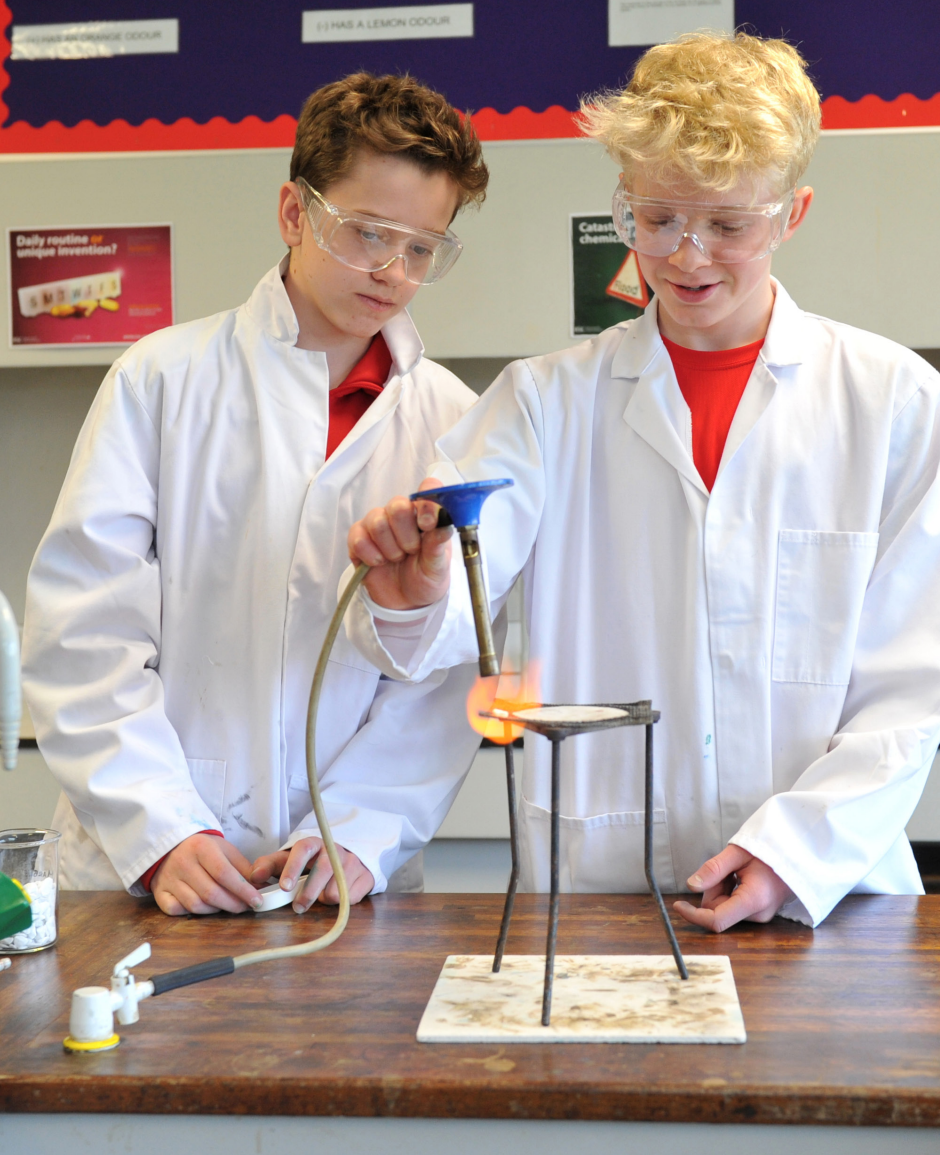




King's College
TAUNTON

BIOLOGY TECHNICIAN

CLOSING DATE:
FRIDAY 25 APRIL 2025



HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

At King's, we are committed to ensuring that every young person has the opportunity to unlock their potential, regardless of background or circumstance.

Thank you for your interest in the role of Biology Technician at King's College.

King's College is a thriving, co-educational, independent boarding and day school for children aged from 13 to 18 years. The school provides inspired teaching and superb facilities, combined with a nurturing of individual potential which creates an environment where young people achieve great things.

We are seeking an enthusiastic and efficient technician who would contribute to the effective running of our busy, well-resourced department. The successful candidate will be able to liaise effectively with both pupils and staff and be willing to work flexibly within the school environment, bringing their own expertise and knowledge to enhance the learning experience at our school.

We look forward to hearing from you and considering your application.



