



King's College
TAUNTON

House Information

King Alfred



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Welcome

As members of King Alfred House, the young gentlemen are expected to have a healthy, mutual respect for all the individuals within the community, whether they are academic, athletic, artistic or musical.

Each member is encouraged to express his own individuality and personality whilst showing kindness and tolerance to others.

The gentlemen are expected to get involved in a wide range of co-curricular activities and House events in order to develop well-rounded social and life skills. Ultimately, the experience should be fun and they are always involved in decisions concerning the House, so that there is a genuine life-long attachment to the King Alfred community.

MR STEVE KING
Houseparent

“ Alfred boys are kind and passionate. They are true gentlemen with a healthy, mutual respect for all individuals within the school community. ”



Then and Now

King Alfred House is centrally located within the main building of King's College with whom it shares its name. With its impressive frontage and unique character, King Alfred aims to blend the best of the school's heritage with modern day touches and influences.

High ceilings, odd shaped corners and curious nooks and crannies make it an ideal boys' house with plenty of space to explore and social areas to enjoy. Singularly unique dormitory style bedrooms define the Third and Fourth Form areas giving a direct link to the past, whilst a 60" plasma screen TV, Sky HD+, Cinema Surround Sound, Blu-Ray DVD player, Xbox, Playstation and pool table bring it firmly into the 21st century.

One of the original boarding houses with a 130-year pedigree, King Alfred House is named after the famous king who burnt the cakes. Occasionally the practice of burning toast at break time has been known to occur in respectful memory of that fateful day.

King Alfred is a now a healthy 75-strong community made up of Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Form pupils. 45 boys are boarders, the remainder being day boys who play a full and active part in the House, with a dedicated study area and bed, often staying to complete prep on an evening or take part in a House activity or rehearsal.

The members of King Alfred annually compete for the King Alfred Gentleman of the Year Award which is given to the member of the House who throughout the year best displays the qualities most encouraged within the boarding House, including a willingness to get stuck in, respect for all the members of the community, hard work, resilience, maturity, impeccable manners, and a caring and supportive personality.

Life is incredibly busy, but hugely enjoyable!



House Staff



Mr Steve King
Houseparent

Before joining King' Alfred, Steve worked as the Deputy in Woodard House for two years. Prior to this, he spent 17 years in the Royal Marines and five years in the commercial sector running a web development agency.

As well as House responsibilities, Steve is also the CCF Contingent Commander and Head of Digital Marketing within the Admissions & Marketing Team.

A keen photographer and film maker, when he does find time to enjoy life away from school, he likes to indulge this passion. He is also partial to a spot of camping, reading and enjoying the outdoors. Steve has two children Ethan (18) and Scarlett (16) and is joined by his wife Vicki, who supports Steve in his pastoral role.

Mr Pete Belfield
Deputy Houseparent

Before joining King's Alfred, Pete worked as Deputy in Bishop Fox House, so has a wealth of boarding experience. He was even a pupil at the school once upon a time...

Within the school, he heads up the Royal Marines Section of the CCF. As a highly experienced CCF instructor, he coordinates the Royal Marines syllabus and activities, and also manages the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. Alongside this, he is our Head of Tennis.

Pete is an experienced kayaker and accomplished climber, and enjoys travel and the great outdoors.

Mrs Derrick
House Matron

The House would not run without our fantastic Matron, Rose Derrick. She has been with King Alfred for over 20 years in a variety of roles.

She has a genuine love of the House and it shows in the way that she deals with the boys on a daily basis. She is the person everyone turns to when they need something and Rose is always there to help, especially when the boys cannot find the biscuits! Rose is assisted by a brilliant team who ultimately make the boarding experience a hugely exciting one.

House Assistants and Tutors



Mr Richard Llewellyn-Eaton
Head of Athletics and House Tutor



Mr Dave Jessep
BTEC Sport Tutor, House Tutor and assisting with the CCF Royal Navy Section



Mrs Alison Roberts
Learning Support and House Tutor



Dr Simon Noyce
Head of Psychology and House Tutor



Mrs Rachel Florey
Learning Strategies Teacher and House Tutor



Mr Greg Holden
Design and Technology Teacher and House Tutor



Mr Matt Sansom
Business Studies Teacher and House Tutor

If Mr King is not around, you can also talk to the Deputy Housemaster Mr Belfield who also lives in the House. His apartment is on the first floor.

In addition there are the King Alfred Assistants who do an evening duties from 7pm - 10.30pm. You can always ask them for help and advice when they are on duty or at any other convenient time.

