



# Eton College

Culture club



## What have Princes William and Harry and the actor Hugh Laurie got in common?

They're all Old Etonians: ex-students of Eton College.

Eton College, or 'Eton', is a very old and famous school on the River Thames near London. There are 1,300 students at the school, but all the students are boys!

Eton was founded<sup>1</sup> in 1440 by King Henry VI. It was<sup>2</sup> a school for 70 poor<sup>3</sup> boys and their education was free. Today things are different. Eton is a very expensive<sup>4</sup> private school. The school fees<sup>5</sup> are about<sup>6</sup> £30,000 a year<sup>7</sup>!

Eton is a boarding school: the boys don't go home at the end of the school day. They eat and sleep at school, too. (It's similar to Harry Potter's school, Hogwarts!) The students live in small communities, or 'houses'. Every house has about 50 boys. They have their own<sup>8</sup> bedrooms, but there are communal living rooms and study areas. A lot of the houses have their own chefs, too!

The classrooms in the school are very old, but they have modern technology. The boys use laptops in class and all the rooms have an Internet connection. Some of the school subjects, for example, Maths, English and Science are obligatory, but the students choose extra subjects, too. Some boys study Greek, for example, and about 100 students learn Chinese!

Eton has got a lot of traditions. An important tradition is the Fourth of June celebration. There is a procession of boats<sup>9</sup> on the River Thames and the boys wear special flowers in their hats. They wear the hats to honour their school and the British monarch.

But the most famous thing about Eton is its school uniform! The boys wear a very formal black uniform to school every day. The uniform is over 100 years old. The school doesn't want to change it and the boys like it, too!



Prince Harry



Glossary

## Culture focus

La maggior parte dei ragazzi nel Regno Unito (93%) frequenta scuole statali. Le scuole statali sono gratis. Solo il 7% degli studenti frequenta scuole private e paga una retta.

## 1 Leggi e ascolta l'articolo su Eton. Poi rispondi alle domande.

- What is Eton?
- Where is it?
- What type of school is Eton?
- What are the school fees?
- Where do the boys live at Eton?
- What types of modern technology do they use in class?
- What does the 'Fourth of June' event honour?
- What do they wear to school?

## Presentazione orale

## 2 Pairwork A coppie. Rispondete a queste domande sulla vostra scuola. Poi usate le risposte per preparare una breve presentazione orale.

- What is the name of your school? Where is it?
- Is it a state school or a private school?
- Is it a school for boys and girls?
- How old are the students?
- What time does your school start and finish?
- Do you wear a uniform to school?
- Do the classrooms have any modern technology? What?