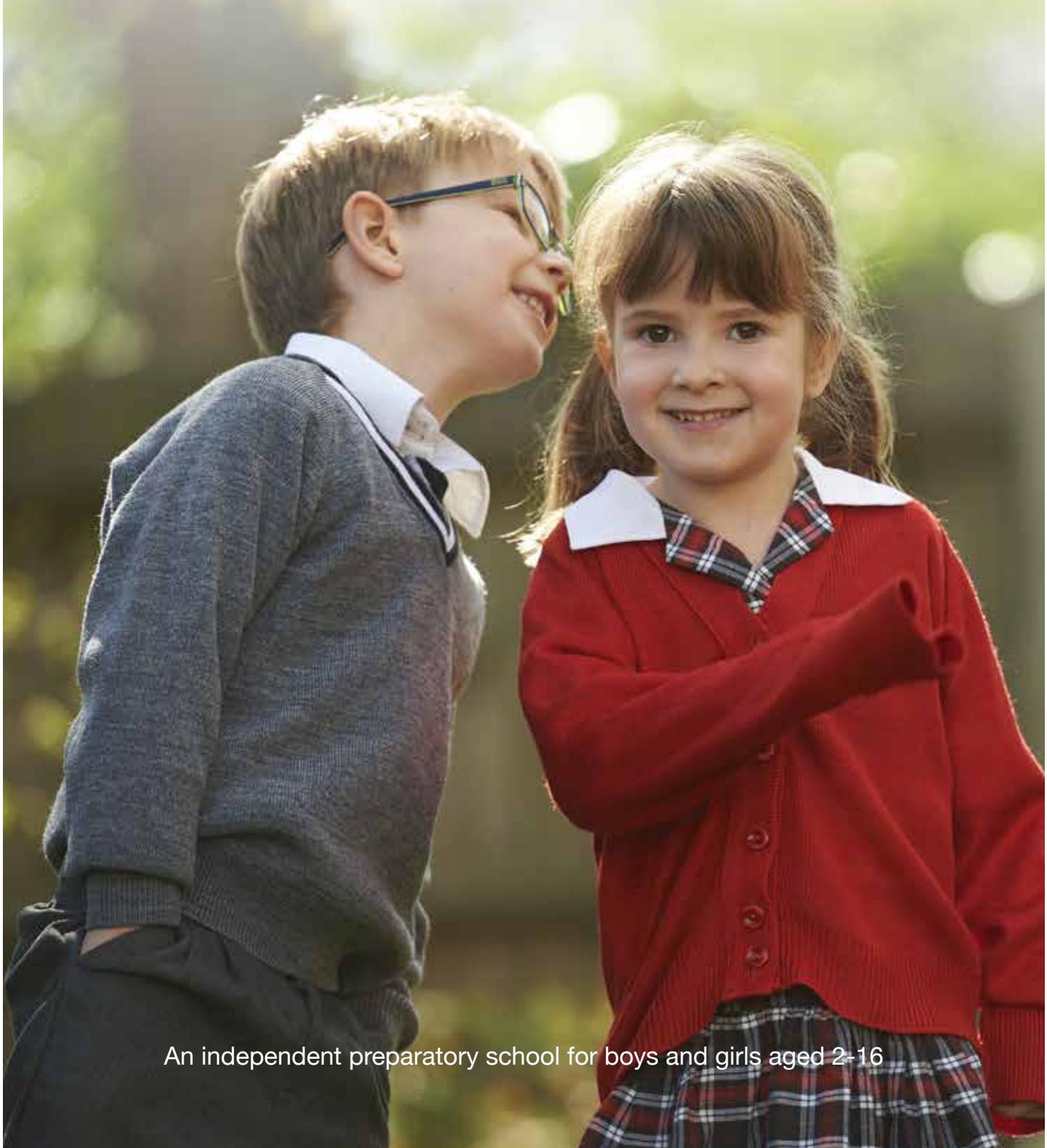




DOWNSEND
SCHOOL

Inspiring young minds



An independent preparatory school for boys and girls aged 2-16



Welcome to the school of happy smiles

As a specialist school for boys and girls from 2 to 16 years old, we understand every single stage of your child's educational development.

We go beyond preparing our children for a place at their first-choice destination school, with a creative approach to learning that inspires young minds from the time they first join us. Through nursery and their early years, and from 2020 on to GCSE's at Year 11, we provide the right platform for academic success.

