



# KINGHAM HILL

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# SCHOOL

Prospectus

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## WELCOME

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**T**he best advertisement for a school is its pupils. If you ask current parents why they chose Kingham Hill for their son or daughter, they invariably speak of the impression that our friendly, happy, and well-rounded characters made on them when visiting us.

As Acting Headmaster, I am personally committed to the Christian ethos of Kingham Hill, and I feel very privileged to lead a school with such a rich past and an exciting future. We pride ourselves on our commitment to the individual. Every pupil is valued and encouraged to develop their own character and talents to the full. Confidence and maturity are nurtured by experienced academic and pastoral staff, in an atmosphere of opportunity and enquiry, with excellent structures of care in a stunning country setting.

Helping every pupil fulfil their academic potential has been a hallmark of our school for many years, and progress and success are fundamental to what we do. Education is, however, about so much more than qualifications, important though they are. The wide range of experiences and extra-curricular provision on offer, in sport, music, drama and elsewhere, combined with our fine facilities, make for cheerful and self-disciplined pupils who have an appetite for discovery, and an ambition to make their mark.

We welcome pupils from a wide range of backgrounds and circumstances, and aim to produce young people of vision and character, who are well-qualified and equipped to flourish in their adult lives.

### **Magnus Eyles**

Acting Headmaster



“Helping every pupil fulfil their academic potential has been a hallmark of our school for many years, and progress and success are fundamental to what we do.”

## CHRISTIAN ETHOS

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“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain.”  
Psalm 127:1

**W**e warmly welcome pupils from all faith backgrounds and none, and we believe that our Christian ethos provides the best possible basis for them to grow as public citizens and in personal character.

Our Founder was the Christian philanthropist C.E.B. Young. He trusted in the Bible as the Word of God, and in the good news about Jesus Christ that it reveals. We share that trust as the foundation of our common life as a school.

The teachings of the Bible provide the root to many of our most important values: democracy, liberty, and the rule of law, which rests on the freedom and dignity of human beings, and on the need for restraint in our capacity for wrongdoing.

We understand that all human beings are made in the image of God, with inherent dignity and potential, and that we were created for family and community, which shapes our pastoral structures.

Above all, we believe that love for God and one's neighbour should direct our hearts and our actions, and we encourage an atmosphere marked by respect, gentleness, and kindness.



“The school is small in numbers so children are known and cared for well and there’s a pervading ethos of kindness and consideration that is genuine.”

MUDDY STILETTOES

## EQUIPPED TO FLOURISH

**E**quipped to Flourish (ETF) is the foundation upon which everything we do at Kingham Hill is built, underpinned by the school's informal motto, 'work hard, play hard, serve well'. Its themes are woven into every aspect of school life with the aim of supporting our pupils as they grow and develop in character, enabling them to flourish both at school and beyond.

There are four characteristics which we hope to instil in all our pupils: responsibility, humility, resilience and integrity.

- **Responsibility**  
Not making excuses, and owning what you should.
- **Humility**  
Understanding that you aren't the centre of the universe, but a guest of a larger reality.
- **Resilience**  
Sticking at things even when it's hard.
- **Integrity**  
What you do when no-one is looking.

A programme that emphasises personal reflection and growth, ETF allows our pupils to recognise the significance of these characteristics in not only Kingham, but the world beyond. With a focus on service and helping, our pupils look up and out. We want our leavers to be defined by their moral compass and their ability to understand; not only their own value, but the value of others.



“Several parents wonder if there is ‘something in the water at Kingham’ that promotes such fun and enjoyment from previously unengaged children.”

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

## A STUNNING LOCATION

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The peace and quiet of the glorious Cotswold countryside is the perfect environment in which to study, relax and be active, and in our rural bubble, we have plenty of space - and places - for all those things. With Kingham station on our doorstep, Oxford, Worcester and Evesham are short train rides away, with London Paddington just 90 minutes direct. The school operates a bus service to and from the station, as well as from several locations around the county, making it easy for pupils to get to school and home again.

