



CHEL TENHAM COLLEGE
PREPARATORY
SCHOOL

Prospectus



The warmest of welcomes



As a preparatory school, our job is to prepare your child to move up to senior school, having received the best possible start to his or her education.

As logical as that sounds and as professional as we are in fulfilling that higher purpose, it barely touches upon the heart of all that we offer.

So let us broaden our horizons. Cheltenham College Preparatory School is an integral part of Cheltenham College, one of England's great independent schools. We are founded on, and still wedded to, strong Christian values of morality and humility. We have outstanding facilities, buildings and grounds, all set in the heart of a beautiful Regency town, which itself is a vibrant hub of culture.

This setting and heritage infuse everything that we and our pupils do, both inside and outside the classroom. From camping in the grounds and sailing their remote-controlled boats on the lake, to throwing themselves into the vast range of music, sport and arts on offer, you will find our children knee deep in learning. Boys and girls so engaged and enthusiastic about what they are doing that they barely notice they are learning lessons not just for school but for life.

Whether by turning the page, or by visiting us in person, we hope you come to see why the promise we make to our parents, teachers and our children is 'prepare to be proud'.





Preparing for life

Welcome to Cheltenham College Preparatory School, one of the country's leading schools for ages 3 to 13. We prepare our pupils for academic success through a broad and modern curriculum, blended with a traditional approach to values. We set the bar high, but we do so in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment.

At Cheltenham Prep, we have clear goals and a focused approach to achieving them. Our Christian ethos is upheld in every walk of our school life, from the classroom to the playground. Being the best is important but doing one's best is perhaps even more so.

Throughout the school we foster a strong sense of belonging, with all children expected to try their best, to get involved and to behave in a manner that benefits the whole community, not just themselves. Our pupils take pride in the success of others and they develop a clear sense of right and wrong.

Our pupils succeed because they are stretched appropriately academically and encouraged to develop a broad range of interests, whatever their abilities. Above all perhaps, they succeed because they are happy and enthusiastic children who want to come to school.

Children at Cheltenham Prep work hard and play hard. They develop a balance in their life through our focus on learning both inside and outside the classroom. They become well rounded individuals who build on their strengths, understand their weaknesses and who will make a positive difference to those around them.

By the time our pupils leave us, bound for their senior school of choice, they are more than ready for the next stage in their young lives.

Mr Jonathan Whybrow
Headmaster



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1. Our shield of arms was granted by the Kings of Arms in 1896 and supplemented by the grant of a crest and supporters in 1965. Akin to honours and controlled as part of the Royal Prerogative, the granting of full Armorial Bearings is extremely rare. We are one of only a handful of schools in the UK entitled to use them.
2. Cheltenham College Preparatory School was founded in 1906 and opened its doors to pupils for the first time in September 1909.



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A sense of progression

From our earliest entry point, the term after their third birthday, we take care of every child in every sense at every step of their time with us.

Children up to the age of seven join Kingfishers, our Pre-Prep department, where small nurturing classes develop confidence as well as ability. At the age of seven, children move into Lower School for Years 3 and 4, where they are gently introduced to a wider range of specialist teachers and extra-curricular activities, all carefully balanced with class teacher time. At age nine they move into Middle School for Years 5 and 6, where they benefit from an increasing focus on academic achievement, subject specialism and a greater degree of independence.

Finally at age 11, children reach the pinnacle of their prep school career; Upper School, Years 7 and 8. Here we take pride in seeing minds maturing, interests broadening and leaders emerging. Many boys and girls from other schools, both state and independent, join us at this stage and we welcome this expansion of our community.

This structure not only gives children a clear sense of progression but ensures they are constantly supported. They are part of both something small and something big at all times, enabling every talent to be enriched, every weakness addressed and every new challenge grasped.



*"Cheltenham Prep became a home for me.
All the teachers were so kind to me and
always helped with any problem I had."*

Charles Tombleson



"What I like about lessons at Cheltenham Prep is that the teachers are always really helpful and kind to you. They never mind you asking questions and they are always there to help when you get stuck."

Molly, age 11



Nurturing inquisitive minds

Academic success is the heart beat of the school and we take great pride in our Common Entrance record and the range of scholarships to senior schools won at both 11+ and 13+.

Credit for such consistent achievement goes in no small part to our hard-working pupils and our deeply committed teachers, who believe that anything is possible. We keep our class sizes small and our approach individual, valuing inclusivity, progress and success in all aspects of school life.

