



# KING'S ADVENTURE

# WELCOME TO THE GREAT SCHOOLS TRUST

Our commitment to providing an outstanding education is reflected in our innovative King's Adventure programme, which aims to nurture future leaders and equip our students with the essential skills for success in life.

At the Great Schools Trust, we believe that every child deserves the highest quality education, regardless of their socio-economic background. We are dedicated to fostering a supportive and dynamic learning environment where both students and staff can thrive. As you explore this prospectus, you will discover how our vision, mission, and values come to life through character development via the vehicle of leadership.

We are excited to embark on this adventure with you and look forward to the positive impact we can make together on the lives of our students and the wider community.

Let's fill our students' skills rucksack full of character!

**Shane Ierston**  
Chief Executive Officer









# WHO WE ARE

The Great Schools Trust is a forward-thinking educational organisation dedicated to transforming lives through excellence in teaching, character development, and leadership training. Our academies serve disadvantaged communities in the North West of England, offering students the advantages of a private school education within the state sector.

Our flagship initiative, the King's Adventure, exemplifies our commitment to holistic education. It provides students with a wide range of experiences and opportunities designed to develop their character, leadership skills, and environmental awareness.

This programme is integral to our ethos of nurturing well-rounded individuals who are prepared to meet the challenges of the future with confidence and resilience.

# WHAT WE DO



## Our Mission

To develop in every student the academic skills, intellectual habits, qualities of character and leadership traits necessary to become a successful, healthy citizen in the global community.



## Our Vision

To develop a family of Great Schools where all students, irrespective of starting point or background, are happy and able to flourish and achieve their full potential.





## Our Values

At the Great Schools Trust students are taught to embrace seven distinct values, which are continually referred to throughout their educational journey.

We summarise our core values in the acronym **ASPIRE**. These are the seven values on which our trust is founded.



## Our Ethos

The King's Adventure is deeply rooted in our ASPIRE values, which guide students' growth and development throughout their journey:

- **Aspiration & Achievement:** Demonstrating a commitment to setting high goals and achieving excellence.
- **Self-Awareness:** Reflecting on personal growth and recognising areas of strength and improvement.
- **Professionalism:** Exhibiting responsibility, dedication, and reliability in all endeavours.
- **Integrity:** Upholding honesty and strong moral principles in all actions and decisions.
- **Respect:** Valuing diversity and fostering positive relationships with others.
- **Endeavour:** Persevering through challenges and demonstrating determination.

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**“The King’s Adventure provides students within the Great Schools Trust with opportunities and experiences that offer life skills, character development and leadership skills alongside environmental and conservation awareness.”**

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# WELCOME TO THE KING'S ADVENTURE

**Welcome to The King's Adventure programme, an exciting and transformative journey that is part of the Great Schools Trust's commitment to developing character and leadership in our students. As the Director of King's Adventure for the trust, I am delighted to share how this unique programme is shaping the educational experiences of children in both primary and secondary schools.**

The King's Adventure is more than just a series of activities; it is a journey of discovery and growth. As a trust we are committed to ensuring that every child, regardless of their background, has access to these enriching experiences. Taking students on a journey through four base camps, each representing different stages of their education, the programme is designed to provide every student with the opportunity to develop essential life skills, develop resilience, and cultivate a sense of responsibility. By promoting teamwork, empathy, and care for the environment, we help our students grow into compassionate and capable leaders of the future.

For our younger adventurers in primary school, activities like "Sleep under the Stars" and "First Aiders" provide thrilling and educational experiences that spark curiosity and develop practical skills. As students move to secondary school, challenges such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and cadet programmes offer more advanced opportunities to develop leadership and teamwork skills.

The King's Adventure is all about making learning fun and meaningful. Our activities are designed to help children learn new skills, gain confidence, and grow as individuals and team players. Whether it is exploring nature, learning first aid, or participating in community projects, every experience is a step towards becoming a well-rounded, confident young person.

I am proud to lead this initiative and work with a fantastic team of educators who are passionate about making a positive impact on our students' lives. Together, we are creating a vibrant and supportive learning environment where every child can thrive.



