



NORTHBOURNE PARK SCHOOL



THE SENIOR YEARS

Preparation for Senior School:
The Northbourne Park Way

LEARN IT, LIVE IT, LOVE IT!

The Senior Years

The senior years at Northbourne Park are, in many ways, the most rewarding and beneficial period for pupils at the school. The last few years of primary, and the first few years of secondary education are a distinct period in children's development that is often forgotten, and we are specialists in catering for early adolescence.

We are ambitious for your child's future. At Northbourne Park, children feel nurtured, challenged and respected during these vital years and have the space to enjoy their late childhood whilst maturing and preparing for the next step. At Northbourne Park, Years 7 and 8 are most certainly not 'forgotten' year groups and the opportunities, experiences and character development for our young people is most visible during this time.

"I was at a prep school myself as a boy and those final two years were the most rewarding of my schooling career. Personally, I think it is barmy for parents to move their children from a good prep school at age 11."

- Sir Anthony Seldon, Formerly Head of Wellington College and Brighton College



Advice and Support

Preparation for life at senior school is a structured and supported process, whatever the senior school of choice. The school has many years of proven success at ensuring that pupils achieve their first choice of senior school at both 11 and 13. We want to let senior schools know about our amazing pupils' emerging talents, aspirations and character, and we work hard to support parents and children in successfully gaining places at their preferred senior school.

As the only fully independent Prep School in the local area, we really can offer independent advice. We are proud of our excellent reputation with senior schools, where numerous Northbourne Park alumni have gone on to have great impact. Our pupils stand out for their conduct, manners, academic standards and behaviour.

Whilst the senior school admissions process can seem rather daunting, and differs from school to school, we are here to help every step of the way and offer information sessions and individual meetings so that the process is truly bespoke. The first step is to meet with Mr Hammond, the headmaster, who will be able to offer bespoke advice to you on the various options, as well as considering the individual profile of your child.

We offer a Future Schools and Scholarship event, setting out all of the options available to you as well as an opportunity to meet with admissions teams from our main feeder senior schools, including King's Canterbury, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Cranbrook, Sir Roger Manwood's, St Edmund's, St Lawrence College, Kent College, Duke of York's and Dover College.



The Academic Curriculum and Specialist Teaching

Pupils in Years 5 to 8 benefit from a full range of specialist teachers across the curriculum. By transitioning away from the primary model of one main classroom teacher to specialists across all subjects, pupils benefit from expert stretch, challenge and support where needed. Children rapidly learn the study skills and independence required for success at senior school.

We know that children make significant progress in their learning by following the Common Entrance programme in Years 7 and 8, achieving the highest standards in areas such as essay writing, comprehension and analysis; skills and knowledge in maths and science and Modern Foreign Languages, a particular strength of Northbourne Park. The school has a uniquely trilingual environment in the senior years, and children that stay on until 13 often go on to study languages successfully at GCSE and beyond.

Standardised Testing, ISEB 11+ and the Kent Test

Throughout their time at the school, children sit regular assessments in English, Maths and Reasoning, which enables us to monitor and track their progress towards achieving their goals. Data is shared with parents, and pupils continue to receive high quality instruction in English, Maths and Reasoning to help prepare for both the ISEB Pre-test for independent schools, and the Kent Test for Grammar Schools. In addition to the normal curriculum programme, pupils are able to use the Atom Learning platform to provide bespoke, adaptive, online assessment practice at school and at home. We offer an after school activity, individual programmes and a summer camp option to help pupils feel fully prepared.

ISEB Independent Project Qualification

Pupils in Year 7 embark upon the ISEB IPQ as part of their Saturday morning programme. The Independent Project Qualification (IPQ) sits alongside the Common Entrance examination, and provides a framework for teaching and assessing the development of independent, pupil-led project-learning skills. This is an externally moderated qualification, and pupils receive a certificate upon completion. The IPQ provides a great platform for developing vital study skills for the future, and is a real benefit of Years 7 and 8 at NPS.