Duty Night	House Staff Member
Monday	Mr Holden
Tuesday	Mr Belfield
Wednesday	Mr Sansom
Thursday	Mr Jessep
Friday	Dr Noyce
Saturday	Mr King
Sunday	Mr King

Settling In

There are likely to be staggered arrival times for pupils arriving on Sunday 4 September, in order that they can be safely admitted to accommodation etc. Arrangements for specific timings of drop-offs will be co-ordinated by the Admissions team.

The term gets underway on Monday 5 September and full details of all arrangements will be coming to you soon.

All new pupils and their families are invited to a BBQ hosted by our Parents' Association. New pupil inductions to the House and year group meetings would also take place on this day.

The House Captain and Deputy House Captains play an important role in the House. They help new pupils settle in and model behaviours. Please feel free to ask them questions when you see them.

Max Earp *House Captain*

I'm Max, and I joined King's Hall in Year 7 and have loved my life at King's since that moment.



King Alfred has been a great house to be in, plus it has created a lot of exciting opportunities throughout the four years I have been at King's College.

It has also taught me how to be a great gentleman, and I am very excited about next year and how can I advance the house.

Liam Atherton *Deputy House Captain*

I've been in King Alfred since the beginning of the Sixth Form as a music scholar, and I study history, drama and music at A level.

I've really enjoyed the time I've had at King's and all the opportunities they have given me. I wish to help improve the King Alfred experience for all pupils next year.



Kaspar Lloyd *Deputy House Captain*

I'm Kaspar. I've been a day pupil since joining King's Hall in Year 7.

Over the last six years I've come to realise how much King's College has to offer, for me, specifically in swimming and music.

King Alfred's atmosphere stood out when I first looked around the school. It is an amazing community to be part of. I greatly look forward to contributing to the house next year as a member of the leadership team.



CONTACTS

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Communication

Mobile Phones

Mobiles are allowed and should only be used in House areas. They must not be used in lessons, the Chapel, the Dining Room and the Woodard Room or at any school function.

They are also not allowed during prep time or after bedtime. If a boy is found to be using his mobile during prep or after lights out it will be confiscated for a period of time. This sanction is likely to be in place for all phones after bedtime as standard. Third and Fourth Form phones are taken in at night.

All pupils who own mobiles must provide the number to Mr King.

Laptops and Devices

A pupil may bring his own computer into school and keep it in his study. The computer must be covered by the pupil's own private insurance. Pupils are reminded that they are not to play games on their computers during study time or after designated lights out times.

Post

Mail for King Alfred House is delivered every morning in a box. The boys can collect their mail from Matron after signing for it.

The School Diary

The daily timetable, events, activities and sports fixtures that will take place throughout that term can be accessed on the school portal and on our school website.

Registration and Roll Calls

There are roll calls every school morning between 8.15am and 8.30am, at 12.30pm - 12.45pm and every evening at 6.50pm unless a day pupil has signed out and gone home.

There are Sunday roll calls at 10.30am, 2pm and 6.50pm for boarders in school. If you arrive back late from an away match or trip, you must report in to Mr King as soon as you arrive back to the House.

Signing In and Out

Everybody in the House must sign out in the evening or if you leave the school on a trip or during town time. This is so that we know whether you are in the building or not, obviously this has implications for fire emergencies.

Please remember to sign in on your return as well. There is a compulsory formal House meeting every Monday morning at 8.30am in the main common room.

House meetings will be a chance to give out notices, accolades and organise House events.

Reports

Each term pupils receive numerous reports. Every three to four weeks you will get an effort report simply stating a numerical value associated with the level of effort exerted in each subject area.

At the end of half terms and full terms more detailed written reports will be completed to show achievement grades, effort grades and in examination years, target grades. These will be complemented by teacher, tutor and Houseparent comments.



The School Week

A Typical Day

Breakfast is between 7.30am and 8am. There is a registration in House between 8.15am and 8.30am every morning and day boys should arrive for this time. Between 8.30am and 8.50am there will be a House meeting (Monday), an assembly (Tuesday), a tutor period (Thursday) or a short Chapel Service (Friday). On Wednesday there is a longer Eucharist Service.

There are three or four lessons in the morning followed by lessons and games in the afternoon.

Supper is at 6pm and prep starts at 7pm. Day boys can go home after their last school commitment or can choose to stay in the House for prep. There is free time after prep when you can watch TV or visit other Houses. Bed times and lights out vary per year group and are later for older boys. Third Form boys should be in the dormitory at 9.40pm with lights out at 9.50pm.

