

# PROSPECTUS



**Sancton Wood School**  
Nurturing academic  
excellence for bright futures



“We learn together  
We play together  
We grow together

At Sancton Wood we believe that if a child is happy, has good self-esteem and a sense of belonging, they are in the right place to learn. Our approach starts with the child and ends in great results. When your child comes to us, we will help them discover and develop their unique skills and talents to be the best they can be as they embark on their educational journey.

Richard Settle  
Principal

#### Our Core Values at Sancton Wood School

- 1  
The broad and deep worth of every person
- 2  
Intellectual curiosity
- 3  
Practical kindness
- 4  
Personal pride and dignity
- 5  
A community of fun and energy





# family

- Based in the heart of Cambridge
- Co-educational
- All-through education: 9 months – 16 years
- Small class sizes
- Exceptional pastoral care
- Top academic results
- Excellent extra-curricular opportunities
- An international outlook

## This is us

Sancton Wood is a small independent, co-educational all-through school creating joy in learning for pupils aged 9 months to 16 years. We are a family-oriented school whose setting allows for the provision of an outstanding contribution to the social, emotional and academic development of each child. We pride ourselves on our small class sizes and exceptional pastoral care which leads to excellent academic results.



# nurture

## A tailored educational journey

Our class sizes of approximately 18 across the school allows for an excellent pupil:teacher ratio. This is key to the educational philosophy that focuses on the provision of a tailored educational journey for each pupil. Our unique environment allows for the early identification of not only strengths to be nurtured, but areas pupils find challenging, which can be addressed with personalised support. This way we can make each and every pupil aware of his or her innate qualities and skills, and develop them to their full potential.





# happy children



## A happy child is a learning child

We believe that by providing outstanding pastoral care, pupils will thrive and achieve great results: a happy child is a learning child. This is evidenced by 95-100% of our recent GCSE students achieving 5 or more GCSEs, grades 4-9 with 50% of all grades at the top level, earning us a place in The Sunday Times Top 100.

We continue to be motivated by the huge difference between expected grades given to students when they arrive at Sancton Wood in Year 7 compared to the actual results they achieve. Many Prep children achieve well above national age-related expectations by the end of KS2.

However, at Sancton Wood there is more to school life than tests and we simply ensure we provide our children with a memorable and happy school life; if we do this, the results follow.



# relevant

With the world we are living in changing at an ever-increasing rate, it is our job, and joy, to instil a passion for life-long learning in our pupils.



## A real-world education

Experts suggest that a high percentage of the jobs our children will be doing in the future, do not currently exist. This, alongside rising life expectancies and costs of living, means children of today are facing working careers that surpass the length of our own. This presents an interesting educational challenge and is one, as teachers responsible for preparing children for their futures, we are acutely aware of and are facing head on.

With the world we are living in changing at an ever-increasing rate, it is our job, and joy, to instil a passion for life-long learning in our pupils. This will help our children navigate a different structure of career. A love of learning and intellectual curiosity will be key to the continuous educational development needed as they forge long-lasting, successful careers.

We don't purely teach towards tests; we are creative in our pupils' learning. It is crucial that we nurture human characteristics; creativity, leadership, problem solving and kindness to name but a few and this puts our students in good stead for the careers of the future.







# explore



With small class sizes it is very easy for us to hop on the train to London or travel further afield to bring learning to life. We also offer exciting international trips to places such as New York, Iceland, Japan, Spain and skiing destinations.

A well-rounded academic provision must also include a wide variety of extracurricular opportunities and we deliver this in style. Students are offered opportunities to explore and discover in a wide range of enrichment activities, as well as wider, advanced qualification opportunities which come together to form an exciting and inspiring programme that we are proud of.

The breadth and diversity of this programme gives students access to a whole host of new experiences, helping them to develop a range of interests and skills and build a sense of confidence that will support them in the classroom and beyond. We also offer a careers programme that provides great preparation for future successful careers.

## Beyond the classroom

Education is about more than what happens in the classroom. We regularly take advantage of the rich learning resources we have right on our doorstep including the Botanical Gardens, museums and art galleries.





## A supportive environment

Our smaller class sizes mean that we can really get to know and spend time with each individual child. We get to know what motivates them, what pace they work at and what approach suits their talents and personality. We foster excellent relationships and can quickly identify and react to areas in which they may need support.

