

Welcome to Dover College

Dover College is an independent, co-educational day and boarding school for pupils aged 2 to 18. We are proud to offer a vibrant and inclusive community, welcoming both national and international families. Our commitment is to academic success, character development, and a truly all-round education.

At Dover College, personal bests matter.

We believe that whether as parents or educators, the greatest gift we can give our children is the encouragement to be the best version of themselves — in the classroom, on the sports field, on stage, in leadership roles, and in everyday school life. A personal best looks different for every pupil, and we celebrate these moments of achievement with genuine pride.

As a proud member of the Round Square global network of schools, our approach to education is rooted in six key ideals: **Adventure**, **Democracy**, **Environmentalism**, **Internationalism**, **Leadership**, and **Service**. These values are woven through our curriculum and co-curricular life, ensuring that pupils leave Dover College not only well-educated but also prepared to lead, contribute, and thrive in a rapidly changing world.



Watch our school video, 'Personal Best'



From The Headmaster

Every child at Dover College is seen and valued: essential elements for them to achieve their very best.

As a proud Dover College parent, I can attest to the impact of our perfectly sized, supportive community where teachers genuinely know each pupil, enabling them to flourish academically and personally. Here, your child will find that special niche that brings joy and fulfilment, ensuring they feel safe and confident to embrace life's challenges.

Choosing Dover College means choosing an environment where people truly care, and where every member of staff is dedicated to helping your child grow into a confident, thoughtful adult ready to contribute positively to the world.

We warmly invite you to visit us and experience the Dover College difference firsthand. Just two minutes by road from the Port of Dover and an hour from London by train, we are here – with the castle behind us and the white cliffs close by – ready to welcome you and your child as you begin this exciting journey.

Mr Phil Tattersall-King



academik) (ækədemik)

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 many others, we do not rely on entrance exams to define a child's worth.** Instead, we focus on potential — on where a pupil can go, not just where they are now. We believe in the power of the academic journey and are passionate about guiding each individual to achieve their personal best.

Our community is rich in diversity, both in background and interest. Within our classrooms and corridors, voracious readers, budding historians, mathematicians, musicians, athletes, performers, filmmakers, and artists work and grow together — inspiring and learning from one another every day.

Academic success at Dover College is not measured by a narrow set of outcomes but by the progress each child makes. For one pupil, that may mean three A* grades; for another, three C grades may represent an equally hard-earned and meaningful triumph. We are proud that our pupils often achieve beyond what they — or their families — believed possible when they first arrived.

Much of this progress is enabled by our small class sizes, which allow our teachers to truly know each pupil as an individual. This personalised approach ensures that every learner is challenged in areas of strength and supported in areas of difficulty, with care, encouragement, and high expectations.

At the core of our academic ethos is the belief in growth. We help pupils understand that setbacks do not define them, and that through perseverance, resilience, and access to the right support, success in any subject is always within reach. We teach our pupils to see effort as the path to mastery — and to recognise that every step forward is a victory worth celebrating.

"Subject leaders plan the curriculum effectively so that pupils receive an engaging range of lessons and co-curricular activities that allow them to make progress and experience success."







ifads

In today's world, digital competence is as essential as literacy and numeracy — a core skill expected by universities, employers, and wider society. At Dover College, we are committed to equipping our pupils with the tools and confidence they need to thrive in a digital-first world.

In 2021, we launched our 1:1 iPad programme for all pupils from Prep 3 to Upper Sixth, ensuring every learner has consistent access to a personal device both in school and at home. Pupils in Early Years, Prep 1, and Prep 2 benefit from a shared bank of iPads to support their early digital exploration.

When used thoughtfully, technology can be transformational. By integrating devices into everyday learning, we have seen pupils become more creative, collaborative, and independent. Organisation, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills have improved as digital tools allow for more personalised and engaging learning experiences.