Our excellent teachers open doors in children's minds at Downsend because they show passion and huge knowledge of their specialist areas. They create hands-on learning experiences that make lessons memorable and fun; they inspire and help to create a lifelong passion for learning and discovery in each child, preparing them for a bright and ambitious future.

We encourage positive, go above and beyond attitudes through a curriculum that sets high academic standards and extra-curricular activities that deliver a vast programme of enrichment in the Creative Arts and Sport. There are no barriers to what our pupils can achieve.

Sport, music, art, drama and technology have their part to play and a look at our termly calendar shows the variety of matches, activities and events that give our children the opportunity to develop their many talents and encourage them to be the best they can be.

We look after each other at Downsend. Our pastoral care is focused on helping the whole child; we make sure everyone always has someone to turn to whether that's a teacher, Peer Mentor, House Captain, Playground or dedicated Lunch Monitor.

Our children have spark because we support them to take responsibility and engage in their own learning. Our approach works! We have a 100% success rate at Common Entrance and over 200 senior school scholarship places have been awarded in the last 5 years.

Ultimately, education is about developing people. We nurture our children to take responsibility for their own learning, to have belief in their individual ability and to have a positive outlook on life. They attain high standards due to the demands of a dynamic curriculum; they celebrate the victories on the sports field and grow stronger from the defeats.

By the time they leave us, they will have developed into confident, polite young people prepared academically and socially for the next step, ready to take full advantage of the opportunities that await them.

Working with parents

Having invested a great deal of time and effort in choosing the right school for your child, you need to be confident that your chosen school is the best environment for your child to thrive in emotionally, socially and of course academically.

Happy children in a welcoming and stimulating environment work hard and achieve excellent results. Their academic progress is underpinned by pastoral systems that support personal and emotional development. We take a proactive interest in every child's well-being and provide a nurturing, and supportive environment, we encourage children to talk to us openly, and promote constructive and supportive relationships between staff and pupils.

At Downsend, we understand that educating children is a partnership between the school and home. By working together and adopting a consistent approach right from the start we can ensure that your child flourishes. Between us we nurture their development, building resilience and determination, empowering the children to feel they can make mistakes as they learn. They grow in confidence, which in turn gives them the courage to challenge themselves and take risks. To try new things and to get back up if they fall down. Most importantly to always have a go. Essential life skills for the future.

The family of every child who joins us is given a copy of our Parent Handbook, which covers the educational journey from our Pre-Preps all the way through to our Lower School, and continuing into Senior School from 2020.

The handbook is designed to help you stay up to date about the key stages of education and life at Downsend. It is packed full of all the detail about how the school operates, how we keep you up to date on your child's progress, what to expect over the coming months and even who to contact if your child is ill... everything you might need to know, in one easy to use booklet.

"I am so impressed by the care and attention every single teacher I have met gives to the school and the pupils. You have created a wonderful nurturing environment which is perfect to encourage children to flourish."

Heather, Year 7 parent

98%

of Reception children meet or exceed the Early Learning Goals.



"New skills, new adventures, new friends. Downsend + runs throughout the half term and school holiday breaks."



Wraparound care designed for working parents

Our range of extended after school care options have been developed specifically to help time-pressed working parents who often need to be in more than once place at the same time, especially at the start or end of the normal school day. All of the Downsend School sites offer an extended day provision, helping to match the school day with your working day.

Ashtead and Epsom Pre-Prep Schools offer a complimentary 'Early Birds' session which runs from 7.45am. Children can stay on to have tea and are able to take part in a variety of play activities with their friends until their parents arrive by 6pm.

Leatherhead Pre-Prep offer breakfast club from 7.30am. Children staying for Extended Day meet together, have tea in

the dining room and then play and take part in fun activities until their parents arrive by 6.00pm.

There is a small cost for our Extended Day which can be booked in advance or on the day, right up until 2.00pm.

For Lower and Upper School pupils at the Prep School, the school is open from 8.00am in the morning, although 'Early Birds' can be dropped at school from 7.35am, thus offering our working parents flexibility. Children can stay after the end of the normal school day until 5.45pm for a small extra charge, with tea available if required.

Downsend + holiday cover

Finding holiday care can be difficult, which is why we have our highly successful Downsend + scheme which operates in the half terms and holiday periods. Downsend + offers holiday care provision for all our pupils and friends of Downsend School in a familiar and secure environment. Downsend + is based at our Prep School and caters for children from 5–13, whilst our younger children can attend Downsend Pre-Prep +, from age 2–5 at our Pre-Prep in Leatherhead.