Our students play a brilliant role in creating a warm, welcoming, inclusive, happy environment. New students are partnered with buddies for an immediate introduction to friendship groups and peer support and on rare occasions, our anti-bullying support team are on hand to provide advice and meaningful action.



# Supportive

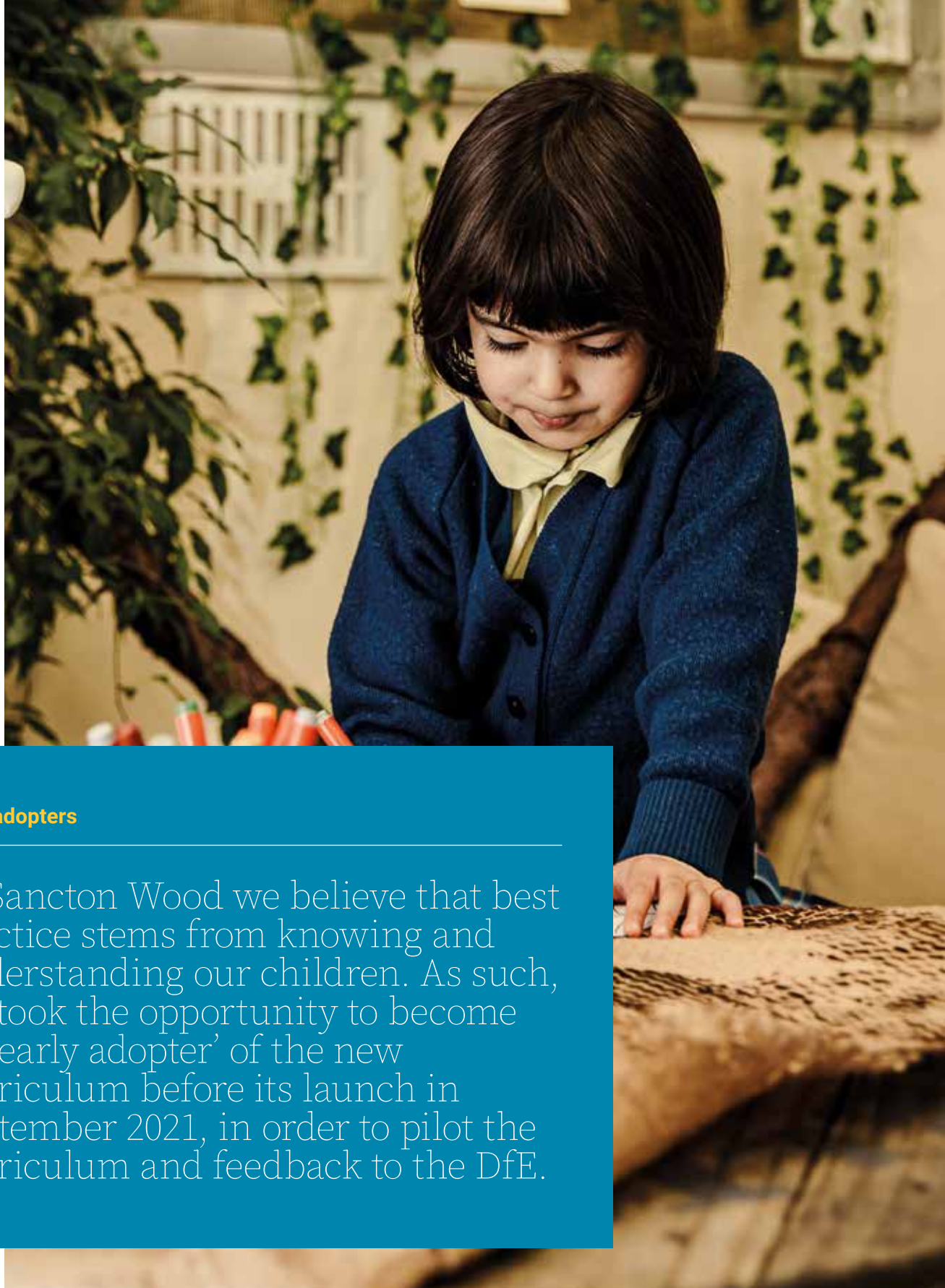


## An international outlook

We are proud to be home to students from across the globe and embrace opportunities in school to celebrate different cultures.

