

BBC Learning English – Ask About Britain

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Eton College 伊顿公学院

Jin Lu: Here is a question, what did these famous people have in common?

Helen: The Duke of Wellington, the writers Shelley and George Orwell, Prince William and Prince Harry?

Jin Lu: Any ideas? Well they were all educated in the boy's only school Eton College in the UK.

Helen: 欢迎收听 **Ask About Britain** 英国问答节目, 我是 Helen, 和我在一起的是本周特约嘉宾金路同学。

Jin Lu: 大家好, 我是金路。

Helen: 刚才我们提到的那些名人, 他们有着相同的一点就是他们都是伊顿公学院毕业的。Eton college is their common link. And Jin lu, you were very interested in this school, weren't you?

Jin Lu: That's right. It's such a famous school and I was very interested in its history.

Helen: Well, your wish was granted. 能亲自到伊顿采访真的是非常难得的机会。

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My name is Tony Little, and I am the headmaster of Eton College.

Jin lu: Tony Little, 伊顿校长虽然姓 Little 小, 可是他的个子可真不小。

Helen: There's nothing little about him, compared to us he was in fact a giant.

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Firstly could you please introduce to our readers or users briefly about the history of Eton College and some of the defining traditions of the school?

That is a short question that would need a very long answer. Because Eton was founded in the year 1440, which means that Eton has been a school now for 569 years, which is a long time and it's an unbroken tradition over education here. And



that builds a considerable tradition. And over the years, simply by virtue of the fact that Eton has been here so long, there have been a lot of really rather interesting young men who were educated here.

Jin Lu: Doctor Little 介绍说伊顿成立于 1440 年，已经有了近 570 年的历史。

Helen: The educational tradition has never been broken here.

Jin Lu : Never been broken 就是从来没有间断过。所以悠久的历史也让伊顿形成很多传统，也出了不少名人。

Helen: Yes, there have been a lot of interesting young men who were educated at Eton.

Jin Lu: 从伊顿毕业的学生都被称为 Old Etonians 老伊顿。英国历史上有 18 名首相都是从这里毕业的。

Helen: 很厉害。那么伊顿公学园的门槛是不是很高？普通老百姓的孩子们有没有机会进伊顿呢？

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Bear in mind Eton has taken scholarship boys from poor families for over five hundred years, so there is a long tradition of having people from different backgrounds. It's one of the defining features of Eton that there has been this mix from the very very beginning.

Jin Lu: 我听 Little 校长的介绍是穷人家的孩子也有机会上伊顿，但是要看能不能考到奖学金 scholarship. 这个奖学金的历史是学校最初建立时就有的。

Helen: 来自不同社会背景，阶层的人 People from different backgrounds. 伊顿并不是像很多人想得那样，只有富人和贵族才能进，普通人还是有机会的。

Jin Lu: But it is a selective school and so I asked what kind of students are they looking for? 伊顿愿意收什么样的学生？

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By being successful, we mean that it's a boy who is reasonably intelligent, but who has other interests. Because if you are a boarding student, you are in a fully residential school. To enjoy it, you need to be the kind of person who enjoys sports or music or art or drama, all these things, and also someone who has the energy and desire to do these things well.

Helen: Reasonably intelligent 只要不笨就可以了。

Jin Lu: 出了有一定智商以外，最重要的是看一个学生能不能适应住读学校。

Helen: Yes, it's a boarding school or a fully residential school.

Jin Lu: 周末学生也都不回家。因此学生的其他兴趣爱好很重要。像 **sports** 体育，**music** 音乐，**art** 艺术，**drama** 表演都是伊顿的强项。

Helen: **And the school is also looking for someone who has the energy and desire to do well these subjects.**

Jin Lu: **Energy** 精力, **desire** 向往, 渴望。这两点是伊顿在选择学生的时候比较看重的。另外我还问了一个问题, 在男校里有没有接触女生的机会呢?

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I think that is a very fair question of modern age. There is a good place of single sex schools. But they also do need to have social contact as well. We do it through plays, for example, through these evening society meetings where we have people in from other schools, as well as the usual social events.

Helen: 伊顿也会和周边其他学校举办一些集体活动, 比如演话剧 **plays**, 和俱乐部 **society meetings**。

Jin Lu: 这些都创造了男生和女生接触的机会。

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Today it feels very different in the age of internet and ease of contact. There are a lot of people here at weekends. You will see a lot of girls visiting, parents visiting. It is a much more open, fluid place than it was.

Jin: 现在的伊顿公学院比以前可要开放多了, **it's more open and fluid than it was**, **Fluid** 是液体, 但在这里指流畅的。到了周末, 有很多女孩子和家长都会来学校看男友或者是儿子。

Helen: 我们的节目就要结束了。希望通过金露对伊顿公学院 **Little** 校长的采访, 让大家今天对这所著名的中学有了一定的了解。

Jin: **So Helen, would you send your little Leonard to Eton?**

Helen: **May be, if I win the national lottery. And how about you?**

Jin: **It's too early.**

Helen: **That's true. You might have a girl. And we know for sure, Eton will not become a mixed school in the foreseeable future. That's all from us. Bye for now.**

Jin: **Bye-bye.**