



King's College
The British School of Madrid

Soto de Viñuelas

Prospectus



**We articulate clear values for a
world class education**





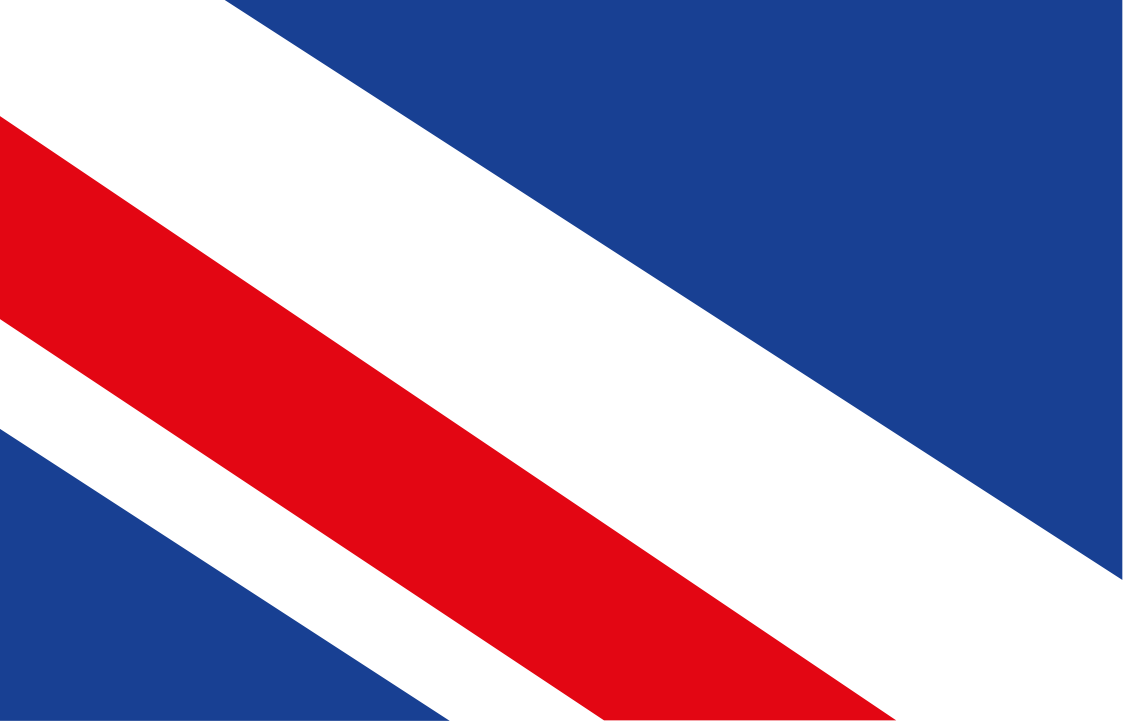
At King's College we pride ourselves in offering a high quality education which not only stimulates your child academically, but also prepares them for life beyond school.

We help young people to develop their ambitions and to compete with their peers from across Europe, Asia and America. Every year our eighteen year-old leavers go on to a wide variety of elite universities in the UK, Spain and the USA. They carry with them impressive personal qualities which are essential for today's increasingly competitive global job market.

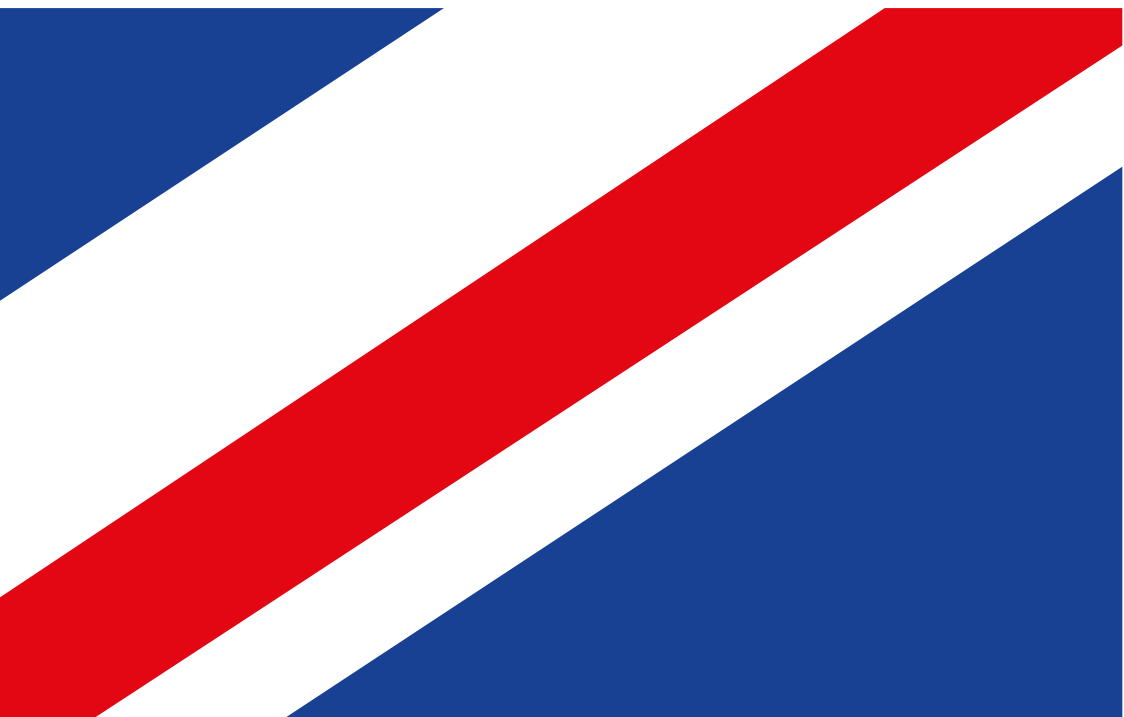
Visitors to King's College often comment on our welcoming atmosphere, the friendliness of our school and the positive relationships between pupils and staff. Two of my own children study here, so I can speak from personal experience as a parent about our wonderful sense of community. It would be a pleasure to welcome you to our school and to share this with you.

