

NORTHBOURNE PARK SCHOOL

DAY & BOARDING SCHOOL FOR NURSERY TO 13 YEAR OLDS



Inspiring in every child the confidence to succeed

An aerial photograph of Northbourne Park School, showing a large, historic stone building with multiple chimneys and a central courtyard. The school is surrounded by lush green fields, mature trees, and a swimming pool on the left. The background features rolling hills and a distant village under a clear sky.

Welcome

Welcome to the Northbourne Park School prospectus which gives you an in-depth view of what is so special about our school.

From the outstanding Nursery and Pre-Prep right through to the Prep School, Northbourne Park School is an environment where each and every child can flourish and enjoy their days at school. Our pupils gain confidence in their learning through inspirational teaching and an engaging curriculum. Every child makes the best progress possible in their academic development. We consistently achieve 100% pass rate in the senior exams and our pupils frequently gain a range of scholarships to senior schools.

We are passionate about sport and aim to give every child the opportunity to develop skills in a wide range of team and individual sports.

Creativity also plays a large part in life at our school. All the pupils are encouraged to play a musical instrument or join the choir as well as to take part in drama productions and public speaking. We also encourage creativity through activities including sculpture, costume design, film-making on iMacs and pottery.

We offer a first-class level of pastoral care. This is a safe and nurturing environment with a real family atmosphere. Our outstanding boarding facility provides home-from-home care for both UK and overseas boarders.

The pupils enjoy an extensive programme of afternoon clubs that help develop interests and skills. Love of the outdoors and respect for the environment begins in the Pre-Prep and develops through into the Prep School with fun physical adventures, including our engaging outdoor education programme.

We aim to provide a complete package of learning and activities that brings out the best in the children and lights up their imagination.

We are very proud of our community and all that our pupils achieve. A visit to the school will show you what makes it so special.

Sebastian Rees
Headmaster

The 5 Stages of Northbourne

1 Early Years

2 Key Stage One

3 Juniors

4 Intermediate

5 Seniors



Pre-Prep

Northbourne Pre-Prep is a short walk from the Prep School, which are together set in 100 acres of beautiful grounds and woodland. Located in the delightful Old Rectory, the Pre-Prep provides a perfect environment for children to learn and play from Nursery until Year 2, with its idyllic large garden, orchard, wood, separate hall and outside classroom.



1 Early Years

Nursery and Reception

The homely environment of our Pre-Prep, with its small classes ensures a smooth transition for every child from home to school.

Creativity and exploration lie at the heart of all that we do and the children learn to love learning through play. They develop quickly with our emphasis on early literacy and numeracy.

Our spacious ground floor classrooms provide easy access for learning to spill outside and the children respond creatively to their natural surroundings.

Children love their time with us, making firm friendships, learning new skills, running, playing and making dens in the wood.

Come to our parent and toddler sessions and find out for yourself why our children are so happy in their first days at school.



‘Pupils in the EYFS make excellent progress in the key areas of their learning. They make rapid progress in numeracy and literacy.’

ISI Report



2 Key Stage One

Years 1 and 2

Building on the Early Years curriculum, our children flourish in the next stage of their education. Balancing creativity and more structured lessons, they develop confidence in their learning and confidence in themselves.

Specialist teaching in Sport, Languages and Music sows early seeds for future excellence.

The children are happy to develop more formal learning and to develop their literacy, numeracy and other learning skills, whilst engaging in topic work with enthusiasm and passion.

Year 2's weekly lessons at the Prep School ensure an easy transition to the Prep School the following year.

'Pupils, including children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) participate in a wide range of academic and extra-curricular opportunities and as a result they thrive.'

ISI Report



Prep School

Northbourne Prep School is located in a picturesque manor house at the end of a country drive with extensive gardens, woods, sports pitches, a swimming pool and complementary buildings offering sport, art and boarding facilities. These are wonderful spaces for the children to enjoy their educational journey from Year 3 until Year 8.



