





# A warm welcome



ALEX MATTHEWS  
HEAD

Blackheath Prep is an outstanding co-educational school for children aged 3 to 11. Our five acre site offers superb specialist facilities and the freedom to play and explore in our large playgrounds, forest school areas and playing fields.

We nurture our pupils academically and pastorally, enabling them to be happy, confident and inquisitive. Our rich and varied curriculum, inspiring teaching and exciting programme of co-curricular activities is designed to spark our pupils' natural curiosity and foster a joyful love of learning. We encourage each child to find their passions, to be courageous and ambitious, and truly shine.

Above all, we are a kind, friendly and joyful school.

As part of the Eltham College family of schools, we offer our pupils unrivalled access to a priority application process at Eltham College (places are offered subject to the usual entry requirements). For those who wish to explore alternative options, we offer full support through the 11+ process to make the transition to your choice of senior school as smooth as possible.



Children in the early years make good progress in all seven areas of learning through experiencing a broad and well-planned curriculum

ISI REPORT

# Our school values

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Our seven core values inform how we behave as a school community. They guide our approach to teaching and learning, to pastoral care, and how we engage with our local community.

## **Kindness**

We aim to be an inclusive, diverse, friendly and welcoming school where kindness, compassion, courtesy and respect are paramount. We are generous and considerate towards others and take care of each other and ourselves. We help children learn how to put the powerful potential of kind words and deeds into action.

## **Curiosity**

We aim to spark children's natural curiosity for the world, leading them to discover, to wonder, to dare to go further. With their attention captivated, children think more deeply, ask more inquisitive questions and pursue their learning to new levels.

## **Freedom**

We aim to give children freedom to grow, to push boundaries, to exceed their own expectations and ours. Our superb outdoor space provides wonderful scope for exploration and exhilaration. Our independent status allows us to be an innovative school that nurtures creative thinkers and risk takers.

## **Ambition**

We aim to be ambitious in the goals we set, striving to ensure that every child shines and reaches their full potential. We unlock confidence, excitement, fresh thinking and a sense

of fun and adventure, in the full belief there are no limits to what each individual child can achieve. We are committed to academic excellence and to offering a rich and varied curriculum that inspires and fulfils a vast range of interests and aspirations.

## **Courage**

We aim to help children develop the courage to believe in themselves, to take risks and make choices, to try new things, to be bold, brave, resilient and tenacious, to learn from mistakes and to rise to challenges.

## **Community**

We aim to nurture a sense of belonging and a strong appreciation of community. As well as deepening collaboration between our own pupils, teachers and parents, we aim to look beyond the school and engage with the wider world, contributing to our local community and working with other schools, organisations and charities.

## **Joy**

We aim to nurture a joyful love of learning. We are committed to providing a happy and exciting school environment where each day brings new experiences and children's personal development, happiness and wellbeing all flourish.



#BeBlackheathPrep



# A world of discovery

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Sparking our pupils' natural curiosity lies at the heart of our approach to teaching and learning. Pupils are encouraged to question, to experiment and to challenge their own thinking, to discover, to wonder and dare to go further. We nurture inquisitiveness through innovative and inspiring teaching, a broad and challenging curriculum, and a wealth of co-curricular activities.

From Nursery upwards all pupils are taught PE, French, Music and the Performing Arts. In EYFS we also include regular Forest School sessions. ICT, German, Spanish, Art, DT and Science are introduced in later years. The core subjects of English, Maths, History, Geography and RE are taught with an imaginative approach, encouraging pupils to make connections between subjects to develop a wider understanding. As well as a broad range of academic subjects, we excel in music, the performing arts and sport, and encourage creativity, courage and ambition, whether on stage or on the playing field.

# Outstanding facilities

Within our extensive five acre school grounds, we offer superb facilities. Our splendid Library, housed in the old chapel, state-of-the-art IT suite, music block, art and DT classrooms and newly refurbished Science lab all enrich our pupils' learning experience.

## Freedom to explore

Our large playing field, dedicated playgrounds for Nursery, Pre-Prep and Prep, and three Forest Schools, provide our pupils with ample space to explore, to be adventurous and to enjoy learning outdoors. With the open expanse of the heath on our doorstep, and Greenwich Park also within a short walk, we offer children an idyllic school location.

## Forest School

Outdoor learning is an important part of the curriculum at Blackheath Prep. Nursery and Reception pupils have regular outdoor sessions in our Forest Schools and Garden of Imagination. We give them the freedom to build dens, climb trees, make campfires and splash about in mud in a safe outdoor setting. Mini adventures are encouraged, and our qualified Forest School leaders provide the opportunities for our pupils to discover the natural world first-hand, from pond dipping and bird watching to identifying trees and plants.

## Kitchen Garden

All pupils experience the fun of growing their own vegetables, fruit and flowers on the school allotment, and hopefully enjoy the fruits of their labour! Our adjoining outdoor classroom also provides a wonderful natural setting for open air teaching.



