ENGAGING INQUISITIVE KIND

NURTURING

ACCOMMODATING

ENTHUSIASTIC INCLUSIVE MOTIVATING

FRIENDLY INSPIRING

INNOVATIVE

CHALLENGING FUN

PREP SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

Kent College



KC PREP KEY FACTS

- The ISI Inspection in 2026 concluded all Independent School Standards have been met.
- The school is loving, warm and welcoming, encouraging pupils to be open minded and non-judgemental, respectful of the rights of others, whilst being inclusive of all....' SERVE Report 2026.
- Small class sizes with specialist teachers for PE, French, Music and Drama.
- Success at 11+.
- Forest Explorers Nursery is for boys and girls aged from two-years-old, with additional wraparound care from 7.30am – 7.30pm offered from 3 years of age. For children aged under three years, the nursery day runs from 8am – 5pm.
- Forest Explorers Nursery is for children from the date of their second birthday.
- We offer Universal Entitlement funding of 15 hours of free childcare each week for 3 - 4-year-olds and this is available from the term after your child's 3rd birthday.
- Co-educational Prep School from 2-11.
- There is a sibling discount of 5% on each child's fees; with 10% off a third child's fees.
- We run a free Stay and Play 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. Our vision to unlock the potential of all is underpinned by our Aspire values and the Wesleyan philosophy to 'do all the good you can, for all the people you can.' 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 co-education 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 and their families 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 Kent College 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.

Kent College


FOREST
SCHOOL


Kent College
Forest
Explorers

FOREST EXPLORERS NURSERY

Forest Explorers Nursery is for boys and girls aged from two-years-old, with additional wraparound care from 7.30am – 7.30pm offered from 3 years of age. For children aged under three years, the nursery day runs from 8am – 5pm.

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 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 classrooms.

Whether it is reading, arts, forest fun, 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 help 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 grounds and 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 across the age ranges 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

Children can join Caterpillars from their 2nd birthday and spend their first year at Nursery here before becoming Butterflies. Ahead of children joining, we offer Stay and Play to 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 their classroom. In the afternoon they might make stick people in the forest or play in the mud kitchen before ending the day with a story and songs.

