

Self Belief • Aspiration • Kindness



HOLMEWOOD HOUSE

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“We are excited by the curiosity and thirst for learning that each child naturally displays.”

Headmaster's Welcome

Holmewood is very much a family school where the positive relationships between the teachers and children allow us to get to know and understand the individual needs of each and every child. We foster their talents and nurture their growth through a broad, balanced, challenging and exciting curriculum and in doing so, create an environment whereby each child is provided with every opportunity to fulfil their potential. We believe that emotional and social well-being, self-esteem, happiness and confidence are of prime importance and are in themselves inextricably linked to academic progress.

We are excited by the curiosity and thirst for learning that each child, regardless of their ability, naturally displays. We work hard to allow each child to ask why, to query and to have the time to develop their thoughts into fresh discoveries and innovations and, in doing so, overcome any challenges faced. The final result is the celebration of learning – a reward in its own right!

The wonderful environment and outstanding facilities provide a strong framework upon which the ethos of 'allowing children to be children' can be achieved. Childhood is full of exciting new experiences which we, as parents and teachers, re-live through the eyes and laughter of our children. The relationship between home and school is of fundamental importance in ensuring every child is surrounded by the love, care and guidance they require as they make their way through their educational journey. In short, this partnership allows our children to enjoy the most important journey of all: childhood.

It is an absolute privilege to be the Headmaster of this wonderful school community, a community where I truly believe any child can succeed.

We look forward to meeting you!

S.G.Carnochan
Headmaster

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Pastoral Care & Wellbeing

Care for the individual child underpins every aspect of a child's time at Holmewood. Every child is looked after by dedicated professionals from the moment they walk through the door in the morning to the moment they go home.

We are hugely proud of the relationship that exists between staff and pupils. It is one based on warmth, respect, kindness and care. Children's welfare is a number one priority for us. The provision of pastoral care at Holmewood is a core part of what we represent as a school. Central to our success is our Learning Support Department, our fully equipped medical centre and school counsellor; all of which is overseen by the Deputy Head, the Head of Pre-Prep and the Head of our Junior section. The pastoral system is part of the fabric of our school, not just an add-on to lessons. After all, a sense of belonging and the safety of being genuinely cared for will unquestionably impact positively, not only on the academic success of a child but upon their journey through childhood.

Staff will meet regularly on a formal and informal basis to discuss pupil matters and how these may impact on a child's progress and well-being in school. We extend this same approachability and open communication to parents; our firm belief is that we must work together in a partnership between home and school.

As children's lives develop, so do the influences, pressures and challenges that they face and we as a community make every effort to equip all of our children with the skills and support necessary to overcome these. From day one of their Holmewood journey, every child is allocated to one of the school's six houses, each of which with its own identity, develops the sense of belonging and espouses the school's values.

Assemblies reflect these values too, providing opportunities to reflect, celebrate and recognise the achievements of all of our children and are an opportunity also for the whole school to gather to reinforce these values.

It is not a cliché to say that every child matters; at Holmewood, they genuinely do. We are privileged to be able to care for your wonderful children and absolutely accept the responsibility we have for teaching, caring, guiding and supporting your child on their most important journey.

“...a sense of belonging and the safety of being genuinely cared for will unquestionably impact positively upon their journey through childhood...”



SPACE TO EXPLORE

Nursery & Reception

Holmewood's Early Years Department is an exciting place for our children to start their educational journey and encompasses our Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Reception classes. We are incredibly passionate about our Early Years vision and what it stands for.

Our emphasis is on the children feeling secure and happy within a cosy and nurturing environment, giving them the opportunity to develop in a holistic and aspirational manner. The importance of kindness, good manners and self-belief are rooted in everything we do. Our children settle very quickly within our vibrant and supportive atmosphere, where happiness is the key to our success from this early age. Every child is treated as a valued and unique individual. Our strong partnerships with parents and the caring environment provide children with a firm foundation and a secure start to their education.

Experienced and highly qualified staff support our children to enable them to make rapid progress at this age as they start to become aware of their own potential and also how they interact with others. Through child initiated play and adult directed activities, we provide the children with a variety of stimulating and exciting opportunities where they can explore and develop their learning experiences, helping them to make sense of the world in which they live. Our daily routine offers small groups and individualised programmes which ensure that each child maximises their progression in a happy and organised environment whilst experiencing music, swimming, physical education and a foreign language under the structure of specialist teachers.