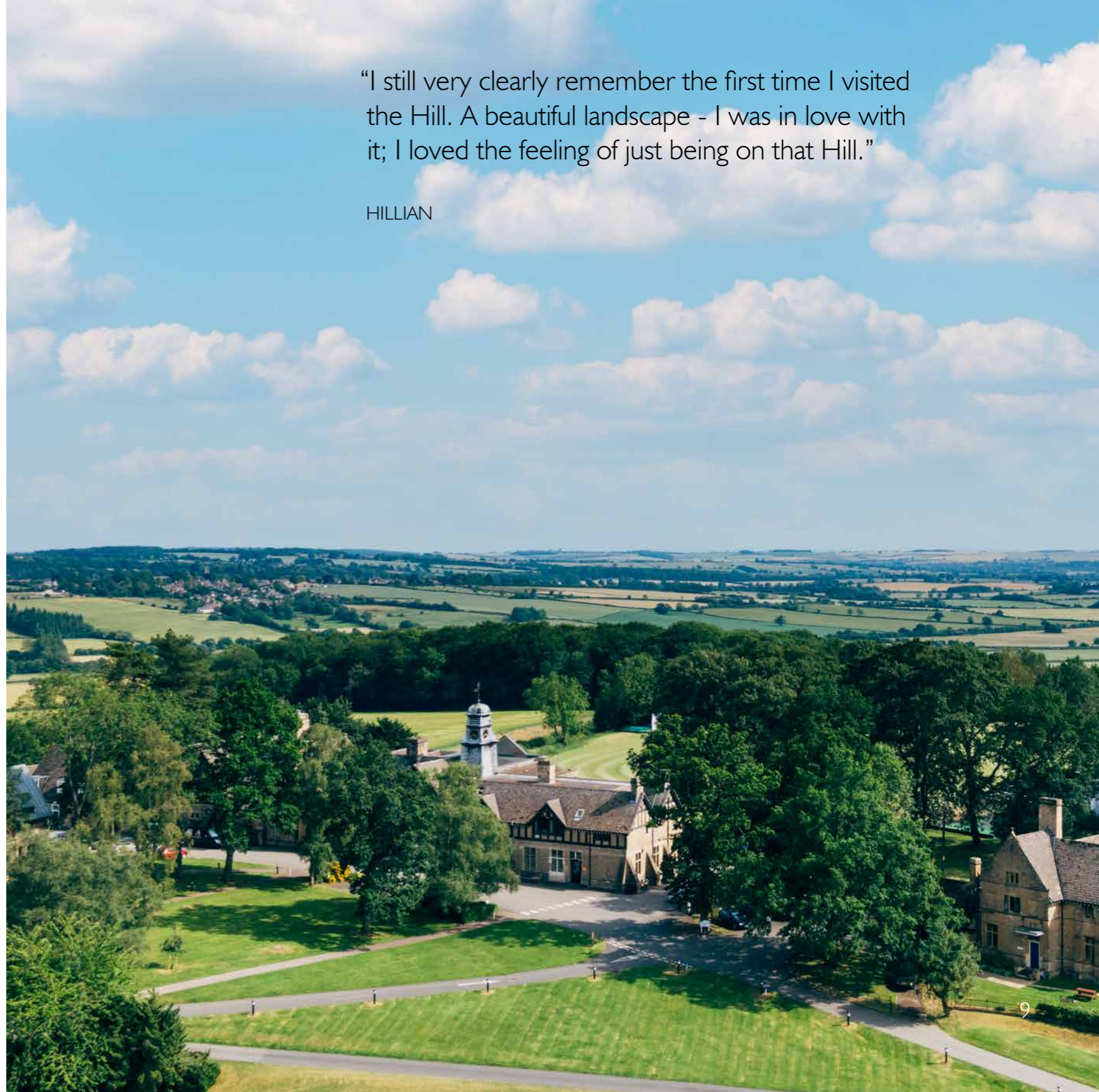
The school is the 'best of both worlds'. Our modern facilities sit harmoniously alongside our more traditional buildings and we even have an outdoor classroom in our own, beautiful woods. Indoors or out, pupils will always find a place to be inspired; to learn, excel and realise their potential. Once lessons have finished, there is plenty of time for pupils to enjoy a wide range of sports and co-curricular activities.

