



DOVER COLLEGE

NURSERY | PREP | SENIOR | SIXTH





Welcome to *Dover College*

We are an independent, co-educational day and boarding school for children aged 3-18 years. We offer a vibrant national and international community, and we are committed to academic success and an all-round education for our pupils.

At Dover College, **personal bests** matter.

It is our belief that as a parent, or a school, we can ask no more of our children than for them to achieve their best – in the classroom, in their personal development, on stage, in sports or in the varied activities they engage in daily. These personal bests look different for each and every child and we celebrate them when they are achieved.

As a member of the Round Square global network of schools, we believe that all young people should receive an education infused with opportunities to develop a sense of Adventure, Democracy, Environmentalism, Internationalism, Leadership and Service.



Watch our school
video, 'Personal
Best'

From The *Headmaster*

Choosing a school for our child is one of the most important decisions we have to make. You will by now be fast becoming a veteran of this! You will have visited countless websites, thumbed through numerous prospectuses and read pages of reviews. But in making your selection I urge you to cut through the veneer of good marketing and delve into the soul of the school you are considering. You'll see many claim to educate the "whole child", as though educating just part of a child might be an option. **But just how is that promise lived out each and every day for each and every child?**

I hope that this prospectus gives you a sense of our approach to education, as well as what a happy and successful community we are.

Please do come and visit! We are two minutes by road from the Port of Dover, an hour by train from London, and just over an hour and a half by road from Gatwick, Stansted and Heathrow airports. My team and I can promise you a very warm welcome.

Mr Simon Fisher





academic
(ækədəmik)

adjective:

used to describe things that relate to the work done in schools, colleges, and universities, especially work which involves studying and reasoning rather than practical or technical skills.

Academic

Dover College is a refreshingly different kind of school. **Unlike so many schools, we do not ask pupils to sit an entrance test.** Instead, we are more interested in potential and the academic journey a child can go on in their time here.

Ours is a community made up of a broad church of pupils. Voracious readers, historians, mathematicians, musicians, sportswomen and men, performers, filmmakers, artists - and many others - live and work together and inspire each other daily.

Academic success, for us, is about a child achieving their potential - whatever that might be. For some it will be three A* grades. For others three C grades will represent the same hard-fought victory. Our pupils regularly find themselves achieving at a level far beyond what they - or their parents - might first have thought possible. Strong pupil progress at Dover College is in part achieved through our small class sizes. Our staff really get to know every child, to ensure that they are stretched and challenged in areas of strength and given extra support and encouragement where it is needed.

At the heart of our academic ethos is the belief that growth is possible. We instil in pupils the confidence that setbacks don't write-off subjects and that through hard work and utilising the support available, the door is always open to excelling in a subject.



“My desire to pursue a career in filmmaking was first sparked in the Creative Digital Media classroom. The support I have received to follow my dream has been outstanding.”

Current Pupil





iPads

We all know how important a high level of digital competence is now. It sits alongside literacy and numeracy as a basic requirement from any employer. **As a school, we are committed to preparing young people for life and work in a digital-first society.**

In 2021 we embarked on a 1:1 iPad scheme for all pupils from Prep 3 to Upper Sixth. Pupils in Early Years, Prep 1 and Prep 2 have access to a bank of shared iPads.

Technology can have a transformational impact when used well. By equipping our pupils with a device which can be used both at school and at home, enormous educational benefits are reaped. We are now seeing our pupils working even more creatively and collaboratively, as well as demonstrating better organisation and greater independence in their learning.

We are proud of how the programme is running and the novel ways our pupils and staff are finding to enhance learning and teaching in the school. Amongst other tools, we use the Google Suite for Education and Satchel One to enhance the learning experience.

“Satchel One lets me know what prep my children have and it instantly notifies me of behaviour points they have received.”

Current Parent

“I have been able to research things online with ease and can communicate more readily with my teachers.”

Current Pupil





pastoral
(pa:st(ə)rəl)

adjective:

relating to a teacher's responsibility for the well-being of the pupils in their care.

Pastoral

The welfare of each of our pupils is at the heart of everything that our staff do. Settling into College life is made easy by our excellent pastoral structure, which is delivered through our strong and established house system for both boarders and day pupils. It includes a dedicated tutor team who support the residential boarding team in each house.