We believe children thrive when they are given abundant opportunities to play in a creative and supportive environment and this is what we strive to provide in our Early Years Department. We genuinely treasure the magic of early childhood at Holmewood. Our children are a joy to be around and a privilege to work with.



“The beautiful grounds of Holmewood inspire our youngest pupils with a sense of wonder and exploration.”



SPACE TO EXCITE Pre-Prep

In our small classes, our enthusiastic and highly qualified staff ensure that the children develop a positive and confident attitude to learning. With numeracy and literacy lessons each day and topic work allowing the children to further develop their inquisitive minds through the humanities and science, the curriculum for our young learners is packed with enriching opportunities.

The children's self-expression and creativity are fostered through inspirational art and design technology projects, specialist music lessons, assemblies and a variety of performances in our wonderful theatre. The curriculum is further broadened with specialist French lessons, swimming, physical education, focussing on skills and coordination, and games lessons which introduce the children to the benefits of team sports.

The pre-prep children access the wealth of resources at Holmewood, while having the security and familiarity of their own dedicated building. Our girls and boys are encouraged to become independent learners and creative thinkers. The beautiful grounds of Holmewood inspire our youngest pupils with a sense of wonder and exploration.

Effort is rewarded as much as attainment and every achievement is recognised through celebration assemblies and our red star rewards, which also earn the children house points. Children love to share their achievements with their parents.

Each child, from the very youngest, thrives on the rewards they earn through believing in themselves and striving to do their best. Our focus on the whole child, creates a kind, welcoming atmosphere where everyone in the community cares for the welfare and happiness of others.

SPACE TO INSPIRE

The Prep School

In Year 3, Holmewood children experience an exciting new chapter in their learning journey. They move into the beautiful Collings building where they enjoy an inspirational environment that is designed to support and encourage their continuing development. A calm, comfortable and light building, Collings combines cutting edge technology in the classroom with atmospheric controls for lighting and air quality which further reinforce the school's commitment to a first-rate environment for teaching and learning.

Each child has a form teacher, devoted to their academic progress and pastoral care, who also delivers the core curriculum, aided by specialist teachers in languages, art, music, sport and drama. Classes take place in and around the classrooms with a wide-range of opportunities for small group teaching as well as whole class delivery. Individual support is provided through designated quiet areas. The strong sense of community that runs throughout the school is reinforced in the crucial period of Years 3 and 4.

Upstairs in the prep school, the children move through into Year 5 where they receive teaching across the curriculum from subject specialists and, instead of being based in one room with teachers coming to them, they develop their independence by moving between dedicated departmental areas for humanities, mathematics, classics and languages. Complemented by the state-of-the-art Cloisters building, the academic needs of the children are supported by form bases with dedicated form teachers and pastoral staff, underpinned by the provision of the Learning Hub, the ICT suites and the Learning Support department. These three areas are in the centre of the school, reflecting the importance of these elements in our educational provision.

Our provision for science, technology, art, music and drama takes place in adjoining buildings and all children, irrespective of their year group, have access to the experience that these subjects offer in specifically designed teaching areas. Physical education and swimming are a core part of the curriculum throughout the prep school, further enhancing the co-curricular programme and all pupils in the Prep School complete their day with either a games lesson or an activities session selected from one of over 50 activities on offer at Holmewood.



Each child has a form teacher, devoted to their academic progress and pastoral care.



SPACE TO ASPIRE

Teaching & Learning

Learning at Holmewood is dynamic and exhilarating. It begins with our core values: self-belief, kindness and aspiration, which encourage all of our children to grow and excel in the most positive way.

Staff are acutely aware of each child's needs, talents and interests and tailor lessons to engage, inspire and challenge the children whilst providing an environment in which the essential qualities of self-esteem and confidence are nurtured. At Holmewood, we take pride in making the subject material lively and tangible through a wide range of settings and activities and through an even wider range of teaching approaches.

Our children complete tasks of which they are justifiably, incredibly proud and we use a multitude of ways to celebrate their achievements.

