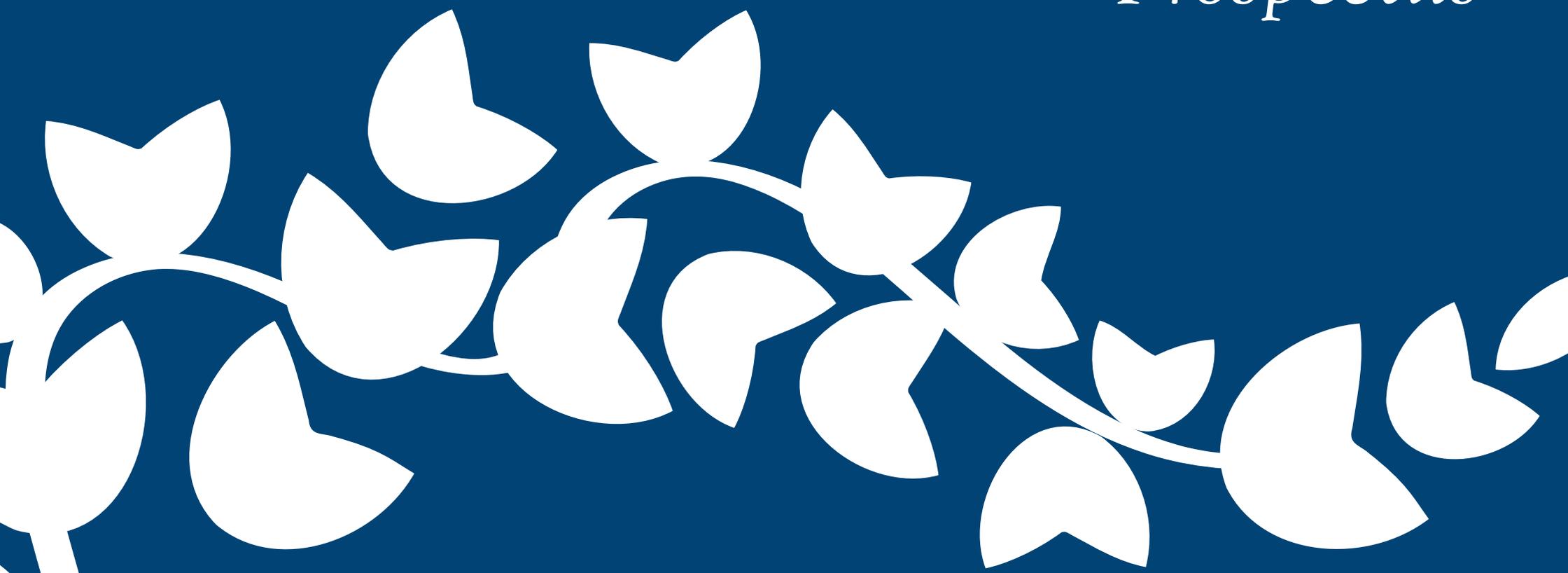




DEAN CLOSE  
**KINGHAM HILL  
SCHOOL**  
OXFORDSHIRE

# *Prospectus*





This document describes the broad principles on which Dean Close Kingham Hill School is presently run and gives an indication of our history and ethos. They are not part of any agreement between the parents and the school. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided in this document is correct at the time of printing it is subject to change. Parents wishing to place specific reliance on a statement or information in this booklet, or any other KHS publication, should seek written confirmation before accepting an offer of a place.

# A Word from the Head

It is both an honour and a privilege to serve as the Head of Dean Close Kingham Hill School. I firmly believe that we are more than just an education provider; we are a close-knit family where community plays a central role in everything we do.

Our school's size allows us to provide a personalised and high-quality education for all of our pupils, ensuring that each individual is known, valued, and supported. As we like to say, "we are a small school with a big heart."

