



SEVENOAKS
PREPARATORY SCHOOL



YEARS 7 AND 8

CHALLENGE • CREATIVITY • COMMUNITY

WELCOME

TO YEARS 7 AND 8 AT THE PREP



The first years of secondary education are crucial; pupils should thrive in an environment where they feel challenged, nurtured and respected. The Prep is the perfect place for this to happen. We welcome a number of new pupils in Year 7 who join many of our existing students to complete the Common Entrance course.

The academic curriculum stimulates our students, preparing them for entrance examinations and scholarships. There are many opportunities to take responsibility and lead; our students are our ambassadors and our prefects help us to run the school. Our Oak Award encourages our young people to consider their role in the wider world, inspiring them to challenge themselves, make the most of their creativity, and contribute to their community.

Years 7 and 8 are a period of physical and emotional change; it is a sensitive time and the value of being in a caring environment where class sizes are small and every teacher knows every child extremely well is key to ensuring that our pupils feel supported.

Whilst our main feeder schools are Sevenoaks and Tonbridge, our pupils go on to attend a wide variety of independent secondary schools at 13. Through working closely with parents and understanding each individual pupil's needs, we ensure the chosen secondary school is the most appropriate setting for them to succeed academically and thrive personally.

We want our pupils to leave us as individuals who are confident in their own abilities, who cherish friendships, welcome responsibility, understand their place in community and who know the value of teamwork. One only has to look at the accomplishments of our former students to know that we achieve our aims.

I look forward to welcoming you to The Prep.

Mr Luke Harrison (BA, PGCE, IAPS)
Headmaster

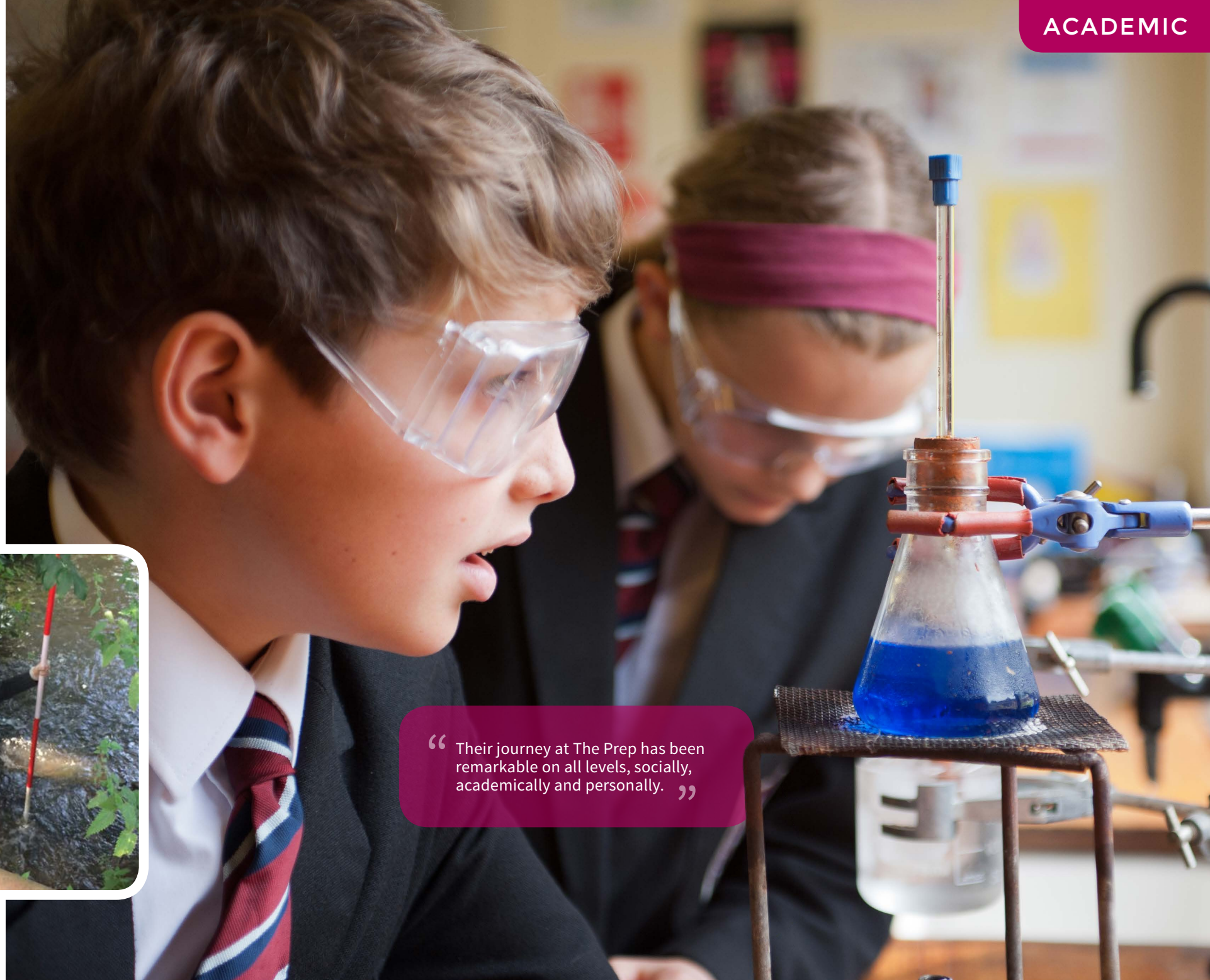
“ At The Prep, pupils are taught to not be frightened of failing but to give their best to every situation and to have the confidence to try things outside of their comfort zone. ”