Michael Sloan
Executive Head, King's College Taunton

King's College and King's College Prep are Woodard Schools. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the safe welfare of children and young people, and expect all staff to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

ABOUT THE SCHOOLS

King's provides continuous day and boarding education for girls and boys aged two to 18 years. It comprises King's College Prep which has approximately 300 children from 2 to 13 and a senior school with approximately 400 pupils from 13 to 18.

The schools are situated on separate sites in the south west of England and combine traditional values with state-of-the-art facilities. Both schools are run by one governing body, with many functions (marketing, strategy and finance for example) undertaken jointly.

King's College has a rich and welcoming family and community ethos. Just over 60% of the pupils board. For a relatively small school, it has an enviable record of success in all areas.

The school has regularly topped GCSE and

A-level league tables for Somerset. A broad range of co-curricular activities is offered, and the school is renowned for its success in sport, music, performing arts, fine art, design technology and outdoor pursuits. In many of these activities our pupils have achieved success at national and even international levels.

Good discipline is encouraged in a firm and positive way within a supportive pastoral framework. King's College is strong on manners and social skills. Pupils go on to thrive at good universities and in their professional careers. In short, King's is a purposeful, outward-looking, down-to-earth, highly successful school.



KING'S COLLEGE

South Road, Taunton TA1 3LA

Main School Building

- 1 The Chapel
- 2 The Quad
- 3 Dining Hall
- 4 Woodard Room
- 5 Latin
- English
- Philosophy of Religious & Ethics
- Modern Foreign Languages - upstairs
- 6 Main School Corridor
- Headmaster's Office
- PA to the Headmaster's Office
- Examination Office
- Admissions Office
- Careers Office
- Maths
- 7 Philip Richards Building
- Library - upstairs
- IT Helpdesk
- Visitor toilets
- 8 Headmaster's House
- 9 Silvermead Studio and Arts House
- 10 Briar Lee Tennis Courts
- 11 Sixth Form Centre
- Head of Sixth Form Office
- Development Office
- 12 School Uniform Shop
- 13 Cookery School

- 14 Laundry
- 15 Shooting Range
- 16 CCF and Outdoor Pursuits
- Stores
- Chindits
- Army/Navy/Marines
- 17 Finance Office
- 18 Design Technology Centre
- 19 Squash Courts
- 20 First Team Cricket Pavillion
- 21 First Team Cricket Pitch
- 22 Buttler's Ramp
- 23 Tennis and Netball Dome
- 24 Tennis and Netball Courts
- 25 Sports pitches (rugby/cricket/athletics/football)
- 26 All-weather Hockey Pitch
- 27 Cricket Pavilion
- 28 Athletics Cabin
- 29 Sports Performance & Cricket Centre
- 30 Swimming Pool
- 31 Changing Cabins
- 32 Sports Hall
- Climbing Wall
- Gym
- PE Classrooms

- 33 Science Centre
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- History
- 34 Geography Centre
- 35 The Amphitheatre
- 36 The Theatre
- Black Box
- Auditorium
- 37 Music School
- The Octagon
- Music Technology
- Practice Rooms
- 38 Medical Centre
- A Bishop Fox House - Boys
- B Carpenter House - Girls
- C Meynell House - Girls
- D King Alfred House - Boys
- E Taylor House - Girls
- F Woodard House - Boys
- G Tuckwell House - Boys



A RURAL COUNTY OF ROLLING HILLS

Taunton is surrounded by natural beauty, with the Blackdowns, Mendips and Quantock Hills on the doorstep, plus Exmoor National Park, the Somerset Levels and Dartmouth are a short drive away.

Somerset is renowned for its cheddar cheese and cider. A wealth of apple orchards once made Somerset the cider capital of the UK, whilst the Cheddar Gorge caves are still used to mature cheese today.

Taunton is the county town of Somerset, in the South West of England. It is a busy market town located between junction 25 and 26 on the M5.

A growing commercial and residential centre, Taunton has a splendid small theatre, the County Cricket Ground, a successful rugby club, a delightful museum, the usual shopping outlets and restaurants, and a regular farmers' market.

If you love the great outdoors, you can be on the beach in 40 minutes and the Quantocks are just 15 minutes away. For those who prefer city lights, the fast West Country train service reaches Paddington in under two hours. By car, Exeter is 25 minutes south, Bristol 35 minutes north and you can reach Bath in about an hour.



THE POST

The biology department at King's is vibrant, ambitious and enjoys a high profile among pupils and staff. Alongside the other sciences biology is taught within a purpose-built science centre by our a hard-working, friendly and supportive staff. Pupils start in year 9 studying the AQA GCSE biology course and then, in Year 10, are guided to either continue with the sciences as single GCSE subjects or move on to the Trilogy science route. Currently four out of five sets in a year group take Trilogy sciences for GCSE. In the Sixth Form a good proportion study A level biology and the department regularly gains strong results in the external exams. Many of our pupils go on to study medicine, veterinary science, biology and other related disciplines at top universities.