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The children are offered an exciting curriculum with amazing facilities to help them

PARENT



# Our community

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We are a kind, friendly and inclusive school community. We actively encourage our pupils to be considerate towards others, and to develop an awareness of their local community and the world at large. We help them to appreciate the advantages they have and we support them in developing understanding of those who may be less fortunate.

## Helping others

Pupils, parents and staff are actively involved in supporting our charitable endeavours all year round. We encourage long-term partnerships with smaller charities in our local area, as well as supporting national charities and projects overseas. Our thriving PTFA are also an important part of our school community. They organise a host of activities and fundraising events across the year, including second-hand uniform sales, the popular Christmas Fair and an annual Parent Quiz Night.

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Pupils are successful both in achieving entry to senior schools of their choice and in gaining academic, music, sporting, drama and art scholarships.

ISI REPORT

# Our Nursery

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This is where the Blackheath Prep adventure begins!

Most pupils join us in Nursery aged 3 years old. Play is at the heart of our provision for our youngest pupils. We create a fun and relaxed environment, providing them with the freedom to enjoy a superb range of stimulating activities in our well-equipped nursery classrooms and dedicated playgrounds. Curiosity, discovery and interaction is encouraged, enabling pupils to develop their skills, work collaboratively with others, explore, observe, experiment and solve problems.

We follow the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework with a strong emphasis on developing children's literacy and number sense. French, Music, Dance, PE and Drama are also offered and taught by specialist teachers.

Outdoor learning is a key part of our curriculum and come rain or shine, our youngest pupils are given the freedom to explore and have fun in our Forest Schools where they get to enjoy the natural world.





# Our Pre-Prep

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The Pre-Prep welcomes children from Reception through to the end of Year 2. Learning in our Pre-Prep is vibrant and exciting, with a wide variety of subjects taught through a creative curriculum approach. In Pre-Prep we encourage a sense of independence and inspire pupils to explore and question the world around them. We nurture each child, celebrate their strengths, and support them fully so they can flourish and reach their full potential.

The Reception classes follow an enhanced Early Years curriculum. This is designed to prepare them for progression into Years 1 and 2 where children are taught a broad range of subjects in dedicated lessons for Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, Computing, French, Music, PE and RE.

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From the early years upwards, children demonstrate articulate communication skills and extensive vocabularies.

ISI REPORT

# Our Prep

As our pupils move into the Prep at Year 3 we focus on building their confidence and encourage them to continue being inquisitive learners who think critically.

Lessons include teaching by specialist teachers, with form teachers also providing excellent pastoral care for their pupils. By the time they reach Year 6, our pupils have benefitted from a broad and stimulating education and are well-equipped for the next stage of their education.

## Moving on

In Year 5 and Year 6 we prepare our pupils well for their 11+ and senior school entrance exams, as well as supporting our parents in the choices that they are making for their child. Our pupils achieve outstanding results in entrance exams for both the maintained and the independent sectors and an impressive number of our leavers are offered scholarships.

## Part of the Eltham College family of schools

Pupils at Blackheath Prep who select Eltham College as their choice of senior school are offered a preferential admissions process. Our pupils sit an early test at the start of Year 6 and successful pupils are offered a place at Eltham College ahead of external candidates which is not available to any other feeder school. This enables our pupils to then withdraw from the 11+ cycle.

For those pupils who do not qualify for a priority place at Eltham College, or for families who wish to explore other senior school options, we offer excellent guidance on the 11+ process, and support pupils well in their preparation for entrance exams.



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Excellent teachers who genuinely care about their work and the children they look after. The varied curriculum is great.

PARENT



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It's a lovely environment to learn and the teachers are always there to help us. The creative subjects are my favourite like art, DT and drama because they help me explore and express my imagination.

NAYAH



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I really like Blackheath Prep because the teachers give us options such as whether to play football, cricket or tennis, and we're given the freedom to choose what we'd like to practise and get better at. My favourite subject is maths as you're always using your brain!

AARVIN



# Shine on stage

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The arts are a key part of the curriculum at Blackheath Prep. We firmly believe that creativity is fundamental to children's development, confidence and wellbeing.

## **Feel the beat**

Music is at the heart of our school life. From Nursery to Year 6, all pupils receive at least two timetabled music lessons a week and learn at least one instrument, taught by one of our ten highly experienced peripatetic staff. With six choirs, two orchestras, a wind band, a jazz band, recorder and flute ensembles, and a guitar club, we ensure that there are plenty of opportunities for pupils to develop a passion and appreciation for music.

## **Let's dance**

Dance lessons at Blackheath Prep are taught by a specialist teacher and are purposely designed to be fun and inclusive with an emphasis on the positive effect that movement can have on our pupils' wellbeing. Dance genres and styles from around the world are explored, including jive, salsa, bhangra, hip hop, ballet, contemporary, African dance, jazz, flamenco and disco.

## **Take centre stage**

From Nursery upwards, all pupils have weekly Drama lessons, taught by specialist teachers with a background in professional theatre. Every child is given the opportunity to shine during the school year and perform in school assemblies, the Christmas nativity and our wonderful end of year productions.

