



**THE KING'S  
SCHOOL**

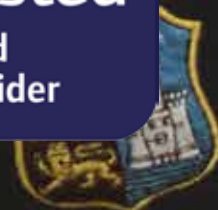
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# PROSPECTUS 2018/2019

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**Welcome to The King's School**  
Information for parents and students

  
**Ofsted**  
Good  
Provider





# ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE WITH THE KING'S SCHOOL

Our academic results are already showing what a dedicated teaching team and committed students can achieve together: our most recent round of examinations produced the best results in the school's history, and there have been real improvements in all our curriculum areas.

- ❑ Science: our results are in the top 20% in the country
- ❑ English: a quarter of all our students achieved GCSE grades 7-9
- ❑ Maths: our high GCSE grades have increased by 5% in a single year
- ❑ Balanced curriculum: we're now in the top 25% of the country for Applied Engineering
- ❑ Creative arts: superb GCSE results in Music, Media Studies, Art and Drama put us in the top quarter of schools nationally
- ❑ Our Progress 8 score has more than doubled; our students achieve almost a quarter of a grade better than their peers nationally in all their subjects
- ❑ Our wide range of enriching extracurricular activities would rival any school

## WELCOME

### I'm very pleased to welcome you to The King's School.

We're a happy and successful school where all students are valued, regardless of their background or ability. We treat our young people with respect, and we give them all the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Our goal is for all our students to leave us as happy, well-qualified, confident young adults who go on to excel in local sixth-forms, colleges, universities and the wider world.

We're very proud of our school: in June 2017 The King's School was judged 'good' by Ofsted. I became Head of School in September 2017, with a track record of raising standards considerably in a range of other schools. My mission is the same here, and with the support of Pontefract Academies Trust we've started with confidence on the journey towards 'outstanding'. Our ethos is summarised by the words 'Aim High; Work Hard; Achieve Excellence', while embracing our Trust mantra of 'Culture + Consistency = Excellence'.

We're making real progress already: the school achieved record-breaking examination results this summer, and students are now achieving around a quarter of a grade better than their peers nationally. Our grades are strong across the curriculum, including in the core subjects of Science, English and Maths – notably, a quarter of our students achieved English grades 7-9 (A-A\*), Maths high grades were up by 5%, and our Science results are the best in the school's history, being significantly above national averages. Considering the increased academic challenge of the new GCSE exams, these very good results are doubly pleasing.

Here at The King's School we combine high expectations and high standards with a strong sense of kindness, inclusivity and enjoyment. Our primary focus is to instil a lifelong love of learning, and to encourage all students to be respectful, determined, hard-working, confident and ambitious. We want every student to leave The King's School able to live a life full of opportunity and choice.

I hope this prospectus will give you a useful overview of what The King's School has to offer. On behalf of the whole team here, I invite you to consider becoming a part of it – it's a wonderful time for any student to join us.

**Elaine Briggs**  
Head of School





## PONTEFRACT ACADEMIES TRUST

The King's School is a part of Pontefract Academies Trust. All the schools in the PAT family live by a set of core values and guiding principles. They inform and guide our daily work, from the classroom to the central team.

### ACHIEVEMENT WITHOUT EXCUSES

- We have an unwavering focus on achievement. This is paramount so that all our children and young people enjoy greater life chances.
- We take responsibility for ensuring that they succeed. We own our own performance and do not rest on our laurels or seek to blame others.

### OUR PEOPLE MATTER

- We know that our people make a difference to the lives of our 3-16-year-olds. We want to make our academies places where great teachers want to teach, lead and build a career. Investment in the recruitment, development and retention of the best people is a top priority.
- We aim to provide professional work environments where our people have the support and the tools to do a great job and push our children and young people to scale new heights in a safe and secure environment.

### EXCELLENCE AS STANDARD

- We set high standards. "Good enough" is simply not. We do not accept second best from our pupils or ourselves.
- The Trust aims to be a highly reliable school improvement organisation that is disciplined in its approach to improving performance. A Trust with clear plans, and simple and precisely executed systems that not only develop and sustain excellent performance, but never stifle individual flair.

### STUDENTS COME FIRST

- Our academies are run for the benefit of children and young people, not the ease of adults. Their achievement comes first and staff in academies and the central trust office work to this end.
- The Trust aims to keep low priority tasks away from frontline teachers and leaders so that they can focus explicitly on our core business of teaching and learning.

