

What matters?

sidcot.org.uk



Sidcot
Live Adventurously

Curiosity,
simplicity, equality,
empathy, personal
responsibility,
speaking up and
being heard.

What matters when choosing a school?

Curiosity, simplicity, equality, empathy, personal responsibility, speaking up and being heard, these are all part of the Quaker philosophy that underpins life at Sidcot School from Nursery through to Sixth Form.

At Sidcot we are justifiably proud of our students' academic record. We are equally proud of their social skills, their emotional intelligence, their resilience and their determination to make a difference in the world.

It's no surprise that these personal qualities go together with academic excellence. It's our experience that curiosity and the confidence to enquire fearlessly - to live adventurously, as our Quaker philosophy puts it - lead children to be better motivated and more at ease with themselves as thinkers and learners. We don't cram children at Sidcot, because we don't have to. This is a kind, purposeful place where we educate the whole person for a life of active, responsible citizenship.

I hope you enjoy finding out more about how we live and learn at Sidcot. Do come and visit – see for yourself what makes Sidcot so distinctive.



Iain Kilpatrick BA, MEd, FRSA
Headmaster



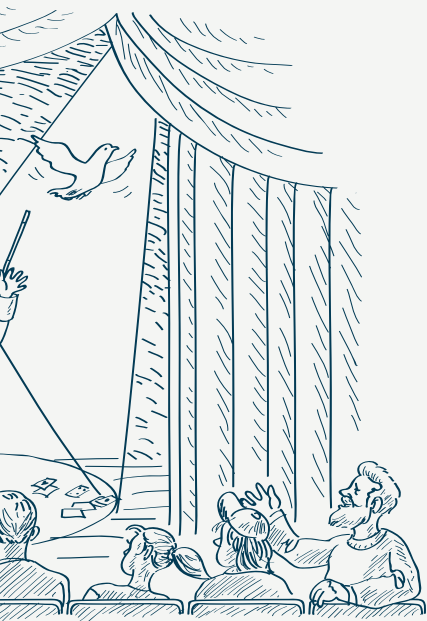
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Making a
Difference

Living Life to
the Full

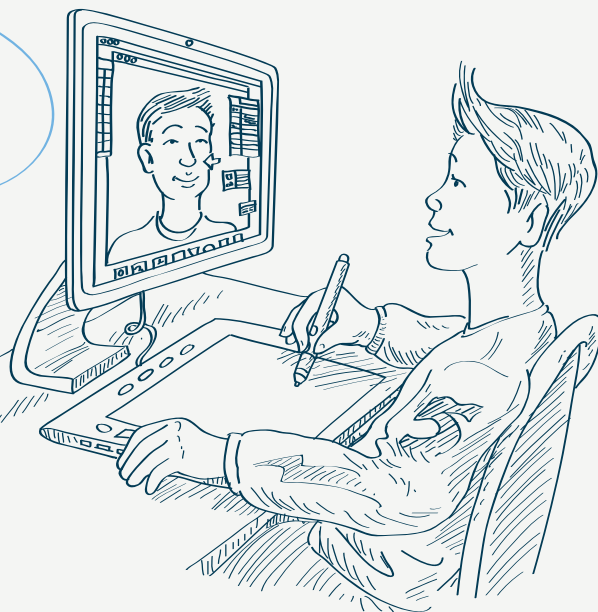
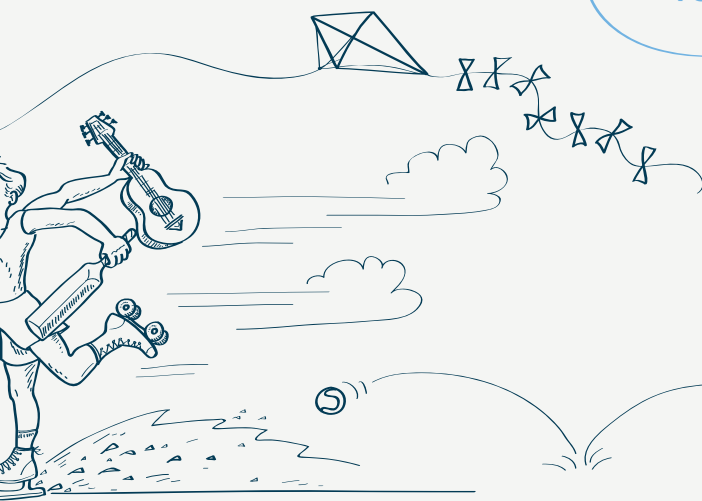




Valuing
Others

matters

Being
Yourself





Being curious

From an early age, Sidcot students experience a community where it is clear that independent thought is encouraged and curiosity is a way of life.

We aim to educate the whole person, to equip our students with practical and personal skills alongside their academic qualifications. We know we've succeeded when our young people go out into the world with an insatiable interest in all that life has to offer.

Our teaching staff are motivated by curiosity and a lifelong love of learning and want to pass that enthusiasm on. They use imaginative teaching methods to encourage students to see learning as an exciting creative journey in which everyone can take part; a journey that doesn't end when they leave school or higher education.