We are proud of the success of our digital strategy and of the innovative ways our pupils and staff are using technology to enhance teaching and learning. Core platforms such as Google Workspace for Education and Satchel One are embedded into our approach, supporting communication, productivity, and the seamless flow of work between home and school.

As we continue to evolve in an increasingly connected world, our commitment remains clear: to prepare young people not just to keep pace with change, but to lead it.





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 every pupil lies at the heart of all we do at Dover College. Our well-established pastoral structure ensures that all pupils — both day and boarding — feel safe, supported, and valued throughout their time at the College.

At the centre of our pastoral care is our strong house system, which provides a genuine sense of belonging and continuity. Each house is led by a dedicated team of tutors who work closely with the residential boarding staff to support every pupil's personal and academic development. This team-based approach ensures that there is always a trusted adult available for pupils to turn to, whatever the need.

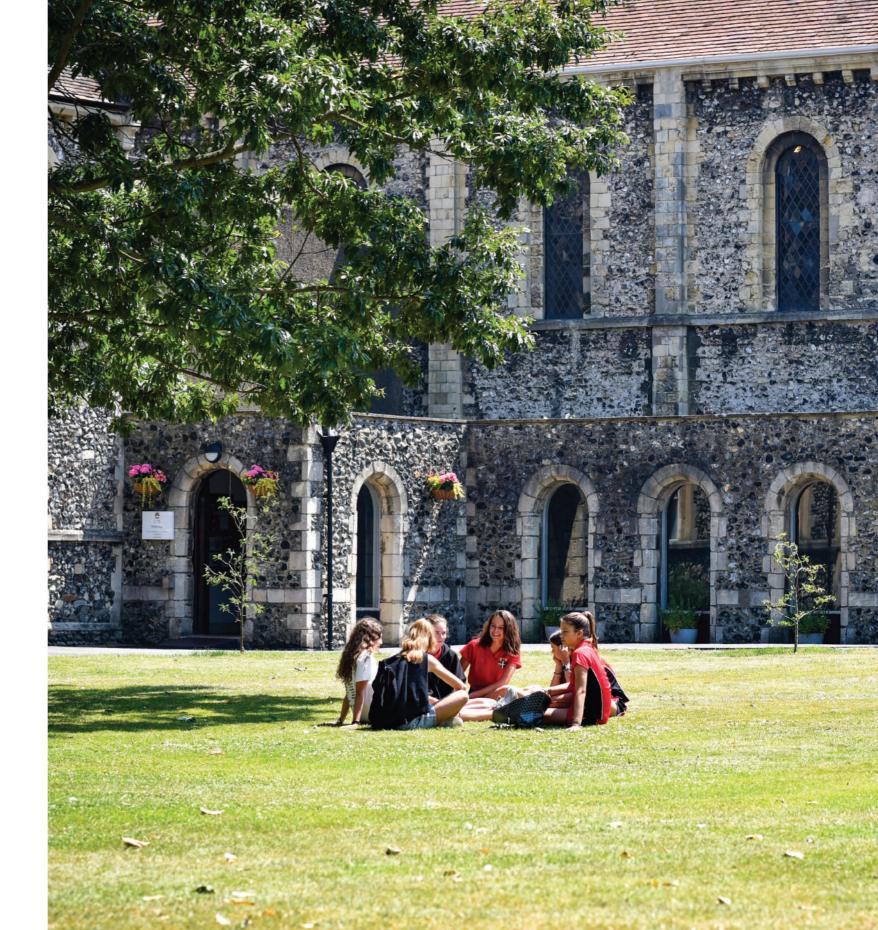
Pupil progress is carefully monitored through a regular cycle of grading and reporting, enabling us to respond quickly and sensitively to any concerns. Strong and open communication with parents underpins our approach, helping to ensure each child feels fully supported on their educational journey.

Our Assistant Head (Safeguarding) works in close collaboration with the pastoral teams to ensure that pupils' emotional wellbeing is prioritised at every stage. She is supported by a wider network, including trained peer mentors from the upper years who offer a valuable layer of support and guidance.

