



KING'S COLLEGE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
BANGKOK

A King's College School Wimbledon International School



What others say about King's College School, Wimbledon





In this leaflet, we have included details of *The Sunday Times Parent Power*, recent reviews from highly respected sources, and have quoted the latest *Good Schools Guide* entry and *Tatler Schools Guide* entry in full. In our most recent Independent Schools Inspectorate reports we were judged “excellent”, the top grade available, and 100% compliant, across all areas of the school. The inspection reports are summarised in this leaflet.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

TOP-RATED BOYS' OR CO-ED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL IN THE UK

On Sunday 25th November 2018, The Sunday Times published the 2019 issue of Parent Power. We are delighted to announce that King's has retained its place at the top of the table for boys' and co-educational independent schools in the UK.

This is the second consecutive year that King's has won this title and is testament to the dedication and excellence of our pupils, as well as the outstanding support of teachers. The definitive guide, which can be found at www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/parentpower covers the top 2,000 state and independent schools, fully searchable by postcode, town, local authority and name of school.

Ranking	School	Gender
1	King's College School, Wimbledon	Co-ed sixth form
2	Magdalen College School	Co-ed sixth form
3	Brighton College	Co-ed
4	Westminster School	Co-ed sixth form
5	St Paul's School	Boys only
6	The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School	Boys only
7	The Perse School	Co-ed
8	Sevenoaks School	Co-ed
9	Eton College	Boys only
10	Royal Grammar School, Guildford	Boys only

Boys and co-educational independent schools displayed. Data from The Sunday Times Parent Power, November 2018



RECENT COMMENTS FROM STUDENTS

"King's has served me in more ways than I could have ever imagined."

"King's is such a warm, friendly and respectful school."

"The school has shaped who I am and its teachings will continue to define me in the future."

"King's has instilled in me strength of character and intellectual curiosity."

"The students, as a reflection of their head master, are kind, thoughtful and caring."

"The tutor system is flawless and the pastoral system almost familial."

"A real sense of companionship and camaraderie between students and an absolutely brilliant host of staff who are inspiring and who have a great sense of humour."

"Teaches you how to think, not what to think."

"The best thing is the strong sense of community and pride that comes with being a part of King's."

"It is a unique and wonderful school!"

"I am so glad that I came to King's."

"King's will always be a huge part of my life and I will forever look back at my time here with the fondest memories."

RECENT COMMENTS FROM PARENTS

"The pastoral side has been very supportive and informative and it has equipped my daughter to cope well with the challenges that lie ahead."

"The academic side has been faultless."

"The way my son flourished in his five years at King's and his A level results are a real testimony of the school's ability to offer real academic opportunities to pupils from various backgrounds and different needs."

"My daughter feels incredibly fortunate to have attended the sixth form and her only regret is that she wasn't able to attend King's earlier!"

"Superb quality of education."

"An incredibly supportive community."

"Professional, pleasant, encouraging and fair."

"A vibrant and energetic community."

"An institution that prides itself on its endeavours but maintains a strong sense of humility, humour and community spirit."

"The teachers' brilliance and dedication have been inspirational."

"My son is very proud of being a part of King's."

TATLER SCHOOLS GUIDE 2018

Let's make this easy for you. If you have a clever son, send him to King's Wimbledon (and send your bright daughters for sixth form). Honestly, it's as simple as that. Yes, it's a London school, but this large, peaceful site feels a million miles from the metropolis. Yes, it hits the academic heights (a record-breaking 19 students scored the maximum 45 points in last year's IB exams, and 56 pupils secured Oxbridge places), but it couldn't be further from an exam factory: it's a friendly, inclusive, outward-looking place, with rock-solid pastoral care. While we're being so helpful, we'd suggest you go for the new 11+ entry point rather than hanging on until 13+. The first cohort of 11+ entrants arrived last year and have, says head Andrew Halls, 'proved a wonderful addition'. King's music and drama are phenomenal, and work is under way on the new music school.

The rugby 1st XV had another smashing season, beating Eton (again), but the school's real sporting strength lies in its breadth: one boy is in the U14 GB tennis squad; another competed for Team GB at the Sailing World Championships.

