



King's College  
TAUNTON

# House Information

*Tuckwell*



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## Welcome

Tuckwell is a truly wonderful boys' boarding house. As soon as you enter this fresh and modern boarding environment you are overwhelmed by the sense of brotherhood amongst the boys. The variety of academics, musicians, thespians and sportsmen make the House a vibrant and exciting place to be, and the sense of community we have here is wonderful as is often witnessed when the boys support each other in the many events they take part in across the school. It is a home away from home and the boys really respect that principle.

The aim of Tuckwell is to ensure the House is a happy and safe place to live or spend time in, where all feel as though they can express themselves with confidence and strive to be whatever they want to be. There will always be opportunities for individuals to take responsibility and develop leadership skills. In doing so, we hope the boys will adopt the values of aspiration, integrity and respect, creating a 'work hard and play hard' ethos where friends for life are made.

MR BRENDAN CRAGGS  
*Houseparent*

“Tuckwell boys are very proud of their boarding house and look after each other incredibly well. We pride ourselves on producing close knit, polite and hard working young men full of aspiration, integrity and respect, and the atmosphere is calm but purposeful.”



## Then and Now

Tuckwell House came into being in 1965, when rapidly increasing numbers meant the school urgently needed another house.

It was named after the Reverend William Tuckwell who had been Headmaster of the College in 1866, and advocated the teaching of 'the unfashionable cause of science'. In 1977 Tuckwell House was moved to the old rambling Convent site (now a slick housing development) where other boarding houses were also located.

In 2002 the new house was built on the main school site, an impressive building rendered in an earthy pink to reflect the hues of the local soil, with lovely views over the 1st XI cricket outfield.

There are 70 boys in Tuckwell House, spread across the year groups with a nice balance between boarders and day pupils. There are three Third Form dorms with separate study rooms, next to the Houseparents' accommodation (in case prep time becomes too exuberant), most of the Fourth Form and Fifth Form have twin study bedrooms, and Sixth Formers have single study bedrooms.

Day pupils have their own designated study area integrated within their year groups, and there are beds available if they wish to board, often more than once a week. The day boys are included in House life and often stay on to complete their prep in the evening or for the many House socials we run each week.



# House Staff



**Mr Brendan Craggs**  
*Houseparent*

I live next door to Tuckwell House with my wife Magdalena (Mags), our two sons Sullivan and Oskar, and not forgetting Teddy, our cat who loves roaming the corridors of Tuckwell. My door is next to your studies on the ground floor.

I'm in charge of your pastoral and academic welfare. If you have a problem or need permission to do something then you should talk to me in the first instance. Basically I am here to look after you.

If I had to sum up the House I would say that it is a huge amount of fun with a caring and supportive atmosphere. It is a home away from home with brilliant staff and Sixth Form pupils who will help you along the way.



**Mr Akram Shamseddine**  
*Deputy Houseparent*

When not directing proceedings in the House, I can be found teaching in the PE and the BTEC Sport department. On top of that I coach the U15A rugby and cricket teams. Sport is my passion – I am an avid Somerset CCC and a Bristol Bears fan. I love playing golf and cricket, and have ventured into the world of playing veteran's football (YES, a veteran at 39 years of age!).

I am also getting used to being a dad and love spending time with the Tuckwell family as well as my own.



**Mrs Morton**  
*House Matron*

I am a teacher of physics and originally from Lebanon. I moved to the UK in 2014 after living in Egypt for five years. In September 2021, I joined King's after returning to the glorious southwest from Mill Hill, London. I now live on site, just a doorstep away from Tuckwell House, with my wife Manwa and two daughters, Leila and Salma.

My role in Tuckwell is to support Mr Craggs in running the House and looking after our pupils, and to ensure every pupil is happy and safe. I look forward to seeing our Tuckwell boys thrive and enjoy every moment of being part of such a vibrant House. Besides my ultimate joy of teaching, being a Deputy Houseparent allows me to learn a lot from our pupils and get to know them outside the classroom environment. As well as teaching and House responsibilities, I am the Head of Badminton and support the CCF Army section. I also enjoy travelling, outdoor activities, skydiving and bungee jumping.



**Mrs Morton**  
*House Matron*

Our Matron (basically House Mum!) will advise you about bedding, laundry, lost property etc. Please help her and her staff by looking after your dorm and study areas.

When Mr Craggs is teaching, Lorraine will usually be around in the House and has a little office on the ground floor near the entrance, so that she can keep an eye on you.

Lorraine also gives ironing lessons at break time and distributes milk and bread for toast making. She also gives great advice so feel free to talk to her whenever you need a friendly ear.

