

SENIOR SCHOOL



**ST EDMUND'S  
SCHOOL**  
CANTERBURY

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#BEINSPIRED



# ST EDMUND'S

## SENIOR SCHOOL

If the ideal senior school education were reflected in excellent results at GCSE and A-level alone, St Edmund's could claim great success. However important this may be, we don't consider it to be enough; rather, our ambition is that our students should grow into enthusiastic and creative learners, confident in their abilities, and keen to experiment and work with others.

Our curriculum and our approach to teaching and learning are designed around this principle. Our teaching staff bring deep subject expertise to an extensive and varied qualification programme, but this is only the start. Equally important is our ethos of working closely with each student to find what inspires them, and then supporting them to take full advantage of what we make available – including a rich co-curricular offering. Relationships are key to this: between teacher and student, and between

students themselves as they experience the power of learning through collaboration.

A high proportion of our leavers gain admission to their first choice universities and higher education institutions. Our pupils read a full range of courses, from Medicine and Law to Science and the Humanities. Other leavers are selected to attend world- renowned music conservatoires, performing art schools and art colleges.

## ACADEMIC

At the heart of our educational philosophy is a sharing of the joy of learning which, along with our insistence on ambition, helps to make our pupils the very best they can be: creative, active learners well equipped to shape their futures and those of others.

The curriculum is broad and sufficiently flexible to give all the opportunity to excel. No less importantly, our approach to learning pushes pupils to be curious – to learn to solve problems, develop new perspectives and, through creativity, to influence how others think, feel and live their lives.

Dynamic teaching ensures classes are varied, inspiring and engaging for all. We introduce advanced concepts and rich subject knowledge, and challenge pupils to become independent learners – reading widely, thinking freely, questioning, discussing and inventing. Each academic department organises events through its own society, complemented by regular 'Curiosity Shop' talks – led by visiting speakers, and introducing pupils to ideas and issues within and beyond the curriculum.

## PASTORAL

At St Edmund's, we pride ourselves on our strong pastoral care. Our pupils come to us from different backgrounds, with individual aspirations and our aim is to ensure that every child flourishes during their time here.

At the heart of our school community lies the House system. Pupils gain a sense of belonging and identity through their membership of one of our four Day Houses: Watson, Warneford, Wagner and Baker. They develop strong relationships with their Housemasters, Tutors and Peers and this forms the basis of our outstanding pastoral care. Individuality is recognised and celebrated, with staff ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive. Boarders are an integral part of our community and they benefit from the guidance of our experienced boarding team, who provide structure and guidance in a relaxed, family setting. The on- site medical centre and the Chaplain provide an additional layer of support too.

We provide opportunities for leadership and personal development, ensuring that we listen and respond to the needs of our pupils. Senior pupils may become Prefects or Peer Listeners and the Student Voice committee represents the views of all of our pupils. Above all, St Edmund's is a happy, fulfilling and supportive community where our pupils have a voice.

## CO-CURRICULAR

Alongside academic progress, a St Edmund's education is very much about developing the character of those who join into thoroughly decent human beings who strive to 'be all they can be' and then go on to make a significant contribution to society.

Characters who are not afraid to take risks; characters who learn about self-discipline and resilience; characters who learn something about service to others and characters who develop an understanding of others' needs and of tolerance. We offer one of the widest and most varied co-curricular programmes in Kent which is embedded into the St Edmund's experience; pupils can choose anything from horse riding to chess, mindfulness to debating, ground- breaking drama and outstanding musical activities, and some exceptional sporting opportunities. Our programme is flexible and constantly evolving to reflect pupils' interests and passions, with new clubs and societies starting each term at the request of pupils, and going on to thrive.

St Edmund's pupils have the opportunity to develop their leadership at all levels and should have a great deal of fun along the way. Whilst all of us are communicating in a virtual world dominated by handheld devices with some suffering the consequences, St Edmund's pupils are out there interacting, bonding and hopefully forming life-long friendships.

We have seen many pupils' characters transformed through co-curricular experiences at St Edmund's which provides them with a real sense of purpose and self-worth and the confidence which they instil can be remarkable. Our pupils will leave us as confident, articulate and intelligent young adults who we, and all parents, are very proud of.