**“A friendly, inclusive,
outward-looking place.”**

Friday afternoons are dedicated to an endless list of co-curricular activities and work in the local community. We asked a pupil to tell us the three best things about King's: 'The passionate teachers, the incredible tutor system and the volunteering opportunities, which constantly remind us how much we have to be thankful for at a school like King's.'





King’s College School Wimbledon

*Intellectually exhilarating yet principled, this is selective education at its very best.
For those able to take advantage of what it has to offer, a real golden ticket.*

HEAD MASTER

Since 2008, Mr Andrew Halls MA (50s), previously head of Magdalen College School, Oxford, prior to which he was deputy at Trinity in Croydon and head of English at Bristol Grammar School. His father was head of a grammar school, but he himself came up through the comprehensive school route, something which has very much shaped him as an educator – ‘I’ve always been keen to reduce the dislocation between the state and the independent sector.’ Read English at Cambridge, where he achieved a double first, and went straight into teaching because he loved his subject and was (and still is) fascinated by education. Married to Veronique, a French teacher, with two grown up daughters. Interests include reading, theatre, running – and anything to do with schools. Regularly writes for the Sunday Times, and his opinions are sought by many other quality papers.

Arrived at KCS to find ‘a really lovely school’ but wanted to strengthen its position in London, feeling that it was occasionally overlooked. It is not overlooked now. It was never exactly a slouch, but parents agree that the focus on academic achievement has been extended under Mr Halls’s leadership, and with it the school’s profile - which is now stellar. Commonly bracketed in parents’ minds these days with London’s top selectives eg St Paul’s, City of London, Westminster – no mean feat for a school out in the burbs.

“Selective education at its very best.”

Parents clearly appreciate all he has done for the school – 99 per cent of them described the school as well led in a recent survey – and value the open culture he’s created, with one describing KCS ‘a very healthy institution’. There was praise for his regular appearances

on the touchline at Saturday sports fixtures and his ‘frequent, informative and carefully prepared’ communications. ‘The head is doing a great job in leading the school, and is held in very high regard by the students, mainly due to his friendly nature in mixing and in speaking to so many of them, especially at lunch times.’

ACADEMIC MATTERS

Between 2008 and 2013 this was an IB-only school, and the general consensus was that you couldn’t be taught the programme better anywhere in the UK. Results continue to be extremely impressive: in 2016 pupils averaged 41 points out of 45 and 17 candidates gained the full 45 points. A levels reintroduced in 2013, and 40 per cent of all grades achieved by that first cohort were at A*. In 2016, 76 per cent A*/A. At GCSE – which here are mostly IGCSEs – 96 per cent of grades were A*/A in 2016.

“Intellectually exhilarating yet principled.”

Curriculum is both deep and broad, allowing students to grow intellectually in every direction. English department breathed erudition, with truly inspiring quotations on display from Jane Austen, Milton and de Montaigne. Languages offered include French – compulsory until the sixth form – Spanish, Italian, German, Russian and Mandarin Chinese. At GCSE almost everyone takes further maths and triple science, the latter taught in a splendid new science block that devotes a floor to each science. Specialist sixth form lab allows for a more relaxed intellectual atmosphere, and experiments can be left in place. ‘The science department is fantastic – one of the best, a real strength!’ enthused a sixth former.



Parents praised the 'exceptional' teaching. 'One member of staff in particular has gone way beyond his duty to encourage, inspire and give confidence to our son,' reported a satisfied father. 'KCS is a wonderful school where the teachers are very dedicated to each and every pupil,' wrote another. The articulate, poised and likeable students we spoke to confirmed that the school did not encourage a results culture – 'People bounce off each other, because they ask interesting questions. The teachers encourage it as much as they can, because so much teaching here is based around discussion.' 'The teachers always go beyond the syllabus,' were typical comments. Superb facilities for just about every subject. We loved the large, modern library, with its separate areas for 'silent' and 'quiet' study – then found that it was about to be redeveloped to give students even more space.

“Articulate, poised and likeable students.”