Preparing young people for today's modern world is what we do best. I hope we have the opportunity to do the same for your child.

Matthew Taylor, Headmaster



A very British education Since 1969 King's College in Madrid has been providing children and young people with a rigorous and broad British education. Pupils from King's College continue their studies at some of the most prestigious universities in Europe and North America. A British education gives our alumni the best opportunities to work in challenging and interesting careers all over the world. We believe that the fundamental values that they learn while at King's College will also help them to have happy and fulfilling family lives.



The British way of learning We expect all of our pupils to go to excellent universities. Most of them continue their studies at top universities in the UK and Spain, others go to the United States. All of our pupils leave the college with a sense of confidence in themselves and a clear idea of how they can contribute to society.



Abdel joined King's College in 2014 and began studying for his A Levels. In the two years he studied at the school he was made Deputy Head Boy and received an 8.5 in his IELTS. He became a role model for the younger students, and through his hard work and determination, he received 5 A*s at A Level and a full scholarship to the world famous Harvard University.

Although I was anxious before I arrived, Saint Michaels turned into a home that I love as much as my real home back in Egypt. I have achieved many things that I couldn't have achieved had I not studied here.



Raquel, who is taking a Law Degree at New York University, found individual support and encouragement from the time she joined King's College in Year 5, at the age of eight. Her teachers ignited a passion for law and human rights.

The teachers know all the international requirements of different universities. If I did not know all the possibilities, I may not have applied to NYU. I had so many more options having studied at King's and was able to choose from universities in the UK and the US, as well as Spain.



Joseph, who is studying French and Beginner's Russian at Oxford developed an aptitude for languages during his time at King's. Making so many friends from different countries made him realise how important and powerful language can be.

My teachers were not only extremely supportive and constructive with regards to the challenges of A Level, but also helped me to engage in the analytical study of language and literature beyond the syllabus. The level of academic enrichment at King's encouraged me at every turn, and allowed me to pursue my ambition of studying modern languages.

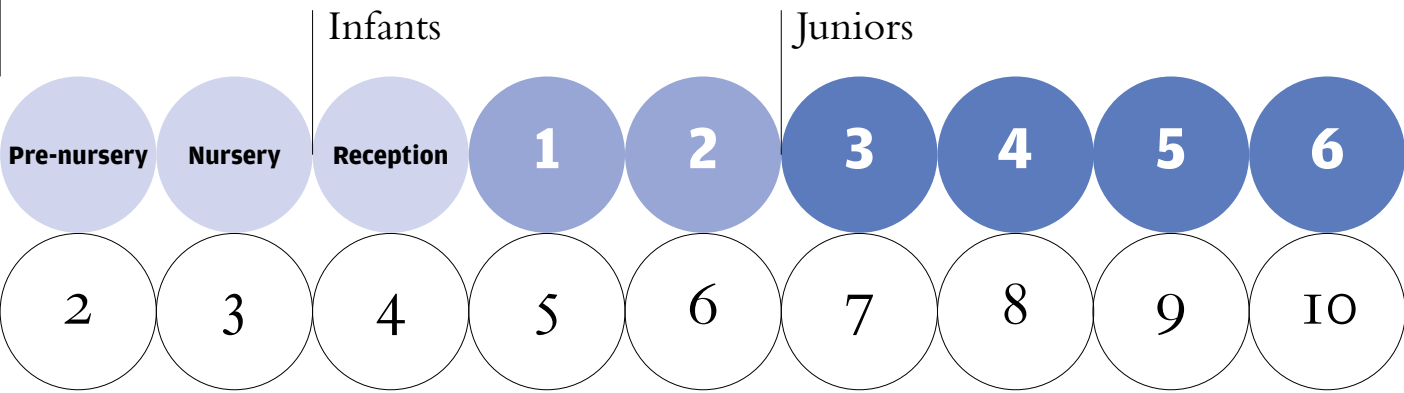


Guillermo started at King's aged three, and though he cannot quite remember his first day, he does know that then, as now, there was a real sense that there was someone always there to help him. Guillermo is studying Biochemistry at the University of Bath in the UK.

The teachers really work with you and with your parents, to encourage you to work to your strengths and interests, at the same time helping you with methods for improving the areas that might not come as easily.

The British System Below, we have outlined your child’s journey through the British educational system. Our objectives are not simply to ensure that your child is bilingual in English and Spanish. A British education creates open-minded, creative and dynamic individuals. Your child will learn from first-hand experience, not just text books. They will be encouraged to be creative in their thinking and they are expected to work hard every day.