Our recently refurbished Medical Centre provides high-quality care for all pupils. Staffed by experienced Registered Nurses, the Centre offers a warm, professional, and confidential service for a wide range of health needs. It is open throughout the school day and supports both day and boarding pupils.

At Dover College, we are committed to ensuring that every pupil feels happy, healthy, and well cared for — the foundations on which confident and successful lives are built

"The pastoral structures and systems throughout the school mean that pastoral care of pupils is well informed, focused and attentive. As a result, pupils feel cared for and valued as members of an inclusive and understanding community."





Boarding

Our boarding community at Dover College is rich in diversity and spirit, welcoming pupils from across the UK and around the world. This global outlook not only enriches the lives of our boarders but also helps foster a deep sense of mutual respect, understanding, and friendship.

Our boarding houses are warm, vibrant, and inclusive spaces where pupils feel at home. Led by dedicated and compassionate staff, these houses are built on the values of kindness, respect, resilience, and personal responsibility. We take great pride in watching our boarders grow into confident, well-rounded young adults, equipped with strong moral values and a sense of purpose. By the time they leave us, they are ready to face the complexities of modern life with confidence and maturity.

All boarders enjoy well-furnished, comfortable single rooms, designed to offer privacy as well as a sense of independence. We offer a flexible approach to weekend leave, and with no compulsory exeats, parents can enjoy peace of mind knowing their children are cared for without the need for additional arrangements.

Boarders have full access to the College's facilities during evenings and weekends, and benefit from a carefully curated programme of enrichment activities. Weekly trips and events are arranged for younger pupils, while older students are supported in choosing how they spend their time — whether taking part in organised activities, focusing on academic work, or enjoying time with peers. Boarding houses are well equipped with entertainment facilities, and regular in-house events help create a strong sense of belonging.

A healthy and spirited rivalry exists between houses, brought to life on the sports field and in creative competitions. Among the highlights of the boarding calendar are the House Music and House Drama contests — both eagerly anticipated and passionately contested.





Co-Curricular

We are proud to offer a vibrant and enriching co-curricular programme that spans sport, academic societies, adventure, the arts, and charitable service. With over 50 diverse activities scheduled throughout the week — and additional opportunities available at weekends for our boarding pupils — there is something to inspire, challenge, and develop every individual.

At Dover College, we believe that a truly rounded education extends beyond the traditional classroom. Preparing pupils for life beyond school requires experiences that foster independence, curiosity, and collaboration — qualities nurtured through our co-curricular offering. This programme is not a supplement, but a vital part of the holistic education we provide, adding depth and value to every pupil's journey through the College.

All pupils are expected to take part in at least two co-curricular activities each week, and we encourage a balanced selection, including at least one sport or physical activity, to support health and well-being.

Most activities are open to all pupils. Our annual activities fair in September provides a dedicated opportunity for pupils to explore the full range of options, meet the staff leading them, and make informed choices for the term ahead.

With such a broad and exciting array of opportunities, there has never been a better time for pupils to discover new interests, pursue passions, and build lifelong skills alongside their academic studies.

"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."



Sport

At Dover College, our aim is to provide every pupil with the best possible sporting opportunities, while supporting each individual to fulfil their unique potential. We strive to instil a lifelong appreciation for sport and fitness, promoting both enjoyment and excellence — whether pupils participate recreationally or aspire to compete at the highest levels.

Our extensive co-curricular programme reflects this ambition. The College's core sports across the academic year include rugby, hockey, football, netball, cricket, and rounders. In addition, we offer a diverse range of activities such as golf, horse riding, sailing, badminton, gym, esports, and many more, ensuring there is something for every interest and ability.