**Mark Brown**  
**Director of**  
**King's Adventure**



# CHARACTER THROUGH LEADERSHIP

A King's education is not just about academic success; it is about shaping students into well-rounded individuals who can lead with character. Our leadership programmes and activities are designed to develop:

- **Decision-Making Skills:** Through various challenges and real-life scenarios, students learn to make thoughtful and informed decisions.
- **Ethical Leadership:** Emphasising the importance of leading by example and acting with integrity.
- **Resilience:** Building the capacity to stay focused and motivated, even when faced with setbacks.
- **Empathy:** Encouraging students to understand and consider the perspectives of others in their decision-making processes.

## The King's Compass

The King's Compass is the guiding framework of the King's Adventure programme, central to the Great Schools Trust's commitment to a values-based education. Just as a navigational compass provides direction during uncertain times, the King's Compass helps our students navigate their educational journey and beyond, ensuring they make the right decisions, in the right way, at the right time.

The primary aim of the King's Compass is to develop the character within each child, empowering them to stay true to their values and aspirations, even when the path is unclear or challenging. Our programme focuses on nurturing the ability to:

**Make the Right Decisions:** We teach students to consider their choices carefully, weigh the consequences, and choose actions that align with their values and long-term goals.

**Act in the Right Way:** Emphasising integrity and respect, we guide students to act with honesty and kindness, ensuring their actions positively impact those around them.

**Choose the Right Time:** Timing can be crucial in decision-making. We encourage students to develop patience and discernment, understanding when to act and when to wait.

**Walk the Right Path:** By fostering resilience and self-awareness, we support students in staying committed to their personal and academic goals, even when faced with obstacles.



“The King’s Adventure embodies our commitment to nurturing the next generation of thinkers, leaders, and innovators, each equipped with the values and skills to thrive, flourish and to leave a positive mark on the world.”

Andrew Reay,  
Chief Operating & Strategic Officer  
Great Schools Trust



# VALUES IN ACTION

## Practical Implementation

The King's Adventure is our unique approach to character and leadership education. This programme is designed to provide every child with the opportunity to develop essential life skills through a series of experiential learning activities and challenges. Key components of the programme include:

- **Character and Leadership Education:** Integrated into daily routines to shape students' values and behaviour.
- **Pledges and Entitlements:** Ensuring every student participates in the programme, regardless of socio-economic background.
- **Experiential Learning:** Activities such as "Sleep under the Stars," "Hiking Heroes," "First Aiders," and "Young Life Savers."
- **Developmental Milestones:** Structured around different educational stages (Key Stages 1-5), with tailored activities for each stage.
- **Holistic Growth:** Emphasis on teamwork, empathy, environmental stewardship, and community involvement.
- **Progressive Challenges:** Advanced activities like the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) and cadet programmes for older students.

## The King's Rucksack

The King's Rucksack is an essential part of the King's Adventure programme, symbolising the life skills and leadership qualities that students accumulate throughout their educational journey with the Great Schools Trust. Just as a rucksack is packed with essential items for an adventure, our students fill their King's Rucksack with valuable skills and experiences that will serve them well in all aspects of life.

The primary aim of the King's Rucksack is to equip each child with a comprehensive set of life and leadership skills. These skills are developed through participation in the King's Adventure activities and are crucial for personal growth and success.



The King's Rucksack focuses on:

1. **Life Skills:** Practical abilities that students need to navigate daily life effectively and independently.
2. **Leadership Skills:** Qualities and competencies that enable students to lead themselves and others with confidence and integrity.



# THE JOURNEY



## King's Adventure

A student's journey  
with us is their  
"King's Adventure"



## King's Compass

The King's Compass  
guides them on their  
adventure using the  
ASPIRE values



## Skills Rucksack

The skills learnt along  
the way get added to  
their "Skills Rucksack"





### King's Summit



### King's CV

Their summiting is at the end of their Key Stage 4 or 5 journey at GST with either Silver or Gold DofE

A summary of personal development and achievements throughout their journey, demonstrating the depth and breadth of experiences on the King's Adventure.







