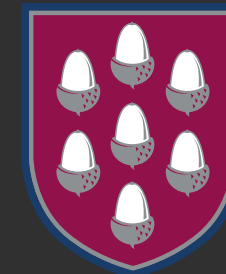


SEVENOAKS  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

# THE PREP DIPLOMA

SHAPING



STORIES



**At Sevenoaks Prep,** we believe in developing curiosity, creativity, character and a sense of community. Students are encouraged to discover their strengths, take initiative and contribute to the wider school community. We believe that the purpose of education extends far beyond the classroom; it is about nurturing intellectual curiosity, personal integrity and a sense of purpose in every student.

# WHY THE PREP DIPLOMA?

The past decade has seen significant changes in 11+ and 13+ assessments, alongside wider developments in GCSEs and technology. While students still sit written examinations, there is a growing need to be more resilient and encourage risk-taking.

Learning beyond the classroom plays a vital role in shaping how young people think, behave and respond to challenge. Students need broad experiences, strong communication skills and the ability to work both independently and collaboratively. Increasingly, qualities such as creativity, empathy, leadership and commitment are what helps them thrive at senior school and beyond.

The Prep Diploma is designed to ensure that students are prepared, both academically and personally, for life at their chosen senior school.



# WHAT IS THE PREP DIPLOMA?

The Prep Diploma - our evolved programme for Years 6, 7 and 8 - recognises and values a broad and balanced education.

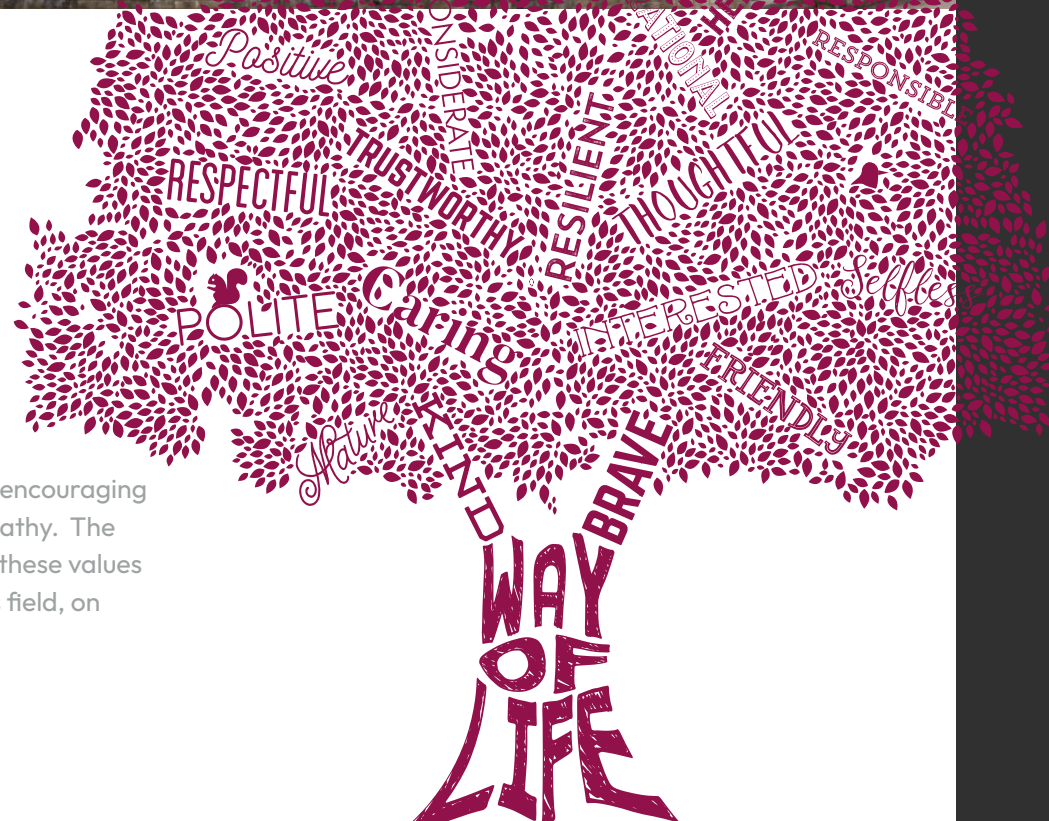
It celebrates not only academic success but also wider personal development and life beyond Sevenoaks Prep - something we have championed for decades. Importantly, The Prep Diploma is not about doing more, but about recognising and reflecting on the value of what students already do. All aspects of school life - from sport to creative arts, from House events to community outreach, from leadership to kindness - contribute to the final award, acknowledging both academic progress and contribution beyond the classroom.

