



King's College
TAUNTON

ENCOURAGE
KING'S
COURAGE

HEAD

Candidate Information

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for showing interest in the role of Head at King's College, Taunton, one of the South-West's leading co-educational boarding and day schools. The post will start in September 2026 (potentially January 2027 by express arrangement) and offers an exciting opportunity for a proven and experienced leader to take the College forward, building on the success of recent years.

The post has become available as the current Head, Michael Sloan, following four very successful years at King's, has been appointed to become Head Master of Bedford School.

Set in a stunning setting, King's is nationally recognised for the exceptional all-round education, outstanding pastoral care, and the wide-ranging co-curricular programme. Passionately delivered by a friendly, proud and loyal school community, this has led to King's being currently shortlisted for Independent School of the Year, South.

King's is part of the Woodard Corporation, providing high-quality education in an actively Christian school environment. As such, King's champions the cause of holistic

learning and places a high value on developing self-respect and self-esteem. Every pupil is valued for who they are and encouraged to give their very best. This ensures that young people leave King's enriched and ready to make a real and lasting difference to the world around them, just as they have through the school's 145-year history.

It is for all those reasons and more that, as the great-great-grandson of the founder of the Woodard Corporation and King's, Nathaniel Woodard, I am so immensely proud and excited to have recently taken over as Chairman (Custos) of King's Council.

The independent school sector faces a challenging future. We seek to appoint a charismatic Head to lead King's through the next chapter. They will have proven experience of strategic change and a strong regard for community. If you are excited by the nature of the opportunity on offer, we look forward to hearing from you.

Jol Woodard
Custos (Chair of Governors)





KING'S SCHOOLS TAUNTON LIMITED

King's Schools Taunton (KST) is a charity and limited company that owns and operates two schools in Taunton: King's College and King's College Prep School. However, it operates under a philosophy of 'one school on two sites'. Consequently, the Head has an executive role as the line manager for all members of the senior leadership team, including the Bursar, the Director of Operations (DOO) and the Head of King's College Prep. The Bursar and the DOO operate across both schools, supporting the Head in the operational and financial management of the business.

King's College, Taunton

www.kings-taunton.co.uk

King's College, Taunton, is an independent co-educational boarding and day school with 400 girls and boys (ages 13–18). It is an exceptionally happy school but also an outward-looking, busy and purposeful community. Pupils leave King's well qualified but, more importantly, they also leave as well-rounded, balanced individuals, with the confidence to succeed and the determination to give of their very best.

King's College Prep School

www.kings-taunton.co.uk/prep

King's College Prep is a nursery, pre-prep and prep school for girls and boys from 2 to 13 years old, with 270 pupils. A sense of a thriving community contributes to the family atmosphere and to the sense of fun and happiness. Children enjoy a challenging all-round education in a progressive and stimulating environment. There is a direct relationship between King's College Prep and King's College, and most pupils move from the Prep to the College at age 13.

King's International Schools

Due to the College's longstanding reputation as a quality British school for nearly 150 years, it has gained an enviable international presence; five King's College sites are currently operating internationally in Doha (two schools), Riyadh (second site planned) and Gurugram (Delhi).

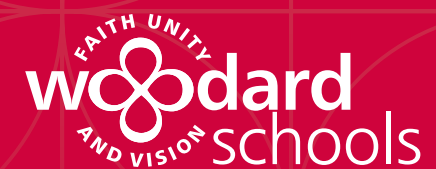
There are currently about 3,500 children in a King's school globally, and the College has further plans to expand its global presence. The Head of King's College plays an important role in overseeing and supporting the academic and pastoral provision in these schools, and some overseas travel is an inevitable part of this responsibility. Further exciting plans for widening the family of overseas King's schools are well advanced. A Director of International Schools has recently been appointed to further develop this important strand of the College's strategy.

A WOODARD SCHOOL

King's College, Taunton, is a member of the Woodard Corporation. This educational charity was founded in the mid-nineteenth century and inspired by the vision of Canon Nathaniel Woodard. An exponent of the Oxford Movement and the Catholic revival in the Church of England, the Founder's concern was the transformation of his contemporary society through the provision of an education founded on "sound principle and sound knowledge, firmly grounded in the Christian faith". Woodard was an educational innovator who created a series of schools where relevant, modern academic teaching was coupled with a strong Christian education to care for the needs of the whole child. In 1879, Woodard had the opportunity to acquire in Taunton the brainchild of another educational pioneer, William Tuckwell. His new, state-of-the-art school on the edge of town had some of the best science facilities in the country and a reputation for academic excellence. The new building had, however, been costly, and financial difficulties with creditors led to its sale to Nathaniel Woodard.