We believe in teaching pupils to delve deeper, stimulating them to want to find out more and helping them understand how they learn, not just what they learn. Our teaching goes far deeper than the National Curriculum, with specialist subject teachers and

facilities throughout the school, including numerous science labs, a separate art and ceramics block, a bespoke CDT room and a dedicated music centre. Our Apple Mac suites are impressive but more important to a child's development is the integration of ICT across the curriculum.

Importantly, our pupils have the time and space to absorb everything that they learn. Our aim is for them to approach every task with an open mind, an inquisitive nature and with no constraints. Our expectations are high but realistic for each child, supporting those who struggle whilst helping the brightest soar higher. We encourage our pupils to take increasing responsibility for their learning, helping them fulfil their academic potential at all times.





"As a community we were taught to respect and listen to everyone's views and opinions. We were taught how (and why) to help others out if they were in need and always to accept an individual for who they are. It has definitely helped me become the person who I want to develop into as I progress through life."

Edward Johnston

Caring at our core

Pastoral care is woven into the fabric of everything we do today, just as it was woven into the values of the school more than 100 years ago.

We want happy children to do their best, to get involved and to behave towards others as they would have others behave towards them. In our experience, happy children have the confidence to try new things, to thrive in their studies and to develop socially.

We foster a genuine and familiar sense of belonging so that each child is known individually and feels secure in every endeavour. This also enables us to sense immediately when a little extra care and attention may be needed.

Like all successful communities, we look out for each other. Children develop strong and trusting relationships with their teachers and that respect is mutual – teachers talk with pupils, dine with pupils and get to know them inside out.

Our boarding provision from Year 3 onwards adds further layers of care. With many committed resident staff providing 24/7 care, including a wide range of after school activities, it's reassuring for all parents to know that if you are ever late for pick up, we will always continue to look after your son or daughter.

Our house system builds loyalty, pride and belonging. Children enjoy the chance to mix with older and younger years, creating a deeper sense of community, inclusivity and responsibility. They also, of course, benefit from this valuable source of friendly rivalry and competition.



"Cheltenham Prep was an amazing and truly life changing experience. It gave me a lot more confidence in the person I am and also helped me achieve my fullest potential."

Bradley Marshall





Lessons beyond the classroom

Young minds are limitless in their capacity for inquisitiveness and prep school is the ideal time to nurture and feed that curiosity.

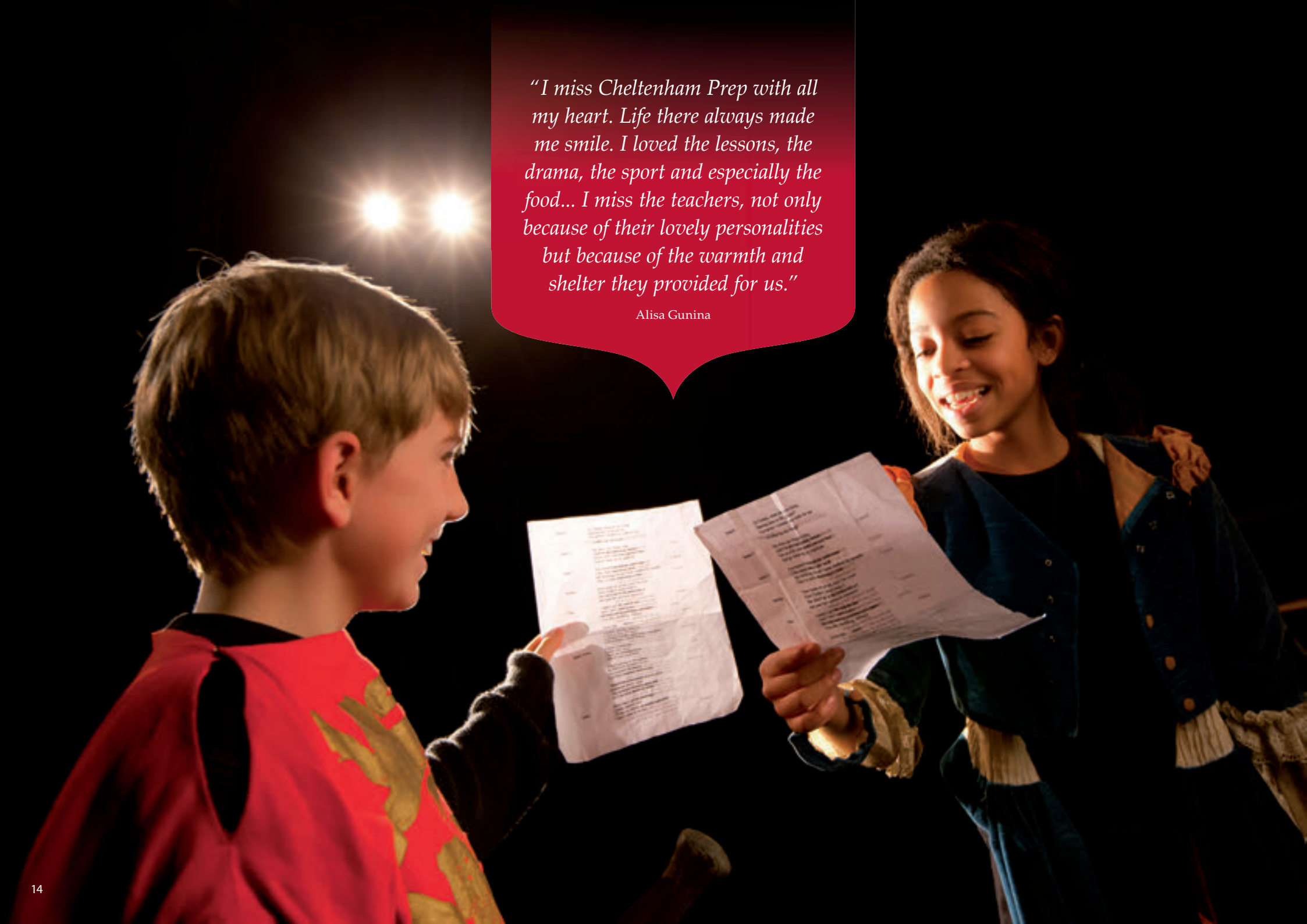
It matters greatly to us that all those in our care feel encouraged to explore their interests, not only building character but potentially developing passions for life.