With so many staff available, pupils always have someone to turn to for help and support. There is regular monitoring of academic and personal progress through our grading and report system and this, alongside good communication with parents, ensures that pupils feel supported on their educational journey through the school. Our Assistant Head (Safeguarding) works closely with the Deputy Heads of Prep and Senior to ensure that all pupils feel happy and comfortable at school. She is aided by a team of pastoral staff as well as trained peer mentors, made up of pupils from the older year groups.

Our dedicated Medical Centre has recently been refurbished and is for the use of all pupils, both day and boarding. The Medical Centre is open during school hours and is staffed by a team of Registered Nurses with experience of dealing with a breadth of child-related illnesses. It is the aim of the Medical Centre staff to provide a friendly, efficient and professional service to all pupils who need the services of the centre. All boarding pupils are registered with the local GP surgery and are escorted to appointments.





“Pupils throughout the school are naturally thoughtful of others. They exhibit a strong moral awareness and have an excellent understanding of the difference between right and wrong.”

Inspection Report, 2020

“There is a real sense of a ‘family’ atmosphere throughout the place.”

Muddy Stiletto, 2020

“Dover College is a family. They look for the areas of your child that they can develop and encourage that every step of the way. Every child is famous and their successes are celebrated by the whole school community.”

Current Parent

“Not only have our children been welcomed with open arms, but we have too. We love the sense of family and community that Dover College life brings to us all. It’s hard to put into words the difference it has made and just how special Dover College is.”

Current Parent

Boarding

We have a rich and diverse boarding community made up of pupils from the UK and around the world.

Our boarding houses provide a warm, vibrant and caring environment, where welcoming staff promote kindness, compassion, respect, and resilience. We delight in seeing our boarders develop into fulfilled and successful young adults with high self-esteem and strong values. We are confident that by the time they leave us, each one is a young adult well prepared to cope with the many and varied challenges of modern life and ready to take their place in society.

All boarding pupils are given comfortable well-furnished accommodation in single rooms. Many pupils bring their own computers and other equipment into school, making communication with family and friends outside school easy and natural. Arrangements for weekend leave are as flexible as possible, and there are no exeat weekends, so parents do not need to worry about organising weekend care with a guardian.

Boarding pupils are given full access to the College's facilities throughout the week and benefit from a well-planned programme of activities at weekends. Each week an activity or an outing is arranged for the younger boarders. More senior pupils are encouraged to participate in the activities programme, but some prefer to have some time of their own to work or socialise with other pupils. Each boarding house has good entertainment facilities, with house-based events occurring on a regular basis. There is a healthy rivalry between all houses, who compete on the games field and on other many other occasions. The highlights of the year are the House Music and House Drama competitions, which are always keenly contested!





Co-Curricular

We are delighted to offer an exciting co-curricular enrichment programme made up of sport, academic societies, adventure, arts and charitable service. **With over 50 activities spread out over the week, and with more at the weekends for boarding pupils, there is something to entertain, thrill, motivate and develop every pupil.**

We strongly believe that pupils' all-round development and readiness for life beyond school requires participation in a range of activities and experiences that cannot be delivered in the 'regular' curriculum between 8.30 am and 4.20 pm. Our programme of co-curricular activities therefore plays a crucial role and we want all pupils to access the range of experiences so as to add value to their education and experience at the College.


The expectation is that every pupil will participate in at least two co-curricular activities every week. We recommend a range of activities to include at least one sport or exercise related choice.

Most activities are open to all and during our Community Day in September, pupils have an opportunity to meet the teachers to talk with them about the activity on offer and make their choices for the first term.

With so much choice, there has never been a better time to develop hobbies, passions and interests to run alongside our academic curriculum. All co-curricular involvement counts towards the Round Square Passport which Senior School pupils work to complete.

"Notable success is achieved by pupils in the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award scheme and participation in this scheme is high, relative to the size of the school."

Inspection Report, 2020



“Pupils achieve highly in the wide range of co-curricular activities available to them. These activities are invariably led by those with expertise, and they successfully develop the pupils’ talents, enabling the pupils of all abilities to be encouraged to take part and achieve success.”

Inspection Report, 2020

Sport

Our aim is to give every pupil at Dover College the best sporting opportunity, whilst endeavouring to help each individual fulfil their potential. In doing so we hope to promote a positive, lifelong approach to sport and fitness as well as promote excellence for those who choose to pursue sport to a higher level. We are able to achieve this by providing an extensive provision of activities. Across the year, our major sports are rugby, hockey, football, netball, cricket and rounders. Outside of these main options we also offer golf, horse riding, sailing, badminton, gym, esports and much more.

