put into sets for Mathematics and Modern Languages. This allows each individual to learn at a pace appropriate to their ability. The sets follow the same curriculum and progress is reviewed regularly, thus allowing set changes to be made where appropriate. At GCSE, students are taught in sets for Mathematics and Science.

How do you plan Parents’ Evenings and report cards?
We have recently made some changes in our academic reporting to ensure that the right messages are being communicated to each year group at the most appropriate time and in the most effective format. All students, from First Year through to Upper Sixth, will receive a combination of a full written report, targeted interim report and a series of grade cards. In addition, there will be one or more Parents’ Evenings for each year group, depending on the age and stage of the student. These are spread across the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms.

What careers and university advice do you offer?
We have a dedicated Director of Careers and Universities and a Careers Adviser, who help students with their university and career choices. Both are available for individual meetings with students or parents who are in need of particular guidance. There are also a number of events that are arranged starting in the First Year and progressing through to the Upper Sixth, including Fifth Year work experience, Sixth Form Higher Education Evening and dedicated UCAS and leadership days.

In particular, the School’s annual Careers Evening for students and parents from Fourth Year to Upper Sixth consists of a careers panel comprising of parents, Old Kingstonians and other professionals giving advice and information on around 40 different careers. All events are tailored to the needs of each age group.

What is the School’s homework policy?
Homework is an integral part of the learning process. It should help reinforce the work undertaken in the classroom and it should enable students to develop the skills necessary for independent study. Up to GCSE, students usually have two homeworks of between 20–40 minutes per subject each week, depending on the year group. This increases in the Sixth Form where Lower Sixth students are expected to spend a minimum of four hours per week per subject on extra study going up to six hours per week per subject in the Upper Sixth.

What is the School’s PSHE provision?
PSHE is at the heart of our pastoral provision. We work in partnership with parents to help our students develop positive relationships and deepen their understanding of the outside world. From First to Fifth Year we cover Citizenship, Sex & Relationships and The Wider World in our tutor time and timetabled lessons.

We also organise a varied programme of talks by outside speakers for students and parents on such topics as alcohol, concerns about excessive screen time exposure, and age/gender-specific sex education. This is complemented by the fortnightly Sixth Form Lecture Programme which has included lectures on safe driving, drug abuse and sexual health.

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