“...was brimming with pride and read aloud a lot of her projects. I could also see a clear journey of progression and improvement... Genuinely, it was absolutely precious.” **Current parent**



“Pupils’ skills, knowledge and understanding are developed to an excellent and sometimes exceptional level.”

(ISI inspection report February 2017)

“Pupils of all ages and abilities make excellent progress.”

(ISI inspection report February 2017)



SPACE TO FLOURISH

Sport

While Holmewood has earned an excellent reputation for sporting success, our competitive achievements are only one part of the picture. Our main focus is teaching children an exciting, broad and balanced sports programme which is tailored to each individual and prepares children for a lifelong involvement in sport and physical activity, promoting confidence, health and well-being. A comprehensive programme of physical and creative activities complements our philosophy and encourages all children to try something new and develop their talents.

Our core values are fostered through the provision of sport for each and every pupil, whether it be swimming their first width, putting on rugby boots for the first time, representing a school team or looking after a team-mate. We aspire to produce young sportsmen and sportswomen with a genuine love of sport. To that end, we offer a vast array of sports and activities for our children to experience and enjoy.

We believe that it is of great importance that children who wish to have the opportunity to be part of a team are able to do so, not least because it brings them additional enjoyment, life skills and inculcates a strong sense of belonging.

Our children participate regularly in school, regional, national and international competitions and tours.

Our team sports are soccer, rugby, hockey and cricket for boys and hockey, netball, and rounders, with a growing provision of cricket for girls. All children have lessons in swimming and athletics, with opportunities to play squash, do gymnastics, shoot and play tennis.

With a combination of outstanding facilities and highly qualified teachers and coaches, we provide excellent sporting opportunities for every child.



“We offer a vast array of sports and activities for our children to experience and enjoy.”

SPACE TO ENLIGHTEN Co-curricular

There is much more to a great education than that which simply goes on in the classroom! Holmewood not only recognises this view but embraces it wholeheartedly and offers an extensive and varied activities programme for girls and boys throughout the school as an integral part of the school day and a child's wider education.

Our children select their own activities each term from an extensive list which changes according to the season, the interests of the staff and requests from the children themselves. Everyone in the Prep School has two activity sessions a week and the children are always encouraged to try something new and often this can become their latest 'best ever'.

Traditional favourites are regularly refreshed and renewed by the staff and there is always something for everyone.

From our youngest to our most senior children, the aim is the same: to offer a broad range of stimulating opportunities that allow the children to enjoy exciting experiences, to enjoy time with their friends and make new ones, to develop the confidence to branch out, to learn new skills, unearth untapped talents and, importantly, to have fun while doing so. Happy and engaged children, both inside and outside the classroom, are what a great school is all about.



“The range of extra-curricular activities is exceptionally wide.”

ISI inspection report February 2017



SPACE TO CREATE

Art

At Holmewood, we strongly believe that through art, children can develop the ability to understand and express themselves more fully. Our aim is for the children to have an imaginative and enjoyable experience whilst learning about and having an appreciation of different styles, genres and techniques. We hope that we inspire them to continue their appreciation and enjoyment of the arts as they make their way through Holmewood and beyond.

Our art department is a lively, exciting and invigorating place where pupils experience a wide range of artwork and materials through a curriculum that is kept fresh and stimulating. Through the disciplines practised in art, children are better equipped to explore and appreciate the world in which they live, to talk about what they see, express opinions and discuss ideas.

Children should enjoy and feel part of the creative process, wherever they are in terms of technical ability, and should not feel in any way limited. Above all, children should be absorbed by the subject, engrossed in what they are doing, and proud of their personal achievements.

Children are taught a wide variety of the necessary skills and techniques to allow them to communicate and realise their ideas. They are encouraged to develop self-reliance and to make informed choices of materials used in projects.



Design Technology

In our Design Technology Department, we build, we design, we make, we explore, we construct, we make products and we progress. Where others may see a problem, we see an opportunity. Where others see perfection in an object, we look for improvements.

Each and every Holmewood child has the opportunity to enjoy Design and Technology as a subject and as a learning opportunity. It is a joy to see our boys and girls gain confidence and technical ability as they realise their ideas.

We have a large and spacious Design Technology suite, consisting of a teaching room, workshop and a technical room, all of which provide an inspirational learning environment for our children.