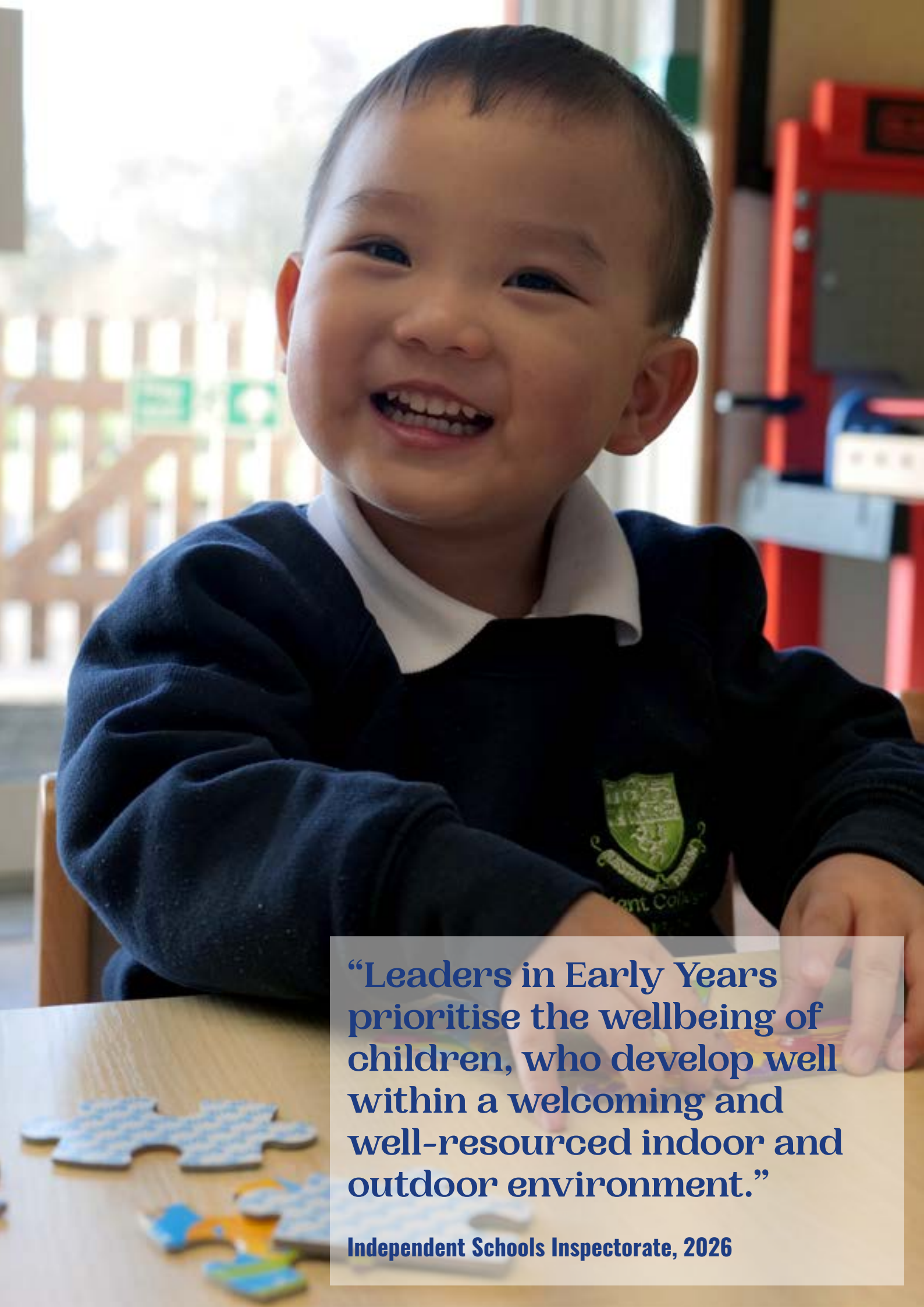
BUTTERFLIES

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 towards their Reception year.

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







"Leaders in Early Years prioritise the wellbeing of children, who develop well within a welcoming and well-resourced indoor and outdoor environment."

Independent Schools Inspectorate, 2026

PREP SCHOOL

OUR APPROACH

“The immediate availability of supportive adults contributes to the pupils’ growth in self-knowledge and confidence.”

Independent Schools Inspectorate, 2026

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. 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 become rational in their thinking, aspirational and independent.”

SERVE Report 2026

















"The school successfully nurtures academic success, personal growth and both physical and emotional wellbeing."

SERVE Report 2026

ACADEMIC

Individual excellence is at the heart of our community and 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 purposeful citizens as they grow. These principles are embedded in our curriculum and fostered through extracurricular activities, community support and fundraising for our chosen charities. As children learn to value and respect themselves, each other and their environment, they become more aware of the positive impact they can make in the world.

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.

"Pupils engage with enthusiasm, showing leadership and resolve by working hard to improve the world around them."

SERVE Report 2026

"Pupils feel secure in their learning and other activities, and are prepared to confront new challenges."

Independent Schools Inspectorate, 2026







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 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.













"Nearly every pupil represents the school in one or more sports."

Independent Schools Inspectorate, 2026











"Pupils have opportunities to take part in a range of high quality activities outside lessons. They contribute to drama, dance and musical productions and gain recognised qualifications in these areas."

