



School Self-Evaluation 2023-2024: Executive Summary

HEADTEACHER INTRODUCTION

Wow! What a year – impressive GCSE and A-Level results, strong staff recruitment, and significant investment into the physical fabric of the school including most noticeably the opening of Henry's, our new and much needed eating area. To top it all, the school received an Outstanding judgement in every category in the Ofsted inspection in July 2024.

In our parental survey (June 2024), we were delighted that 97% of parents stated that they would recommend the school to a close friend or family member. Thankfully, our students and staff also felt the same with 97-98% of respondents also enjoying their time at the school. Establishing what drives such high levels of satisfaction for each member of the school is not always easy. At the heart at the King's School are core Christian values which are shared by all members of the community regardless of their own personal faith. Close personal relationships exist at the school as do high expectations for each other and oneself. The school therefore feels genuinely inclusive regardless of gender, academic level or family background. By the end of the last school year the average attendance for all students was over 95%, significantly bucking the national declining trend. We were particularly pleased to see that for those students with additional learning needs their attendance average was near identical to the whole school (12.5% above the national average). That our most vulnerable students enjoy coming to school is a great testament to all of the King's School family and the culture within.

As senior leaders, we are well aware of our responsibility as custodians of the school. From September we are excited to welcome three new colleagues to the team who will bring their own enthusiasm, expertise, and initiatives. Alongside changes in personnel, we are looking forward to seeing the impact of a significant investment in our IT infra-structure which should see improvements in all areas of our operation, including of course within our classroom. The school has committed itself to Microsoft and all the functionality this IT giant brings.

Last year was a triumph for school events – over 350 students took part in House Music, our Christmas concert at the Peterborough Cathedral was a full house with close to 100 performers from our junior department through to our senior musicians wowed a packed Cathedral; our support for Charities week remains strong with students raising over eleven thousand pounds for local and national causes; our week-long Activities week provided all students with a range of opportunities outside the classroom, and we enjoyed a superb Sports Day (despite some rain) where students enjoyed success in beating some long standing school records but more importantly encouraging each other to give of their best.

The culture at King's goes deeper than any individual changes that may be made. Our culture is formed by those daily habits which remain as important now as they ever were; students who hold open doors, say hello and thank you, give of their best and throw themselves into a wide range of activities, trips and charity work. We are grateful to our parents who provide huge support for their children and work in strong partnership with the school. And let's not forget the staff. Staff who care deeply about their students, go the extra mile and provide as many opportunities for their students to grow in confidence and knowledge as they are able to.

Of course, there is a great deal of academic success to celebrate within this document. Both A-Level and GCSE results were outstanding both in terms of attainment and progress. The school community are rightly proud of these achievements.

But the King’s School experience is always far more than academic results. This year, the school ran an incredible number of trips and extra-curricular activities, highlights included the Geography trip to Iceland, the annual ski trip to Austria, the language trip to Montpellier and of course the Morocco Expedition.

Leadership opportunities remained strong at King’s, with over a hundred sixth form students involved in either mentoring or supporting our student commission group; and over sixty students worked towards their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. In Music, incredibly, over 250 students continued to benefit from one-to-one music lessons, and a large number of students took part in our whole school musical (Chicago). In Sport, students took part in over 20 different activities and the school achieved notable success in Athletics, Badminton and Basketball.

The King’s School in a Snapshot



The school benefits enormously from the general stability of the school population. Our retention rate at all ages is strong and we operate waiting lists at all ages from our junior department through to the sixth form. Due to financial pressures, the school has, for a number of years, had two year groups with six (rather than five) form entry. In 2023 we made a conscious decision to modestly increase the size of our sixth form and have done again for September 2024. Our ethnic makeup is reflective of the multi-cultural nature of Peterborough and the number of students with additional educational needs above both the national and city average.