Run by staff who are involved with teaching the children during term time, it aims to fulfil the needs of parents and children alike. With a wide-ranging choice of activities, it gives pupils access to exciting and absorbing workshops and courses where they make new friends and gain new skills. Combined with our term time schooling, Downsend + can provide 50 weeks of childcare from 8.00am to 5.30pm.

Nursery, Reception, Pre-Prep Year 1

**From our pre-school nursery years:
First Steps and Rising Reception through
to Reception and Year 1, we inspire
hands-on learning in our Pre-Prep family.**

We introduce children to the fascinating world of learning in happy, caring and supportive environments at our three Pre-Prep schools. Each has its own highly experienced team that deliver a structured learning programme which inspires children to explore, discover and play inside and out of the classroom. Children hardly realise they are learning as they investigate shapes and textures in the vegetable patch, or collect and count sticks to make hedgehogs out of clay.

At Downsend we give every child the opportunity to achieve their full potential in all areas of the curriculum. While we follow the Early Years and Key Stage One curriculum, we do go beyond this and provide a broader, vibrant approach. At this important stage in their development, young brains thrive on activity which is why we have a Forest School to take literacy, numeracy and science outdoors and make learning fun. Why we have specialist teachers in music, dance, drama, PE and games. Why we teach French from nursery. And why our after-school clubs introduce children to many new skills.

Throughout their time at Downsend children are encouraged to discover and explore; we never forget we're nurturing the next generation of scientists, mathematicians, linguists, creative artists, and sporting talent. During this period, we're laying the foundations for all that is to come, preparing them for a happy and successful progression towards the next stage of their education at our Prep School and beyond.

"Excellent setting, great teaching staff and facilities who are committed to providing the best learning experience for even very young children. My daughter loves it!"

Emma, Year 2 parent

1:4

Excellent teacher:child ratio in First Steps inspires children to exceed expectations.



Ashtead Pre-Prep

Ashtead Pre-Prep is ideally placed near the centre of Ashtead village. This warm and welcoming child centred school is based in a converted residential house on a quiet road with a large outdoor learning area. The central location of the site allows learning to extend into the community where the children can explore areas such as Ashtead Park, the library and the wonderful woodland area of Ashtead Common.

The spacious layout is ideal for the many learning activities and adventures that our children experience. In the well-equipped classrooms you will find a wide range of activities brimming with interactive activities designed for child-centred learning. The large outside playground has been designed specifically for 2 to 6 year olds, with a great range of play equipment and zoned play areas.

We nurture our children to become happy, confident, independent and successful, capturing each child's inner curiosity to become lifelong learners.

At Ashtead we follow a STEAM curriculum which finds its way into all aspects of our learning, from the sciences to literacy and including the creative arts. The learning and application of the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) skills not only enrich these subjects but give all the children the opportunity to foster positive attitudes towards learning and improves their ability to become critical thinkers. During these early school years, we focus on STEAM through exploration, play and discovering the natural world and the way things work. Developing these skills helps to ensure the children can make their mark in our increasingly varied and technological world.

Leatherhead Pre-Prep

The school was once an Edwardian House called The Rowans. There have been additions to the house over the years, to the side and rear, which today house classrooms and a hall. Behind the house we have a large play area and beyond that there is an extensive field which is ideal for our forest school activities.

The school has a large room for our 2 and 3 year olds called First Steps, two airy and bright rooms for our 3 and 4 year olds called Rising Reception, three large Reception rooms and three Year 1 classrooms, a hall, a kitchen and two dining rooms.

The school has a family feel where children settle quickly and take advantage of our wonderful outdoor space.

Leatherhead has lots of outdoor space for our Forest School as well as indoor creative space, plenty of room to inspire young minds and give children a choice of lively, social, fun or thoughtful activity. Children are encouraged to initiate their own ideas, to be curious, adventurous and explore.

We are in awe everyday of their bright young brains; their capacity for absorbing new skills, the imagination they must have to transform a tree stump in our play area into a lily pad, an elephant, or a bus or create a mud painting from materials they find in nature.

1:8 (on average)

Excellent teacher:child ratio in Rising Reception, Reception and Year 1 inspires children to exceed expectations.



"The love and kindness - especially when children are new in First Steps, - the great facilities and the flexible arrangements and timing of sessions."

