



King's College
TAUNTON

House Information

Meynell



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Welcome

As members of Meynell House, my assistants and I want the girls in the House to enjoy being part of a vibrant community that is made up of a multitude of talents; some are great listeners, others are outstanding runners, academics or musicians – all are welcome and every girl has an important part to play in making Meynell the community it is.

Every girl is encouraged to express her individuality and personality, and to support the other girls in the House. Everyone is encouraged 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 the girls are always involved in decisions concerning the House, so that there is a genuine life-long attachment to the community.

MRS CLAIRE PHILLIPS
Houseparent

“Meynell girls support and help each other to be positive and happy and achieve their full potential. Just be yourself and you’ll fit in perfectly.”



Then and Now

Meynell (pronounced Mehn-nell) House was named after Henry Meynell, the first Provost of this region of the Woodard Corporation, the charitable organisation to which King’s College belongs. Monumental to the development of the school, it is hard to overstate Meynell’s impact on King’s in the early years of the 20th century and we are proud to continue his name.

Meynell House was one of the original four school houses, located on the top floor of the main building. It moved to its current home in the Unmack building in 1962. Originally a boys’ house, in 1991 Meynell was chosen to become the first girls’ house of the new fully co-educational school.

The House is located centrally within the King’s College grounds, being part of the same building as science, history and geography. As a modern building it has wide, long corridors but the décor enables it to feel warm and welcoming. It has two common rooms available for the girls to get together with their friends from other houses and chat, eat, watch movies or play on the Wii.

There is also a house common room with Sky TV and Xbox, and doors which lead to an outside seating area with a table tennis table and space for summer BBQs. Therefore there are plenty of spaces for the girls to relax and watch TV or DVDs as well as kitchens which can be used for making drinks and snacks, and forays into cake baking are actively encouraged.

All boarders in the junior years have a bed in a shared dorm with other girls in their year. Both day girls and boarders have a desk in a shared study downstairs. In the Sixth Form, most girls have a single study bedroom, but there are also a few shared rooms available.

King’s is a member of Girls on Board. Our Houseparents are trained in the Girls on Board philosophy. Please find out more at www.girlsonboard.co.uk/about/



House Staff



Mrs Claire Phillips
Houseparent

Claire was a House Assistant in Meynell before taking on the role of Houseparent. She lives with her husband and son, and as well as being your main point of contact in the House, Claire also teaches in our busy physics department.

Prior to entering education, Claire worked in the racing industry, attending college and studying a national diploma in thoroughbred horses, before landing a job at Paul Nichols' yard, where she spent the next seven years working as a groom. She has fond memories looking after and riding Grand National winner Silver Birch, as well as high performer Royal Auclair.

Claire is still able to enjoy her love of horses by helping at our Equestrian Centre. She also supports our girls' rugby programme.



Mr Joseph Basquill
Non-resident Deputy Houseparent

Mr Basquill worked as a House Assistant in Woodard since joining King's in September 2020 before becoming Deputy Houseparent in 2021. After a brief return to Yorkshire following university, Joseph and his partner Olivia have made their way back to the glorious south west and feel very much at home just outside Taunton.

Though his best playing/competing years may well be behind him, Joseph can often be found coaching out on the rugby pitch or athletics track when not teaching chemistry or physics. At the time of writing, Joseph is plotting to complete a John O'Groats to Land's End cycle this summer – please check back with him in September!



Ms Tup Bertley
House Matron

Ms Bertley joined Meynell as the residential matron in September 2021. She has worked in boarding schools before, and really enjoyed starting a new challenge and getting to know all the pupils in Meynell.

Tup is supported by the amazing cleaning team of Cath, Michelle and Shirley who work tirelessly to keep Meynell looking clean and tidy.

House Assistants and Tutors



Sara Similien
Head of Girls' Games, PE Teacher and on duty once a week



Dennis Cella
Maths Teacher



Audrey Larouche
Modern Foreign Languages Teacher and undertakes night duties



Ruth Streeter
Maths and Learning Strategies Teacher



Karen Paul
Head of Academic Music and Dance, and a keen footballer



Katie Simms
Art Teacher



Wendy Grant
Maths Teacher

CONTACTS

Everyone in Meynell is here to look after each other. As Houseparent, Claire will be on-hand to help you, whether you are missing home or struggling with your academic work, and everything else in between. Her house is adjacent to the boarding house.

