

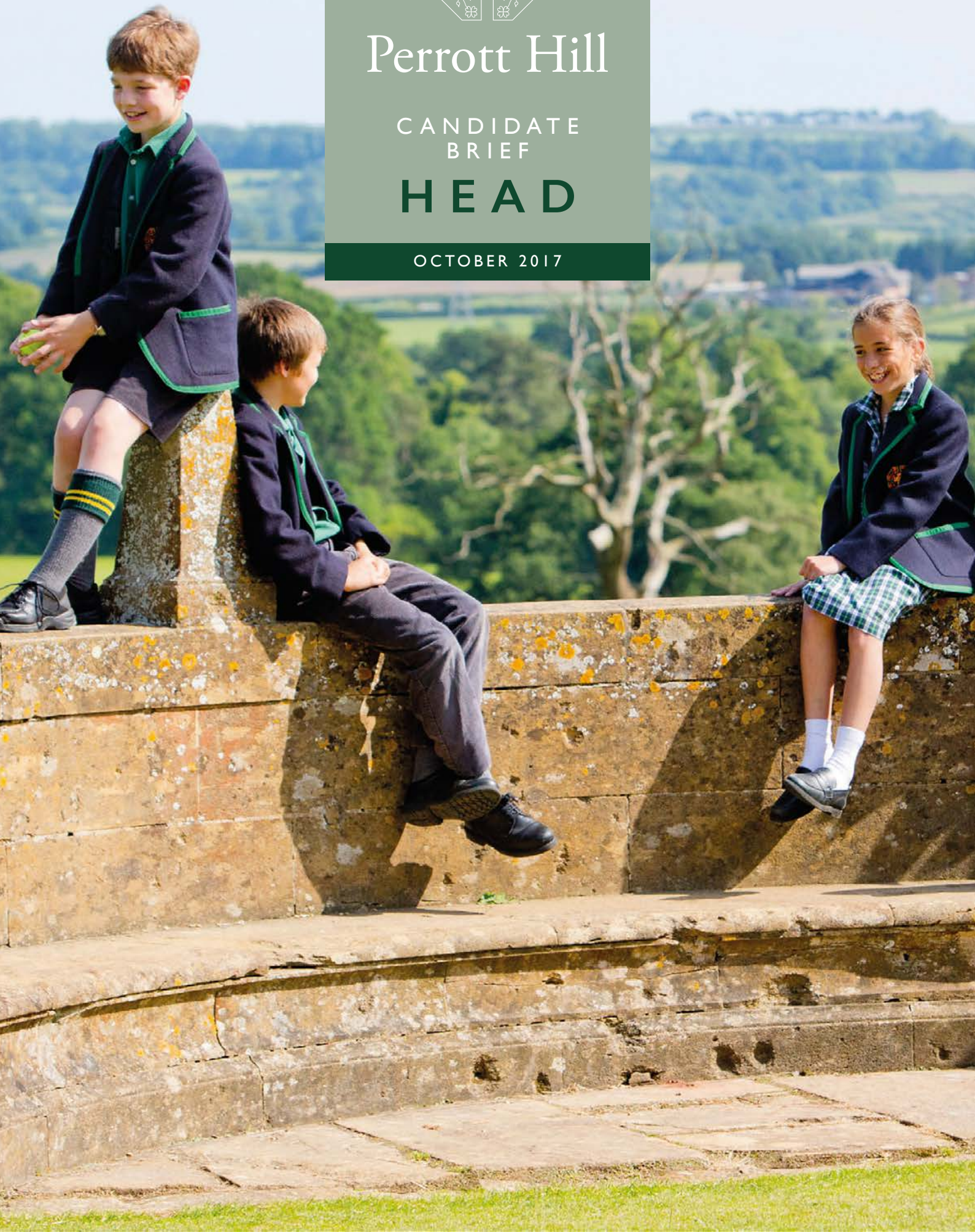


# Perrott Hill

CANDIDATE  
BRIEF

**HEAD**

OCTOBER 2017







## *Contents*

About the School	3
The Role	8
The Person	9
How to Apply	10



## *About the School*

Perrott Hill is an independent day and boarding prep school in Somerset, offering excellence in education for girls and boys aged 3-13. We are situated on a beautiful 28-acre site on the Somerset/Dorset border and have pupils from all over the South West, as well as from London - and we are proud to welcome a small number of international pupils each year.