Anna, Year 1 parent



Epsom Pre-Prep

Epsom Pre-Prep occupies two converted residential houses tucked in at the end of a very quiet private road, right next to a great park and playground. The outside areas are well hidden from the road and deceptively large with a large playground, field and woodland garden.

The school is made up of three large open plan nursery classes, a hall and kitchen in our Junior House and an open plan Reception classroom with a Year 1 classroom upstairs and library in our Senior House.

At Pre-Prep Epsom we emphasise the importance and value of storytelling, developing a rich and varied vocabulary and a great love of books. Storytelling requires many skills including self-confidence, an awareness of audience, use of the voice to convey meaning, great imagination and the ability to recall and then tell a story keeping an audience engaged. It provides a natural way of developing exciting and active story language for children to apply in their own story making and writing.

"You could not give your child a more rewarding and stimulating start."

The simple joy and magic of storytelling is a crucial part of an all-round education, a core skill for learning and sequencing ideas, a way of developing skills and confidence in speaking and performing, an excellent way to develop higher order thinking skills and a way of developing ideas about stories that enable children to go much further in all areas of learning and the curriculum. Storytelling is an approach used across all areas of the curriculum, from 'telling the story of how 10 is made' to 'telling the story of Victorian children and their experiences in school' to 'telling a directional story to instruct a piece of technology equipment to move from one place to another'. The learning opportunities to be developed through storytelling are limitless!

A large, semi-transparent photograph of two young girls, both wearing red school jumpers over white collared shirts. They are smiling and hugging each other. The girl on the left has blonde hair tied back and blue eyes. The girl on the right has dark hair and is closing her eyes in a happy expression.

Welcome to the Lower School

Children join the Lower School aged 6 in Year 2 and continue through to Year 5.

At Downsend, all of our Lower School pupils are exposed to a varied curriculum that lends itself to personalised learning. We make sure lessons are fun and creative so that your child is excited to learn. History doesn't come alive for children from a dusty book, understanding of fractions doesn't last long if the experience is not memorable.

In the Lower School, learning is immersive; it's hands-on, positive and enriching. Our small classes enable our dedicated teachers to nurture and stretch each child and to help them to achieve their full academic potential.

The Lower School introduces the children to a broad, varied and specialised curriculum, given the experience of working with specialists in subjects like games, music, food technology and textiles. We pride ourselves on the energetic and varied school day we offer to each girl and boy in our care giving them lots of opportunities throughout the school day in which to learn and develop new skills, all while having fun. Our aim is for each individual to shine and we guide each child to achieve their utmost and to excel.

