



# History and Politics Department

## CANDIDATE INFORMATION



## THE SCHOOL

For centuries, The King's School has been committed to academic excellence. Our first mention as an educational institution dates back to 1327, but it was in 1528 that the school was re-founded by Bishop Foxe of Winchester and, since then, has gone on to provide an exemplary education to thousands of boys – one of which was Sir Isaac Newton!

Although we are incredibly proud of our heritage, we adopt a forward-thinking approach to education. We are keen to recruit and train our colleagues in order to provide the best possible opportunities for our students during their time in school and beyond.

We believe that a student's education extends further than their academic attainment, and we work to ensure that our boys are also equipped with tools to help them navigate adulthood, as well as the qualifications they need to succeed. As a Grammar School, we endeavour to enable our students to achieve the highest grades and enter the most competitively sought-after universities, careers and professions.

## OUR AIMS

We aim to inspire intellectual curiosity, encourage a competitive spirit and develop creative thinking. We foster social responsibility and leadership skills within our students and a strong sense of community underpins everything we do. We value commitment, we celebrate success, and we offer an environment which not only leads to academic success but also to self-discovery and a sense of personal worth.

## THE POST

We look forward to welcoming a successful candidate that will fit in well with our thriving and forward-thinking department. Our teaching methods are in line with the objectives established in the Person Specification and, overall, we seek to facilitate the growth and progression of our employees as well as the children they teach.

## THE DEPARTMENT

The History and Politics Department is comprised of 3 full-time and 2 part-time teaching staff. The Department has a suite of 4 subject rooms and its own office space.

The School intake at Year 7 is 174. These students are selected via the Lincolnshire Eleven Plus entrance examination.

As an History department, we are relentless in our pursuit of academic excellence and rigour. Our KS3 History curriculum at The King's School ensures students develop a broad understanding of local, British and global history. The curriculum enables students to understand four key "big picture" narratives of British and world history. These big picture narratives are empire and migration, power and democracy, conflict and cooperation and ordinary and everyday life. Each big picture narrative is taught through rigorous enquiry questions which are underpinned by historical scholarship to frame students' understanding of the past.

By studying History through disciplinary second order concepts, students are able to explain how big changes happen within society, and the path Britain has taken to become a diverse 21<sup>st</sup> Century society. Our diverse and inclusive curriculum tells a more complete story of the past and ensures that all students leave our classrooms with a sense of identity and belonging to the country they live in, and their place in the world. They are challenged to understand different points of view and perspectives, breaking down misconceptions they have about different groups in society. Students therefore become more tolerant and respectful individuals and understand the obstacles minority groups have faced and continue to face today.

Through building up their knowledge base, students learn to think critically about sources and interpretations. Students are able to make connections between the past and current events. Through the concept of causation, students recognise that major events have a complex web of causes, and as a result no event can be viewed in isolation. As students progress through the history curriculum they will develop their competencies and increasingly use critical thinking to independently construct their own arguments.

Our KS4 programme of study builds on the powerful knowledge implemented at KS3. Students study the AQA History specification focusing on Russia 1894-1945, Conflict in Asia 1950-1975, Norman England c1066-c1100 and Health and the People c1000-modern day.

At KS5 students study the AQA A-Level specification focusing on the British Empire 1857-1967, Fascist Italy c1900-1945 and complete their NEA on the causes of the English Civil War 1558-1642.

The History curriculum extends our students' intellectual and cultural horizons, creating informed and tolerant young adults, who have the historical framework to excel in their further studies.

A Level Politics is also offered at KS5. Students study the Edexcel specification in which they focus in Year 12 on UK Politics, UK Government and political ideologies including feminism as the optional choice. In year 13 students study the Global Politics option.



## ASSESSMENT & LEARNING

The school aims to deliver outstanding lessons, inspire curiosity, and develop students' genuine interest in their subjects.

Ongoing assessment is a key element of the department's approach and the use of both formative and summative assessments on a regular basis provides vital information. Staff are able to initiate intervention strategies for areas in which classes are struggling, and individual students' progress can be easily tracked. All members of the department are expected to use 'assessment for learning' strategies to inform their lesson preparation and teaching. The department assesses all work in terms of effort and attainment in an

attempt to further stretch gifted and talented students and provide additional support to those that are struggling.

Students are assigned homework twice per fortnight in years 7-9 on a weekly basis. Years 10 and 11 are expected to complete 3-4 hours of homework each fortnight. In Years 12 and 13, this increases to 3-4 hours of homework each week. Marking is carried out quickly and accurately and is based on examination criteria where appropriate.

