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In  
Our Own  
Words  
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Voices from  
Our Community



SALISBURY  
CATHEDRAL SCHOOL

# Our Mission

To develop the whole child, preparing them to make a positive influence in the world



Dear Reader,

As a parent, I remember only too well the difficulty of choosing a school for my daughters. It was easy enough to create a shortlist. We wanted everything you'd expect from a leading preparatory school, including excellent teaching, plenty of sport and exercise, inspiring music, flexible wraparound care, good food, challenging arts and crafts, and a rich co-curricular programme. A few schools met our criteria, so the next step was to talk to as many people as we could. It was these conversations that gave us a real flavour of the different schools, a taste of what life would be like as a pupil and as a parent in each place.

That's why, when creating this book, we wanted to share voices from our community rather than list facts, figures and fees. Read on to discover a sense of what makes our school special. Find out why other people chose Salisbury Cathedral School and what they love about it the most. We have asked key members of staff, current pupils and parents, as well as alumni to talk directly to you.

The school you choose for your child to spend their formative years in, from three to 13, will make a lasting impression on them. We decided on Salisbury Cathedral School and were not disappointed. Not only did my girls spend many years in beautiful surroundings steeped in history, they also benefited from an excellent education in a caring, supportive environment. We all enjoyed being part of the warm, welcoming community of the school. It was such a positive experience, that I remain Chair of Governors even after my children have moved on to senior school.

I hope you enjoy hearing from the people in this book. Do visit our website to find out more and, most importantly, come and visit the school anytime. The Head Master, staff and pupils would love to meet you.

With kindest regards

**Jacqueline Monro-Higgs**  
Chair of Governors



# The Right Choice

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I visited several schools in the area before deciding on Salisbury Cathedral School. The small class sizes and the quality of staff were big draws for me. Additionally, the school's location in the grounds of Salisbury Cathedral struck me as quite extraordinary. There was a particular moment when I walked outside onto the playing fields during a morning break that really sealed the deal though. The morning was sunny, but the fields were still a bit wet from an earlier rainstorm. There were children everywhere; playing, swinging, running, kicking footballs and all sorts. Everyone was a bit muddy, ruddy faced and laughing. Classical music was blaring from an overhead loudspeaker and a snack of oranges and water was being served. I knew at that moment that Salisbury Cathedral School was the right choice for both of my children.

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**Sarah Blank, Parent**



# Be part of a Welcoming Community

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I take great pleasure warmly welcoming children in to our community and watching them thrive, in the knowledge that every child's abilities are celebrated, and all feel equally valued and included.

Parents take comfort in the knowledge that the children in our care are cherished and cheered, and they have numerous opportunities to embrace new challenges and seek success. We nurture their innate love of learning and encourage them to see education as a dialogue, in which they are active participants with a wealth of experience to offer. Our children have the time and space to participate in an array of sporting, musical and academic adventures designed to help develop interests and discover unique talents. Whilst the journey differs for every child, acknowledging their specific needs and interests, we take great pride in sharing the fruits of all their labours. They shine with happiness and display a natural confidence when engaging across the generations, two qualities which help equip them for the next step, wherever that may be.

We are proud of our heritage being one of the oldest educational institutions in the world. Our school has been educating the choristers of Salisbury Cathedral, and more recently other pupils too, since 1091. Our location, beneath the famous spire of the Cathedral, reminds us of this privilege daily and embodies the Christian values and spiritual awareness which underpins all we stand for and strive for at Salisbury Cathedral School.

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**Clive Marriott, Head Master**

# Free to be Yourself

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When we joined the school, we were pleasantly surprised to be greeted personally every day by a member of staff. Most often it is the Head Master himself waiting at the gate, bright and breezy, always with a smile and a handshake, and my children soon came to know him. They feel they can talk to him, which is so important. It is a real mark of Mr Marriott's leadership style that he makes time to be present beyond the big-ticket events like school plays and sports day. The children are always his number one priority, he knows them all by name without hesitation.

