



# WOODARD HOUSE

House Information 2021-2022



King's College  
TAUNTON



# WOODARD HOUSE

## A Brief History

Woodard came into being in 1965, when rapidly increasing numbers meant the school urgently needed another house. It was named after the Reverend William Woodard who had been Headmaster of the College in 1866, and advocated the teaching of 'the unfashionable cause of science'. In 1977 Woodard house was moved to the old rambling Convent site 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.

## Woodard Today

The Woodard team strive to make your child's experience as good as it possibly can be. I am proud of how the tutor team gently encourage the boys to go beyond their potential, whether that is academically, sporting or in a life skill. I work with both the tutors and the teachers in our community to ensure progression is measured and appropriate to the needs of your son.

The boys are very welcoming of others into their home. Whether you live nearby or further afield, your son will have the best possible experience growing up within Woodard. There are social areas for everyone to relax, enjoy each other's company and to catch up on the latest entertainment – although, my collection of board games is not always as welcome as I imagine! There are two kitchens where the boys' culinary skills are put to the test as they struggle to make 'toast', sometimes a Pot Noodle and occasionally even an edible meal.

Woodard House strives to make your son's teenage years an unforgettable time.

**Dr David Snell**  
- Housemaster

# WELCOME

## House Ethos

Woodard values hard work, patience, integrity, and loyalty. There are all sorts of boys in Woodard House. We can boast many outstanding sportsmen, musicians, actors, and those with an interest in and talent at debating. Woodard boys over the years have fared very well at hardy challenges such as Ten Tors and Duke of Edinburgh. Most importantly however, is that Woodard boys are known to be incredibly supportive of each other, and value equally whatever gifts each individual has. As a result Woodard is known very much as a happy and caring house.



**A HOME AWAY FROM HOME.** It is the intention of myself and house staff to make Woodard a friendly, happy and exciting house in which to live and learn. My aim as a Housemaster is to bring out the best in the boys, whatever their interests. The staff in Woodard aim to create an atmosphere which is open, tolerant and trusting. We encourage the boys to develop their co-curricular interests and promote culture, sport and academic achievement. Above all Woodard should be a safe and happy home away from home, allowing the boys to meet their potential in work and play.



# HOUSE STAFF



## Dr David Snell – Housemaster

My name is David Snell. I have worked in Woodard House since 2010, when I joined as the Deputy, before becoming Housemaster in 2014.

Prior to teaching I was a project manager for a pharmaceutical company, whilst being a member of the Royal Marine Reserves, serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan, but I quickly realised being shot at is not much fun.

Since joining King's every day it is an absolute pleasure to be at the school, and I consider it an honour and a gift to play a part in the Woodard boys' formative years. Their energy, courtesy, goodwill towards each other and boundless humour keep me young, and I am constantly amazed at what a happy community the boys have created for each other.

My wife, Caro, is also a teacher; although I keep telling her biology is similar to colouring in. Within the school I also manage a rugby side, having little or no coaching ability and I teach chemistry, although the boys are nice enough not to hold that against me.



## Mr Rob Woodman – Deputy Housemaster



I'm the Deputy Housemaster for Woodard. After playing professional cricket I have coached the sport throughout the South West, enabling many an aspiring youngster to achieve their dreams. I've been an integral part of the King's community for the past ten years, helping a multitude of sports teams from basketball through to girls' cricket. Whilst sports are my passion, I can often be found assisting pupils with their choices beyond King's. During my spare time I have an amazing family who keep me entertained; life with two young sons is never dull!



# House Assistants and Tutors



**Matt Lang**  
Matt is our Head of Physics and is a house tutor. He also undertakes a duty night.



**Jason Grindle**  
Jason is our Head of DT and a house tutor to boys in Tuckwell House.



**Caroline Sorenson**  
Caroline is a history teacher and is also a tutor in house.



**Andrew Edwards**  
is our Head of Geography and a tutor in the house.



**Akram Shamseddine**  
Akram teaches physics and is a house tutor. He also undertakes a duty night.



**Leon Oxenham**  
Leon teaches business and economics and is a house tutor.

If I am ever not around you can also talk to the Deputy Housemaster Mr Woodman who also lives in the house. His apartment is directly accessed on the ground floor. In addition there are the Woodard house assistants who do an evening duty from 7.00pm to 10.30pm. You can always ask them for help and advice when they are on duty or at any other convenient time.