Outside the classroom, there is a fully-equipped gym and a swimming pool (which parents can use for free) and a new sports centre equipped with a climbing wall and squash court. This sits alongside the floodlit astro (for hockey and football) and four tennis courts.

What was once the old sports hall is now the school's theatre. Every year we put on a show and every week our Academy meets here to practise and rehearse. But it's not just for performers; backstage roles are just as important and pupils have the chance to learn and perfect skills in a wide range of roles.

Creative pupils have access to a range of excellent facilities including a wonderful art room, photographic studio, superb design technology spaces and rooms for music production and practice.

The School Farm and Conserve Club provide our pupils with a range of experiences in stable management, animal husbandry and horticulture with pupils helping to provide some locally sourced produce for the kitchens.



“I still very clearly remember the first time I visited the Hill. A beautiful landscape - I was in love with it; I loved the feeling of just being on that Hill.”

HILLIAN

## DAY AND BOARDING

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Every pupil belongs to one of eleven houses that act as large, extended families. There are on average 25-30 pupils per house with a range of ages in each. We have four day and seven boarding houses which have their own inviting social lounges, games rooms and quiet rooms. Houseparents and pastoral teams ensure a smooth transition into life at the School, helping pupils settle into their houses while adapting to life in and out of the classroom.

Bedrooms in the boarding houses range from dorms of four to eight children sharing, to single rooms for older pupils. Boarders in Upper Sixth have the opportunity to live in independent accommodation, to give academic focus and support in their final year of school study, and preparation for university life.

With the majority of boarders being full-time, weekends are vibrant times on the Hill. The strong community spirit continues with house activities, trips, expeditions, and our Sixth Form Social Club. There is the option of weekly boarding - with pupils returning home on Friday evening - and ad-hoc boarding is also available.

Our diverse community welcomes day and boarding pupils from the UK and HM Forces families, as well as US and international children. Although primarily a British School, the broad mix of nationalities is one of the things pupils say they love about Kingham Hill – the opportunity to live and learn with children from different countries and cultures is not only educational, but excellent preparation for life beyond school.

Day pupils make up around half the school and like our boarders also belong to houses where they will register in the morning and hang out with friends during break. All houses take part in a variety of Inter-House competitions including Sports Day, the 'House Shout' and sports matches. The friendly rivalries bring a great deal of colour, fun and excitement to these occasions.

“The pastoral care is second to none, and engenders a sense of community among day and boarding pupils.”

PARENT



“The pastoral care at Kingham Hill School has been outstanding and I am regularly amazed at the attention and positive reinforcement our child receives.”

PARENT



“Pastoral care is at the heart of everything that Kingham does. Parents are astonished at the achievements of their children and attribute them to the small numbers and individual attention pupils receive from excellent caring staff.”

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE



## ACADEMIC RIGOUR

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A good liberal education involves both an initiation into the best that has been thought and said in human culture, and the cultivation of intellectual virtues such as curiosity, patience, industry and honesty. We want to ignite in our pupils a love of learning, and to train them in the disciplines required for independent and critical thought; to follow an argument wherever it leads, appreciate excellence in all its forms, and develop judgment and discrimination. In their first years at KHS, pupils enjoy a rigorous and broad introduction to the main fields of human enquiry: mathematical, scientific, literary, linguistic, musical, and creative; before making choices for GCSE, A level, vocational qualifications or our American Diploma route.