3 Juniors

Years 3 and 4

Children make a smooth transition between the Pre-Prep and the Prep School at the start of Year 3.

They quickly adapt to their new environment, helped by the senior children and the warm, friendly atmosphere throughout the school.

Maths, English, Geography, History, ICT and PSHE are taught by the class teacher giving all the children the comfort of a dedicated teacher. Science, French, Music, Drama, Games and PE are taught by our specialist teachers who nurture and guide the children.

‘Pupils develop their study skills well because staff promote pupils’ confidence in their ability to work independently.’

ISI Report



4 Intermediates

Years 5 and 6

In the intermediate years all the children take on fresh challenges while still being nurtured through excellent pastoral care. They gain greater independence moving from class to class while still maintaining a love for learning.

All of the children are given a wide range of opportunities academically and in the extra-curricular programme to develop their interests and a mature understanding of the world around them.



'Pupils develop excellent communication skills. They are articulate and discuss their ideas thoughtfully and intelligently.'

ISI Report



5 Seniors

Years 7 and 8

The senior years encourage academic excellence whatever the children's level of abilities.

Our senior pupils adapt well to a challenging and stimulating two-year curriculum. They are self-motivated active learners, independent-minded and articulate, leading through service to others and achieving excellence in all that they do.

They quickly learn the importance of the role they play as role models to the younger children. This makes for a happy, collective community. Our Heads of School, Prefects and House Captains develop strongly as individuals and understand the values of community and how essential it is to support each other.

'Pupils mix readily with others of different nationalities. They are as they say, 'one community', irrespective of background, race or belief.'

ISI Report



‘French pupils have developed an extraordinary fluency for their age in speaking English with an extensive range of vocabulary and idiom.’

ISI Report

Section Française Bilingue

6e et 5e (Seniors)

Notre objectif est de parvenir à former des élèves bilingues, autonomes, motivés et soucieux d’acquérir sans cesse de nouvelles connaissances. Leur apprentissage concerne non seulement les matières académiques mais aussi le développement personnel grâce au sport, à la musique et aux nombreuses activités organisées pendant leur temps libre.

L’organisation de notre enseignement assure une parfaite compatibilité avec celui dispensé dans les établissements scolaires français ou espagnols, privés comme publics.

Entre 20-25 élèves francophones ou espagnols s’inscrivent chaque année dans l’une de nos deux classes françaises bilingues de sixième et cinquième, compatibles avec le système éducatif français.

Ils participent activement à l’enseignement bilingue - qui leur est proposé et s’intègre ainsi rapidement dans le système éducatif britannique tout en conservant la lettre et l’esprit de l’enseignement français ou espagnol.

Les élèves espagnols deviennent, quant à eux, trilingues.



‘The multi-lingual language focus is a real strength of the school and enjoyed by all.’

ISI Report

Languages

We are passionate about language learning, giving all of the children a firm grounding in several languages. The children in Nursery enjoy weekly French classes with a specialist teacher.

As the children move up through the school they grow in confidence to converse in more than one language. From Year 5 they also learn Spanish. As a result, all of our children have a global outlook on life and show respect for all cultures.

Our children progress onto their senior schools with a linguistic advantage over other children, one which will last them for the rest of their lives.



‘Pupils achieve excellent levels of success in a wide range of extra-curricular activities including music, art, drama and sport.’

ISI Report

Music

The majority of the children learn one or more musical instruments in our purpose-built music suite. Our choir, band, orchestra, string and brass groups all perform regularly from classical to contemporary, a love for music is born.

Informal and formal concerts encourage confidence in public performance. Regular Music Scholarships to senior schools maintain our reputation for musical excellence.





‘Many pupils sing in the school main choir and participate in the successful musicals and plays performed annually when the whole school are involved.’

