



Journey

## Introduction

Your child's journey through our school mirrors, supports and enhances the social, emotional and developmental journey that all young people experience.

From our Nursery where boys (and some girls) join us, through to the end of Year 8, our pupils receive a rich and personalised level of education and pastoral support.

Beyond Nursery we are fundamentally honed towards the education of boys. We are dedicated to our role as a school for boys and our professionals are experts within this field; engaged in research, focused upon strategies that enhance boys' engagement with the curriculum and driven by tangible evidence for effective practice in the classroom, in music, in the arts and in the multitude of sports offered.

Whilst we are most certainly a single school with a single shared purpose, for day to day matters we break the school down into five Sections, each spanning two year groups. This way, we can tailor everything we do to the needs of our pupils and launch them on to the next stage of their journey, no matter what age they join us.

## Early Years: Nursery and Reception

Pupils begin their exhilarating journey through Dulwich Prep London in the Early Years Department.

Set in five acres of fields and woodland, our superbly equipped, award-winning building allows us to provide children with the very best introduction to learning for approximately 150 boys and girls, from 3 to 5 years of age.

Our number one priority is the well-being and happiness of our pupils. We foster a calm and gentle atmosphere, marked by a mutual respect between adults and children. Teachers and Early Years Practitioners encourage children to praise, listen and take turns. This develops the children's kindness, honesty and empathy as well as giving them a sense of security and belonging.

We recognise that children who feel confident in themselves, and in their own ability, have a head start to learning. All the children are treasured as individuals and are encouraged to explore their gifts and strengths in order to achieve their full potential.

Each day, we nurture the children's natural curiosity, creativity and critical thinking through fun, play-based tasks. This helps them become independent and to think for themselves. Initiative is praised and the resulting self-confidence helps children develop a positive attitude towards learning...

then they succeed.





## Pre-Prep: Years 1 and 2

The boys arrive in the Pre-Prep excited and ready to learn after a fantastic start to their educational journey in the Early Years. We encourage boys to develop and build upon their abilities in all areas of school life and take pride in their achievements.

Within the structured school day, boys quickly gain independence, self-confidence and an enthusiasm for learning. Emphasis is placed on trying one's best, being kind and tolerant of others and their points of view. Our innovative and exciting curriculum encourages the boys to develop all the characteristics needed for effective learning.

The Pre-Prep has its own building but benefits from access to the other fabulous facilities of the main site in Alleyn Park. We have approximately 150 pupils aged between 5 and 7 years old and each year group is divided into 4 classes of up to 20 pupils.

We work hard to ensure that the nurturing, positive and friendly environment in the Pre-Prep allows all our pupils to flourish under the supportive guidance of their class teacher and classroom assistant. We aim to create confident pupils with a firm sense of belonging and well-being, whilst enabling them to make the smooth transition to the Lower School.

## Lower School: Years 3 and 4

In the Lower School, the boys accelerate on their journey towards greater independence and self-organisation.

The class teacher looks after the boys pastorally and teaches most subjects. The superb newly refurbished classrooms are the secure base from which the boys branch out and experience more of the wide range of opportunities and resources the school has to offer, with specialist sports, music, computing and language teachers and facilities.

Whilst the timetable remains focussed on maths and English we identify and develop individual interests. The atmosphere buzzes with a stimulating and boy-friendly curriculum, complete with exciting trips and events.

Life in the Lower School is purposeful and the day varied. Boys may be found working on a presentation on their iPads, or carrying out a science investigation. You might come across the Lower School String Orchestra in rehearsal, a cricket practice in full flow, boys playing on the *Fort*, or engaged in a lively philosophical debate.

Years 3 and 4 are often the years in which each boy's real strengths inside and outside the classroom come to the fore; we support and encourage them in this process.





## Middle School: Years 5 and 6

The Middle School is an exciting time for the boys; whether they are entering Year 5 and moving onto the main school site for the first time, or continuing their journey into Year 6 with confidence and anticipation.

Specialist teaching is extended in Middle School and a wider range of academic subjects are taught in sets, in order to recognise the strengths of every individual. The boys also have access to their own iPad, which is used in lessons when it is deemed an appropriate tool to support their learning. Much of the academic work is rightly focussed on preparation for various senior school pre-tests and / or 11+ tests which take place in Year 6, although the curriculum is of course so much broader than that too.

We build on the structures, attitudes and aptitudes of Year 4, supporting the boys as they develop their independence. We encourage them to assume greater responsibility for themselves, their possessions and their work, but ultimately our aim is to have happy, confident, well-rounded boys.

Co-curricular life is second to none and the opportunities available to the boys in the Middle School are exceptional. Whether fencer or rock climber, chess enthusiast or eco-warrior, there are clubs to suit every taste. Musical groups and sports teams are extended, with more concerts and inter-school fixtures arranged, and residential trips take place in both Years 5 and 6, providing an opportunity to take learning out of the classroom.

In the Middle School, we hope to see your son challenged in the pursuit of excellence whilst embracing the full range of facilities and opportunities on offer.

## Upper School: Years 7 and 8

Years 7 and 8 are known as the Upper School and are the final two years for the boys at Dulwich Prep London. Fantastic opportunities await as they enter the top end of the school and become our senior boys. As such they become role models for the younger boys and there is also an expectation that they will begin to give something back. Programmes exist by which they are able to mentor younger pupils, assist with, and perhaps lead clubs and activities in other sections of the school. Senior boys also perform duties that help with the day-to-day running of their school.

In many subjects, the boys begin to prepare academically for their final exams which take place in the Spring and Summer terms of Year 8. A tailored programme of pastoral and academic support helps the boys to progress through this challenging and exciting period.

There remains a vast array of exciting co-curricular clubs to choose from, as well as numerous senior sports teams, music groups and opportunities in drama which we actively encourage the boys to pursue alongside their studies. In each year of the Upper School boys tackle a demanding residential trip; the Year 8 boys also enjoy a series of visits, lectures and projects. Boys finish their time at Dulwich Prep London fully equipped for a seamless and happy transition to the next stage of their journey at senior school.



## After Dulwich Prep London

Your son's journey is far from finished when he ends his time at the Prep. Our boys go on to the very best schools in the country, many of them with Awards and Exhibitions.

Alley's School, Brighton College, City of London School, Dulwich College, Eton College, Harrow School, King's School Canterbury, King's College School Wimbledon, Millfield School, Radley College, St Paul's School, Tonbridge School, Trinity School, Westminster School, Whitgift School and Winchester College are just some of more than thirty different schools Prep boys have gone on to succeed at in recent years. (See Details for a full list.)

Whilst there can be no doubt that striving for excellence, exam successes and scholarship results are important, it is the character of the boys leaving us that sets them apart and, very often, makes them the first choice of many senior schools.

The values that we work hard to instil in our pupils, and that underpin everything we do during their journey through our school, are also the qualities that will allow them to continue to thrive beyond the Prep.