The science department has ten purpose-built laboratories, of which four are dedicated to biology; each science has a large prep room with a dedicated technician. Alongside the laboratories there is a science garden that houses a thriving pond. The philosophy of the biology department is for pupils to carry out as much practical work as possible to support their studies, and we have four full-time teachers who work highly collaboratively. The department supports and contributes to a junior science society and a Sixth Form biology society. We enjoy collaboration with other departments, for example exploring biological drawing with the art department, and visits from local primary schools. Additionally, we run frequent trips, including our annual Sixth Form field trip to the Isles of Scilly.

We are seeking an enthusiastic, pro-active and efficient technician who would contribute to the effective running of our busy, well-resourced department. The successful candidate will be able to liaise effectively with both pupils and staff and be willing to work flexibly within the school environment, bringing their own expertise and knowledge to enhance the learning experience at our school.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We require an organised and knowledgeable scientist to join the department from September 2025 (or sooner) in a full-time capacity. The successful candidate will be responsible for the biology preparation room and the equipment used in the biology department. They will feel comfortable working in a school laboratory environment. The role is to provide four laboratories with the equipment needed for practical lessons, and to work with the teachers to ensure that the required practical components of the GCSE and A level courses are fully met. Additional responsibilities include caring for the animals and plants housed within the department and seasonal maintenance of the pond and wildlife garden area.

The expected working hours are from 8.30am until 5pm, Monday to Friday, and 8.30am to 12.30pm on Saturdays, during term time. However, as the role includes tending to plants and animals over the school holidays there is a possibility to negotiate one afternoon off in the week in lieu.

King's College is an exciting, forward-looking and rewarding school to work in. We support all staff to develop their teaching and pastoral skills, providing frequent access to high quality professional development, utilising the skills and experience of colleagues through our peer-coaching programme and tailoring professional development to each individual and their aspirations. We believe that investing in the development our staff is a key element in ensuring excellent teaching, learning and pastoral care. We are keen to embrace new ideas and technologies to ensure that all staff at King's are at the forefront of teaching and learning innovation, and are rightly proud of the quality of pedagogy displayed daily around the school. Two members of the SMT are directly responsible for the wellbeing (Assistant Head Common Room) and professional development (Assistant Head Teaching and Learning) of all staff at King's.

PERSONAL SPECIFICATION

	Essential Criteria	Desirable Criteria
Qualifications	• A level in a science subject	• Degree level qualification, ideally but not restricted to a scientific discipline
Knowledge and Experience	• Experience of working in an educational environment in a support role. • Experience of either teaching science or working as a science technician • Knowledge of health and safety legislation and guidance regarding the use of chemicals	• Ability to follow practical methodology and problem solve if an experiment is failing • Experience of working creatively within a fixed budget
Skills	• Able to form and maintain positive relationships with colleagues both in the department and also across the wider school • Able to work as part of a team but also able to be autonomous when necessary • Efficient and effective administration and organisational skills • The ability to show initiative in approaching tasks and with a flexible approach	• Good IT skills including Office 365 • Experience working with some or all of the following: microbiology techniques, sterilising equipment, servicing microscopes, making up solutions • Knowledge of maintaining a wildlife area and pond
Personal Qualities and Abilities	• Personable, with a sense of humour • Patience, kindness, resilience • Ability to use initiative and a flexible approach	• Own transport an advantage for collecting perishable practical items e.g. dissection specimens (expenses paid)

The qualities and experience outlined in the person specification will be assessed by the following methods:

- Sight of original qualifications
- King's College application form
- Interview
- References from current employer and other, chosen, professionals

King's College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the safe welfare of children and young people, and expect all staff to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

APPOINTMENT PROCESS



Candidates are expected to have read the enclosed appointment policy and agreed to the terms within.

King's has its own pay scale and there are discounts at both King's College Prep and King's College for staff children.

Please write a brief letter of application, addressed to the Headmaster, and complete the application form enclosed and send by email or letter to:

Mr Craig Sweet / Mrs Kirsty Eady
c/o HR Department
King's College, Taunton, Somerset TA1 3LA

recruitment@kings-taunton.co.uk

01823 328105 / 01823 328231

The closing date for applications is 9am on Friday 25 April 2025.

Interviews will be held in the week beginning Monday 28 April.



We encourage.
We are courageous.
We are King's.



King's College Taunton

South Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 3LA

www.kings-taunton.co.uk