For me, what makes Salisbury Cathedral School truly special is that it is an environment where everyone can feel comfortable in their own skin. You can add all the 'bells and whistles' to a school you like, and we have them – I defy anyone to not be in awe of the Bishop's Palace – but they mean absolutely nothing if the parents, pupils and staff aren't free to be themselves.

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**Katie Walker, Parent and Chairman of the Friends of Salisbury Cathedral School**



# Foundation for Future Learning

“

A parent recently said that being in the Salisbury Cathedral School Pre-Prep department is like a great big hug. I was thrilled because we want our pupils to love coming to school. The minute they walk in they feel warm, welcomed and nurtured. Their happiness is our priority, but don't be fooled, it's much more than just child's play. The Pre-Prep years build the foundation for future learning.

From Nursery to Year 2 our broad and exciting curriculum is centred around four key values: Courage, Kindness, Creativity and Thinking. Initially we help our youngest pupils develop a strong sense of independence. They need courage to come into school with confidence, take responsibility for their belongings and participate in the wide range of activities on offer daily. From day one we model kindness, teaching pupils how to think of others before themselves. Our bright and engaging classrooms promote creativity along with continually evolving, multi-sensory lesson plans.

The value of thinking is represented daily in so many ways, including teaching the vital literacy and numeracy skills required for pupils to access all subjects as they move through the school. Small classes with high staff ratios allow us to read with every child daily to enable and encourage a love of books. We do this indoors and outside, often dressing up and getting involved as we always love to lift our learning off the page.

”

Linda Cunningham-Brown, Head of Pre-Prep



# Specialist Teaching



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Life in the Pre-Prep is varied and fun. Pupils enjoy specialist teaching in music, PE, computing, French and dance. From this they gain not only subject knowledge, but also an introduction to the Prep school staff to help ease the process of transition once they reach Year 3. We make the most of our beautiful grounds: 27 green acres hidden in the heart of Salisbury, with regular outdoor learning opportunities as well as plenty of playtime and sport.

”

**Linda Cunningham-Brown,  
Head of Pre-Prep**



Fall in Love  
with Sport

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Specialised sports teaching starts early at Salisbury Cathedral School because the sooner you can help a child fall in love with sport the better. We work to encourage all our pupils to view being active as a fun part of life, not a chore. We teach specific skills which are relatable to the sports played in the Prep school, but the main focus of lessons is enjoyment and success. I love seeing the utter joy on a child's face when they finally crack something they've been working on.

”

**Emily Cooke, Pre-Prep Sports Teacher**



# Breadth <sup>of</sup> Opportunity

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Our Prep department, Years 3 to 8, is notable for the breadth of opportunity afforded to the children. A carefully planned provision of vigorous academic learning caters for all with access both to learning support for those who require additional help, and additional study for those preparing scholarship applications to senior schools. Academic rigor is balanced by a broad co-curricular programme, designed to deliver our mission to develop the whole child, preparing them to make a positive influence in the world.

Academic, pastoral and co-curricular activities are supported by a wider framework of values selected to inspire pupils to conduct themselves with integrity and develop their talents to the best of their ability. Behaviour representing our eight core values – Community, Creativity, Discovery, Leadership, Resilience, Self-discipline, Teamwork and Thinking - is regularly rewarded.

A series of leadership opportunities imparts a sense of seniority to the Upper Prep pupils, Years 7 and 8. Every child takes a turn to welcome guests, speak in assembly, host events, work alongside younger children and generally represent the school at every opportunity. It is inspirational to watch the children grow into their role as school ambassadors and reap the rewards of increased confidence and ability.

”

**Nick Hawker, Deputy Head**





# Innovators of Tomorrow

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I believe there is a real responsibility to inspire and enable our children to become the innovators of tomorrow, and the sooner we start, the better. That's why we engage with our pupils about the interconnectedness of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) early. Our teachers regularly highlight real-world examples of STEM solutions to pressing issues and our clubs provide opportunities for hands-on experience.

Most recently, we challenged the children to design and build robots that could stand upright or navigate within set parameters. As a group we reflected on the real-world usage of the technology in automatic vacuum cleaners and lawnmowers, for example, and discussed how further applications could be developed. Another project which generated much excitement in class was building rockets to utilise a high-pressure launch system. The pupils experimented with fins for stability and different materials and shapes for aerodynamics. Who knew trigonometry, for calculating how high they would fly, could be so much fun?

