



## Living in the area – Kings Langley

Kings Langley is a large village equidistant between the towns of Hemel Hempstead and Watford to the north and south. The school was established in 1959 to be the secondary school for the villages of South West Hertfordshire, so the surrounding landscape is of woodland and farmland with country lanes. There is a real sense of the village being on the rural-urban fringe, with the M25 to the south, the A41 hidden in a cutting to the west and the intercity railway line and the Grand Union Canal running to the east of the village, along the valley of the River Gade. The village railway station is served by London Northwestern trains into London Euston, a journey of 27 minutes. Indeed lots of people are able to locate Kings Langley as the place where the train whizzes past the former Ovaltine factory, now converted to apartments.



The school itself is above the village, on the high land next to Kings Langley common, where the cricket club is located. Kings Langley gained its name from the royal manor of the 13<sup>th</sup> century established on the top of the hill for hunting and a retreat from London. A site of clean air and open space, attributes that are still true today.

Culturally, the local towns of Hemel Hempstead, Watford, Tring and Aylesbury all have theatres which receive travelling productions and produce their own shows. Tring and Berkhamsted are market towns with independent shops, cafes and restaurants, attributes that are also true of the historic city of St Albans to the east. Watford and Hemel Hempstead have larger shopping centres to meet everyday and occasional shopping requirements.





There are also local traditions that bring a rhythm to the year, with the village carnival on the common in June, the summer festival of the arts in Watford in July and August, the fireworks display in Chipperfield in November, and the lights-switch on before Christmas in Kings Langley. The school has links with the Kings Langley Players, an amateur theatre group. The jazz band perform at the carnival and the lights switch on each year.

With the Chilterns area of outstanding beauty on our doorstep, the school is well located for staff to relax in splendid landscape at the weekends.



There are a multitude of walking, running and cycling clubs to join locally and provide a sense of home and wider community beyond school.

*I breathed a sigh of relief when I got the job at Kings Langley School, a chance to teach with a view of fields and trees. Close enough to enjoy the cultural wealth of London but far enough away that each of the villages have their own identity, I have enjoyed exploring the area and making new friends locally.*