



Brentwood School



#WeArePion



#WeAreCreative



#WeAreInspir

Preparatory School *Prospectus*



brentwoodschool.co.uk

“We encourage all pupils to have the confidence to stretch themselves, to celebrate their own achievements and to be generous about the success of others.”

Headmaster



Welcome

Welcome to Brentwood Preparatory School. We are privileged to be with children as they embark on one of the greatest journeys in life: education.

It is in these early years that our pupils begin to investigate the world with great expectation, interest and energy. It is in these early years that we can show them the world is indeed a feast for the curious and full of opportunities.

From the age of three, we welcome children into a community that is small enough to feel secure, but large enough to offer a huge breadth of experiences. Whether in our well-equipped Foundation playground, Forest School, or our cutting edge Futures Room, pupils are encouraged to think for themselves and develop their own ideas. Whether they are taking part in the School Council or joining in one of the many clubs, sports, music and drama activities, our pupils soon develop their own sense of responsibility. They learn to care about their work, to value their contribution to the wider school community and through many pupil-led fundraising initiatives, their eyes are opened to the world beyond school.

Academically, our pupils are high achievers. Our curriculum is augmented by inclusive academic enrichment and activity programmes. We use technology with a high degree of competence; our Modern Foreign Languages department offering is highly ambitious (we teach French from an early age, Spanish from Year 3 and German, Chinese and Latin in Years 4, 5 and 6); and our

creative curriculum places emphasis on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths) subjects which means there is not only a logical cohesion to what's being learnt, but also a close eye on the future that our pupils will encounter when they eventually leave us.

Our staff teach with great energy, flair and sensitivity and because we keep class sizes small, our Form Teachers get to know their pupils really well. Our School Nurses and the School Chaplain play central roles in taking care of the children and the House system enables each pupil to build relationships with older peers. What this means is that across the school there is always a listening ear or a helping hand whenever a pupil needs it.

Visitors often remark about the genuine warmth they find on their visits and I truly believe it is this most important attribute in our success. As we all know, the simple truth is - happy children learn best - so we focus on giving our pupils a positive start in their education; a positive beginning that will influence the rest of their lives.

I encourage you to find time to come and discover this for yourself. Much has changed since our establishment 1892, but our motto of Virtue, Learning & Manners remains and you will see that in droves when you visit us.

Jason Whiskerd,
Headmaster







Early Years Foundation Stage

Years 3 to 6



Beginning a great adventure

The joy of wet sand between your fingers; the transformation of a little grey seed into a plump green shoot; and working with your friend to build the tallest tower ever, are all valuable learning experiences

Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is a place that the children settle into quickly and love coming to. The staff team create a nurturing environment which results in happy children. A team approach is at the heart of what we do. It feels like a Brentwood family with positive staff-parent relationships. Our provision is very flexible. We're confident that we'll be able to find a weekly pattern that suits both you and your child.

EYFS offers creative and exciting ways to deliver all seven areas of the Early Years Curriculum. This is supplemented with specialist teachers in areas such as French, Dance and Music. Our curriculum is "child led" with learning opportunities indoors and outdoors and weekly Forest School lessons. Daily observations and experiences are shared with parents using a user-friendly app. Parents and

carers are also able to upload their own observations of their children.

Later, the time becomes more structured and we open up the world of numbers, reading and writing in a fun and creative way. Through our Creative Curriculum we give the children the experiences that leave them with a positive attitude to learning for the rest of their lives. French, Music and Forest School all continue with the addition of swimming lessons in our swimming and training pools to enhance the curriculum further. It is wonderful to watch the building up of each child's personality as ideas and play become a little more sophisticated. By the end of the year, a confident young school child will emerge from the toddler they were on day one.