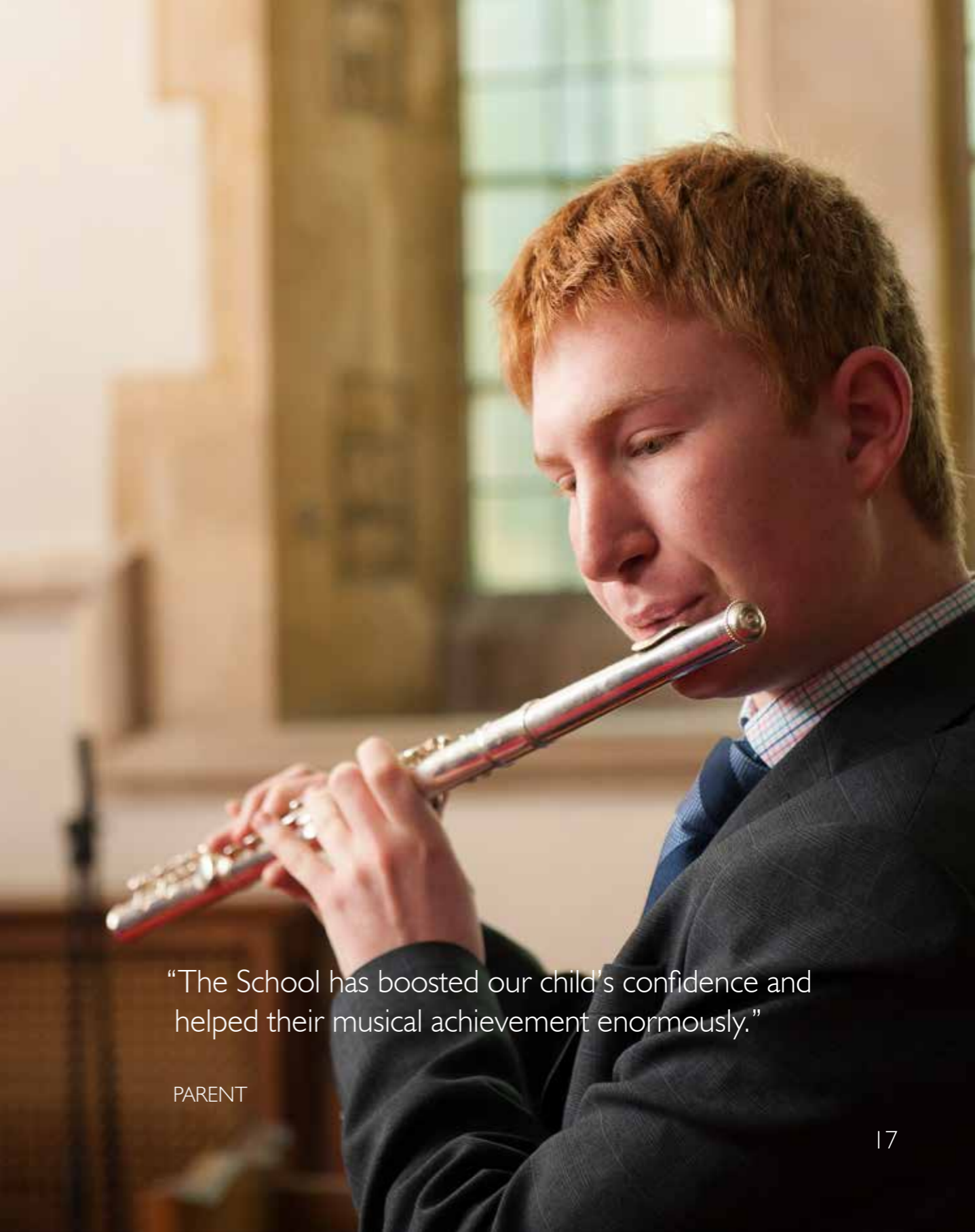
A prerequisite for excellence in the classroom is a highly-qualified and able staff, who at KHS teach their specialisms in classes which are small before Sixth Form, and seminar size thereafter. Every pupil has a personal tutor to help monitor progress and provide support on a daily basis. Octagon, our academic society, offers stretching beyond the curriculum for our most able pupils, based on the Trivium Model. Greens, our learning support department, is nationally recognised in its expertise in delivering intervention where required. In all pupils we want to develop innate curiosity and determination to achieve.