ACADEMIC

We are committed to delivering a curriculum that appreciates that every pupil is different, offering a wide range of subjects taught by specialist teachers, the majority of whom are secondary trained. The academic rigour of the Common Entrance syllabus is complimented by small class sizes with setting, which allows teaching to be adapted to individual needs.

Our students are given opportunities to reinforce their classroom learning with workshops and field trips which bring their learning to life. Saturday school is offered as an option in Year 8 as an additional preparation to independent secondary education.

The progress of our scholarship candidates is monitored closely to ensure that teaching provision, both in and out of the classroom, is sufficiently challenging. This challenge may come in the form of greater subject content, but it is more likely to be in the form of the encouragement of higher-order thinking skills.



“ Their journey at The Prep has been remarkable on all levels, socially, academically and personally. ”



“ I enjoy the responsibilities the teachers give us. We are expected to remember our duties without being reminded. ”

LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY

Leadership and responsibility is a significant part of life in Years 7 and 8. Year 7 is a training ground for students to learn the importance of becoming leaders of the school. After Bushcraft, at the start of Year 8, pupils are awarded their ties as heads of school and prefects. Their ties reflect their responsibilities. As our ambassadors, they make announcements and presentations in assembly to their peers, and address parents and school governors at other events. They lead our school council and give prospective parent tours. School duties include helping the teachers of our younger pupils in the Junior School. These important relationships between our older and younger pupils are special in that they are based on trust and responsibility. We also encourage our pupils to look beyond the comfortable and reassuring setting of The Prep to challenges presented in the wider community. We have a number of projects that aim to broaden the pupils’ horizons by engaging them in a reality beyond their own.



“ We are treated like adults. ”

SPORT

We strive to instil independence, tolerance and teamwork in our pupils. Our ethos, “Sport for All”, means that we will ensure every child in Years 7 and 8 continues to have opportunities to represent the school. We believe that sport strengthens character and community spirit, and we have an excellent track record for sports scholarship awards to senior schools.

“ I love having the freedom to play sport in the huge grounds during break. ”



“ It’s good that we try lots of different sports to prepare us for opportunities at our next schools. ”

“It’s a friendly environment where we are all encouraged to take part.”

MUSIC AND DRAMA

Our students have opportunities to perform on stage in productions suited specifically for them, and direct or produce house plays. Our annual rock and pop showcase of talent, Prep Idol, is for pupils in Years 6 to 8 and is arguably the highlight of our social calendar. Choir, band and orchestra opportunities are also plentiful for our musicians and singers. We stretch our most able musicians and performers, helping many to prepare for music and drama scholarships to their senior schools.

“I was responsible for the lighting in our house play.”



EXTRA CURRICULAR

Every student faces challenges and is given the confidence to understand how to overcome their anxieties and the tools to meet the challenges head-on. We create endless opportunities for pupils to take part in a dynamic and diverse programme to build awareness and gain confidence – from art, drama and music, to sport, activities, debates and competitions. Every pupil is supported by our community of teachers to find out what they are good at and what they really enjoy. Working as a team while learning more about oneself is the focus of our Bushcraft activity week. Pupils live outdoors, learning navigation and camp-craft skills. This experience enhances their leadership skills and their ability to work together to overcome challenges.

“I got to know my class mates really well on the Bayeux trip.”

Our post Common Entrance and post exams schedule of activities is diverse and rewarding. From house drama and theatre trips to cooking competitions and outdoor activities, pupils are learning about the benefits of their own contributions to a team, while having fun and celebrating the friendships and skills that The Prep has helped to develop.



“Bushcraft was great fun. I loved swimming in the lake.”

“We get mixed up for activities so we make new friends. We really connect as a year group.”



FRIENDSHIP

Students experience physical, and often social, changes during Years 7 and 8. By being in a supportive and familiar environment at The Prep, they are able to feel more confident about facing the challenges that these changes may bring. Our pastoral care continues to be a central focus and priority of the school.

“The teachers are really easy to talk to and they listen to what I say.”



OAK AWARD

Community has always been at the heart of everything we do at Sevenoaks Prep. We live by our ‘Way of Life’ which encourages our young people to take responsibility for their actions and to be considerate of those around them. In Years 7 and 8, students can demonstrate this by earning the Oak Award. Pupils take part in activities that focus on three key areas: community, challenge and creativity. They work towards bronze, silver or gold badges which are presented at the end of the academic year.



For more information, please
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