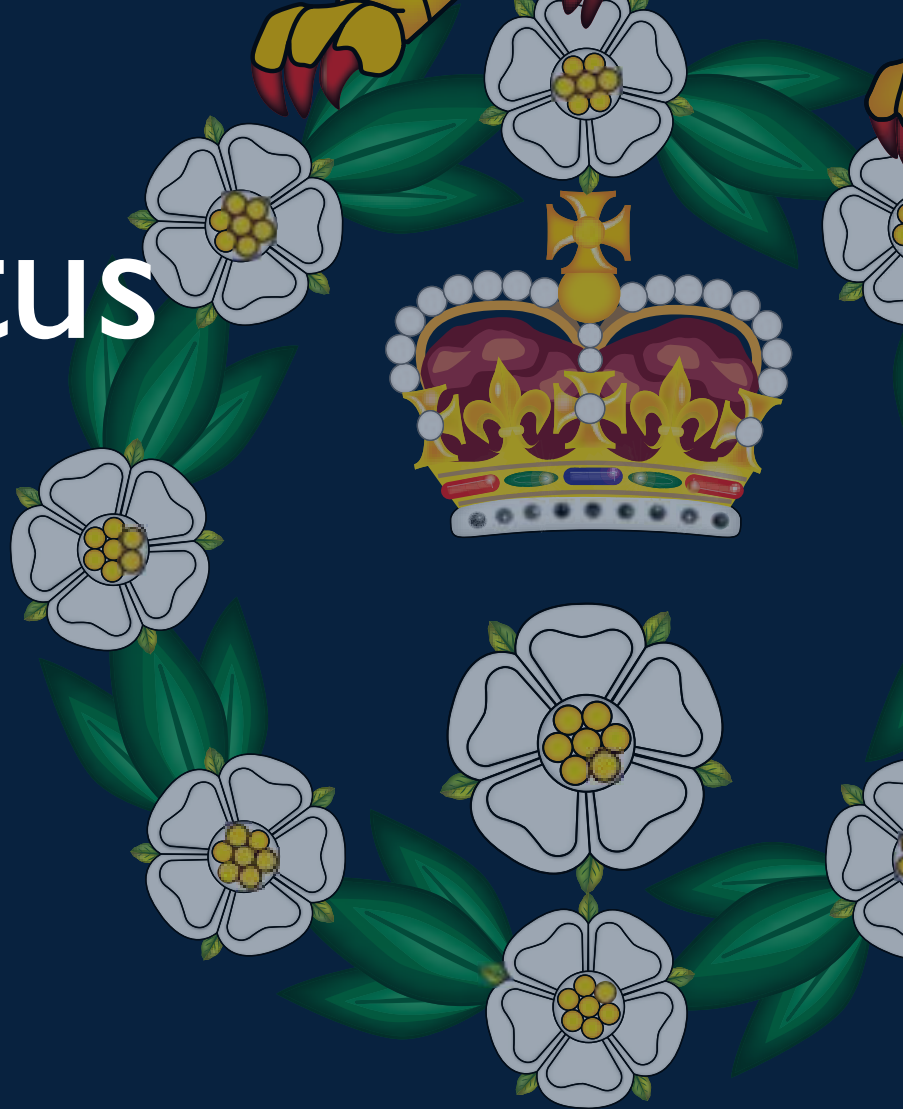


Prospectus



1803

The Duke of York's Royal Military School

Looking forward with confidence, looking back with pride



From the Principal



Thank you for considering The Duke of York's Royal Military School (DOYRMS) for your child's education. We have a very simple, but ambitious vision of providing an all-round education with a strong academic focus. From the moment you enter the campus, you will be amazed by our stunning location, the incredible facilities on offer, and the breadth of opportunities.

