



# DANES HILL SCHOOL

STRONG & SAGACIOUS





DANES HILL SCHOOL





# WELCOME TO DANES HILL



I loved my school days. I loved the friendships and the learning, the outdoor space and the school trips, the teachers and the sport. I squeaked away badly on my violin, I sang with tuneless confidence and loved being on the stage. In fact the only thing I disliked was the school food. My education helped to shape me into the person I am today. It gave me my passions for mathematics and science, the confidence to lead assemblies and staff meetings, my sense of right and wrong and my innate desire to be the best that I can be. You could say I have never left school, but nor have I ever stopped learning.

If you are considering Danes Hill as a parent, your children are already incredibly lucky, they have in you parents who recognise the importance of education and the difference that it can make to their lives. Choosing a school is an enormous decision to make. All three of my children have had different educational routes, but all of them have benefitted hugely from their time in a prep school. The opportunities they experienced will support them for the rest of their lives.

All good schools will ensure that your children have an excellent academic experience, they will aim high for your children and support them on their journey, regardless of their individual starting point. As a school we invest in the very best teaching staff who can engage, encourage and inspire your children to achieve academically. We have children here who will go on to academic excellence at highly selective schools, we also have children who will find the lessons in maths and English difficult, or who may find the intricacies of modern languages perplexing. Regardless of your child's academic potential we will ensure that they are supported and extended to aim high and be the best they can be.

The academics are hugely important, but they are only part of school life. If you think back to your own school days I suspect your memories are unlikely to be of the maths lesson in which you finally nailed quadratic equations, or the French lesson when verb conjugation fell into place. Childhood is precious and as adults we have a true responsibility to our children to make it as special as possible. We want our children to have breadth to their lives, to

recognise the importance of sport, the arts, philosophical debate, friendships, teamwork... I could go on. At Danes Hill your child's emotional wellbeing will be strengthened by this breadth and they will become rounded and emotionally intelligent human beings. We want them to have great EQ, to learn to be kind and to understand that a Danes Hill education is a privilege that brings with it the responsibility to give back to others. We want to work with you, as parents, to help your children to become thoroughly decent human beings.

If you share this philosophy then do come and meet us. No school is right for every child so come and get a feel for the 'intangible'. We have an amazing staff team who inspire as they educate and who model our beliefs to the children on a daily basis. Most importantly we have amazing children, who are happy and love being pupils at Danes Hill School.

Maxine Shaw  
Head









# PRE-PREP

Nursery to Year 1

Developing a love for learning

The four years from ages three to six are spent at the Pre-Prep. Situated in the heart of Oxshott village, the Pre-Prep provides a secure, friendly, exciting environment in which our younger children are given the opportunity to flourish.

The Pre-Prep has its own head who is responsible for the day to day running of all aspects of the children's school experience, and she liaises closely with the Head to ensure a smooth transition from the Pre-Prep to the Prep School site. Language development and numeracy are important

components of the school day, with science, French, Spanish, music, drama, art and a wide range of physical activities playing their part in the exciting and dynamic curriculum. Children who enjoy the school experience most will learn best, and the emphasis throughout is on learning being fun.

"You get an overwhelming sense that the staff really know their children, and every child is cared for as an individual. There's a real feeling of community and belonging, both among the children and the parents. Our son never wants to miss a day of it!"

Pre-Prep Parent





## PRE-PREP Nursery to Year 1 Developing a love for learning

Children are encouraged to treat each other with kindness and consideration, whilst praise and encouragement are used to foster self-



**An extremely favourable** pupil-teacher ratio, with a full-time assistant assigned to each class, enables the individual learning needs of every child to be met. Structured formal learning is complemented by the development of social and interpersonal skills. Children are encouraged to treat each other at all times with kindness and consideration, whilst praise and encouragement are used to foster self-esteem.

The Pre-Prep site offers excellent facilities including its own swimming pool which is in use throughout the year, as well as a library, dedicated music room and IT suite. In the dining room children enjoy delicious food, cooked on site using fresh, nutritious ingredients. Trips out of school, as well as school visits from a wide range of theatre companies and other groups, are all seen as vital parts of the balanced experience provided by the school.





