



Educating the Changemakers of the Future at King's High



Dr Stephen Burley, Head Master of King's High, knows that a King's High education opens doors, hearts, and minds. He explains: 'As one of the UK's leading schools for girls, we are educating the Changemakers of the future – young women who will go out into the world and make a positive difference, inspired by strong values and a powerful sense of social responsibility.'

Dr Burley grew up in the north east of England and, as a schoolboy, used to cross the River Tyne each day by ferry to travel to school. His encounter with inspirational teachers bred a passion for education, founded on his belief that inspirational teaching transforms lives. He believes that wellbeing and happiness should be at the heart of every student's experience.

He is an advocate of dynamic, forward-thinking, innovative education that develops the confidence and skills that prepare young people to be the Changemakers of the future. He says: 'The values of resourcefulness, resilience, empathy and community have never been so important.'

At King's High, the foundations for this have already been laid, through recent work to foreground creative thinking skills, digital learning and educational innovation as part of the school's DNA. Dr Burley says: 'Changemakers are innovators and creative thinkers, inquisitive and open-minded, keen to test out new ideas and explore new ways of doing things. Changemakers have a positive impact on others and their community through inspirational leadership, creative ideas, by demonstrating kindness, compassion, emotional intelligence and empathy. Their commitment to leadership is driven by a sense of others rather than self, by a deep-rooted conviction about the importance of social responsibility and making a positive

contribution to community.'

As part of King's High's new Changemaker programme, to be launched soon, pupils will get to submit a proposal, whether it is to start up a social enterprise, a new charity or an environmental project. Pupils have been studying and discussing Changemakers in the public eye. 'The work Marcus Rashford has done for food poverty and holiday hunger has influenced the work our Social Justice Group is doing and I'm really proud of that', says Dr Burley. 'We also have girls involved in some wonderful community projects.'

King's High is a national flagship centre for Creative Thinking, having developed and launched its own new and innovative Certificate in Creative Thinking. Dr Burley says: 'We've had Years 10 and 11 solving real world problems, working on their own or in collaboration with others, and there's been some lovely work covering a huge range of topics they're passionate about. In our rapidly-changing world, we know that our students will need core skills and values to enable them to thrive: creativity and curiosity; empathy and emotional intelligence; teamwork, networking and leadership opportunities – as well as the digital skills that are so valuable in the age of Artificial Intelligence. As a flagship centre for creative thinking, our forward-thinking and future-inspired curriculum is carefully designed to nurture and develop these skills, building the confidence and self-belief for leadership.'

Our vision – and my priority as Head Master of King's High – is to become a community of Changemakers, or a Changemaker school. As rapid and often unpredictable change becomes the new normal for us all, I am eager to look ahead with hope and optimism at how we can build to create something very special: an inspired and inspirational community of Changemakers. ■



CREATIVE THINKING