# THE PLEDGES

## Key Stage 1-2



Sleep Under the Stars



Eco-Warriors



Hiking Heroes



Community Champions



Young Life Savers



Team Challenges



First Aiders



Leadership Legends

## Key Stage 3-5



Year 7 Character Residential



Leadership Legends



Year 8 Character Residential



Military Minded (King's Cadets/CCF)



Bronze DofE Award



Community Champions



Silver DofE Award



Eco-Warriors



Gold DofE Award  
(6th form only)



Life Savers

# KEY STAGES ONE - TWO

THE KING'S ADVENTURE



## Young Life Savers

This pledge is aimed at highlighting and teaching students how to stay safe while out and about. They will look at water safety as part of swimming lessons and also their residential. They will look at safety when in the outdoors - learning how to keep themselves and others safe as well as how to be professional around risky areas. This can also incorporate aspects of street safety and link with the wider school safety lessons.



## Community Champions

Primary Community Champions learn the value of kindness and generosity by participating in fun and engaging fundraising activities. Students organise events like bake sales, sponsored walks, and charity fairs to support local causes. Through these experiences, they develop empathy and understand the positive impact they can make at a local, national and global level by helping those in need.



## Eco Warriors

Our young Eco Warriors embark on exciting projects that nurture their love and respect for the environment. Students participate in activities such as planting school gardens, organising recycling drives, and exploring nature through guided walks. They learn about the importance of conservation through interactive workshops and hands-on experiences, fostering a lifelong commitment to protecting our planet.



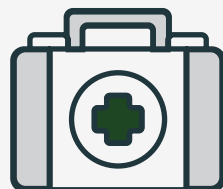


# KEY STAGES ONE - TWO



## Team Challenges

Team activities foster collaboration and communication among young learners, as well as promoting a sense of community within the classroom. By working together, students develop essential social skills and learn to appreciate diverse perspectives. When students collaborate on projects or solve problems collectively, they build stronger bonds and create a positive learning environment. These experiences prepare students for future endeavours, emphasising the importance of teamwork in various aspects of life.



## First Aiders

Teaching first aid skills to primary students is essential; it empowers young learners with practical knowledge that they can use throughout their lives. Learning how to handle burns, calling 999 and assisting an unconscious person prepares them for real-world situations. Secondly, these life-saving skills directly impact survival rates. By introducing first aid early, we create a generation of informed and capable individuals who can make a difference when it matters most.

# KEY STAGES ONE - TWO

THE KING'S ADVENTURE



## Hiking Heroes

This pledge will take the students out to areas of outstanding natural beauty and allow students to explore and start their King's journey of outdoor education. Students will have the opportunity to get outdoors, visit a National Park and walk with friends, enjoying positive exercise in addition to their regular PE lessons.



## Sleep Under the Stars

In this pledge children experience the thrill of sleeping away from home, under the night stars with their friends. This residential adventure can fill children with the wonder of our universe and, who knows, could lead to a lifetime's passion for astronomy. The communities we live in tend to be built up and it can be hard to see the stars, so students will be taken to dark sky areas to clearly see the wonder of the stars.



## Leadership Legends

At the primary level, Leadership Legends focuses on nurturing the early qualities of leadership through empathy, communication, and teamwork. Students are encouraged to understand others' perspectives and show compassion in everyday interactions. Leadership activities include role-playing, group projects, and opportunities to take on responsibilities such as classroom helpers or playground monitors. Older students are given the chance to mentor their younger peers, fostering a sense of care, guidance, and positive influence. The emphasis is on building the foundational skills of active listening, collaboration, and empathy, creating a supportive and inclusive school environment.





