





About Marlborough House School

Marlborough House is a Prep School for boys and girls aged 3 to 13 years, and is set in beautiful extensive grounds on the edge of Hawkhurst. With small classes and excellent

teaching, every pupil is known by name and becomes part of the Marlborough House family. The care of our pupils is central to school life and Enjoying Today, Educating for Tomorrow

is at the heart of all we do. We have an ethos based on developing values and characters, our pupils are given space and time to grow both academically and personally, in a supportive and caring environment.

Our pupils consistently achieve fantastic results, including an enviable 100% Common Entrance pass rate and a 100% Cranbrook School entrance exam pass rate in recent years.

School History

1874

In 1874, Mrs Sophia Lombe White opened a small boarding school for boys aged 8-13 on the Sussex Coast in a building named Marlborough House, thus the predecessor of today's Marlborough House School was founded.

1930

In 1930, the founding White family purchased the New Lodge estate in Hawkhurst from the Hardcastle family, and moved the school to our present site.

They also adopted the Hardcastle family crest, which remains our school crest to this day.

Today

The core of the school remains the 'main building' - the same beautiful 18th century house, adapted for 21st century schooling and complimented over the years with fit for purpose new buildings such as Pre-Prep and the Harrison Building.

School Aims

To recognise and meet individual needs

To discover and develop the gifts within each child

To foster a happy community based on mutual respect

To strive for excellence in everything we do

To prepare children for the future stages of their education

To provide a safe, healthy and caring environment for children to live and learn in



School Ethos

Enjoying Today, Educating for Tomorrow

The care of our pupils is central to school life and we recognise that only a happy child can truly become a confident and independent learner. This keystone enables us to successfully unlock every child's potential and prepare pupils for life after Marlborough House, through an exciting and engaging curriculum, with a strong focus on skills and Outdoor Learning.

At Marlborough House, we are committed to educating characters as well as young minds. Our pupils are given space and time to grow both academically and personally, in a supportive and caring environment. Our well-established Character Education at Marlborough House helps children to develop practical wisdom that will serve them long after they leave us for Senior School. It is the reason why children at Marlborough House can achieve impressive academic results and scholarships,

alongside gaining the building blocks of life skills. In line with this ethos, we introduced Pre-Senior Baccalaureate (PSB) for Years 7 and 8 in 2019. The PSB is a framework specifically designed to highlight and develop the importance of skills in a modern 21st century education.

Not too **big**, not too small, just right!

We think Marlborough House is just right; small enough for everyone to be known and cared for, whilst punching above our weight when it comes to success in competitions and senior school examinations. In addition, pupils benefit from small classes with excellent teaching and pastoral care, and high staff to pupil ratios.

Structure of the School

Nursery

The Nursery at Marlborough House is where our youngest children start their school journey. Harnessing their natural curiosity, imagination and energy, we create an environment that allows our children to flourish and learn whilst feeling happy and secure.

Our daily structured activities are practical and creative, child and adult led, with the individual child always being at the centre of their own learning.

Nursery children have opportunities to explore Music, French and PE, taught by specialist teachers. In addition, the children love to have fun whilst learning outdoors, particularly their dedicated weekly sessions in our accredited Forest School.



Pre-Prep

Just because a solid grounding in literacy and numeracy is vital, it doesn't mean it can't be fun! Marlborough House Pre-Prep is a warm and happy place to learn and discover. Our children are encouraged to explore and take risks and to become active learners through an exciting and creative curriculum.

With a qualified teacher and teaching assistant in each class, our excellent adult/child ratio enables us to get to know our children very well, allowing work to have the individual focus on which we pride ourselves. All class work is differentiated according to the need of the child so that we can support and extend progress in all areas.

Parents are a large part of our Pre-Prep family and we value that partnership. Parents are encouraged to come into classrooms in the morning to settle their children and share their work with them and we run many events to which parents are invited.



Prep School

When children move up to the Prep school they begin to experience the full breadth of opportunities available to them at MHS. At every stage our children are keen to get the very most out of every experience they are offered whether it is through sport, drama, clubs, outings or boarding.

Children in Years 3 and 4 are taught by specialist teachers for ICT, French, Games, PE, RS, Music and DT. In Year 5, specialist subject teaching is introduced across the curriculum and at this stage children choose either Latin or Spanish as a second language.

Our children achieve fantastic results in all areas of school life, but, more importantly, they do not take the opportunities they have for granted; rather their experiences here help build self-assured individuals who are extremely supportive of each other – in short, they are good company!

Toddlers

On most Friday mornings in term time, from 10-11am, we have Toddlers, our parent and toddler sessions, held in our Nursery. We welcome children from 6 months to 3 years. The sessions are a good way for parents considering Marlborough House to see what our Nursery has to offer and meet our staff, as well of course as meeting other parents and children.



The MHS family

Marlborough House School has a well-deserved reputation for being a very friendly and welcoming School. Our Class Social Representatives along with our Registrar look after all our new families and offer support in the crucial first few weeks and months to help families settle in and find their feet, as we know that joining a new school can be a little daunting for both children and parents.

We offer tea and coffee each morning in our Gallery for parents to pop in and host parent clubs after drop-off and in the evenings.

We are fortunate that our 'Friends of Marlborough House School' not only organise events for the pupils, but lay on social events for the parents, providing great opportunities for parents to forge new friendships.

