



Message from the Headmaster, Dr Crispin Hyde-Dunn

Thank you for your interest in applying for a position at the Dragon.

There are many ways in which to find out more about the School, but I would recommend that you spend time looking at our website (www.dragonschool.org) where I hope you will find most of what you need to know.

As one of the country's leading independent schools, the Dragon places high expectations on all its staff and demands that the whole community works together to ensure that the School remains at the forefront of educational excellence and innovation. Although the Dragon is the UK's largest co-educational boarding and day preparatory school with 580 day pupils and 250 boarders, its deeply personalised approach to each child, and its ethos of inclusivity, openness and tolerance encourages day pupils and boarders to enrich each other's school experience. Understanding the meaning of community, developing an awareness of wider society and acquiring the essential qualities of kindness, emotional intelligence, respect and responsibility are central to the School's all-round educational offer. The Dragon is non-selective on admission and prides itself on outstanding academic, pastoral and co-curricular outcomes for pupils in its pre-preparatory department, Dragon Pre-Prep, (for pupils aged 4-7 years) and in its preparatory department (8-13 years).

The school was inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) on 11th-14th November 2014.

This was an integrated inspection which included Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and Boarding.

ISI reports do not provide a single overarching judgement for the school but instead give a clear judgement on each aspect of the school's work at the beginning of each section. These headline statements must include one of the ISI descriptors, "excellent", "good", "sound" or "unsatisfactory" and for the one category of the quality of pupil achievement, where this is judged to be "exceptional", this term may be used for the top grade. The main headlines are as follows and the Dragon gained the top outcomes in all areas:

- The quality of the pupils' achievements and learning – **Exceptional**
- The contribution of curricular and extra-curricular provision – **Excellent**
- The quality of teaching – **Excellent**
- The spiritual, moral, social and cultural developments of the children – **Excellent**
- The contribution of arrangements for welfare, health and safety – **Excellent**
- The quality of governance – **Excellent**
- The quality of boarding education – **Excellent**
 - Outcomes for boarders – **Excellent**

- Provision and care – **Excellent**
- Welfare and safeguarding – **Excellent**
- Leadership and management of boarding - **Excellent**

The **Dragon** is one of the most highly regarded prep schools in the country and sends pupils on to senior Schools throughout the United Kingdom and abroad. The main School is situated in the most attractive part of North Oxford with its playing fields running down to the River Cherwell, and yet is only a mile from the City centre.

Numbers

At present there are around 640 pupils aged 8-13 in the main School, of whom 260 are boarders. There are about 180 girls in the main School and the average class size is 19. In September 1995, the Dragon Pre-Prep was opened about a mile away and now has 215 children aged 4-7.

Staff and Pupils

The School has a lively and enthusiastic teaching staff of nearly 120, together with about twenty matrons and gap year staff. The ethos is comparatively informal. We aim to make pupils responsible, polite and friendly without being over-confident and a rather greater degree of freedom is allowed than might be the case in many prep schools.

Curriculum

There is no formal entry exam, though prospective pupils are assessed before they arrive. As a result, both the intake and the curriculum are broad and the School prides itself on developing pupils' potential. A large number of pupils each year win awards to their next schools (48, 50, 38, 39, 40 in the last five years), and help is given to pupils with learning difficulties. Lessons take place until 12.30 p.m. on Saturdays and senior pupils play games on Saturday afternoons. Most staff are expected to be available then, although a few teach more lessons instead of games. A large number of pupils represent the School in a variety of games and the teams are very successful. There is a wide range of optional activities ranging from debating to climbing, and astronomy to fencing: protected time is given to music and drama.

Facilities

As might be expected in a large school, improvements to extensive facilities are ongoing. A new building comprising fifteen classrooms and a large covered recreation area was completed in the summer of 2004. In recent years, building has included six new Science laboratories which were followed by a new Art, Design and Technology Department. There are also five ICT computer suites. The School has good sporting facilities, including a new indoor swimming pool, three Astroturf pitches (which convert to tennis courts in the summer) and a well-equipped gym. Sculling and canoeing take place on the River Cherwell and the School enters a number of local regattas. There is a fully equipped Lecture Theatre. Also several dramatic productions and concerts, both formal and informal, take place each term in the Lynam Hall, which seats over 500.

Salary and Benefits

The school has its own salary scale, which is above the National Scale, and there are substantial allowances for a variety of special responsibilities. Accommodation may be possible, depending on the successful candidate's personal circumstances.

The Dragon has a large, energetic and very professional Common Room. As would be expected from a Common Room of this size and make-up, there is a determination to enjoy a warm and positive social life – for those that wish to. There are several staff social occasions each year including the opportunity for staff to take part in “Sing Song”, “Staff Panto” (every five years), Quiz Nights, Book Clubs, formal and informal dinners etc. All members of staff get on well with each other and the atmosphere is regarded as warm and supportive. All new members of staff are given a mentor on arrival and a senior member of staff is assigned to looking after staff welfare and induction. All members of staff take part in a Professional Development Programme which includes a regular review with the Headmaster and Head of Department as well as In Service Training.

If you enjoy belonging to a strong and mutually supportive community and you wish to work hard in a vibrant and dynamic boarding school - often with long hours - then the Dragon is for you.

The Dragon is an extraordinary school and we are looking for extraordinary people. Thank you for your interest and we look forward to hearing from you

Dr Crispin Hyde-Dunn
Headmaster
September 2017