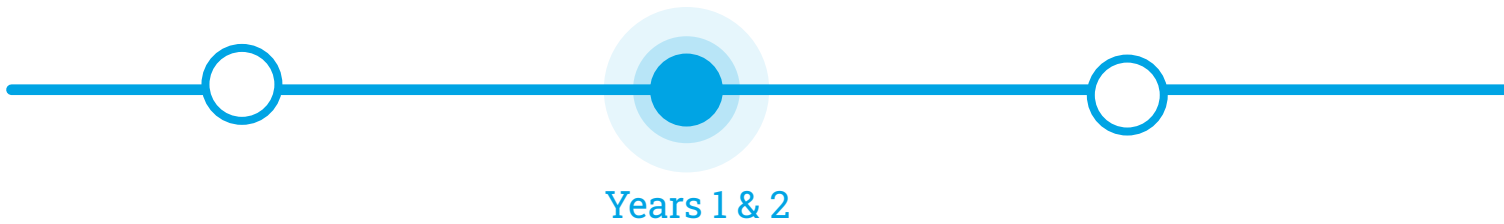
"Having had two children progress through the School I particularly value the Brentwood Preparatory philosophy of nurturing each child as an individual."

Parent



Early Years Foundation Stage

Years 3 to 6



A confident leap

Putting your hand up in class to share your idea or your answer... it is an image that will always signify “School”. It could be one of the first big challenges a child faces. By the time academic lessons begin, we have nurtured the children to feel safe and happy in this environment.

Our goal is to grow confidence, good learning habits and moral sense. We achieve high standards through kindness, good discipline and good humour.

We monitor every child’s progress closely and make sure that parents – our partners in education – are kept well informed. We fulfill and surpass the National Curriculum through Years 1 and 2. We are establishing learning habits for life here, so we help children to ask searching questions, use reasoning to think through a problem, and start to enjoy

looking at things in detail. An effective Creative Curriculum enables the pupils to make powerful links with the world in which they live in a meaningful way.

We aim for our curriculum to be creative and stimulating and ensure that the children really engage with and enjoy their learning in order to achieve high standards in all areas. At the end of Year 2, all our pupils are well prepared for a seamless progression to Year 3.

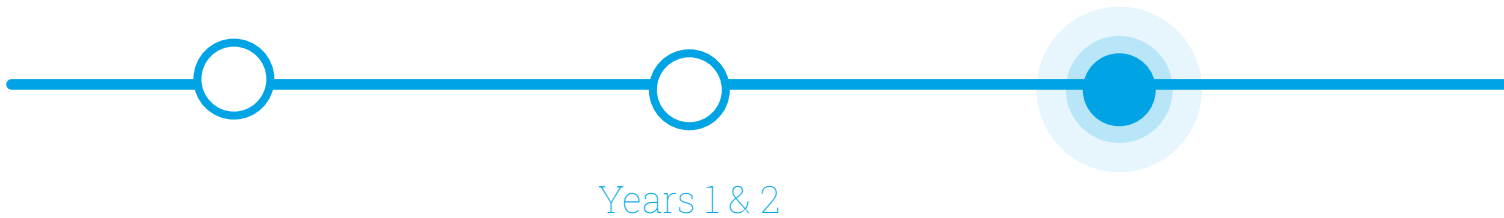
“The School has developed my daughter’s self esteem, confidence and enthusiasm for learning. She has been stretched and challenged at her own level and rewarded for her efforts.”

Parent



Early Years Foundation Stage

Years 3 to 6



High standards and great fun

Our pupils achieve excellent results in their academic work. We find that teachers’ high expectations are met with pupils’ enthusiasm. A large proportion of Brentwood pupils achieve scholarships to the Senior School.

Every Year Group has teachers who combine expertise in their field with a love of their subject, so lessons are full of energy and depth. With a maximum class size of 22, staff are able to pay close attention to the development of each child and adapt what they deliver to an individual's needs. Children who are particularly able in a subject are challenged to go further with their skills and ideas, and those who might be finding something harder to understand are given focused help.

We study all the National Curriculum subjects plus Chinese, French, German, Latin and Spanish. As they move up the School, pupils are given tasks that require more independent study and research. We also cultivate a sound work ethic in preparation for Senior School. Classroom learning is regularly enhanced with trips and visits around this country and abroad.

