



# King's College

## *The British School of Latvia*

---

### **Ground Breaking Ceremony**

#### **Speech Nicholas Fry, King's Group CDO**

Minister, Ambassador, Mayor, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the ground-breaking ceremony for King's College, The British School of Latvia. This School represents the eighth school in the King's Group and I genuinely believe we could not have chosen a better place, here in Saliena, or a better country to begin our Eastern European expansion. I have been asked by our Chairman, Sir Roger Fry and our CEO Mrs. Elena Benito to extend their greetings and well wishes. They look forward to meeting you all personally.

In this journey we are lucky to count on two strong partners to aid us along the way – Saliena and Espi, represented here by their maximum directors.

To have representatives from Latvian and local institutions signals the importance which this project has for the region and also shows the enthusiasm with which we have been accepted and welcomed to this wonderful country. We are humbled by this reception and by your continued support – thank you from us at King's College.

We are privileged to also have strong and invaluable support from the British Embassy, represented today by Ambassador Colley who, though new to the project, is fast becoming a keen supporter and, dare I say it, friend of the school. Recognition from HM Embassy is key to us as it validates our work and gives us a strong mandate to deliver the best of Britain.

We break ground today surrounded by friends and colleagues and surely, little can be more gratifying.

We began this exciting adventure two years ago and have always felt welcome and at home in this beautiful country. To us Latvia represents the foundation stone of a greater project, an expansion into Eastern Europe with King's College, The British School of Latvia, as the flagship of our effort. For this is exactly what we intend to bring to Latvia – a flagship school which represents the very best of British education – excellence, quality and success. Our Vision is to be at the forefront of British education internationally.

Education is, arguably, Britain's greatest export – more than defence, more than infrastructure, automobiles or aviation – Education is what Britain is recognised for and we have had the immense honour of delivering the very best quality British education around the world for nearly 50 years. We currently have a roll of over 4500 students

spread throughout seven campuses in England, Spain and Panama. We have also been awarded Academy status by HM Government and already have two Academies within our Trust, with a view to continue expanding.

The students that join King's College, The British School of Latvia, will join a wider family – an international one – that consistently sends students to Oxford and Cambridge, Harvard, MIT and Yale, Russell Group universities and the leading universities of Europe, including the Sorbonne and Maastricht.

Our schools consistently rank above most UK public schools and are more than competitive in the league tables with private schools – this despite the vast majority of our students not speaking English as the first language. This in itself is a crowning achievement, but no more so than me being able to say that we are currently teaching second and third generations of families that started with us. This shows that through the years King's College has consistently delivered the type of education that attracted and continues to attract families to our schools.

In a sense these are the impressive statistics, those which will sway a parent or member of staff to join our school. What they don't convey is the strong bond that is developed by staff, parents and students alike to our schools. From our charitable events, to our sports days and our theatrical performances, our extra-curricular events and activities are well attended because of the passion our school community enthuse into every aspect of school life. Yes we are responsible for the academic education of our students, but education covers a lot more than just academia. Sports, art and drama, discipline, manners and respect for one another are also cornerstones of our educational offer.

All this combined means that King's College has the very best reputation amongst the academic world. As a result we are able to attract and recruit the best staff – enabling us to offer exclusively British teachers which deliver the curriculum as if our students were studying at an elite school in the UK. This is very important and a key to our success – we only hire qualified British teachers.

As founding members of COBIS (Council of British International Schools) our Chairman led the campaign to have British Schools Overseas recognised and inspected by HM Government. This was achieved and all of our existing international schools have been ISI inspected with outstanding results – I invite you to read the reports on our website. This is further proof that we are at the very forefront of British education internationally.

Thank you for your time, once again, welcome to our event – it is a pleasure to be here with you all and I hope you have a wonderful time.