

Challenge & ENRICHMENT



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*King's is proud of its academic record and committed to ensuring all pupils fulfil their potential. A key part of the School's Strategic Development Plan is challenging our most able pupils in all aspects of the curriculum, and we recently launched our **SPACE** programme: **Stretching Pupils through Academic Challenge and Enrichment**.*



Take Off

Aiming high and being academically ambitious from the get-go is key to establishing a learning culture soaked in question, challenge and discovery. In the **Infant & Junior Division**, we offer an exciting programme providing opportunities for our younger pupils.

Pupil progress is carefully monitored and exceptionally able pupils are highlighted across all curriculum areas. Infant and Junior Heads of Department ensure tasks are set to enhance and stretch talents, nurturing an inquisitive approach and a culture of self-study and practice from a young age. Specific opportunities

are provided to extend learning in and from the classroom, with specific clubs running at lunchtime, local and national competitions and experiences outside school with other schools via the North West Junior Gifted and Talented Programme. Inclusive to all pupils in the Division is a dedicated programme of special enrichment teaching weeks, competitions, speakers, trips and projects – all designed to ignite ambitious learning and endeavour.

The **Learning Challenge Curriculum**, which runs in all year groups, encourages a question-based approach to learning, incentivising



pupils to find out more and be tenacious in their study of particular subjects.

The Infant & Junior Division provides a wonderful platform for pupils to develop a thirst and energy to ask, imagine, question and find out. This culture promotes a strong ethos of limitless learning for our younger learners, helping them brilliantly to take their next steps with confidence as they move to the Senior Division.

Entering SPACE

The SPACE programme in the **Seniors and Sixth Form** works on a number of levels. At the first level, we want to ensure that pupils are challenged and

stretched academically in those subjects where they are particularly able. Some students may be gifted in one specific area, and it is important that they are given the opportunity to develop their talents and their passions in that field.

We have a broad range of Challenge and Enrichment activities, which are co-ordinated by our Head of Challenge & Enrichment and our Deputy Head (Academic). It is a programme of activities, both inside and outside the classroom, to really stretch the most able. Every single lesson contains a degree of extension, which can take the format of tasks of increasing difficulty, opportunities for higher

order thinking such as evaluation, and leadership roles within the classroom.

Within the classroom

We want to ensure all our pupils enjoy a classroom experience where their curiosity is sparked, and they are enthused to want to know more.

All departments and subjects contribute to the school-wide enrichment provision. Staff plan and deliver lessons which ensure that all pupils are intellectually challenged.

Most lessons are enquiry-based, with problems and questions that are open-ended so that more able pupils can be encouraged to push their learning even further and go well beyond the normal confines of a subject.

Questioning is used to encourage pupils to apply their knowledge to new areas or to think deeply and broadly about a given subject.

Our teaching styles are varied and highly engaging and lessons may take the form of debates, workshops, guest speakers and visits beyond the classroom, so that pupils take an active role in their learning and take it well beyond the basic curriculum.

Each subject has its own coordinator whose role is to ensure that particularly talented students are being challenged in their subject area. Challenge tasks are set by the teacher to be completed in the lesson or in homework and pupils may also attend lunchtime clubs that allow scope for going beyond any curriculum and exploring their passions and talents.

Where this is the case, we closely monitor their attainment to ensure that they are reaching their high potential. Our staff will have high expectations of these pupils in all their class work, homework and assessments.

Enrichment outside the classroom

Many of the academic clubs and societies that take place at lunchtime and after school allow pupils to develop their talents and interests. These include Debating Society, Electronics



Club, Chemistry Club, Chess Club, French Film Society, STEM Club, Coding Club, etc.

Most departments participate in competitions, either organised by King's or hosted by industry partners or fellow schools to give pupils the opportunity to compete on a larger stage. Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology Olympiads are held, but lesser-known competitions include the Education Engineering Scheme, Mace Debating

Competition, STEM Olympics, BIMA Digital Day, Barclay's Tech Innovation Challenge, National Cipher Challenge and the Living Edge Art Competition, to name just a few.

There are also other opportunities for the pupils to go beyond the taught curriculum, such as King's own Percyvale Prize, which sets a range of tasks on a particular theme to allow the students some free expression.



