Leggi e ascolta.

Eton College

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 in 1440 by King Henry VI. It was a school for 70 poor boys and their education was free. Today things are different. Eton is a very expensive private school. The school fees are about £30,000 a year!

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 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 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!