ISI Report

Drama and Public Speaking

Starting in the Nursery, the children enjoy performing to an audience. Nativity services, Christingles, assemblies, Public Speaking competitions, talent shows and Drama lessons are just some of the opportunities while two musical productions every year demonstrate the children's talent.

LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts) lessons also provide excellent opportunities for the children to grow in stature.

Outdoor Education

Our children are free-range. They are not risk-averse and spend break times climbing trees. They explore our woods and grounds, aware of their responsibilities for each other and themselves. They learn outdoor skills through our outdoor education programme, which promotes teamwork and leadership skills, whether it is in constructing shelters, cooking on an open fire or sleeping out in the woods.

With 100 acres of parkland and woodland to explore, the children develop a love of the outdoors and a respect for their environment. In addition, annual residential trips to ever more challenging locations provide fun physical adventures and further opportunities for lateral thinking.

‘Den building and woodland walks contribute fully to their active lives providing excellent physical exercise and promotion of their well-being.’

ISI Report





‘They have fun and friendship, and realise from an early age that contributing positively ensures that all members of the community benefit.’

ISI Report

Sports and Clubs

Boys and girls love competing and receive inspirational coaching and training. They learn to love sport and lead balanced and healthy lives. Teamwork and leadership skills develop in practices, inter-house competitions and matches with other schools. Sports lessons start at the age of three, with children developing early skills and a competitive edge.

The afternoon clubs programme provides further opportunities to explore and enjoy an even wider range of activities.

The afterschool clubs programme is available to children of all ages and alongside rehearsals for the school plays, encourage the children to mix across the year groups and to develop an interest in hobbies and other interests and skills which can endure long into adult life.

Sports available at Northbourne include: Hockey, Cricket, Orienteering, Rugby, Dance, Archery, Fencing, Football, Swimming, Netball, Horse Riding, Badminton, Volleyball, Athletics, Tennis, Gymnastics, Trampolining, Yoga and Cross-Country.

‘Committed and innovative teaching helps pupils of all ages to develop their creative and artistic skills.’

ISI Report

Live, Love, Create

We encourage our budding artists to express themselves through a wide range of creative media. Through drawing, painting, sculpture, 3D printing, film, felt, pottery, costume design and theatre production, Art and creativity enjoy a high profile at Northbourne Park School.

Creativity permeates the curriculum and starts in the Pre-Prep, where children experiment with painting, collage, printing and construction, gaining an early passion for these fun activities. Regular artist visits, competitions and trips to exhibitions enhance and widen the children's perspectives.



‘Pupils spoke of the warm community spirit and sense of fun that the boarding community provides for their well-being and increasing confidence.’

ISI Report

Boarding

Children can start boarding from Year 3. An experienced, caring boarding team helps the boarders to feel at home right from the start. The level of care and fun activities means that a good proportion of day children choose to do flexi-boarding ensuring a strong bond between boarders and day children.

The Prep School is a full-boarding community. We do not empty the boarding houses at weekends, but offer a continuous boarding service throughout the terms with an exciting programme of activities every weekend.

To make your lives easier, we provide supervised travel to London, all UK airports and Gare du Nord in Paris.

Boarders learn to be independent, confident and learn the importance of good relationships with others.

Their experiences in boarding are an excellent introduction to boarding in future schools and to growing independence. Modern boarding is the best of all worlds for the children who develop independence further and faster than others.



‘Pupils develop into responsible and mature young people, ready to contribute to those around them and to the wider world.’

ISI Report

Where Next?

We prepare children for admission into a range of grammar schools (11+) and senior schools (13+). It is important to us that we work with you to ensure that your child goes through to the right school for them, often with scholarships.

We have built excellent relationships with many schools and in recent years, our children have progressed with confidence to Benenden, Dover College, Eton College, Kent College, The King’s School Canterbury, St Edmund’s Canterbury, Sevenoaks School, The Simon Langton Grammar Schools, Sir Roger Manwood School and Tonbridge School.

Wherever they go on to continue their education, we always hear that Northbourne pupils are exceptionally well prepared.



