



# ***To be at the forefront of British Education Internationally – King's Vision***

## **New Candidates information**

September 2018

**Website:** [panama.kingscollegeschools.com](http://panama.kingscollegeschools.com)

**Twitter:** *Kings College Panama @KC\_Panama*

**Last ISI inspection was Oct 2015. All aspects of the inspection were categorised as either good or excellent.**

**Full Council of British International Schools (COBIS) accreditation.**

## **King's Group**

When applying to King's School, it needs to be acknowledged that you are part of a group. The original King's College, Madrid (in Soto de Viñuelas) was founded over 40 years ago in 1969. Since then the group has grown to be one of the most well known and well respected groups internationally. Within the diversity of the group there are 9 schools representing Spain, UK, Latvia and Panama. The King's Group also has 4 Academy schools in the UK and also has specialized companies in Company Business training, English Language, Summer International Programmes.

Being part of a group, gives staff, financial security and also the opportunity to develop professionally in a variety of schools and destinations. The Group intends to continue to grow and its aim is to develop and open more schools within the Latin American region within the next five years.

## **King's College, Panama**

The school opened in September 2012. The school is unique in Panama, as it is the first British School and was opened as a request of the Panamanian President and the British Ambassador. In conjunction with the Ministry of Education, the school offers training for up to 25 Panamanian English teachers a year through the schools training centre. All the British teachers play a key role in this training and need to be prepared to become professional mentors and run seminar sessions. King's College Panama is the only school to have an all British trained teaching team. Located in the school, we have our own training facility which forms part of King's Training Panama.

Currently the school has 340 students from Nursery to Year 10. Each year this will grow through to IGCSE's and eventually Year 13 and A-Levels. The school is very popular and has a growing reputation for quality assured education. The school follows British Values and also has a very international feel with 31 nationalities represented in our student body.

Parent and pupil satisfaction is high and we continue to thrive to have an excellent reputation for both academic and social development within the community and afar.

King's College, Panama works in close collaboration with the other King's Schools in Madrid and further afield. All teachers within the Group work collaboratively to ensure continuity of good practice as children progress through the various schools.

The Headteacher of King's College, Panama is a member of the King's Group Schools' Management Board and meets with the other Head teachers. The Group Chairman and the Group CEO regularly to ensure quality assurance and standardisation of policies and procedures. King's College Panama works closely with UK consultants to ensure the development of curriculum.

## **Curriculum**

King's College offers a British curriculum taught by a full British trained teaching team. As well as a full range of National Curriculum subjects, pupils from Year 1 also study Spanish Language, with the addition of Panamanian studies from Year 7 until Year 13.

In Primary, the school follows a creative curriculum and students are individually tracked and targets set to enhance learning. Classroom assistants are in all EYFS classes and shared throughout the Primary department. The Primary school is working on life without levels and being a relatively new school, the curriculum is evolving and developing. The school uses Abacus Maths, Read Write Inc, ORT, Big Cat Collins and Oxford Owl.

In Seniors, the school is accredited by both Cambridge International Examinations and Edexcel; students work towards IGCSE programmes. As the school develops A-levels and Sixth Form will be offered. The Senior School has specialist teachers and holds specific areas for Art, ICT and Science. The development of the Seniors is fundamental to the school's future progress and the high quality of teaching and learning will address our first graduates needs in 2020.

At the end of their studies, children will also be entitled to their Panamanian leaver certificate. It is hoped that King's College Panama will follow the other King's Group schools and have many children attend top universities around the world.

Links with COBIS allows teachers to develop and keep abreast of UK policy. Internal promotion is encouraged and there are opportunities to become Coordinators and develop through Middle Management programmes.

KCP is a Cambridge Language Centre with all students from Y2 up having the opportunity to take part in the Cambridge Young Learners Exams and the KET, PET and First Certificate.

The school had an agreement with the Panamanian Ministry and all teachers play a role in training and mentoring Panamanian teachers annually.

## **Ethos**

The school is based on the principles of a UK independent school. Pupils are expected to work hard, take academia seriously, and strive for their best results. We aim for confident and independent learners. The pupils attitude to learning is outstanding and this is nurtured by a professional and dedicated team. Pupils are also expected to play a full role in the life of the school, taking advantage of the wider activities, particularly in the fields of arts and sports, available to them. In King's College Panama we strive for well-rounded individuals with both high academic and social standards.

The school has a House system, and pupils are encouraged to get involved in the many house competitions during the year, which include academic and sport activities, as well as public performance. Student leadership plays a big part in school life, with students taking roles such as Prefects, House Captains, Form Captains, Subject Ambassadors, Playground Pals and Members of the Student Council. The students take social responsibility seriously and through fun days and fundraisers, help local projects in the community. The School also offers Duke of Edinburgh for our older students, and many of our residential visits are based around community projects.

The school has a strong Debate team and has competed in Argentina and Mexico representing both the school and Panama in competitions. Drama and performance plays an important role in school life with students of all ages taking part in National and interschool concerts and performances, as well as school productions.

Many pupils travel to school on the school buses, some have long journeys. Around 50% of the children live locally. Traffic in Panama does mean that journey times are long for all our students. This makes it all the more important that we work hard to provide a warm and welcoming environment for our pupils and their families.

## **Living and working in Panama**

Panama has amazing diversity. It has the Caribbean on one side and the Pacific Ocean on the other. The country is rich with culture, rainforests and wildlife. Panama City is a developing city and aims to be the “new” Singapore of Latin America in the next few years. It has a mixture of Spanish, American, Caribbean and European influences. It is the airport hub for many companies allowing direct access to both South and North America destinations.

Panama is a fast developing country, there is excellent shopping and housing; however it is important to remember that it has the challenges and frustrations of any developing country. Life can sometimes be very challenging and due to the expanding economy, food and housing are more expensive than the surrounding countries. Housing in Panama is not cheap and candidates need to be aware that this will take up a large part of their salary. Apartments are luxurious and often come with pools and gyms within the complex. The price of a one bedroom is similar to that of a 2 bedroom and so often teacher’s flat share. Expect to pay approximately \$1000 - \$2000 on rent plus bills.

General daily life is good and there is a real balance of expat and local restaurants, bars and amazing shopping.

Local public transport is limited, but there is a metro line and the Metro bus covers all areas of the city. UBER is a new addition to Panama and offers a relatively cheap and secure service. For a family, a car would be essential and this can prove to be expensive.

Teachers can take the teachers’ bus to and from school and this picks up and drops off at various locations throughout the city.

Staff manage to get away at weekends and explore the region during the holidays. There is a lot to discover and again there are budget and luxury options

Living in Panama is an experience. New candidates need to do their research and be ready for the challenges that living in a developing Latin country has. It is a fantastic place and there is a lot to do and see as long as you are ready to make the effort and embrace it.

### **Timeline of application and employment.**

- **All applications must be completed with the King's Application Form (inline with Safer Recruitment Policy).**
- **References will be called for before interview.**
- **Interviews will be on skype (unless a local candidate is found) by members of the School Leadership team.**
- **Successful candidates must be prepared to be re interviewed by a student body within the same week of the main interview and maybe asked for a sample of planning to be emailed to the school.**
- **Candidates will be informed of the outcome of the interview within a week and a formal offer made from the Head teacher.**
- **Kings Group HR department will issue Terms & Conditions following formal offer**