## House Assistants and Tutors



**Mr Steve Shaw**  
*Third Form Tutor*



**Dr Ben Greedy**  
*Fourth Form Tutor*



**Dr David Snell**  
*Fourth Form Tutor*



**Mrs Caroline Condy**  
*Fourth Form Tutor*



**Mrs Imogen Pardoe**  
*Fifth Form Tutor*



**Mr Toby Smith**  
*Fifth Form Tutor*

## CONTACTS

**Mr Craggs**  
BDCraggs@kings-taunton.co.uk  
07540 795434  
01823 328228

**Duty Office**  
01823 328246

If Mr Craggs is not around you can also talk to the Deputy Houseparent Mr Shamseddine who also lives in the House.

Mr Shamseddine's apartment is directly underneath the Third Form dorm (so no indoor football games!!) and is accessed on the ground floor.

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

## 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 and Vice Captain 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.

### **Nigel Hau** *House Captain*

I have been a boarder at King's for four years and I am currently studying biology, chemistry and maths at A level. As a pupil from Hong Kong, Tuckwell is like a family for me, as there is a great sense of brotherhood.

I love activities like football, hockey and rugby, especially with my mates and team. Being a sports leader and president of the biology society, I am honoured to lead this House next year as House Captain, hopefully bringing this family to further greatness and success.

This House will forever be in my heart and I look forward to meeting you all in September.



### **Rhys Thomas** *Deputy House Captain*

My name is Rhys, I'm 17 and will be one of your Deputy House Captains in Tuckwell this year. I am currently doing DT, PE and business A levels. I enjoy the range of sport King's offers and I am a hockey player.

Tuckwell has always been a big family for me and I am looking forward to welcoming you all in September. Tuckwell is always a fun and happy environment to be in and I am sure you will all love it.

Tuckwell's colours run through my veins and I will always be there to support any of who need it in any aspects of school.

I look forward to meeting all new Tuckwellians next year, so see you there.



### **Ed Shirley** *Deputy House Captain*

My name is Ed and I've been a day boy at King's since the start of Third Form. I am currently studying maths, economics and physics for my A levels but also have a real interest in sport, competing for nationals in athletics.

I have a drive for academics and will be there to support those who are more interested in this aspect of school such as in debating and general knowledge. My favourite event has got to be the house singing competition where Tuckwell's colours truly show.

As my home away from home, Tuckwell is my favourite place to be at King's and I am truly grateful to have the chance to represent and lead the boys as one of their Deputy House Captains.



## Communication

### **Mobile Phones**

Boys may bring mobile phones to school but they must not be used or be turned on during lessons, anywhere in the main school building or after lights out. No pupil is allowed to use any other pupil's mobile phone without permission. Third and Fourth Form mobiles are collected in before lights out each evening.

### **Notice Boards**

It is very important that you check the contents of the notice boards in the common room on a regular basis. All the information you need, such as complete timetable, weekly menus, urgent meetings, signing out sheets, and activity lists will be there.

### **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.

### **Keeping in Touch**

Mail is delivered to the House each morning and is placed in pigeon holes in the main entrance to Tuckwell. Every boy has a pigeon hole with their name on. All pupils have an email account and email can be collected from any school computer. You must check your email account daily for notices and information regarding meetings, academic work and games commitments etc.

If you want to connect your own laptop to the school intranet then you must first take it to the school's ICT department to activate this. The school system restricts access to suitable content for the benefit and safety of all users.

### **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.

### **Registration and Roll Calls**

It is very important that you register between 8.15am and 8.30am (Monday to Saturday) in the House common room. Day pupils who arrive late must register at reception in the main school building. There is also a registration in the afternoon at 1.30pm in the Tuckwell common room, and at 6.50pm on a Saturday night.

Monday to Friday there is a roll call in House for boarders and day pupils staying for prep at 6.50pm, but it is expected that you are in your study areas starting prep by this time.

There is a formal roll call at 10.30am and 2pm on Sunday and then at 6.50pm in the large House common room.

### **Signing In and out**

It is very important that if you are leaving the House during prep you sign out AND see the duty teacher to tell them where you are going (ie. to work in the library or to attend a society meeting or play rehearsal).

You must sign out if you are leaving the school site. Remember that apart from town time, agreed exeats and school events, you may not leave the school premises at any time without permission.



## 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

The school remains open on weekends, but boarders are welcome to take weekends away from school provided they have fulfilled their school commitments, such as sports fixtures and have permission from Mr Craggs.

Parents must contact Mr Craggs before 2pm on the Friday before the weekend away. Mr Craggs will confirm that a weekend away has been granted on Friday evening. If you wish to spend a weekend at a friend's house, then Mr Craggs must be contacted by your parents and the parents of your friend.

### Prep Time

Pupils are expected to register at 6.50pm so they can be at their desks and ready to start their prep for 7pm. Third Form pupils work together in study areas by Mr Craggs' office to ensure they get into good working habits for years to come. They are also supervised by a Lower Sixth pupil. The remaining year groups have their own desk in their dorm where they are expected to work quietly and respect the need for others to concentrate. Prep runs until 8.30pm for Third and Fourth Form and until 9pm for the Fifth and Sixth Form.