School has an excellent SEN policy which ticks all the boxes, and the Learning Enrichment department, as it's called here, offers support to the few students with mild learning needs who make it through the school gates. But this was one area where parents did express disquiet, claiming that their children had been viewed as a problem the school wasn't interested in solving, and hadn't received the help they'd needed.* EAL support is reportedly strong. The school is in the process of appointing a new head of learning enrichment.

GAMES, OPTIONS, THE ARTS

'Amazing! There's so much to say – where do I start?' cried one sixth former, when asked about the drama. Regular productions include big musicals such as West Side Story and Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale, staged in the main theatre, and more intimate and experimental works in the drama studio. The school also has a long track record of taking productions to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The sixth form drama scholars run a club for younger students, and the annual house play festival involves around 150 pupils each year.

*The school is surprised by this comment since it receives very positive feedback regarding its LE provision. LE is a major department in the school with four dedicated staff, working closely with both junior and senior pupils and their families.

Music is outstanding but inclusive, with orchestras and ensembles to cater for every level from jazz to chamber music, and a particularly strong choral tradition. Plenty of opportunities for pianists, too – concertos, concerts, masterclasses. New music block opening soon will up the ante still further. Visual art is of a very high standard, with some gratifyingly edgy and imaginative work on display – not least the female nude that seems to be obligatory fare in these schools full of clever boys.

“Music is outstanding but inclusive.”

Sport is extremely strong, with notable successes scored not only in staples such as rugby, cricket, football, athletics, hockey and netball, but in many more niche areas - fencing, fives, badminton, rowing, sailing, to name but a few. Loads on offer, and everyone encouraged to take part. Extensive playing fields at the rear of the school and a further 20 acres three miles away, and swimming pool in what our guides described as the 'green tin can building' is being redeveloped soon. Lively and varied programme of clubs and activities: debating, creative writing, Greek, art drop in – no need for anyone to be bored.

Perhaps the jewel in the crown, however, are the Co-Curricular Fridays, which all pupils named as one of the highlights of their week. Every Friday afternoon around 350 students go to various 'stations' (the school is partnered with 27 state primary, secondary and special schools) to help out: hearing children read, teaching, generally helping out. Students can also opt to join the CCF – very popular here – or work on arts projects. The result is a school which, said one student, 'is genuinely a community-based school,' adding, 'I'm not just saying this because it sounds good – it really is.'

BACKGROUND AND ATMOSPHERE

Founded in 1829 as a junior branch of King's College London and originally housed in their basement. Moved to Wimbledon in 1897 in order to expand and compete with other London day schools that were relocating to the suburbs in quest of fresh air and playing fields. Junior school opened on the same site in 1912. Girls admitted to the sixth form in 2010, and the first year 7 cohort started at the senior school in 2016. Still retains ties with its illustrious forebear in the Strand, not least in the school colours.



Handsome Victorian red-brick building faces a secluded and tranquil part of Wimbledon Common – a lovely location for a school. The site is much bigger than at first appears, encompassing both modern and original styles in a pleasing architectural polyglot that charmingly reflects the KCS ethos of scholarship and innovation. Beautiful old Great Hall with organ and all the fittings rubs shoulders with wind turbines and solar panels, and attractive internationally-flavoured sculpture points the way to the much-loved multi-use games area. Even when full of noise and excitement, as the latter was when we visited, the school exudes civilised and cogitative calm. The fabulous sixth form centre, spacious and equipped with its own reading room and fair trade café, made us feel envious of all the confident, courteous young people relaxing therein.

PASTORAL CARE, WELL-BEING AND DISCIPLINE

At 13, all boys are allocated a house, where they're under the care of a form teacher who registers them and a tutor who acts as their 'moral guardian'. Tutor groups, consisting of 12 students of different ages, meet twice weekly. Tutor system was described as 'excellent' by a father, who added 'it gives us a ready outlet if things occur which we need to discuss confidentially.' 'The tutors really fight for you!' affirmed one student.

“Ethos of scholarship and innovation.”