The House System

As children start in Reception they are placed in one of our four houses: Awdry, Dunbar, Egan and Hawkings, named after the first Marlborough House School families who sadly lost a son in the Great War. Today, children take part in inter-house matches, house activities and assemblies; it is certainly a fabulous way for the children to get to know those in other years and to work as a team.



Well-being

The children's well-being is given strong emphasis, supported by our Character Education programme, links made in subject teaching, an effective Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education programme and excellent pastoral care.

We are dedicated to promoting positive mental health in young people, not just as a standalone initiative tacked on to the curriculum, but as an integrated part of our daily lives at school.

Pastoral Care



Marlborough House is proud of its reputation for providing outstanding pastoral care and being a school where each pupil is valued as a unique individual.

Many visitors comment on the happy, friendly atmosphere here and on the relaxed and yet purposeful relationships which exist between staff and pupils. There is no question that children with high self-esteem, who are essentially content and well-motivated, will be better students.



Food

At Marlborough House we firmly believe that our own army of school children and staff marches on its stomach and we have a fine reputation for our food. We also know the origins of our food at MHS as fresh meat, bread, fruit, vegetables and dairy products are delivered daily to school by local suppliers. All manner of special dietary requirements are catered for and we are a nut free school.



Outdoor Learning

Outdoor Learning opportunities abound at Marlborough House. In addition, children from the Nursery up to Year 4 attend Forest School weekly. We believe the holistic approach of Forest School results in our children being independent, creative and resilient learners - an ethos that runs through all aspects of our teaching at MHS. Our fully qualified teachers all have advanced Level 3 training.

Our Forest School also provides a natural and inspiring focal point which is also used by older pupils to support learning in subjects such as DT, Science, Art and Geography, and for evening adventures with our boarders.



School Day

Breakfast Club and After School Care

Our School day is designed so that if you have children in different year groups you can drop off and pick up at the same time. We have a Breakfast Club from 7.30am in our dining room for those who would like to start the day with a delicious cooked breakfast. We also offer an early drop off from 8am each day for all year groups, including Nursery. Our extensive Club programme and After School Care (until 6pm for even our youngest pupils) extends the day, giving parents the option of later collection times to fit in with work and family commitments.



Clubs

Life at Marlborough House extends well beyond the classroom, where extra-curricular activities enrich children's experiences, developing the skills children will need to thrive as adults in the 21st century. The old favourites of Chess, Arts and Crafts, and Karate are complemented by new clubs such as Mindfulness Colouring, Entrepreneurship, Construction and Music Technology.



Boarding

There are no qualifications gained from the education of boarding but it can equip children with the necessary character experiences and life skills, and help prepare them for future life at secondary school and beyond.

We offer flexi-boarding most weekday nights. Children can try out a taster night, dip in and out of boarding or choose to board regularly every week for the whole term. The children are welcome to board from Year 4 and we encourage all the children to try it before they leave at the end of Year 8.



Senior School Advice

As each child approaches their last few years with us, we work closely with parents to advise and assist them with their Senior School choice. We can offer them our unique and professional insight into their child's individual qualities and learning strengths, helping to guide them, if not towards an individual school, at least towards the type of school in which we think their son or daughter could continue to flourish and succeed.

We prepare pupils who wish to win a scholarship to their senior school, and have a very impressive and enviable record of scholarships to leading independent day and boarding schools.

Our pupils consistently achieve fantastic results including an enviable 100% Common Entrance pass

rate and a 100% Cranbrook School entrance exam pass rate in recent years. Our pupils also have an excellent track record of success in the Kent 11+ test and they gain places at the top grammar schools in the county.

Popular Destination Schools:

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|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Bede's | Claremont School | King's Canterbury | Tonbridge School |
| Benenden | Eton College | Mayfield | Tonbridge Girls' Grammar |
| Brighton College | Eastbourne College | Sevenoaks | The Judd School |
| Cranbrook School | Hurst | Sutton Valence | Winchester |



Admissions Process

- 1 To secure a place following a visit, parents should complete and return a Registration Form together with the Registration Fee.
- 2 Your son or daughter will then be invited for an informal assessment as part of the taster day.
- 3 Following a successful taster day, a place may be offered and is secured by the completion and return of an Acceptance form together with the deposit.

We are happy to welcome children into any year group and at any time in the academic year, if we have places available.

Children of all abilities are welcome at Marlborough House and parents are invited to discuss with the school any special educational needs for their child.

Minibus Service

We currently run the following mini bus routes and are happy to collect pupils whilst travelling through as follows:

The Northern Line

- Staplehurst
- Marden
- Goudhurst
- Kilndown
- Flimwell

The Eastern Line

- Woodchurch
- Tenterden
- Benenden
- Sandhurst

The Western Line

- Wadhurst
- Shovers Green / Wallcrouch
- Ticehurst
- Flimwell



Moving to Kent

We are fortunate to be located in the High Weald on the Kent and East Sussex border, complete with beautiful countryside, picturesque villages and local beauty spots. In addition, we are a hop, skip and a jump from the shops of Royal Tunbridge Wells and the Sussex Coast.



The Commute

We are positioned neatly between two mainline routes into London. Our nearest stations are Etchingham and Staplehurst.

Next steps

Ultimately, the best way to see why Marlborough House is so special is to come and visit us yourself.

We warmly invite you to book an individual tour or join us for one of our Open Mornings. Please contact our Registrar on registrar@marlboroughhouseschool.co.uk or telephone 01580 753555 for further details.





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