Primary



Pupil’s age at the beginning of school year



Play to learn
Ages 2 – 5 | Pre-Nursery to Reception
Young children learn through exploration. Everything they do, from kicking a ball, building with blocks and painting, to singing in a group, is done in English and it is designed to help them understand their environment. Sometimes it gets messy, but it’s always rewarding and develops them socially, mentally and physically.

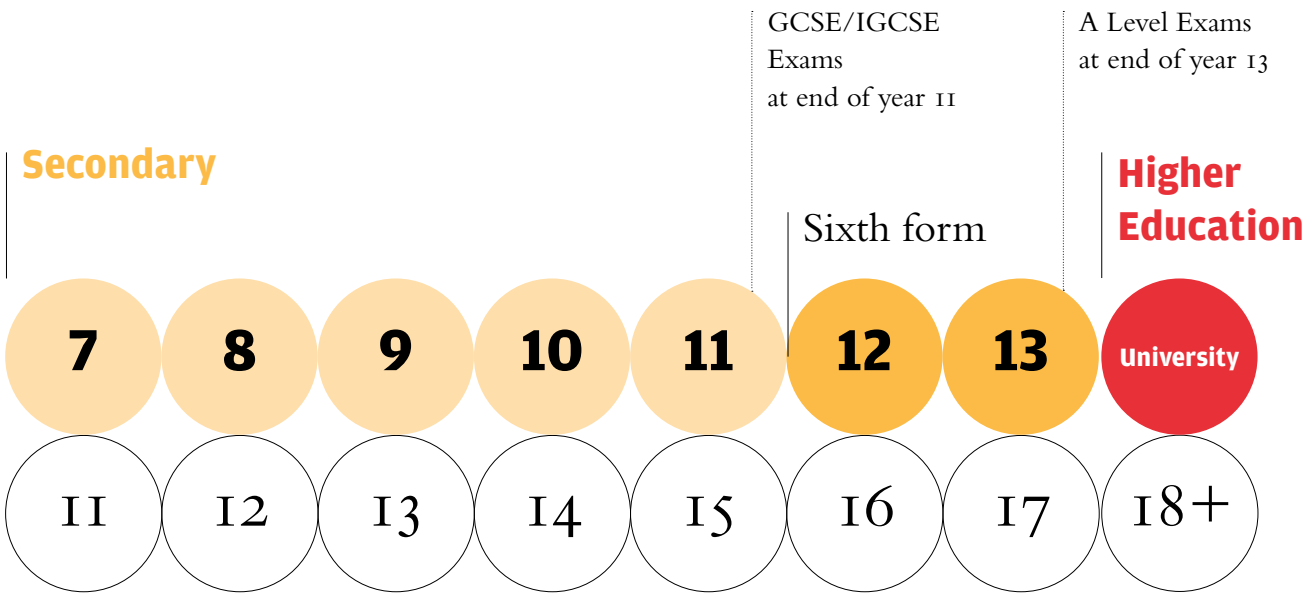


Exploration and evaluation
Ages 6 – 7 | School Years 1 and 2
A more structured approach to the day helps children to start learning how to read, write and count in English. We still encourage children to explore and play, but they are able to describe their discoveries in words and numbers.



Communicate and articulate
Ages 8 – 11 | School Years 3 – 6
Children are naturally curious. In Junior school we encourage them to learn about things that interest them while consolidating their numeracy and literacy skills. We teach children how to apply these basic skills to other subject areas – such as Science, Art and History.