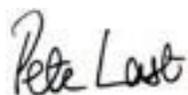
At Kingham Hill, helping every pupil reach their academic potential has been a cornerstone of our ethos for many years. Progress and success are at the heart of our work, but we also recognise that education is about far more than just qualifications, important though they are. The rich variety of co-curricular activities we offer in areas such as sport, music, drama, and beyond, plays a key role in ensuring our pupils are well-rounded and fully prepared for the future.

We believe that character is essential to success, and we are deeply committed to the personal development of each pupil. Our 'Equipped to Flourish' (ETF) programme supports pupils in their spiritual, moral, social, and cultural growth, helping them build resilience and confidence. Our informal motto – "work hard, play hard, serve well" – reflects our belief in balancing achievement with well-being. We prioritise the emotional and mental health of the young people in our care, recognising that a happy pupil is a successful one.

At Kingham Hill, we are dedicated to helping our pupils thrive, both during their time with us and as they embark on their future endeavours. Our goal is to ensure that they leave here not only prepared academically, but also with the life skills and confidence to face the next chapter with assurance.

This prospectus provides an overview of what we offer, but there is no substitute for experiencing our school first-hand. I warmly invite you to visit us and see for yourself if Kingham Hill could be the right choice for your family.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Hill!



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# The Kingham Hill Difference

- **Smaller class sizes for personalised learning:**  
Pupils enjoy the benefits of smaller class sizes where every voice is heard, and ideas can be explored in depth. Our learning environment fosters creativity, collaboration, with support from passionate teachers.
- **A thriving, inclusive community:**  
Our community is one in which pupils are nurtured, challenged, and inspired to push beyond their limits. At Kingham, we celebrate every individual, making sure everyone feels part of something special and empowered to succeed.
- **Expert support for the future:**  
Our aim is to ensure that our Sixth Form leavers secure their dream destinations, whether that's a top UK university or an exciting opportunity abroad. We are there to guide them every step of the way! From university applications to career paths, we're here to help our pupils navigate the future with confidence.
- **A diverse range of academic and vocational qualifications:**  
Pupils can unlock their potential through an array of qualifications, catering to both academic achievers and those with a passion for practical skills. Whatever their future goals, we've got the perfect path.
- **Value-added education:**  
Kingham isn't just about grades - we are keen to ensure that we add value and build on our pupils' capabilities. That means pupils achieve beyond expectations, setting them up for an outstanding future.
- **Endless co-curricular opportunities:**  
From sports to drama, art, and music - there's a huge range of activities to dive into. Our pupils can explore their passions, discover new talents, and build lifelong memories, whilst developing skills that will set them apart.
- **Leadership opportunities to challenge:**  
Pupils are encouraged to step out of their comfort zones and embrace leadership roles, take risks, and thrive. At Kingham, leadership isn't just about responsibility - it is about our pupils challenging themselves and making a real impact.



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# Character Matters

At Kingham Hill we are on a mission to inspire joy, foster a sense of belonging, and make everyone feel truly valued. Rooted in our strong Christian values, we've created a nurturing and supportive environment where every individual can shine and reach their full potential.

At the heart of our culture are kindness, empathy, and honesty, because we know that character is everything. Our commitment to personal growth and well-being is reflected in our values of humility, integrity, resilience, and responsibility. We're shaping passionate, purpose-driven citizens who are curious, intentional, and ready to light up the world and leave a lasting impact wherever they go!

## *Equipped to Flourish*

Equipped to Flourish (ETF) is the foundation upon which everything we do at Kingham Hill is built, underpinned by the school's informal motto, "work hard, play hard, serve well". Its themes are woven into every aspect of school life with the aim of supporting our pupils as they grow and develop in character, enabling them to flourish both at school and beyond.

- Resilience: The ability to keep going. Treating success and failure the same.
- Responsibility: Taking ownership. Being accountable and not blaming or relying on others.
- Humility: The ability to work with others. Not thinking less of yourself, but of yourself less.
- Integrity: Staying true to yourself when no-one is looking and even under pressure.

