

Hemdean House School



Letter from the Governors



Dear Applicant,

Thank you for expressing an interest in leading Hemdean House School as it enters this new and important stage of its development.

The Board of Governors recently announced that from September 2016, the School will change from all through provision to a Junior School and Nursery. This new sustainable model can attract the expertise and investment to make Hemdean House a first choice for parents in the local area. The role of the new Head will be to shape this new and exciting future and the tremendous opportunities that it presents.

As Chair of Governors, we look forward to working with a Head who is enthusiastic, entrepreneurial, reflective, calm and able to inspire and motivate our excellent staff and pupils, who together form the basis of this happy and close knit community. The School has great ambitions and the appointment of a dynamic, able and committed Head to lead the Hemdean forward as it embarks on this crucial phase of growth will be central to realising these. The new Head will ensure strong recruitment and be innovative in driving academic standards, ensuring that academic excellence is the norm and increasing the School's reputation in the locality and beyond. The Governors are looking forward to working with an enthusiastic and dedicated Head with drive and ambition to move the School forward as an Independent Prep School, developing others and providing leadership during an exciting time. They hope to find someone who will engage with and contribute to a strategic plan for development, bringing to bear their own experience and vision to guide and shape the future of the School.

Our relatively small size contributes to the warm and friendly atmosphere where pupils feel at ease, are encouraged to fulfil their potential and where all are equally valued. The very able are stretched and challenged whilst the late developer is nurtured. This is possible because the staff know everyone by name and provide individual support and encouragement to an unusually high degree. At Hemdean we value individuality, celebrate diversity and encourage our pupils to have the confidence to think for themselves, whilst emphasising the importance of tolerance, teamwork and collective responsibility. It has a distinctive ethos based on pastoral care and one which combines hard work with relaxation, discipline with informality and tradition with innovation.

The Governors are committed to the long term future of Hemdean and will be fully supportive of the Head in developing the School as an Independent Prep School. We will take very seriously the views of the Head and other Senior Leadership Team (SLT) members, acting as a critical friend when appropriate and, as far as possible, reaching joint decisions with the Head and SLT. As a school community, we view ourselves as one team, and we very much look forward to working with a new Head in a relationship of mutual support and trust. The attached documentation contains further information about the role. Hemdean Staff are a talented and hardworking group of teachers. They have a strong commitment to the school and its pupils and I hope that after reading this documentation you will want to apply.

Kind regards

Anne Hooper
Chair of Governors.

The School



Hemdean House School was founded in 1859. It is a registered charity managed by a board of trustees known as the School Council. The school is a member of the Independent Schools Association and is inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate.



The aims of the school underpin our policies, our ethos and the safe and happy working environment:

- to enable pupils to achieve their full academic potential
- to foster an enjoyment of work through the curriculum and extra-curricular provision
- to build pupils' confidence and self-esteem
- to encourage consideration and respect for others
- to teach the value of self-discipline
- to help pupils to become well-adjusted and mature young adults

“Pupils of all ages and abilities demonstrate confident knowledge understanding and skills. Children in the EYFS make good progress in their learning and development. The highest progress is seen in the Nursery. Junior Department pupils reach high levels of literacy and numeracy; the attainment of boys and girls is equally high ’

ISI Report

Choosing the right school for a child is one of the most important decisions a parent will make. At Hemdean House we provide a secure, structured and happy environment within which our pupils will grow in confidence to enable them to achieve their full potential. As they journey through the school, our pupils learn consideration and respect for others and acquire an enthusiasm for work, sport and culture.

One of our greatest strengths is our family atmosphere. We rely on the active cooperation of everyone involved in our community of staff, pupils, parents and friends to encourage a pride in the school and the achievements of its members

In our small classes, our teachers are aware of the strengths and the areas for development of all their pupils and they are able to give each boy and girl the attention he or she needs.

Hemdean House School is unique in the level of support and encouragement given to our pupils, with both their academic progress and their social and emotional development



The Junior School



Teachers are well qualified and experienced and class sizes are small; this ensures that we are able to give each child the attention they need to develop their particular talents.



“Pupils ‘ attainment in national tests at the age of 7 is above the national average for maintained primary schools.; at the age of 11, it is well above the national average.”

ISI Report



“Strong and positive relationships exist between staff and pupils and amongst the pupils themselves.”
ISI Report

Our Junior school provides a structured and disciplined but friendly environment in which the children study the National Curriculum subjects.

Mathematics and English are taught every day by the form teacher; science, history, geography and all other subjects are timetabled each week.

From Year 1, weekly lessons in French, ICT, Music, Drama and PE are taken by specialist teachers.





A broad curriculum, including investigative science encourages an open, inquisitive mindset. Outings to places of historical, geographical or scientific interest are arranged regularly for all pupils, enriching many areas of the curriculum.



“The School has warm and constructive relationships with parents.”

“Parents were satisfied with all aspects of the education and care their children receive, and are supportive of the school. They particularly appreciate the nurturing, homely environment, especially in the Nursery, the individual attention their children receive, the progress their children make, the range of the curriculum and subjects offered, the support for very able pupils, and the quality and quantity of the information that is made available to them, allowing them to feel involved in their children’s education.”

ISI Report



Early Years

The Foundation Stage curriculum is followed in the nursery and reception classes; both provide a safe and structured learning environment and, from four years old, children in reception benefit from some specialist teaching as well as participating in morning assemblies with the whole school.



“Teaching in the EYFS inspires an enthusiasm for learning. Staff are well qualified and experienced. They show a good knowledge and understanding of how to promote the learning and development of young children and of what they can achieve.”

ISI Report

The nursery offers regular opportunities for outdoor play in the well-equipped garden where a wealth of learning activities are possible.

Different activities for each day are planned for the working rooms and each child's progress is carefully observed.



“In the EYFS, a high priority is given to children’s personal, social and emotional development. Children are confident and selfassured.”

Our parents appreciate the secure, structured environment offered to their children throughout the school and we greatly appreciate parents’ involvement and support of their children’s education.



Hemdean House School



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