“To the optimist the glass is half full. To the pessimist the glass is half empty. To the engineer the glass is twice as big as it needs to be!” **Unknown**

SPACE TO PERFORM

Performance Arts

Children love to perform, whether it is in front of their friends, in a concert, orchestra, play, drama lesson or activity. With access to our wonderfully equipped 360 seat Jubilee Theatre and drama studio, music and drama are vitally important areas of school life where children are given the opportunity to explore the expressive strands of the curriculum.

Specialist music tuition begins in the nursery and continues throughout the school. With superb purpose built facilities, a team of three full-time teachers and a host of visiting instrumental teachers, we are able to discover, nurture and develop the musical potential of every Holmewood child.

Each week, choirs, orchestras and many varied ensembles cater for all instrumental and vocal talents. In over twenty-five concerts a year, varying from informal instrumental to formal group concerts, the children learn to perform with confidence, skill and obvious enjoyment, with the most dedicated flourishing into music scholars to a variety of senior schools.

Building confidence and encouraging creativity is our ethos in the Holmewood Drama department. The students enjoy Drama classes from Year 6, learning about theatre practitioners and the different elements in Drama including Commedia dell'arte and mask work. Whether your child enjoys performing on a stage and rehearsing in our designated activity sessions, studying LAMDA or taking part in fun Drama sessions, Holmewood offers a variety of magical theatrical experiences. We are particularly proud of the number of Drama scholarships gained each year to schools such as Tonbridge, Eastbourne, and Sevenoaks and others further afield.



“...an extremely active and impressive Music department...”

The Good Schools Guide



SPACE TO DREAM

Boarding

At Holmewood, the experience does not stop when lessons finish. Children benefit from being part of a close-knit family which allows boarders to live our values of self-belief, kindness and aspiration.

With a large proportion of parents choosing the boarding option at 13+, the experience of regular boarding, then weekly boarding in the last couple of years can make all the difference when it comes to settling into life away from home at boarding school. With capacity for 40 boarders, Holmewood has a vibrant boarding community at the heart of the school. Evening activities are carefully thought out, so that boarders can relax and enjoy themselves with their friends at the end of a busy day, without the hassle of a late journey home and an early start in the morning.

Boarding at Holmewood continues to bestow on pupils an independence they would not have living at home. It is an ideal preparation for the challenges and responsibilities of their future education.

A flexible approach to boarding allows families to make the most of the opportunities available to them. It may be that parents require a single evening of boarding, a more regular arrangement or weekly boarding and our adaptable approach to boarding makes all of this possible. We are acutely aware of the demands placed upon the modern family and are here to help!



“Boarders appreciate the opportunity that boarding provides to get to know more about each other than would be possible during the school day.”

ISI Inspection Report February 2017.





Aspiration

Aspiration at Holmewood is more than simply the desire to achieve a strong set of exam results at the end of a child's time with us. Of course, academic achievement is important and our curriculum provision reflects this; but more than this, the curriculum provides opportunities to investigate, explore, reflect and discover and these opportunities are reflected throughout our pastoral care and co-curriculum.

Every child achieves great things every day, be it the light-bulb moment in a maths lesson, scoring the winning goal in a match, their contribution to the lighting set in the theatre, earning a music certificate in their chosen instrument, helping a friend in need or any one of many, many more magical moments that happen every day. The opportunity to achieve all of these things is there for every child and our sense of community and ethos supports them and encourages them to aspire. The children encourage each other and support each other and our values as a school underpin this. We know too that they cannot all reach the moon first time but we make it our responsibility to make sure that they know they can aim for it.

We want our children to dream big! Falling short doesn't mean failure, it means an opportunity to learn from our First Attempt In Learning. If the dictionary defines aspiration as "the desire to achieve great things" and every member of our community encourages that desire, then Holmewood genuinely and unashamedly runs on aspiration. We're very proud of that as we are immensely proud of each and every one of our children.

"We know too that they cannot all reach the moon first time but we make it our responsibility to make sure that they know they can aim for it."

Holmewood in Numbers

103
Scholarships awarded in the last 5 years
(50 Academic & 53 Non-Academic
Scholarships (Music, Art, Drama, DT, Sport))

100% Pass Rate at CE

29
future school
destinations