Students continue to receive individual subject grades and reports, which contribute to an overall Foundation Diploma (Year 6) or Full Diploma (Year 8) award.



# OUR VISION & VALUES

Central to The Prep Diploma is *The Way of Life* - Sevenoaks Prep's distinctive ethos built upon shared values that shape conduct, relationships and aspirations. These qualities permeate every aspect of school life, encouraging students to act with courage, respect and empathy. The Prep Diploma provides daily opportunities for these values to be lived out - in the classroom, on the sports field, on stage and through service to others.



# DELIVERING A BROAD & ENRICHING CURRICULUM

The Prep Diploma offers a rich academic foundation across core subjects while embracing the breadth and depth that has always characterised a Sevenoaks Prep education. Students engage fully in English, mathematics, science, the humanities and modern foreign languages, alongside a diverse programme in sport, music, drama, art, digital learning and STEAM. This distinctive approach ensures that intellectual challenge is complemented by creativity, collaboration and critical thinking, with students of all abilities stretched appropriately through a wide range of activities and opportunities.

# PREPARING FOR ASSESSMENT & EXAMINATIONS

The Prep Diploma builds confidence for public examinations at their destination schools. Some subjects include coursework alongside ongoing assessment, allowing students to explore topics more deeply and develop resilience, independence and redrafting skills providing valuable preparation for GCSE courses.

# SUPPORTING STUDENTS

Technology at Sevenoaks Prep is seen very much as the enabler rather than the driver; we embrace new initiatives but remain fully aware of concerns over screen time and usage. Effective filtering software ensures that students can use the best of the Web to support and enhance their learning. A clear and manageable acceptable usage policy for students is in place. At the start of Year 6, students are given a laptop that remains with them through Years 7 and 8; staff ensure that these are employed purposefully and creatively within their teaching. Experience of mobile learning and the responsibility that comes with this ensures that students are prepared appropriately for life at their senior schools.



# Learning BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The Prep Diploma also places strong emphasis on leadership, charity and entrepreneurship. Through these elements, students learn to take initiative, think innovatively and act with compassion. Whether leading a team, organising a fundraising project, or developing a business idea, students are encouraged to demonstrate integrity, initiative and service to others.

In doing so, they gain a deeper understanding of their role within both the school and the wider community - preparing them to contribute positively to society.

Support



# WELLBEING & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

At the heart of The Prep Diploma lies a commitment to wellbeing and personal growth. We recognise that happy, confident students are best placed to learn, to lead and to flourish.

Through a carefully structured programme of pastoral care and life skills, students are supported in developing self-awareness, empathy and resilience. Our staff work closely with each child, ensuring that their academic, emotional and social wellbeing are nurtured in equal measure. In this way, The Prep Diploma cultivates not only achievement but a deep sense of belonging and self-worth.

# AN INSPIRING ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

Working closely with our destination schools, we have carefully crafted The Prep Diploma to provide engaging and inspiring programmes of study that equip students with the knowledge, skills and confidence to thrive as articulate, thoughtful learners as they progress towards GCSE and beyond.

## Core Curriculum

Lessons are delivered by subject specialists, most of whom are secondary-trained practitioners with experience of delivering GCSE and A Level/IB programmes prior to joining Sevenoaks Prep. They understand the journey ahead for our students and are best placed to support them as they progress through Years 6, 7 and 8.