The deputy head introduced an initiative called Kindness at King's, and it genuinely seems to have worked. Parents speak of 'a great sense of camaraderie among students,' commenting 'the pupils are truly nice kids', and time and again emphasised how happy their children were at the school. Pupils concur. 'One thing that's very present in the school is pastoral support,' said a sixth former, while a lower school boy exclaimed, 'Older students talk to you; you're not just a little boy on the side!' A slight feeling from the year 7s – the first such cohort to join the senior school – that they would like more interaction with the older boys, but this was qualified with 'When there's a year 8 it'll be better.'

Was it competitive, we asked? Much smiling at this, before a personable lad answered, 'There's what I would call a nice amount of competitiveness. We're all trying to push ourselves.' A sixth form girl added, 'The competition here is healthy. We arrive with the

attitude that we want to be challenged.' All the girls praised the inclusivity of the sixth form and denied the school was in any way boysy – 'It really doesn't feel like that.' One said she'd applied to KCS because 'my sister raved about it – she looked forward to every single day.'

“A great sense of camaraderie among students.”

Discipline described by head as 'quite traditional and firm'. Pupils would be expelled for drugs, theft, systematic bullying, etc, although head was unable to remember the last time he'd had to do this. Students adamant that any bullying was 'quickly eliminated with quite a lot of severity.'


PUPILS AND PARENTS

Pupils mostly from affluent backgrounds, some of them extremely so, but all of them from homes that greatly value education, and, according to head, where at least one parent has been to a very good university. 'The children are highly motivated, but they don't think cash is king, and their parents don't want them to live in a bubble.' Good ethnic diversity, and plenty of international families. Notable Old King's include Charles Dickens Jnr, Robert Graves, Alfred de Rothschild, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Buster Mottram and Roy Plomley.

ENTRANCE

Head is proud of having introduced year 7 entry point for the senior school – entirely justifiably, we think. The junior school still goes up to 13, but 44 11+ places are now available in what's known as the lower school, and at least half of these are filled by boys from state primary schools. Some 350 applied for the first intake in 2016, a figure which is likely to increase year on year. At 13+, 80 boys come up from the junior school and join the lower school cohort, together with around 35 boys from other London preps. Hardly any space for boys at 16+, but 50 girls join at that point, some from local independents such as Wimbledon High or grammars such as Tiffin or Nonsuch, some from much further away – a recent sixth form girl came from Essex on a 100 per cent bursary, and is now doing well at Harvard.





At all stages the school is looking for applicants who share the love of learning here – ‘We want students who have a willingness to enjoy what we teach, academic ability and humanity.’ A sixth former told us cheerfully and without any conscious irony that ‘the school is very good at selecting those who’ll survive – I mean, enjoy and thrive here.’

“A real golden ticket.”

EXIT

Hardly any leave at 16+ – literally one or two. At 18+, a really glittering set of destinations. For the past five years some 25 per cent to Oxbridge (57 in 2016), the rest to Imperial, Durham, Bristol, and similar. Subjects chosen include English, history, languages, mathematics, sciences, economics and engineering – not that many lawyers, interestingly, because one imagines there must be a fair few among the parents. Nine medics in 2016. Hardly any to conservatoire – KCS is a Russell Group route, and even the most musical or dramatic tend to fetch up at Oxford or Cambridge instead.

MONEY MATTERS

Not one of our cheaper schools, but up to 100 per cent bursary assistance at 11+, 13+ and 16+ for those who need it. Bursaries are rigorously means-tested, and the families visited at home. Scholarships offered at the same entry points for academic achievement, music and sport, with art and drama added for the older age groups, but these are mainly honorific and carry only a small financial value eg £1,500 reduction in the fees.

OUR VIEW

Intellectually exhilarating yet principled, this is selective education at its very best. For those able to take advantage of what it has to offer, a real golden ticket.



Senior school regulatory compliance inspection report (2017): 100% compliant

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) inspected the school in 2017 to determine whether it met eight key standards (listed below). King's successfully passed as 100% compliant in all categories. There is no further commentary in a 'compliance' inspection and each category is assumed purely as pass or fail.

1. Quality of education provided
2. Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
3. Welfare, health and safety of pupils
4. Suitability of staff, supply staff and proprietors
5. Premises of and accommodation at schools
6. Provision of information
7. Manner in which complaints are handled
8. Quality of leadership in and management of schools

Standard inspection (2012): 100% excellent

In our last standard inspection (2012), we were judged "excellent", the top grade available, in all areas. The inspection report is summarised below.