Our unique curriculum combines enriching and intellectually stimulating academic courses, with an extensive and engaging co-curricular programme. Dedicated specialist teachers embrace small class sizes to offer personalised challenge and support to students, developing independent study skills and a thirst for life-long learning. We are more than a school; we are a family. In studying with us, students join this incredible family, developing deep-rooted friendships, because 'once a Dukie, always a Dukie'.

Our students are the best thing about the School. Using our values of courage, integrity, respect, commitment, loyalty and self-discipline, students are encouraged to apply these in everything they do, particularly in the classroom. They develop a level of maturity, resilience and are socially confident as a result of the School's ethos and wealth of co-curricular opportunities. Students are encouraged to take risks with their learning and be of the mind-set, 'No Regrets'.

We have something exceptionally unique here; more than just a stepping stone to further education or a career, there is a pursuit of excellence with our very special combination of education underpinned with our military ethos. Students at The Duke of York's Royal Military School 'look forward with confidence and look back with pride', and I welcome you to visit us, meet our fabulous Dukies and see for yourself what we have to offer.

Mr Alex Foreman
Principal



Academic excellence

While we are non-selective, our outstanding academic progress places us within the top 2% of schools nationally for GCSE, and top 25% for A Level. In recognition of the exceptional academic standards, we have achieved the SSAT Educational Outcomes award.

High academic standards are maintained through the ability to provide small, supportive class sizes of approximately 15, and this enables us to encourage each and every student to achieve the best they can. Every student is supplied with a laptop, and nightly supervised prep supports the work taught in the classroom. Student progress is regularly monitored by teachers and tutors with early intervention should additional support be required.

We offer a traditional syllabus of GCSE, A Level and BTEC with a wide selection of subject choices. Particular attention is placed on English and Maths, and we recognise the importance of STEM teaching (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) within our curriculum and students regularly excel in national academic competitions.

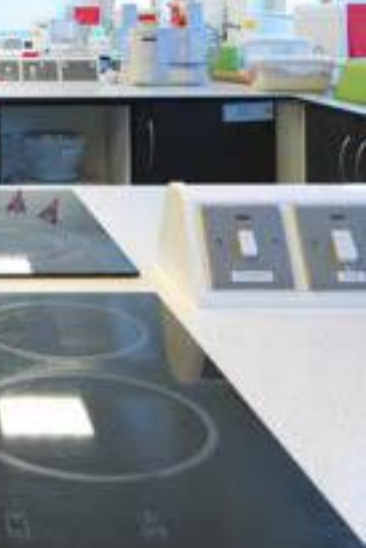
Our purpose-built teaching blocks have interactive boards in every classroom, carefully designed Science labs, fully equipped Food Technology space, and large open plan rooms with large windows allowing natural light for those studying the Arts. Music suites with individual practise rooms and a vast Engineering and Design Technology floor complete the modern blocks.

Sixth Form students average a Grade B at A Level and are encouraged and supported to successfully apply for ambitious Oxbridge and Russell Group Universities. We have an excellent reputation with many of the top universities, and an excellent track record of students gaining their first choice of course. A typical year would see 80% of students going to university, 10% joining the military and 10% entering full time employment.

Careers

Along with a Careers Library, regular advice is given internally and by external professionals that includes CV preparation and interview techniques. Old Dukies from a broad variety of industries return to the School to give talks and share their experience to inspire our senior students. We also encourage students to organise work experience in their long holidays, where again, our Old Dukies provide assistance.





Sixth Form life

Our Sixth Form students share common aims; to develop academic rigour, close friendships, career ambitions and independence in a caring and lively environment. Staff who support them are passionate about ensuring each and every student embraces a sense of possibility in what they can achieve, and has the ambition and confidence to drive themselves forward to be the best they can possibly be.

In addition to committed teachers who have a real enthusiasm for their subjects, each Sixth Former is allocated a tutor to assist with their academic studies and plans. We also have a well-equipped Sixth Form Study Centre where a dedicated Learning Mentor is on hand to supervise, support and link with academic departments.

