



About the School

Kirkstone House School is located in the village of Baston which is between the market towns of Bourne and Market Deeping and 20 minutes by car from both Peterborough and Stamford. The School enjoys an excellent relationship with the village and participates in village events and celebrations.

It occupies a very spacious campus and pupils have access to playing fields and extensive green areas. There is also a large Sports Hall. The School owns an environmental centre a short distance away which has lakes and an abundance of wildlife.

The School is separated into 2 main buildings: Lower and Upper School, each with its own recreational area.

Classrooms are well equipped and pupils have the use of designated ICT rooms and computers in the library. A separate pastoral room provides pupils with an additional facility to use at lunchtime if quiet time is required. In Lower School there is a sensory room and a spacious hall in addition to classrooms.

The School has a separate Art Room and Music School.

The School was founded by the Proprietor, Mrs Wyman in 1964 and has developed from a pre-school provision to a school for pupils aged 5-18 years. It is a non-selective co-educational Independent school and is characterised by its inclusive family atmosphere. In recent years the curriculum in Senior School has expanded to offer vocational courses at Key Stage 4 in addition to traditional GCSEs and Lower School have seen the introduction of Forest School and Sensory Education.

There is a rich programme of extra-curricular activities available including a very popular and successful Youth Theatre, the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, National Arts Award, Hospitality Group, Technical Crew, 'Labrats' (a fun Science Club), Book Club

as well as sporting and music activities. The School has a lively, vibrant House System and is also involved in a great deal of charitable fund raising.

The School holds a unique position in the independent sector and local education authorities are increasingly choosing to place children with us. These pupils are often those who have been bullied elsewhere or who suffer from anxiety and need a calm, peaceful and friendly atmosphere.

Pastoral care is a particular strength of the School and this is seen as a responsibility for all staff. Due to the small size of the School, there are no Heads of Year as Form Tutors often have responsibility for an entire Year Group. The Head of Pastoral Care offers support to tutors and is generally available during lesson time to support any pupil who may need time out of lessons.

Behaviour in School is good. Pupils play and work hard and there is an expectation that everyone has the right to learn. The system of Rewards and Sanctions is clear and the School always works in partnership with parents.

There is generally little turn- over of staff although this year several key staff are leaving due to retirement. This will give the new Head Teacher an opportunity to build their own team as they begin their new role.

In recent years the Proprietors have worked hard to improve buildings and facilities required in order to be compliant with the Independent School Standards. This has now been entirely achieved. The Proprietor has now also undergone Safeguarding training and the expectation is that on the next compliance Inspection, the School will be fully compliant. However, a challenge for the new Head Teacher will be to continue to work to ensure full compliance with ISI regulations.

The new Head Teacher will be supported by the Proprietors of the School but will have autonomy in terms of educational direction. The Deputy Head is experienced and knows the School very well. The SENCO and Head of Pastoral Care also offer valuable support. In Lower School the Senior Teacher is autonomous but works closely with the Head Teacher who has ultimate responsibility for both Lower and Senior School.

Kirkstone House is unique in that despite its small size, it caters for pupils who are very able and also those with EHCPs and those who need support. It is successful because it has a tradition of being able to respond to the needs of each individual. The Head Teacher must therefore be open to ideas; creative and appreciative of staff.