The ETF programme is all about personal reflection and growth, encouraging our pupils to appreciate the importance of these qualities not just at Kingham, but in the world beyond. With a strong focus on service and making a difference, our pupils are inspired to look beyond themselves and think of others. We aim for our leavers to be defined by their strong moral compass and their ability to recognise not only their own worth, but also the value in everyone around them.



## *Academic Excellence*

Our goal is to inspire a passion for learning in our pupils whilst equipping them with the skills necessary for independent and critical thinking - skills that allow them to follow an argument to its conclusion, appreciate excellence in all its forms, and develop sound judgment and discernment.

In their early years at KHS, pupils are given a comprehensive and challenging introduction to the key fields of human inquiry: mathematics, science, literature, humanities, languages, and the arts. This broad foundation sets the stage for future choices in GCSEs, A Levels, vocational qualifications, or our American Diploma route.

Central to our academic success is a highly qualified and dedicated staff. At KHS, teachers are experts in their fields, and they are passionate about the subjects that they teach. Each pupil is supported by a personal tutor who monitors progress and provides daily guidance. Our academic society, Octagon, offers enrichment opportunities beyond the standard curriculum for our most capable pupils.

Our Greens Department, specialising in learning support, has the expertise to deliver tailored interventions where needed. All staff in Greens work closely with the wider teaching team and Heads of Departments to ensure correct support is given throughout the school. Enabling pupils to become independent, excited learners whilst providing them with effective strategies to succeed is at the heart of the Department.

Above all, we aim to nurture innate curiosity and a drive for achievement in every pupil, no matter what their strengths.

Education, for us, is not merely a means to an end; our academic philosophy is centred on fostering a lifelong love of learning, which naturally leads to greater success in all areas of life.









## *Day & Boarding*

### *Houses*

Every pupil belongs to one of eleven houses that act as large, extended families. Day pupils make up around half the school and, like our boarders, also belong to houses where they register in the morning and relax with friends during break. All houses take part in a variety of Inter-House competitions including Sports Day, House Singing and sports matches. The friendly rivalries bring a great deal of colour, fun and excitement to these occasions.

There are on average 25-30 pupils per house with a range of ages in each. We have four day and seven boarding houses which have their own inviting social lounges, games rooms and quiet rooms. Houseparents and pastoral teams ensure a smooth transition into life at the school, helping pupils settle into their houses while adapting to life in and out of the classroom.

### *Home from Home*

At our school, we prioritise making our boarders feel truly at home during their stay. Our warm, family-oriented atmosphere ensures that our full boarders experience a home-away-from-home, living in a safe, nurturing environment where they can concentrate on their studies whilst enjoying a wide range of co-curricular activities throughout the week and weekends. With most of our boarders being full-time, weekends on the Hill are full of life, offering a vibrant community spirit through house activities, trips, expeditions, and our Sixth Form Social Club. We also offer flexible boarding options, including weekly boarding, where pupils return home on Friday evening, as well as ad-hoc boarding when needed.

Bedrooms in the boarding houses range from dorms of four to eight children sharing, to single rooms for older pupils. A proportion of our boarders in Upper Sixth have the opportunity to live in independent accommodation, to give academic focus and support in their final year of school study, and preparation for university life.



## *Our Christian Ethos*

Kingham Hill School was purposefully founded in 1886 by the Christian philanthropist Charles Edward Baring Young, a man deeply committed to the teachings of the Bible as the inspired Word of God and the message of hope and salvation found in Jesus Christ. This unwavering trust in scripture serves as the cornerstone of our shared ethos and shapes the foundation of life at Kingham Hill.

Our Founder's vision was to create a place where boys with a need for boarding could not only receive an education but also be equipped for life with practical skills and a solid understanding of the Christian faith. His dedication ensured that every child who attended Kingham Hill would learn to read and write, acquire a trade, and gain a deep understanding of Christian values and teachings.

As a school, we proudly continue and expand upon our Founder's legacy by offering a well-rounded and exceptional education that meets the academic, emotional, and social needs of our pupils.