The Woodard Corporation is the 18th largest charity in the UK. It educates more than 30,000 pupils and employs over 2,500 staff in more than 40 schools, spanning independent and maintained, senior and prep, co-educational and single sex, boarding and day. A Woodard school seeks to provide a strong and distinctive vision and ethos founded on Christian beliefs and values.

While the incorporated schools, such as King's College, have a responsibility to the Woodard Board, they each operate with their own governing body which is fully responsible for their own school's performance, governance and finances. The Heads of the Woodard Schools meet formally at least once a year and informally continue to support each other on a range of issues.





INSPECTION REPORT

King's College received an Integrated Inspection by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) in March 2018. The College was judged to be "excellent" in both the achievement and the personal development of its pupils – the highest possible rating under the inspection framework at the time. This judgement places King's College at the forefront of independent schools in the region. Please click the link below to read the Inspection Report.

King's College [ISI Inspection Report 2018](#)

In October 2022, ISI Inspectors undertook a Regulatory Compliance Inspection of King's College. They found King's to be fully compliant. The Prep School had a Regulatory Compliance and Educational Quality Inspection at the same time. The Inspectors found the Prep School to be fully compliant and Excellent in all aspects. Herewith the links to both inspections:

King's College [ISI Inspection Report 2022](#)

King's Hall (Prep School) [ISI Inspection Report 2022](#)

ADMISSIONS

King's finds itself in a competitive regional market and needs to constantly project its distinctive brand clearly and effectively. The Marketing and Admissions Teams work locally, nationally and internationally. Both teams have developed effective strategies to navigate the recent political and economic challenges.

The College aims to take around 90 pupils into Year 9. Most of the intake traditionally comes from King's Prep, with others joining from schools across the South-West, from further afield in the UK and from overseas. King's College seeks to recruit girls and boys who will engage with the full range of opportunities on offer. A further, smaller intake joins King's in Year 10. A one-year GCSE programme offers international students the opportunity to join the College in Year 11 and complete a number of (I)GCSE qualifications at the end of that year.

There are usually around 25 to 30 new joiners in the Sixth Form, from local schools as well as from further afield. The Sixth Form has its own distinctive feel. While Sixth Formers continue to live and work in the same boarding houses, they enjoy the facilities afforded by the new Sixth Form Centre.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The College offers a broad range of (I)GCSE subjects. In the Sixth Form, the standard expectation is for each pupil to study three A Levels or a BTEC in sport or business. Some pupils take four A Levels.

There is a significant programme of academic activities outside the classroom. Sixth Formers are encouraged to choose an extended project (EPQ) to broaden their academic horizons and to enhance their university applications. There is a programme of academic activities – society meetings, lectures and trips – to provide further stretch and inspiration.

Public examination results are strong. In 2025, at A Level, 65% of grades were awarded at A*–B, and at (I)GCSE, 50% of grades were awarded at 9–7. The BTEC results in 2025 were equally impressive.

PASTORAL CARE

Outstanding pastoral care is a key strength of the King's Schools. Over 40% of the pupils in the College are full boarders, and boarding is available in the Prep School also. Good discipline is encouraged in a firm and positive way within a supportive pastoral framework. The schools are strong on good manners and social skills. Every pupil is known and valued as an individual, and the structures of support are close and effective. The excellent tutoring system provides oversight and support which extends well beyond the academic.





BOARDING AND DAY

Much of what sets King's apart from many of the schools in its locality stems from its strong boarding ethos. Boarders come from the South-West of England, others from further afield in the UK and some from overseas. This makes for a varied and vibrant community within the houses. Boarders soon develop a strong sense of loyalty to their houses, resulting in exciting and hotly contested inter-house competitions in sport, debating, music and many other activities.

The College believes that boarding should be a rich and life-affirming experience for its pupils so that they leave well prepared to manage the demands and challenges of university and wider life.

The boarding ethos and structures of King's College also benefit the day pupils, all of whom are members of boarding houses. They enjoy many of the facilities, the close pastoral care and the sense of belonging that the boarding houses offer. Day pupils are able to board if space permits.

CHAPEL

As Woodard Schools, the Chapel and the Chaplain play a central role. All College pupils attend a Eucharist service on Wednesday morning. The Chapel Choir is popular, and it plays a core role in leading the weekly worship of the College. The Chaplain leads the spiritual life of both schools. The Head plays an important part in reinforcing the Christian ethos by supporting the services and the work of the Chaplain.



CO-CURRICULAR

King's offers an impressively wide and varied range of co-curricular activities, unparalleled for a school of its size. The College is renowned for its success in sport, music, performing arts, fine art, design technology and outdoor pursuits. In many of these activities, King's pupils have achieved success at national and even international levels.