Secondary



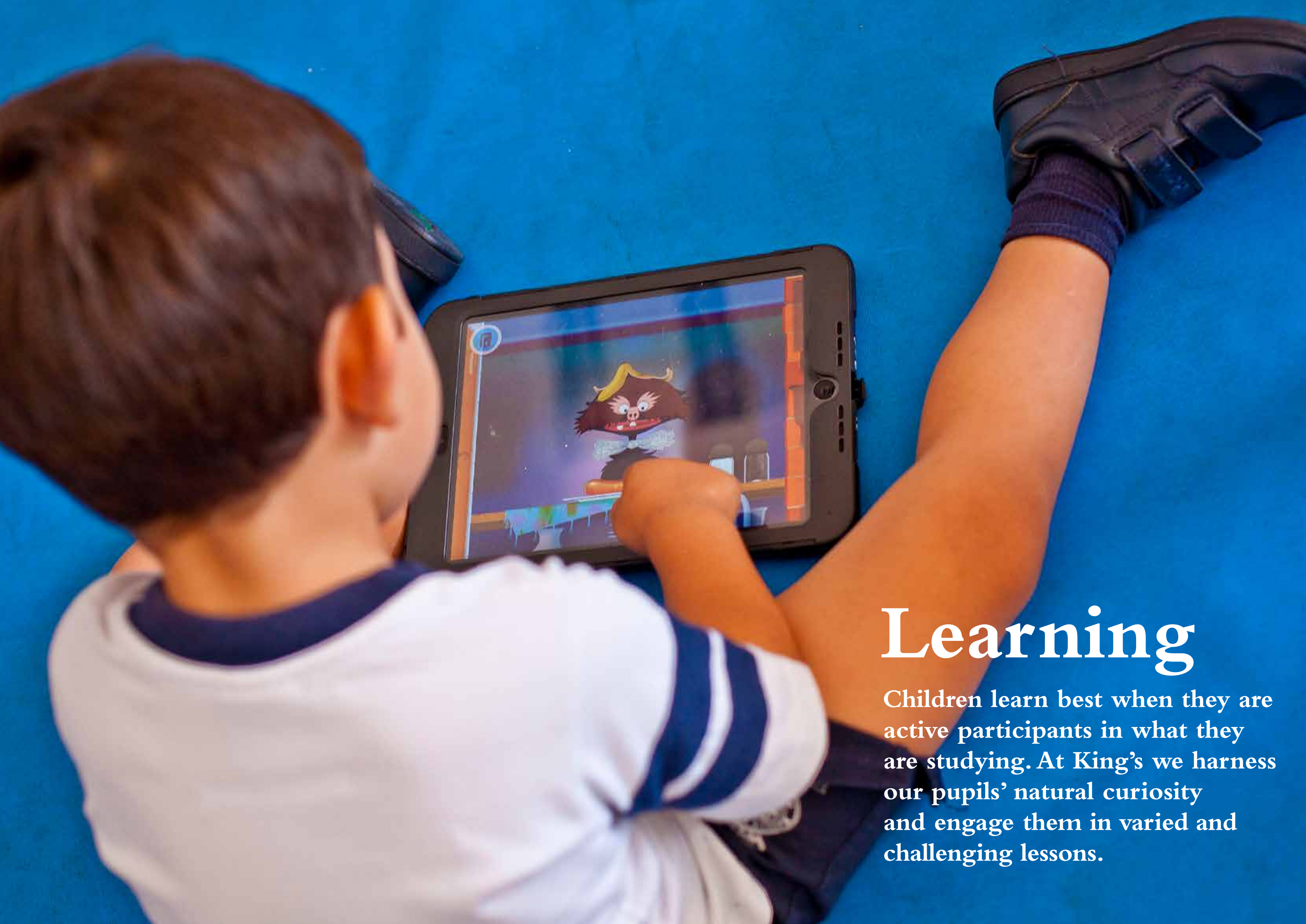
Interrogate and Debate
Ages 11 – 16 | School Years 7 – 11
As children get older we teach them to think more critically. They learn how to investigate, test and think about things rationally. Classes are more focused on formal “subject-based” learning. Eight or nine GCSE/IGCSE exams are taken at the end of this stage in different subjects.



Think and act
Ages 17 and 18 | School Years 12 and 13
The final two years at school mark the beginning of adulthood. Pupils make choices and work hard during these years that prepare them for university and then the start of their careers. Once pupils have finished their GCSEs/IGCSEs they choose three or four A Level – which are accepted by Universities around the world.



University and beyond
Age 18+
Nearly all King’s pupils go on to university, mostly in the UK and Spain. Academic success helps guarantee a good career but we also want children who have been to King’s College to become good parents, partners and friends.



Learning

Children learn best when they are active participants in what they are studying. At King's we harness our pupils' natural curiosity and engage them in varied and challenging lessons.

Cross-curricular Teaching We plan lessons so that children apply their knowledge from more than one subject to a particular theme or topic. This helps children make connections in a very practical way, which allows them to solve problems, think creatively and convert knowledge into understanding.

In Infant school (ages 2 – 6) the children are encouraged to experiment with paints – mixing colours and applying to varied surfaces. This messy process gives the children real experience in the science of colours while encouraging them to have fun with learning.

As the children move on to Junior school (ages 6 – 10), we begin to broaden their experience. The children study a particular topic, for example, ‘Light and Shadow’, and use that topic across a range of subjects, including Science, Maths, History and even Literature. The study of the ancient civilisation of Benin would include History, as well as Art in the African masks and Maths through the geometric patterns in fabrics.

All of our teachers are trained to create lessons that stimulate children to apply ideas from a range of subjects. We know that this helps them to consolidate their learning in their core subjects and to build their intellectual abilities.

As the children move out of Primary school and into Secondary school, the teaching becomes increasingly subject-focused. Children take seven or eight IGCSEs and focus on three or four in 6th Form for A Levels.

Creative thinking and innovation come from the ability to apply knowledge and learning from many sources to a problem.





Language We live in a world that depends on communication and collaboration. Being able to communicate fluently in English is very valuable. Being bilingual in Spanish and English is a huge advantage. Add a third or even a fourth language such as French or German and a whole world of new opportunities opens up.

All our lessons are taught in English. Right from the start in Pre-Nursery and Nursery school, teachers communicate with children only in English. Very quickly children start to use English, even if they don't speak English at home.

By the time children move into the Junior school they are speaking, reading and writing in English. In Secondary school the children have become fluent in English and the exams they sit in Years 11, 12 and 13 are the same exams that British children take in the UK. Spanish is also taught and pupils can choose to go to university in the UK or Spain.

For children that join King's College with a lower level of English we offer an 'Induction English' programme, that allows them to catch up with their classmates. Similarly, we provide Spanish classes for those pupils who arrive at the school with little or no Spanish. Most pupils take the IGCSE Spanish examination in Year 9, a year earlier than the norm.

From age 10 in Junior school, we also offer tuition in other languages. Experience tells us that children who can use two or more languages show improved cognitive abilities that help them make progress in all the subjects that they study.