The professional learning culture, based on cognitive science, which KHS has developed over many years has proven itself by its results. We are consistently in the top 5% nationally for value-added, over half of public exam grades are at A/A\* with the majority of our leavers securing Russell Group (or equivalent) destinations. Education is not a means to an end, but our academic philosophy brings better ends through a love of learning for its own sake.

“I can’t tell you how much Kingham has taught and given me. Without the people, the family, the care and love, I could not have become who I am today.”

HILLIAN





“The School has boosted our child’s confidence and helped their musical achievement enormously.”

PARENT

## PERFORMING ARTS

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**K**ingham Hill's Academy is where all the fun happens. Pupils are able to participate in a variety of classes and rehearsals in order to pursue their particular passions. More recently, we have included sessions on singing and choir, wind band, modern dance classes, script-writing workshops, theatre tech (lighting and sound), drama rehearsals and workshops and, of course, rehearsals for our large scale musical productions.

Academy takes place in our Music School, dedicated Dance and Drama Studio and our newly refurbished theatre. Former Academy pupils have been members of the National Youth Theatre and gone on to drama schools.

Our wide variety of productions over the years have included Les Miserables, Wizard of Oz, Oliver!, Grease, Annie, Jekyll and Hyde, The Sound of Music, Ageless, Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat, Great Expectations and The Crucible. Senior pupils are also encouraged to produce and direct their own plays which are supported by staff.

Outside of Academy, the Music Department also runs other instrumental and choral ensembles. Our Chapel Choir frequently perform in services, whether at Choral Prayers, Carol Services or other important annual occasions such as Founders Day, Speech Day and Remembrance Day.

We also have a chamber orchestra comprising both advanced and intermediate players. We are also very proud of the musicians in our Key Stage 3 Instrumental Scheme where all pupils in the first and second forms have the opportunity to play an orchestral instrument for free. Many of these musicians decide to continue learning these instruments in the 3rd Form and beyond. Outside of the scheme, the department also offers lessons in all the main instruments, voice and even bagpipes.

For budding actors and dancers, pupils can take both LAMDA and dance lessons at school. Over the years, our LAMDA results have been outstanding; it is rare that a pupil achieves any results lower than a merit whilst providing superb entertainment in their annual concert.

“It’s not the broad extracurricular offering per se that is so noteworthy, but the engagement and enthusiasm that is remarkable.”

GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE



“Pupils interviewed spoke of the tools they have been given to deal with challenges that will benefit them for the rest of their lives.”

GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE



“Art and drama facilities are brought to life by the energy and enthusiasm generated in the pupils by the school’s dedicated staff.”

GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

## SPORTING LIFE

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**E**ducation at Kingham Hill is about more than what is learned in the classroom, important though that is. It's also about equipping our pupils with qualities that will help them flourish in life beyond the Hill. Sport is an integral part of life at the school and is central to that aim. The four character traits of our Equipped to Flourish programme ( Responsibility, Integrity, Humility, Resilience) all find expression in the sports we play, whether in training sessions, matches, activities or lessons.

The school promotes participation and enjoyment in sport for all pupils, no matter their skill level or interest. Not every child will relish playing rugby, hockey, cricket or football, but we coach in a way that allows those less able or inclined, to enjoy the games and find their place within a team. That's not to say sport is not competitive; far from it. Those who are able and want to excel at the highest level have the opportunity to do so. We have had, and continue to have, pupils who compete at a national level in a range of different sports.

Competitive fixtures are a regular and important part of the week, but whether it's playing for the school against another, for a house against a rival, or playing against friends, that sense of community which permeates the school and is essential for all teams, also runs throughout the sporting curriculum.