Sport

King's enjoys a formidable reputation for sporting excellence in several different disciplines, including cricket and rugby, hockey and riding, as well as netball and football. Alumni include Jos Buttler, Tom Banton, the Rew brothers, Sonny Baker (England cricket) and Maddie Hinch (GB Hockey). The emphasis, though, is as much on participation as it is on success at the top end, and all pupils are encouraged to represent their school in a sport at some level. Sports facilities are first-rate and include a 25m indoor pool, golf facility, equestrian centre, indoor cricket centre, indoor tennis and netball courts, and about 50 acres of playing fields.

CCF

The CCF (Combined Cadet Force) has a long tradition at King's. Involvement is compulsory in Year 9 and voluntary afterwards, though a majority choose to continue.

There are two Field Days a year, involving overnight exercises for the senior sections, using local training areas. The Easter Adventure Training week in the Brecon Beacons involves a mix of hill walking, caving, mountain biking, rafting and rock climbing.

The Royal Marines section has won the prestigious national schools' Sir Steuart Pringle Trophy an unparalleled ten times, four of which have come in the last five years.

Community Service

As an alternative to the CCF, pupils may apply for the community service programme. If successful, they are allocated to a one-year placement in the Taunton community.

The Sports Leaders programme provides opportunities to coach athletics and football in local primary schools while gaining useful coaching qualifications.

Creative Arts

Both King's College and King's Prep have a thriving artistic and cultural life and work closely together. The corridors of the schools are exhibition spaces for pupils' artwork, and end-of-year exhibitions feature work of the very highest standard.

The Drama Department stages several productions through the year, from the experimental and innovative to large-scale musicals. The College's 250-seat theatre is fully equipped and enjoys the support of a full-time theatre manager. The department has a black box studio with a dance floor and a large amphitheatre. A newly established performing arts programme offers a range of dance and musical theatre classes, alongside the curriculum drama, which is popular at both GCSE and A Level.

The Music Department has a full and busy schedule of rehearsals, leading to small-scale Octagon concerts for players of all abilities and full orchestral and choral concerts in the Chapel, theatre or Woodard Room. Past pupils have gone on to choral scholarships at King's College, Cambridge, scholarships to leading conservatoires, and fame and fortune in the pop world as composers and performers.





DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE

Over the last decade, the pace of the development of the site at the College has been rapid. New facilities have included a Sixth Form Centre, library and classrooms, two astroturf hockey pitches, tennis and netball courts, an amphitheatre, a new art studio, a netball and tennis dome, an indoor cricket school and, most recently, a Junior Common Room.

The schools face the future with confidence. Careful stewardship by the Bursar and the Council's Finance and Estates Committee has ensured that the schools' finances are resilient.

Fundraising

The Development Office plays a central role in advancing the philanthropic and community aims of King's College. It manages a growing global network of former pupils (Old Aluredians), parents, and friends who support the College by mentoring pupils, volunteering their time, and contributing financially to key priorities such as the Enhancing King's Fund and the Somerset Scholarship Sixth Form Bursaries.

Looking ahead, the Development Office is planning an ambitious campaign leading up to the College's 150th anniversary in 2030, which will celebrate King's heritage while securing transformational support for its future.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Head has an executive role as the line manager for all members of the senior leadership team, including the Bursar and the Head of King's College Prep. The Council is looking to appoint a Head who will:

- Be an outstanding, visible and inspirational leader who is experienced in change management and committed to the success of King's.
- Epitomise the Woodard Christian values, beliefs and ethos.
- Show personal integrity and effective intelligence when making decisions, along with the ability to lead, challenge and motivate a community of professional staff.
- Have an in-depth knowledge of the best educational thinking and the ability to put those into practice, ensuring the best possible educational outcomes for the pupils.
- Be a confident and impressive communicator, able to command the interest and imagination of staff, pupils and parents (current and prospective).
- Show a natural flair for public relations, marketing and networking.
- Establish creative, responsive and effective approaches to learning and teaching that will enable a consistent and continuous school-wide focus on pupils' achievement.
- Build a school culture and curriculum which takes account of the richness and diversity of the schools' communities.
- Through performance management and effective continuing professional development practice, support all staff to achieve high standards.
- Work with the Council and others to create and implement a shared vision and strategic plan which inspires and motivates pupils, staff and all other members of the King's community.
- Be a visible leader: lead by example in ensuring that the ethos and values of the College are preserved and enhanced, fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect, trust, support and friendliness.
- Ensure the vision for King's is clearly articulated, shared, understood and acted upon effectively by all. This includes appropriate short- and long-term plans to enable the vision to be realised, with appropriate goals, performance and financial measures and controls in place.
- Understand and respond to the challenges presented by the local educational scene, ensuring that the College is collaborative as well as competitive by maintaining its strong reputation for excellence.
- Ensure that a strong pastoral framework is sustained to support the needs and development of each pupil and member of staff.
- Show a keen interest in and appreciation of the full range of activities at the College, maintaining a visible and regular presence at events.
- Ensure the highest standards of pupil behaviour. In doing so, establish a school community of respect, kindness and compassion whilst embracing aspiration, resilience and determination.
- Line manage, support and delegate appropriately to the Senior Management Team, encouraging confident and effective leadership.
- Be a good listener and promote a climate in which pupils, staff and parents feel heard and comfortable in expressing their views.
- Maintain a culture in which safeguarding and child protection are paramount and are embedded in everything the College does.
- Ensure, with the Bursar, that the College complies with all relevant regulations and maintains a healthy and safe environment for all pupils, staff and visitors.