**Other languages
we offer older
pupils include:**

French
German



Mathematics We believe that anyone can learn even the most complex mathematical concepts when they are taught in an exciting and engaging way. We know that parents want their children to be numerate and we take our role in this very seriously, to give children the tools to approach Maths in ways that inspire and encourage them.

For the young children in Infant school, we design lessons that introduce mathematical concepts and number relationships that encourage pupils to use numbers with confidence. This is combined with a diligent approach to learning the basics, for example, the times tables.

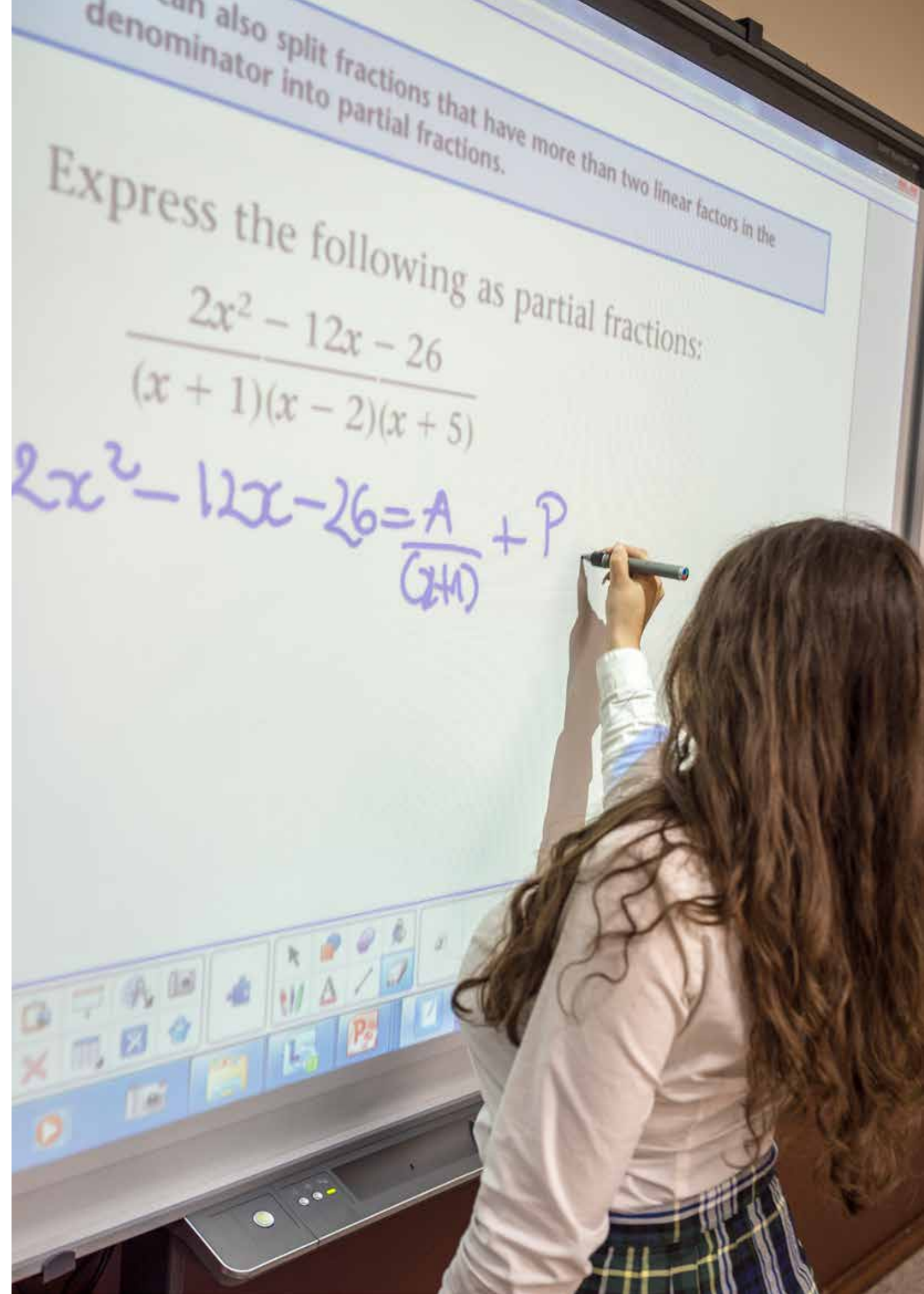
In Junior school, the children begin to use geometry and algebra to solve everyday problems. By using Maths in the context of an overall story, for example, historic changes in population or the geometry of a bridge, we inspire children to be involved with the world around them through Maths.

Children continue with Mathematics as part of the curriculum through to age 16 when every pupil takes IGCSE in Maths; universities require Maths at this level as a basic entry requirement.

Children who want to study subjects such as Engineering, Medicine, Economics and Physics usually take A Level Maths; children with a particular talent for Mathematics can also take Further Maths at A Level.

Understanding Maths is essential in Physics. As a teacher, my greatest sense of achievement is watching pupils apply mathematical learning to a difficult problem in Physics and then seeing the joy when they really understand a complex concept.

