

THE KING'S SCHOOL, TYNEMOUTH

History:

The King's School was founded in 1860 and is an independent day school. It is a member of The Woodard Corporation and is the largest of the corporation's 23 schools. The school was founded in Jarrow, but by 1865 had moved to its present site in Tynemouth. The school grew considerably in size during the second half of the twentieth century and admitted girls to both the Kindergarten and the Sixth Form in that period. In 1992 the decision to make the school fully co-educational was taken and this was achieved by September 1996. Currently there are approximately 820 pupils: the Junior School (4 to 11 year olds which contains the Kindergarten) has 80 girls and 110 boys; the Senior School 630 pupils comprising 200 girls and 430 boys. The Senior School is organised into Year Groups, each under the day to day management of a Year Head and Assistant and a team of Tutors. There are four Houses, which form the framework for internal competitions in the school. Boys and girls are recruited into the Reception Class aged 4 and at other ages into the Junior School. The main external entry occurs at 11, with smaller numbers joining the school at 12+, and 13+ and later. There is a small but significant entry into the Sixth Form. The school was inspected by ISI in 2003 and the report is available on the ISI website.

Situation:

The school is situated in the attractive village of Tynemouth close to the River Tyne and the coast. The area has a rich cultural heritage supplemented by four universities. The school is easily accessible to the Metro and buses, and a school-organised coach system from south of the river is operated.

Tyneside is within easy reach of areas of outstanding natural beauty: the Northumberland coast, the Borders, Northumberland National Park, the Lake District and the North York Moors.

There are good road and rail links with the remainder of the country. London is one hour's flying time or within three hours travelling by train.

Recent and Current Developments:

The school has considerably improved and expanded its facilities particularly in recent years. In 1991 an excellent Design, Technology and Art Block was constructed and in 1999 the Chapter Building, comprising 17 new classrooms, a Music School, new boys' and girls' changing accommodation, a Lecture Theatre and the 700-seat King's Hall, was opened. The next latest stage of development was completed in 2008 and comprises a new Sports Centre, Dance School, Drama Workshop, Music School, specialist accommodation for Modern Foreign Languages, English and Learning Support, a new Cafeteria and Kitchens, a Sixth Form Centre and refurbished libraries.

Academic Performance:

In recent years the academic performance of the school has improved notably. Pass rates at A-Level are very close to 100% and between 50 and 65% of all grades are A and B. At GCSE the pass rate is approximately 95% at grade C or better; approximately 50% of passes are at A and A* and 80% are at grade B and above. Whilst the school is academically selective and the majority of pupils fall into the upper half of the ability spectrum, King's has a broad intake pattern.

The overwhelming majority of pupils go on to higher education. In the past few years the average number of Oxbridge offers has been 4 or 5 per annum.

Spiritual Life of the School:

The school is a member of The Woodard Corporation and therefore has an Anglican tradition. The school has its own Chapel and full-time School Chaplain who is an ordained Minister of the Church of England. Each year group attends morning chapel on a weekly basis. School communions, open to pupils, former pupils, staff and parents are held twice termly.

Music, Drama, Art and Design:

Music at the school flourishes. Over 150 pupils learn individual instruments. The school runs a series of bands and ensembles. There is a Choral Society, a smaller and more senior group, the Capella Choir, and the Junior School has its own Choirs. The standards of music within the school are strong and improving.

Drama also thrives. There is a designated Drama Studio and a purpose built Drama Workshop and this activity has received an enormous boost with the construction of the well-equipped King's Hall. Each year there is senior play and musical and the Junior School and Kindergarten have two productions each year. Approximately 150 children have individual Speech and Drama lessons and take the LAMDA examinations.

Art and Design both flourish and are popular options at GCSE and A-Level, as well as being very popular extra curricular activities. Regular exhibitions of pupil work are held and the school has had repeated national success in the 'Young Engineers for Britain' competition.

Sport and other extra curricular activities:

Each year group in the Senior School has one afternoon in the week given to sporting activities. The school has a strong sporting tradition. Major sports include Rugby, Cricket, Tennis, Hockey, Athletics and Swimming. School teams perform well against local opposition from both independent and maintained schools. In recent years several pupils have represented their country. Other sports include Basketball, Volleyball, Canoeing, Gymnastics, Trampolining and Cross Country Running.

The school encourages a broad range of activities and opportunities outside the classroom. These include The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, a very popular activity, and a wide range of clubs and societies from debating to climbing and from chess to community service. A number of these take place at our own Field Centre at Alnham in the Northumberland National Park. Strong business links foster a wide range of work experience placements and careers advice.

Scholarships and Bursaries:

The school has its own scholarship and bursary schemes. It also offers Music, Art and All rounder awards. Since the demise of the Assisted Places Scheme the school has looked to extend its financial help to worthy candidates.

Governance and Management:

The school is governed by a Council of up to 15 members who elect their own Chairman. The Senior Provost of The Woodard Corporation is an ex-officio member. The School Council meets formally three times a year. The Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Education Committee both meet three times a year, as do the other usual sub-committees.

The school has a Senior Management Team. This comprises of the Head, the Bursar, the Deputy Heads, Head of Sixth Form and the Head of the Junior School, who is responsible to the Head for the day-to-day running of the 4 -11 section of the School.

In addition to the Senior Management Team there are currently 72 full-time members of the teaching staff, together with part-time members as required, and 44 members of the support staff.