



King's College  
TAUNTON

# GARDENS OPERATIVE

CLOSING DATE:  
WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL 2026



# HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

At King's, we are committed to ensuring that every young person has the opportunity to unlock their potential, regardless of background or circumstance.

**Thank you for your interest in the role of Gardens Operative at King's College.**

King's College and King's College Prep are thriving, co-educational, independent boarding and day schools for children from 2 to 18 years. Located on two sites, both schools provide inspired teaching and superb facilities to create an environment in which young people achieve great things.

We are looking for a dedicated and enthusiastic individual to join our Grounds Department, helping to maintain the gardens and outdoor spaces across King's College and King's College Prep.

Working under the guidance of the Grounds Manager or Lead Gardener, you will play an important part in ensuring our grounds remain attractive, safe, and well-presented throughout the year. You will contribute to a professional gardening and grounds maintenance service that supports the Schools' high standards and enhances the experience of pupils, staff, and visitors.

We look forward to hearing from you and considering your application.



**Michael Sloan**  
Executive Head, King's College Taunton



King's College and King's College Prep are Woodard Schools. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the safe welfare of children and young people, and expect all staff to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check.

## ABOUT THE SCHOOLS

King's provides continuous day and boarding education for girls and boys aged two to 18 years. It comprises King's College Prep which has approximately 300 children from 2 to 13 and a senior school with approximately 400 pupils from 13 to 18.

The schools are situated on separate sites in the south west of England and combine traditional values with state-of-the-art facilities. Both schools are run by one governing body, with many functions (marketing, strategy and finance for example) undertaken jointly.

King's College has a rich and welcoming family and community ethos. Just over 60% of the pupils board. For a relatively small school, it has an enviable record of success in all areas.

The school has regularly topped GCSE and

A-level league tables for Somerset. A broad range of co-curricular activities is offered, and the school is renowned for its success in sport, music, performing arts, fine art, design technology and outdoor pursuits. In many of these activities our pupils have achieved success at national and even international levels.

Good discipline is encouraged in a firm and positive way within a supportive pastoral framework. King's College is strong on manners and social skills. Pupils go on to thrive at good universities and in their professional careers. In short, King's is a purposeful, outward-looking, down-to-earth, highly successful school.



## KING'S COLLEGE

South Road, Taunton TA1 3LA

### Main School Building

- 1 The Chapel
- 2 The Quad
- 3 Dining Hall
- 4 Woodard Room
- 5 Latin  
English  
Philosophy of Religious & Ethics  
Modern Foreign Languages - upstairs
- 6 Main School Corridor  
Headmaster's Office  
PA to the Headmaster's Office  
Examination Office  
Admissions Office  
Careers Office  
Maths
- 7 Philip Richards Building  
Library - upstairs  
IT Helpdesk  
Visitor toilets
- 8 Headmaster's House
- 9 Silvermead Studio and Arts House
- 10 Briar Lee Tennis Courts
- 11 Sixth Form Centre  
Head of Sixth Form Office  
Development Office
- 12 School Uniform Shop
- 13 Cookery School

- 14 Laundry
- 15 Shooting Range
- 16 CCF and Outdoor Pursuits  
Stores  
Chindits  
Army/Navy/Marines
- 17 Finance Office
- 18 Design Technology Centre
- 19 Squash Courts
- 20 First Team Cricket Pavillion
- 21 First Team Cricket Pitch
- 22 Buttler's Ramp
- 23 Tennis and Netball Dome
- 24 Tennis and Netball Courts
- 25 Sports pitches  
(rugby/cricket/athletics/football)
- 26 All-weather Hockey Pitch
- 27 Cricket Pavilion
- 28 Athletics Cabin
- 29 Sports Performance & Cricket Centre
- 30 Swimming Pool
- 31 Changing Cabins
- 32 Sports Hall  
Climbing Wall  
Gym  
PE Classrooms

- 33 Science Centre  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Physics  
History
  - 34 Geography Centre
  - 35 The Amphitheatre
  - 36 The Theatre  
Black Box  
Auditorium
  - 37 Music School  
The Octagon  
Music Technology  
Practice Rooms
  - 38 Medical Centre
- A Bishop Fox House - Boys  
B Carpenter House - Girls  
C Meynell House - Girls  
D King Alfred House - Boys  
E Taylor House - Girls  
F Woodard House - Boys  
G Tuckwell House - Boys



## A RURAL COUNTY OF ROLLING HILLS

Taunton is surrounded by natural beauty, with the Blackdowns, Mendips and Quantock Hills on the doorstep, plus Exmoor National Park, the Somerset Levels and Dartmouth are a short drive away.