### "STRONGER AS ONE"

- We take collective responsibility for each other and the results of all our children and young people. We enjoy sharing our success as a Trust while recognising the strengths of individuals and each academy. To this end collective accountability is rooted in a "if one fails we all fail" mentality.
- As a family of academies we collaborate with each other, challenge each other and share best practice. We do not let competition get in the way of our desire to get the best outcomes for all.

*"We have an unwavering focus on achievement."*

## WHAT DRIVES US?



*Some of The King's School's most important characteristics include:*

### Outstanding leadership

At the heart of every outstanding school is a strong leadership team. Our Head of School and her senior team have invaluable experience of guiding institutions to success, and this is reflected in the rapid progress we've been making. The King's School also has an Executive Director of Secondary who divides his time with our sister school, Carleton High: he ensures that both schools make the best use of the systems, processes and resources that guarantee success and achievement.

### Support for students

Effective pastoral care goes hand in hand with academic success: we value all our students as individuals, and we make sure there's always someone available to help them with their various needs outside the classroom as well as in. Our full-time support staff – Student Liaison Officers (SLO) and Progress Leaders (PL) – keep a close eye on the students in each year group, and act to help individuals who may need assistance. SLOs and PLs are on hand all day at The King's School for any young people – or indeed parents – who want to talk about issues of any kind.

### First class teaching

One of our top priorities is to attract exceptional staff to The King's School, and we've already successfully recruited a number of highly gifted teachers to join the new team. Nothing makes a greater difference to learner outcomes than quality of teaching: our emphasis on excellent behaviour in the classroom means that teachers at The King's School are able to focus on excellent teaching, providing what Ofsted call 'lively and engaging' lessons. We invest in all our teachers, and they receive high quality training on a weekly basis.

### Investment in resources

Raising academic standards is always our first priority, but it reflects a broader mindset of pride in our fantastic school community, shared by teachers and students alike. Along with the investments we've made in the classroom, we've invested in the school itself to make it a place where people want to perform to their very best – we've refurbished buildings, introduced a smart new uniform, and given ourselves a new visual brand that embodies the high standards we're aiming for.

# FROM GOOD TO OUTSTANDING



The King's School has a long tradition of academic success: it's a strong foundation to build on and take the school to the next level – the 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating which is well within reach. The new senior leadership team have an exceptional track record of creating cultures of achievement, and we have tried and tested systems that underpin our constant focus on the highest standards.

The King's School is a place where teachers can really focus on their teaching and students on their learning. It's a disciplined environment where behaviour is managed consistently – students understand our high expectations and how to meet them. This approach develops a culture where every student understands there's no limit to what they can achieve.

Our vision is to provide the best possible quality of education within an outstanding environment. We're on an exciting journey to this end, consistently and regularly delivering improvements.



**"Pupils make strong progress"**

**"Leaders at all levels have high expectations"**

**"Under the leadership of a highly effective senior leader, the best practice in teaching and learning is being shared widely across the school"**

**"Leaders and teachers promote good behaviour consistently well. Most pupils respond very positively to the school's expectations. They are polite and show good attitudes to their learning."**

**"Pupils feel safe. Bullying is rare and dealt with effectively. Pupils work well together and show a high level of respect for diversity."**

# HIGH STANDARDS HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Our senior leadership team know from long experience that there's no limit on what can be achieved if teachers can truly focus on their teaching and students on their learning. But that can't be done without a commitment to the very highest of standards from teachers and students alike.

Excellent behaviour at all times is paramount here at The King's School. We set clear boundaries and apply standards consistently and fairly at all levels of the school: we believe students work best in an environment where there is consistency alongside a culture of praise and encouragement.

Our school 'Non-negotiables' are displayed in each classroom, so all our students understand our high expectations and how to meet them. A 'Consequence board' sets out clearly what will happen on occasions when they fall short.



towards certificates and prizes. Every half term we hold a rewards assembly, putting motivation and achievement at the heart of our culture.

## Uniform

Our uniform is a sign that we're all part of a community here at The King's School, and in this – like in everything else we do – we aim for the highest standards. A smart, correct uniform reflects pride in who we are and shows respect for others, and we expect all our students to wear the right uniform at all times.

## Attendance

Research links a good attendance record with academic and social achievement. We encourage all our students to work towards 100% attendance, with a minimum target of 97% (equivalent to the top 25% of UK secondary schools). Punctuality matters, too. Arriving ten minutes late each day adds up to a loss of six whole school days each year: we expect all pupils to be with us on time every morning. Excellent attendance is celebrated at our awards assembly each term.