The Next Step Programme makes sure every student is prepared for life beyond the School and able to achieve their future education and career ambitions. Along with comprehensive UCAS, Oxbridge and careers advice, the programme looks to go further in supporting student development for the 'Next Step'. This ranges from preparing a simple meal to generating links with industry, and enhancing the student's soft skills that are so vital when seeking employment. The programme also offers support to parents, so they are in a position to help their child through this important period.

SIXTH FORM BOARDING

Centenary House offers superb en-suite accommodation giving Sixth Formers a greater opportunity for independence, while still providing the support they need

in this vital phase of their education. In return, the House expects students to set the highest personal standards by working hard, contributing in all areas of House and school life, and becoming role models to the younger years.

It is important for students to have some down time, so the House has four dayrooms (common rooms), each with Sky television, comfortable seating and basic cooking facilities. Students can visit the town daily, outside of school commitments, and at weekends they can also travel slightly further afield. The House holds regular activities at weekends such as barbeques, karaoke, the Centenary Olympics and much more. Half termly off-site trips are also arranged, in consultation with students, with recent trips visiting trampoline parks, the cinema, Bluewater shopping centre and Thorpe Park.

THE DUKIES' ASSOCIATION

A thriving and active alumni supports the School, with Sixth Formers benefitting from careers contacts, work experience, job-specific advice and even financial support. All leaving Year 13s can join The Dukies' Association and enjoy a lifelong network. There are also sporting and social events such as annual sporting matches and the renowned Reunion Dinner.

“It’s a School that everyone wants to be a part of. A community in which every single student can feel comfortable.”



Our countryside location

The School was opened in 1803 by His Royal Highness Frederick Duke of York in Chelsea to care for the orphans of soldiers. In 1909, it relocated to its present 150-acre countryside site near Dover, Kent, and expanded to include children whose parents were serving in the Armed Forces to ensure continuity of education. The MOD-run School became co-educational in 1994. In 2010, it changed to an Academy, opening its doors to all families wishing to choose our exceptional School for their children aged 11 – 18.

The School is still sponsored by the MOD; its Academy status means education is state-funded and parents only

pay for boarding, uniforms, pocket money, and some trips. In comparison with independent boarding schools, this is an attractive proposition because fees are considerably less, in most cases over half the price. For Armed Forces families, the Continuity of Education Allowance is available which means the parental contribution is only 8% of the fee.