King's provides Senior and Sixth Form pupils with a Challenge and Enrichment section of our online pupil portal. This offers pupils the opportunity to select and complete a range of tasks set by departments. These are made available to all students as we want to encourage aspiration and interest amongst all our students. Awards are given to those pupils who complete Challenge and Enrichment tasks.

King's is a member of the 'North West Gifted

& Talented' organisation and, as such, we host events each year that offer broader opportunities for not only our most able students, but those from across the region who come to King's to enjoy workshops in Sport, Maths, Creative Writing, Science and other fields.

For those who are talented in sport we have a range of highly successful teams (in some cases of world-class standard) and have a high representation in county teams. Our Sports

Department is made up of more than 20 highly trained staff, who are often high achieving athletes themselves. Coaching is to a very high standard and pupils are supported with strength & conditioning sessions, nutritional advice and mentoring.

The range of music ensembles, bands and orchestras means that any talented musicians will be more than catered for. There is a full calendar of performances which take place locally, regionally and internationally, with annual concerts in Chester, Liverpool, Cartmel and tours to Wales, Italy, Prague and France. Pupils have access to our huge range of music instrumental teachers. Musicians also support our talented drama and theatrical students with our musicals, shows and pantos.



Students may study for LAMDA (speech, drama and acting qualifications) in school and public speaking is developed through a range of lessons, clubs, debating societies, assemblies and other events.

Speakers' Club

At King's, we place great emphasis on leadership skills: after all, we are preparing the leaders of the future. Pupils are encouraged to develop their public speaking skills through our TED-style talks, assemblies and presentations. Visiting speakers, lectures, university-style seminars and visits to universities encourage

pupils to think beyond the school curriculum's confines. Our Speakers' Programme allows leading figures from a range of professional disciplines and industry sectors to speak to pupils about their roles and careers. It is aimed at broadening the horizons of our pupils, inspiring them to consider a range of possible futures and routes into professions. Recent speakers include a female pilot, the Head of Translation for the United Nations, a dentist, a barrister, an orthopaedic surgeon, a Chief Inspector, a Chaplin, a Sports Reporter, and the

Professor of Medical Education at Manchester University. Our pupils leave us with a real sense of curiosity and confidence, well equipped to make choices about further study and beyond.

Independent Learning

Pupils are taught not just about their strengths, but also where any weaknesses may lie so that they can be taught how to overcome these.

Pupils are encouraged to become independent learners and to question the knowledge they are presented with, as well as to reflect on their own learning and thinking processes. We have a programme of independent projects, with one each half-term in Years 7–9, to further allow pupils to work under their own initiative and to go beyond the taught curriculum.

Travelling through SPACE

From Year 9 upwards we provide those students who are academically

at the very top end of each year group with a teacher mentor. Each mentor will typically have two or three students and they will meet as a group three or four times each term. This is an opportunity for the students to meet with similar-minded peers and mentor sessions will focus on developing their interests and passions and encouraging them to go beyond the curriculum in their favourite subjects.

They will also practise discussing and debating current issues and students in Year 10



will complete the HPQ (Higher Project Qualification), which is a level 2 qualification and a stepping-stone to the EPQ (completed in Year 12). Attendance at the mentor sessions is voluntary and

parents are informed of their attendance. The emphasis is on academic aspiration, scholarship, and super-curricular study to complement the enrichment on offer from the co-curricular programme.

Explore the UNIVERSE

Once students are in the Sixth Form, the SPACE programme naturally segues into the Sixth Form 'Aspire' programme as preparation for competitive entry universities. Students attend weekly Masterclasses designed to widen their academic horizons, develop higher order thinking and analytical skills, and give them key preparation for university interviews.

Oxbridge applicants and aspiring Medics, Vets and Law students are also given departmental mentors in Year 12 to prepare them for the university interview process. Our academic clubs and societies, such as Debating Society and the

1502 Society, develop students as thinkers and intellectuals, whilst the EPQ allows them to demonstrate and pursue their own interests in their chosen topic area. Of course, the standard at King's is very high and while all of our pupils have the opportunity to be challenged and enriched, the SPACE programme means there is also specific provision for those consistently performing above King's high academic expectations. It is safe to say that all pupils are given the chance to reach for the stars and to 'fly' as high as their aspirations and ambitions can take them!



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