

**ENGAGING INQUISITIVE KIND**  
**NURTURING**  
**ACCOMMODATING**  
**ENTHUSIASTIC INCLUSIVE**  
**FRIENDLY INSPIRING**  
**INNOVATIVE**  
**CHALLENGING FUN**  
**MOTIVATING**

# **PREP SCHOOL PROSPECTUS**





# KC PREP KEY FACTS

- ➔ Kent College was awarded a double 'Excellent' in the Independent Schools Inspectorate report in June 2023.
- ➔ The Good Schools Guide says KC Prep is "A school that gives pupils time and space to develop to their best ability within a tight knit community. Bubbling with compassion".
- ➔ Small class sizes with specialist teachers for PE, French, Music, Dance and Drama.
- ➔ Success at 11+.
- ➔ There is wraparound care from 7.30am-7.30pm and free to 5.30pm.
- ➔ Forest Explorers Nursery is for children from the term they turn three.
- ➔ We offer Universal Entitlement funding of 15 hours of free childcare each week for 3 and 4-year-olds and this is available from the term after your child's third birthday.
- ➔ From 2024, boys can join at any point up to Year 3 and each year thereafter until KC Prep is fully coeducational by 2027.
- ➔ There is a sibling discount of 5% on each child's fees.
- ➔ We run a free Parent and Toddler group, Friday 10am-11am during term time, for newborn to 3 years.

# THIS IS PREP

An introduction from Mrs Salli Hall, Head of Prep School



Kent College Prep School is a very special place where children are at the heart of everything we do. We believe that happy children learn best, that great pastoral care underpins everything and that success is gained from the learning journey as much as the destination. Offering opportunities to children who are inspired and willing to give their best, achieves great results.

Our special blend of individual attention and high aspirations in a nurturing community, where success is achieved without stress, makes us an ideal setting for coeducation provision. The space, grounds and facilities lend themselves perfectly to providing opportunities to explore all possibilities for boys and girls. Finding the 'thing' they love and pursuing it with the encouragement and expertise of highly trained specialist staff to support that pursuit, is a huge strength and benefit.

Small class sizes mean we know our pupils really well, ensuring they make the most of their school experience. Small class sizes also means that all children take on significant roles in productions and concerts, and all children play competitive sport.

We know family life is busy and finding the right solution to facilitate modern working life is often a challenge. Our flexible wraparound care proves invaluable to many of our families who make use of part or all of the 7.30am to 7.30pm offer. Breakfast Club, free After School Care for the youngest children, free Homework Club for the older years and Supper Club for those families who need a little extra time at the end of the day makes all the difference.

The KC Prep experience is a happy one, leading to successful, confident and well-rounded pupils who, grounded in the Methodist values of John Wesley – to do all the good you can – are able and ready for whatever their future holds.



A photograph of two young children, a girl with blonde curly hair and a boy with brown hair, both wearing dark blue school uniforms with light blue collars. They are standing in a lush green forest, surrounded by large, vibrant green leaves. The girl is on the left, looking upwards and to the right with a wide, joyful smile. The boy is on the right, looking directly at the camera with a happy expression. The background is filled with dense foliage and tree branches, creating a natural and serene setting.

“A school that gives pupils time and space to develop to their best ability within a tight knit community. Bubbling with compassion.”

**Good Schools Guide, 2023**

The logo for Kent College Forest Explorers. It features a green shield with a white border. Inside the shield, there is a white silhouette of a person climbing a tree. The shield is flanked by two green leaves. Below the shield, the text "Kent College Forest Explorers" is written in a green, serif font. The word "Kent" is on the first line, "College" is on the second line, "Forest" is on the third line, and "Explorers" is on the fourth line.

Kent College  
Forest  
Explorers

# FOREST EXPLORERS NURSERY

Forest Explorers Nursery is for boys and girls from the term they turn three and offers wraparound care from 7.30am–7.30pm.

Set in acres of beautiful countryside, Forest Explorers has outdoor play areas, an orchard, a vegetable garden, mud kitchen and plenty of space for building dens and exploring. It also has the use of the first-class facilities of the Senior School including the astro, sports halls, theatre and music block. Indoors, the Nursery has its own woodland themed wing in the Prep School that has been designed to stimulate young minds; a well-equipped space with a large outdoor play area flowing out of the rooms.

Whether it is reading, arts, crafts or music, children have a wide range of activities to choose from to nurture their curiosity and imagination through play and exploration.