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**“The opportunities offered to our students as part of the King’s Adventure provide them with essential life experiences which allow them to develop skills well beyond the national curriculum”**

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**Yvonne Dineley,  
Senior Assistant Principal  
King’s Lander Primary Academy**



# KEY STAGES THREE - FIVE

THE KING'S ADVENTURE



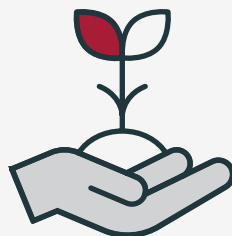
## Year 7 Character Residential

The Year 7 Character Residential is designed to introduce students to the foundations of resilience and a growth mindset in an outdoor setting. This experience is often their first taste of overcoming challenging situations outside the classroom, helping them to develop the confidence needed to tackle academic and personal obstacles. Students will engage in activities that push them out of their comfort zones, fostering teamwork and determination. Residentials take place in either North Wales or The Lake District, offering students the opportunity to connect with nature and appreciate areas of outstanding natural beauty.




## Community Champions

Secondary Community Champions use their leadership skills to identify and support a variety of charitable causes on a local, national and international level. Students plan and execute comprehensive fundraising campaigns, volunteer their time and skills, and collaborate with non-profit organisations to drive meaningful change. These activities enhance their organisational, communication, and leadership skills while instilling a strong sense of social responsibility.



## Eco Warriors

Secondary Eco Warriors take a proactive role in environmental stewardship by leading sustainability initiatives within the school and local community. Students conduct environmental audits, develop and implement energy-saving strategies, and collaborate with local organisations on conservation projects. They engage in debates and campaigns addressing global environmental issues, empowering them to become influential advocates for sustainable living.



# KEY STAGES THREE - FIVE

THE KING'S ADVENTURE

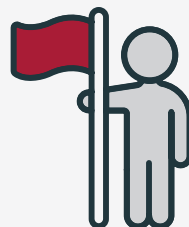
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## **Military Minded**

### **King's Cadets or Combined Cadet Force (CCF): Years 8-11**

Cadet programmes quickly build important skills like teamwork, confidence, and self-discipline, as well as providing the opportunity to take on leadership roles. Cadet programmes set strong values and form habits that are followed through education and future careers.



## **Year 8 Character Residential**

Building on the skills developed in Year 7, the Year 8 Character Residential focuses on promoting independence and self-leadership. Students are encouraged to take greater responsibility for themselves and their peers, further developing self-regulation and decision-making skills in a more challenging outdoor environment. This residential serves as a stepping stone, preparing students for more advanced leadership roles and greater personal accountability. The experience continues in the scenic settings of North Wales or The Lake District, deepening their connection with nature while solidifying the resilience and confidence gained in Year 7.



## **Life Savers**

Teaching first aid to students is a vital endeavour that equips them with life-saving skills and empowers them to respond effectively in emergencies. Incorporating first aid education into our secondary schools' curriculum ensures that our young people become capable and empathetic responders, ready to make a difference when it matters most.



# KEY STAGES THREE - FIVE



## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This prestigious award empowers participants to build lifelong self-belief, take on personal challenges, explore passions, and discover hidden talents. Whether through volunteering, skills development, physical activities, or adventurous expeditions, the DofE fosters resilience, confidence, and a sense of purpose. It remains a beacon for youth empowerment and personal growth.

- Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's award starts and finishes in Year 9
- Silver Duke of Edinburgh's award starts in Year 10 and finishes in Year 11



## Leadership Legends

As students progress to secondary school, the Leadership Legends programme takes on a more advanced role, focusing on the development of self-leadership and the ability to lead others with confidence and integrity. Students engage in leadership roles within the school community, such as leading school councils, organising events, and mentoring younger students. The programme sharpens their skills in decision-making, conflict resolution, and effective communication, while encouraging them to lead by example. Students are challenged to take on more responsibility and to apply their leadership skills to both academic and extracurricular activities, preparing them for future leadership roles in higher education and beyond.





“My experience of participating in the King’s Adventure programme, particularly being a cadet during my time at King’s Warrington, has led me to want to join the Royal Air Force as an apprentice at 16.”

