



King's High School

BOOST  
PROGRAMME

## Introduction

At King's we are wholeheartedly committed to the provision of the very best opportunities for each and every pupil in the school, and that commitment ranges from initiatives such as the live radio link between King's High and the International Space Station, to a lunchtime support session for students who need some additional academic guidance to enable them to thrive in a particular subject. We celebrate the exceptional talents of all of our students, whilst offering academic support to boost skills and develop confidence as the students progress through the school.

Boost is our learning support programme, which brings together the impressive range of academic support sessions, bespoke individual guidance, and small group sessions. The programme is co-ordinated by Mrs Lucie Harris, our Head of Learning Support, with the assistance of Mrs Poulson, our Assistant to the Head of Learning Support plus Mrs Pagni, our Learning Support Assistant, and our expert team of specialist Boost Tutors, each with their own area of expertise.

No matter how talented or able the student, there may come a time in a student's school life when she needs some additional support in her academic work. Our Boost Programme offers bespoke and tailored solutions to make sure that students have access to positive, encouraging and effective support and guidance.

This booklet will introduce you to the various ways in which we can do this.

**Dr Stephen Burley**  
**Head Master**

## What is Boost?

Boost is our exciting programme for academic support at King's. It is designed to offer the positive support and encouragement, alongside specific learning strategies and additional provision, to ensure that every student at King's High can thrive and achieve her full potential.

The Boost programme is open to every pupil in the school. By contacting the Boost team, students will be able to access expert advice and support, including a whole range of activities from daily one-to-one support to our lunchtime 'Daily Boost' sessions.

## The Head of Learning Support

Mrs Lucie Harris



**The Boost team is led by Mrs Lucie Harris who co-ordinates the programme and liaises with parents, students and academic staff to ensure that the pupils' learning needs are being met.**

"We are committed to making sure that our students flourish and achieve the highest quality outcomes possible. Every student is an individual with their own specific needs. Reality often means that when, at times, we encounter challenges and barriers, we may all just need a little 'Boost' now and again. The Boost specialised programme allows all students to be supported to fulfil their academic potential by offering a variety of bespoke support."

"This exciting provision demonstrates how the academic and emotional wellbeing of our students is of the utmost importance to us and is at the heart of all that we strive for. To have such an exceptional number of gifted staff committed to raising standards and working alongside our students in this way is inspiring. As a vocational teacher, I have always had an inherent passion for teaching and learning. Over years of experience and with additional training in the areas of nurture, special educational needs and disabilities, I have delighted in seeing students thrive and it is a privilege to oversee this programme."



# Meet the Boost Team

Mrs Harris works with a dedicated team of visiting specialists with expertise in English, Maths, French, English as an Additional Language, confidence and self-esteem, and specific learning needs, including dyslexia.



**Dr Mike Barwell**

**Specialism:** Arts and Humanities, revision and note taking, GCSE English and Art

I have a long teaching experience with pupils of all ages and in a great variety of subjects. My M.A. and Ph.D. in 'Arts Education' from The University of Warwick place me as someone well used to approaching academic study from a creative perspective.

Sound organisation, self-belief and building confidence in school through creative processes can lift a pupil's expectations. We are not all the same and some of us need a 'boost' from time to time to make the most of our individuality. My aim is to enhance the prospects of our pupils' success at all levels by improving personal organisational skills, asking the right questions about examinations, memory and revision tactics, and taking a closer look at the presentation of school work in general. Once you have 'learned how to learn'... no one can stop you!



**Mrs Jo Pagni**

**Specialism:** English

It is exciting to be part of such an experienced and dedicated Learning Support Team.

I support King's pupils in core areas of English and Maths. Lessons are designed to the individual needs of the students enabling students to succeed.

Promoting self-esteem with a 'can do' attitude is hugely important in my role, ensuring students realise their aspirations.

I believe students who develop confidence in their abilities, during these crucial school years, will grow into successful, happy and curious young women with bright futures; it is a privilege to be part of their learning journey.