All pupils from our Pre-Prep through to Year 8 have the opportunity to take part in clubs, activities and trips outside the curriculum. Each week, we run over 30 different clubs and activities, from debating and chess to clay pigeon shooting, cookery, skiing and more. Some take place at lunchtimes while others are part of our extended after school programme which expands horizons and encourages participation.

A broad and carefully planned co-curricular programme of school trips, talks, academic societies and events broadens pupils' understanding of core topics and subjects. Academic clubs help children to target specific subject interests, while others develop broader learning skills and foster a deeper understanding of the wider world around them.

The opportunity to explore takes pupils outdoors into our spacious parkland too. We have our own Forest School, open to all children in Pre-Prep and we also run our own immensely popular Scout Troop for boys and girls. Open air camping, digging for mini beasts and making creamy hot chocolate with marshmallows over a camp-fire never seem to lose their appeal.



A young boy and girl are on a stage, looking at papers. The boy is on the left, wearing a red cape with gold patterns. The girl is on the right, wearing a blue jacket. They are both smiling and looking at the papers. The background is dark with stage lights.

"I miss Cheltenham Prep with all my heart. Life there always made me smile. I loved the lessons, the drama, the sport and especially the food... I miss the teachers, not only because of their lovely personalities but because of the warmth and shelter they provided for us."

Alisa Gunina



A role for everyone

We delight in opening children's hearts and minds to the magical world of the arts – a world in which imagination and self-expression take centre stage.

Throughout school you will find an ever-changing display of paintings, drawings, sculptures, projects and performance photos, all proudly celebrating the achievements of our pupils. Annual Art and CDT exhibitions further showcase their work, making the most of our onsite ceramic kiln, printing presses, woodwork materials and oil-based paints.

From the age of three, we encourage interests, nurture talents and indulge passions. All our pupils are involved with regular productions, including nativity plays, pantomimes and musicals.

The dramatic life of Cheltenham Prep spans both centuries and cultures, with children taking on increasingly challenging and thought-provoking works as they move up through school. Indeed each year Upper School pupils have the chance to perform in a national theatre as part of the Shakespeare in Schools Festival.

The town of Cheltenham itself has a rich programme of internationally renowned arts festivals, which we balance with regular trips to galleries, exhibitions and plays both locally and further afield.

It is important to us that all pupils enjoy the opportunity simply to be creative. Not every child can play the leading role or create an artistic masterpiece but every child can, and does, have the chance to get involved.





