



A M E S B U R Y

P R O S P E C T U S



www.amesburyschool.co.uk





WELCOME

When you walk around our school grounds, it's hard to imagine a better place for children to start their education. The sense of community and belonging from both the children and the staff is evident.

During each step of their journey, our children are given a plethora of exciting opportunities to learn and develop - mentally, socially, creatively and physically. Our inspirational Common Room sits within the heart of the school and delivers an exceptional curriculum which develops a life long thirst for learning. As one of the early adopters of the Pre Senior Bacalaureate programme our children graduate from our school with exceptional future-ready skills. They learn the importance of collaboration, commitment, curiosity, leadership, perseverance, reflection, risk-taking and developing a sense of community. A strong co-curricular programme opens up a world of experiences for your child to delve into and enrich their learning.

As a Microsoft Accredited school, we have demonstrated our forward-thinking approach to learning, which stood us in good stead during these unprecedented times. With each child from Year 5 onwards having their own school laptop, we have ensured lessons were able to continue quickly and efficiently using Microsoft Teams. This enabled teachers and pupils to remain in regular contact and ensure continuity to learning. Years 3 and 4 were supported using a combination of Wakelet to provide teaching and resources to pupils and Google Hangouts to interact with them and our EYFS provision connected using Tapestry for daily interactions from their teachers including video clips as part of core teaching and learning phonics and English and Maths.

The Amesbury ethos runs firmly through the school. We are a relaxed and a nurturing school, with a strong emphasis on treating every child and their learning path as individuals. We recognise the importance of a holistic approach to well-being and education, with pastoral care as equally important as academic rigour. Every child is treated as an individual and as an equal - the school has a very strong sense of mutual respect. My early impressions are of a school with the most excellent performing arts provision, leading practices in IT and preparation for senior schools, a dedicated staff room and a truly balanced approach to education – work hard, play hard.

I am incredibly proud to be the Head at Amesbury, a school which is steeped in history and yet very much focused on the future. I have enjoyed 21 years as a Head at three different schools and respecting Amesbury's ethos and culture is most important to me, and something I will very much carry forward.

I look forward to welcoming you to our school very soon.

Jonathan Whybrow

Head

A COMMUNITY BUILT ON MUTUAL RESPECT

The positive relationship between children and all members of staff is at the very core of everything we do. In the words of a recent pupil, 'teachers don't rely on rules and loud voices to engage with pupils, but on friendship to ensure co-operation'.

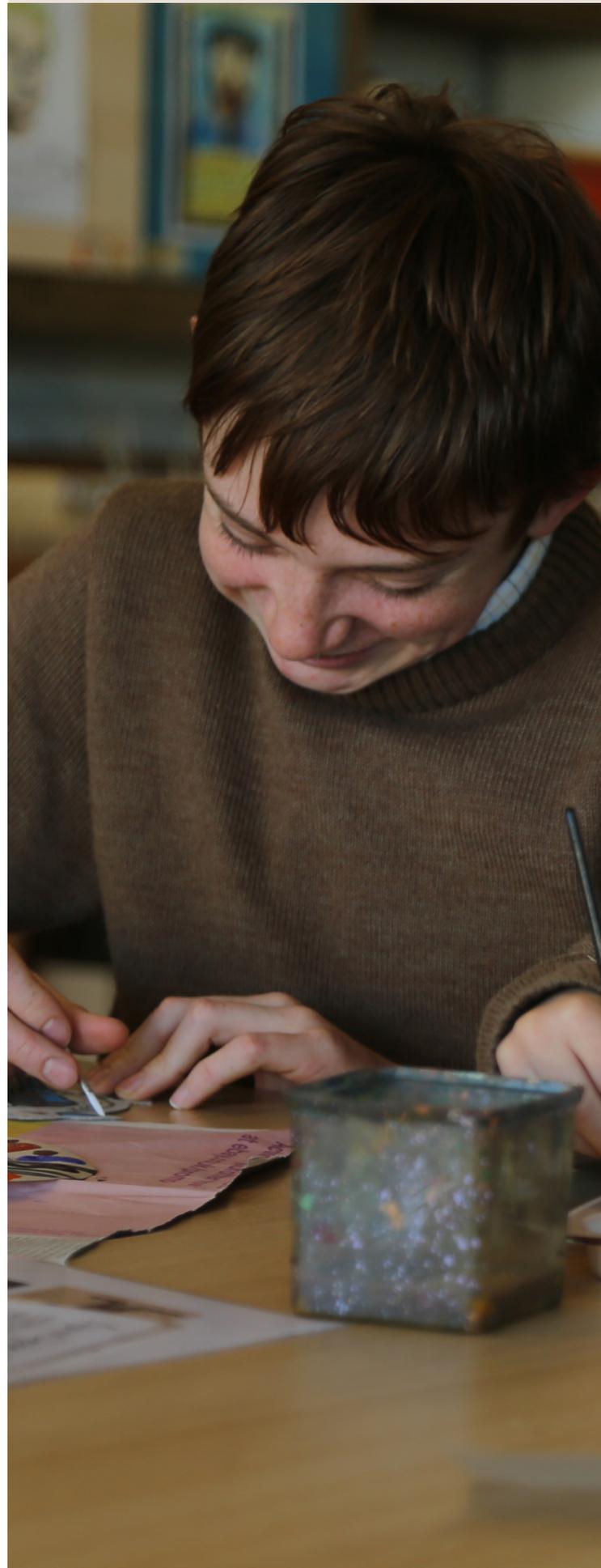
The 'Friends of Amesbury' welcome and support all families, fostering a sense of community throughout the school and extend relationships beyond the classroom walls. For it is not just the children who build lifelong friendships.