While we are proud to be competitive across all sports, we place equal emphasis on inclusion, participation, and fair play. This dual approach allows every child to engage fully, enjoy success on their own terms, and develop a strong competitive spirit rooted in integrity. Where pupils demonstrate particular promise, we actively encourage further development by supporting club-level involvement and facilitating entry into district or county trials.

Our broad sporting provision reflects the College's belief that physical activity should be a central part of school life. This is made possible through the enthusiasm of our teaching staff and the expertise of specialist external coaches who enhance our programme throughout the year.

We value sport not only for the physical health and well-being it promotes, but also for the vital life skills it nurtures — teamwork, resilience, leadership, and confidence. These attributes equip our pupils for success both on and off the field.

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





The Arts

At Dover College, we understand the vital role that the Arts play in helping pupils express themselves, grow in confidence, and achieve their personal best. Creativity is not an optional extra here — it is a central pillar of a rounded, ambitious education.

Our thriving Drama Department encourages pupils to challenge and entertain, to inspire and collaborate, and to develop a strong sense of self and teamwork. Students are supported to grow in confidence both on stage and behind the scenes, with opportunities to specialise in stage management, sound and lighting design, and costume. Recent productions have included *Oliver!* and *Legally Blonde The Musical*, and our annual school play is a highlight of the College calendar. We also offer LAMDA tuition in Acting, Public Speaking, Musical Theatre, and Speaking Verse & Prose, helping pupils to build both performance skills and personal presence.

Music plays a central role in the life of the College. A team of visiting instrumental teachers offers individual tuition on a wide range of instruments, and pupils are encouraged to take part in a variety of ensembles. The College Choir sings at Chapel services and public concerts, and for those with an interest in music technology, we offer a suite of iMacs running state-of-the-art composition and production software.

Our Art Department — which includes Art, Design Technology, and Photography — provides pupils with an excellent foundation in both traditional and contemporary techniques. From fine art and ceramics to textiles, CAD software, and digital photography, pupils are encouraged to explore a wide range of media and processes in order to express their ideas and develop their creative voice.

Our strong commitment to the Arts is exemplified by the opening of our new, purpose-built Performing Arts Centre in Autumn 2025. This state-of-the-art facility will provide a stunning and professional environment for music, drama, and dance, further enhancing our ability to nurture talent, creativity, and self-expression. It marks an exciting new chapter for the College, and underscores our belief that the Arts should sit proudly at the heart of a modern, ambitious education.





Round Square

Dover College is proud to be a Round Square school — part of a vibrant, internationally diverse network of 260+ like-minded schools across 50 countries and six continents. Together, Round Square schools connect and collaborate to deliver world-class programmes, experiences, and exchange opportunities that develop global competence, strong character, and lasting confidence in every pupil.

The Round Square philosophy is built around six key themes, known as the IDEALS: Internationalism, Democracy, Environmentalism, Adventure, Leadership, and Service. These principles, first articulated by the German educationalist Kurt Hahn, underpin our commitment to character education and experiential learning. Through participation in Round Square activities, Dover College pupils are empowered to make meaningful contributions to their local, national, and global communities — enriching their perspectives and strengthening their sense of purpose.

Round Square offers a wealth of opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom. Exchange programmes allow pupils and staff to immerse themselves in other cultures and languages for up to three months, fostering deeper intercultural understanding. International service projects provide pupils with the chance to volunteer on impactful community initiatives, such as installing clean water systems or helping to build school facilities, encouraging social responsibility and global citizenship.

These experiences are not simply memorable — they are transformational. They challenge pupils physically, emotionally, and intellectually, and help shape them into thoughtful, compassionate, and outward-looking young adults.

To learn more about Round Square and its values, visit www.roundsquare.org





Careers

At Dover College, we believe that every pupil deserves high-quality, personalised support as they plan for their future. In 2024, we were proud to be awarded the **Quality in Careers Standard** in recognition of our excellence in careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) — a national benchmark that reflects our deep commitment to preparing pupils for life beyond school.