We have lots of experience handling international applications so can guide families smoothly through the process. We can offer English as an Additional Language (EAL) specialist support where needed.





# Nursery

## Early adopters

At Sancton Wood we believe that best practice stems from knowing and understanding our children. As such, we took the opportunity to become an 'early adopter' of the new curriculum before its launch in September 2021, in order to pilot the curriculum and feedback to the DfE.

ISI rated  
'Outstanding'

Qualified  
teachers

Close to  
Cambridge  
train station

Large garden

Forestschool

Family room

Our years of experience tell us that children learn best through play and first-hand experiences. We create lots of opportunities for exciting explorative experiences that ignite children's enthusiasm for learning while building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

In your child's early years, we focus on their personal, social and emotional development and communication and languages. As they progress we work to expand their knowledge of Literacy, Maths, Creative Arts and Design, as part of a broad, challenging and stimulating curriculum.





By providing access to a wide range of activities your children will be able to discover their passions, challenge themselves, succeed and fail in a safe environment and gain a breadth of knowledge from a provision that instils curiosity, promotes mastery and nurtures the whole child as they discover the world around them. Moving above and beyond, we offer enrichment opportunities in Makaton, pottery, Spanish, music, STEM activities, yoga, baking and much more.

Our large, walled back garden is the perfect place for your child's imagination to take flight with the space to discover a more natural, cooperative way of playing.

Our outdoor play equipment is the perfect stage for performances, den building, discovering dinosaur bones in the sand, keeping an eye on the residents of our bug hotel and taking off to far away places whether it be pirates on boats or astronauts in spacecraft.

Our Forest School is home to many an invention and creation. Our avid bird watchers encourage birds with their feeders, budding chefs cook up mud pies, musicians fashion wooden violins and bongos from tree stumps and those with green fingers tend to their peas. Our youngest children have plenty to do on their own exclusive, extensive decking area.

# nursery





We use the children's interests to inform our planning, which allows the learning to be meaningful, exciting and impactful.



# Prep



Our Prep School, set in a beautiful Victorian house, offers specialist teaching in Art, Music, Drama, French, Spanish and PE and facilities that provide the best environment to immerse our enquiring young minds into these subjects.

Our budding scientists are in the science lab from Reception, our artists create their works of art in our loft art studio, and we have a great space in which to perform in our drama studio and dedicated music room. We use the children's interests to inform our planning, which allows the learning to be meaningful, exciting and impactful.

Our small class sizes mean that we are able to tailor the child's educational journey and extend the curriculum both ways so that weaker children are able to succeed, and higher ability children can be stretched and challenged. For example, in Year 5+ Maths and English, higher ability children are taught by our senior teachers.

A well-planned transition programme introduces Year 6 students to the Senior School to ensure their transition is one full of excitement, familiarity and reassurance.



Sancton Wood's aim is to develop young people who are knowledgeable, caring and successful with bright, enquiring minds.

# senior

We want our students to have a positive approach to life, to broaden their horizons and to value the chance to think and study independently.

We are proud of the success we have in securing Sancton Wood students the best grades possible and the opportunity to make exceptional progress. We also take great pride in the success our students have in securing the post-16 routes of their choice.

We offer a wide range of GCSEs and each year we tailor (and even create) the options to suit the cohort. We are very flexible and won't limit a child to one humanities, language or arts subject; their choices depend on their passion.

Without the pressure of SATs, our young people are free to explore their interests in a more creative way, helping them to develop into confident, resilient learners. This, alongside our further education and careers partnerships, ensure our students are ready to embrace the next stage of their journeys.

Our curriculum is designed to ensure that throughout the Senior School years, subjects offer a well-defined programme of study that encourages our students to build upon their skills and look to their future.

**Core GCSE Subjects:**  
English Language  
English Literature  
Mathematics  
Science

**Option choices:**  
Art & Design • Astronomy  
Business Studies • Classical  
Civilisation • Computer  
Science • Drama • French  
Further Maths • Geography  
History • Latin • Mandarin  
Music • Physical Education  
Sociology • Spanish

All students will have PE lessons each week and PSHE lessons delivered by their Form Tutor.





# space

The recent £10 million investment in our new Senior School on Bateman Street gives our students the space for a calm, stimulating and purposeful environment in which to study as well as access to specialist facilities for science, art and drama.