Communication between all individuals is clear and honest, allowing everyone to tackle daily obstacles and challenges and to learn and grow within the school environment. Amesbury is all about give and take. Everyone has an equal voice, collaborates naturally and works hard, not because they are obligated to, but as a sense of personal pride.

We are relaxed, yet purposeful, academically strong, steely on the games field and, in the words of **The Good Schools Guide**, our standard of Performing Arts is '*mind-blowingly good.*'

'I genuinely feel the staff are interested in my children and know them well, and that I have a good relationship with all of the staff I interact with. The children all clearly have a lovely bond with the staff and enjoy being there, and that is wonderful.'

Parent Survey





FEELING EQUALLY VALUED

Pupils benefit from knowing that at Amesbury their worth is rooted in who they are rather than in what they can do.

We aim to communicate to each child that he/she is an individual, with a unique blend of gifts and talents, emotions and needs and it is this individuality that gives them immeasurable worth. This belief is reflected in the school aims and provides the foundation upon which pastoral care at Amesbury is built.

Well-being across our school community is of paramount importance. At Amesbury, we provide a comprehensive approach to pastoral care. Relationships are key. Pupils are clear of school expectations, they know that they are part of a team and a wider community, as well as having their individuality cherished. We believe that happy children who are keen to come to school will thrive, flourish and, ultimately, achieve their full potential.

‘Pupils of all abilities make excellent progress during their time at school.’

ISI Inspection







AN ATMOSPHERE OF BALANCE AND EQUALITY

Today, you need social skills, leadership skills and teamwork skills. You need to be able to communicate well and listen to the needs of others. From the start of a child's educational journey at Amesbury we focus on those skills and aptitudes that will best prepare our pupils for the challenges of adolescence and beyond.

Amesburians are given a breadth of opportunities and experience a curriculum in which artistic flair and creativity are prized equally to academic ability. Pupils learn that life is about more than just a series of examinations and that the Performing Arts, Visual Arts and Physical Education are more than just extras.

We live in a world where the explosion in new technologies provides learners with an interconnected world. Where rich experiences are no further away than a button click. While we understand the importance of these new technologies and embrace them at the earliest opportunity, we balance this with more traditional and personalised learning

experiences. Teacher interactions, where individuals feel equally valued and pupils' abilities are celebrated, lies at the heart of Amesbury.

At Amesbury we recruit the very best teachers who are highly skilled, innovative and passionate about the subjects they teach. Indeed, many of the staff have become 'Expert Educators' gaining educational certifications with Apple, Google and Microsoft products to enhance the children's use of their laptop devices. Our subject specialists educate children from as young as 2 years of age providing them with a learning environment which sparks curiosity and a love of learning.



‘A learning environment where children feel safe and equally valued. Where well-being is as important as performance.’

Parent Survey





THE EXTRA DIMENSION

We aim to develop curious children. In order to feed that curiosity, we offer a wide range of Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs), whether that be Tennis in Reception or Big Band in Year 8. Our clubs give each child the opportunity to either further develop a spark already ignited or to be adventurous and try something completely new. We want to encourage in every child a sense of commitment, to value high achievement, to be prepared to adapt and to be innovative.

Our ECA programme plays an important part in enabling us to work towards these aims. It does so by extending the curriculum beyond that which is taught in timetabled sessions. These extra activities offer pupils opportunities to learn the value of teamwork, individual and group responsibilities, physical strength and endurance, competition, diversity and a sense of culture and community. Not only does each club provide the opportunity to apply academic skills in a real-world context, but it also gives children the opportunity to make choices and start to be more in control of what they do and don't do, in some cases, allowing our pupils to become more independent.