*"Cheltenham Prep taught me
to appreciate what I have and
what I can do. I learnt many
lessons to apply in life"*

Alex Cove

Learning the joy of music

Whether it be performing on a stage or quietly exploring a dream to beat box, composing a song or just strumming a guitar, we encourage all pupils to explore their talents, fire their imaginations and learn the joy of music.

Set in its own historic building, we have the most wonderfully dynamic and rich music department, with facilities to rival those of a senior school.

We embrace all aspects of musical styles, with specialist class music teaching from age three upwards. Lessons cover theory and practice and include singing, composing, percussion, music appreciation and specialist music ICT programmes.

Our many bands, groups, ensembles and choirs ensure there is something for everybody, regardless of talent or level, and we are always keen that as many children as possible have the opportunity to participate in both formal and informal school concerts.

We also, of course, take immense pride in the level attained by our many talented musicians and music scholars. They are given every possible opportunity to perform and fulfil their potential, whether it be participating in master classes, performing on a national stage or showcasing their talents in senior schools. With the help of our dedicated and committed music staff, they are prepared to the highest levels of examination or scholarship.





A winning approach to sport

Our reputation for sporting success, not to mention our fabled match teas, often precedes us.

It is a remarkable reputation, not least because of the philosophy of inclusion which lies behind it.

Whilst we are fortunate to have several professional coaches who work alongside our teachers to nurture talent, hone skills, celebrate success and earn national recognition, we also encourage every child of every ability to take part and try something new.

PE is incorporated into the curriculum from age three upwards, designed to develop a child's physical development,

especially in the younger years. This includes hand/eye co-ordination, agility and spatial awareness.

Our core sports are rugby, hockey, cricket and athletics for boys, and hockey, netball, rounders, tennis and athletics for girls. These, however are just the beginning; there is much more to do and try. Swimming, squash, shooting, golf, rowing, table tennis, skiing, polo, biathlons and more, are open to boys and girls alike.

Our facilities are equally as impressive, with acres of outdoor sports pitches and floodlit astros complemented by a state of the art sports centre and separate indoor gym.

From Year 3, every child has the opportunity to play in a competitive team. The depth of our sports provision means we can field teams at every level, with boys and girls of all ages and abilities having equal access to coaching, facilities and a full fixture programme. We also, of course, have a wide range of sporting clubs, activities and informal tournaments for those pupils for whom experience and enjoyment take precedence over competition.

We really do offer, support, and believe in, sport for every child.



"As soon as you step into the boarding house, your view of boarding school changes forever. From sliding down the water slide in the summer to cuddling up in a blanket on movie night, I will never forget the experiences that I shared at Cheltenham Prep."

Izzi Stannett



Boarding for all

As well as enabling our more distant families to consider Cheltenham Prep, our boarding house also offers outstanding pastoral care and an extensive after school activities programme for the benefit of all.

The boarding house is located right at the heart of the school, contributing greatly to the sense of belonging and homeliness which runs all the way through our community.

Our houseparents, Mr and Mrs Wells, live onsite with their own children and also teach in the school. With the help of a large team of resident staff, all of whom run evening and weekend activities, they encourage our boarders not only to feel at home but to look out for one another as they would for their own siblings.

Of course, boarding doesn't have to be full time. We are extremely flexible and happy to accommodate most boarding requests, from the odd evening in to regular nights. We often find these requests come from the children themselves who are keen to join a favoured activity or the busy weekend programme. Having a teacher on hand 24/7 when it comes to prep time can also have significant appeal!

Each evening and at weekends in particular, once school, prep and sport have concluded, the fun begins in earnest. There is an array of activities, clubs, trips and films to enjoy, as well as common rooms for the boys and girls to relax in.

It is here, over a cosy supper or the nightly bedtime story, where children forge friendships which can last a lifetime.





To book a visit, please contact the Registrar.

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Next steps

The definition of preparatory is 'serving to prepare'. We think this is a near perfect description of why we come to school every day and what we strive to achieve for every child in our care.

For the time your child is with us, we will take personal pride in seeing him or her blossom. Children leave us fully prepared for the next step of their academic journey as well as

for life beyond the classroom. They leave armed with intellectual curiosity, a quiet confidence and a kind soul. In short, a young person to be proud of.

We warmly invite you to come and see us, in part to get a feel for what we offer, but also to meet some of the pupils and teachers who form the heart of this great school.



“Cheltenham Prep became a huge part of my life. I met new friends who I trust will be with me forever. The teachers build your confidence and help you reach goals that you would never have thought possible. They certainly helped me to have more confidence in myself. I am not afraid to be the real person I am.”

Ella Mayes





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