As a school, we aim to be competitive across all sports but also emphasise the importance of equal opportunity, full participation and fair play through both team and individual games. This approach ensures all children are given the same opportunity whilst also developing a competitive spirit. When recognising emerging talent within school sports we not only encourage participation at local clubs to further development but will also enrol pupils into district or county trials.

The vast number of sporting opportunities reflect the College's belief that sport, in some form, should be an integral part of a pupil's school life. This is made possible through contributions from various members of the teaching staff as well as input from specialist external coaches.

Sport is not only valued for the health benefits and well-being of our pupils, but also for the enormous benefits it brings to teamwork, interpersonal skills and confidence.

"Pupils participate enthusiastically, and school teams of all ages are successful in a range of competitions."

Inspection Report, 2020





"In his first week, I have a picture of him after returning home from his first rugby match in full Dover College kit, smiling from ear to ear. We don't remember him ever looking so happy after a day at school!"

Current Parent

The Arts

At Dover College we understand the fundamental role of The Arts in allowing students to express themselves and achieve their personal best.

Our thriving Drama Department strives to challenge and entertain, to inspire and build self-esteem, and to instil a strong sense of teamwork. Pupils are not only encouraged to develop their confidence on stage but also to collaborate as stage crew members specialising in areas such as stage management, sound design, lighting design and costume design. Our annual school production is a highlight, with performances of Macbeth and Beauty and the Beast in recent years. In addition, we offer LAMDA tuition in Public Speaking, Acting, Musical Theatre and Speaking Verse & Prose.

Music plays an important role in the life of the school with plenty of opportunities to learn, develop and share in music-making activities. A team of instrumental teachers visit the school every week to provide individual tuition on musical instruments of all shapes and sizes. There are opportunities to share in the fun and satisfaction of performing together, ranging from rock bands through to traditional ensembles. The College Choir rehearses weekly and sing in our Chapel services and in concerts. For those not so keen on performing, we have a suite of iMac computers running music production and composition software.

Our Art Department, which encompasses Art, DT and Photography, enables pupils to attain an excellent grounding in basic techniques. This includes work in a wide range of materials and processes including fine art, resistant materials, two-dimensional media, photography, textiles, ceramics and the use of computer aided design (CAD) software.



A young boy with short dark hair is shown in profile, smiling and looking down. He has colorful paint splatters on his face and a white t-shirt. He is holding a paint palette in his hands. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage and a bright blue sky.

Round Square

Dover College is a Round Square school. We are proud to be part of an internationally diverse network of 200 like-minded schools in 50 countries across six continents. **Round Square schools connect and collaborate to offer world-class programmes, experiences and exchanges that aim to develop global competence, character and confidence in its pupils.**

Built around six themes identified by German educational philosopher, Kurt Hahn, the IDEALS – international understanding, democracy, environmental stewardship, adventure, leadership and service enable member schools to share a commitment to character education and experiential learning. Founded in 1956, the Round Square organisation enables pupils to make positive and meaningful contributions and connections to the local, national and global society, which will enrich them for the rest of their lives. With a diverse range of experiences and opportunities extending far beyond the classroom, pupils are challenged and stimulated physically, emotionally and intellectually.

Exchange opportunities enable pupils and staff to experience other languages and cultures for extended periods of up to three months. Service projects give pupils the opportunity to work as volunteers on community projects abroad with clear objectives such as installing clean water systems and building school buildings.

More details about the Round Square organisation can be found at www.roundsquare.org.

The logo consists of a red square with a white circle in the center. Inside the circle, the words "ROUND SQUARE" are written in red, uppercase letters.

ROUND
SQUARE



“Dover College has just been appointed as a Round Square school, which is a network of schools worldwide that all sign up to founder Kurt Hahn’s six ideals: Internationalism, Democracy, Environment, Adventure, Leadership and Service. The benefit for the pupils is that it will bring increased opportunities for overseas exchange and community projects and this plays to the international status of the school.”

Muddy Stiletto, 2020



Careers

It is important to us that all pupils are fully supported and guided through the process of planning their futures. With a full time, highly experienced and qualified careers professional, a whole school commitment and a programme of education, information, advice and guidance for all, we believe Dover College pupils are well prepared for their futures.

All staff play an active role in preparing our students for their next steps. We have a full programme of careers education which will help pupils to develop the knowledge and skills to understand themselves, research the opportunities available, make decisions and move successfully on to the next stage. The programme is delivered through PSHE, special events, enrichment programmes, visits, trips and assemblies and also within individual departments and tutor time. Careers Focus Week runs annually and ensures that careers is fully embedded into the curriculum.