However, there are lots of people around to give a helping hand or a listening ear when needed. Ms Bentley lives in a flat attached to the boarding house, the House Assistants are on duty each week night from 7pm until 10.30pm, and of course there are all the other girls in the House who you can turn to, if you need them.

Mrs Phillips
CLPhillips@kings-taunton.co.uk
07703 739369

Meynell Assistant
01823 328180

Ms Bentley
07808 773406



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.



Ozo Mbanefo
House Captain



Nyah Tomlinson
Deputy House Captain



Olivia Stanbury
Deputy House Captain

HOUSE TRADITIONS

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 Colours - House colours are awarded if you are particularly successful in representing the House during your time at King's. You will have lots of opportunities to do this in House competitions such as hockey, football, cricket, MasterChef, drama, chess, debating, tug of war, spelling bee, tennis, swimming, athletics, cross-country, general knowledge, and helping to organise the House fundraisers.

Inter-House Competitions - Each House organises a couple of events every year.

Meynell hosts a Yule Ball at the end of the Michaelmas Term for the senior girls and a Silent Disco which has raised £4,000 over the past two years, with donations going to the charities that we have supported such as Taunton Association for the Homeless in 2016, The British Heart Foundation in 2017 and the MS Society and MacMillan Cancer Care in 2018.



Communication

How to Find Out What is Happening

You will quickly realise that there is a lot going on at King's. There are notice boards on the main corridor in school, where you will find out information about Chindits, games and other activities. There are also notice boards in house, where we will put up information that you need to know. However, most information will be sent to you via your school email address, which you will be given when you arrive and you will quickly realise that it needs to be checked regularly for messages. Most pupils find it easier to have a mobile phone which can send and receive emails so that their school email account can be linked to it.

There is Wi-Fi access available throughout the school and in the boarding House. This is switched off at lights out to ensure a good night's sleep for all!

The School Diary

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

Post

Mail is delivered to the House each morning and is placed on the table in the downstairs corridor.

Electronic Devices

You are of course welcome to bring all the personal electronic devices from home that you can't possibly live without! However, they must be safe to use and insured against loss or damage.

If your parents decide to take advantage of the school's insurance policy for boarders they can contact the Finance Office for details. We ask that pupils don't use laptops or mobile phones after lights out as it enables everyone to get a good night's sleep. Every girl will have a cupboard which can be locked with a padlock; you can either bring a small padlock with you or Matron can supply you with one. Sixth Formers can arrange to have a key for their study bedroom, available from the Finance Office. A refundable deposit of £10 is charged for the key.

House Meetings

House meetings take place every week. These meetings provide everyone with a chance to come together, catch up over coffee and to hear weekly messages, discuss House events and anything and everything in between.

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 girls 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 girls 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 they can watch TV or visit other houses. Bed times and lights out vary per year group and are later for older girls. Third Formers should be in the dormitory at 9.40pm with lights out at 9.50pm.

Weekend Arrangements

Pupils who want to go home on the weekend can leave after the last commitment (lessons or sports fixtures) on a Saturday. Pupils must return by 9.30pm Sunday (at the very latest) or by 8.20am on Monday morning.

You can take as many weekends away as you wish, however we strongly encourage you to stay in for the first weekend of term, since there are activities planned and it will really help you to settle in. Also, everyone has to be in school for the weekend of the Remembrance Service which is on or around 11 November.

If you want to go home for a weekend, your parents must contact Mrs Phillips by 2pm on Friday to confirm the arrangements. If you plan to visit a friend's house, then both sets of parents will need to make contact to confirm.

Prep Time

Evening study sessions (prep) run from 7pm to 8.30pm. Fifth and Sixth Form girls are expected to study until 9pm. Girls are expected to be in their study area ready to start work at 7pm. The important evening roll call take place at 6.55pm.

It is imperative that this time is quiet and conducive to academic study. The Duty Tutor and Duty Prefect will always be on hand if you have any questions or need some guidance with prep, but we won't do the work for you! In the Summer Term, we also have a supervised classroom available if you would prefer working in a more formal environment before the exam season begins.



Signing In and Out

It is really important that we know where you are at all times, and this relies on all girls signing in and out of the boarding house. All day girls need to sign in when they arrive at school and sign out when they leave at the end of the day to go home. When boarders or day pupils go into town, or are away from the house during prep, it is essential that they also sign out.

Domestic Arrangements

Occasional Boarding

If you are a day girl, you are encouraged to take as full a part in school and house life as possible. All day girls will be able to elect one night per week on which they would like to board regularly.