Weekend Arrangements

With the approval of Mr King and subject to confirmation from your parents, boarders may take weekends or Sundays away from school. These only begin after school commitments such as sports fixtures or training, and you are expected to return by 9pm Sunday.

Boarders are expected to stay on the following weekends:

- The first weekend of the academic year so pupils can settle
 - Remembrance Service: 10 - 11 November
- Parents are welcome to attend the service and a Sunday away is acceptable immediately following the service.

Prep Time

Prep starts promptly at 7pm and ends at 8.30pm (or 9pm for Sixth Formers). Prep time is supervised by the member of staff on duty and the House Prefects. You must seek permission to be absent during prep and you must sign out if you leave the House. There will be no television, computer games and no loud music permitted during prep.

Activities

There are a range of activities for all boys at weekends and occasionally during the week. Recent activities include high ropes, cinema trips, paintballing, ten-pin bowling, Heineken Cup Rugby at the Millennium Stadium, 'Come Dine with Me', Brewhouse Theatre productions, quad biking, meals out, and Chinese New Year celebrations. Every Wednesday night there is King Alfred House Football from 8.30pm to 10pm. All pupils can participate and correct sports kit/footwear must be worn in the Sports Hall.

As is House tradition, all new boys, boarders and day boys go on a fun outing on the first Sunday of term. Details will be posted on the House notice board.

In the Summer Term there are regular House barbecues at the Housemaster's home on Sundays.

The House adopts a charity each year to support. This has included entertainment shows and sporting challenges. Most recently the House climbed the equivalent distance from the bottom of Challenger Deep to the peak of Mount Everest (19,883m). The boys took to their stairs at home, and participated across countries and continents to raise over £1,300 for Against Breast Cancer.



Domestic Arrangements

Day Boys

Day boys are encouraged to play as full a part in the House as possible. They may go home after their school commitments but many boys stay for all or part of prep time in the evening.

Pupils may also wish to stay for school activities such as play rehearsals. They will be expected to attend morning and afternoon roll calls, and need to remember to sign in and out each day. This notes their time of arrival in school (8.20am at the latest) and the time when they leave to go home. When they sign out it is assumed that they are going straight home.

Staying Overnight

Day boys may stay overnight in the boarding House, free of charge once a week if they have taken part in school play rehearsals or returned from a trip after 9pm.

Additional boarding is possible at a daily charge, subject to space being available. Mr King will communicate with parents in order to ascertain boarding arrangements for the following week. He will require 24 hours notice for boarding requests or changes to boarding plans.

We will always endeavour to find room, but on some occasions it may not be possible to accommodate them if notice periods are less than 24 hours.

Appearance

It is expected that all boys maintain high standards of personal hygiene, appearance and dress. Boys should be smart and presentable in correct school uniform.

Regulations for both formal and leisure wear are shown separately on the current clothing lists.

Leisure wear may be worn within school after 5.50pm on weekdays, after 4pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and all day on Sundays.

Where a senior pupil has no afternoon lessons they may change into leisure wear, but must remain in the House area.

Boys are to be clean shaven with sensible and appropriate haircuts.

Year Group Reps

All junior year groups will appoint two representatives at the start of each term. The year group reps are spokespeople for their year group and they will feed back ideas to Mr King.

The House Captain will play an important role in gathering ideas for the Housemaster as well.

All new pupils will be given a buddy at the start of the new term. The buddy/mentor is usually a boy from an older year who will help the new pupil to settle and answer any questions.

Studies and Bedrooms

All pupils have their own study space in order to allow for proper working conditions. The Third and Fourth Forms have their own open plan dorms, with each boy having his own area that consists of a bed, desk, shelving and wardrobe. In the Fifth Form, the boys move to smaller, equally quirky rooms, some with a mezzanine area. The Lower Sixth have a similar set up to those in the Fifth Form.

In the Upper Sixth, the boys move to an area slightly separate from the main House, accessed by its own entrance. Each boy has their own study room and share a kitchen and a large shower room. Bedtimes are posted on the House notice boards and vary for each year group. The Third Form go to bed at 9.50pm. In Third and Fourth Form mobile phones are taken in at night.

TOWN TIME

Town time is Wednesday between the hours of 4pm and 6pm, Saturday after sports until 6pm and Sunday until 5pm for the Third, Fourth and Fifth Form.

You do not need to ask permission to go to town in these specified times, but you must ask a member of King Alfred staff if you need to go at other times.