When it comes to making applications, our success rate for all our pupils is very high. This could be a degree apprenticeship, a valuable gap year, voluntary opportunity, a vocational course, or a university course including highly competitive courses or universities. For those opting for the most competitive applications, the Top Flight programme offers specialist support to increase pupils' chances of success. Those choosing Oxbridge, Ivy League, Medicine, Dentistry or Vet Med will be able to attend weekly sessions that take them, step by step, through the process and how best to prepare.

Whichever pathway they choose, pupils will be given professional career guidance and clear information about application processes and deadlines.

“The recent appointments of a Director of Music and a new Director of Drama shows that the school has invested in these subjects of late. The new Performance Arts Centre will enhance the teaching of Dance and Drama alongside Digital Media and Film.”

Muddy Stilettos, 2020





Prep & Nursery

Children learn best when their minds are set free to think differently and think beyond textbooks and fact sheets. **We want our pupils to think differently, discover their talents, develop confidence and realise their dreams.** Only in an environment where children feel safe and valued will this happen.

Our Prep School offers a caring and friendly environment where small class sizes allow pupils to grow and develop in surroundings that encourage them to have fun, play, and learn creatively. Taught by superbly qualified class teachers for core subjects, the pupils also have access to specialist subject teachers who make the most of exceptional facilities across the campus which encourage them to develop a love of learning.

The Prep School offers a structured sports programme with matches played against other schools and a high level of coaching across a range of different sports. A choice of after-school activities, changed termly, is offered.

Pupils attend Chapel every Friday for an assembly dedicated to celebrating weekly successes across the Prep School. Pupils enjoy delicious, healthy lunches in the Refectory where pupils and staff debate, discuss and laugh together.

Located within the College's spacious grounds, housed in a large Victorian building, the Prep School and Nursery offers a safe and secure learning environment for its pupils. Wonderful outside space, including a stunning Discovery Garden, encourages outdoor learning. Breaktimes, lunchtime play and sports fixtures take place on The Close – a magnificent area surrounded by our historic buildings.



“My daughter has been going to Dover College since the age of three. The small class sizes mean she has an excellent education and emotional support, which makes dropping her at school every day a pleasure and never a problem. My daughter loves all aspects of school life.”

Current Parent

Senior School

Whilst moving up to Senior School is a natural progression, for a child it is a period of transition and the first of many changes which will take place between the ages of 11 and 16. Pupils will find that their academic work becomes more challenging and that co-curricular opportunities become more plentiful. At the same time, they will experience a period of rapid personal and social development. **Our task throughout these crucial first years in the Senior School is to provide the right balance between challenge and support; to provide a stimulating and supportive teaching and learning environment as well as the appropriate level of pastoral care.**

As pupils approach their GCSE years, they must take time to reflect upon their academic interests and abilities. Considering which subjects to study at GCSE is an important part of their development as a person. The decisions they make will help influence their future, so they are carefully guided by our excellent Careers programme to ensure that they build on their successes and leave open as many future pathways as possible.

In order to ensure that every Dover College pupil is equipped with a good balance of skills and knowledge, certain subjects are compulsory at GCSE. These subjects constitute what is known as the 'core curriculum', and include subjects such as English, Mathematics and Science. In addition, pupils choose a number of optional subjects.

Of course, the time in the Senior School is not simply about academic work and examinations. To get the most out of their time at Dover College, every pupil is urged to become involved in a wide range of sporting, cultural and recreational activities. It is very much the case, however, that the basis for a happy and fruitful time at school is also about getting the academic side of life right. Making the correct choices for GCSE will certainly put them on the path to achieving this.





“The school provides an excellent environment for children to grow in, both academically and personally, and the enthusiasm from the staff for their roles as both teachers and mentors is palpable.”

Current Parent



Sixth Form

The Sixth Form experience at Dover College is rich in diversity. Co-curricular opportunities and social events create an enjoyable learning experience and develop our students' confidence throughout their stay with us. Our approach help students become well-rounded individuals and prepare them for what is to come.


Sixth Form is a challenging time when important choices are made in preparation for the world of Higher Education and employment. It is a time when there is more freedom to select new subjects, manage study time, develop new interests and make new friends. This is a gradual process through which our Sixth Formers are carefully guided and supported.

Academically, Sixth Form pupils have the option to select A Levels, BTECs or a mixture of both qualifications.

In the Sixth Form, students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own performance and well-being in preparation for life outside of school. All Sixth Formers receive professional Careers guidance to help them share their own unique future pathways.