There is inspiration to be found all around us, in the natural world, in the sciences and the arts, in our work and in our friendships, in our sorrows as well as our joys.

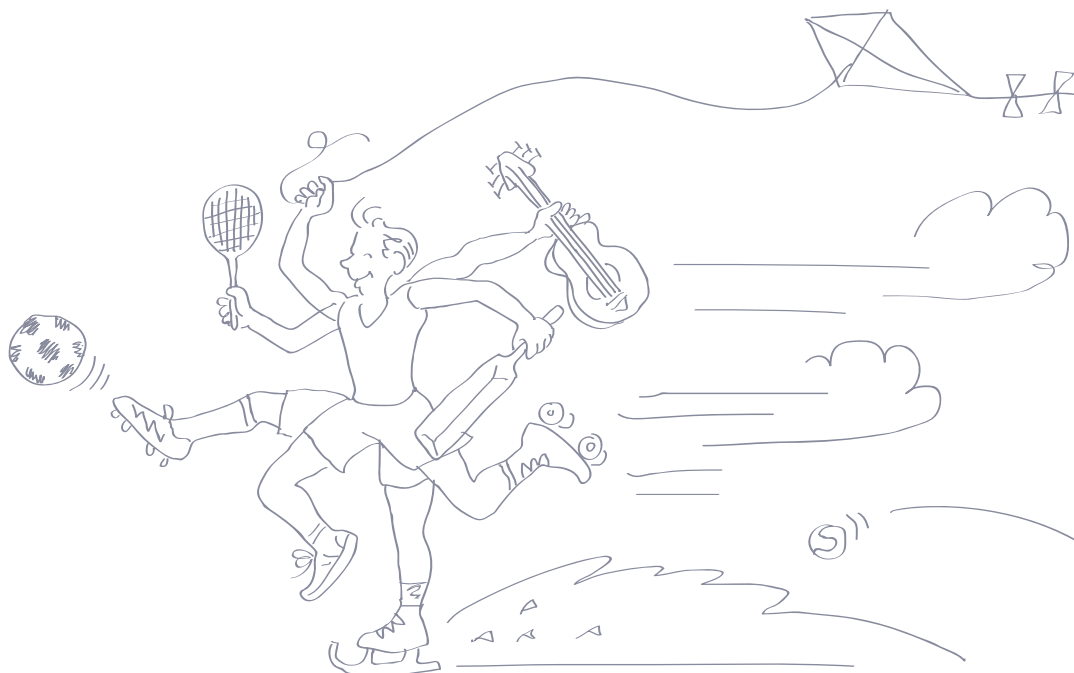


Living life to the full

Sidcot students live and learn in an environment that is beautiful, well cared for and rich in experiences.

They are encouraged to see school as a place to explore and experiment, to follow their instincts and develop their interests. They work together in small classes, in an atmosphere of optimism and enquiry. Often they'll work with students from other year groups, learning from each other and developing a sense of community and shared responsibility. We are proud that former students are often described as people who can 'talk to anyone'. Lifelong friendships are made at Sidcot - and a lasting love of life.

Of course, what matters at school doesn't just happen in the classroom. Sidcot is set in a magnificent rural location. With acres of glorious Somerset countryside to enjoy, our students develop an understanding and respect for the natural world. They also have access to top level facilities for sports, arts, crafts, music and performance, as well as opportunities to work with community groups and charities, and to get involved with local business projects.





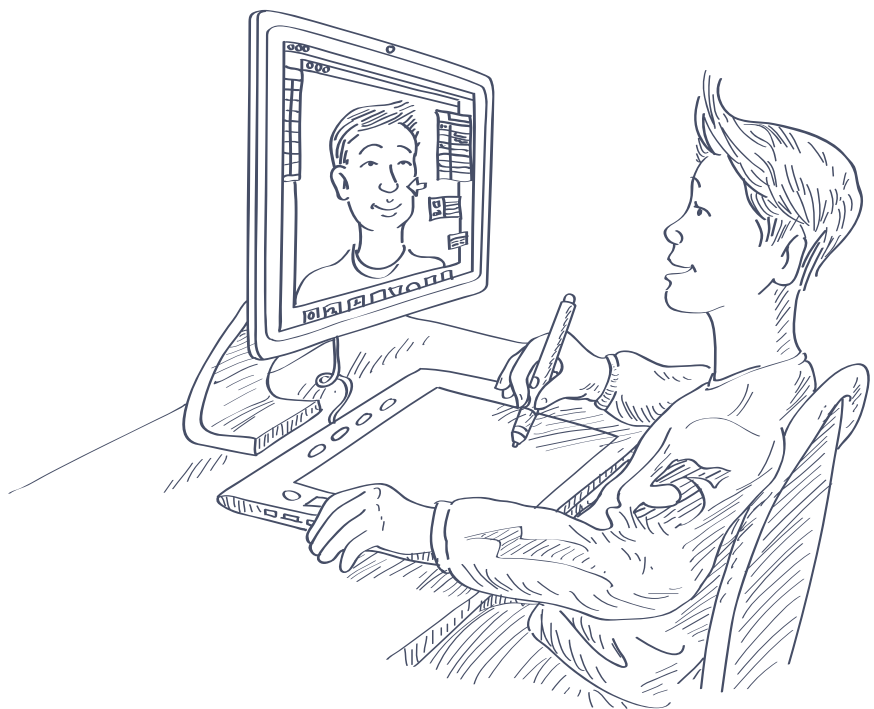


Being yourself

At Sidcot we are proud to nurture students into becoming authentic and insightful young people who are skilled in self-awareness and who value their emotional life.