Physics Teacher



Sciences Experimentation and observation are at the heart of learning Science. Whether in Biology, Chemistry or Physics, learning through experimentation is fundamental. At King's, we have everything children need to learn by doing – whether using batteries and wires to create circuits in Primary school or working in one of the 14 fully-equipped laboratories in Secondary school to investigate bonding and intermolecular forces.

Children in Infant school start Science by simply looking at and then drawing and writing about the things that they find. As they move into Secondary school, the older children start to investigate the world around them in a more rigorous, scientific way. From investigating atomic structures to designing an experiment to compare the viscosities of two liquids in Physics.

We want to provide the children with the best equipment possible because they will understand and ultimately enjoy Science more if they can carry out experiments themselves. In late 2016 we opened our brand new, state-of-the-art Science block. Equipped with sophisticated technology for hands on learning, our laboratories let students explore first-hand new discoveries and experiments.

We know that studying Science requires discipline – but the rewards are not only fun, they can be life-changing and set future agendas. The best discoveries come from people who are inspired by great teachers, to become passionate about Science, innovation and discovery. By nurturing curiosity, we encourage a love of Science that often results in doing a degree in Science or Engineering at university.

I really got the science bug watching Mythbusters on the Discovery Channel, but I soon realised I had to really apply myself to the scientific discipline to get results – and I was encouraged and supported at King's to do just that.

**King's College
Alumno**





Humanities and Social Sciences A key part of a balanced education, creating thoughtful and active citizens of the future. We start early by encouraging children to develop their own ideas through History, English, Religious Education and Philosophy. These subjects help children to analyse and evaluate information as well as develop their own way of seeing the world.

The Humanities give us an understanding of the political and cultural context of the world. Building on the foundations of Literacy and Numeracy; the study of English, History, the Arts and Philosophy, gives pupils the tools to apply critical and analytical thinking to all aspects of their education.

In Infant school, children may study rivers and how cities develop. In Junior school, the children would learn about the Industrial Revolution, how children lived in that era and how Europe changed from an agrarian society to a city-based, industrial society. In Secondary school pupils start to apply the skills that they learn in one subject to another. The issues and topics that they learn become more complex as they start preparing for their IGCSE/GCSE examinations and A Levels. Every year we send pupils to university where they build upon what they have learned at King's College.



The Arts An integral part of a broad British education. The creative arts are celebrated in many areas of school life at King's College. The technical challenges of learning a musical instrument, the courage and confidence needed to perform in Drama and Dance, the intellectual and linguistic expertise used to write poetry and the creative process of painting; all of these activities have an important role to play in your child's education.

Younger children are encouraged to be creative, no matter how messy and noisy it gets. They learn about colour and shapes by mixing paints and cutting up paper. We encourage them to sing, dance and use role-play in their games. Creativity is fun and helps them to socialise with others.

As they get older, the children take a more structured approach to creativity. For example, Drama helps build their confidence in speaking English and supports their skills in public speaking. In Applied Art, the children experiment with different media including painting, photography and graphic design. This focus on process helps give them a strong foundation upon which to build other creative projects.

Pupils who choose IGCSEs and A Levels in the Arts benefit from a demanding programme, that focuses both on the creative and the technical aspects of art. For example, Music A Level covers performance, music theory and composition. Pupils who enjoy participating in the arts, but do not want to commit to academic study, can join in the many groups and clubs available outside the school day.

Employers increasingly value creativity. Creative thinking is valued in careers in Science and Engineering as much as Journalism, Design or Architecture.

Small children are not self-conscious about expressing their creativity - it's our job to help them keep that exuberance, while they master the skills involved in singing, dancing or painting.

Head of Art





Preparation for university As your children become young adults, study becomes more focused on particular subjects. In Year 12 pupils usually choose to study three or four subjects in which they will be able to excel and that they really enjoy. This decision will influence their choice of degree course at university. We take pride in supporting all our pupils through the exciting choices and the hard work that goes into the last two years at school.

Our reputation is built upon the success of our pupils. We are educational experts; we know how to get the very best out of your children. Becoming young adults at the same time as working hard to learn, make these years hugely important to your child. We challenge and support them, so that they are able to achieve their very best academically and personally. We have the expertise to get them through the exams and the experience to guide them towards the ideal university for their future.

Top universities increasingly look at the whole person, not just exam results. We know how to inspire and develop the passions and interests of children outside the curriculum. We have a team of expert teachers who keep up to date with the different requirements of universities around the world. So we know what universities as far away as New York, Australia and Abu Dhabi demand from pupils, as well as universities in the UK and Spain.

My teachers sacrificed a great deal of their free time to help me excel at both A Level and in the Parte Específica. When I got to university, I found that I had already covered many of the topics through my A Level subjects, especially Mathematics, keeping me a step ahead of my classmates.

King's College Alumna





Outside the Classroom

More than a place of learning, the College nurtures pupils, supports families and reinforces the importance of a balance between work and play.

Sports and Clubs Traditionally sport and team play have been an important part of physical and mental development at British schools. Because physical activity is such a valuable part of school life, in late 2016 we opened our brand new 3000 m² Sports Hall. Being part of a team teaches children to understand tactics, cooperation and fair-play. We hope that children at King’s College learn to be chivalrous winners and gracious losers.



Involvement in competitive sport is fun, but the real value is in developing teamwork and working hard physically towards a goal. The health of your child is as important as their intellectual growth and we provide physical education in the curriculum as well as opportunities to play competitive sport after school.