**Third Form – These are specific Third Form tutors, who have extensive experience in helping the transition from prep school to King’s College. They understand the common concerns that your son will have and can pre-empt these issues, thereby settling the boys into the Woodard family. They also prepare your son for the tough decisions that have to be made for their GCSE choices.**

**Fourth and Fifth Form tutors are specialist in preparing your son for the pressure of GCSE exams, through to A level choices. They know what makes them ‘tick’ and are well placed to advise them on the best course of action. They are well versed in helping to find a balance between academic studies and sporting and co-curricular interests.**

**In all cases the tutor is the first point of contact if you have a query regarding your son.**

## House Matron



### **Mrs Jane Berry**

Woodard's biggest asset is our Matron, Jane Berry. She is the school sportswoman and can outplay all the boys at any of their games. She is the current holder of the Taunton Female Cricketer and Hockey Player of the Year trophies, and five times winner of the King's College Best Matron award (Woodard house category). Her detective skills would put CSI to shame. The boys have learnt not to try to keep secrets from her, and will run to her to own up to any accidental damage they may have caused in the hope of clemency!

## House Captain and Vice-Captain



### **Josh Luedicke**

I have been a King's pupil since the start of Third Form and therefore have been a part of Woodard for four years so far, and I have loved every minute of it.

I am studying physics, economics and geography at A-level, with geography being my preferred subject of the three. I also enjoy activities away from the classroom like sport and CCF. I am a very eager sportsman, I love cricket, hockey and rugby and I represent the school in all three.

Woodard is my home away from home so it is an honour to be leading the house next year alongside Dr Snell, Mrs Berry and Mr Woodman.



### **Robbie Mossop**

I joined Woodard at the beginning of the Lower Sixth year as a new pupil to King's and it has been nothing but a welcoming atmosphere. I had not experienced boarding school

prior to joining King's but I have enjoyed every minute and do not have any regrets.

I study PE, geography and economics with an ambition of becoming a physiotherapist. My tutor Mr Lewis, and Dr Snell have been very supportive of this.

The range of sport and other opportunities outside the academic programme are what makes King's so special. I take part in CCF, Gold DofE and all the sports on offer, specialising in hockey.

I really look forward to my Upper Sixth year as Vice-Captain of house and I am looking forward to encouraging everyone in the house, especially the new Third Form joining this year, to get stuck into everything on offer.

# YOUR FIRST FEW DAYS

At the time of going to print, we do not have the final details for the start of term arrangements. As the summer progresses, we will no doubt be in a position to put firmer plans in place. I will be sending you these plans for the first few days nearer the time.

There are likely to be staggered arrival times for pupils starting/returning at the start of next term on Sunday 5 September, in order that they can be safely admitted to accommodation etc.

Arrangements for specific timings of drop-offs will be coordinated by me and Admissions.

As in previous years, we are very much hoping to hold a welcome BBQ for all new pupils and their families, hosted by our Parents' Association.

New pupil inductions to the house and year group meetings would also take place on this day.

The term gets underway on Monday 6 September.

As I say, full details of all these arrangements will be coming to you soon, and in due course, all information pertaining to the start of term will be on our school portal.

If you have any questions at all, just ask!

I look forward to seeing you in September.

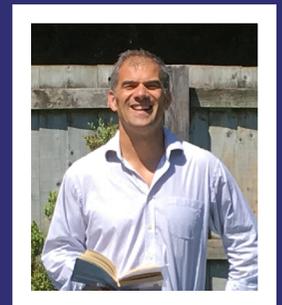
Email: [DJSnell@kings-taunton.co.uk](mailto:DJSnell@kings-taunton.co.uk)

Telephone: 07703741149 (Dr Snell's mobile)

01823 328229 (Dr Snell's study)

07808773409 (Mrs Berry's mobile)

07715035342 (Woodard duty mobile)





# COMMUNICATION

## Mobile Phones

Whilst most pupils have mobile phones there is also a call box on the end staircase. Pupils need either a phone card or pin from the finance office to use this. Mobiles must be used in-house only. (they should be insured as the school cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage). Some boys use Skype to call their parents over the internet—this can be done from their rooms through their internet access (see below). Telephones will be collected each night at bed times to ensure a peaceful nights sleep.