With a full-time, highly qualified and experienced careers professional, and a whole-school commitment to future planning, Dover College provides a rich and coherent programme to help pupils navigate their next steps with confidence. Careers education begins early and continues throughout a pupil's journey at the College, ensuring every student develops the skills and understanding needed to make informed, aspirational choices.

Our careers programme is embedded across the curriculum. It is delivered through PSHE lessons, tutor time, enrichment sessions, assemblies, special events, trips and departmental links. Our annual Careers Focus Week ensures that career exploration becomes a natural and exciting part of each pupil's education, with visiting speakers, workshops and real-world learning opportunities.

All staff play an active role in preparing students for life after school, and our dedicated Careers Department offers tailored advice for a wide range of pathways — whether it be degree apprenticeships, gap years, voluntary work, vocational training, or university applications. For pupils aiming at the most competitive routes, our Top Flight programme provides structured, expert support to increase their chances of success. Pupils applying to Oxbridge, Ivy League universities, Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine benefit from weekly specialist sessions that guide them through every stage of the application process — from personal statements to interview technique.

Whatever their aspirations, every pupil receives individual careers guidance and access to clear, up-to-date information about opportunities, application processes and deadlines. Our approach ensures that Dovorians leave the College with the skills, support and confidence to thrive in whatever future they choose.





Prep & Nursery

At Dover College Prep School, we believe that children learn best when they are encouraged to think freely, explore boldly, and grow confidently beyond the confines of textbooks and fact sheets. Our aim is to nurture curious minds, help pupils discover their unique talents, and give them the confidence to follow their dreams. We know that this kind of flourishing only happens in an environment where children feel safe, valued and inspired.

Our Prep School provides exactly that — a caring, friendly and inclusive community, where every child is known as an individual. With small class sizes and highly qualified class teachers, pupils receive personalised attention and support across the core curriculum. Specialist subject teachers in areas such as Music, Languages, Sport and the Arts make full use of the College's exceptional facilities, sparking creativity and igniting a genuine love of learning.

Sport is an integral part of Prep School life. Our structured programme includes expert coaching and regular fixtures against other schools, helping pupils to build skills, resilience and team spirit. A broad menu of after-school activities, refreshed every term, offers further opportunities for pupils to discover new interests and develop outside the classroom.

Community and celebration are at the heart of what we do. Each Friday, pupils attend Chapel for an uplifting assembly where achievements are recognised and shared. At lunchtime, pupils and staff enjoy delicious, nutritious meals in the Refectory — a time for conversation, laughter and connection.

The Prep School and Nursery are housed in a beautiful Victorian building at the heart of the College's spacious and secure campus. Pupils benefit from extensive outdoor learning opportunities in our stunning Discovery Garden, as well as playtimes and sporting events held on The Close, a magnificent green space framed by the College's historic architecture.

At Dover College Prep School, we offer more than just an education — we provide a joyful, inspiring foundation for life.



Senior School

Transitioning to Senior School is an exciting and important step in a child's educational journey. While it is a natural progression, it also marks the beginning of a period of significant change and personal growth. Between the ages of 11 and 16, pupils will face new academic challenges, enjoy a wider range of co-curricular opportunities, and experience rapid social and emotional development.

Our aim during these crucial formative years is to provide the right balance of support and challenge. We offer a dynamic and engaging learning environment, underpinned by exceptional pastoral care. Every pupil is encouraged to explore new ideas, push their boundaries, and develop the resilience and independence needed for success both in and beyond the classroom.

As pupils approach their GCSE years, they are guided through a thoughtful process of reflection and decision-making. Choosing GCSE subjects is more than an academic exercise — it is a meaningful part of each pupil's development as a learner and as a person. Our excellent Careers and Guidance Programme ensures that pupils are well informed about their options and encouraged to make choices that build on their strengths and keep future pathways open.