‘Pupils develop an increasing spiritual awareness through the church services and events of the school year.’

ISI Report

Spiritual Life

The School enjoys a strong Christian ethos and all children attend assemblies, which include Bible readings, hymn singing and prayers as well as stories from history, current events, moral issues and personal experiences. The children come to recognise the importance of other faiths and denominations and come together regularly for worship in our own school church and for major festivals. The children, including those in the choir, celebrate Eucharist every fortnight with a visiting priest or the Chaplain who is also available to the whole school community.



Come and See Us

Northbourne Park is located on the Betteshanger estate in Kent on the South East Coast of England, just off the A256 Sandwich to Dover road, near to the M2 and M20 motorways to London.

Just over an hour from central London, and 30 minutes from the Eurotunnel and the Eurostar Ashford International Rail Station, Northbourne Park School is ideally placed for convenient travel to and from mainland Europe.

Minibus Service

The School runs a flexible minibus service covering Deal, Littlebourne, Bridge, Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone and Dover areas.

London Service

We also offer a weekly train service to London St Pancras.

Please contact us for further information:

Northbourne Park Pre-Prep, The Old Rectory, Betteshanger, Deal, Kent
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Admissions Procedure

When you make contact, we will invite you to come and visit us.

School Visit

The headmaster will welcome you and take you around the school to meet the staff and children. It is useful if you can bring your child's reports and any supporting documentation with you.

Taster Day

We encourage your child to spend a day with us in their future class. We will assess your child informally during the day and meet up with you at the end of the day to review how your child has got on and give you some feedback.

Overseas Children

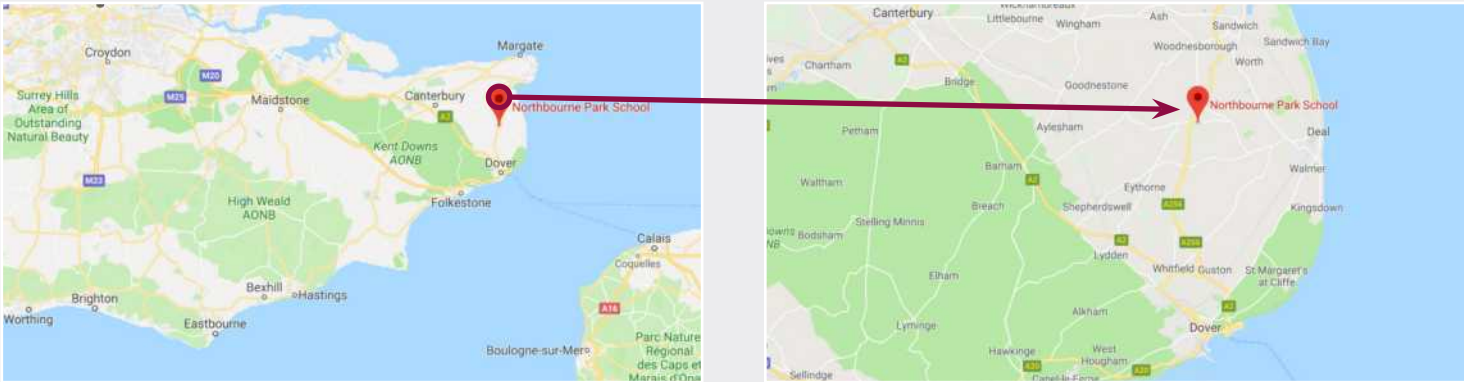
We advise a taster day for overseas children but recognise that this is not always possible. Instead we are happy to organise a Skype conversation to assess their level of English.

Provisional Entry

Families wishing to secure a place for their child should complete and send back a Provisional Entry Form. We will then confirm an offer of a place.

Confirmation of a Place

The headmaster will then confirm an offer of a place for your child by sending you a Final Entry Form. Please return this to the School Office with the deposit to confirm your acceptance of a place.





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