Forest Explorers is run by highly qualified and specialist staff who support the children in every aspect of their development; ensuring their happiness, wellbeing and progress. There are specialist teachers for PE, French, Music, Drama and Dance who prepare the children for the transition to Reception.



## Philosophy

A blended approach to learning inside the classroom and outside, all linked to the Early Years Curriculum, ensures that children develop a wide range of skills and a real love of the outdoors. In the forest, children can think creatively, step out of their comfort zone and work together with their friends. Imaginations can run free, curiosity creeps in, and confidence and independence grow.



# FOREST EXPLORERS NURSERY

The children in Forest Explorers are an integral part of the Prep School which helps with a smooth transition into Reception. Friendships are formed with Prep pupils and our Nursery children have fun taking part in whole school activities, concerts, and assemblies. Forest Explorers children are grouped by age so that their activities and play can be tailored to their age and level of development.

## CATERPILLARS BUTTERFLIES

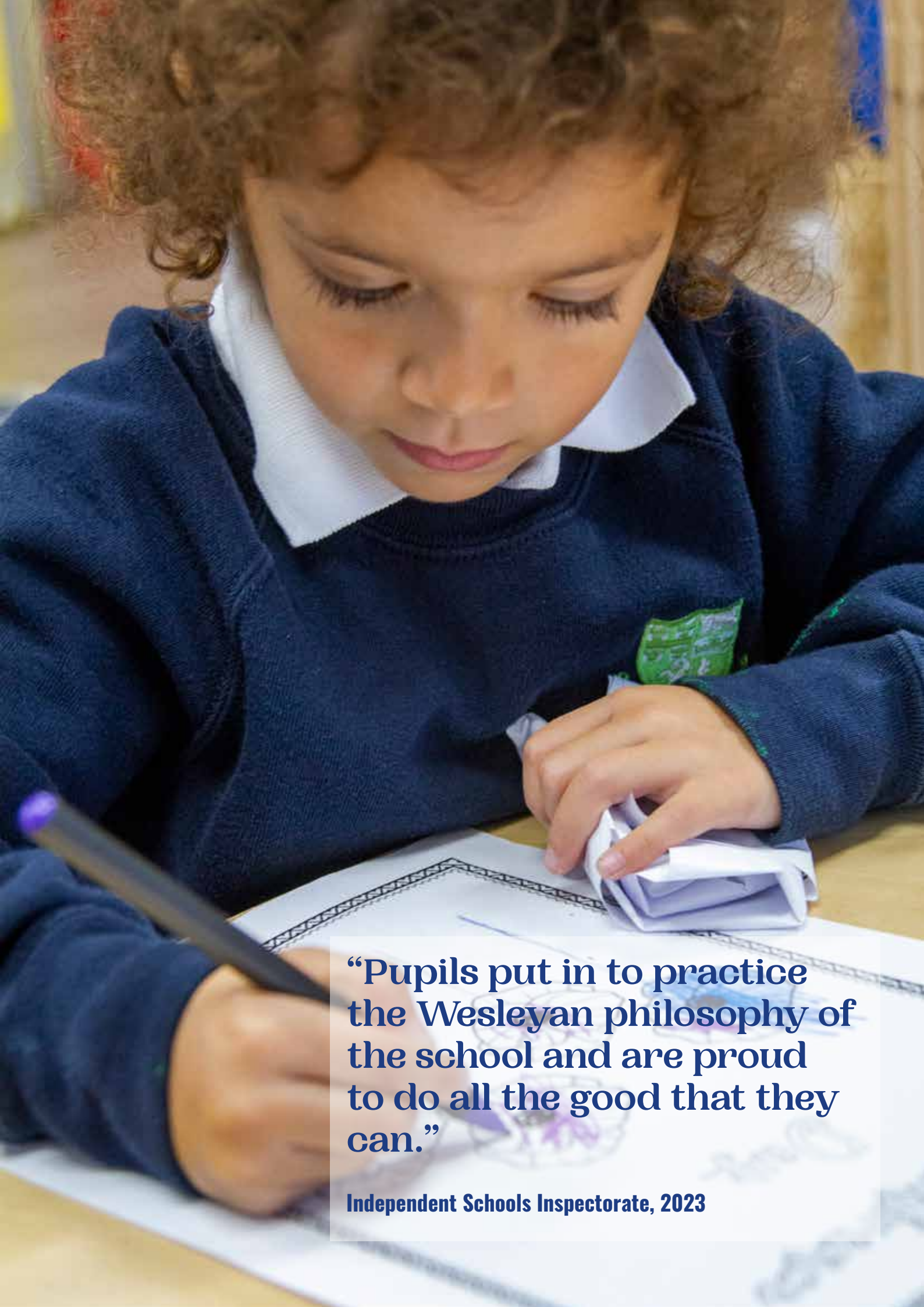
Children can join Caterpillars from the term they turn three and spend their first year at Nursery here before becoming Butterflies. Ahead of children joining, we offer Stay and Play with families in the Nursery, and two fun settling in sessions where new joiners can meet the other children and staff in their Nursery setting.