**Mr Simon Williams**

**Specialism:** Mathematics to KS5

I have a Mathematics degree from the University of Warwick and over 12 years' experience working as a private Maths tutor. In that time, I have worked with many GCSE and A Level students, helping them to achieve the results they need. I thoroughly enjoy seeing pupils' progress and enabling their understanding of Mathematics. I also know what examiners are looking for as I have marked A Level papers several times over the past ten years.



**Mrs Karin Pitchford**

**Specialism:** Biology KS5, Chemistry up to Year 11, study skills and revision

I am an experienced science teacher with a history of teaching at King's. I am qualified to teach Biology and Chemistry to Key Stages 3 and 4 and Biology to A Level. I am committed to supporting our students to understand and apply scientific principles and to enjoy Science whilst achieving their potential.



**Mrs Rebecca Brackley**

**Specialism:** Maths

With a First Class degree in Mathematics, from Warwick University, I am passionate about Maths education. I have experience supporting both children and adults to improve their Maths' skills and I have worked for an exam board for ten years. I also write exam papers for Maths.



**Mrs Lesley Swift**

**Specialism:** Maths

I am a qualified Maths teacher with over eight years of teaching experience within the classroom. I have significant experience of working with pupils with additional educational and emotional needs enabling pupils to gain confidence both in themselves and in their Maths skills.



**Mrs Severine Freton-Khatkar**

**Specialism:** French

I am very happy to become a part of the Boost team as a French tutor. My career in teaching has led me to experience a range of ages, from primary to Upper Sixth. Through it all, one central element has remained helping children in their learning journey.

Confidence is essential when learning a language and I like to "boost" the students whenever I see them. Believing that they can do it may be enough for them to unlock their potential. It's thrilling to see them start to believe in themselves and defy the odds.

I love working with children and I look forward to supporting them.



**Mrs Jo McDowell**

**Specialism:** English

I am an experienced English teacher with a passion for helping young people reach their full potential. As well as teaching students of all abilities across Key Stage 3 and 4, I have also worked as a GCSE examiner and have wide experience of teaching students with a range of additional educational and emotional needs. I enjoy planning and delivering engaging sessions tailored to each individual in order to develop their skills and confidence.



**Mrs Emma Poulson**

**Specialism:** Maths and English

With over ten years' experience of working in Schools, it is a pleasure to be joining the Boost Team to assist King's students with their core Maths and English skills, as well as providing support around Study Skills to promote a healthy growth mindset for lifelong learning.

I hope to inspire in students a confidence in their abilities, so they become resilient individuals who have the knowledge and skills to realise their full potential and achieve their ambitions.





### **Mrs Sarah Bragg**

**Specialism:** Science (Biology up to and including A Level, Chemistry and Physics up to and including GCSE.)

I have an energetic approach to both teaching and tutoring. I enjoy using imaginative methods to break down difficult concepts into digestible portions, making learning fun and accessible whatever ability and key stage of student.

I have over 25 years' teaching experience teaching all sciences up to and including KS4 for all abilities, as well as teaching biology at Key Stage 5. During my five years as a tutor, I have adapted my creative teaching methods to develop understanding on a one-to-one basis. I am experienced in tutoring students, whether it is developing fundamental understanding or helping with specific areas of the curriculum. I am also an examiner and am excellent at developing exam technique and revision of a whole key stage.

I look forward to meeting you and to enhancing your learning, understanding and self-belief.



### **Mrs Jenny Barr**

**Specialism:** KS3 and GCSE Science and A level Biology

I am very excited to be joining the very experienced and innovating Boost team.

I am a highly qualified Science teacher, working in Secondary Schools for 17 years. I have a wealth of knowledge on helping students access the Science Curriculum. I work closely with Students of all abilities and ages, including Oxbridge students helping them achieve their grades in A Level Biology.

Science is a varied, inspiring and fascinating subject that underpins the foundations of the world we live in. Helping students access the curriculum and beyond can cement the foundations of their knowledge and give them a real passion for the subject.

I have tutored many individuals and small groups in and outside of School helping them to gain confidence in their ability and enjoyment of learning.