They are encouraged to take responsibility for their wellbeing and to value emotional intelligence. As a result they develop a confidence that is rooted in a deep understanding of who they are and what they value in the world.

Every week the whole school joins together for a period of shared silent reflection in our elegant, 19th century Quaker Meeting House. Through this regular practice, students learn the benefits of calm in daily life.



Valuing others

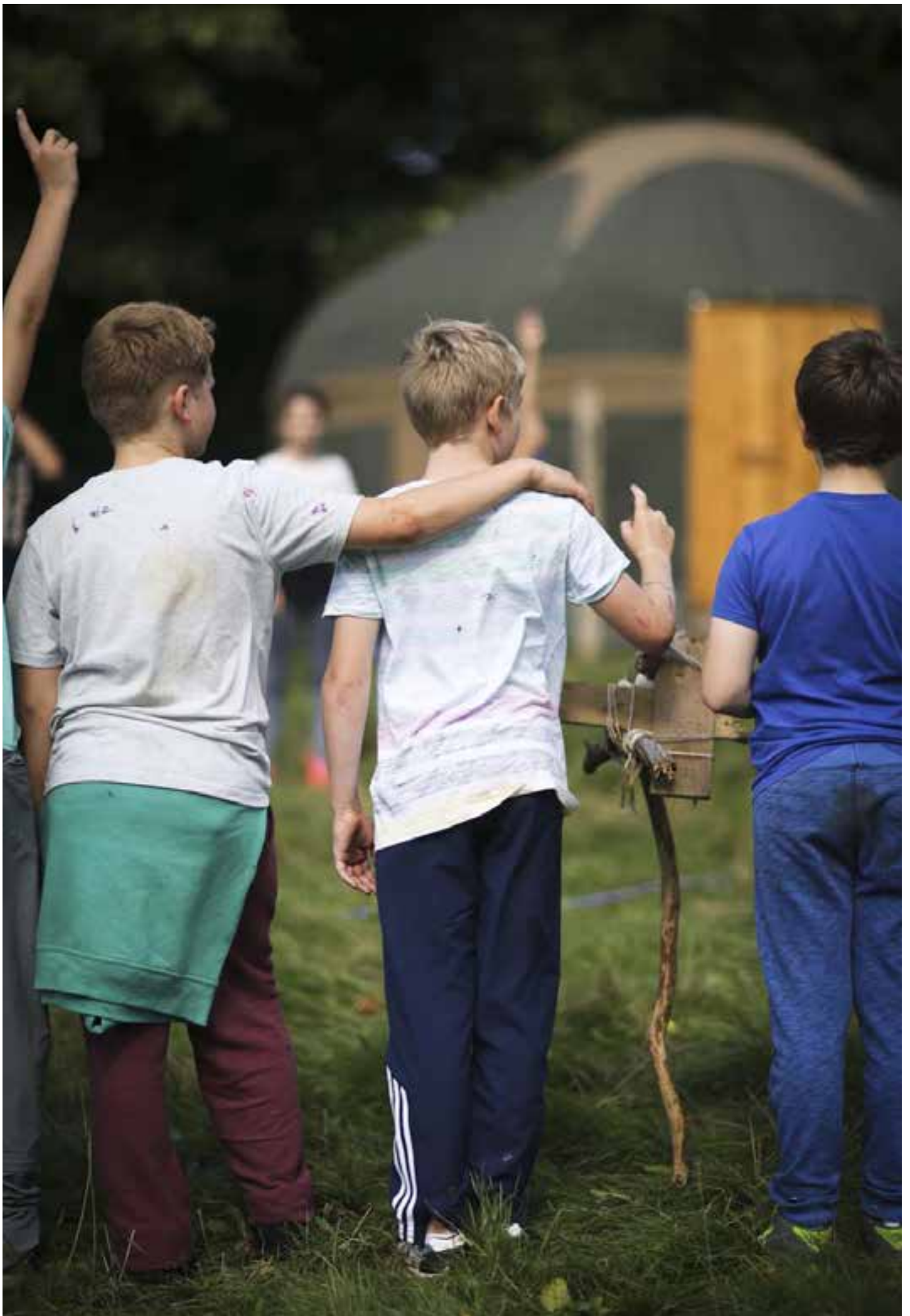
Sidcot is a lively and fascinating place. Its community of around 600 students and 200 staff includes people from a variety of backgrounds and cultures. In this stimulating and diverse social environment, students live and learn together in an atmosphere of cheerful kindness and mutual respect.

During their time at the school students learn to express their own opinions and to listen with interest to the views of others. Everyone is encouraged to contribute to discussion and debate: not taking over and not opting out.