All subjects are individually assessed with each subject choosing the most appropriate breakdown for their subject curriculum.

To support and enhance their learning, students experience a number of trips, both day and residential. Visits include a residential trip to France, a World War One battlefields tour and a Bushcraft residential experience. These activities give students life experiences that help to build resilience, teamwork and problem-solving.

| CORE                  |                                                          |                                           |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| English               | Maths                                                    | Science<br>(Biology, Chemistry & Physics) |
| CREATIVE ARTS         | HUMANITIES                                               | MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES                  |
| Art<br>Drama<br>Music | History<br>Geography<br>Religious Education & Philosophy | French<br>Spanish                         |
| DIGITAL LEARNING      | SPORT                                                    | WELLBEING (PSHEE)                         |
| Digital Learning      | Physical Education<br>Games                              | Wellbeing (PSHEE)                         |

# ENRICHMENT

## Clubs and Activities

Clubs and activities form an important part of The Prep Diploma, giving students the opportunity to explore interests beyond the classroom. Students can earn credits that contribute to The Prep Diploma through regular participation in a wide range of co-curricular opportunities, including the arts, music, sport, academic clubs and service-based activities.

Credit is awarded for consistent engagement and commitment, recognising students’ contribution to the wider life of the School. The programme also encourages students to try new experiences, develop existing interests and play an active role within the school community.

## Charity and Community

Through a range of projects and initiatives, students are encouraged to engage with issues beyond the classroom and consider the difference they can make. Credits are awarded for involvement and completion of this work.

In Year 6, students undertake a project on the theme of charity, encouraging them to think critically about their responsibilities as young citizens and to consider how their actions can make a positive difference.

In Year 7, students undertake a sustainability project and become “Buddies” to Year 2 students, helping them prepare for life in Year 3. They also begin working towards The Oak Award, which recognises achievement in community involvement, personal challenge, leadership and creativity.

In Year 8, students continue to work on The Oak Award and also undertake the Social Entrepreneurs Project, challenging them to set up their own businesses and turn £10 into £100 or more for the charity WeSeeHope.



# FINAL DIPLOMA AWARD

At the end of Year 6 (Foundation) or Year 8 (Full), students' grades and credits across all areas of The Prep Diploma are combined to give an overall award. Depending on their overall performance and contribution, students may be awarded an Emerging Pass, Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction with Honours.



"I am excited about The Prep Diploma. Pupils who have joined us from Sevenoaks Prep at Brighton College have always been well-prepared, not only academically, but on a much wider, human level, to thrive with us. The Prep Diploma will clearly continue the strong culture and tradition at Sevenoaks Prep of academic rigour, enjoyment of learning and a commitment to developing good human beings, not just clever ones."

**STEVE MARSHALL-TAYLOR (HEADMASTER)**  
**BRIGHTON COLLEGE**

Sevenoaks School is entirely supportive of The Prep Diploma. A broad and balanced education is more important than ever to help ensure young people are best prepared to thrive in a rapidly changing world. The Prep Diploma promotes curiosity, creativity, character and community, which are all essential to the development of the whole person. As we often say at Sevenoaks, exam results are the byproduct of a great education, and should never be the end in itself. Well done to Sevenoaks Prep for all their work developing this Diploma, and we're confident that it will be excellent preparation for a senior school like Sevenoaks, as well as life beyond.

**JESSE ELZINGA (HEADMASTER)**  
**SEVENOAKS SCHOOL**



# Preparation FOR THE FUTURE

By the conclusion of Year 8, students who complete The Prep Diploma will have developed not only a secure and relevant academic foundation, but also resilience, confidence and moral character to thrive in the years ahead. They will leave Sevenoaks Prep as independent thinkers, compassionate leaders and responsible citizens - ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities of senior school and beyond.