## Non-negotiables at The King's School

- Follow staff instructions first time and without questions.
- Be punctual in the morning and to all lessons with a full set of equipment.
- Always have a polite and positive attitude towards staff and peers.
- In all lessons have your planner out on the desks, record homework and complete it on time.
- Speak only with the teacher's permission during lessons.
- Endeavour to speak clearly, correctly and in full sentences.
- Walk calmly and quietly around the building; do not have inappropriate physical contact with other students.
- Respect the building – never drop or leave litter.

It's important to stress, though, that we approach our commitment to the highest standards in a constructive way, celebrating the positive. Students who consistently meet our expectations, produce something exceptional or go the extra mile receive Epraise points, which add up

# AN INSPIRING CURRICULUM FOR A LIFE OF OPPORTUNITY

At The King's School our primary focus is to instil a lifelong love of learning while creating confident learners who can live a life full of opportunity and choice. To this end, we offer a broad and balanced curriculum which inspires and challenges all our students.

In terms of classroom standards we take a rigorous approach, and we push our students to exceed their own expectations. We ensure that the curriculum is accessible to all, but we tailor its delivery so individuals are truly engaged whatever their level or ability. Different pathways are available for students with different needs, and we offer challenging vocational opportunities to students who are less focused on taking academic routes alongside the many GCSE courses.

We monitor our individual students closely and consistently, and we use our assessments to actively shape their future learning.

## Academic reports

We produce regular academic progress reports for parents and carers, ensuring they're clear and easy to understand. These reports are also an important way of tracking a student's expected rate of development through the school – if the report shows a student is starting to drop behind, we make sure they receive the support they need to get back on the right foot.

## Parent evenings

It's very important to us that we maintain a close relationship with parents and carers: education is a partnership between school and home, and we get the best results by working together. We organise regular evenings when our students' parents and carers are invited in to school to talk about their progress in and out of the classroom; and staff are always available for ad hoc appointments to discuss concerns or questions of whatever kind.

## Achieve – extra support

In addition to regular lesson time, we run an after-school Achieve programme where students who would benefit from extra support to reach their full potential get personal coaching in the areas where they need it the most. Achieve is a compulsory activity for those selected – and it gets real results.



*“You’d think it would be really strict here with all the rules about behaving, but it really just means that everyone gets on with things without disturbing other people, and our teachers don’t have to spend all their time shouting at the class. The atmosphere’s actually really friendly.”*

Year 10 student



*“I’ve had such a great time doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award at school. I never thought I’d be able to do some of the things, like an epic hike and camping trip in the pouring rain – but we all managed it and even enjoyed it!”*

Year 11 student

## LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Along with our focus on academic achievement, we firmly believe that opportunities beyond the classroom also play a critical part in the development and achievement of our students. These broaden horizons, grow essential life skills, build self-confidence and resilience, increase friendship groups – and they’re fun, too.

We’re very proud of the extensive extracurricular activities we offer at The King’s School, alongside the wide variety of school trips and other events we run. These include a range of sports, performing arts, IT, visual and creative arts, and subject clubs.

‘Sports for All’ is a core ethos within school, and with the help of external coaches and other organisations we encourage students to develop their skills and to improve their health and fitness to the best of their ability. We frequently organise competitive sporting events with other schools; and some King’s School students participate in their favourite sports at county, regional and even national level.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is particularly popular at The King’s School. We offer students from Year 9 upwards the chance to take Bronze and Silver levels of this challenging but very enjoyable personal development programme – currently, 124 of our Year 10 and 11 students are working to achieve their awards.

Students in all year groups have the chance to go on school trips of all kinds. There’s plenty to do in the region – Yorkshire and the Lake District have a huge amount to offer – but some lucky students have recently travelled with us as far as Iceland, and in 2019 we’re heading to New York for the first time. Our annual school ski trip is always popular too.

Finally, The King’s School is very much part of the local community, and our strong links are very important to us. Students actively look for ways to contribute to the community during our Curriculum for Life and Citizenship lessons. We’re also immensely proud of the charitable work our students take part in: their recent fundraising for great worthy causes including MacMillan and Lepra has been really impressive.

### An International School

We’ve been an International School since 2016, which means that our students have visited different countries and stayed with families abroad – and we’ve also enjoyed hosting foreign students who’ve come to visit Pontefract.