SELF EVALUATION: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

QUALITY OF EDUCATION

- At A-Level the school celebrated a superb set of results from our students. **37% of all grades were A*/A and 66% of grades were A*-B.** Although our results were marginally lower than last year at A*-B they were still in line with the 2017-2019 data. **Average point score was high at 40** (equivalent to a grade B). Performance based on attainment and progress was high in a number of subjects, most noticeably Art, Economics, Maths and Further Maths.
- In the annual parental survey, **97% of parents** believed that their child does well at this school.
- At GCSE attainment and progress were also very strong. **45% of all grades were 9-7** and the unvalidated **progress 8 score was 0.78.** Progress was 1 grade or more above expected outcomes in 9 subjects.
- We were proud of the progress our most vulnerable students made. Students with an **Educational Health Care Plans** achieved strongly reflecting the strong support of our pupil premium and SEND teams. A thorough review of Key Stage 4 curriculum was completed in readiness for the next academic year.
- Students with Moderate Learning Difficulties followed a **new Enhanced Provision curriculum in Year 9;** monitoring of this indicated very good progress made by these students in reading, writing and maths.
- At Key Stage 2, students performed well above the national average, receiving a great well-rounded education. The Scaled score in **Reading was 110 average, Maths 110 and Writing 104.**
- **Religious Studies was provided with more curriculum time** in 2023/2024 by increasing its provision in Year 10 to 6 periods per fortnight from 4 periods per fortnight. This has enabled the teachers to complete more of the GCSE curriculum in Year 10 and will enable them to include more time for review and revision in Year 11.
- A review of curriculum provision for Key Stage 3 languages resulted in German being introduced as a second language alongside French in Year 7. As students move into Year 8, they will now be able to choose any two subjects from French, German and Latin.
- **Reading at the school remains a priority.** All students in Year 7 took part in our **Accelerated Reader** scheme. Weaker readers have been supported intensely through either small group work or through their work with sixth form reading mentors.
- Lesson observations viewed teaching as being exceptionally strong with **>98 % of all lessons judged Good or Better.** These observations were completed by the senior leadership team and were no notice.
- The Teaching and Learning aspects of the CPD programme were mainly focussed on '**Rosenshine's 10 Principles of Instructions**'. Lesson observations also indicated that many aspects of this programme were being successfully incorporated in lessons with principles. In particular, staff across all subjects regularly reviewed prior learning, provided scaffolding and support and gave students access to modelled answers.
- **Over 120 sixth form students** supported the learning of our younger students through their involvement in either the **mentor programme or the Student Commission for Learning,** a unique aspect of the school.

BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES

- Attendance remains **well above the national average** for the country at **97%.** Attendance was particularly strong for our more vulnerable group of students, such as those with an Educational Health Care Plan.
- **97% of parents** believe that the school makes sure that our students are well behaved.
- The over-whelming majority of students **demonstrate mature attitudes** towards their learning. 80% of students received only one, or fewer, negative behaviour points for the entire academic year which is a great achievement. We are proud of the regular positive feedback we receive regarding the behaviour of our students when they are representing the school, both on mass at Cathedral services or out on a range of trips and visits.
- **90% of staff** surveyed believe they are confident in applying the school's behaviour policy with **94%** believing that behaviour is at least good. The school will continue to reflect on how processes can be improved and how students with more challenging behaviour can be further supported.

- Where appropriate, the school uses a range of sanctions available. Data showed that the vast majority (over 90%) of suspensions were linked to behaviour outside of the classroom. The most **common reason for suspension was vaping** reflecting the hard line the school takes on this issue. In response to this the school has continued to provide additional education on the issue and has invested heavily on modernising toilet blocks and installing vape alarms.
- **Over forty students** received a **Headteachers commendation** last year. These students were nominated by their teachers for a range of exceptional achievements. Students enjoyed the newly introduced achievement assemblies to celebrate their outstanding efforts. Over 140 students in key stage three received over 50 achievement points although the school data does recognise some inconsistencies across teaching staff which we are keen to address.
- There was a modest number of bullying cases last year with **86% of parents believing that their child has never been bullied at the school.**

