

W E L C O M E from the principal



Welcome to the enthusiasm, energy and excellence that is Kingsbridge.

I am delighted to introduce you to the students and staff who together make us an outstanding learning community, determined to be at the cutting edge of better ways of learning, proud of our tradition of looking after one another.

You sense the excitement of learning at Kingsbridge. Students are here early in the morning practising gym routines, and they are here late into the evening rehearsing shows and concerts, playing sport or taking part in masterclasses. They are busy at weekends on fieldtrips and during the holidays on expeditions as far afield as Peru and Iceland.

People are successful here and achieve more than they ever thought possible. Students achieve academically, with results that open doors to jobs and Universities. They break through personal barriers, developing a self-confidence and independence that stays with them for life.

Students do this because we challenge them. We get to know all our students as individuals, and so we know how to motivate them. We know when they need particular care and support and so ensure that the challenge results in success. This is a safe community, and we look after one another so that we gain strength together and develop the skills as citizens that are needed to build tomorrow's society.

These are big claims! Come and test them out for yourself, and I look forward to welcoming you to join in the success of Kingsbridge Community College.

LEARNING

Learning is what we are all here for. We inspire and challenge students to go further than they ever thought was possible, and we give them the support that each needs in order to succeed.

Students learn in a way which develops independence of mind, gives them a thirst for new knowledge and the experience which enables them to carry on learning for life.

We create a purposeful and stimulating environment for learning within the College and provide opportunities for learning in the local community and across the world.

Lessons at Kingsbridge are exciting; many parents and grandparents who visit us wish that they could come back to school again!



a purposeful learning environment

Young people deserve the best. We have superb new buildings and specialist facilities, including an intranet which links every room in the College and to the internet beyond. We believe that every student has the right to learn in a stimulating and orderly environment, and visitors often comment on the calm, purposeful atmosphere of the College. We want students to be excited by what they learn in lessons, and teachers work hard to tailor tasks in order to provide just the right amount of challenge for each individual.

learning beyond the classroom

Students learn beyond the classroom in many different ways. We have good links with businesses in our local community for work experience and placements, and trips to extend what goes on in lessons take place both near and far: from History visiting Buckland Abbey to Media Studies visiting Hollywood and San Francisco.

We believe that in order to develop as rounded individuals, students need a range of experiences. At the end of every Summer term we have a Challenge Week with activities ranging from landscaping projects in the College grounds to residentials in France, Spain and a tall ship in Holland. In recent years students have gone on expedition to Ecuador, Iceland, Peru and Bolivia.

We want to provide every student with as many opportunities as possible to discover new skills and interests. Over 150 students have instrumental tuition each week and a regular programme of extra curricular activities ranges from the Posh Nosh Club to Ten Tors training, Science Club to Ski-ing. Our Sports teams regularly achieve success in regional and national competitions, and the quality of our Music and Drama productions is legendary.

curriculum

All students follow a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage Three, with the opportunity for increasing specialisation at Key Stage Four and the Sixth Form. We talk carefully with students and parents to help choose appropriate subjects in combinations which open gateways to Higher Education and employment beyond.



success

Every year our results are well-above national averages, and at both KS3 and GCSE we are one of the very top schools in Devon. We are as proud of those who enter the College with learning difficulties and achieve their own best as we are of those who each year go on to Oxbridge. These students have all come in the top five candidates in the entire country in recent years:

Peter Fraser

top five in country for A Level Maths

Josh Vasby-Burnie

top five in country for A Level Maths

Andrew Ball

top five in country for A Level Maths

Maeve Roberts

top five in country for GCSE English Literature

Hannah Lidstone

top five in country for GCSE Food Technology

Theo Spears

top five in country for GCSE Maths



DEVELOPING INDIVIDUALS

Schools can sometimes appear rather large and mysterious institutions from the outside. We work very hard to get to know each of our students as an individual, and to care for each one. Several generations of some families have attended the College, and other students join us part way through the year from other parts of the country. We are delighted at how quickly they settle. We want to identify the needs of each individual, and provide the particular support which each needs - emotional or academic - in order to take on new challenges and succeed.



meeting the needs

Every student has individual needs of some kind and we meet these in an inclusive way. Some have special educational needs, and the College has a clear policy on identifying and meeting these whether through differentiation of the curriculum, support from learning support assistants or through outside agencies. Parents are always consulted and kept in touch about the way in which their child is supported.

Some students are very able and talented in particular areas. We teach in ways which provide challenge for these students; we also run a variety of special event days and other after College programmes in order to extend their horizons.



celebrating diversity

Every child is good at something. Our job is to find the potential and develop it, whether it be appearing in College shows, playing for a team, chairing the Council or shining academically. This is how students gain the self-esteem that underpins everything they do.

tutor groups

Each child is a member of a tutor group of between 25-29 students, with 7 tutor groups in a year group looked after by a Head of Year. Each student has a programme of individual tutorials with the tutor in order to monitor progress and set targets. As well as contact through the student's planner, parents' evenings and reports, we encourage parents to give us a call whenever they wish. Communication is the key and we are never too busy to listen.



Students cannot learn unless they feel safe, cannot rise to new challenges unless they are supported. That is why we put such an emphasis on creating a safe and supportive community at Kingsbridge.

There are many opportunities for students to be involved in the running of the College and to develop the qualities of mutual care and respect that lie at the heart of a successful community. We also take very seriously our responsibility for educating our young people to be the citizens of tomorrow, and recognise the importance of developing in students the values which will enable them to be outstanding leaders of the future.

involvement

People learn best by doing. Students are involved in running the College through Student Councils, they sit alongside staff on working parties and the Governing Body and form an interviewing panel when we appoint new staff. All students in Year 9 undertake a project in our local community as part of Citizenship lessons and we raise thousands of pounds each year for charity. We have a new school here : we are building one for our partner school in Ghana as well.



a community college

We exist to serve the whole community, run a full Adult Education Programme, and make all our facilities available to community groups. We are also aware of our global community; students have come to study here from Chile and Finland and over a third of our Sixth Formers take a GAP year to travel and work abroad.





working for one another

Part of a Kingsbridge education is to learn how much we depend on one another in a community.

6th form students act as peer counsellors for younger students and go with them on their first residential to Huccombe in year 7. Our students run workshops for Primary Schools, and work alongside children from Bidwell Brook Special School when they visit us for lessons. The students who help disabled children complete the Ten Tors Jubilee Challenge walk get as much from the experience as the ones who walk the full 45 miles themselves.



We were very proud to be one of the first schools in the Country to be designated a Specialist Science College. We are committed, in partnership with our local schools, Colleges and businesses, to developing Science and Maths in ways that inspire and challenge. Specialist Science status enables us to raise achievement in these subjects and across the curriculum. As a centre of excellence for Science and Maths teaching, we are at the cutting edge of spreading good practice across the country.



The very best practice in Science and Maths teaching can be found in our classrooms, and our students come into contact with expert leaders in their fields, such as visits to Nottingham University to work with Professor Roberts or the University of Reading coming here to work on cloning techniques with students in workshops. We are linked to businesses across the country through video conferencing, including the Met Office. Our new technology rich eco-lab is the venue for our community work, including visits from all our Primary Schools.