Our motto is 'Time and Space for a Full Education' and for good reason: we believe that offering an extensive extra-curricular programme (with adequate free time for children to be children) alongside excellent teaching is the key to an outstanding all-round education. Class sizes

are small and we take great care to encourage and stretch children based upon their individual needs and strengths. We have a number of new and exciting initiatives, such as our 'Tinker Lab' in which children are free to explore new technologies at their own pace during breaks, and we have an open door policy in our art department which has produced some remarkable personal projects. Our recently built Music School on the edge of our woods was described as 'fantastically inspirational' by the Good Schools Guide. The ethos in our Sports Department is very much about instilling a love of sport in all children, with every child getting the chance to play, progress and become the best they can be.



We pride ourselves on having a warm and welcoming family atmosphere and an outstanding reputation within the local community. Our teachers aim to get to know the children and their families well and, as a result, our pupils are industrious, successful and happy individuals. The majority of our pupils choose to take advantage of the boarding arrangements for some of the time during their last two years at the school, and so there is little differentiation between those who board and those who go home at the end of the day. There are girls' and boys' boarding houses which accommodate full, weekly and flexi boarders from Year 3 upwards and boarding is an area of growth. Six sets of staff and families, and three resident graduate assistants, live on-site, ensuring a proper homely feel for the boarders. The outcome is a hugely positive and involved school community based on a boarding ethos.

Academic success is important and we are proud of our consistently impressive results at Common Entrance and our enviable scholarship record. Our pupils go onto a wide range of schools across the South West and beyond - and we see our ability to match our pupils to the right senior school for them, the one in which they will most thrive, as one of our key advantages over independent schools that take pupils from 3 to 18 years old.





## The Pre-Prep

We currently have 38 pupils on roll in our Pre-Prep, which is situated in Grade II listed converted stables adjacent to the main school. We take children from the term in which they turn three.

In the Nursery, children learn and develop through practical, play based activities and are supported to try a wide variety of activities and share their experiences with each other. Great emphasis is placed on encouraging the children to support each other and 'to learn how to learn'. Children make a seamless transition to the separate Reception class where further solid foundations are laid in preparation for the more formal style of learning in Year 1.

In Years 1 and 2, the main focus of each morning is English and Mathematics, with Geography, History, Science and RE in the afternoons. The children are taught by

specialist teachers for Art, ICT, French and Music and all Year 2 pupils learn the violin as part of our Year 2 Strings Programme. We have a well-stocked library and a popular Accelerated Reading Scheme, and all children in Years 1 and 2 have 1-1 reading time every day.

All Pre-Prep children have a weekly PE and a weekly games lesson with one of our qualified PE staff, and they all attend weekly swimming lessons. In addition, all Pre-Prep children spend an afternoon at our onsite Forest School and lessons often incorporate an outdoor learning element.

We have a thriving 0-3s music group which takes place in the Music School on Monday and Tuesday mornings during term time, and children from this group often progress to the Nursery.





## The Prep

We currently have 147 children on roll in our Prep. Classrooms are based in the main house, as well as in other more modern buildings across the site. We have a varied and forward-thinking curriculum: we have recently added Philosophy as part of PRS (Philosophy and Religious Studies), for example, in order to prepare children for life beyond the school and to encourage them to think not only for themselves but creatively and in response to others' opinions.

We teach English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, French, Latin, Music, Art, PRS, ICT and Games/PE – and have a bustling programme of activities such as sailing, debating, and eco club as well as a full drama programme with plays staged every year. Our facilities are excellent; we have a 250-seat theatre, ICT suite, Tinker Lab, Music School and library, as well as an outdoor swimming pool, putting green, tennis court, North Lawns All-Weather pitch, a well equipped Sports Hall and extensive games pitches. Perrott Hill also runs a wide range of off-site trips, including overseas tours. The grounds provide an ideal setting for Forest School activities.



## The Community

There is no doubt that our school site helps to instil a very special sense of identity within the community, and both the staff and pupil bodies are welcoming, enthusiastic and full of a natural ease and warmth. There are many ways in which the strength of the Perrott Hill community is evident, such as drinks receptions, staff/parent sports matches, the annual fireworks evening, Christmas Fair and Grandparents' Tea Party. The school supports a different charity each term; one local, one national and one international, and outreach to the local community takes several forms, including the Young Farmers activity, the Year 8 Task Force and involving local primary schools in exciting events.

The parent body has a wonderful diversity, including parents who are farmers, occasional commuters to the City, authors, artists, consultants, pilots, bankers, hoteliers and chefs. From this diversity comes a great benefit with regards the pupils' education: the ability to see 'success' in its many different guises. The Friends of Perrott Hill (FoPH) provide active support for the school and run a series of events through the year for parents and children.