“Academically, my son has benefitted from his teachers’ high standards. By tailoring their teaching to the needs of the individual child and by making lessons interesting and fun, they ensure those standards are met.”

Parent



Community

Encouraging Individuals

We welcome children into a secure and caring community that feels small enough to each individual, but large enough to offer a huge breadth of experiences. Pupils' wellbeing is the foundation for successful education and we encourage their sense of belonging by letting them know that their contributions are extremely valuable in making Brentwood a vibrant, friendly place.

All the children are encouraged to be enterprising and develop their own ideas. We make sure that as they progress and mature they have a sense of responsibility and care about their work and their role in school. Year 6 pupils are encouraged to take up a position of responsibility. We are often inspired by our pupils' ideas for the School and for the community beyond.

Form teachers get to know their pupils really well because we keep class sizes small. Our Deputy Head (pastoral) leads a close team of Heads of Year, Form Tutors, our Chaplain, our School Nurse and assistant School Nurse, all

of whom play central roles in taking care of the children and we make sure there is a listening ear or a helping hand around whenever they need it. From Year 1, each pupil becomes an active member of one of our six Houses, where they can build relationships with older peers and House tutors.

Being in a House means that pupils find another layer of belonging at the School; they learn about teamwork and try out their leadership skills. Our House System is lively and inclusive; it gives all children the chance to represent their House in different activities.



Sports

Playful and Competitive

We have 75 acres of playing fields surrounding the School where our pupils enjoy a fantastic range of sports, led by a team of specialist teachers and coaches. There is good humour and discipline in the sporting lives of all our children. We cultivate an atmosphere of enjoyment and encourage pupils to excel.

From Year 3, every child takes part in three and a half hours of timetabled sport each week as well as before, during and after school clubs. For example, our chess team competes on the national stage and have enjoyed recent success. Whether it is fencing or tennis, karate or hockey, all of our pupils can try their hand at a variety of sports and find the activity that enthuses them most. Our substantial facilities include a 25 metre indoor swimming pool and training pool, sports hall, all-weather athletics track, fencing salle, four

squash courts, Astroturf pitch, netball courts and tennis courts.

We have a strong sporting tradition that sees many of our pupils enjoy high honours at County and National levels. That same strong tradition means that pupils who take part in sports purely for the fun of it are given the chance to achieve their best too.



Performing Arts

Personality and Creativity

School life is packed with creative energy and there are opportunities for every child to stand out. We weave the talents of our pupils into the fabric of School life. We have an assembly orchestra who accompany their peers' singing every morning, and all our pupils take part in at least one of the many School productions that happen each year.

In the Early Years, pupils are encouraged to develop their creativity and imagination with themed days and group projects. For example, a majestic owl from the local Owl Rescue Centre visited when we were studying 'The Owl and the Pussycat'. The experiences become bigger and bolder, with children taking part in large-scale activities and staff joining in as well as supervising.

Older year groups have the chance to follow the Drama course set out by the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts. For young stage performers, we have a Drama suite where they can take part in Drama activities

every weekday during lunch times, if they wish. The Music Department has its own specialist facilities including a music classroom and six music practice rooms. There are various instrumental ensembles, and all of our pupils will sing with at least one choir during the year. Over 140 pupils have individual instrument tuition and there are regular chances to perform in concerts large and small. Upon leaving the Preparatory School, every child can read and write music and knows how to use computer-based composition software.



Progression

As you would expect, there is a close relationship between our Year 6 pupils and our Year 7 pupils and teachers. Each year, we organise a day at the Senior School to experience some lessons and interact with our teachers to get a feel for what life might be like at 'big school' for them.

They are already familiar with many of the facilities, since they often see our drama productions and music concerts,

and use the sports centre, the Chapel and some performance spaces themselves.

Parents also have the opportunity to tour the school, and attend an informal evening event where they can meet the Headmaster and senior staff.

“Whenever we ask the children to show parents around, there is always a sea of hands from willing volunteers from our youngest to our oldest pupils.... That’s confidence; that’s what Brentwood does’.”

Senior member of staff



#WeAre*Brentwood*

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