I use a range of teaching styles and adapt my teaching techniques to individual learners and have many years' experience with arrange of students of all abilities. I have worked as a KS4 coordinator setting up intervention programmes and have an excellent knowledge of exam requirements and how to improve exam technique.

I'm looking forward to helping students become excellent scientists and achieve their full potential.



### **Mrs Clare Richards**

**Specialism:** English

I'm really happy to be able to join the Boost Team this year, having spent around 14 years teaching English at King's High across the Key Stages, but more recently particularly with GCSE students. Understanding what is required in examination assessment criteria and coursework assessment criteria is particularly useful when working with students who find, at various points in their learning, that they may need a period of more targeted assistance to rediscover their confidence or improve their understanding.

I enjoy supporting individuals who find they need to revise key aspects of analysis or reading and writing skills on a one-to-one basis; this is often an effective space in which to practice or get to grips with areas students may feel they lack confidence tackling in the classroom or larger groups, particularly in the step up to GCSE level working from Key Stage 3. It is really inspiring to see students benefit from an increase in understanding and confidence in applying these skills more effectively in their wider schoolwork, after tailoring learning more specifically to individual requirements. Sometimes you just need a bit of time and space to be able to really get to understand something and I enjoy being able to support students' learning in this way.



## Boost Programme – Overview

**The Boost team is focused on the individual needs of each pupil. We work to understand the specific academic and learning needs of the student before developing an action plan with targeted support strategies. We will communicate very closely with parents throughout this process. The wider academic support available at King's includes:**

- Department workshops and study clinics
- Sixth Form academic mentoring programme
- Occasional talks for parents and students about study skills and specific learning needs
- Personalised learning using digital technology to support progress

The various additional support and provision offered by the Boost Programme can include:

- Daily Boost lunchtime sessions with our expert Boost team
- Boost's KS3 small group intensive courses on core skills
- One-to-one tutorials; sessions on core skills and core subjects
- Regular communication with teaching staff and parents to ensure that teaching is responsive to individual learning needs
- Bespoke sessions to develop confidence and self-esteem, as well as memory skills, study skills, and revision strategies

## Get Your Daily Boost!

We love all students to be able to access learning support on a daily basis at King's. Typically, we run lunchtime opportunities for students to meet with a member of the Learning Support department. An opportunity like this encapsulates our 'open door' commitment to support all students. It is an opportunity to come and work on projects, coursework, homework, to research or talk through any academic concerns with our Head of Learning Support in our designated Learning Support Space – The 'Oasis'.

**Daily Boost!  
Every day.  
Please contact Mrs Harris.**

## Boost's Key Stage 3 Core Skills

### Curriculum Lessons

If it is felt that a student would benefit from additional lessons on core skills (English, Maths, note taking, organisation and revision), it is possible for some students to come off Latin lessons in Key Stage 3. Instead of attending Latin lessons, students would attend a series of core skills lessons tailored to the specific needs of the students within the group and led by Mrs Harris, or one of her expert team.

This is an excellent way to build confidence and tailor the curriculum to the individual needs of students, who may benefit more from additional time on English, Maths and other core skills. These sessions are free of charge.

If you feel that your daughter could benefit from these sessions, please contact Mrs Topping to discuss further:  
**c.topping@kingshighwarwick.co.uk**

## Boost's Bespoke Tuition

It is also possible to arrange for bespoke one-to-one tuition with Mrs Harris or a member of her expert Boost team.

These 30 or 50 minute sessions will take place at a convenient time for the students attending. Each session will cost £26.60 for a 30 minute session; £44.45 for a 50 minute session.

The Boost team is focused on the individual needs of each student, so they will work to understand the specific learning needs before developing a tailored programme of learning with targeted support strategies. The following list outlines some of the courses that will run:

- Core Maths Skills
- Core English Skills
- Core Science Skills
- Core Study Skills (memory, revision and note taking strategies)
- Confidence and self-esteem
- English as an Additional Language
- French

Many students are enjoying tuition in their study periods weekly. This gives an opportunity for pre and post-teaching, reflection and consolidation.

To discuss arrangements for one-to-one tutorials, please contact Mrs Poulson on **e.poulson@kingshighwarwick.co.uk**



# King's High School

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