In this way students develop an enthusiasm for collaboration and co-creating. In a truly international environment, their fellow students are often people whose stories are very different from their own: people from different backgrounds, different countries, races and religions, and people with different abilities.

Through example and practical experience they learn about working together. They develop the skills needed to negotiate and to build teams. They learn what it means to have boundaries and structure in relationships. In engaging with others whose reactions may be different from their own, they develop empathy and emotional intelligence.







Making a difference

In keeping with the ethos of its Quaker founders, Sidcot School has always been outward looking and pioneering. It was one of the first co-educational boarding schools in the UK.

The social and ethical concerns around subjects such as peace, sustainability and social responsibility, are live topics within the school. Students examine and discuss them, and reflect on their own intellectual and emotional responses. In doing so they come to understand how their actions can make a difference and to appreciate the value of making a purposeful contribution to the world.

We also encourage an informed interest in current affairs, and active involvement in community service. Our Centre for Peace and Global Studies brings 21st century Quakerism to life, encouraging pupils to engage with global issues such as human rights, social justice and care for the environment.

Sidcot students choose a wide range of occupations and most go on to study at university both in the UK and abroad. Along with their academic and creative achievements, we also expect them to leave us as confident individuals with open minds and hearts.



Surprising yourself

Encouraged to see life as an adventure, our students develop an enthusiasm for challenge. They are excited to find out what happens when they try new things, expand their views, and grow in self-awareness. They adopt an attitude of optimistic resilience that enables them to experience both success and failure as a chance to learn and develop.

Every day at Sidcot brings new experiences. With our unique co-curricular programme of activities (PASS) and our extensive extra-curricular activities ranging from archery to maths club, bee keeping and jewellery making, we make sure that our students can try new things as well as developing existing interests.

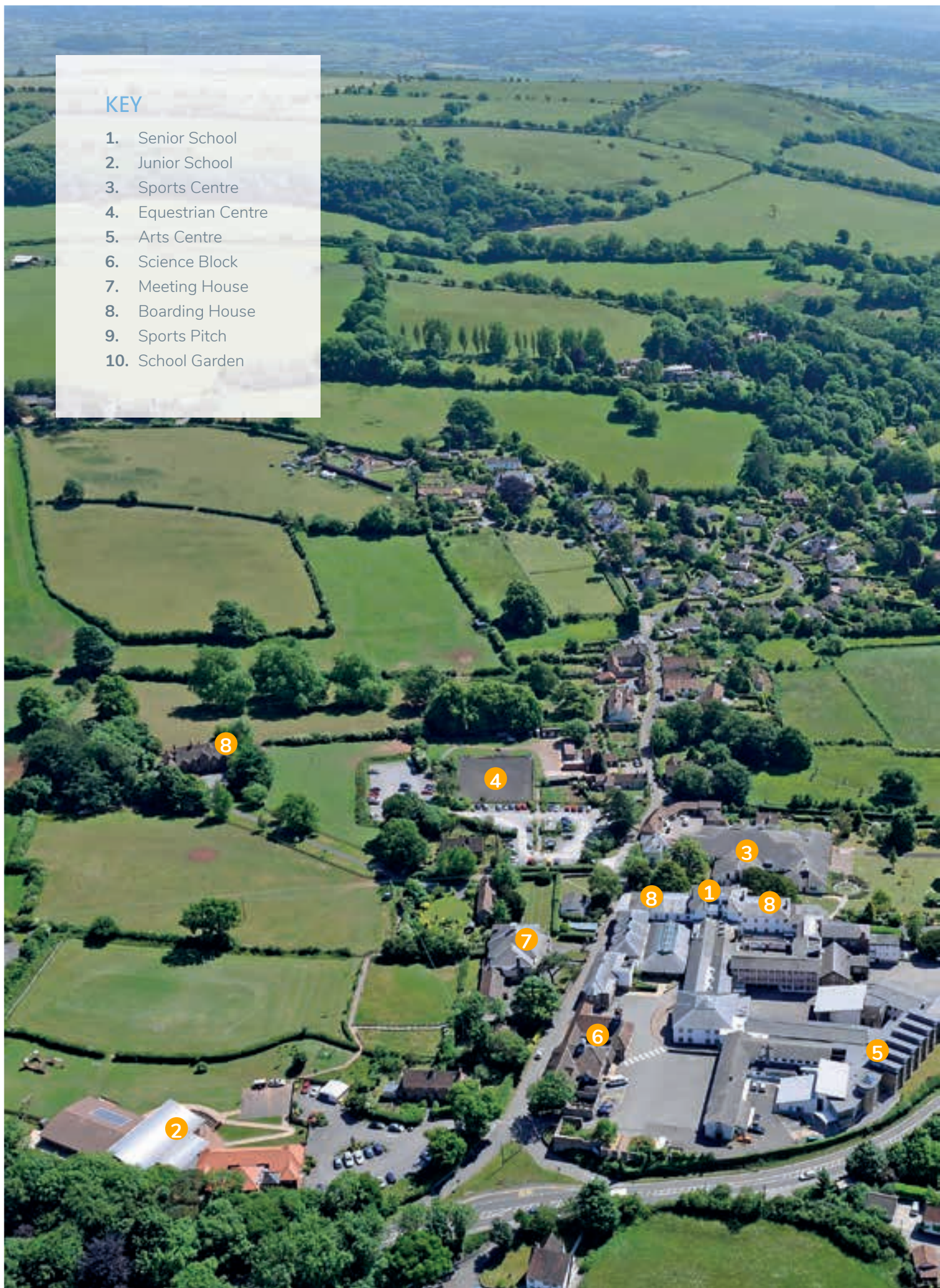
A wide range of sports provides plenty of options for everyone – those who enjoy the challenge of competitive sports – and those who just want to exercise for fun and fitness.