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Daily acts of worship continue to be an important aspect of school life**, with students taking part in whole school, house, year and tutor assemblies regularly. This year a large number of students had the opportunity to **showcase their musical skills** in whole school assemblies.
- The school introduced a number of **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion groups**, led by a senior teacher and supported in strong numbers by our students. Student mental health was a priority with the school working towards the **Wellbeing Award for Schools**.
- 100% of all our students took part in one or more fieldtrip. For many the number was significantly more than this. The school was **proud to run over a hundred trips** locally, nationally and internationally. Over 60 students were engaged in **Duke of Edinburgh Award** Scheme which included Bronze and Gold Award.
- Over **200 hundred students** have represented the school across 70 teams in 11 different **sports**.
- **96% of parents agreed that there are a wide range of clubs** available at lunch and after school for their child to participate in. We are particularly grateful to our sport and music teams who run a full programme throughout the year alongside running key events such as Sports Day. The majority of negative responses were from parents with children in our junior department where there is not a separate extra-curricular curriculum.
- **Over 350 students took part in the annual house music competition**; 77 students took part in the musical production of **'Chicago'** which was a huge success and 180 students performed in at least one of our Christmas, Spring or Summer Concerts.
- Students raised **£13,040 across the year through a range of charity** events at the school supporting our four charities – The BSSH Lion Hand Unit Malawi, Children of Adam, WaterAid, and the British Heart Foundation.
- Over **98% of students** in Year 10 completed **face to face work experience** – an incredible achievement covering a wide range of experiences.
- Students from other years had opportunities for **additional careers support** including work through our Learning for Life Programme and one-off events such as the STEM careers roadshow.

SIXTH FORM

- Retention from Year 12 to Year 13 at the school is exceptional with **all students progressing into the final year of study**.
- **73%** of Y13 students who applied to university **achieved their firm or insurance choice offer**. An incredible 16 students achieved places to medicine or medical related courses and 7 students successfully achieved a place at Oxbridge. Students will graduate to study a diverse range of courses such as Marine Biology, Illustration, Sports & Exercise Science, Global Sustainable Development, Journalism, Agri Business Management, Paramedic Science and Interior Architecture alongside more conventional routes such as Economics, English Literature, Law and Fine Art.

- In addition to university courses the school has seen a growing number of students taking the opportunity to study a **degree apprenticeship**. These allow students the chance to work and study with the guarantee of full-time employment at the end of the course. Students will be joining companies such as the Murphy Group, Caterpillar, and Saffreys Chartered Accountants alongside public sector routes such as the National Highways
- Sixth form students benefitted from Futures Days, workshops and a programme of enrichment opportunities to broaden their curriculum. **95% of students completed face to face work experience.**
- Over **one hundred and twenty of our students** supported younger students through their work as mentors. A large number were involved in one-to-one support (e.g. reading) and through the delivery of Learning to Learn sessions during tutor time.
- **Number applying for the Sixth Form for 2023 start reached an all-time high.** Students new to the school received **an additional one to one meeting with senior staff** to ensure they were on an appropriate set of A-Level courses and to ensure they quickly felt part of the King's School family.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

- All members of the school community were proud to learn that the school was judged by **Ofsted to be Outstanding in every category**, an amazing achievement.
- 97% of parents would recommend the school to other parents.
- Our **CPD programme** for 2023-2024 provided **bespoke opportunities** for learning in areas such as IT, Leadership and A-Level teaching.
- **98% of staff felt proud to work** at the school.
- **97% of parents** would recommend the school to other parents.
- The school saw **admission** requests increase at **all** entry points (Year 3, 7 and 12)

Key Targets for 2024-25

Whilst we are deeply proud of the strength of provision at the school, we continue to look forward.

The individual targets below summarise the key priority areas for the school for the academic year 2024-25.

1. Ensure that the school **sustains excellence** in those core aspects of school life (academic performance is the highest in the area at Key stage 2,4 and 5, attendance is 95%, significantly above the national average, safeguarding is prioritised and secure).
2. Celebrate and enhance the school's **Christian vision** (support the work of our new Chaplain, further develop relationship with the Cathedral and Diocese).
3. Continue to develop our systems that **monitor and support mature behaviour** (recognise and celebrate the achievements of our students, develop those systems required to support less engaged students, ensure that transition periods and social times are effectively managed)
4. Further **enhance our extra-curricular offering** so a wide range of students engage in these opportunities (efficient registering of attendance, wider marketing of opportunities)
5. **Support staff in delivering a first-class education** (new IT strategy, embedding new senior leadership team, support new middle leaders, further opportunities to support staff wellbeing).