



## THE SCHOOLS AT SOMERHILL



YARDLEY COURT

SOMERHILL PRE-PREP

DERWENT LODGE



## About us

### A Message from the Principal – Duncan Sinclair

Ours is a very special school with a unique structure in this part of the world. We have a coeducational pre-prep of 200 boys and girls aged 3-7. At the end of Year Two, in the same way as for 'diamond model' schools, our girls join Derwent Lodge, (136 girls Year 3 to 6) and the boys join Yardley Court (250 boys Year 3 to 8). Our pupils are therefore taught in single sex classes from the age of seven but very much in a coeducational setting. More details can be found on our website: [www.somerhill.org](http://www.somerhill.org)

The School is based in a stunning Jacobean mansion set in 150 acres of beautiful parkland. You will be hard-pressed to find a more glorious setting for a school! Somerhill is an estate just to the South of Tonbridge and is readily accessed by a slip road off the A21. We have excellent facilities including a multi-purpose sports hall, Astroturf, new dining hall and indoor swimming pool complex and a Music School built in 2014.

Ours is a mixed ability school. We have very bright and capable pupils, some of whom will go on to win scholarships at academic schools such as Tonbridge and Sevenoaks at 11+/13+. We also have boys and girls who find aspects of their learning more challenging and currently approximately 60+ pupils receive some measure of additional support. We are in a very strong catchment area for local grammar

schools. That said, many of our pupils will move on to independent secondary schools which, for the boys, includes the likes of Tonbridge, Sevenoaks, Bedes, Sutton Valence and Eastbourne College. Derwent Lodge girls commonly move on to Sevenoaks, Kent College, Walthamstow Hall, Mayfield and Benenden.

Whilst the Schools at Somerhill have some 600 pupils, the division into three separate schools means that each school is able to tailor its teaching to best suit the children within it. Parents feel that they have the best of both worlds with small school care and linked pupil/teacher ratios but with larger school facilities and social opportunities. They are very supportive of the idea behind a co-educational pre-prep leading to single sex prep schools, but within a mixed gender environment.





## The Aims of the School

The Schools at Somerhill seek to help each of our pupils to achieve the greatest all-round development and success of which they are capable. This includes promoting their academic, personal, spiritual, social, and moral growth.

We aim to give each child self-esteem, resilience and a determination to make their lives as fulfilling as possible both here at Somerhill and as members of a global community.

We encourage our pupils to work hard and take a pride in achievement, to think honestly and independently, to face up to challenges, to accept responsibility, to show concern for others and the environment and to develop a broad range of skills and interests.

In a caring and happy community, we want our children to make the most of their talents and promote the well-being of themselves and others.

### **Somerhill Pre-Prep is our school for 3 to 7 year old girls and boys.**

*"High quality education in a happy environment. Teaching enables pupils of all abilities to make progress. It promotes exploration and independent learning and gives pupils confidence in their abilities." Independent Schools Inspectorate*

### **Derwent Lodge is our Preparatory School for 7 to 11 year old girls.**

*"Excellent standards in lessons, in the scholarships and places gained at senior schools. Girls work together exceptionally well and show considerable imagination, independence of thought and flair." Independent Schools Inspectorate*

### **Yardley Court is our Preparatory School for 7 to 13 year old boys.**

*"Pupils thrive in the atmosphere of hard work, enjoyment and effort. Their attitude to their work is excellent and they take pride in their achievements and the success of others." Independent Schools Inspectorate*