



KING'S
SCHOLARSHIP
PROSPECTUS
2026

ETON COLLEGE KING'S SCHOLARSHIP 2026

The **2026** King's Scholarship Examination will take place on **Friday 24 April, Monday 27 April and Tuesday 28 April**.

The purpose of the examination is to select the King's Scholars, housed in College under the care of the Master-in-College. The number of vacancies in College varies from year to year, but averages fourteen. An Election Roll is published at Eton after the examination. The Roll includes all those who have qualified for King's Scholarships, plus the Annah Shaw and Martineau awards.

A boy with a conditional place at Eton who does not achieve a King's Scholarship may be considered for one of the following awards:

One Annah Shaw Scholarship is awarded to a boy who excels in the Classics and does not enter College. This is only for boys who offer both Latin and Greek. A financial award of up to £1,500 per annum will be made to a boy whose parents already have financial assistance arranged. Otherwise an honorary award may be given instead.

One Martineau Exhibition (up to a maximum of £3,000 per annum) is awarded to a boy with a bursary in place who does well in the examination, narrowly missing a King's Scholarship, with consideration being given to his general record and his parents' financial circumstances. Boys shortlisted for this award will be interviewed and his parents will already have financial assistance arranged. Awards are normally tenable for five years.

MEANS TESTED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

King's Scholars receive no automatic remission of fees (fees in 2025/26 are £21,100 including 20% VAT per term, £63,299 including 20% VAT per year). However, applicants may apply for means-tested financial assistance, described as a bursary. Details on the criteria for applying for a bursary can be found in the Bursary Information Sheet – www.etoncollege.com/admissions/scholarships-and-awards/kings-scholarships/.

Applications for such bursaries should be made by completing the Bursary Application Form. Access to this form is provided by the Bursary team once sufficient contact details have been provided and added to the Admissions database. For further information, parents should contact the Fees and Bursaries Team on **01753 370 581 / 554** or via email to **Bursaries@etoncollege.org.uk**. Parents who apply for the 2026 King's Scholarship, with an application deadline of **Monday 5 January 2026**, must complete the Bursary Application Form by the deadline of **Friday 27th February 2026** and preferably considerably earlier.

1. If a candidate is applying for a Music Scholarship as well as a King's Scholarship, the Bursary Application Form must be completed by **Friday 31 October 2025**.
2. If a potential King's Scholarship candidate already has a bursary in place via the registration process in year 6, parents will be asked by the Bursaries Team to provide a financial update.
3. Where a candidate holds a conditional offer or waiting list place, it is the School's expectation that parents who did not apply for a bursary at the time of their initial application will not require financial support throughout the time the boy attends the School. Due to funding constraints the School will not entertain subsequent bursary applications from parents except in the most exceptional and wholly unforeseeable circumstances. Please contact the Bursaries Team to discuss this further if required.

Parents will be informed before the exams whether they are likely to be awarded a bursary in the event of their son being awarded a King's Scholarship. This enables parents to make an informed decision about whether their son should sit the King's Scholarship examinations.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA *(Please read carefully)*