We are a welcoming community that embraces pupils from all faith backgrounds and none. Whilst rooted in Christian values, we believe our ethos provides the ideal environment for all pupils to flourish, growing not only in academic knowledge but also in personal character and citizenship. Our inclusive spirit encourages all to explore and deepen their own understanding, whilst upholding the values that bind us together.

Our School motto, *Verbum Dei Lucerna*, translates as "God's word is a guiding light". We encourage all our pupils to embody the values of respect, gentleness, and kindness in their daily lives, modelling their actions on the teachings of Christ, and striving towards the highest standards of personal and social responsibility.

At Kingham Hill, we remain dedicated to the mission set forth by our Founder, working together to create a school community that is both nurturing and transformative, where every pupil is empowered to achieve their full potential.









## Beyond the Classroom

### *Co-curricular Programme*

Co-curricular activities are a vital component of our pupils' personal and academic growth. That's why we take pride in offering a diverse range of sports, clubs, and activities designed to educate, enrich, and inspire across all year groups. These activities are seamlessly integrated into the school day, with most scheduled towards the end of the afternoon as part of the daily timetable. Every pupil engages in at least two sporting sessions and selects two additional activities each week. In addition we also offer a variety of activities at lunchtime and after school, providing opportunities for pupils of all ages to come together around shared interests and passions.

In addition to our regular offerings, there are three 'Activity Saturdays' each term, giving pupils the chance to participate in half-day or full-day activities, or even longer-term courses. These Saturday sessions are included in the programme for full boarders. Weekly boarders and day pupils are also welcome to join, subject to availability and for a small additional fee.

### *Personal Development*

All pupils are encouraged to step out of their comfort zone and take on leadership roles in both formal and informal settings, with opportunities available across all year groups. We help pupils set aspirational yet achievable goals and encourage them to take ownership of their progress - this fosters personal growth, accountability, and resilience. Co-curricular activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, CCF, LAMDA Speech and Drama qualifications, and ABRSM Music Performance and Theory awards further develop leadership skills, confidence, and teamwork. Our annual Enrichment Week at the end of the Trinity Term provides opportunities for additional experiences and volunteering work.

### *Careers Support*

We aim to support all pupils to explore the career path that is right for them, helping them to think through their own strengths, weaknesses and interests to find suitable career pathways. This support comes through tutor times, ETF lessons, Chapel and Assembly talks, lunchtime career sessions, employer visits, and lessons. At our recent Careers Fair, over 45 representatives from various organisations and universities attended. We also collaborate with our alumni, the 'Hillians,' who visit to give talks and mentor pupils.



## *Creatively Expressive*

The creative arts have the power to inspire critical thinking, cultivate empathy, and encourage pupils to express themselves in ways that go beyond the traditional classroom. Our Performing Arts Academy takes place on a Monday after school, and provides pupils with the opportunity to explore a diverse range of activities, from classes and rehearsals to workshops, allowing them to pursue their individual passions. Activities include singing and choir, concert band, modern dance, script-writing workshops, theatre technology (lighting and sound), drama rehearsals, and, of course, preparations for our large-scale musical productions.

The Academy is based in Performing Arts Centre Theatre, the Music Department and our Drama Studios. Former Academy pupils have gone on to achieve remarkable success, with many joining the National Youth Theatre and gaining places at prestigious drama schools.

Our productions have covered a broad spectrum of genres over recent years, including *Les Misérables*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Grease*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *The Crucible*, *The Addams Family* and *Billy Elliot*. Senior pupils are also encouraged to take the reins, with many producing and directing their own plays under the guidance of our experienced staff.

In addition to the Academy, the Music Department offers a range of instrumental and choral ensembles. The Chapel Choir regularly performs at significant events such as Carol Services, Founders Day, Speech Day, and Remembrance Day. We also have a school orchestra that welcomes both advanced and intermediate players.