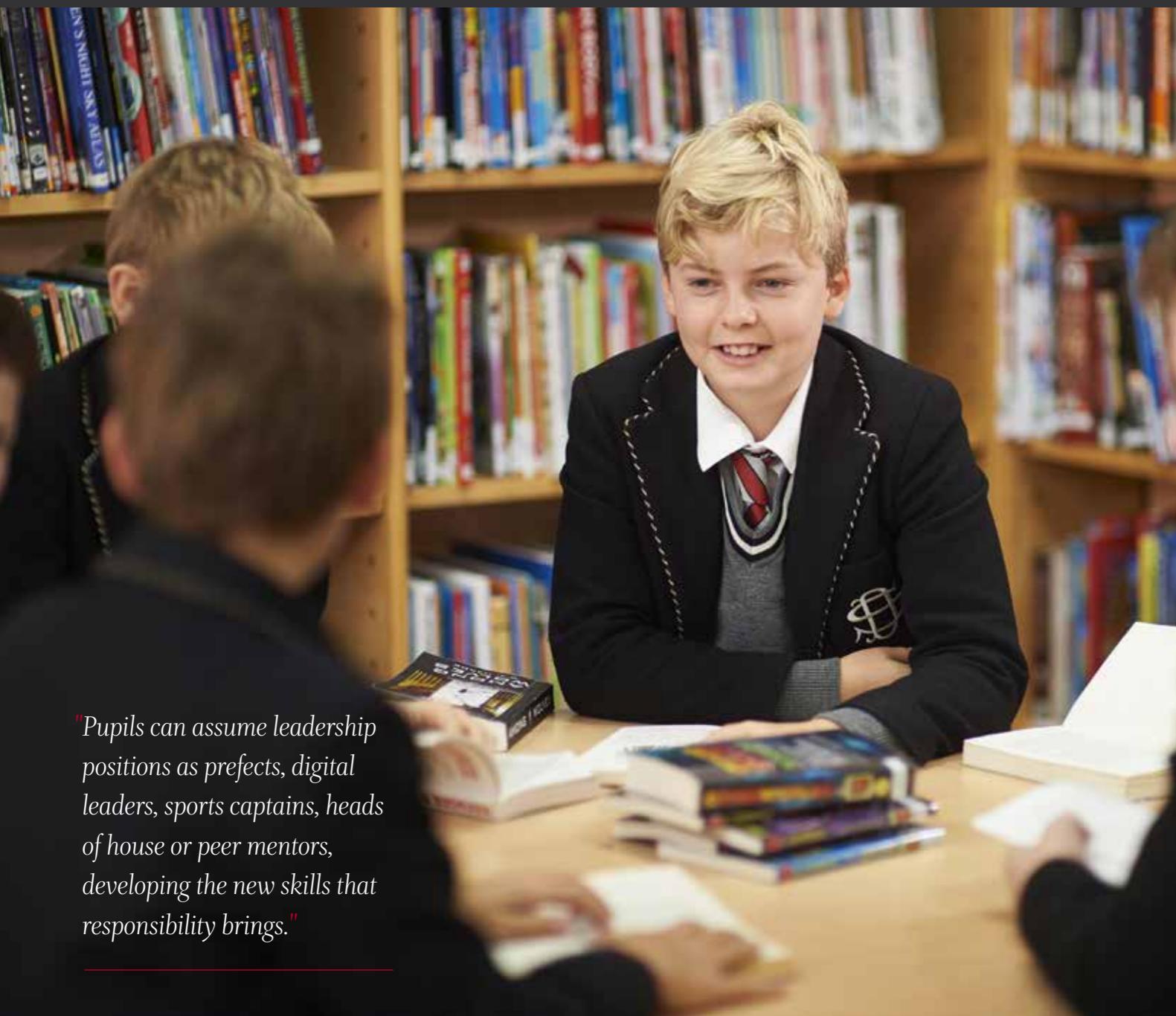
We encourage the children to participate in workshops, concerts, performances and sports events, all designed to support and supplement the school curriculum. There is a full programme of after-school clubs offering sporting, musical, creative and mind-stretching activities, with enthusiasm and a desire to join in being the only criteria for selection.

Children will have an opportunity to participate in a residential trip, camping locally, and later in Year 5 the children go away to an adventure centre to celebrate all they have achieved at the Lower School.

As a Lower School parent, we want to work with you to ensure your child is as happy and successful as possible. We want all Lower School children to thrive academically, socially and emotionally and we work hand-in-hand with parents to provide the best environment for this to happen.

The Lower School will bring your child exciting new opportunities and challenges in both work and play. With an enquiring mind and a little determination, plenty of participation and a ready smile we're confident your child will flourish and have an enjoyable and successful time with us.

"Parents frequently tell us how amazed they are at how quickly their children settle into life in the Lower School."



"Pupils can assume leadership positions as prefects, digital leaders, sports captains, heads of house or peer mentors, developing the new skills that responsibility brings."

Welcome to the Upper School

Children are becoming the leaders of their own future; they show resilience and real determination to succeed.

From the moment children join the Upper School in Year 6 through to Year 8, they develop a clear understanding of what is required of them during this key stage of their education. More importantly, they are encouraged to strive towards academic success for themselves – working with highly qualified and dedicated teachers pupils want to achieve and excel in all they do; during pre-tests, Common Entrance and at Scholarship level.

Academic progress is underpinned by a pastoral system that supports personal and emotional development. We take a proactive interest in each child's well-being and provide a nurturing, and supportive environment which gives them the courage to challenge themselves and take risks, try new things, get up if they fall down, and always, always, always have a go. Downsend children confidently rise to every challenge, take examinations in their stride as part of a natural progression and set the bar higher and higher every year.

At Downsend we pride ourselves on our academic results which is achieved through a combination of inspirational teaching and an academic structure that allows each pupil to progress at a rate suitable for their individual needs.

The curriculum is vibrant and diverse, challenging and entertaining but simultaneously prepares pupils for the relevant 11+ and 13+ pre-tests and examinations. Upper School pupils are taught in well-equipped subject specific rooms by subject specialists, who maximise each child's potential and ensure continuity and progress throughout their Upper School years.