## Post and Emails

Post is delivered each morning and is placed in the boys rooms. The house address is: Woodard House, King's College, Taunton, Somerset TA1 3LA.

All pupils have a school e-mail addresses:  
"surnameinitialinitial"@kings-taunton.co.uk  
E.g. jonesab@kings-taunton.co.uk

## 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 Internet and Electronic Devices

The house has Internet access for each work area which can be accessed until lights out. This should be used for work purposes and not for games. Boys can use it to email and call home. The internet should only be used in conjunction with the school network and not through mobile phones.

Pupils may use their laptops during prep times, however, mobile phones will taken in during prep (1900 - 2030). All electronic devices will be taken in at bed time. If a phone is confiscated during lessons, it will be returned 24 hours later.

## 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

It is very important that you register between 8.15am and 8.30am (Mon-Sat) 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 2.00pm on Sunday and then at 6.50pm in the large house common room.

# THE SCHOOL WEEK

## A Typical Day

Breakfast is between 7.30am and 8.00am. 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 6.00pm and prep starts at 7.00pm. 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.

## Exeats

Exeats are weekends spent away from school. Boarders usually take up to three exeats per term. You can take an exeat providing you have fulfilled your school commitments, such as sports fixtures and you must have sought my permission in the first instance.

If you wish to take an exeat then your parents must contact me before 2.00pm on the Friday before the exeat. I will confirm with you that an exeat has been granted on Friday evening. If you wish to spend an exeat weekend at a friend's house then I must be contacted by your parents and the parents of your friend.

## Prep Time

Evening study sessions (prep) run from 7.00pm to 8.30pm for the whole school. The Third and Fourth Formers hand in their phones during this period. The Fifth and Sixth Formers are expected to study outside this time as well. Boys are expected to be in their study areas ready to start work at 7.00pm. It is imperative that this time is quiet and conducive to academic study.

## Signing In and Out

Everybody in the house must sign out in the evening or if you leave the school for an exeat, on a trip or in Town Time. This is so that we know whether you are in the building or not. Please remember to sign in on your return as well.

## Sport

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

# DOMESTIC ARRANGEMENTS

## Day Boys

Day boys are encouraged to play as full a part in the house as possible. You may go home after your school commitments but many boys stay for all or part of prep time in the evening. You may also wish to stay for school activities such as play rehearsals. If you stay late because of a school commitment you may board free of any charges.

You are encouraged to board on one night of the week (free of charge) this tends to be on Monday when house football takes place, but you may stay any night.

Permission to board must be requested from me. If your parents wish you to board at their convenience (family holiday etc.) a charge will be incurred.

When a day boy arrives in the morning (8.20am at the latest) he must register at the house and when he goes home for the day he is expected to sign out, failure to do so will result in a Wednesday detention. When he signs out it is assumed that he is going straight home.

## Town Time

Town time is Wednesday and Saturday between the hours of 4.00-5.50pm. You do not need to ask for permission to go to town in these specified times, but you must ask a member of Woodard staff if you need to go at other times. You should always sign out.

## 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. To start with please do not get into the habit of 'borrowing' things from each other as this can often lead to misunderstandings.

## House Games and Sunday Activities

There are various PS-4s a table football, various board games as well as garden games in the housemaster's garden, including a trampoline. Woodard even has a cinema room with a home cinema system containing surround sound and a cinema club for film buffs. Every Monday after prep there is house football in the Sports Hall.

An exciting programme of weekend activities has been organised for you throughout the year. These take place as frequently as possible.

On the first and second Sunday of term there will be a trip for all new Third Form pupils. There will be no exeat on the first Sunday and day boys are invited (expected) to take part.

There is usually a whole school weekend trip once or twice a term and then the house runs trips regularly throughout the year. Trips to date have included paintballing, quad biking, surfing, climbing, kayaking, cinemas, restaurants, camping, bowling, pub lunches and walks.