We take great pride in our Key Stage 3 Instrumental Scheme, where all First and Second Form pupils are given the chance to learn an orchestral instrument free of charge. Many of these pupils continue their musical journey in later years. Additionally, we provide individual lessons in a wide array of instruments, as well as voice.

For aspiring actors and dancers, the school offers LAMDA and dance lessons. Our LAMDA pupils consistently achieve outstanding results, and have the opportunity to share their talents at an annual LAMDA performance evening.







# Sporting Life

## Actively Healthy

Sport is a vital part of life on the Hill, helping pupils develop key life skills and strong character. Sport fosters teamwork, discipline, resilience, and leadership, which are essential qualities for personal growth.

At Kingham Hill, both boys' and girls' sports emphasise 'Excellence' and 'Sport for All.' These values work together to create a competitive yet inclusive environment where every pupil, regardless of skill level, can participate and enjoy the benefits of regular physical activity.

Sport is also a crucial part of our pupils' mental health and well-being. We recognise the positive impact physical activity has on reducing stress and building resilience. Our focus on participation ensures that all pupils, whether elite athletes or beginners, find a sport they enjoy and can engage with.

Sport at Kingham Hill is more than just an activity; it's a key part of our holistic approach to education. By offering both competitive and inclusive sports opportunities, we help pupils grow physically, mentally, and socially, providing them with skills and experiences that will last a lifetime.

## Squad Sports

Squad sports are central to Kingham Hill's sporting life. With a rich fixture programme, every pupil can experience the camaraderie and discipline of being part of a team. We ensure that all pupils are involved at a level suited to their ability, encouraging growth and skill development. Squad sports teach valuable life lessons in teamwork, leadership, and perseverance, preparing pupils for successful futures.

Competitive weekly fixtures are offered in:

- Michaelmas Term - Rugby (boys) and Hockey (girls)
- Lent Term - Football (boys) and Netball (girls)
- Trinity Term - Cricket (boys and girls)

We also have a girls rugby team and both girls and boys have the opportunity to take part in a range of additional sports as part of their weekly PE lessons.





## *Our Sixth Form*

### *Preparation for Life*

Our Sixth Form is a vibrant, dynamic environment where pupils are empowered to excel both academically and personally. We take immense pride in our pupils' hard work, but equally in their ability to seize every opportunity to grow and develop. Whether it's refining academic skills, exploring new interests, or building social connections, our Sixth Form is a place where talents are nurtured and every individual is valued.

With consistently good results at A Level, BTEC, and CTEC, each year, a high percentage of our Sixth Form leavers secure places at their first-choice universities and institutions, both in the UK and abroad. This success is a testament to the exceptional support and guidance we provide, ensuring our pupils leave fully equipped for the future. Our dedicated Head of Destinations is on hand to support all those wishing to apply for further education through UCAS. Individual, bespoke support is provided to every pupil as they complete personal statements and make university choices. We also offer for Oxbridge preparation for those looking to apply.

Our Sixth Form programme is designed to challenge, inspire, and prepare pupils for life beyond school. We focus on developing transferable skills and resilience, ensuring that they are ready to navigate an ever-evolving world with confidence. Pupils take ownership of their learning whilst receiving the tailored support they need to thrive academically and personally.

Our Sixth Formers are the heartbeat of Kingham Hill, contributing actively to school life. Whether mentoring younger pupils or participating in a wide array of events, they are leaders within our community. With a combination of expert teaching, small class sizes, exceptional facilities, and a strong partnership with parents, we are committed to helping every pupil reach their full potential and succeed in whatever path they choose.

At Kingham Hill, we don't just prepare pupils for exams; we prepare them for life.