1. Candidates must either be aged 13 on Tuesday 1 September 2026 or have turned 14 during August 2026 where Eton has previously agreed that the boy may defer his entry by a year due to an August birthday. Candidates born in August 2012 must be in school year 8 when they sit these exams. A candidate may sit the King's Scholarship exams once only.
2. We require all candidates from UK schools to have taken the Eton List Test (or we will accept a recent UKiset test if overseas, with subsequent remote Eton assessment and interview if the UKiset results are strong enough). A very good performance will be required here.
3. Boys who have not already taken the test at age 11 may still apply and will be required to take the Eton List Test, or the UKiset test if overseas (with subsequent assessment if the UKiset results are strong enough), and all such candidates will be interviewed by the Director of Admissions or his deputy. For such boys the following applies:
 - a. For those who are required to take the Eton List Test, the dates will be **Tuesday 20 January 2026 or Thursday 22 January 2026**. Such candidates who have also applied for a Music Award may be required to sit the Eton List Test on a different day during the Music Award auditions week of **Monday 26 January 2026**. Those who perform sufficiently well will then be entered for the King's Scholarship examination.
 - b. Candidates attending schools outside the UK may choose to sit the UKiset test (for details please visit <https://www.ukiset.com/>) as an alternative to the Eton List Test. The UKiset test may avoid unnecessary travel to the UK as many overseas candidates can sit the test locally. UKiset must provide the complete set of results to admissions@etoncollege.org.uk by **Monday 5 January 2026**. If the UKiset results are strong enough, a subsequent interview and assessment with the Director of Admissions or his deputy will be arranged and a decision will then be made as to whether a candidate is eligible to sit the King's Scholarship examinations. Admissions prefer that the test is taken in the autumn term of year 8 but would consider tests taken earlier. Those considering this option should contact UKiset by e-mail at enquiries@ukiset.com.
4. No boy who is already in the school may compete.
5. If a candidate is found to have been offered a Scholarship or similar academic award at another school and has not declined it by the first day of the King's Scholarship exams, Eton College reserves the right to withdraw the candidate's application. If Eton College is not informed of such a situation before he has completed the examination and been awarded a King's Scholarship place, his name shall not appear on or shall be removed from the Election Roll.

BOYS CHOOSING TO APPLY FOR A PLACE IN COLLEGE

Boys who do not already have a conditional place and who are not successful in gaining a King's Scholarship will not be offered a place in the school.

A candidate holding a conditional place at Eton and in UK state education can only apply to sit the King's Scholarship examinations for a place as a King's Scholar. He must first sit the Eton Entrance exam in **late February 2026** to confirm his place and a decision will be made as to whether he is eligible to sit the King's Scholarship examination based on his performance in the Eton Entrance exam.

Eton reserves the right to require a candidate with a conditional place, who has not performed well enough in the examination, to take additional papers, such as Common Entrance, before he may enter the school. Candidates who perform poorly in individual core subjects may also be required to take additional papers in those subjects to assist in placing them in the correct set.

BOYS CHOOSING NOT TO APPLY FOR A PLACE IN COLLEGE

A boy holding a conditional place at Eton and currently at an independent or overseas school may sit the examination but opt not to compete for a King's Scholarship, preferring his place in an Oppidan house. These boys are known as *honoris causa* candidates.

ADVICE ON WHETHER TO SIT THE KING'S SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATIONS

When choosing whether to sit the King's Scholarship examination or Common Entrance, candidates should be aware that a strong performance in Common Entrance will usually be rewarded with places in higher sets at Eton than a mediocre performance in the King's Scholarship examination.

OPPORTUNITIES TO VISIT COLLEGE

Prospective candidates interested in becoming a King's Scholar will be offered the opportunity to visit College on a variety of dates in the autumn and spring terms, either after confirming their intended exam route of entry (via an enquiry sent to boys with conditional places in July/August 2025), or on receipt of an application form (for boys without a conditional place). For overseas candidates, there will be a virtual visit date available. Please be aware that places for these visits are limited.

APPLICATIONS

All applications, specifically the section provided by parents, to take the King's Scholarship examination must be received by the Admissions Office before end of day on **Monday 5 January 2026**. King's Scholarship applications received after this date will not be processed. The School section of the application relating to the optional papers and hosting the exams must be returned no later than **Saturday 31 January 2026**.

Parents of boys with a conditional place will be sent a link to an online application form in early October 2025.

Candidates who do not already hold a conditional place at Eton will use the application form on the website at www.etoncollege.com/admissions/scholarships-and-awards/kings-scholarships/.

The 2026 entry application will be available from **early October 2025** until **Monday 5 January 2026**.

Having submitted the application form, if parents wish to make any changes, particularly concerning the candidate's status (*honoris causa* or College candidate) and the chosen optional papers, they must confirm this both by email to admissions@etoncollege.org.uk and by phone to Admissions on **01753 370 611**.