We were delighted to learn that we have secured a grant of €26,000 this year from the European Union’s Erasmus+ scheme. The King’s School has just begun an exciting two-year project with the Community League for Environmental Action Network (CLEAN). The work is focused on preserving and restoring the planet: students learn about and raise awareness of our most pressing environmental issues, and work towards finding solutions for a sustainable future.

The project involves collaborating with a network of peers across Europe, giving King’s School students the opportunity to broaden their cultural horizons, boost their confidence, develop their language skills and make friends in other countries; while learning more about some of the most important issues facing the world today.

# INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT FOR EVERY STUDENT

We take pastoral care very seriously at The King's School, and we do everything we can to make sure our students are happy and settled with no barriers to what they can achieve.

We use a tried and tested student support system where non-teaching staff focus on how each individual is progressing through the school, and step in if their help is needed. Each year group has a Progress Leader (PL) responsible for monitoring academic progress, and a full-time Student Liaison Officer (SLO) who is there to deal with any other issues our students may encounter, in or outside of school. We have other staff responsible for helping students with areas such as attendance and welfare, and we also have close working links with several external agencies.

All our students have regular meetings with their PLs and their SLOs, so they know they always have someone to talk to if anything's troubling them. Parents and carers are also welcome to make an appointment if they'd like to discuss any matters concerned with their child's development, academic or otherwise.

We take a zero-tolerance approach to bullying at The King's School, and we encourage our students to challenge it if they ever encounter it. If bullying is reported, our staff are trained to deal with it swiftly and sensitively.



*"You can talk to your SLO about things you might not want to mention in class. I think it's good that we have another level of people who can support us at school, because life is quite stressful with everything that's going on."*

Year 9 student



# PREPARING FOR LIFE AT THE KING'S SCHOOL

Starting a new school can be a daunting prospect. We understand, and we do everything we can to make the process as smooth as possible, not only for students but also for their parents or carers.

Students offered a place at The King's School are invited with their parents to a transition evening, where the Head of School will give a welcome presentation. Other members of staff – including form teachers, senior leaders and the non-teaching pastoral team – will be on hand to answer questions, explaining what we offer to our students and the commitment to learning we expect in return. This also lays the ground for the partnership approach we adopt: parental support is crucial for a child's academic success.

In addition to the transition evening, students who'll be joining us in Year 7 attend a full transition day with their peers, where they get an early taste of life at The King's School. Each student is also assigned a buddy from Year 8, who'll support them during the first weeks and help them settle in swiftly.

When students join us mid-term we offer a similar transition support plan. Parents meet with their child's Progress Leader and Student Liaison Officer, who'll help their child settle in on both academic and pastoral fronts. New students are assigned a house and form, along with a 'buddy' from their year group who'll be there to guide and support them through their first few weeks as a member of our school community.

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***“The transition day was good because it meant I wasn't worried about what to expect when I started properly – I think it made me more confident when I arrived, and it was good to meet the others who were going to be starting with me.”***

Year 7 student



## ADMISSIONS POLICY ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-19

Pontefract Academies Trust is the admission authority for its schools:

- Carleton Park J&I School
- Carleton High School
- De Lacy Primary School
- Halfpenny Lane JI&N School
- Larks Hill J&I School
- Orchard Head JI&N School
- The King's School
- The Rookeries J&I School with hearing impaired resource

The Trust is required by its funding agreement to comply with the School Admissions Code and the law relating to admissions, though the Secretary of State has the power to vary this requirement where there is demonstrable need. The purpose of the School Admissions Code is to ensure that all school places are allocated and offered in an open and fair way. The School Admissions Code has the force of law and includes a requirement to comply with associated regulations and legislations attached within it.

Objections to the admission arrangements of academies can be made to the Schools Adjudicator, whose decisions are binding and enforceable.

The Trust is responsible for arranging/providing for an appeal against refusal of a place at a school.

The Trust has agreed that it will follow the Wakefield M D Council Admissions Policy in managing its admission arrangements to ensure that the allocation of school places remains fair, clear and objective. This should enable parents to understand easily how places for each school will be allocated.

The admission numbers for each school in the Trust are published online by Wakefield M D Council along with other state-funded schools and academies.

The Wakefield M D Council Admissions Policy and Published Admission Numbers for each of our schools can be found online at [www.wakefield.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-children/schools/admissions/policies](http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-children/schools/admissions/policies).





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