A typical day for children in Caterpillars may involve counting and sorting beads, acting out a story such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears, playing outside on the climbing equipment in the Early Year's garden and even trampolining in the Sports Hall before eating a delicious lunch in the dining hall. In the afternoon they might make stick people in the forest or play in the mud kitchen before ending the days with a story and songs.

For the last year of Nursery, children move up to Butterflies. As well as maintaining the ethos and way of learning through play indoors and outdoors, we take great care to ensure children acquire the fundamental building blocks of learning and development as they progress through to their Reception year.

With that in mind the focus for our Butterflies' children is getting them ready and prepared for Reception. They have structured learning to enable them to write their name and number recognition as well as reinforcing key skills including being responsible for their belongings, using cutlery and dressing themselves.





**“Pupils put in to practice the Wesleyan philosophy of the school and are proud to do all the good that they can.”**

**Independent Schools Inspectorate, 2023**

# PREP SCHOOL

## OUR APPROACH

**“Pupils display outstanding communication skills. From the youngest age, pupils speak with poise and confidence and listen with care and attention.”**

**Independent Schools  
Inspectorate, 2023**

Here at Kent College Prep, we understand how to help each child grow and develop as an individual, be adventurous and develop skills for life.

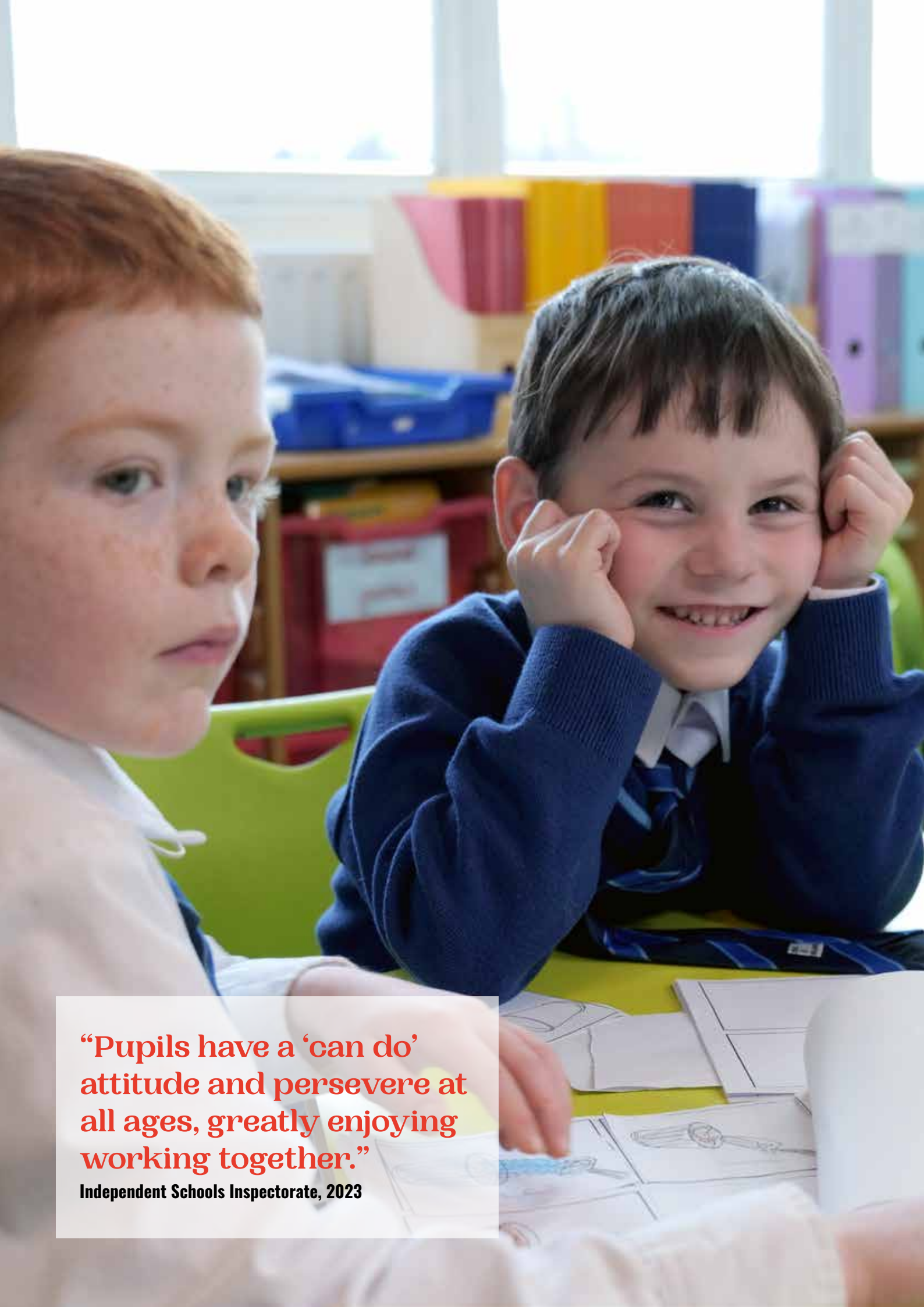
We encourage excellent academic achievement through a personalised approach to learning that caters to every pupil's needs and interests. Experience tells us that children develop at different times so opportunities need to be available at the point when the child is ready to take them. Our adaptive teaching approach sets the same ambitious goals for all pupils with the appropriate level of support.