## The Region

The school is very well located in spectacular countryside. The Jurassic Coast of Dorset lies just 35 minutes away by road. The rolling countryside all around has formed the backdrop for several film adaptations of Thomas Hardy novels and yet Yeovil and Dorchester are within easy reach and all key conveniences are available just down the road in Crewkerne. The A303 can be reached in 10 minutes, providing comfortable access to Devon and Cornwall to the west, and south central England to the east. The M5 is only 20 miles for those travelling to the Midlands or the North. All around, there is a pride in regional arts, crafts and produce.





## *The Role*

The Head is responsible to the Governors for all aspects of the running of Perrott Hill, not only as a school, but also as a business. The Head is expected to produce a written report for the Governors at the termly Governors' Meeting. Both the people and the processes need skilful managing by the Head. The principal responsibilities and duties of the Head are:

- to be an ambassador for Perrott Hill, responsible for promoting the interests and reputation of Perrott Hill School;
- to market Perrott Hill to prospective parents, recruiting new pupils in order to keep the overall numbers of girls/boys and of day-pupils/boarders balanced, and to build on the number of school pupils;
- to ensure that an effective admissions process is in place to maintain these numbers;
- to manage the implementation of an appropriate curriculum, that will inspire and stretch children according to their individual needs, and in line with the mutually high expectations of the parents and the school;
- to select and appoint inspirational teaching staff, deploying and managing them, allocating and supervising their duties, formally appraising them and facilitating their professional career development;
- to cultivate the goodwill of current parents and to communicate effectively with them individually and collectively;
- to foster and to lead appropriate management teams within the pastoral, academic and extra-curricular spheres;
- to evaluate the standards of teaching and learning, ensuring that high standards of professional performance are established and maintained;
- to promote, among the pupils, self-discipline and a proper regard for authority;
- to encourage good behaviour and otherwise to regulate the conduct of the pupils, taking and publicising appropriate measures and ensuring that these are effectively implemented;
- to manage the transfer of pupils from Perrott Hill to appropriate Senior Schools in partnership with parents;
- to maintain close working relationships with a wide variety of independent preparatory and senior schools, as well as state maintained primary and secondary schools;
- to work closely with the Bursar in managing the finances of the school in order to deliver the required surplus for future investment;
- to work positively with governors in order to secure the betterment of the school;
- to be responsible for the religious life of the school and for liaisons with the Parish Church and its use by the school;
- To cultivate effective links with the local community and with former pupils.



## *The Person*

We are looking for a strong, dynamic and inspirational leader with a good sense of humour who can rise to meet the current challenges and opportunities facing independent education and who can push the school forward into its next phase. It is expected that he or she will:

- have a strong sense of integrity and principle;
- be an outstanding communicator – with pupils, parents and staff;
- have relevant leadership and management experience at a prep or senior school, with a proven track record of success;
- be an inspirational leader, able both to forge and implement a strategic plan;
- play an active and visible role in the school and wider community;
- be persuasive, with a flair for marketing and PR and the ability to inspire confidence in all stakeholders;
- be confident in him/herself, with an ability to invoke thoughtful argument, encourage debate and build consensus;
- have an ability to delegate when appropriate, but be decisive when required;
- be committed to raising academic standards and staying abreast of new developments in education;
- enjoy living on-site as part of a boarding community.





## *How to Apply*

Interested parties are invited to have an informal conversation about the role with Education Consultant Paul Brewster if they so wish. Please email Paul in the first instance on [paul@brewstereducation.co.uk](mailto:paul@brewstereducation.co.uk) if this is of interest. All conversations will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Completed application forms with a handwritten letter, CV and current photograph should be sent to the Head's PA, Louise Thompson, at the following address to be received no later than 4pm on Monday 30th October 2017:

**Perrott Hill**  
**North Perrott**  
**Crewkerne**  
**Somerset**  
**TA18 7SL**  
**Tel: 01460 72051**  
**[www.perrotthill.com](http://www.perrotthill.com)**

Applications may also be sent by email to [lthompson@perrotthill.com](mailto:lthompson@perrotthill.com).

## **The process is as follows:**

All applications will be acknowledged by email. If candidates have not received acknowledgement that their application has been received within two days of sending it, they are advised to contact Louise Thompson.

Long listed candidates will be contacted by Saturday 4th November.

Long-list interviews will take place on Friday and Saturday 10th/11th November at the school.

Final round interviews will take place during the week beginning Monday 27th November.

*Perrott Hill is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post including checks with past employers and the enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Services) check.*





# Perrott Hill

*Time and space for a full education*

North Perrott Crewkerne  
Somerset TA18 7SL  
T: 01460 72051  
E: [headmaster@perrotthill.com](mailto:headmaster@perrotthill.com)  
W: [www.perrotthill.com](http://www.perrotthill.com)