Somerset is renowned for its cheddar cheese and cider. A wealth of apple orchards once made Somerset the cider capital of the UK, whilst the Cheddar Gorge caves are still used to mature cheese today.

Taunton is the county town of Somerset, in the South West of England. It is a busy market town located between junction 25 and 26 on the M5.

A growing commercial and residential centre, Taunton has a splendid small theatre, the County Cricket Ground, a successful rugby club, a delightful museum, the usual shopping outlets and restaurants, and a regular farmers' market.

If you love the great outdoors, you can be on the beach in 40 minutes and the Quantocks are just 15 minutes away. For those who prefer city lights, the fast West Country train service reaches Paddington in under two hours. By car, Exeter is 25 minutes south, Bristol 35 minutes north and you can reach Bath in about an hour.



## THE POST

**Title of Post:** Gardens Operative  
**Responsible To:** Grounds Manager  
**Reports To:** Lead Gardener  
**Hours of work:** Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 4.30pm (with 30 mins for lunch)

### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- To work as part of the grounds and gardens team, in order to achieve a high standard gardens and grounds maintenance service.
- To undertake a broad range of duties including: -
  - Horticultural tasks such as, seed propagation, grass cutting, planting, weed control, applying fertilisers, hedging and leaf clearing.
  - Minor landscaping projects.
  - Maintaining the school gardens and flower beds to a high standard.
  - Operating a variety of machinery and powered hand tools, ensuring equipment is regularly maintained.
  - Applying salt in icy conditions and clearing snow when required.
  - To assist in the upkeep of the sports pitches/ surfaces as and when required.

This is a broad summary of tasks and responsibilities to be carried out within this role. The Post Holder may be asked to carry out duties of a similar nature bearing in mind their capabilities. The Post Holder must undertake any reasonable task requested of them by the Grounds Manager, Lead Gardener or a senior member of the School staff.

### TRAINING

- To be responsible for your own continuing self-development and maintain and update knowledge by attending training courses/programmes annually or as and when required.
- Provide training, induction and mentoring of staff new employees as and when requested.

### APPRAISAL

- The post holder will receive an appraisal and performance review at least annually, involving the post holder and the Grounds Manager acting as 'Grandparent'.

### HEALTH & SAFETY AT WORK STATEMENT

- It is the responsibility of all staff to be aware of their duties under the Health & Safety at Work Act and under specific local or departmental health & Safety policies.

### GENERAL

- Promote and safeguard the welfare of children and young persons with whom you come into contact.
- Undertake any other duties as required by your manager in order to meet the changing needs and demands of the Schools.
- Conduct yourself with professionalism, tact and diplomacy at all times as a representative of King's Schools Taunton.

## PERSONAL SPECIFICATION

	Essential Criteria	Desirable Criteria
<b>Qualifications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maths GCSE</li> <li>• English GCSE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NVQ level 2 in Horticulture or related subject or equivalent</li> </ul>
<b>Skills &amp; Knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic plant identification</li> <li>• Basic horticultural knowledge</li> <li>• Ability to work on own initiative or under pressure</li> <li>• Ability to use IT systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed plant identification</li> <li>• Extensive horticultural knowledge</li> </ul>
<b>Experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous experience as a gardener</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive gardening/horticultural experience</li> <li>• Grounds maintenance</li> </ul>
<b>Personal Qualities and Abilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-motivated, dedicated and enthusiastic.</li> <li>• Ability to communicate with staff, parents, visitors, pupils and members of the public</li> <li>• Willingness to be adaptable and work well within a small team</li> </ul>	

The qualities and experience outlined in the person specification will be assessed by the following methods:

- Sight of original qualifications
- King's College application form
- Interview
- References from current employer and other, chosen, professionals

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## APPOINTMENT PROCESS



Candidates are expected to have read the enclosed appointment policy and agreed to the terms within.

King's has its own pay scale and there are discounts at both King's College Prep and King's College for staff children.

Please write a brief letter of application, addressed to the HR Manager, complete the application form enclosed and send by email or letter to:

**HR Department**  
c/o King's College, Taunton, Somerset TA1 3LA

recruitment@kings-taunton.co.uk

01823 328231/ 01823 328190

**The closing date for applications is 9.00am Wednesday 8 April 2026.**



We encourage.  
We are courageous.  
We are King's.



**King's College Taunton**

South Road, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 3LA

[www.kings-taunton.co.uk](http://www.kings-taunton.co.uk)