Year 7 and 8 pupils are placed into either a Common Entrance teaching group or a Scholarship group. The Common Entrance pupils are 'set' in the core academic subjects of maths, English, science and French, based on their ability in these subjects, whilst they are taught in mixed ability classes in the humanities, art, technology, ICT and PE. This academic rigour forms part of the Downsend Diploma, a KS3 Programme which readies pupils for the challenges to come at GCSE and beyond. Add in strands for the Creative Arts, Physical, Citizenship and Leadership and it is easy to see why Downsend pupils approach school life with confidence and a can-do attitude in equal measure.

The Scholarship group begins working towards the demanding scholarship papers set by senior schools for the most academic students and we have consistently achieved outstanding results to all of our senior school partners.

The combination of enthusiastic pupils and committed, dedicated and professional staff has brought us much to be proud of and contributes to the atmosphere and ethos within our Upper School. We aim to continue to foster this sense of achievement and the pursuit of excellence across all areas of school life and this is reflected in the breadth and quality of our exam results, scholarship awards and achievements in sport, drama, art and music.

Welcome to the Senior School

What really sets us apart is that we place a special emphasis on getting the very best out of every child.

From September 2020 Downsend School will be providing a Senior School for Years 9, 10 and 11, offering students the opportunity to complete a 3-Year GCSE programme.

All pupils will study at least nine subjects to GCSE level of which English, English language, maths and triple science (biology, chemistry and physics) are compulsory. The other subjects can be chosen from art, computing, design technology, drama, French, geography, history, music, PE and RS.

The Senior School will give our students the chance to study their chosen subjects in depth and develop a broad understanding of the syllabus. They will learn a range of skills and, crucially, learn how to apply them in a range of subject areas.

The newly refurbished Tregenna building will provide the GCSE students with the perfect base in which to balance their academic pursuits. This area of the school houses the teaching areas for English, maths and the languages, as well as the specialist science labs, ICT suites, art studio, DT and food technology rooms. The landscaped area alongside the Sacred Lawn allows our older pupils the chance to reflect and interact with their peers.

From music technology through gardening, swim squad and computer clubs, there are over 70 school enrichment activities on offer to students. Wherever your child shows an interest or a skill, we want to provide them with the opportunity to enjoy and develop their skills and interests.

As students make their way through the Upper School and into the Senior School, they will have the opportunity to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award in Year 9, whilst having the option to complete the Silver Award in Year 10.

No two days are ever the same at Downsend and school life is certainly never dull. Termly drama productions, rock band performances and concerts offer everyone the chance to perform on stage, or to support behind the scenes. Ski trips, cultural exchanges and sporting tours broaden horizons and develop a truly global perspective on the world.

By the time they leave Downsend at 16, our students will have developed an independent, problem-solving approach to their own learning and will be confident of developing these skills further at A-Level standard in the future. We are working with our 6th form partner schools to ensure they secure places at an impressive choice of through schools and Sixth Form colleges including Esher College, Reigate College, Godalming College and Collyer's, in the independent or maintained sector.

"At Downsend, we pride ourselves on offering a truly outstanding all-round education to all of our students."



Long term investment in Downsend has enabled us to benefit from significant refurbishment and improvement to many of the key areas of the school. Alongside this programme of refurbishment we are planning the development of a brand new Creative Arts Centre which is scheduled to open in September 2020, subject to planning consent.



Creative Arts Centre

Purpose-designed, the Creative Arts Centre, will provide a multi-purpose performance hall, new teaching rooms and other specialist facilities for music and drama. All four schools in the Downsend family will benefit from its use and our pupils will have the wonderful experience of staging productions in a tailor-made setting.

Key features will include a double-height performance hall with retractable seating for 200, a 'black box' drama studio, multi-purpose teaching space and dressing room, two specialist music teaching rooms, a recording studio, five small and one large practice rooms and extensive storage for musical instruments and props.

Music is an integral part of the curriculum at Downsend. Learning to play and appreciate music can engender a lifelong enjoyment and pleasure, increasing creativity and developing a child's self-confidence and social skills.

All pupils are taught to sing, to play tuned and un-tuned percussion and the basics of music theory in class. We have a dedicated team of peripatetic music staff offering tuition on flute, saxophone, clarinet, oboe, recorder, violin, viola, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, cello, drum kit, percussion and singing. All children are encouraged to join one of our ensembles and children with outstanding musical talent have the opportunity to apply for a Music Scholarship.