We invest in first-class sporting facilities, including the recently inaugurated sports hall with indoor swimming pool. These facilities ensure that our pupils have access to a wide range of sporting options. The school also boasts art studios, music rooms and a large auditorium.

In all year groups the children benefit from fresh air and physical fitness. There are many school clubs outside the curriculum that challenge children mentally - such as chess and Chinese as well as physically, such as swimming, riding, tennis and judo.

Sport activities include:

- Ballet
- Judo
- Horse riding
- Music school
- Performing Arts
- Spanish Dance
- Modern Dance
- Batuka
- Swimming
- Tennis

Other clubs include:

- Chess
- Creative Workshop
- Chinese
- German
- Drama
- French

Our facilities include:

- 3000m² Sports Hall with 25 metre indoor swimming pool
- 11-a-side and 5-a-side football pitches
- Floodlit astroturf multi-sport pitch
- Tennis courts
- Gymnasium
- Fitness centre
- Judo room
- Ballet room
- Stables and riding school





From my very first class at King's when I was 13, the teachers and the other pupils immediately made me feel welcome and part of the family. When the opportunity of being a mentor was available, I was glad to take part - giving back to the school community that made me feel so welcome.

King's College Alumna

Caring for your children We expect pupils to contribute to a positive, friendly and supportive atmosphere at school and require them to demonstrate respect for adults and other pupils. In turn, we will show them respect as young learners and help them with any difficulties that they may encounter. From the very small children who come to school on a bus, to older children who join the College at IGCSE or A Level, it is important that every child feels safe and welcome.



From Home to a House

From the day a child starts at King's, they are assigned to one of the four Houses. The older House members support the younger or new pupils. There are events and projects that involve friendly competition between the Houses, which builds bonds across the school years.

Making a mentor

Mentors are older pupils who are available to help younger pupils with new concepts and to help peers who are having difficulty in a particular class or subject. Teaching others helps the mentor to consolidate their learning, while helping the other pupils in their studies.

Who to contact

For children in Infant and Junior school, the class teacher provides help and advice about academic and social development. In Secondary school, children are assigned a tutor who is responsible for academic and social welfare for a particular class. When children have to make academic choices at IGCSE, A Level and for university entrance, they get individual support and advice from our very experienced university entrance team. The senior management team is also available to discuss with you and advise you and your child on any problems or questions that you may have.

The College community Parents are an important part of College life. As well as meeting teachers regularly to discuss your child's academic and social progress you will also be invited to a wide range of social events. These include concerts, plays, sports days, coffee mornings and fetes. Parents can meet one another, make new friends and talk to teachers. When your child starts at King's College your whole family joins the King's College community.

Fetes and fun

The King's College May Fair is the biggest event of the school year. The whole college is involved and parents help raise money for the school's chosen charities. Games and competitions, the famous King's College Tombola, food and drink from around the world, singing and dancing make the whole day very memorable.

Charity begins at home

We are proud of the effort that the whole school puts into raising money for charity. Every year we raise thousands of Euros for various good causes. We are even more proud however, of the contribution that our pupils make once they have grown up. Whether through fundraising, voluntary work or individual projects, King's College alumni continue to think of others and the wider world throughout their lives.



In 2004 I was part of a pioneering expedition to Nexapa, Mexico; this proved to be the single most important event during my time at King's College. It not only helped me to win a place at the London School of Economics, but also formed me as a person and my understanding of the world, in such a meaningful way that it has entirely shaped my professional career.

King's College Alumna and Project Manager for Tearfund in the Democratic Republic of Congo



Teaching

Our teachers are passionate about their subjects and about education. Their expertise is what makes King's College so successful.



Primary School Education in the early years makes a tremendous contribution to a child’s future and that is why our Primary school teachers are highly trained professionals. We attract and retain teachers who are passionate about their work. The Primary school years provide the foundation for all children’s later learning. This is true for social and physical development as much as academic progress.

Academic success comes as a result of the passion that our teachers transmit to our pupils and the particular attention we give to encourage individual achievement.

We were concerned that our seven-year-old was not getting enough English at home, but her teacher reassured us and recommended that we continue reading Spanish stories with our daughter, which helped her with her English reading as well.



Parents of a Year 2 child

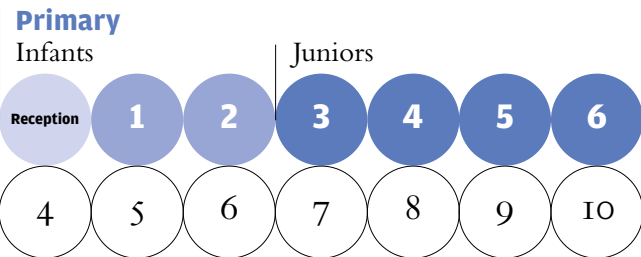
From the start, we consider how different children learn so that all of them get the best possible opportunity to do their best and we can help those who need it, to learn difficult concepts in a rewarding and memorable way. It is so important for the very young to find learning fun - once they get that sense of accomplishment, it stays with them throughout their learning life.

Originally, we chose King’s because we wanted our children to learn English. We soon found that the British methodology helps our children to really apply their learning to all their subjects. The teachers here really know my children, how they learn and how to help them get ahead.