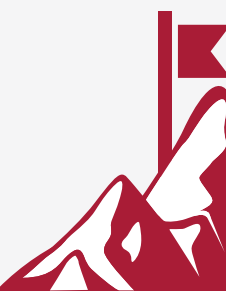
Rome Lowe,  
Year 9 student at King’s Leadership  
Academy Warrington



# KEY STAGE THREE JOURNEY







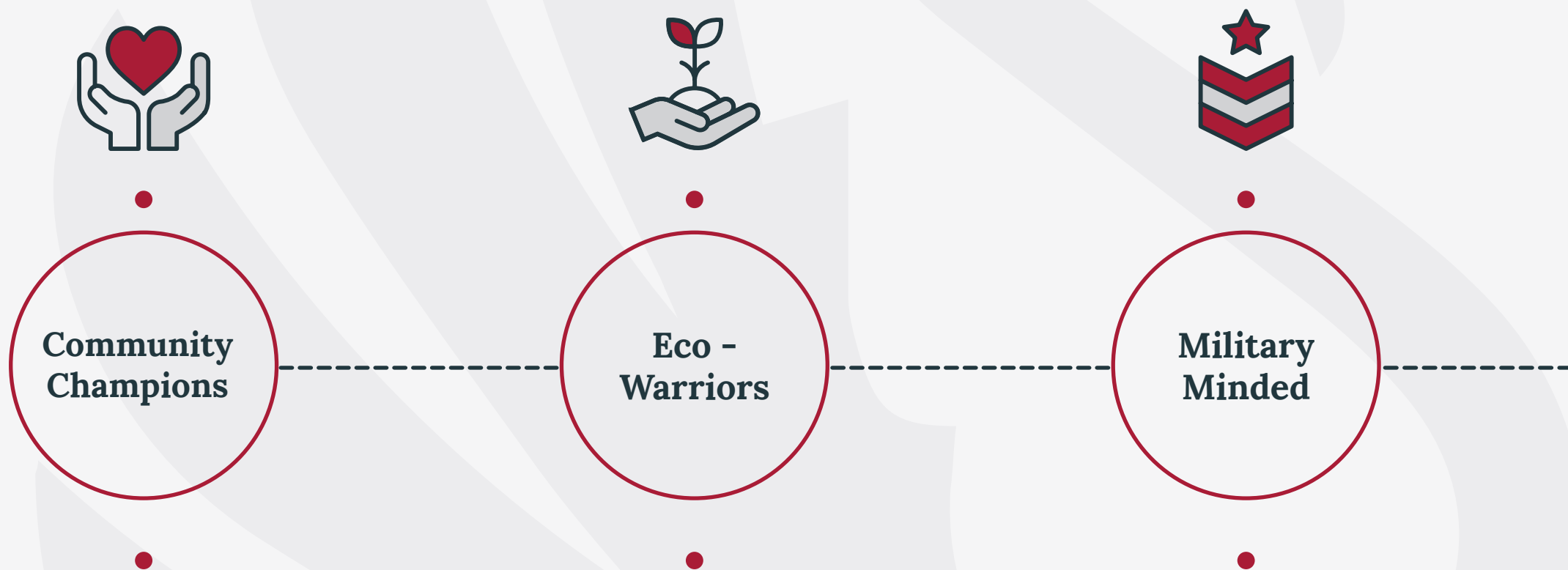
**Year 8  
Character  
Residential**

**Life  
Savers**

**Bronze  
D of E  
Award**

**Base Camp 3**

# KEY STAGE FOUR TO FIVE JOURNEY





**Leadership  
Legends**



**Silver  
D of E  
Award**



**King's Summit**

For GST academies with a 6th Form,  
Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award starts in Year 12  
and is completed in Year 13



# LET THE ADVENTURE COMMENCE!

**As the final piece to the King's Adventure, we must encapsulate each student's journey of personal development through a portfolio that highlights their unique strengths and accomplishments, preparing them for success in higher education and future careers.**

## **The King's CV**

The King's CV captures the full spectrum of a student's achievements, experiences, and skills added to their King's rucksack during their time at the Great Schools Trust. It serves as a testament to the transformative impact of the King's Adventure programme and the dedication of our students to become well-rounded, capable, confident and successful individuals with a strong moral compass.

