

Physics 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 Physics department is comprised of two full-time teaching staff, 2 part-time teaching staff and a term time technician. The department has three fully equipped laboratories and two preparation rooms.

The School intake at Year 7 is 174. These students are selected via the Eleven Plus entrance examination. From Year 9 onwards all students study the separate sciences at GCSE level. GCSE group sizes are usually around 24 students.

The department presently follows the AQA GCSE Physics course which can be found on their website, course code 8463. In 2019 our students achieved an outstanding set of results with 54% of students gaining grades 7-9 and 98% grades 4-9 in GCSE Physics which continued our improvements since 2014.

Physics A-Level is a popular choice in Year 12. In the current Year 12 we have 3 groups with 60 students in total. In the current Year 13 we have 2 groups with a combined number of 31 students. The department follows the new OCR A-Level Physics A, course code H556. In 2019 we achieved 38% A*-A grades, 66% A*-B grades and 99% A*-E grades in A-level Physics. A large number of our students go on to study Physics or Engineering based subjects at university every year, which we publicise to our present students.

Most members of the department teach across Years 9 to 13, some also teach KS3 Science in Years

7 & 8. In Year 7 students are taught Science in forms; however, in Years 8 and 9 they are split into six mixed groups. In Years 10 & 11 students are taught in groups with two equal top groups and then 5 equivalent middle groups and a slightly smaller bottom group to enable more support. As a department we have agreed on a whole-class, interactive, teaching style. The student's response to this is positive and parent feedback is encouraging.

The department is committed to supporting students learning in and out of the classroom and we engage in many opportunities to enthuse and inspire our students. During 2019 we took students to the GCSE Science Live lectures and our Y12 and Y13 students to a lecture at RAF Cranwell sponsored by the Lincolnshire Engineers as well as the A level Physics Live event at Birmingham University. The department enters students for the British Physics Olympiad Competitions.

Our department is well resourced and offers students many opportunities to embellish their Physics education outside of the school grounds. Innovative teaching methods and new ideas for the future development of the course are always welcomed and encouraged.



ASSESSMENT & LEARNING

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

Every class is taught in a linear way in order to prepare for the new GCSE, therefore ongoing assessment is a key element of the department. The use of both formative and summative assessment on a regular basis provides vital information to inform intervention strategies and plot student progress. 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 to try to stretch the gifted and talented

and to monitor the less able. We give all students a PROUDER grade for every 6 hours of lesson time.

Homework is set on a weekly basis for all groups. Years 10 and 11 are expected to complete 1-2 hours of assessed homework each week. Years 12 and 13 are expected to complete 2-3 hours of assessed homework each week, with another 1-2 hours of other work/reading as well. Marking is carried out quickly and accurately and 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:

- ECT programme
- Middle 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 for teachers joining us directly from another UK educational establishment. As a school we are involved with the Cycle to Work initiative.

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.

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



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.

