

The development of Future Ready accredited courses to run alongside traditional GCSEs



INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS
ASSOCIATION

CASE STUDY: KING'S HIGH SCHOOL

MARCH 2022



Background to the School

In the early wave of girls' school expansion in the late Victorian era, King's High blazed a trail. From its modest beginnings in 1879, when the first 22 girls assembled in Landor House under the headship of 22-year-old Miss Mary Fisher, the school has been inspiring girls to achieve academic excellence and personal enrichment.

By the 1900s, girls were learning Botany, Chemistry and Euclid, and a trickle of Sixth Formers began to go to university. In the 1920s, the school introduced Form and School councils, and with a huge programme of building work in the 1960s, over 600 girls were educated on the Smith Street site, with several girls winning coveted Oxbridge places every year. From the end of the 20th century, newer school subjects like Computing, Business Studies and Psychology were introduced and in the 21st century, Mrs Surber led an ambitious building programme expanding the school's facilities greatly. In September 2015, Mr Nicholson joined King's High as its first Head Master, furthering the school's well-established tradition of innovative leadership.

King's High, now with a student roll of over 780 and housed in new bespoke buildings, is a dynamic, forward-thinking and inspirational school for girls aged 11-18, led by Dr Stephen Burley. The school has a powerful educational vision, giving all its students the opportunity to thrive. As part of the Warwick Independent Schools Foundation there are also extensive opportunities for its students beyond the classroom to collaborate, work and socialise in a co-educational environment, their 'Project One Campus'.

The school's strategic aims are focused upon the core values of wellbeing and happiness, community and social responsibility, creativity and curiosity, and opportunities and futures. There is great emphasis within the curriculum that is taught and beyond, in providing a broad and inclusive education, preparing each student for life beyond the walls of King's High by developing their interests and valuing their unique qualities.

King's High Warwick was named the ISA Senior School of the Year in the ISA Awards 2021.





AIMS

- The development of Future Ready accredited courses to run alongside traditional GCSE subjects to give our students the opportunity to learn about a range of topics that are increasingly important, both now and for the many years to come.
- To develop an educational experience that is forward-thinking and future-inspired.
- To empower our students to make the most valuable contribution possible to society at large.

ACTIONS

Over the last five years we have developed our educational provision so that it more widely encompasses what our students need to be confident in their futures, allowing them to study courses that suit and inspire them. We are very proud to have developed programmes that help equip our students with the tools to discover new ideas and engage in new ways of thinking.

We developed our Inspire Programme for academic enrichment to foster creative thinking, intellectual curiosity and independent learning through a rich programme of talks, essay competitions, trips, dinners and student-led societies. This programme runs throughout the year and the students have become passionate about their involvement, the impact this has on others, as well as what they gain themselves from getting fully involved.

We developed our Boost Programme for learning support, a bespoke programme for students via our Daily Boost sessions, which consists of small group work on core skills, one-to-one tuition with our team of expert tutors, and the Sixth Form academic mentoring programme.

We developed a new course in partnership with The New College of Humanities, The King's High Certificate in Creative Thinking, which is to be launched nationally in 2022. The course uses innovative pedagogies to teach students how to generate valuable and meaningful ideas in response to difficult problems.

We have responded to the significant national debate about exams. In particular, the role that GCSEs play in the changing landscape of higher education and employment by offering our students the option of studying one of two new Future Ready Courses alongside their other GCSEs. These new courses will be accredited by Eduqual and give students the chance to learn about a range of topics that will be increasingly important in the future.

- *The King's High Global Changemaker Programme*
 - Social Justice
 - Global Citizenship
 - Climate Change
 - Law and the Legal System
- *The King's High Innovation and Entrepreneurship Programme*
 - Sustainable Engineering
 - Data Analysis
 - Neuroscience
 - Entrepreneurship

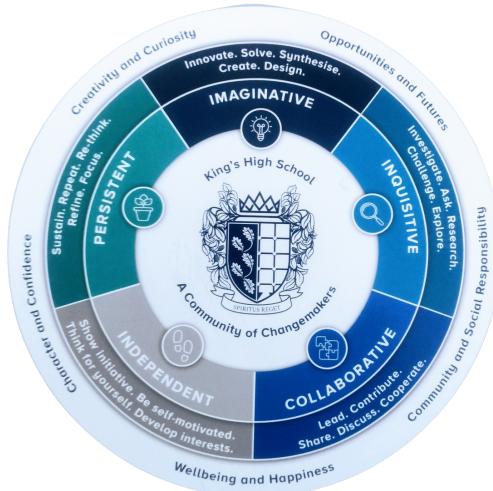


OUTCOMES

- Our students have been empowered to explore and develop their interests and talents in new ways, outside of and in addition to the traditional curriculum.
- Our Inspire Programme for academic enrichment has fostered creative thinking, intellectual curiosity and independent learning in our students.
- Our Boost Programme for learning support has transformed the experiences and outcomes of over 100 students.
- Our work to become a national flagship centre for Creative Thinking has flourished.
- We have significantly enhanced our academic outcomes for our students: An average 34.2% increase in A*-A grades at A Level and a 20.1% increase in grades 9/8/A* at GCSE. A 36% increase in the numbers of students taking places at Russell Group Universities and a 33% increase in the number of students achieving their first-choice university.
- Our students have greater choice at GCSE and the opportunity to expand their skills and knowledge beyond the current national norm.
- Our students leave King's High with an understanding of the power they have as changemakers, the importance of social justice and the responsibility they have as upstanders.
- Our students leave empowered to make valuable contributions to society at large.

NEXT STEPS

- To monitor the take-up and progress of the Future Ready courses.
- To expand the access to the Future Ready courses beyond King's High so that they are available nationally.
- To continue to expand the Inspire Programme to evolve forward-thinking opportunities for our students that will prepare them for life beyond King's High.



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