It was Tom's birthday.  
Tom got lots of presents. "Yay!"  
Jack got the boxes. "Yuk!"  
Then Jack finds a special way to visit the Rocky Mountains,  
land on a treasure island and whoosh into space.  
Can boxes really be as exciting as presents?

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## NURSERY

At Danes Hill, the first point of entry is our Nursery at our Pre-Prep. Children can join our Nursery when they are 3 years old. The first years of schooling are among the most important of a child's life, for it is during these formative years that children gain the skills and the confidence to allow them to achieve success in later life. They are offered a safe and stimulating environment where they are able to explore and learn through play. During their time in our Nursery, children will be learning new

skills and demonstrating their understanding through the EYFS curriculum. The personalised attention offered by our teachers ensures that pupils soon master the skills of reading, writing and mathematics in the early years. By offering a well-rounded curriculum, together with access to an extensive range of outdoor-learning activities in our 20 acre Paddock area, we hope to inspire our pupils to find a joy in learning that will motivate them throughout their time at the

school. Before a child starts, we invite them to attend a settling-in visit with their parents, ensuring a comfortable 'transition' between home and the Pre-Prep. Our teachers visit the local nurseries on a regular basis to ensure we are fully informed of the children's individual needs before they start at Danes Hill.







BEVENDEAN Nursery to Year 1 Developing a love for learning

The Pre-Prep School has its own rhythms and routines, and an exciting programme of harvest festivals, carol services, open days, sports events and productions means that there is always something to prepare for and look forward to.

Overall, the Pre-Prep experience provides every child with a very special start in life and a firm foundation for his or her future development.



In the Pre-Prep, there is always something to prepare for and look forward to.

## LEARNING LANGUAGES

Languages are a major strength of the school, and the guiding principle is 'the earlier, the better', with even our youngest pupils being encouraged to develop an awareness of the fundamentals of French and Spanish through weekly sessions of songs, games and puppet-work. Specialist French and Spanish teaching continues throughout the Main School, with Latin being introduced in Upper School. An innovative Modern Foreign Languages department is always on the lookout for new languages to promote, and Mandarin Chinese and German have both proved popular.











DANES HILL SCHOOL







# JUNIOR SCHOOL

Years 2 and 3

New excitements and challenges

Towards the end of Year 1 pupils regularly visit the Prep School site to prepare themselves for the next exciting step in their education, the transition to Year 2.

Pupils have their own dedicated classrooms. This gives them a very

'self-contained' feel, but opening out on to the possibilities of things to come.

Building on the firm foundations laid down in the Pre-Prep the emphasis now is very much on the development of independent reading and writing skills. The

class teachers are supported by classroom and reading assistants who are on hand to ensure that each child's development is monitored and promoted. Pupils are 'set' for literacy and numeracy to ensure that each one is provided with the appropriate quality of teaching and learning.

"Coming to the Main School is really exciting and the teachers are really welcoming. It feels like we are very grown up in the dining room, and we get lots of freedom in the playgrounds too. Some days we have assembly, and some days we have form period or PSHEE. We have Sports Day, Harvest Festival, and Mufti Day too when we get to dress up in our own clothes. You feel really special in Years 2 and 3!"

Year 3 Pupil





## JUNIOR SCHOOL New excitements and challenges

French continues on the curriculum, and lessons in art, design technology, music, PE and games are now all provided by specialist teachers. Being on the Prep School site gives access to a host of new facilities, including our 400 seat Ark theatre, adventure playground, indoor and outdoor sports facilities, ICT suites, art rooms, swimming pool and Library. Various after-school activities specially designed for this age-group are available to all pupils.

### THE PERFORMING ARTS

Music, drama and dance are given an exceptionally high profile at all levels of the school, and opportunities abound for pupils to develop their performing talents. Every year group has its own major annual production in which all the children are involved, and drama and music lessons are popular with all pupils.

Our three choirs, 50-strong orchestra, school jazz band and range of musical ensembles – not to mention the 300 or more Main School pupils receiving one-to-one instrument tuition – mean that the standard of performance in a myriad of school events and competitions is remarkably high, and equal to that in many senior schools.