# Inspiring creativity

Our art and design curriculum is designed to enable experimentation and self-expression, encouraging each child to enjoy being creative and build confidence in their own ability.

## Get creative

In our well-equipped art studio, pupils are encouraged to develop a range of skills and techniques in different media, from drawing and painting to wire sculpture and ceramics.

## Make it

Pupils explore the designed and made world through fun and practical woodwork, model making and 3D design lessons in our dedicated Design and Technology classroom. They are encouraged to develop an understanding of aesthetics, social and environmental issues and gain practical experience of problem solving through design and working in a team.



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Pupils' artistic and creative skills are nurtured effectively through the curriculum and the rich provision of extra-curricular activities.

ISI REPORT



# On your marks...

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Our superb on-site sport facilities include tennis and netball courts, an indoor gymnasium hall, a large playing field and a sports pavilion.

Through co-operative and competitive games, we build our pupils' confidence and ensure that every child participates through the inter-house events programme.

We also offer extension opportunities to our talented pupils and external fixtures against other schools, enabling them to be part of the wider sporting community and to excel at a competitive level.



# Digital citizens

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Digital innovation is at the heart of the curriculum at Blackheath Prep. All year groups are taught in our purpose-built IT suite where pupils develop and challenge their skills as they experiment with modern technology and systems.

Lessons are centred on digital citizenship, computer science and the use of information communication technology. We integrate cross-curricular teaching with Maths, Science and Design and Technology and encourage our children to explore these links as they develop their digital proficiency.





# Enrichment

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Our pupils enjoy an exciting programme of co-curricular activities, trips and events all year round. Visits to museums, galleries, historic buildings, theatres and attractions provide a fun day out of the classroom and inspiration for creativity on their return to school. In Years 4, 5 and 6 we introduce our popular residential trips, including outdoor adventure and water sports activities.

Visiting speakers are an important part of our co-curricular offer with inspirational talks given by polar explorers, Paralympians, astronomers, scientists, authors and illustrators to name but a few. Parents also share their professional expertise, and others bring to life the customs and practices of a wide range of cultures and religions.

# Happiness is key

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We work hard to ensure that our school has happy, confident, resilient and inquisitive children at its heart. The wellbeing of each and every child is fundamental to everything we do and every pupil is nurtured throughout their time with us.

Pupils are supported by all staff in weekly assemblies, School Council meetings, circle time activities, termly pastoral mentoring sessions and a bespoke PSHE curriculum. We help them to develop the courage to believe in themselves, to try new things, to be brave and to be tenacious. We encourage pupils to learn from mistakes and rise to challenges. We teach them to learn about the rights and responsibilities of others, and to respect and value the richness and diversity of our society.



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Wonderful, caring  
teachers and a lovely  
atmosphere

PARENT



# Learning support

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Children may experience learning challenges for all sorts of reasons. Our learning support provision is embedded into the teaching culture of the school to ensure help is provided where it's needed.

Our Learning Support department work closely with teaching staff across the school to identify and nurture a wide range of abilities and talents. They create an inclusive and motivational atmosphere that supports the educational and pastoral needs of pupils. This includes children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), EAL (English as an Additional Language), and exceptionally able students. In class, teachers and teaching assistants provide additional support both in small groups and individually.

# Eating well

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Lunchtime is an important part of our school day. Our pupils look forward to lunch and come together to enjoy a tasty and healthy meal with their classmates. We offer an imaginative, weekly changing menu which uses fresh ingredients and the finest British produce sourced from local farmers, growers and artisan suppliers.

In collaboration with our catering partner, Thomas Franks, pupils take part in food education classes. Tasting sessions encourage them to try new types of food, exotic fruit and vegetables, and learn about seasonality.

We cater for all diets and allergies.





# Wraparound care

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To help meet the needs of parents, we offer wraparound care providing a relaxed and sociable environment at the start and end of each school day (additional charges apply).

## **Breakfast Club and Late Stay**

Breakfast Club runs from 7.30am on weekday mornings during term time and is open to all pupils from Nursery upwards. Games, activities and a hearty breakfast sets each child up for the day ahead. A late stay provision is available until 6pm following our after-school clubs. Children can relax and socialise with friends, supervised by our friendly staff who occupy them with indoor and outdoor games, construction toys, and art and craft activities.

## **School Clubs**

We offer a wealth of exciting clubs and activities enabling pupils to try new things and explore favourite passions. Over 70 lunchtime and after school clubs take place every week, including art, coding and Minecraft, hip-hop and jazz dance, woodwork, gardening, sport and magic clubs.

# Visit us

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The best way to discover more about our school and all that we offer our pupils is to visit us in person.

We hold tours on certain Tuesday mornings during term-time. This is an opportunity for parents to see our school in action and meet the Head and members of the senior leadership team. We also hold Open Days on Saturday mornings once a term in the Autumn and Summer when prospective families can come and tour the school's facilities and meet the Head and staff. For forthcoming dates and booking visit [www.blackheathprep.co.uk/opendays](http://www.blackheathprep.co.uk/opendays).

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