Sport at Kingham Hill is a celebration of many different things; from being part of a team to stepping out of comfort zones; from learning how to lose to overcoming disappointment and never giving up. It is there for all to enjoy.



“I have learnt to be part of a team,  
how to cooperate as well as skills  
such as leadership, perseverance and  
resilience.”

HILLIAN



## BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

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Once lessons have finished, our pupils embark on a co-curricular programme designed to enrich and challenge. The school farm is a popular destination for both juniors and seniors who throw themselves into the jobs needed to run it successfully. More recently, a Parliamentary Club was set up by a pupil who, once a week, transformed the Chapel into the Houses of Parliament. This continues to flourish with motions and bills being debated and voted on each week.

Clubs and activities change every year, but there is always something for everyone to enjoy, whether that's playing sport, reading, being creative or learning new skills such as cookery.

Outside this programme, we also run a flourishing Christian Union during lunchtimes where the gospel is explored in year groups. Our academic society, Octagon, whose members are selected each year after a rigorous interview process, also meet once a fortnight during lunchtimes.

The Combined Cadet Force at Kingham Hill has Army and Royal Air Force sections and whilst many of the activities on offer are 'militarily themed' there are numerous adventure training opportunities with the emphasis primarily on personal development, discipline and teamwork.

For those interested in outdoor pursuits, the school offers pupils the chance to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and gain skill and attributes such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive.



“Being here has been an amazing experience and has prepared me for the real world.”

HILLIAN

## SIXTH FORM

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**T**he additional independence, greater academic challenge and the sheer enjoyment of all that life at Kingham Hill offers, makes for a fulfilling and memorable two years for our Sixth Formers.

We are a school that knows and values every pupil, something our Sixth Formers know first hand. Consistently placed at the top of the county for value added, well over 90% of our leavers head to their first choice universities; a testament to the care and attention each pupil receives. With many subjects on offer, from A levels to BTECs and CTechs, we are passionate about preparing our incoming pupils with transferable skills and tools that will enable them to succeed in this ever-changing and complex world.

Our Sixth Form programme aims to ensure pupils are equipped to flourish; to be challenged, inspired and supported so as to achieve the best they can and thrive beyond school when they leave. They are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning whilst at the same time, receiving all the support they need, both in regards to their studies and personal development. Our Sixth Formers are an integral part of Kingham Hill. Many are involved in mentoring and supporting junior pupils and play an active part in events and activities throughout the school year.

From careers guidance that is tailored to every pupil and rooted in knowing the pupils and thus giving them personalised advice, to lectures once a week given by external speakers on PSHE topics and higher education, to workshops on interview and public speaking guidance, we stop at nothing to guide our pupils and ensure their success.



“I am really happy about the enormous amount of knowledge I gained and am really proud of what I accomplished.”

HILLIAN





1950s

1970s

1990s

The School becomes co-educational in 1992

2020s

1930s

1900s

1890s

1880s School founded in 1886 by Charles Baring Young

## THE KINGHAM HILL FAMILY TREE

Kingham Hill was purpose built by the Christian philanthropist Charles Edward Baring Young in 1886. He put his faith into practice by establishing it as a place where boys with a boarding need could be educated and prepared for life. The Founder ensured that every Kingham child learned to read and write, gained a trade and had the benefit of understanding the Christian faith.

Canada and make their life in the New World. Today, we are a co-educational school for girls and boys aged 11-18. We continue the Founder's vision by providing an excellent all-round education, coupled with varied extra-curricular activities and experiences that thoroughly prepare our children to leave us as happy, rounded and resilient young people ready to succeed in their future lives.

On leaving, the boys could progress to opportunities and new homes in London, or emigrate to a farm the Founder owned in

Our Hillian alumni are part of the Kingham community and often stay connected to the Hill to support pupils with careers guidance and mentoring.



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