A broad, exciting curriculum is enriched by weekly outdoor learning opportunities. Outdoor learning is an essential part of our offer and children are encouraged to explore the beautiful outdoor spaces and woodland in Forest School. It allows children to develop skills of negotiation, resilience and independence, and equips them with the courage and confidence they need to navigate life.

Underpinning all of this, is a strong pastoral system, supporting each child's personal development. A buddy system, wellbeing lead, wellbeing prefects, a school counsellor and play therapist all contribute to a supportive network, ensuring that everyone feels safe and confident in the knowledge that their wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do.







**“Pupils have a ‘can do’ attitude and persevere at all ages, greatly enjoying working together.”**

**Independent Schools Inspectorate, 2023**

# ACADEMIC

Our curriculum aims to encourage curiosity in our learners and build confidence to question, whether inside or outside the classroom. Links made between subjects stimulate interest and engage imaginations, whilst skills are developed through problem solving and collaboration in all subjects.

## Values

We instil values such as perseverance, resilience, empathy and kindness in our students, all of which give children the building blocks to become great citizens as they grow. These principles are embedded in our curriculum and fostered through extracurricular activities, community support and fundraising for our chosen charities.

## Global Citizenship

With a focus on global awareness, Global Citizenship lessons have recently been introduced to the curriculum, which will ensure that Kent College Prep children are equipped and prepared with the knowledge and understanding to make impactful decisions in the future. They will learn to empathise with others and understand themselves better as well as valuing their world and thinking about what they can do to make a positive impact in it. The children learn that doing one good thing leads to other good things, creating positive ripples in their worlds.

## Ready for the Future

Our pupils leave the Prep School prepared for wherever their next steps take them. Around half move up to our Senior School each year and the majority of other leavers join the local grammar schools as we have an excellent history of success in the Kent Test.

**“High expectations, strong subject knowledge and expertise characterise the teaching, which challenges pupils at every step.”**

**Independent Schools Inspectorate, 2023**



# SPORT

Sport plays an important part in our provision to develop well-rounded, confident individuals, and also in ensuring that children receive a rich and balanced curriculum. Every week, pupils enjoy a programme of sport, led by highly qualified specialist teachers, using our astro, sports halls and swimming pool. It is easy to see why children make excellent progress from Nursery to Year 6.

From the offset in Early Years, our pupils learn fundamental skills such as running, jumping and hopping through to participating in both team and individual sports. This develops a range of skills including independence, communication, resilience, and encourages pupils to work together to understand how to follow rules and achieve common goals.

Within curriculum PE lessons, Prep pupils will play sports including hockey, netball, football, cricket, trampolining, gymnastics, tag rugby, badminton, athletics, tennis, fitness, cross country and many more. All Kent College Prep pupils from Nursery to Year 6, have a weekly swimming lesson throughout the year.

