A FACTUAL HISTORY AND A PRESENT-DAY PARALLEL

KING'S GRANTHAM

FREE LEARNING - FOXE - THE DEBATE HALL

1329 / 1528 / 2026

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COURAGE - FRIENDSHIP - HONOUR

FREE | FOXE | DEBATE | OPEN SOURCE

The documented story of a medieval grammar school, Richard Foxe's enduring endowment and the royal identity that followed - set beside a modern, independently created free debate hall inspired by the same ideas of access, learning and public conversation.

UNOFFICIAL INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION - NOT ISSUED OR ENDORSED BY THE KING'S SCHOOL

THE RECORD

HOW KING'S APPEARED

1329

EARLIEST TRACE

The school's own historical timeline identifies 1329, when Walter Pigot was licensed by his bishop, as the earliest traceable point in its educational lineage.

c.1497

THE OLD SCHOOL

Pevsner dated the Old School and Master's House to about 1497. Their survival shows that organised teaching and a physical school existed before the 1528 endowment.

1528

FOXE ENDOWS THE SCHOOL

Richard Foxe, Bishop of Winchester and Lord Privy Seal, endowed the school. Corpus Christi College, Oxford, was required to maintain the buildings and provide the master's salary.

16th c.

A FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Grantham's Free Grammar School of King Edward VI taught Latin and Greek to a small body of local boys. The school's official history estimates about twenty scholars in the sixteenth century.

1655-60

ISAAC NEWTON

Isaac Newton attended the school before his Cambridge career. His later fame amplified the school's historical importance; it did not cause the school to be founded.

WHAT "FREE" MEANT

The historical word meant a school supported by endowment rather than ordinary tuition charges for its scholars. It should not be projected backwards as modern universal online education - but it establishes access through endowed learning as a genuine part of the school's history.

EVIDENCE AND INFERENCE

WHY IT SURVIVED

PLACE

Grantham was a market town on the Great North Road, with ecclesiastical and administrative importance beyond its size.

PATRON

FOXE, born at nearby Ropsley, combined local attachment with exceptional political, ecclesiastical and educational power.

STRUCTURE

The link with Corpus Christi College provided continuing responsibility for buildings and the schoolmaster's salary.

ROYAL IDENTITY

The school became the Free Grammar School of King Edward VI. This royal association - rather than importance alone - explains the later King's identity.

THE DOCUMENTED CHAIN



FACTUAL CONCLUSION

King's did not appear because Grantham was larger than Nottingham. It emerged from a rare conjunction: an existing medieval educational tradition, permanent buildings, Richard Foxe's locally motivated endowment, institutional support from an Oxford college and a later Edwardian royal identity. Newton belongs to the school's legacy, not to the cause of its creation.

PRESENT INITIATIVE - NOT HISTORICAL SCHOOL RECORD

THE FREE DEBATE HALL

A modern project draws a deliberate parallel with the old grammar school's language of FREE access and with the name of FOXE. It is an independent initiative and is not presented as an official King's School programme.

THE HISTORICAL MODEL	THE 2026 PARALLEL
A free grammar school supported learning through endowment.	A free debate hall offers open access to live conversation now.
Foxe created a durable structure linking place, education and institution.	A fellow Foxe House member codes the debate hall as a durable online place.
A small number of boys gathered physically to study language and ideas.	Participants gather online for live, 24-hour conversation through Audio Campfires.
The school preserved a long educational lineage by repeatedly adapting.	A former Head Boy proposes reforming the symbolic school year and extending its debate tradition online.

AVAILABLE NOW

THE FREE DEBATE HALL

LIVE CONVERSATION - AUDIO CAMPFIRES - OPEN ACCESS

The proposed online King's school and future free educational programme remain future ambitions. The immediate, clearly stated offer is the free debate hall: a live online space for conversation and debate.

ACCURACY NOTE

FACT, PARALLEL, FUTURE

DOCUMENTED HISTORY

1329 lineage; the Old School dated to about 1497; Richard Foxe's 1528 endowment; Corpus Christi College's responsibilities; the Free Grammar School of King Edward VI; Newton's attendance, 1655-1660.

MODERN PROJECT STATEMENTS

The former Head Boy connection, the Foxe House coder, the reform of the year and the Audio Campfires debate hall are presented as claims and descriptions of the independent 2026 initiative, not as events verified in the historical school archive.

FUTURE INTENTION

A new online King's school offering free education is presented as an ambition. It is not described as already operating or as endorsed by The King's School.

SELECTED SOURCES

The King's School, Grantham, 'The School History' and 'Earliest Days'; Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, 'Grantham, King's School'; Oxford Dictionary of National Biography entry for Richard Foxe; established biographical records for Isaac Newton's education. Historical language is paraphrased rather than reproduced as institutional endorsement.

INDEPENDENT AND UNOFFICIAL - NO SCHOOL ENDORSEMENT IS CLAIMED

History preserved. Debate reopened. Education imagined as free again.