Lessons in art, design, music, PE and games are all provided by specialist teachers.















# JUNIOR SCHOOL

Years 4 and 5

Increasing confidence and independence

Increasing independence is a key feature of life in the Junior School. Children still spend some time each day with their form teacher, but they will also make use of all the specialist teaching areas in the school, and a typical day

might include lessons in one of five science laboratories, a range of art, design and drama rooms, as well as dedicated language classrooms.

Setting continues in English and

maths, and by Year 5 this has extended to include French, Spanish and science, allowing for smaller class sizes in all these subjects.

“Being in Year 5 is different because you move around the school so much more. It makes you feel really grown up. In Year 4 you start to earn your badges. The teachers are very, very kind and welcoming, and Trips Week is incredibly fun.”

Year 5 Pupil





## Increasing confidence and independence

The Junior School choir and drama productions are hugely popular activities, and in Year 5 the programme of sports fixtures is such that by now every child will be representing the school at one or more points during the year. Weekly Middle School assemblies allow the Head of Section and the team to focus on issues of

particular importance to the age group. A special feature of Year 4 sees pupils enjoying their first residential school trip, with four days of activities away from home, and by Year 5 this is extended to a full week.



Year 4 sees pupils enjoying their first residential school trip, with four days of activities away from



## DANES HILL AND SPORT

Sport plays a major part in the life of the school and all pupils are encouraged to develop their talents and participate to the full. A dedicated team of over a dozen specialist games teachers provides expert coaching in a wide variety of team and individual sports, and the greatest possible opportunity is given for children to represent the school in competitive fixtures.

All the main team games are featured, with Rugby, football and cricket for boys, and hockey, netball and rounders for girls. Many other sports are given considerable prominence, including athletics, tennis, swimming, sailing, cross-country, karate, judo, rowing and gymnastics.

Facilities include a floodlit all-weather astroturf, swimming pools on both the Pre-Prep and Prep School sites, a PE hall and extensive playing fields. Danes Hill pupils regularly achieve county and national success, and the school's reputation for sport continues to grow.





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# UPPER SCHOOL

Years 6 to 8

Responsibility, opportunity, achievement

The old adage ‘work hard and play hard’ is nowhere more apparent at Danes Hill than in the three years of the Upper School. Pupils begin to focus on their entry to senior schools and will be placed in scholarship or Common Entrance streams, as appropriate. They are encouraged to make use

of study skills and are motivated to work independently.

Academic study is an important component of life in the Upper School, but weekly lessons for pupils in drama, music, art and design technology all have their place on the timetable.

Although these subjects may not be formally examined they are so important for the continual development of self-confidence and self-expression, and contribute to the balance and all-roundedness of our pupils which is very frequently commented upon by senior school heads.

“ The Upper School allows you more freedom, but at the same time more responsibility. It has given me so many opportunities, in sport, music, drama and art; it has something for everybody. You push through to Year 8, preparing for your final exams, but when it’s time to leave, I know it will be hard to let go of this amazing school.”





## UPPER SCHOOL Years 6 to 8 Responsibility, opportunity, achievement

**Pupils are encouraged to** see themselves as valuable members of the wider community beyond the school. Throughout the year, we offer a varied programme of outside speakers to give talks and hold discussions on a impressive range of subjects that are of interest and importance to the children.

Charity fundraising has a very high profile, and each year pupils raise in excess of £25,000 for a wide range of good causes. A member of Year 8 holds the position of President of School Charities for the school, and he or she works closely with the members of the pupils' School Council and Charities Committee to devise a wide range of exciting fundraising

**Each year pupils raise in excess of £25,000 for a wide range of good**

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information and communication technology is an integral part of a pupil's experience at Danes Hill. All children are taught computing skills by specialist staff, and they are encouraged to develop confidence and ability in a wide variety of software applications. Interactive whiteboard technology in every teaching room provides staff with an invaluable teaching and learning tool, and every child has a password protected folder for storing their own work, which can be accessed from any computer on the campus. Our three ICT suites allow for a wide range of ICT-based work in all subjects, and carefully monitored Internet access provides an exciting spur for research and project work.