For students who ride – or would like to start – we have a superb equestrian centre, with livery for pupils who want to bring their own horse. Those who are interested in music and performing arts can make use of our Arts Centre and professional recording studio. There's plenty going on away from school too, with a programme of regular field trips, gallery and museum visits, international exchanges, music tours, lectures and sports fixtures.



KEY

1. Senior School
2. Junior School
3. Sports Centre
4. Equestrian Centre
5. Arts Centre
6. Science Block
7. Meeting House
8. Boarding House
9. Sports Pitch
10. School Garden





Not just an exam factory

The Quakers have never been ones to stand still. Throughout their history they have looked forward, embracing change and welcoming new ideas.

Today at Sidcot, we continue that progressive tradition by repeatedly asking the question: What matters when educating children for the future? What kind of intelligence and skills will they need to flourish? How can they make a positive contribution to society beyond school?

Academic skills will certainly continue to be important and, for the foreseeable future, exams will remain the standard measure of achievement. We make sure our pupils understand the significance of exams and encourage them to be ambitious for themselves. But this must not mean a narrowing of their educational experience. We know that being flexible and emotionally intelligent will be important. That's why we keep the curriculum as broad as possible for as long as possible. Our pupils understand that education is about expanding possibilities and discovering potential, not just passing tests.

Schools cannot meet the needs of the future by just refining what we have done in the past. It's time to shift the paradigm.

Iain Kilpatrick BA, MEd, FRSA
Headmaster





A Quaker school built on Quaker values

Three initiatives bring the Quaker values to life at Sidcot.

The Sidcot Learning Wheel links Quaker testimonies to the teaching and learning that goes on throughout the School, every day. It shows the thinking behind what we do in and out of the classroom; how our values inform our approach to education. We aim to develop our students not just academically but also in their emotional intelligence and interpersonal skills, their social awareness and their sense of community.

The Centre for Peace and Global Studies develops this approach further. Students are encouraged to explore broader issues with a global perspective and to express their values in action. In a series of seminars called 'Let Your Life Speak', Quakers and non-Quakers speak about their life's journey. For young people it's a powerful experience to come face to face with individuals who have devoted their lives to making a positive change for the benefit of others. Every two years, the students organise a Peace Festival to celebrate the power of making a difference.

PASS (Programme of Activities for Sidcot School); a wonderful co-curricular programme based on our key themes of Living Adventurously, living out our Quaker values, being an Ashoka Changemaker school and providing opportunities to develop leadership skills and team building.

