



**Appointment of a  
Head of Modern Foreign Languages  
September 2020**



**THE KING'S SCHOOL** is a leading independent co-educational boarding school, situated in the heart of the historic cathedral city of Canterbury in Kent.

The precincts of Canterbury Cathedral are part of a world heritage site, a centre of pilgrimage and study, and host to over 1 million visitors each year from many different cultures. This international dimension deeply influences the life of the city and the school.

The origins of King's date back to the arrival of St Augustine in 597 AD and the school's Christian tradition remains at its heart although pupils and staff subscribe to many different faiths and beliefs and none. Embracing this diversity, there is a desire to foster fairness, tolerance, courage, perseverance, mutual respect and understanding. The Benedictine tradition of developing mind, body and spirit within a community given to hospitality still influences the life of the Cathedral and the school lives out its life in that context. Thus, academic excellence and scholarship take their place alongside the school's commitment to physical and cultural endeavour. Sport is strong, with a number of boys' and girls' teams at national level. Music and drama are outstanding, both having the finest traditions and producing performances of the highest standards. King's Week, the school's own Festival of Creative and Performing Arts, attracts thousands of visitors each summer.

The curriculum at King's is based upon strong academic roots. It emphasises and relies upon what is best in traditional school education: scholarly excellence supported by a caring pastoral and tutorial system, and a wide-ranging co-curricular programme. The curriculum is continually adapting and reacting to the changing demands of modern education: new subjects are added, new teaching techniques adopted, and there is an increasing awareness of the need to provide programmes of study that match individual needs and skills. The school does not gauge its success by exam results alone but by broader measures of educational attainment and personal development, helping pupils to achieve their potential and equipping them to play an active and responsible role in society as young adults.

Our family of schools comprises The King's School, Canterbury (KSC), The Junior King's School, and the International College. At KSC there are currently 860 pupils, split 50-50 boys-girls, of whom about 80% are boarders. There are six boys' boarding houses, seven girls' boarding houses and three mixed day houses. Junior King's occupies a fine rural site on the banks of the River Stour, in Sturry, two miles from Canterbury. There are over 375 pupils at Junior King's of whom 20% are boarders.

The King's School occupies various sites around the Cathedral and its precincts. Many teaching departments and the majority of houses are in the beautiful ancient buildings around Green Court on the north side of the Cathedral. To the east of the Cathedral the St Augustine's site is home to five boarding houses, a medieval refectory, and the magnificent neo-Gothic school library. There are two major sites for sport: Birley's, and the Recreation Centre, both within walking distance of the school, with rowing at Westbere Lakes in Sturry. The International College opened in September 2018 as the third school in the King's family, and a fourth school opened in Shenzhen, China, in 2019.



*The school library, Undercroft, and ruins of St Augustine's Abbey on the St Augustine's campus at King's*

## THE DEPARTMENT

I/GCSE	A*	A	B	C	D	%A*	%A*-A
<b>French</b>	30	31	15	11	3	33%	68%
<b>German</b>	8	3	4	1		50%	69%
<b>Italian</b>	5					100%	
<b>Mandarin</b>	26	3				90%	100%
<b>Russian</b>	11					100%	
<b>Spanish</b>	28	21	21	14	2	32%	56%

The Modern Languages department is exceptionally wide-ranging and successful. In addition to outstanding examination results, it encourages confident communication, academic rigour and high levels of literary and cultural awareness. In each of the languages taught we aim to provide pupils with a tool for life, a command of a foreign language that will enable successful and natural communication in all types of situations. In parallel with this, there is a constant desire to develop the moral, societal and spiritual dispositions deriving from an engagement and appreciation of other cultures and societies.

Set in attractive palace buildings dating back to Tudor times (Elizabeth I celebrated her 40th birthday here), the department is a busy and thriving place to work. There are eighteen teachers and eight assistants, with a diverse mixture of personalities and talents, native and non-native speakers. To complement taught courses, there is a rich programme of clubs, societies, trips and exchanges.

In the Shell Year (Year 9), pupils choose two languages from French, German, Mandarin and Spanish. Currently, we offer CIE IGCSEs and AQA A levels. Virtually all pupils take one or two languages to IGCSE. A good proportion of the year choose to study one or more of the wide range of languages on offer in the Sixth Form.

Academic results are consistently high but vary by year group with healthy numbers of pupils leaving King's each year for a variety of modern languages and linguistics courses at top universities. The public examination results from 2019 are shown below; historic results can be found on the school's website.

A Level	A*	A	B	C	D	E	%A*	%A*-A
<b>French</b>	1	10	5	2	4	1	4%	48%
<b>German</b>		2		1			0%	100%
<b>Italian</b>	1	2					33%	100%
<b>Mandarin</b>	2	8	3				15%	77%
<b>Russian</b>	4	2					67%	100%
<b>Spanish</b>	6	3	5	3	2		32%	47%

Pre-U	D1	D2	D3	M1	M2
<b>Mandarin</b>	1	1	1		

## THE ROLE

This very attractive role has become available due to the promotion of Mr Ben Pennells, currently Head of Modern Languages, to the role of Deputy Head (Academic) at another school after a very successful four years at King's. The Head of MFL is presently also leading the French and German departments (although this arrangement can be reviewed) but there are separate Heads of Spanish and Mandarin who report initially to him as well as to the Deputy Head (Academic). The Head of MFL is also responsible for managing the minority language teachers (Italian, Russian and Japanese) and maintaining the co-curricular profile of languages at King's.





The Head of Modern Foreign Languages will be responsible for languages across the curriculum. S/he will have a genuine and proven interest in both linguistics and literature. S/he will be an inspiring teacher who is capable of leading a talented and diverse department. Previous management experience is therefore desirable and the following skills are required: teaching expertise, leadership & decision-making, and administrative accuracy, all combined with empathy, patience and humour.

There are, additionally, many opportunities for further involvement in the wider pastoral and co-curricular life of this large boarding school. All teachers at King's take on a tutor group in one of the boarding or day houses and contribute to the co-curricular programme. In addition, all teachers in the department are expected to take responsibility for organising and leading language trips during the holidays, and to help with departmental extra activities such as clubs, societies and excursions to the theatre.

## APPLICATIONS

Applications should be submitted online through the King's School website ([www.kings-school.co.uk](http://www.kings-school.co.uk) – Staff Vacancies), and should include a personal statement for the Headmaster and a CV by **9am on Friday 21 February**. If you have any difficulties accessing the internet please contact the School Office: [reception@kings-school.co.uk](mailto:reception@kings-school.co.uk); 01227 595501.

*Those considering applying are welcome to contact the current Head of MFL, Mr Ben Pennells, or the Deputy Head (Academic), Mr Luke Bartlett, for an informal discussion: [brp@kings-school.co.uk](mailto:brp@kings-school.co.uk) and [lgb@kings-school.co.uk](mailto:lgb@kings-school.co.uk).*

The King's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service.

The King's School, Canterbury is an educational charity. Registration No: 307942

January 2020