Drama is taught through direct subject teaching but is also often integrated within a topic or another curriculum subject, especially English. The teaching of drama helps to develop pupils' respect and consideration for each other by encouraging turn-taking, acknowledgement of ideas, appropriate and safe behaviour and listening skills.

It builds confidence and self-esteem by involving pupils in a range of drama methods and activities, enhancing their capacity to express ideas and feelings and encourages pupils to work constructively as a member of a group using skills of leadership, discussion and negotiation.

At Downsend, we believe that art and design is a very important component of a balanced and rounded education.

Through a broad and challenging programme of study, we encourage pupils to work imaginatively, express themselves creatively, and develop their problem-solving skills.

Through the teaching of art and design, we aim to enable pupils to develop an appreciation and enjoyment of art and to encourage individuality, initiative and creativity. By providing opportunities to develop skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques we help them to develop the skills to evaluate and analyse artistic works using an appropriate vocabulary. These skills are further nurtured with popular trips to The National Gallery and The National Portrait Gallery.

All children use a sketchbook to record their ideas and inspirations as well as to support the development of their work. Every year, pupils develop and build upon their skills with a drawing and painting project in the autumn term, followed by printmaking and sculpture projects in the spring and summer terms.

These projects encourage pupils to **create work that combines a stimulating idea with a cultural or historic reference** using a suitable material and technical process that allows the qualities of the theme to be explored.

We actively encourage all pupils to take part in the annual house art competition, as well as entering local and national art competitions, and for those pupils who really enjoy art and design there are the Printmaking and Scholarship Art clubs which meet weekly.



"Science is a fast-paced, interactive subject that has a bearing on all aspects of our lives."



Science & Technology

We teach in a practical and hands-on way which is not limited to the laboratories and classrooms, making use of our grounds and various school habitats.

Science captures a child's attention, excitement and desire to learn and, together with our very experienced lab technician, we bring the science curriculum to life.

At Downsend we want to promote the collaborative learning of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths (STEAM). We pay attention to integrating STEAM skills across the curriculum, with a view to inspiring and encouraging pupils to develop their enthusiasm and skills in these areas. Through STEAM, pupils also develop a valuable set of skills including teamwork, independence, reasoning and critical and creative thinking. Science enrichment is vital to delivering a creative curriculum that provides opportunities for everyone. Clubs and trips are tailored to give all pupils the opportunity to develop their love of science.

Technology is about exploring how and why things work and from this, creating something new. At Downsend, design and technology is an inspiring and practical subject which prepares young minds to think through problems and create solutions in wood, plastic, electronics, fabric and food. Children are taught in dedicated, modern teaching environments including a spacious workshop with a laser cutter, fret saws, hand tools and heat press, a textiles studio with sewing machines and a well-equipped food room.

Throughout their time at Upper School there is a diverse programme of study covering food, graphics, product design and textiles. With a focus on developing practical skills, children are encouraged to investigate materials and processes, develop ideas and create functioning or edible products with increasing independence, resilience and creativity. Projects are designed to build on existing knowledge and skills, both traditional and contemporary, with strong reference to the core curriculum subjects.

Our after-school clubs allow children to explore design and technology in more depth, extending their skills and interests, giving the opportunity to develop a portfolio of work which they could potentially use for scholarship applications. A Technology Scholarship programme is available for pupils wishing to pursue design and technology or All Rounder Scholarships at Senior Schools.

At Downsend our aim is simple; to develop curiosity, knowledge and understanding in a creative and interactive way which helps to foster a love of science and technology that pupils can take with them beyond Downsend. Encouraging independent thought and inspiring a wonder for the world around them.

Sport

Sport plays an important part in the daily lives of pupils, as we believe in providing a broad programme from an early age. We endeavour to offer as many sports as possible, both within the curriculum time and through our extensive extra-curricular programme. Sport is immensely popular at Downsend, with many opportunities for children of all abilities to have a go at a competitive sport, representing the school or their house. We encourage all pupils to take part and find as many opportunities as possible for them to 'have a go'.

We have an excellent reputation for sport both in terms of the success of our sports teams and also the breadth of opportunity available. Whether in a team or individual environment, our pupils have the support to achieve success in their chosen pursuits, both in and out of school.

We are fortunate to have excellent facilities: the external playing fields extend to 16 acres and include two cricket pitches, three rugby pitches, four football pitches, four rounders pitches, hard courts containing six tennis and four netball courts, a floodlit all-weather hockey pitch and a Sports Pavilion with changing facilities. Besides our sports hall, which is generously equipped for all indoor activities including four cricket nets, we have an athletics track and a fabulous 25-metre swimming pool.