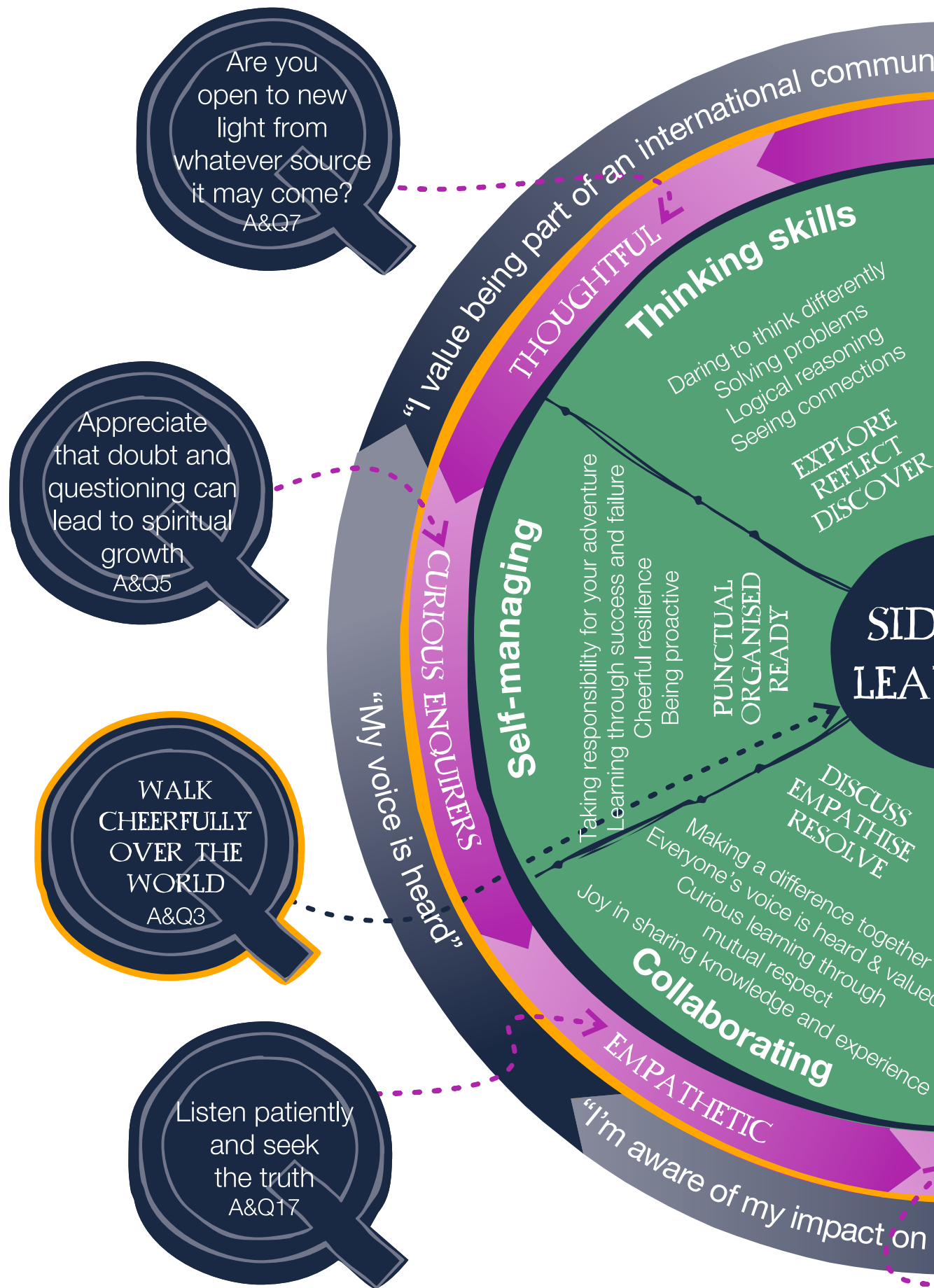
Students will have the opportunity to choose the activities that they wish to join in throughout the year. Students across the whole school will participate in the activities alongside each other thus promoting community spirit through the vertical structure of the programme.

