

Information for applicants

History

King's Ely can trace its origins to the Abbey of Ely established by St Etheldreda in the 7th century AD. The monastery was re-founded by St Dunstan in 973, and the school later gained royal charters from both King Henry VIII (1541) and King Charles II (1662). Every year since 1541 the senior boys who are academically most gifted have been nominated King's Scholars; in 1973 Queen Elizabeth II requested that similarly talented girls be known as Queen's Scholars. Additionally, each year, two of the highest achieving King's Ely International students are nominated as International Scholars.

Governance

The school is administered by a Board of Governors who are also Directors of the Company. The Dean of Ely is ex officio a member of the Governing Body, with two of the remaining fourteen governors appointed by the Chapter of Ely Cathedral, one by the University of Cambridge, and one by the Ely Diocesan Board of Education.

Links with Ely Cathedral

The school has always been closely linked with the great Cathedral of Ely. All pupils attend a school service in the Cathedral at least once a week. Pupils who are not members of the Church of England are made welcome and almost all attend cathedral services. Several medieval monastic buildings are still in use by the school, including the splendid monastic barn, now the dining hall. We educate the junior boy and senior girl and boy choristers of the cathedral.

A Modern School

Our history, however impressive it may be, is only a small part of the story. We are a modern place of education with all of the facilities that you would expect of a successful school. In 1996 new buildings were opened for junior Music, Art and Technology (including Information Technology and Food Technology). In 2001 a new senior Music School was opened, and a major new teaching block for Junior School pupils in Years 7 and 8 was opened in 2003. Our new Arts Centre was opened in 2010 and the recent acquisition of The Old Bishop's Palace has provided us with an opportunity to create unique facilities for members of the Sixth Form, which they have occupied since September 2012.

Pupils

King's Ely has approximately 1000 pupils, boys and girls, aged rising from 1 to 19 and almost half of King's Ely Senior boards. Most of the boarding houses are segregated by gender and by age. The school offers a large range of subjects for GCSE and A-level. Almost all of our students go on to higher education; most of them to Russell Group universities.

King's Ely International

KEI was set up in 1999 as a bridge for international students to gain the language and study skills they need to study in Britain. Students follow a broad curriculum up to GCSE and many of them make the transition into the appropriate year group within the mainstream King's Ely either before GCSE or for their A level studies.

Ethos

The development of every child is watched closely, carefully and with a genuine interest. We value individuals and that is key to our philosophy and ethos. Teaching takes place from Monday morning through to lunchtime on Saturday for some, with sport and other activities taking place on Saturday afternoons for older pupils. Sport, outdoor pursuits, art, drama and music are strong in the school. The Ely Scheme, our outdoor pursuits programme, is exceptional and develops personal skills such as leadership and initiative as well as practical skills such as navigation or climbing. Children are encouraged to try different things; to reveal their particular talents and passions and to develop the courage and self-belief to take them as far as they are able.

King's Ely is a very happy school. Parents and the pupils themselves are the first to acknowledge that relations between staff and pupils are excellent and that pupils grow up confident, well-adjusted, and prepared to meet the adult world.