THE EXAMINATION

All candidates are required to sit the following six compulsory papers:

ENGLISH A * **ENGLISH B *** **MATHEMATICS A** **SCIENCE (theory and data papers)** **GENERAL I**

They must also offer at least THREE of the following six optional papers:

MATHEMATICS B GENERAL II HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY & DIVINITY

FRENCH** LATIN GREEK

* *English A and English B in 2025 replaced English and Creative Writing from previous years.*

** *Please note there is no oral component to the French exam.*

All candidates are assessed on their performances in the compulsory papers plus their best three optional papers.

In a change to previous years, most candidates for College will not have an interview with the Master-in-College. Instead, only non-registered candidates will have an interview with the Master-in-College; details and timings of these interviews will be sent to the parents of candidates involved.

LOCATION OF EXAMINATIONS

All candidates applying to sit the 2026 King's Scholarship examinations will be required to sit the examinations either at their school or an alternate venue. Specifically, we ask schools to host their own candidates for the sitting of the exams where possible. If a candidate's school is unable to host the examinations, the candidate will need to sit the examinations at another school or test centre. In this case, we will endeavour to find an alternative examination venue. However, we cannot guarantee that it will be near to the candidate's home or school. Also, be aware that hosts do not provide overnight accommodation. We are of course very grateful to all schools who run the examinations.

The examinations for UK candidates will take place on **Friday 24 April, Monday 27 April and Tuesday 28 April**. Boys at schools overseas in time zones more than two hours ahead of the UK will sit the examinations within the following 24 hours, at the equivalent UK times. Details will be sent to both parents and schools.

SETTING in YEAR 9 AT ETON

One purpose of the King's Scholarship examinations is to allow for accurate setting of boys in Year 9 at Eton in the core subjects.

If a candidate does not sit an optional subject, we may contact schools to provide information to help with setting. This is more likely for Latin and modern languages, compulsory subjects in Year 9 at Eton.

SYLLABUSES

Apart from the General Papers, most papers are based on the current appropriate Common Entrance syllabus. However, questions which invite a more advanced response than is usually expected at Common Entrance are frequently set. Specific syllabus and calculator requirements are given in the attachment and may be found on the webpage www.etoncollege.com/admissions/scholarships-and-awards/kings-scholarships/.

PAST PAPERS

Recent past papers up to 2024 may be downloaded from the Eton College website www.etoncollege.com/admissions/scholarships-and-awards/kings-scholarships/.

The most recent set of papers (for 2025) are kept for schools to use for mock exams. We strongly advise boys to look at the past papers early in the school year, particularly if parents have some doubts as to whether their sons should be sitting the scholarship exams. Please note exam mark schemes are not provided by Eton College examiners and any mark schemes found elsewhere may not coincide with Eton's own marks.

SUCCESSFUL KING'S SCHOLARS – WHAT NEXT?

Successful King's Scholars already with a conditional place at Eton will automatically go into College house, giving up any previous selection of an Oppidan house.

If a candidate without a conditional place becomes a King's Scholar, his parents will be sent a contract to sign to confirm his place at the school. An acceptance fee of £3750 including 20% VAT will be payable, subject to individual bursary conditions.

CONTACT DETAILS

Any questions about the information in this booklet should be directed to the Examinations Coordinator c/o the Admissions Office, via admissions@etoncollege.org.uk or telephone 01753 370611.

DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ON THE KING'S SCHOLARSHIP WEBPAGE :

<https://www.etoncollege.com/admissions/scholarships-and-awards/kings-scholarships/>

King's Scholarship application – during timed availability for the next year of entry.

King's Scholarship Prospectus

MS KS Bursary Information Sheet

King's Scholarship Syllabus supplementary details

Greek KS Syllabus

Minor Change of exam paper structure for 2024 onwards

Election Roll for the most recent exams

Previous King's Scholarship papers are available to download