## Weekend Arrangements

It is recommended that new pupils stay for the first weekend of term as it helps the house to bond and to settle.

Parents should let me know about any exeat by at least the Wednesday before. If a pupil wishes to go to another pupil's house for the weekend I will need permission from both sets of parents.

Weekend exeats start after the last commitment (lessons or games) on a Saturday and pupils must return by 9.30pm on Sunday. Pupils may take as many Sunday exeats as they wish. The same contact rules apply for this.

All boarders must attend the Remembrance Service, which falls on the nearest Sunday to the 11 November every year. Parents and day pupils are very welcome as well.



# DOMESTIC ARRANGEMENTS Continued

## Bedrooms

Our Third Form are located on the second floor, Fourth Form on the first floor and all Sixth Form have individual rooms throughout the house. Each floor has a kitchen, so please feel free to bring food. You must bring a padlock so that you can lock your valuables away safely. In Woodard all year groups have study bedrooms and you will be encouraged to take responsibility for your own work. I will encourage you to decorate your studies but please make sure you stay within the bounds of reasonable taste! Bedtimes are posted on the house notice boards and vary for each year group. The Third Form go to bed at 9.30pm.

## Tuck Shop and Food

There is a House Tuck shop running daily at break and from 8.30 to 9.00pm.

Milk can be ordered at the beginning of term for boy's own use. Their order will be charged to your school bill.

## 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 baskets.

As well as the school laundry service, we have in-house facilities that include washing machine, tumble dryers and ironing equipment.

## House Events and Activities

Woodardians are a social bunch, and I take the boys out to smart(ish) restaurants in town a few times each term. We love the cinema, and go at least once a week, sometimes ending up at the all you can eat Chinese buffet for the famous 'sweet and sour chicken ball eat off'. Three or four times a term we will do a whole Sunday trip, such as paintballing or surfing.

As if four 'all you can eat' buffets supplied daily by the school weren't enough, we have an Upper Sixth pizza evening every week, as well as a Saturday night cook-off, and barbecues on Sundays in the summer. House events include a charity fancy dress dodgeball tournament, competitive cooking against girls' houses, casino nights, Valentine's dinners, and anything else I can think of to stop me marking maths homework.

During the course of the year Woodard will also celebrate Bonfire Night on 5 November and Chinese New Year. We plan to BBQ most weekends in the summer (weather permitting).



# DOMESTIC ARRANGEMENTS Continued

## Start and End of Term Arrangements

Boarders are expected to return to school between 5.30pm and 7.30pm at the start of every term and between 7.30pm and 9.30pm at the end of half term. The school cannot accommodate boarders before the published start of term. Parents are asked to inform the Houseparents of any late arrival or early leaving that may be different from the published dates.

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

## Travel Arrangements

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. <http://www.kings-taunton.co.uk/international-airport-transfers>

The Houseparents will appreciate being informed by the parents/guardian of any arrangements that involve their son travelling

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 exeat weekends and holidays, including flight details and the addresses at which they will be staying.

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.



# 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 Colours

House colours are awarded if you are particularly successful in representing the house during your time at King's.

## Inter-House Competitions

Despite appearances, Woodard boys are high achievers. House spirit in competitions is strong and we seem to have bagged most of the sports cups last year. We always perform well in the general knowledge competition. My great loves are music and drama, and I encourage the boys to get involved in as much as they can. By far the most important event is the Christmas sketch competition. Never has a prize, in this case a small bag of Haribo and three Double Deckers, been so strongly contested!

# WELFARE AND PUPIL SAFETY

## Pastoral Care

We believe that all boys and girls, 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 boys and girls are also appointed Prefects, and their most important function is to look after the boys and girls 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 he or she may appeal to his or her Houseparent, any member of staff or the Headmaster, or contact his or her 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 St James Medical Centre, a local practice in Taunton. The King's College Health Centre is well supported by the school doctors – Dr Yvonne Duthie and Dr Adrian Fulford. There is a doctor's surgery every weekday, though pupils needing medical attention outside school surgery times will be taken to St James Medical Centre, 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 (DSL):

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

### DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS (DDSL):

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





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