### Sport

Pupils should play sport and/or take part in activities at least three times a week, whatever their standard. Lists for games appear on the notice boards in the main school corridor. If a pupil's name does not appear on the activities list on the first day or two, please let us know immediately. Day boys must ensure that they use the changing room to change for games and use the lockers to store kit. Keys will be issued during the first week.

### HOUSE TRADITIONS

**Prefects** - Upper Sixth pupils have the opportunity to be a House Prefect. This enables them to develop their leadership skills and give back to the House by helping and supporting others. For example they may help with prep, help duty staff get younger years to bed, lead on inter-house competitions and generally be good role models.

**House Colours** - House colours are awarded if you are particularly successful in representing the House. You will have lots of opportunities to do this in House competitions such as rugby, football, hockey, cricket, MasterChef, drama, chess, debating, tug-of-war, spelling bee, tennis, swimming, athletics, cross-country, general knowledge, and helping to organise the House Children in Need event etc., so be prepared for a busy time.

**Inter-House Competitions** - Tuckwell has a tradition of doing well in inter-House competitions. In recent years we have won the House singing, junior football and MasterChef.

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved and it is highly recommended that you put yourself forward to volunteer if you have a particular talent that may benefit Tuckwell or indeed if you want to challenge yourself to try something new.

## Domestic Arrangements

### Day Boys

If you are a day boy, you are encouraged to play as full a part in the life of the House as possible. You may go home after your school commitments but many stay for all or part of the prep period in the evening.

If you stay late for a school commitment which ends after 9.30pm then you are entitled to board free of charge. Permission to board must always be sought and granted from the Houseparent. If your parents wish you to board at their convenience then there is a charge for boarding and prior notice is expected.

There is a signing out sheet for day boys in the main Tuckwell entrance. This notes the time when you leave to go home. It is vital that you sign out accurately. When you sign out it is assumed that you are going straight home.

### Valuables

You may bring audio systems, iPods, laptops etc., to school. However you must ensure that they are safe to use and that they are adequately insured against loss or damage. The school offers an insurance policy especially for boarders. You should talk to the Finance Office if you require information about this.

Please mark all property with your name and House, and bring a padlock to use the lockable spaces provided. Please do not get into the habit of 'borrowing' things from each other as this can often lead to misunderstandings.

### Pocket Money

It is not sensible to carry large sums of money around with you. Please deposit your pocket money with Mr Craggs at the beginning of term. If you want to make use of the House bank, it will be open regularly throughout the week and no more than £50 per term is recommended.

Some pupils might like to open a bank account in Taunton so that money can be withdrawn with a cash card during town time.

### Bedrooms

You are positively encouraged to decorate your rooms but please ensure that your posters are of reasonable taste and that you use the pin boards provided. We do require you to take the posters down at the end of the academic year and ensure that the room is in the same condition in which you found it.

### Laundry

There are linen baskets on each floor for you to put your dirty clothes in. These will be emptied each morning and clothes should reappear clean, in your locker in the linen room within a day or so.

Games kit should be ready within 24 hours of placing it into the basket.

In addition to this, Tuckwell has a small laundry open in the mornings, equipped with washing machines, tumble dryers and ironing facilities. All washing detergents are provided and Lorraine the Matron gives ironing lessons on Mondays, just before CCF.

### Tuck Shop and Food in House

There is a (very popular) House tuck shop running daily after prep and during some morning breaks.

The Dining Hall provides full meals and afternoon tea daily and we also provide bread and a selection of healthy snacks in House.

### Bread and Milk

Milk can be ordered from the kitchen at the beginning of each term. Boys can specify on which day they would like milk to be delivered and what type, i.e. skimmed, full etc. There is a charge for milk and this will be added to the school bill.

Bread and butter is supplied by the school free of charge and toast making facilities are provided in each of the kitchens. Toast making at break time in Tuckwell has become quite a tradition, alongside the weekly anticipation of Thursday hot sausage roll day via the local butchers.

### Leisure Time

When not in lessons or games you are free to use any of your areas in the House – studies, dormitories, common room, cinema and gaming room, kitchens etc. Only go into the studies of other year groups if invited, and it is a school rule that no pupil is allowed into sleeping areas of other houses.

You may wear leisurewear after 5.50pm on weekdays and after games commitments on Saturdays and on Sundays.

### TOWN TIME

Town time for junior pupils is between 4pm and 5.50pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

This is the time you can visit Taunton with your friends. You do not have to wear school uniform but you must sign out on the House notice board and sign in on your return. Sixth Formers can go into Taunton on any afternoon if they don't have any school commitments.



### 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/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*  
CFCondy@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.

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.

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.

### 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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