# American Program

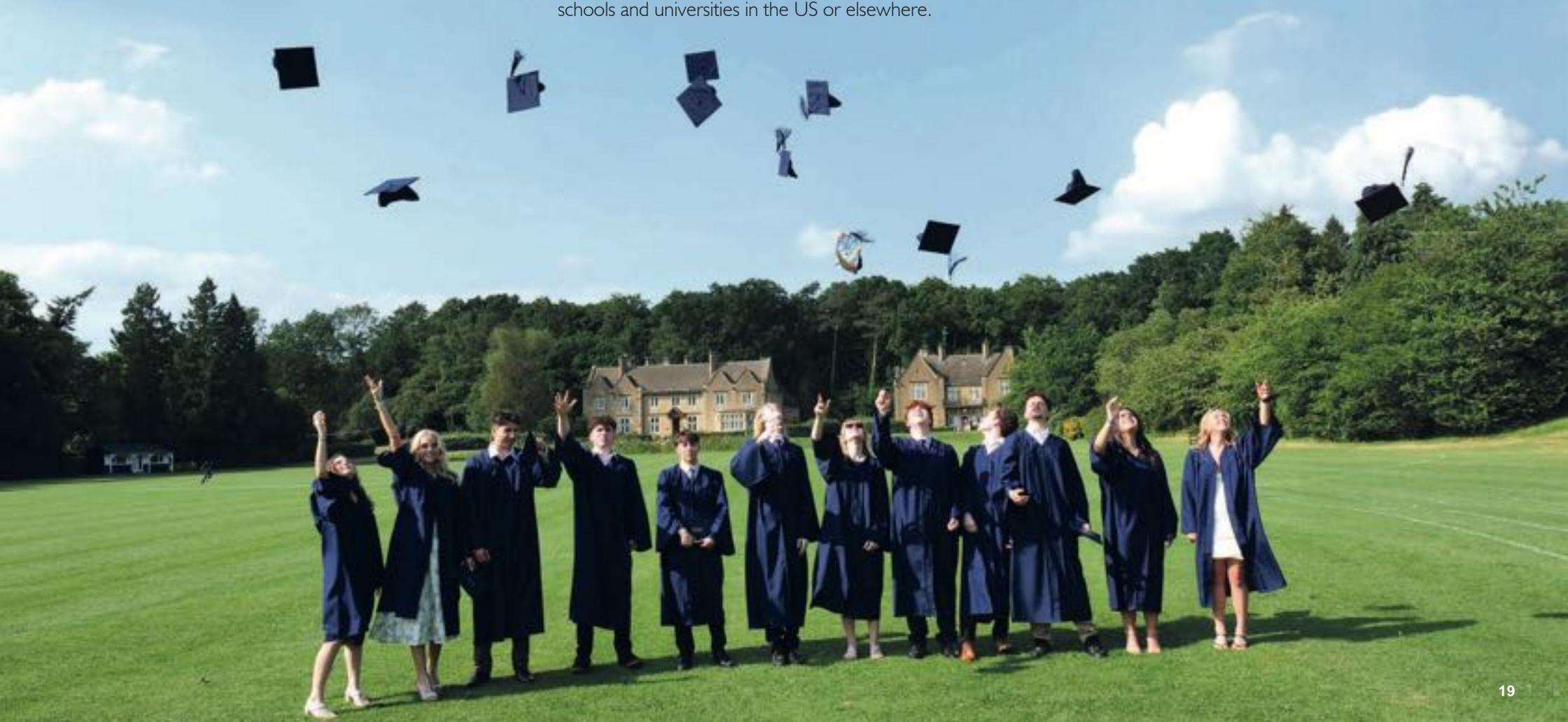
Kingham Hill has a fully accredited American Program, unique in a UK boarding school, which enables pupils to make a smooth transition from Kingham Hill to US schools, colleges and universities by providing them with a US High School transcript and, for graduating seniors, a high school diploma, using the Virginia Board of Education standard diploma requirements.

The American Program at was developed a little over fifteen years ago in conjunction with the US State Department. Today Kingham Hill remains one of very few UK independent schools that offers a fully accredited US high school diploma alongside a British curriculum.

In addition to providing a uniquely English educational experience, the American Program ensures that its participants are well-prepared to transition easily to schools and universities in the US or elsewhere.