## UPPER SCHOOL Years 6 to 8 Responsibility, opportunity, achievement

**Pastoral care is especially** important in these senior years, and every child in the Upper School benefits from having a tutor as well as a form teacher with whom he or she meets daily. Both members of staff monitor their pupils' progress closely throughout the year, and are always on hand to provide encouragement and support as required.

School and home work closely together and teacher-parent communications are a key factor

Every child in the Upper School benefits from having a tutor as well as a form teacher.



## EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

Educational trips are a vital part of life at Danes Hill, extending every child's experience, and augmenting topics being studied in the classroom. From Bevendean pupils visiting a local farm park to seniors enjoying an evening at the theatre, an extensive programme of day, evening and residential trips, each carefully tailored to the particular age group, runs throughout the year. The highlight is the annual Trips Week each June, which sees over 500 pupils from Years 4 to 8 attending a range of residential courses in England and abroad.











## UPPER SCHOOL Years 6 to 8 Responsibility, opportunity, achievement

Pupils from this year group will hold the positions of responsibility in the school as well as providing the heads of the four school houses.

Year 8 is seen as being a special year at Danes Hill, very much the culmination of all that has gone before. Pupils from this year group will hold the positions of responsibility in the school – prefects, head boys and girls,

and captains of sport – as well as providing the heads of the four school houses which are so important to the competitiveness and excitement of life throughout the school.

Following their hard work and final exams our Year 8 Leavers can look forward to a send-off in style, with the legendary Leavers' Camp, Trip, Play and Party – four final events for their bulging Danes Hill scrapbooks!



## ENTRY TO SENIOR SCHOOLS

The majority of our pupils leave us at the end of Year 8 via scholarship or Common Entrance examinations. The school has an outstanding record in external exams, and regularly achieves fifty or more academic and all-rounder scholarships each year, as well as gaining entry for every pupil to their first choice of senior school. All-rounder scholarships require a pupil to show particular ability in one or more 'all-rounder' disciplines, which might include music, drama, art, design technology or sport. In addition, numbers of Year 8 pupils sit a GCSE exam in one or other of the languages they have studied, and again there is a high frequency of A and A\* grades.

Pupils move on from Danes Hill to a wide range of senior schools, including all the local co-ed and single sex, day and boarding independent schools, as well as the major independent schools further afield.









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## SPORTS HALL

Danes Hill continues to both uphold and develop its well-earned reputation as one of the top sporting Preparatory Schools in the country. The school is lucky enough to have state-of-the-art sporting facilities which include 7 rugby and football fields, a full-sized Astroturf, an all-weather swimming pool, as well as an extensive forest school for outward bound and adventure sports.

All pupils at Danes Hill, regardless of ability are encouraged to develop their enjoyment for sporting activity and will represent the school in regular competitive matches. This is achieved by providing each child with an

array of choices in the sporting curriculum. This both follows the traditional circuit of Prep school team sports, as well as allowing children to 'think outside the box' in terms of their sporting development.

Most recently the school has also invested in a state-of-the-art indoor sports centre which caters for an array of physical education activities such as gymnastics, badminton, basketball, netball and volleyball. An indoor cricket net area is also included within this facility as well as one of the best school indoor climbing centres in the country!

The Sports Hall is marked out for 2 basketball courts and 2 netball courts. These can also be used to play indoor hockey and 5 a-side football. In addition there are 8 badminton courts, which will be used for volleyball and mini tennis, and also 3 cricket nets. The children will also enjoy the state-of-the-art 10 meter high climbing wall and have the added bonus of a mezzanine floor which houses the rowing machines and exercise bikes and in time will be a fully working gym. We are very proud of this new facility and we know our pupils will have endless enjoyment over the years to come.





# COME AND SEE US

If you like what you have seen and wish to arrange a tour of the school, or if you would like to find out more about how a Danes Hill education could benefit your child, please contact the School Registrar on 01372 842509 or email [registrar@daneshill.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:registrar@daneshill.surrey.sch.uk)











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