There is a range of activities on offer, such as the Young Enterprise programme, completing the highly respected Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award or a LAMDA qualification.

Our Sixth Form pupils are given various opportunities such as speaking in weekly assemblies, becoming a peer mentor and taking part and a leading role in the school enrichment and service programme or in the various school committees, such as the food and school council. All Sixth formers are able to seek and earn a position as one of our School Senior Prefects who, through their service to the school, develop leadership and other skills such as public speaking and organisational skills.



“The Dover College family has given our son the confidence and skills to thrive. In the six years he has been at the school, he has grown into a well-rounded young man who is not afraid to get involved - in the classroom and beyond.”

Current Parent

“What we have here is a certain structured freedom and there are different options as to how we use our study periods. For example, we can opt to go and sit in a completely silent zone or even in a department to get some extra help in a subject we need more support with.”

Current Pupil

Admissions

Choosing a school for our child is one of the most important decisions we have to make. Our Open Mornings (September, November and March) are a good opportunity to find out more about the school. We do, however, we encourage you to book a private visit during which you will have a chance to talk to the Headmaster and receive a personal tour of the College.

Our Admissions process is detailed below:

1. Visit Us

Nothing will demonstrate the happy and vibrant environment we have at Dover College better than a visit. You will have the chance to meet our Headmaster as well as have a tour of our facilities. Please let us know what your child is interested in so that we can make the absolute best of your time here.

2. Register Your Child

Should you feel that Dover College is a suitable school for your child, our Admissions Team will be glad to send you the registration paperwork. At this stage, we will also require copies of your child's two previous school reports, a copy of their birth certificate or passport and the non-refundable registration fee of £100.

3. Any Other Information

If your child receives any form of learning support, then please include this information at the time of registering and send us a copy of the most current educational psychologist's report. A meeting will then be arranged with our own SENCO in order to assess the level of support needed and whether or not we are in a position to provide it.

4. Assessment

We are proudly non-selective and do not have entrance exams. Assessment for Senior School is done via the school reports sent at the time of registration as well as an interview with the Headmaster or another member of the Senior Leadership Team. For Nursery or Prep School entry, all children are required to have at least one taster session before an offer can be made. All Senior School entrants will be offered a taster day in the term before entry.

5. Offer

If the interview or taster session is successful, we will send you an offer of a place along with a copy of our Parent Contract and the acceptance paperwork. A place is confirmed on receipt of the signed acceptance forms and the £500 advance payment. This sum is then deducted from the first invoice.



Testimonials

Here's what some of our parents have to say:

"After many sleepless nights of deliberation, we finally took the plunge and moved our son into Prep 5 at Dover College. Our friends and relatives comment on how different our son is since and how he seems a happier more self-assured child. We think that's because he's actually experiencing what education really can be."

Current Parent of a Prep School Pupil

"From the outset, we were really impressed by how proactive the Headmaster and his staff were in facilitating our move to the school – all done in a supportive and caring way, sharing our desire that the school would be the right place for our son. The Headmaster has a clear vision for the College and he and his team work hard to bring that vision and ethos to life. A broad curriculum is offered, and the co-curricular activities are exceptional. Our son has experienced many new sports and activities during his first four months. Whilst competitiveness is important, the focus is on encouraging taking part – whether it is sport, drama, art, sailing, citizenship or one of the many other activities on offer. The College is very progressive with the use of IT, ensuring each child has dedicated use of an iPad."

Current Parent of a Senior School Pupil

"Dover College inspired our daughter to follow her dreams and has supported her every step of the way. During her ten years at the school she benefited hugely from the strong focus on pastoral support, whilst extremely high standards of teaching ensured she achieved high-flying academic results. The excellent facilities and wealth of opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities enabled her to pursue her passions for drama and sport. She also enjoyed some incredible school trips and opportunities to travel and has moved on to university confident and well prepared for the next chapter of her life."

Parent of an Upper Sixth Leaver, Summer 2023

Find Us

Air - London Heathrow, Gatwick and City are all within 90 minutes transfer to Dover.

Train - direct from London St Pancras, Charing Cross or Victoria in as little as 65 minutes. The school is a two minute walk from Dover Priory station.

Channel Tunnel - 10 minutes to Dover from the Folkestone terminal.

Car - from London, follow the M20/A20 to Dover. The satnav postcode is CT17 9RH.



1. CHANNEL TUNNEL



2. GATWICK

3. HEATHROW

4. LONDON CITY





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