To ensure that every Dover College pupil is equipped with a broad and balanced foundation, some GCSE subjects are compulsory as part of our core curriculum — including English, Mathematics and Science. Alongside these, pupils select from a wide range of optional subjects, enabling them to tailor their education to suit their individual interests and aspirations.

Of course, life in the Senior School extends far beyond the classroom. Pupils are strongly encouraged to immerse themselves in the rich array of sporting, cultural, and recreational activities on offer. These experiences build character, forge friendships and deepen pupils' sense of belonging.

While the Senior School years are undoubtedly about much more than exams, academic success remains central. Making informed, confident choices at the start of the GCSE journey sets the foundation for a fulfilling, balanced, and successful time at Dover College — and beyond.







Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at Dover College offers a distinctive and enriching experience, shaped by diversity, opportunity, and individual growth. A broad range of co-curricular activities and social events complements the academic journey, helping our students to develop confidence, character and a strong sense of self.

These final years of school are a pivotal time — a period of increased independence, when important decisions are made about the future. Pupils have greater freedom to shape their studies, manage their time, explore new interests, and forge meaningful friendships. This transition is supported every step of the way by dedicated staff who understand the needs of young adults and are committed to their success and wellbeing.

Academically, Sixth Formers can choose from A Levels, BTECs, or a blended pathway tailored to individual strengths and ambitions. This flexible approach allows pupils to craft a curriculum that suits their goals, whether academic or vocational. Students are also supported through personalised academic mentoring and receive expert careers and university guidance, helping them to identify and shape their unique pathways.

Life in the Sixth Form extends far beyond the classroom. Pupils are encouraged to take part in a wide variety of enrichment opportunities, including Young Enterprise, the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, LAMDA qualifications, and subject-specific masterclasses and workshops. These experiences help develop leadership, teamwork, creativity and resilience — essential skills for life beyond school.

Our Sixth Formers also play an active role in the life of the school. They lead by example as Senior Prefects, Peer Mentors, or members of key school committees such as the Pupil Council and Food Committee. Many contribute to school life by speaking in weekly assemblies, organising events, or supporting younger pupils through our enrichment and service programmes.

At Dover College, the Sixth Form is not just about preparing for exams — it's about preparing for life. We provide the structure, inspiration and individual care to ensure every student achieves their personal best and leaves us ready to thrive in the next chapter of their journey.





Admissions

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make. Our Open Mornings in September, November and March provide a great introduction to life at Dover College. However, we warmly encourage families to book a private visit during which you'll receive a personal tour and the opportunity to meet with the Headmaster. Nothing can better convey the unique atmosphere of our school than experiencing it for yourself.

We aim to make the admissions journey as smooth and welcoming as possible. Here's how it works:

1. Visit Us

There is no substitute for seeing Dover College in action. Whether you join us for an Open Morning or a private visit, you'll have the chance to explore our beautiful campus, meet our staff, and experience the warmth of our community. If your child has particular interests, do let us know in advance so we can tailor your visit accordingly.

2. Register Your Child

Once you feel Dover College is the right fit, our Admissions Team will provide you with the registration form. At this stage, we ask for:

- Your child's two most recent school reports
- A copy of their birth certificate or passport
- A non-refundable registration fee of £100

3. Additional Information

If your child receives learning support or has any specific educational needs, please share this information at the time of registration, including any recent Educational Psychologist's reports. We will arrange a meeting with our SENCO to ensure we can provide the right support.

4. Assessment

Dover College is proudly non-selective. We do not require entrance exams. For Senior School applicants, assessment is based on school reports and an interview with the Headmaster or a senior member of staff. For Nursery and Prep School applicants, we ask children to attend at least one taster session before an offer is made. All Senior School entrants are invited to a taster day in the term before they start.

5. Offer of a Place

If the visit, interview or taster session confirms that Dover College is the right environment for your child, we will send a formal offer letter along with our Parent Contract and acceptance paperwork. A place is secured on return of the completed forms and payment of the £500 advance deposit, which will be credited against your first term's fees

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





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