Bespoke Pathways, Individual Mentoring and Interview Practice

Senior pupils at Northbourne Park enjoy focused class sizes and year groups, and benefit hugely from being 'a big fish in a small pond'. They are very well-known as individuals, and are provided with bespoke learning pathways and opportunities to achieve the best outcomes in learning and development. Pupils benefit from high levels of one-to-one time with teachers and personalised learning, receive regular individual feedback, and benefit from teachers' time and support for academic and emotional needs.

Pupils begin the process of preparing for their transition to senior school at the end of Year 7, when they begin to plan for their future. Skills and attitudes required for senior school are developed and honed throughout Year 8 and senior schools offer taster days and entrance assessments. There is a series of dedicated transition lessons which allow children to talk about their feelings, consider the differences and challenges they will face, reflect on the skills they have acquired and their qualities as NPS pupils, and begin to think and plan ahead.

Interview practice is provided for senior school applications to ensure that pupils are fully prepared.



Section Française Bilingue

Northbourne Park is, genuinely, unique! As the only independent Prep School in the country offering the French Curriculum alongside Common Entrance, current pupils benefit from a broad range of new friends at the top end of the school. Although the primary years are single form up to Year 6, the senior years are split across two classes which follow the English Common Entrance stream or the French CNED system. Advanced Programme pupils follow both streams.

In addition to providing for new friendships and social opportunities, this brings a genuinely outward looking, global perspective to the senior years. Opportunities to develop language skills, broaden cultural perspectives and remain genuinely European in our post Brexit era is highly valued. At the same time, pupils are deeply rooted in their local heritage and Northbourne traditions.

Scholarship Pathways

During Year 6, pupils currently at the school have the opportunity to sit scholarship assessments for Year 7 entry at Northbourne Park. Candidates can be assessed in the following disciplines: Academic, Sport, Performing Arts and Creative Arts. Children who show the capacity, commitment and passion for scholarship success will then follow a scholarship programme through Years 7 and 8 to prepare for scholarship assessment to senior school at Year 9. The school has a proud record of success in this area, and 50% of leavers in Year 8 will regularly win scholarships to senior school.



Leadership in a Small School

Maturing at the top of a small school allows children to fully develop into well-rounded young people who are confident, socially aware and firm in their own identity. Completing the NPS journey offers children in Year 8 a unique set of opportunities, as well as a great sense of achievement. Being the oldest at 13 years old, not among the youngest, is hugely beneficial to children's development at this stage. In addition to a range of responsibility positions such as school prefect, boarding prefect and house captains, senior pupils benefit from opportunities to mentor younger pupils in the school. Outdoor Education continues in the senior years: Northbourne Park pupils don't worry about what is cool or socially acceptable. They just get stuck in and continue to love all that is on offer at the school.

In a world where children are increasingly influenced by social media, it is a real and tangible benefit to delay entry to a full senior school setting until the most vulnerable years are past. Pupils are ready to move on at the end of Year 8, with a secure sense of self and a firm moral compass which is rooted in our values: tolerance, respect, kindness, loyalty and love.

Learning Support

Northbourne Park has an outstanding learning support department. This individual, differentiated support enables children with the full range of support to enjoy success across the curriculum. There is a clear step up in challenge in Year 7 as children enter a new Key Stage. We specialise in helping children take that step with support, maintaining high expectations and aspirations, and ensuring that children do not get left behind in a bigger setting.



Boarding

Boarding at Northbourne continues to thrive at a time when many schools are reconsidering their provision for Years 7 and 8. In addition to our full and weekly boarding, we offer genuine flexi-boarding, which provides the ideal opportunity for children to build independence, resilience and new friendships.



Key dates and timelines

Year	Autumn	Spring	Summer
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet Mr Hammond to discuss future schools options and pathways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit Open Days for Tonbridge, Brighton College, Harrow, Eton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register for Tonbridge, Brighton College, Harrow, Eton, Charterhouse, King's • Register for Kent Test – Grammar School
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISEB Pre Tests for Charterhouse, Eton, Harrow, King's • Kent Test (early Sep) • Register for Millfield, St. Edmund's, St Lawrence College, Dover College, Kent College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eton Test 	
7		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millfield Assessments 	
8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13+ Scholarship assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Entrance exams



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