In addition, arrangements can be made for you to board in Meynell, free of charge, if you have a school commitment such as a trip or rehearsal which starts before 7.30am or finishes after 9pm.

Please always check with Mrs Phillips if you want to board; your parents need to make contact if you want to stay extra nights, as they will need to be charged for this.

This must be completed weekly by parents as authorisation.

Day Girls

Day girls are encouraged to play as full a part in the house as possible. You are welcome to stay for supper, study time and to socialise with your friends afterwards, so long as your parents are able to collect you later.

Day girls must sign out daily on the sheet provided. When you sign out it is assumed that you are going straight home. If a day pupil does not sign out and is not in house for 6.55pm registration with no other clear reason for their absence, duty staff will call home to ensure they are indeed home and safe.

Pocket Money

We encourage all girls to have their own bank account at this stage, but there is a House bank, which is run by Matron and is available at morning break. Girls should not need to have more than £10 per week.

Studies and Study Bedrooms

Every girl in the lower school is allocated a desk in a shared study on the downstairs corridor in the House, whilst Sixth Formers have a study bedroom. You will do your Prep each evening in your study and of course Sixth Formers will work in their studies during study periods.

You are welcome to personalise your study and dorm areas, so you may want to bring some posters, photos and fairy lights with you. It is also useful to bring a small lamp, if you would like one beside your bed. Meynell is home to a large number of girls and we are next to many classrooms where lessons go on during the day, and staff work during the evenings, so remember to be considerate to others when you are listening to music.

Laundry

The house has washing machines, tumble dryers, irons and ironing boards for you to use as and when you need them. We can provide you with washing powder, and if you need any help to use the machines, just ask! You can use the school laundry, if you prefer, particularly for bigger items

such as duvet covers and sheets. Matron can help you out with this! Please make sure that all your clothes etc. are named.

Social Time

Apart from lessons and school games sessions, there are lots of opportunities at King's. There is a thriving choir and music ensembles of all varieties, opportunities to become involved in public speaking, drama productions, a whole variety of sports and outdoor pursuits – Meynell girls get involved in them all.

At weekends there are whole school activities each Sunday and a number of events on Saturday organised throughout the term. Theatre trips, paintballing, trampolining and shopping trips are amongst some of the activities arranged throughout the year and if there is something you would like to do, just suggest it and we will try and organise it.

Common Rooms and Garden

Meynell has three common rooms, where you can relax, watch TV and socialise with your friends. We have Sky TV, a Wii, Xbox and DVD players to entertain and in good weather the garden will be open which has outdoor sofas and table tennis.

Food and Tuck Shop

There are three kitchens in Meynell. There is an electric cooker, microwave, fridge and freezer between all kitchens. Girls are free to use the

kitchens for making hot drinks, cooking pizzas or baking cakes. The House is very happy to provide ingredients and help out with baking sessions, but remember that tidying up at the end is all part of the experience.

The tuck shop is run by a small group of Sixth Form girls and it is open at morning break, weekday evenings and at weekends. It stocks drinks and snacks, both sweet and savoury. Milk is supplied in the kitchens for making hot drinks, along with tea, coffee and hot chocolate. Bread is brought over every day – toast making at break is popular in all houses.

TOWN TIME

Town times are on Wednesdays between 4pm and 5.50pm, Saturdays after lessons end at 12.10pm until 6pm and Sundays until 5pm for junior girls or 6pm for the Sixth Form.

You don't need to ask permission to go to town at these times, but you must sign out. We will show you how when you arrive in September. Sixth Formers can also go into town after 2pm on weekdays until 6.30pm, but they should make sure they are up to date with their work.

Of course if you have a school commitment, such as a sports fixture or a meeting, you have to always put that before a visit to town.



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 child 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.

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

Mrs Karen McSwiggan
Deputy Head (Pastoral)
KLMcSwiggan@kings-taunton.co.uk
01823 328212 / 07989397436

DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS

Mr Jonty Lawford
Deputy Head (Academic)
JJBLawford@kings-taunton.co.uk
01823 328219 / 07989397426

Mrs Caroline Condy
History Teacher
CFCCondy@kings-taunton.co.uk

Mr Dafydd Jones
Chemistry Teacher
DJones@kings-taunton.co.uk

NOMINATED SAFEGUARDING GOVERNOR

Mrs Charis Cavaghan-Pack
CCavaghan-pack@kings-taunton.co.uk

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.

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

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.



King's College

TAUNTON

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