You should always sign out. The Sixth Form have the same rules at the weekend, but during the week can go out after 2pm and return by 6.30pm.

You must honour all school commitments before going into town.





Health and Safety

We are a fun-loving family community in King Alfred House, but there are important boundaries which must be understood.

They are important for pupil safety:

- In the Third, Fourth and Fifth Form, all study bedrooms are out of bounds to all boys outside of those year groups, and to all boys outside the House.
- Entry to each year group is by key card.
- Pupils are reminded that study bedrooms are out of bounds to members of the opposite sex.
- Boys may decorate their areas with posters, but these should neither be offensive nor in bad taste.
- Drapes are permitted against a wall, but must not hang loose since they then constitute a fire hazard.
- No pets are allowed.
- Smoking is strictly forbidden. The possession of matches, lighters, joss sticks etc. is also forbidden.
- Alcohol must not be bought in town or brought into school, nor consumed on or off the premises.
- Substance abuse of any kind is strictly forbidden, and may lead to the pupil being asked to leave the school. The school reserves the right to ask for an independent drugs test when there are reasonable grounds to suggest this may be necessary.

Common Rooms

The House has many common rooms, each with fridge, toaster, kettle and television. We subscribe to Sky in the main common room and have a pool table and table tennis table for all to use. The House has a growing selection of DVDs and games for pupils to use in their leisure time. The furniture is the responsibility of the boys and they are encouraged to take care of their 'home from home'.

Laundry

The House Laundry is situated at the end of the first floor landing at the top of the stairs. It is open daily and boys are expected to put their washing in the appropriate bags. Dirty laundry is sorted every morning and taken to the school laundry and is usually available for collection within a few days. Only named clothing will be washed. Any wet clothing must be put in the House Drying Room, which is in the changing room.

Lost Property

If you lose any property or something goes missing, inform the member of staff on duty at the time. Put a description of the missing article(s) on the notice board. Any unclaimed property is kept in the House Laundry Room.

House Bank

Although most pupils have cash cards, there is the option to keep money in the House Bank. We would recommend no more than £10 cash at any time. Money is deposited and a bank book is kept by Mr King.

Kitchens

There are a number of kitchens in the House. These must be kept clean and tidy. A limited amount of crockery and cutlery is provided, and pupils can bring in their own mugs etc.

We are very lucky to have a brilliant team to help with the running of the House. We ask our King Alfred boys to help them by keeping their areas tidy, including the common rooms.

All common rooms will have a tidy rota, which will be requested by Mr King or prefect team. Mrs Rose Derrick (Matron) has overall responsibility for the Domestic Team and it is important that boys respect her decisions and requests.

Tuck Shop and Food

This will be open most evenings at the end of prep, at weekends and some break times. All pupils can order milk at the start of each term. The House milk is collected every morning from the kitchens after breakfast and kept in the House fridge.

Start and End of Term

Boarders are expected to return to school between 5pm and 7pm at the start of every term and half term. Boarding Houses close at 5pm at the end of every term and half term. The only anomalies to these timings are for the very first Sunday of the academic year, where we welcome pupils throughout the day, and the final day of the year where we finish at lunchtime with Houses closing at 2pm.

The official school ending times are available on the school website and are also published in the school diary. The Houses need to be vacated promptly at the end of terms and beginning of half terms. The boarding Houses are not staffed after this time so it is not possible for any pupils to be accommodated after this time and date. Nor is it possible for any pupils to access the boarding Houses during the school holidays.

It is important therefore that flights are arranged to correspond with term dates. If it is not possible to secure a flight on this day then pupils will need to stay with their guardians until the day of their flights.

The only exception to this is when a school trip has been organised. On such occasions the member of staff organising the trip will put in

place suitable accommodation arrangements. Due to the requirements of the UK Home Office, all boarders with a tier 4 visa are required to provide precise details of movements during holidays, including flight details and the addresses at which they will be staying.

Travel

Booking taxis and train tickets – The school will book taxis and train tickets for pupils, although we do ask that we are given suitable notice to provide this service.

Airport transfers – The school organises a chaperoned coach/mini bus service between King's and Exeter, Bristol and Heathrow airports. Details of this service can be found on the school website. www.kings-taunton.co.uk/international-airport-transfers

The Houseparents appreciate being informed by the parents/guardian of any arrangements that involve their son travelling to school by any means other than being driven by the parent or guardian.

Older boarders and cars – Due to the limited amount of parking space, boarders are not generally allowed to keep their cars at school.