A GATEWAY TO THE VERY BEST SENIOR SCHOOLS

Future schools advice and support is an aspect of our Amesbury offering in which we take great pride. We are not a feeder school and are, therefore, afforded the opportunity to help you find a Senior School where your child will be truly happy and achieve their full potential.

We understand that one school does not fit all and, for that reason, a great deal of time is invested into the schools selection process.

Once a future school has been selected, we offer all the support required to assist the pupil and family through entrance exams and the transition process.

Future schools attended by our Old Amesburians extend far and wide. Many of our pupils have been awarded scholarships at their chosen senior school and this is a true reflection of the variety and strength of teaching displayed at Amesbury.



‘It is a happy school that starts by understanding the areas in which your child can thrive rather than the ways in which they can fit between the tramlines.’

Parent Survey





‘Amesbury has a great balance between a traditional prep school structure and an operation that is forward thinking, child focused and kind, that prepares children for the outside world today. They have their priorities right.’

Parent Survey

STEEPED IN HISTORY, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

Amesbury was established in 1870 and is steeped in tradition. Our chapel choir robes in red by royal consent, and we are the only school to have a Grade 2* Listed Lutyens building designed specifically as a school.

We are proud of our strong connections with General Sir Bernard Montgomery, whose son, David, started school at Amesbury in 1936. During the 1940s, the estate was, from time to time, 'home' for Montgomery and his son. Amesbury became Montgomery's Rear HQ - he used the estate during the months and weeks before D-Day to take time to quietly reflect, make notes and prepare.

Our history reflects our appetite for innovation and future thinking. Amesbury was one of the first schools in the country to ban corporal punishment and open a Pre-Preparatory Department, along with an on-site Learning Support Department. Ensuring our pupils are future ready with technology is an important part of modern day education and one that is highly regarded at Amesbury. We provide each pupil from Year 5 onwards with their own laptop for school use. This technique of working is balanced with more traditional methods of learning, to provide a bespoke educational journey. Our integrated learning environments allow our pupils to work in a flexible and collaborative way within the classroom, facilitating both teamwork and leadership.

Amesbury was also an early adopter of the Prep School Baccalaureate (PSB). The PSB provides our pupils with a flexible curriculum and focuses more precisely on developing the skills and aptitudes that will best prepare children for the challenges of adolescence and beyond.

This deep rooted understanding of who we are and where we have come from is the firm foundation on which the school continues to thrive today.





HOME AND SCHOOL LIFE BALANCE

At Amesbury we recognise the importance of a strong link between school and home life. We believe a relationship based on mutual trust and understanding enables each child to grow into the best person they can be, and allows us to support and nurture each and every one of our pupils and their families. We welcome open and honest two-way feedback between home and school, to ensure your child gets the right level of education, support and understanding they may require.

For us, balance is key. We understand that parents lead busy lives, many with long commutes and busy working

days. With this in mind, there are no school commitments at the weekend and we keep homework to a minimum. Weekends are precious family time. They are a time to relax, unwind and enjoy special moments together, develop friendships outside of school, and spark interests within the wider community. Many of our current pupils use this time to join local clubs and charities, giving them an important, balanced experience between life within and outside Amesbury.

We organise regular events, which help to strengthen links and further build on our partnership between home and school.



‘Pupils speak passionately about all that the school provides and the strong support that staff provide.’

ISI Inspection



‘A smart school with great facilities and staff, but without being pretentious or arrogant. A happy place to be!’

Parent Survey





WE WELCOME YOUR VISIT

“Amesburians are happy, extremely resilient and confidently take all new challenges in their stride.” **ISI Inspection**

To discover the Amesbury which they experience on a daily basis, we welcome your visit and look forward to meeting you.

We hold Open Mornings in February, May and October, however, you are most welcome

to visit us for a personalised tour at any time throughout the year, at a time that suits you.

Please visit our website www.amesburyschool.co.uk or call our Head of Admissions on 01428 604322 to book your appointment.

INFORMATION

Amesbury was founded in 1870 and is the oldest preparatory school in the Haslemere / Hindhead area.

The school educates boys and girls between the ages of 2 and 13. Pupils move on to the best senior day and boarding schools in the UK.

In the previous decade, we have invested over £5m in the school's estate. Our excellent facilities extend the range of opportunities on offer to children, help to raise expectations and they are an outstanding resource for our valued Common Room.

LOCATION

Located on the Surrey, Hampshire, West Sussex borders set in its own private estate, the school is just minutes from the southern exit of the A3 Hindhead Tunnel: Godalming, Haslemere, Liphook and Petersfield are within easy reach, whilst Guildford and Farnham are only 20 minutes away.

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