Pupils' learning, attitudes and skills:
excellent

"Pupils have an infectious, unselfconscious, intellectual curiosity."
Pupils are "highly articulate" with "an outstanding ability to address important issues in an informed and vigorous fashion."
Pupils show a "high level of creativity" and demonstrate "physical prowess over a wide range of sports."
"Attainment in public examinations is excellent and high in relation to the pupils' abilities. The dialogue between teachers and pupils is central to the school's ethos, inspiring a genuine love of learning, independent thinking and rational debate."

Curricular and extra-curricular provision: **excellent**

"The free choice of sports and the extensive creative provision allow a wide range of pupils of all ages to experience success at high levels, including nationally."
An "outstanding extra-curricular programme."
"A commitment to excellence, inclusivity and variety leads to high participation rates for pupils of all abilities."
"Exemplary links with the local community underpin an exceptional outreach programme of community service."
"Standards of drama and music are excellent."

Spiritual, moral, cultural and social:
excellent

"The pupils' outstanding spiritual awareness derives from a safe, secure and supportive learning environment, which allows them to develop a strong sense of self-worth."
"The pupils are guided by an outstanding moral compass and are reflective about individual choices and the consequences of their actions."
"Pupils show concern for each other's welfare and their strong moral, social and cultural awareness is highlighted in their commitment to and involvement in the service of others, both locally and worldwide."

Leadership, management and governance: **excellent**

"The school's aims are being fully realised, a strong testimony to exceptional leadership, as well as to excellent governance."

"Strategic vision, clear direction, strong resolve, an eye for detail and a basic care and compassion from the head master and from his senior colleagues are producing outstanding leadership which is maintaining and improving the school's realisation of its academic and pastoral aims."

"A generosity of spirit underpins the staff's total commitment to their pupils and to the school."

Pastoral care: **excellent**

The school provides "exemplary pastoral care."

"A caring, supportive ethos, based on Christian values, permeates school life, fostering a culture in which pupils rapidly gain in self-esteem and self-awareness."

"The integration of girls into the school community has been seamless."

"The quality of tutorial support is rightly acknowledged by pupils and parents as outstanding."

"This tutor system is regarded, rightly, as the bedrock upon which the school's outstanding pastoral care is built. Tutors get to know their tutees extremely well and the close relationship engendered fosters high standards of appropriate personalised care. They are extremely well supported by heads of house."

"The parent-tutor relationship underpins the school's pastoral care and ensures that a child's education and welfare is a mutually supportive enterprise."

"The generosity of the staff is a hallmark of the school, leading to an ethos of care, support and stimulus, in which pupils develop strong levels of self-awareness and self-esteem."

"Relationships are excellent."

Teaching: **excellent**

"Teaching is outstanding in fostering interest and independence."

"The pupils' needs are fully understood, and teaching regularly uses a range of strategies to engage and sustain the pupils' concentrated and often active involvement in lessons."

"The school's teaching ethos is scholarly and gentle."

"Teachers convey scholarly commitment to and enthusiasm for their subjects. High expectations and a strong sense of scholarship prevail, minds are changed, ideas cultivated, opinions shared and knowledge forms deep roots."

"Pupils value their teachers' passion - and wit. Pupils observe that teachers treat them as adults."

Links with parents: **excellent**

"An exceptionally high level of satisfaction with the education and support that their children receive."

"Most concerns are resolved quickly in what parents describe as a caring and effective manner."

Please visit www.kcs.org.uk for the full report.

AWARDS

Great for sixth form

THE WEEK INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS GUIDE 2018

London Independent Secondary School of the Year 2017/2018

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Best for the IB

THE WEEK (2016 & 2014)

Winner of the Outstanding Progress Award

EDUCATION BUSINESS AWARDS (2015)

Independent Secondary School of the Year 2014/2015

THE SUNDAY TIMES

IB School of the Year

THE SUNDAY TIMES (2012 & 2009)

Andrew Halls: Best Head of a Public School

TATLER (2011)

King's College International School Bangkok

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