From Year 3, pupils participate in competitive sports fixtures against other schools, with all pupils having the opportunity to represent the school.

A team of PE teachers run extra curricular clubs and masterclasses before school, at lunch time and after school. Members of the PE Department are top level athletes including two National League hockey players, a Kent netball selector, marathon runners, personal trainers and experts across a variety of sports.



“Sport is led with  
vigour from an  
experienced team  
of staff.”

Good Schools Guide, 2023





**“In a Year 6 English lesson on *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* in the forest, pupils were highly motivated to use the environment as a stage and took time to stop and listen to what they could hear and look at what they could see.”**

**Independent Schools Inspectorate, 2023**



# ARTS

## Drama and Dance

Drama is an important part of building well-rounded, creative young individuals who have the confidence to take on challenges. Drama lessons are an encouraging space where pupils can develop confidence to express themselves and share their ideas. The curriculum is designed to develop transferable skills including communication, cooperation, creativity, emotional understanding and empathy.

Pupils from Nursery to Year 6 have regular opportunities to perform in class, class assemblies and Christmas productions, with lessons and performances from Year 1 held in the Countess of Wessex Theatre.

Pupils can take Speech and Drama lessons where they work towards both Vanguard and LAMDA exams, exploring different genres of poetry, performance, acting and mime.

While dance forms an integral part of the drama curriculum, there are many opportunities to explore passions and interests further in dance classes. Whether it is ballet, pop dance, tap, modern or jazz, all tastes are catered for in our lunch time clubs.

## Music

The benefits of music education are vast, with research showing that the study of music contributes positively to the development of a child's brain, increasing their IQ and ability to problem solve.

Music is very much at the heart of life at Kent College Prep and is studied by all year groups from Nursery onwards. Music teaching incorporates tasks in listening and appraising, performance and composition. Pupils are encouraged to use subject specific terminology to appraise music and study a range of musical genres from different aspects of music history and world music.

Many pupils participate in the numerous music clubs, choirs, orchestra and other instrumental ensembles. Our ethos of 'music for all' ensures all pupils can join a music club and are involved in our assemblies and major events. Termly concerts and annual performances include opportunities for all Prep pupils as well as musicians from the Senior School and visiting professional musicians. Pupils can learn a wide range of instruments through peripatetic music lessons delivered by visiting specialist teachers.



# EXTRA CURRICULAR

## Clubs

Pupils are encouraged to follow their natural talents and passions outside the classroom and there is a huge array of activities on offer to enable our pupils to broaden their horizons. Each term a different list of extra curricular clubs is published, and children are encouraged to try new things. From Spy Club to iPad Gurus to Pop Dance, Young Entrepreneurs to Origami – there is something for everyone.

Music and sports clubs are plentiful; hockey, cricket, dodgeball and football, alongside recorder club, choir and orchestra are a few of the different opportunities on offer which we encourage our pupils to take.

## Visits and trips

Trips are a key part of the learning experience for all pupils of all ages; some link directly to the curriculum whilst others, such as Young Voices at the O2, and residential weeks in Year 5 and Year 6, have a broader educational remit.

Regular visits from authors, poets, Magistrates in the Community and a variety of MPs all offer our pupils new ways to look at and understand the wider world, complemented by regular workshops in internet safety, wellbeing and science.



## Wraparound care

Our wraparound care from 7.30am to 7.30pm provides families with flexible options to suit busy lifestyles and different school runs. Pupils can start the school day from 7.30am at Breakfast Club for a healthy, hearty breakfast that includes a hot meal, pastries, croissants, fruit, yoghurt and fresh juices. After School Care is free for our youngest pupils until 5.30pm, and older pupils can take advantage of our free supervised Homework Club that also runs to 5.30pm. For those needing to stay longer a Supper Club runs to 6.30pm with refreshments and a delicious hot supper at 6.00pm, with the option to stay until 7.30pm if required. Breakfast and Supper Clubs incur small additional charges.