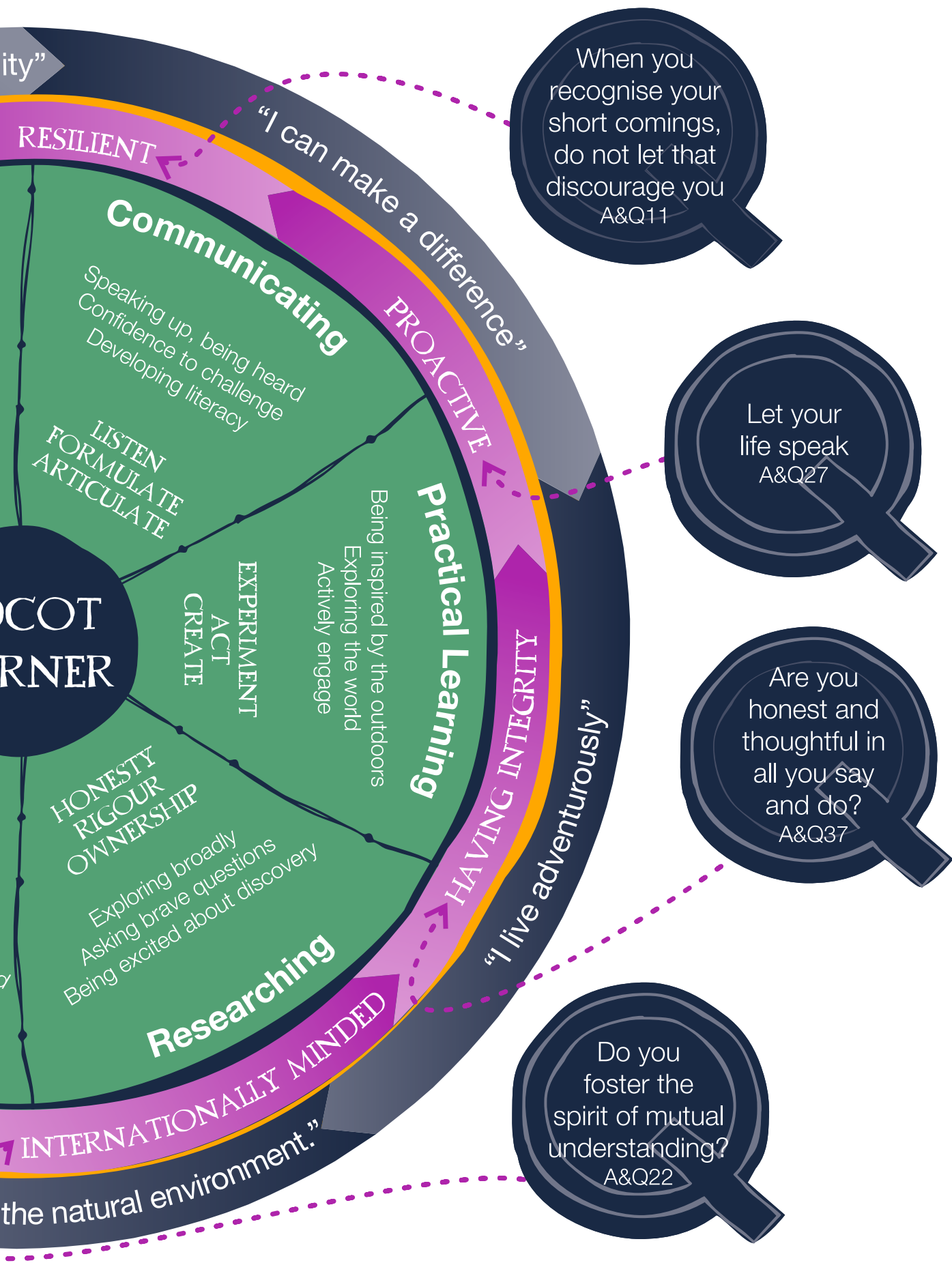
**OPEN
HERE!**



**Pupils have a highly developed sense of self,
displaying authentic personal understanding
and self-confidence without arrogance.**

The Sidcot Learning Wheel

















Quaker philosophy advises us to Live Adventurously.

At Sidcot this means giving students the confidence to challenge themselves, safe in the knowledge that they will be encouraged every step of the way by committed and caring staff.



A modern approach to boarding

Recognising the changing needs of families, our approach to boarding is flexible.

Whilst the majority of our boarders are full time and enjoy a full programme of activities, outings and fixtures, we also offer weekly and flexi-boarding alternatives. With no formal Saturday school, weekly boarding is a really attractive option.

Each of the boarding houses is unique and reflects the personality of the staff and students living in it.

Travelling time from Paddington is only two hours, making Sidcot an ideal choice for children to escape to the country during the week returning home easily at weekends or half terms and holidays. We are also only a 15 minute drive from Bristol Airport.

When students board at Sidcot they join a friendly, family community in which they can live, work and play, secure in the knowledge that they are valued and well cared for.

Joanna Leite
Deputy Head (Pastoral)



We want our students to have interesting lives.

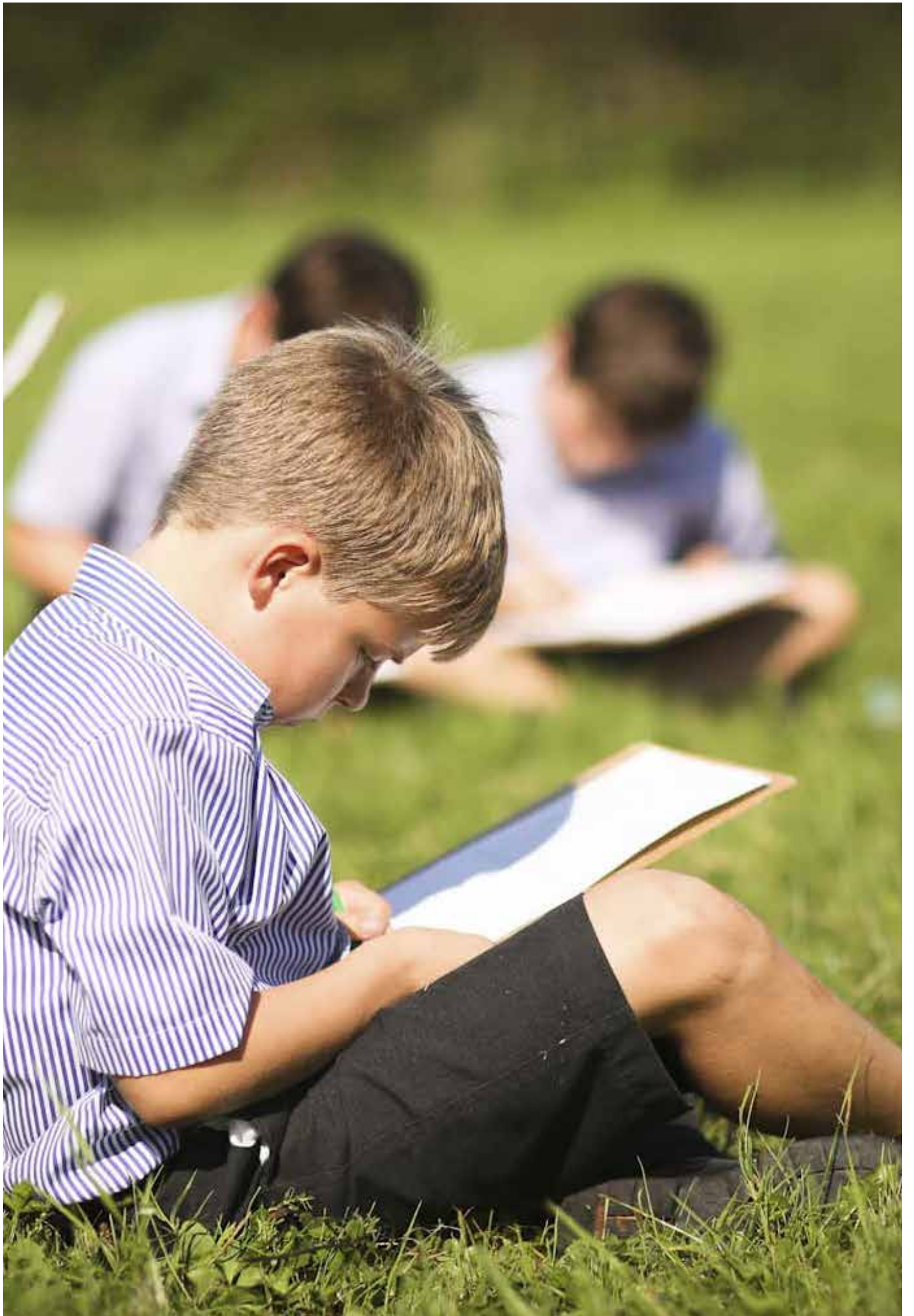
We want them to have the confidence and motivation to develop their talents, and the desire to put those talents to good use in the world.