## DEVELOPING OUR STAFF

We aim to appoint ambitious staff and we seek to prepare them for the next stage of their career during their time at King's, no matter what that stage may be. We provide a differentiated training programme tailored to individuals' specific needs. Features of this include:

- NQT programme
- Outstanding teacher programmes
- Middle leadership development programmes
- Aspiring senior leadership development programmes
- Coaching and mentoring development

In addition to the above, we were proud to honour the recommended pay award in 2020 and we offer continuity of service in the Teachers' Pension scheme. As a school, we are involved with the Cycle to Work initiative and are members of a national Child Care Voucher scheme.

## DEVELOPING OUR SCHOOL SITE

The school site encompasses an eclectic mix of buildings dating back to 1497. We constantly strive to improve our facilities and, in doing so, expand our teachers' teaching capabilities.

This is an exciting time in the school's development, and we look forward to welcoming a successful candidate that will join us on this upwards trajectory.

**Simon Pickett**  
Head Master



## BACKGROUND & HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The King's School is a selective Grammar School for boys and was converted to Academy status in August 2011. Students at King's consistently achieve excellent examination results and an overwhelming percentage go on to further education, with most achieving their first-choice university - many of which are high in the league tables.

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King's maintains an excellent reputation both locally and nationally as a result of the high educational attainment of its students. The School is also internationally recognised for its links to Sir Isaac Newton: a former pupil who attended King's in the 1650s before he left for Trinity College, Cambridge, with whom we maintain strong links.

Our students come from local Lincolnshire Primary Schools as well as from towns and villages in the neighbouring counties of Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Rutland. The available places in Year 7 are oversubscribed every year, allowing us to cultivate a cohort of motivated and intellectually capable individuals. The School has expanded over the last fifteen years and now includes six forms of entry and, at Sixth Form level, our links with Kesteven and Grantham Girls' school allow us to offer students access to a greater range of A-Level courses.

We place a heavy emphasis on the importance of extra-curricular activities at King's. Our activities in music, both choral and instrumental, are outstanding. The School also continues to foster a long tradition of sporting excellence, enabling students to compete locally and nationally. The scale and variety of our sports and activities programme is comparable with those of the private education sector. Indeed, many of the School's fixtures and contacts, especially in rugby, water polo and cricket, are with independent schools. Two hundred of our students are currently involved in the CCF (Army and Air Sections) and the School also has strong links with the military. The extra-

curricular activities and opportunities made available for students at King's continues to grow and expand, in line with the simultaneous development and progression of our academic subjects.

The Grantham Heritage Centre has strong ties to the School as some of our buildings are Grade 1 and 2 listed. These buildings include the original School House of our most famous alumni - Lord Burghley, who served as Lord Treasurer to Elizabeth I, and Sir Isaac Newton. Whilst the main school site is at capacity, we have a twenty-three-acre sports facility only a short walk away. In recent years, over £3 million has been invested in extensive building and refurbishment, including a new three-storey teaching block; a new sixth form centre; an improved music department; a major kitchen and dining room refurbishment; a new science laboratory; a conferencing suite; a food technology classroom and, more recently, a new sports hall on the playing fields.



Further information about the School, including a full prospectus, can be found at [www.kings.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.kings.lincs.sch.uk)





## THE LOCALITY

Grantham is a pleasant, historic market town with a current population of approximately 45,000. Grantham has Growth Point status with the District Council and so there are plans to increase employment and enable the overall population to reach 60,000 over the next 15 to 20 years.

Lincolnshire is one of the safest places to live in the UK and the Grantham and South Kesteven District (with a cumulative population of around 130,000) offers good-quality and affordable housing to suit a wide range of budgets. Roads are virtually traffic-free, making work commutes less stressful. Public transport links to Grantham are exemplary, with the East Coast main railway line providing passage to King's Cross in just over an hour. The A1 passes by the town and there are good cross-country rail and road links to other major towns, such as Peterborough, Lincoln and Nottingham. A number of airports are also close by, including East Midlands, Stansted, Birmingham and Robin Hood Airport.

Culturally, Grantham retains some of the Medieval, Tudor, Georgian and Victorian splendour of its past, including an Arts Centre, Theatre and Museum. The town boasts a competitive range of excellent primary and secondary schools, with well-

regarded comprehensive schools working in collaboration with The King's School and Kesteven and Grantham Girl's School – the town's two Grammar Schools.

Grantham is a very green county, peppered with beautiful villages. With such a wealth of natural and historic beauty, healthy outdoor activity is ingrained in the culture of the community. Smaller towns, such as Stamford and Oakham, are around 30 minutes away, and the countryside to the west in the Vale of Belvoir is magnificent. The town offers an abundance of parks and has several picturesque walking routes along the River Witham. A baroque palace at nearby Harlaxton Manor hosts the UK College of an American University, and the large National Trust Property, equestrian centre and deer park of Belton House sits to the east. Although a small town, Grantham has its own hospital and a College of Further Education.