"What matters most to us at Tonbridge is that pupils arrive at 13+ with strong academic foundations, intellectual curiosity and the confidence to engage fully in both classroom and co-curricular life. A programme such as The Prep Diploma, which combines academic challenge with opportunities for pupils to develop independence, communication skills and genuine wider interests, will provide an excellent preparation for that transition."

**JAMES PRIORY (HEADMASTER)**  
**TONBRIDGE SCHOOL**

I fully endorse this approach. It will allow Sevenoaks Prep to lead the way in offering a bespoke curriculum that stretches, challenges and inspires the children whilst also preparing them for their transition to Senior Schools. It will also enable teachers to equip the pupils with a broad range of skills that will not only prepare them for GCSE and beyond, but also for the world of work.

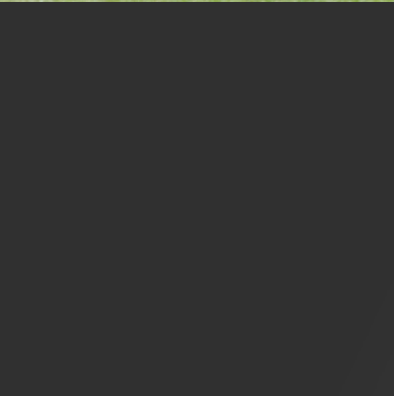
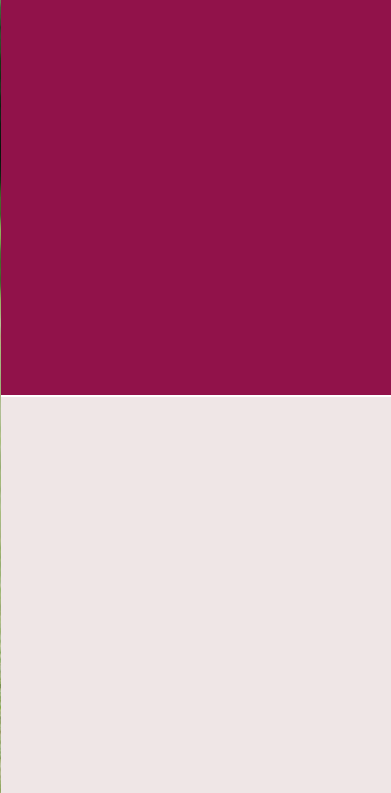
**DOMINIC MOTT (HEADMASTER)**  
**HURSTPIERPOINT COLLEGE**

"The Prep Diploma at Sevenoaks Prep School harnesses the heritage of the Common Entrance but goes much further allowing subject specialists to ready Years 6, 7 and 8 with the right blend of skills to thrive at GCSE and beyond. Not only is it both rigorous and innovative, its breadth and sense of connection with The Way of Life will help their young men and women navigate the challenges of the journey through adolescence and young adulthood in the 21st Century."

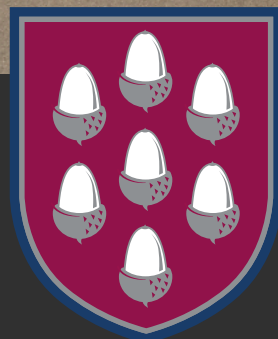
**TOM LAWSON (HEADMASTER)**  
**EASTBOURNE COLLEGE**

I commend the 'Prep Diploma' initiative. At Sutton Valence we have always been impressed with the pupils who have come to us from Sevenoaks Prep to our Senior School and I can see this move as a very positive one for pupil experience. From what I have seen of the plans and my conversations with Mr Harrison and his team, I have every confidence it will prepare Sevenoaks Prep pupils very well indeed for the next steps in their educational journey. I applaud the blend of the innovative and traditional approaches to learning and it embraces so much life outside the classroom too. It has my full support.

**JAMES THOMAS (HEADMASTER)**  
**SUTTON VALENCE**



SHAPING



STORIES

THEPREP.ORG.UK

Sevenoaks Preparatory School  
Godden Green, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0JU

+44 (0)1732 762336 |    
admissions@theprep.org.uk