Father of 4 children at King’s ages 5, 10, 11 and 13

Head of Primary

Pupil’s age at the beginning of school year



Secondary School As your children get older, lessons become more demanding and the children begin to focus on their preferred subjects. The greatest advantage we can give your child is a true love of learning. That may seem simplistic, but we know that your child’s future depends on learning new skills and constantly improving their understanding, not just at school, but for the rest of their lives.



Of course our job is to see that your children do as well as possible at school, but I really see my job as a coach and a mentor - guiding the children to think for themselves and to learn from their failures as well as their successes.

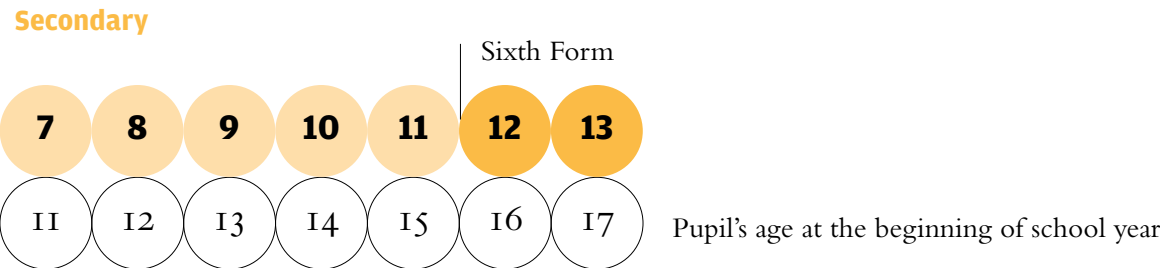
Head of Secondary

At King’s the children get the best of British and Spanish and can use that education to go to university in Spain, the UK or anywhere.

Parent of a Year 9 child

King’s is like my second family - strict with my studies, but encouraging me to think for myself and to help others. I started at King’s in Year 9 and was very nervous - afraid all friendships had already been created before I got there. At the end of my first class, I already had a new group of friends.

Year 11 pupil



Admissions King's College is more than just a British school. Your child's future success depends on building a strong partnership with shared values between home and school. If you want your child to benefit from a King's College education then the next step is to come to visit the school, have a look at what we are doing and ask us lots of questions.



We moved to Madrid at a particularly difficult time for our eldest child. He was on the verge of completing his schooling under another system, which meant he had to repeat some work in the British system. He really wanted to hate it here, but try as he might, he could only love the school. The pupils all welcomed him with open arms and the curriculum was both challenging and interesting.

Parent of an International A Level pupil

We were a bit anxious about our 2-year-old child travelling to school on a bus. Now our daughter can't wait to get on the bus in the morning, because it's a little adventure every day.

Pre-Nursery parent

I build a close relationship with new families so that we can make the transition for all pupils as smooth as possible, no matter at what age they join King's. It is rewarding to see the new pupils settle in and make friends at school.

Head of Admissions

University destinations Pupils from King’s College are ambitious. At school they learn to love learning, they love communicating and they love being challenged academically. Most of our pupils go to university in the UK and others decide to study at university in Spain. Our pupils regularly win places on the most demanding and challenging courses at the best universities in the world. Our team of experts make sure pupils understand all the options available to them. We support and advise them through the whole university application process.

Examples of the universities King’s College has sent students to in the past few years.

Arts	Business	Engineering	Humanities	Science
University College London	Cambridge	University College London	Oxford	Manchester
Nottingham	Harvard University	London	York	Cambridge
Duke University	Warwick	Cambridge	Sheffield	Imperial College London
Yale	Durham	Nottingham	Manchester	Nottingham
U. California, Berkeley	Michigan	York	Birmingham	Southampton
Warwick	York	Imperial College London	Queen Mary London	Liverpool
Edinburgh		Exeter	Leeds	York
		Leeds	Nottingham	St. Andrew’s
		Queen Mary London	Exeter	Edinburgh
		Oxford	Edinburgh	Boston University
		Sheffield	St. Andrew’s	
		Durham	New York University	
		Edinburgh		


483

students from King’s College currently attend a university in the UK




10/10

of the top 10* universities in the UK have accepted King’s College students

27


of our 2018 students went to a top 25* UK or World university this year

23

of the 24 Russell Group** universities have accepted King’s College pupils

More than


1/4



of students from King’s College chose to attend universities in Spain, starting in September 2018

97%

pass rate for our A-level students (A*-E)



48

pupils from King’s College schools have gone on to study at six of the top ten universities in the world*:

- Oxford
- Cambridge
- Stanford

- Imperial College London
- University College London
- Harvard

*Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018-2019
** 24 top UK universities





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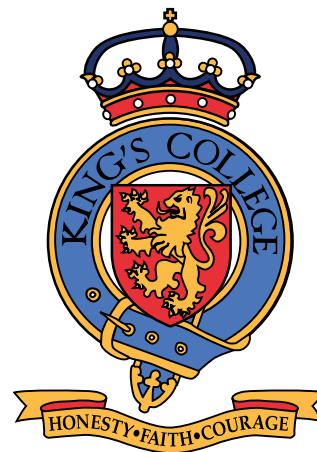
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King's College The British School of Madrid undergoes regular external inspections as a British School Overseas and is accredited by the UK Government and Department for Education (DfE). DfE Registration Number: 000/6099