Exceptional requests can be made to the Deputy Head Pastoral. If permission is granted to keep a car at school, it may only be used for commuting between school and home. The Houseparent will keep the car keys at all other times. Only the designated driver may use the car and they may not give lifts to anyone else.

HOUSE TRADITIONS

House Prefects

Upper Sixth pupils have the opportunity to be a House Prefect where they can develop their own leadership skills as well as having roles to fulfil in order to give back to the House.

Such roles may be to help with prep, help duty staff get younger years to bed, lead on inter-House competitions and to generally be good role models.

House Kit and Colours

The House colour is sky blue and House colours are awarded to those boys who make significant achievements for, or on behalf of, the House. House colours are presented in the form of a House tie, which is dark blue with a thin diagonal sky blue stripe. Boys may purchase a House shirt or vest to be worn at leisure or for inter-House competitions.

House Families

King Alfred has a number of small groups we call 'families'.

Members of the families are made up of boys from all five year groups. Within these families we run a buddy and mentor system which ensures close-knit relationships and is an invaluable source of peer support, particularly for new pupils joining the House.

Welfare and Pupil Safety

Pastoral Care

We believe that all pupils, both boarding and day, are of equal worth, and that they are entitled to be treated with equal respect, courtesy and consideration at all times, regardless of their sex, race, religion, abilities or social background. King's College aims to provide education in a disciplined and caring environment.

Respect and consideration for others, independence of thought and self-motivation are of prime importance, and pupils are encouraged to participate fully in the activities of the school.

All members of the school have a duty to:

- Recognise, appreciate and acknowledge the contribution made by pupils of different genders and nationalities to the richness of the school's academic, social, cultural and sporting life.
- Treat each other fairly and with sensitivity, recognising that a person's gender, race, religion, abilities or social circumstances are not subjects for negative comment or behaviour of any kind.

All staff, pupils and parents are expected to support the ethos of the school and to promote a civilised, friendly, compassionate and secure environment. The school recognises the importance of the triangular relationship between pupils, parents and staff, and communication

is encouraged at all times. Houseparents and House staff are especially important in this respect.

Each pupil is under the care of a Houseparent. Tutors also provide valuable support. Parents and pupils are encouraged to refer problems or difficulties to the Houseparent at all times but all members of staff accept a pastoral role in order to promote the welfare of pupils.

The Chaplain, Deputy Heads, Health Centre staff and Headmaster are also always available; their telephone numbers are published in the diary. Senior pupils are also appointed Prefects, and their most important function is to look after the pupils in their care.

Conduct and Discipline

The school rules are published in the School Diary, but the essential principles are as follows:

- Pupils must at all times use their common sense. Any breach of common sense will be treated as a breach of the school rules.
- Pupils must obey the laws of the land. Every pupil must show respect for others at all times, and bullying should always be reported to an adult.

The school seeks to reward pupils and must also occasionally apply sanctions and reprimands. Such punishments will include verbal reprimands, temporary removal of privileges, detention, restrictions during leisure time and manual work in the school grounds.

If a pupil feels that a punishment is unreasonably severe or unjustified, then they may appeal to their Houseparent, any member of staff or the Headmaster, or contact their parents. For more serious offences, such as bullying or involvement in drugs or stealing, and for persistent breaches of any school rule, the school reserves the right to exclude pupils from school on a temporary or permanent basis. It also reserves the right to conduct drug tests where there is reasonable cause for concern.

Health Centre

All boarders are registered with Warwick House Medical Practice, a local practice in Taunton. The King's College Health Centre is well supported by the school doctors and there is a doctor's surgery every weekday, though pupils needing medical attention outside school surgery times will be taken to Warwick House Medical Practice, the Out of Hours Doctor or to Accident and Emergency, whichever is appropriate.

No pupil may have in their possession any medicines or drugs without authorisation from the Health Centre staff and the knowledge of the Houseparent concerned, though confidentiality is always maintained.

Physiotherapy is available within the Health Centre on Monday and Thursday afternoons. There is also a fully qualified Counsellor available for appointments on a Monday and Wednesday afternoon.

Fire Regulations and Practice

Fire extinguishers and blankets are checked monthly and serviced once a year by Tone Fire. Fire safety checks are carried out periodically and fire drills are held at least once a term. All boarders are briefed on fire evacuation procedures during their first day at King's College, and then at regular intervals throughout the year.

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

King's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

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NOMINATED SAFEGUARDING GOVERNOR

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King's College

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