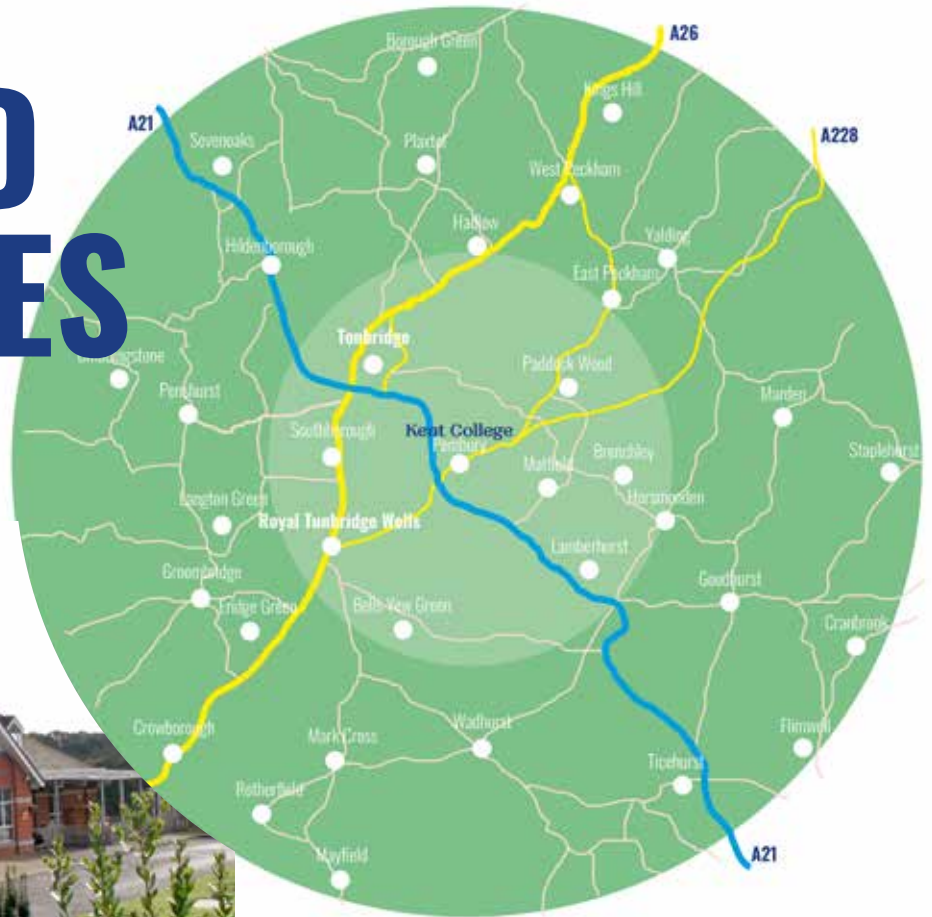




# SITE AND FACILITIES



Prep School



Kent College is located on the outskirts of Tunbridge Wells in the heart of the beautiful Kent countryside. A school transport service runs 12 routes across Kent and East Sussex with a daily return service. This can be booked regularly in advance or used on an occasional basis. Pupils from Year 1 can use the service, subject to conditions.



Forest School



Early Years Playground



Dining Hall



Adventure Playground



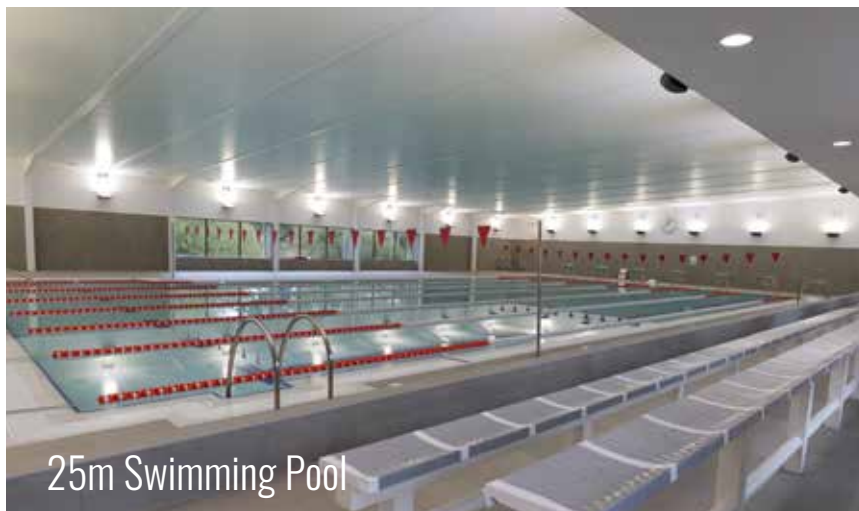
Sports Halls



Computer Suite



Confidence Course



25m Swimming Pool



Astro Pitch



Music Block



Music Classroom



Main School Library



Theatre

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