We offer lots of opportunities to further explore and discover areas of interest through our extensive and inspiring enrichment programme. Pupils develop skills and show responsibility in pupil leadership positions, enrol in advanced qualifications and receive support in areas they find challenging.





## Lotions, potions, whizzes and bangs

We love all things Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.



# discover

## STEM

We love all things Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

STEM Week is a highlight of the school year with all manner of lotions, potions, whizzes, bangs, colours and discoveries, delighting and inspiring our next generation of scientists.

We are very lucky to be supported by our very own STEM Ambassador, Mrs Angelillo and have the use of four science labs across our sites.

At the Senior School our sciences are taught by some truly inspirational scientists. Our Head of Science, Mrs Ainscough, has been awarded a membership with The Royal Society of Biology, in part for her contribution to the Human Genome Project. Our Chemistry teacher, Dr Kay, was made a prestigious Fellow of The Royal Society of Chemistry for her significant contribution to the field of science for discovering the first HIV drug that came to market. She has won the Prix Galien, holds five inventors' patents for her innovations which are sold around the world, has published work and has written courses for the Open University.



# ACTIVE



Football **Cricket** Rounders **Hockey**  
Rugby **Swimming** Netball **Dodgeball**  
Long Ball **Lacrosse** Basketball  
**Badminton** Athletics **Strength and**  
**Conditioning** Rowing **Cross Country**  
Table Tennis **Trampolining** Climbing

## Sport

Inclusivity is central to our philosophy. Talented students are given the chance to thrive through our affiliation with a selection of outstanding local and national sports organisations, but every student has the opportunity to participate in team or individual events.

Our wide range of timetabled sporting events and enrichment opportunities give students the opportunity to discover and thrive in sport

while keeping fit and healthy. Our pupils are given swimming lessons from Reception.

We are fortunate to be able to access professional standard facilities right on our doorstep including CANTABs Rugby Club, Cambridge University Cricket Club's indoor sports facilities and Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre.



# create

## The Arts

Whether your child sees their future as a poet, performer or particle physicist, an education in the arts is invaluable. It helps them see life from different angles and encourages conceptual thinking.

We have specialist teachers and working spaces for art, music and drama, allowing our students the perfect creative environments to immerse themselves in their craft.

Our whole-school productions always create a buzz with children who are thrilled to take part as actors, musicians, technicians, scenery painters and make-up artists. Our shows are incredible displays of our staff and students' talent and hard work. Our recent home-grown production of *The Mystery of Mr E* embarked on an international tour of literacy festivals and theatres.







HELLO

## Discover Sancton Wood

If you would like to find out more about our wonderful school, we'd love to hear from you.

We don't select pupils by ability alone, although we do assess your child to make sure that they will learn happily alongside other children in school.

We aim to balance our classes in relation to age and gender, while maintaining our excellent pupil:teacher ratio.

To find out more about our Open Days, visits and applying to the school please contact [admissions@sanctonwood.co.uk](mailto:admissions@sanctonwood.co.uk).

### Nursery School

17 Station Road, Cambridge CB1 2JB

### Pre-Prep & Prep School

2 St. Paul's Road, Cambridge CB1 2EZ

### Senior School

57 Bateman Street, Cambridge CB2 1LR

Telephone: 01223 471703

Email: [admissions@sanctonwood.co.uk](mailto:admissions@sanctonwood.co.uk)

Web: [www.sanctonwood.co.uk](http://www.sanctonwood.co.uk)

We look forward to speaking with you soon.





**Dukes Education:  
An extraordinary family of schools**

Sancton Wood is part of Dukes Education. This extraordinary family of schools all share the same drive to “inspire, educate and support young people so they can be the very best versions of themselves”. Being part of Dukes Education gives us ongoing investment, strength and stability whilst celebrating our own unique character as a school.

It gives us access to a wide network of expertise and specialist consultancy services including Beyond the Classroom links with Oxbridge admissions, Summer Schools, The Medic Portal and The Lawyer Portal.

“Dukes Education is a **family** of schools and educational services based in the UK. Our schools are **distinctive** in identity and style, yet united in offering outstanding teaching and learning, providing the strongest **foundations** for young people to lead meaningful and fulfilling lives.”



**TOGETHER WE'RE  
EXTRAORDINARY**