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**Duncan Hodson, Head of Science**

# Nature's Classroom

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It's a delight to be with our pupils outside in nature's classroom and see them shine with instinctive curiosity and a sense of wonder, timelessly immersed in the beauty of nature. My time working for the National Trust reinforced the importance of connecting with the natural world for growth and development. This is especially true for children.

Their great spirit of enquiry, joy of life and ability to observe comes to the fore in our beautiful school grounds. I especially enjoy being on a level plane with the children outside, where everyone's input is of equal value.

Outdoor learning also takes us beyond the old walls of our Bishop's Palace; we try to visit as many destinations as we can each year. There is shared enthusiasm for these field trips to be active and provide opportunities to show how much we care. Whether we help track wildlife, litter pick, or plant a tree or a hedge, there is great shared satisfaction in leaving a place better than we found it for future generations to enjoy.

”

**Will Frost, Head of Outdoor Learning**





## Encouraging Talent

“The teachers here are so encouraging and often devote their own time to help me do my best and be a better person. There’s no way I’d be where I am without their support. They also listen to you and hear you out, whatever it is you need to talk about.”

**Wilkie, Year 8 Pupil**



## My Teachers are Great

“I am very happy at school and my teachers are great. There are loads of activities and trips which I really enjoy. My teachers always inspire me to try hard, do my best and keep going if I find my learning hard. My best memories are playing and having fun with my friends every day. I will always remember building a den with my friends this term in the school grounds.”

**Ben, Year 5 Pupil**



## Setting a Good Example

“My teachers made me realise the need for self discipline. You won’t just wake up and be a sports scholar, you need to apply yourself to practise lots. They also emphasised the importance of setting a good example both on and off the pitch.”

**Daisy, Year 8 Pupil**

## I Love this School

“I love it at this school, it’s amazing. Everyone’s really kind, the teachers are really supportive and the food is delicious. One of my favourite things to do is to go down to the Pre-Prep and play games like hide and seek and tag with the little children.”

**Ty’nodashe, Year 4 Pupil**



# The Magic of Music

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This school lives and breathes the magic of music and we are very proud of our reputation for outstanding musical accomplishment and performance. We prioritise making music accessible to all our pupils, that's why everyone regularly sings in chapel and assemblies as well as in many ensembles. Standards are raised for all by the inclusion of our hugely talented and experienced young choristers. Most pupils, around 90%, also learn an instrument or two, and sometimes even three. It is no exaggeration to say that our school is alive with the sound of music!

Pupils here sing and play every day to access the many benefits of a musical education. Neuroscientists across the world have proven that learning music actually makes the brain grow, with particular improvements in the areas responsible for academic achievement. Practising and performing together strengthens friendships and improves pupils' ability to work as a team. Making music is also mindful, stimulates creativity and regular practice demands effort and self-discipline. Yet, for me, the very best outcome is that music is for life not just for childhood.

”

**Susie Lamb, Head of Music**



Photograph courtesy of Ash Mills



# Healthy Body and Mind

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Sport at SCS is all about enjoyment, participation and progress. It is our main goal to help pupils develop an understanding of the importance of physical exercise for maintaining both a healthy body and mind. Our idea of success is inspiring a lifelong love of sport and exercise in all its many forms. To achieve this, we provide as many different opportunities as possible. Competitive fixtures follow a seasonal sporting calendar featuring rugby, football, hockey, netball, cricket, athletics, swimming, tennis and cross-country. Pupils looking for even more can access plenty of other activities via our clubs which encompass many fun pursuits including horse riding, archery, volleyball and table tennis.

I am particularly proud of the fact that sport is genuinely for everyone here. Our coaching rotas are painstakingly prepared to ensure all children are able to benefit from each teacher's particular area of expertise, as well as plenty of opportunities to participate in competitive sports against other schools. We consciously ensure every child, regardless of sporting ability, is challenged to reach for their potential.