## **Future Impact**

The King's CV provides each of our students with a powerful tool to showcase their comprehensive development and achievements to prospective colleges, universities, and employers. It demonstrates the breadth and depth of their experiences, highlighting how they have applied their knowledge and skills in meaningful ways. The King's CV is designed to:

- **Enhance College and University Applications:** Providing a detailed account of academic and extracurricular achievements that make students stand out.
- **Support Career Opportunities:** Showcasing the skills and experiences that make students valuable assets to future employers.

- Encourage Reflection and Growth:  
Allowing students to reflect on their journey, celebrate their achievements, and set future goals.

We are proud of our ethos and values, represented by the King's Compass, the King's Rucksack, and the King's CV, which guide our actions and decisions. Through our innovative educational offerings and unwavering dedication to holistic development, we aim to make a lasting impact on the lives of our students and the communities we serve.



# YOUR ADVENTURE STARTS HERE!

If the King's Adventure stirs something in you, if you are ready to make character education both meaningful and exhilarating, we invite you to join us. Together, let's inspire a generation to ascend to new heights, equipped with the character and skills to navigate their future.

## Has This Inspired You? Want to Join Our Team?

Do you see yourself leading a group of eager young students through challenges that build their resilience and character? Are you interested in mentoring students as they compile their King's CVs, documenting their journey and achievements?

## Here's why you should contribute to the King's Adventure:

- **Purposeful Engagement:** Play a pivotal role in shaping young minds through adventurous learning and character building.
- **Growth and Development:** Enhance your own skills in leadership, outdoor education, and personal development.
- **Community Impact:** Be part of a dedicated team that is making a real difference in the lives of our students and their communities.



### Here's how you can make a significant impact:

- **Activity Leadership:** Engage with students in dynamic settings that foster character through leadership and add new life skills into their King's rucksack.
- **Mentorship:** Guide students in reflecting on their experiences that foster the ASPIRE values and hone their King's compass.
- **Skill Documentation:** Help students articulate their development for their King's CVs, enhancing their future prospects.

Join us and become part of a community dedicated to educational excellence and the development of future leaders. Together, we can provide every child with the tools they need to navigate their path to success. We would be thrilled to explore the possibilities with you.

### Steps to Get Involved:

1. **Explore:** Visit our careers page to learn more about the roles and responsibilities that await you at Great Schools Trust Careers.
2. **Connect:** Reach out through the trust's Personal Development team and share why you are passionate about contributing to the King's Adventure.
3. **Engage:** Join us for a discussion on how your aspirations align with our mission and how we can support your professional journey.

### Prepare to Make a Difference:

All volunteers and personal development team employees receive comprehensive training in the King's Adventure curriculum and ongoing Professional Development to ensure everyone is equipped to make a lasting impact.

### Join us

Become part of a community dedicated to educational excellence and the development of future leaders. Together, we can provide every child with the tools they need to navigate their path to success.



# JOIN US

**The King's Adventure serves as a transformative educational experience that equips students with the skills, values, and confidence needed to excel in their future endeavours. We invite you to join us and be a part of a community that is dedicated to transforming lives through education.**

Whether you are a current educator seeking to grow within our Trust or a school leader interested in joining our family of academies, we welcome you to explore the opportunities we offer.

Together, we can make a significant impact on the lives of our students and help them achieve their fullest potential.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.greatschoolstrust.org](http://www.greatschoolstrust.org) or contact us at: [KA@greatschoolstrust.com](mailto:KA@greatschoolstrust.com).













For more information, visit [www.greatschoolstrust.org](http://www.greatschoolstrust.org)

X f @GSTSchools



KING'S  
ADVENTURE



KING'S LEADERSHIP  
ACADEMY WAVERTREE



KING'S LEADERSHIP  
ACADEMY BOLTON



KING'S LEADERSHIP  
ACADEMY HAWTHORNES



KING'S LEADERSHIP  
ACADEMY LIVERPOOL



KING'S LEADERSHIP  
ACADEMY WARRINGTON



KING'S NORWTHWAY  
PRIMARY ACADEMY



KING'S LEADERSHIP  
PHOENIX ACADEMY



KING'S LANDER  
PRIMARY ACADEMY