From Year 2 all pupils take part in sport, with two sessions per week, and fixtures for the major sports each term.

We are very proud of the sporting success that our pupils have achieved in both individual and team events. Girls and boys across all year groups are regular winners in local and regional tournaments and competitions, in football, rugby, cricket, hockey, netball, rounders, swimming and athletics.



70+

Over 70 different extra-curricular activities, plus a dynamic programme of sport, music and drama.

50 weeks

Year-round learning and childcare provision, matches the school day with your working day

Enrichment & Extra-Curricular

Through our extensive enrichment opportunities, we seek to inspire every pupil, encouraging them to pursue and develop their individual interests and abilities, providing them with valuable learning experiences outside the classroom. At Downsend academic excellence is a given, we also want to help our pupils build confidence and find a diverting outlet and relaxation from their studies.

By offering a wide variety of opportunities both within and outside the curriculum we aim to promote independence and interpersonal skills, developing self-confidence, character and identity. Nurturing these key traits whilst providing a broad range of experiences for pupils to find a new skill or passion is the backbone to our enrichment program.

Alongside the Downsend day, there is an equally dynamic programme of extra-curricular activities with a huge range of clubs running both at lunchtimes and after school each term covering everything from Ballet to Tag Rugby and from Chess to Hip Hop and Street Dance.

Life at Downsend does not stop at the end of the school day, or even at the end of a term. Pupils in every year group take part in an enormous number of day and residential experiences. In a world where future progress is often influenced by the wider skills, hobbies and interests of a person, we urge all pupils to adopt a more dynamic and flexible approach to their enrichment programme. Engaging in areas of interest, but also developing a range of skills and experience are vital tools to any pupils' success in a fast evolving and competitive world.

Through engaging in the wide range of trips on offer at Downsend, pupils become experienced in dealing with issues of personal and social development, team building and leadership. Our aim is that these experiences provide Downsend pupils with the platform to embark upon successful lives as independent, confident, open minded and resilient young people who inquire, innovate and communicate.





Downsend Diploma

The Downsend Diploma has been developed as an exciting and innovative award for our Upper School pupils to celebrate all their achievements and successes with us, academically and beyond.

Designed around a rigorous academic core, this award combines the best of the ISEB syllabus with the very best practice from the Middle Years International Baccalaureate (IB) and development programmes including the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme.

Each pupil is rigorously assessed, rewarded and recognised for all the skills and achievements they attain across all areas of our school life covering Academic (double award), ASE/ACE Commitment, Citizenship, Creative (double award), Leadership and Physical attainment.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

We believe it's important our pupils understand the world around them and mature into globally responsible and conscientious citizens. From September 2020 our Senior School will be encouraging all pupils in Year 9 to undertake the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, developing skills and confidence that will be invaluable in their later lives. There will be an opportunity to complete the Silver Award during their time in Year 10.

We feel it gives our pupils the chance to make a difference to other people, whilst receiving recognition for undertaking activities they enjoy. Unlike many of the challenges our pupils face every day, this scheme provides a personal challenge rather than a competition against others.

Each pupil's programme is tailor-made to reflect their personalities, abilities and interests. Through the learning of new skills, volunteering, engaging in physical activity or expeditions, pupils develop healthy lifestyles, make new friends and memories whilst engaging with the great outdoors.

Our global family

What kind of education genuinely prepares young people for the future? How can schools ensure their pupils are well-equipped to navigate the unknown paths ahead?

Downsend School is part of Cognita, an extraordinary network of diverse yet connected schools, spanning eight different countries. We share one common purpose: to create an inspiring world of education that builds self-belief and empowers individuals to succeed.

Together, we provide a uniquely global education that goes beyond grades to develop the skills young people need in order to embrace the opportunities – and challenges – they will face beyond school. Qualities like resilience and a global mindset, cultural awareness and collaboration – these, alongside strong academics, are at the heart of a Cognita education.

As a global family, we connect with each other to share expertise, insights and best practice across the world to help us develop rich learning environments in every school.

“A uniquely global education that goes beyond grades to develop all-round academic excellence”



When your classroom is the world, thinking big comes naturally. Our 70+ schools in Europe, Latin America and Asia equip young people with the confidence and resourcefulness that prepares them to grow, thrive and find their success in a fast-changing world.





DOWNSEND SCHOOL

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