



### King's Scholarship Exams change of process for 2016 onwards

Over the last 10 years the number of candidates taking the King's Scholarship Examinations has steadily risen. The 2015 examinations saw our largest ever field of 132 boys from 67 schools. With limited accommodation during term time at Eton, it was a considerable challenge to find beds for all of the boys and we were stretched to full capacity, with around two thirds accommodated in boarding houses. Changes to safeguarding rules mean that we can no longer make use of accommodation outside of the boarding houses. For this reason we cannot continue to offer beds to all the boys wishing to sit the examinations. The King's Scholarship Committee has discussed at length the best avenue ahead and this has prompted us to consider other Scholarship issues.

We appreciate that spending 3 days at Eton has been a valuable experience for candidates in the past. It is therefore with regret, that we have had to introduce new procedures for the examinations in 2016. Please be aware that, due to the increased complexity and added administrative burden of the procedures below, an immediate consequence is that the dates of the examinations, for boys sitting the papers at Eton College, will be brought forward by 2 days, to start on Sunday 24 April 2016.

#### New Procedures

As in the past, boys will be asked to choose, on their application form, to apply either for a King's Scholarship, and hence a place in College, or be an *honoris causa* candidate, preferring a place in a boarding house other than College. Once made, this decision will be irrevocable.

#### Boys applying for a King's Scholarship

These boys will sit the examinations at Eton. They will arrive during the afternoon of Sunday 24 April and will take an intelligence test that evening. The main examinations will take place from Monday 25 April to Wednesday 27 April. Details will, as always, be sent to both parents and school.

#### Honoris Causa Candidates

These boys will be required to sit their papers at their current schools. Examination papers will be sent electronically to their schools (on the day of the examination) and we ask that scripts should be returned electronically (on the same day). These boys will not sit the intelligence test and instead will take their first paper, English, on the morning of Monday 25 April. You will, I hope, understand the importance for us that all candidates, both King's Scholarship and Honoris Causa, sit the examinations at the same time of day, whether at Eton or at their own school.

#### Boys from schools outside the UK

Due to difficulties with different time zones, all boys at schools overseas will sit the examinations at Eton, regardless of their intended house.

#### Oppidan Scholarships, the Annah Shaw Scholarship and the Martineau Exhibition

These awards will remain as before. For those candidates taking examinations at their schools, interviews for the Martineau Exhibition will be conducted via Skype after the examinations. This will affect very few boys and schools will be informed who may be interviewed.

Schools will be sent details about these new procedures in the New Year of 2016. I am sure you will understand that it is vital that the minutiae of our new procedures are carefully considered before we make them public and we appreciate your patience in the meantime.

## French and Spanish

In addition, we will now offer a new optional paper, Spanish. Candidates may choose to take this paper instead of French. They may choose to sit neither but may not sit both. The French paper has been redesigned and specimen papers for both French and Spanish were sent to schools in October. These specimen papers are not on this website as some schools may choose to use them as mock exams. For both French and Spanish, there will be no oral or listening comprehension as part of the examinations from 2016 onwards (in the main, due to logistical difficulties).

I want to reiterate that it is with regret that we cannot accommodate the whole field of candidates and we realize that the new system will place extra burdens on our feeder schools. We will continue to review our procedures as well as the papers themselves.

Mr Marcos Salter | College Examination Secretary

October 2015