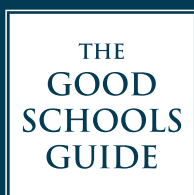








For those **untroubled**
by notions of social
pretension or
academic snobbery,
yet for whom a
considerate altruistic
atmosphere really
matters, this is just
the place.







Curious to know more?

For details of our curriculum, our excellent exam results, and lots more information, visit our website www.sidcot.org.uk

For a facts and figures guide to Sidcot School please refer to our Useful Information booklet which is available from our Admissions Office.

Sidcot is a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England under number 2093340. Registered office: Winscombe, North Somerset BS25 1PD. Registered charity no: 296491 VAT no: 567627892.

Sidcot School,
Oakridge Lane,
Winscombe,
North Somerset
BS25 1PD

01934 845236
admissions@sidcot.org.uk



Sidcot people

Headmaster – Iain Kilpatrick

iain.kilpatrick@sidcot.org.uk

Head of the Junior School – Cath Dykes

cath.dykes@sidcot.org.uk

Chair of Governors – Jameson Miller

jameson.miller@sidcot.org.uk

Admissions team

We would love to hear from you. Please do not hesitate to give us a call or email us.

Please see our website for a full staff list: sidcot.org.uk/who-we-are



Rachael Coates

UK Registrar

+44 (0) 1934 845 236

rachael.coates@sidcot.org.uk



Claire Rundle

Head of Admissions

+44 (0) 1934 845 212

claire.rundle@sidcot.org.uk



Zuzi Stainer

Admissions Administrator

+44 (0) 1934 843 102 (ext. 325)

zuzi.stainer@sidcot.org.uk



Ailsa Williams

International Coordinator

+44 (0) 1934 845 212

ailsa.williams@sidcot.org.uk

Glossary



IB stands for International Baccalaureate. It tells you that we have completed the accreditation process and are able to offer our students the International Baccalaureate programme. This authorisation process is rigorous and intensive and includes ongoing professional development for teaching staff and regular evaluation visits from the IB team.

www.ibo.org



CReSTeD is a register of schools that provide teaching for pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties. It is a highly trusted source of information and guidance for parents, local authorities and education professionals. Sidcot School's inclusion in the register shows that it has met CReSTeD's criteria for teaching standards, resources, and support of SpLD pupils.

www.crested.org.uk



Sidcot has been awarded Ashoka Changemaker status in recognition of our commitment to a values-led education, where peace sits at the heart of a global learning community. One of a limited number of schools in the UK, this status allows Sidcot to link to other innovative and inspiring educators as part of the international Ashoka Changemaker community.

www.ashoka.org



Our Artsmark Gold status tells you that Sidcot is a place where the arts are valued and creative talents nurtured. To receive this award from the Arts Council of England, a school must show that they provide a rich and varied arts experience, not just in the curriculum but in the daily life of the school. Only 13% of schools in England hold Artsmark status, and only half of those have Gold status.

www.artsmark.org.uk



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. All our pupils are invited to take part in this non-competitive scheme. A mix of adventure and challenge, it pushes students to try new things. It rewards determination and resilience. To achieve the awards students must show commitment over a sustained period. The service section encourages students to get involved in the life of their community either where they live or at Sidcot.

www.dofe.org



The Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS) represents 700 of the world's leading prep schools and provides a recognised kitemark of quality. Schools must reach a very high standard to be eligible for membership, with strict criteria on teaching a broad curriculum, maintaining excellent standards of pastoral care and keeping staff members' professional development training up to date.

www.iaps.uk



Friends' Schools' Council is a group established to support Quakers in education. Sidcot welcomes pupils and staff of all faiths and none.

www.quaker.org.u



HMC is a membership organisation, founded in 1896, that represents the top independent schools in the UK and overseas. Membership is strictly limited to those schools that show excellence in teaching, pastoral care and extracurricular provision.

www.hmc.org.uk



Sidcot School, Oakridge Lane,
Winscombe, North Somerset, BS25 1PD

01934 843102 | info@sidcot.org.uk | www.sidcot.org.uk



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