Independent Schools Inspectorate, 2026



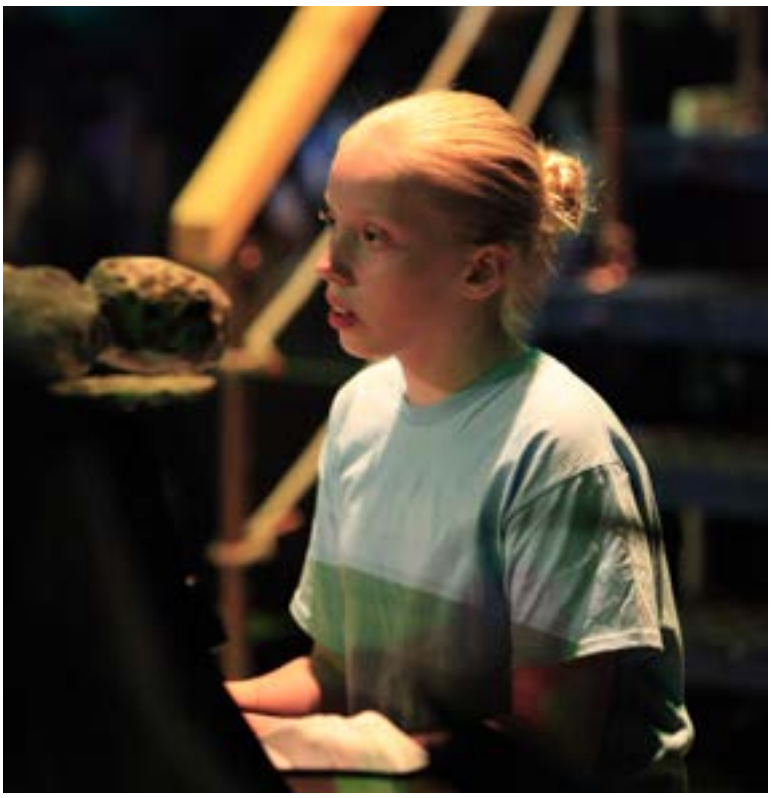
















ARTS

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.

PATHWAYS TO EXCELLENCE

Developing Young Musicians and Athletes at Kent College Prep School

Our Pathway Programme

At Kent College, we believe that everyone should have access to high quality performance opportunities and that Music and PE should be accessible to all. We believe in nurturing talent but also passion, which is fundamentally important in becoming successful in both areas. At Kent College Prep School, we have introduced Music and PE Pathways where skilled and / or passionate pupils in Key Stage 2 are recognised for their contribution to Sport and Music and are invited to join the Pathway programme.

Opportunities for Music Pathway pupils

As part of the Music programme, pupils are invited to join in senior ensembles such as senior orchestra or the scholar's choir. They perform at the Autumn Term Carol Service and perform solos in our Key Stage 3 concerts. Each pupil is also assigned a senior school mentor, who they meet every term. For the Pathways pupils, it is inspirational for them to work alongside musicians who are further along in their journey and to get valuable advice from them. Our senior students benefit enormously from developing skills in mentoring and teaching.

PE Pathway: Developing Confident, Capable Young Athletes

The PE programme is designed to bring our gifted sports people together across both Prep and Senior schools and is dedicated to nurturing talented young athletes in the fields of football, hockey, rugby, netball, cricket, and swimming. It is a programme designed for children in Years 3-6 who exhibit exceptional aptitude, ability and motivation. Each pupil is given a Senior School PE scholar mentor with one-to-one meetings each half term as well as a weekly coaching session with the Prep PE lead member of staff. The scholars provide inspiration for the younger pupils and useful hints and advice on improving performance and team play. Again, our senior students benefit enormously from developing skills in mentoring and teaching. Depending on each pupil's* physicality, maturity and general well-being, there are opportunities for them to 'play up' for teams in older year groups.

Building Confidence and Community

The Pathway opportunities and initiatives, combined with the naturally collaborative nature of music and PE have strengthened both communities within the whole school and proved to be very successful. It has been wonderful to see the Pathways pupils perform with such confidence and maturity alongside students up to year 13. As well as improving their confidence, skills and well-being, they also have a lot of fun!






mitre

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Clubs

Pupils are encouraged to follow their natural talents and passions beyond 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.

"Pupils learning is enhanced by a variety of trips, co-curricular opportunities and outdoor learning."

Independent Schools Inspectorate, 2026

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 for the age of 3 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 6.15pm with refreshments and a delicious hot supper, with the option to stay until 7.30pm if required. Breakfast and Supper Clubs incur small additional charges.


















SITE AND FACILITIES


Prep School


Dining Hall


Forest School


Early Years Playground


Adventure Playground




Sports Halls


Computer Suite




Confidence Course


25m Swimming Pool


Astro Pitch


Music Block


Music Classroom


Main School Library


Theatre

TRANSPORT

Extensive transport links across Kent and East Sussex

Kent College is located on the outskirts of Tunbridge Wells in the heart of the beautiful Kent countryside. A school transport service runs 13 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.

13 BUS ROUTES ACROSS KENT AND EAST SUSSEX



PICK UP FROM MOST RADIUS ZONES

5 MILE
10 MILE
15 MILE



Address:
Kent College
Old Church Road
Pembury
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN2 4AX
UK

Telephone:
01892 820218 (UK)
+44 (0) 1892 820218 (International)
admissions@kentcollege.kent.sch.uk
www.kent-college.co.uk

Kent College