The American Program does this through:

- administering PSAT, SAT, and AP tests on site.
- offering courses required for a US Diploma, such as US Government and Politics and US History.
- providing a fully accredited transcript and, for pupils who finish at Kingham, a Diploma.
- offering access to AP courses.



## *An International Community*

An international boarding community within a traditional English independent school offers numerous benefits that enhance both the academic and social experience for pupils. One of the key advantages is the exposure to diverse perspectives. Pupils from various cultural backgrounds bring unique viewpoints, fostering an environment where global awareness, empathy, and cross-cultural understanding thrive. This enriches classroom discussions, allowing pupils to engage in debates and collaborations that transcend national boundaries, preparing them for an interconnected world.

Additionally, the integration of an international pupil body helps pupils build lifelong friendships that span the globe. The ability to interact with peers from different countries encourages the development of communication and interpersonal skills, as pupils learn to navigate and appreciate cultural differences. This is especially important in today's global job market, where employers value cultural intelligence and the ability to work in diverse teams.

An international boarding community also creates an opportunity for personal growth and resilience. Living away from home in a multicultural environment encourages independence, self-discipline, and adaptability. Pupils learn to navigate challenges, such as language barriers, differing academic expectations, and adjusting to new social norms. These experiences contribute to their emotional maturity and confidence. Boarding life creates a supportive environment where pupils from all over the world live, learn, and grow together. This often leads to a strong sense of belonging and mutual respect. Pupils gain an appreciation for different cultures, celebrating both their own heritage and those of their peers, which fosters a harmonious and inclusive school atmosphere.

In terms of academic benefits, an international pupil body encourages innovation and the exchange of ideas. Schools with diverse pupil populations are often at the forefront of educational development, adopting progressive teaching methods that cater to various learning styles and backgrounds. This dynamic environment encourages creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving, all of which are essential skills for success in the modern world.



### *Where in the World?*

Our school community includes pupils from all over the world, including France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Nigeria, People's Republic of China, Russia, Spain and the USA.



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# Our Location

## *The Best of Both Worlds*

The peaceful tranquillity of the Cotswold countryside offers the ideal setting for studying, relaxing, and staying active. In our rural haven, there is ample space and countless opportunities for all of these activities. With Kingham station on our doorstep, Oxford, Worcester, and Evesham are easily accessible by a short train ride, whilst London Paddington is only 80 minutes away by direct service. The school also operates a bus service to and from the station, as well as several other locations across the county, ensuring a seamless commute for our pupils.

Our school offers the 'best of both worlds.' Modern facilities blend effortlessly with our traditional buildings, and we even have an outdoor classroom nestled within our own stunning woods. Whether indoors or outdoors, pupils will always find a place that sparks inspiration - where they can learn, excel, and unlock their full potential. After lessons, there is plenty of time for pupils to engage in a wide array of sports and co-curricular activities.

Beyond the classroom, we have a fully equipped gym and swimming pool (available for parents to use at no charge), as well as a sports centre featuring a climbing wall and squash court. There is also a floodlit astro pitch (perfect for hockey and football) and four tennis courts to further enhance our offering.

Creative pupils will find a wealth of exceptional facilities, including a vibrant art room, a photographic studio, outstanding design technology spaces, and dedicated rooms for music production and practice. Our Performing Arts Centre provides a versatile theatre space for pupils to stage performances.

The School Farm and Conserve Club offer pupils hands-on experience in stable management, animal husbandry, and horticulture. Pupils even contribute to providing locally sourced produce for the school's kitchens.





# How to Contact Us

## Admissions Team

Our highly experienced Admissions Team will be your main point of contact, ready to answer your questions, help you to navigate anything that is unfamiliar, and generally provide guidance and reassurance throughout the whole admissions journey.

For further information about entry to Kingham Hill, or to book an appointment to visit, please contact the Team via:

- registrar@kinghamhill.org
- 01608 731884

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Visit: [www.kinghamhill.org.uk](http://www.kinghamhill.org.uk)







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