PERSON SPECIFICATION

Qualifications, Skills and Experience

- Successful experience of working as a Head, Deputy Head or other senior member of staff as appropriate.
- Preferably: experience of working in a boarding environment.
- A proven record as a leader, manager and administrator.
- An excellent understanding of and strong affinity for pastoral matters, to include academic mentoring, target-setting and curriculum planning.
- Awareness, understanding and knowledge of the latest research on teaching and learning.
- A track record of outstanding teaching.
- Proven involvement in and support for a co-curricular activity programme.
- Experience of successful change management and of developing and fostering teamwork.
- Awareness of relevant regulatory regimes and a proven ability to ensure compliance.
- A good honours degree.
- A record of continuous professional development.

Personal Qualities

- An affinity for and a commitment to upholding the values and Christian ethos of the King's Schools and of the Woodard Corporation.
- Excellent communication and listening skills.
- Strong organisational, management and administrative skills, including the ability to delegate, empower and ensure accountability.
- The ability to work both independently and as a key team member, with an adaptive leadership style.
- Energy, enthusiasm, reliability, integrity, resilience and a capacity for hard work.
- An eye for detail as well as the broader picture.
- Commercial and financial awareness.
- Strong creative and innovative skills.
- An ability to develop and sustain relationships.
- Powers of diplomacy and persuasion and ambassadorial skills.
- The ability to lead by example and command respect, both within the immediate community and in the wider professional arena.
- Self-belief and stamina but also humility and an ability to seek advice and support where needed.
- The ability to think strategically and deliver a vision, but with an eye for detail, and to inspire and motivate staff.
- The ability to monitor, evaluate and deal calmly with complex situations.
- The ability to make timely decisions, including on-the-spot and reflective, without deviating from long-term aims.
- A sense of humour.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A generous remuneration package reflecting the importance of the post and the experience of the successful candidate will be offered, including:

- A family house on the campus, with services and maintenance included.
- Some domestic and gardening help also provided.
- Reasonable costs of entertainment and general expenses.
- Private healthcare insurance.
- Fee remission at King's Prep School and at King's College.





APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Interested candidates are invited to contact RSAcademics to arrange a confidential discussion with one of the consultants handling this appointment:

- Camilla Oulton, Search Consultant:
camillaoulton@rsacademics.com
- Martin Collier, Senior Advisor:
martincollier@rsacademics.com

Closing date: 10.00am on Thursday 13th November 2025.

Applications should be made electronically to RSAcademics. To submit your application, please upload your documents according to the instructions on the RSAcademics [website](#).

You should submit the following (both in PDF format):

- A completed application form (available alongside this candidate information on the RSAcademics [website](#)).
- A covering letter addressed to Mr Jol Woodard, Custos. The letter should explain your reasons for applying.

If you have any questions about uploading your application documents, please contact Jonathan Barnes, Head of Operations (Leadership Appointments), at: applications@rsacademics.com. Jonathan can also be reached by calling our Head Office on +44 (0) 204 6269 791.

We understand the need for confidentiality, and all discussions and interviews will be handled with very careful regard to this.

The process is as follows:

- All applications will be acknowledged by email. If you have not received acknowledgement that your application has been received within two working days of sending it, please contact RSAcademics by telephone.
- **Preliminary interviews** will take place with RSAcademics via MS Teams on Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th November 2025.
- **Longlist interviews** will take place at King's College, Taunton, on Wednesday 26th and Friday 28th November 2025.
- **Shortlist interviews** will take place at King's on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th December 2025.
- The successful candidate will be expected to take up the post on 1st September 2026 (potentially January 2027 by express arrangement).

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.

Founded in 2002 by Russell Speirs, RSAcademics has advised and supported over 700 schools and educational organisations in the UK and worldwide. Through our working partnerships with heads, leadership teams, boards, staff and parents, we specialise in supporting schools in five main areas: strategy, marketing and research; equality, diversity and inclusion; operational improvement; leadership and governance and philanthropy. We enable schools worldwide to thrive by finding and developing senior leaders, guiding decision makers, making connections and shaping debate. We are known for the calibre and spirit of our people. We exist entirely to serve schools because we believe that the world needs thriving schools. Please visit www.rsacademics.com for more information.

RSAcademics is committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in schools and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.



Because the world needs schools to [thrive](#)