”

**Karin Staines, Head of Sport**



# Learn something New

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SCS is a small school; it's easy to know everyone and all the teachers want you to do your best. It's such a happy place, I have never not wanted to go to school. There is always someone at school who cares and Mr Marriott is the kindest person I know. I joined the archery club to learn something new. It's really fun and the teacher is kind and inspiring. I have taken part in lots of clubs at this school including fencing, golf, swim squad, eco group, judo and sailing. We've just come back from camp where we did team building, mountain biking and I had the opportunity to be a team leader. I liked being independent and helping with the cooking.

”

Henry, Year 7

# Delicious and Nutritious

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Our pupils have busy lives at school and my main focus is ensuring they eat good, nutritious food to fuel them in work, sport and play. Academic lessons are designed to be challenging, sports are plentiful and break times allow them to take full advantage of our beautiful 27 acres of green space. I take the need for the food to be nutritious and delicious very seriously which is why we invite the children to give feedback through the school council.

My first priority is to source high-quality produce from local suppliers, and deliveries come daily to ensure everything is as fresh as possible. Next, I create interesting menus that balance familiar and comforting dishes with options for the children to try something new. I know what it's like to be a fussy eater and how the world can open up as you begin to enjoy new tastes and textures.

”

Nick Denning, Catering Manager



# A special Family Atmosphere

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When I had children at boarding school it was very important to know that they were loved by the people around them. That's why we always go the extra mile to make sure the children are happy and feel cared for in every way. For example, if a child is returning to us from abroad, we like to meet them personally at the airport with snacks and enthusiasm to hear all about their holiday highs and lows. We celebrate pupils' success in all areas of life, and console and encourage those who feel they could have done better.

Our focus is on bringing all the comforts of a warm and happy home life to the boarders, so they can get the very best out of their school days. If you asked them, they would always say the friends they made at school were the best thing about the Salisbury Cathedral School boarding experience. The special family atmosphere sees older pupils looking after their younger 'brothers and sisters' in their beloved home-from-home.

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**Bee Bedford, Head of Boarding**



# Trust and Confidence



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Salisbury Cathedral School upholds some basic tenets of our own philosophy at home, like being kind, being resilient, taking care of others and yourself, solving problems rather than complaining about them and being curious about the world around you. The staff work hand in hand with us to keep reinforcing these values and as a result I feel a huge amount of trust and confidence in the school. It is not uncommon for my son to tell me he has had a chat with the Head Master, the Deputy Head or his form tutor about something that is on his mind. He feels very comfortable taking things straight to the person he knows will have the interest to listen and the power to make change. The staff are always accessible to their pupils and parents alike.

The parent community is a very open and friendly group and there are many opportunities to get together: informal concerts, Friday morning assemblies at the Cathedral, match tea after competitive sports, the Summer Fete, the annual Music Festival, a summer concert and picnic in the School grounds, the Christmas Cathedral programme and lots more.

”

**Sarah Blank, Parent**



## An Impressive number of Scholarships

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It is my strong belief that choosing a senior school should centre firmly around each child as an individual. I always advise parents to be wary of fashion and look carefully to find a senior school that is truly the best fit for their child and their family as a whole. I'm proud of the varied list of destinations our pupils move on to each year. From Salisbury's highly renowned grammar schools to Eton and Winchester College, from Cranleigh to Canford, Bryanston to Marlborough and Warminster to Wells – our former pupils attend a huge variety of leading senior schools around the country.

I am always in awe of the hard work, self-discipline and ability of our pupils, and it's a pleasure to see their efforts recognised in the impressive number of

**Clive Marriott, Head Master**

scholarships they are awarded. On average, over the last five years, three quarters of our Year 8 leavers have achieved scholarships to their chosen destination schools. Awards received are in different disciplines including academic, art, drama, DT, music, sports and STEM.

However, what I am most proud of are the many reports of the excellent conduct of the children who come from our school. I am often told how our former pupils are kind, thoughtful, confident without being arrogant, able and fun to be around. I believe this is because their childhood, indeed their foundation, has been a happy one. They have been nurtured and challenged to grow tall with strong roots.

”



# Respecting our Cultural Heritage

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Choristers are both everyday school pupils and also working representatives of Britain's oldest cultural heritage. They are lucky as, in addition to all the fun and challenge of being educated at a leading Prep school, they enjoy the unbeatable experience of singing for a world-famous choir with all the unparalleled life opportunities that it provides. Working as a young professional among the best, to become the best is a significantly enhancing way of life. It has a rhythm and a discipline and a joy that lasts a lifetime.

The boy and girl choristers in the Salisbury Cathedral Choir work relentlessly, with impressive dedication for ones so young, to master some of the most complex and liturgical music that has ever been written. What inspires them the most, I believe, is our iconic Cathedral, the heartfelt ritual of performance at the highest level and the immense pride each of them feels in perpetuating a musical heritage that dates back to the 11th century.

”

**David Halls, Director of Music, Salisbury Cathedral**





# Overcoming Challenges

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Returning to Salisbury Cathedral School as an adult made me realise what a unique and privileged experience I was given and how my years at the school helped shape who I am today. I was fortunate to spend nine years at Salisbury Cathedral School. There are undeniably certain qualities and skills gained during this time that have positively impacted my future successes. In particular was the encouragement from teachers to overcome challenges and to think outside the box.

One such challenge was that of my dyspraxia, whereby despite my enthusiasm for sport, I was considered somewhat hazardous when armed with a hockey stick. A solution was found in the form of goalkeeping, whereby my clumsiness and talent for getting in the way was transformed into a rather useful blocking skill. Making the 1st XV whilst only in Year 5 was a turning point, and I was soon sent by an enthusiastic and supportive teacher for extra practice with a local club. From there I rose through the levels of county and regional selection, made the Salisbury Ladies 1st team aged 13 and began my steps on the pathway to Junior International selection.

”

## Alana Ker Mercer

England Hockey Junior International  
1st Class Hons. in English Literature, Durham University  
M.Phil in Art History, Trinity College Dublin



“

I feel very fortunate to have attended Salisbury Cathedral School. It's where I first became interested in art. Looking back, I realise how living with the beautiful, historic architecture of Salisbury Cathedral, the School and around the Close in my formative years was inspirational. I often looked up to the spire from the games field, the swimming pool and during lessons. I think it's why much of my art is about looking up to the sky. It's a wonderful setting to learn in.

”

## Peter Newman, pupil 1977 to 1982

Peter graduated from Goldsmith's College in 1990. He has hosted solo exhibitions in London, Brussels, Hamburg, New York, Chicago and Tokyo. In 2004 his work was projected onto the exterior of the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art in Japan. Peter received an artist's award from the Arts Council of England in 2005, the same year he initially created the Skystation (pictured).

# A Wonderful Setting



Come and Visit Us Soon



Your  
Child at  
our Heart

To make an appointment to visit, please  
call the Registrar on 01722 555300 or email  
[admissions@salisburycathedralschool.com](mailto:admissions@salisburycathedralschool.com)

Salisbury Cathedral School, 1, The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2EQ

[www.salisburycathedralschool.com](http://www.salisburycathedralschool.com)



- 1 The Bishop's Palace
- 2 Main Entrance / Reception
- 3 Library
- 4 Chapel
- 5 BSR
- 6 Kitchen / Undercroft
- 7 Classrooms
- 8 Boarders' Common Room
- 9 Offices
- 10 Medical Centre
- 11 Unishop
- 12 Beauchamp Tower
- 13 Headmaster's House
- 14 Science
- 15 DT
- 16 Art
- 17 Sports Hall
- 18 Nursery and Pre-Prep
- 19 Pre-Prep Garden
- 20 Queensgate – Music
- 21 Exeter Street Gate
- 22 Devon Block - Year 3 and 4 Classrooms
- 23 Astro Pitches
- 24 Bark Park

- 25 Sports Pitches
- 26 Performance Stage
- 27 Lake and Jetty
- 28 Conservation Corner
- 29 Swimming Pool
- 30 Cricket Nets
- 31 Millennium Garden
- 32 Year 8 Steps
- 33 Car Park
- 34 Main Entrance- Electric Gates
- 35 Cathedral
- 36 Boarding House



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