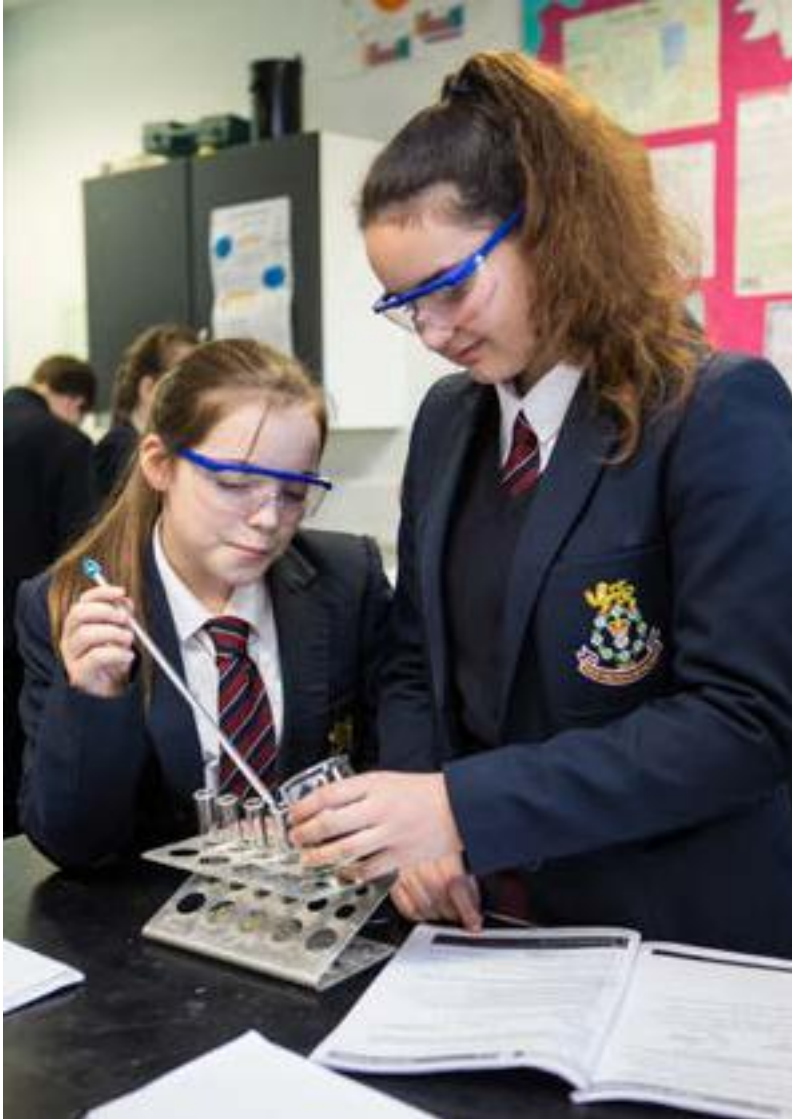
Royal patronage and visitors give the School a certain kudos, and it has been granted a Royal Crown which is included on its crest presented by The College of Arms. HRH The Duke of Kent Prince Edward is the School's Patron and takes part in ceremonial events.



“A community in which every single student can feel comfortable.”







Visitors to the School never fail to be impressed by our well-kept grounds and superb facilities. Much of the architecture is Edwardian with large arched windows, high ceilings and large rooms. An excellent example is the Dining Hall which also features wood-panelled walls and parquet flooring, imagine Hogwarts but brighter. The School even has its own museum which plots the story of its 200-year history.

As the School has expanded, modern buildings have blended with the original style; the most recent £24.9 million programme included well-resourced teaching blocks, a new Sports Hall and Performing Arts Centre, and an upgrade of the Boarding Houses. Incidentally, the Houses are named after famous military figures from the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, the exception being Sixth Form accommodation – Centenary House was named to commemorate the anniversary of the School's 100th year in Dover.

What cannot be understated are our expansive grounds, not far from the sea and the legendary White Cliffs of Dover; students have room to breathe, relax and let off energy. Our landmark feature, which can be seen from miles around, is the imposing Edwardian Clocktower.

Prospective students and parents are welcome to tour our campus, which we highly recommend. This can be during whole School open mornings held in spring and autumn, or by private appointment – details of both options can be found on our website, www.doyrms.com.



“This School offers so much to everyone in all aspects of life and I couldn't think of a better place to be.”

Boarding

As England's only state full boarding school, we have a unique close-knit community with all students enjoying the same experiences of school life. Boarding is at the centre of everything we do and we are committed to creating a comfortable and friendly home from home.

Our pastoral care is outstanding so that students feel relaxed, happy, secure and safe in a supportive community. There is always someone available for a chat or to offer advice and support as our Houses are staffed 24/7.

House staff get to know and understand students well. Students quickly feel a sense of belonging, and soon mature and develop, rising to new challenges and able to confidently embrace every opportunity in a nurturing environment. House life is also a lot of fun, and there are Inter-House competitions in Music, Sports, and charity events.

All Houses have day rooms, kitchen areas and leisure facilities. Students are encouraged to make these areas their own, with personal touches such as family photos and posters. Communal areas are bright and cheerful, with comfy sofas, large televisions and recreational facilities. There are cosy quiet corners for a peaceful read, and larger spaces for shared activities and fun with friends.

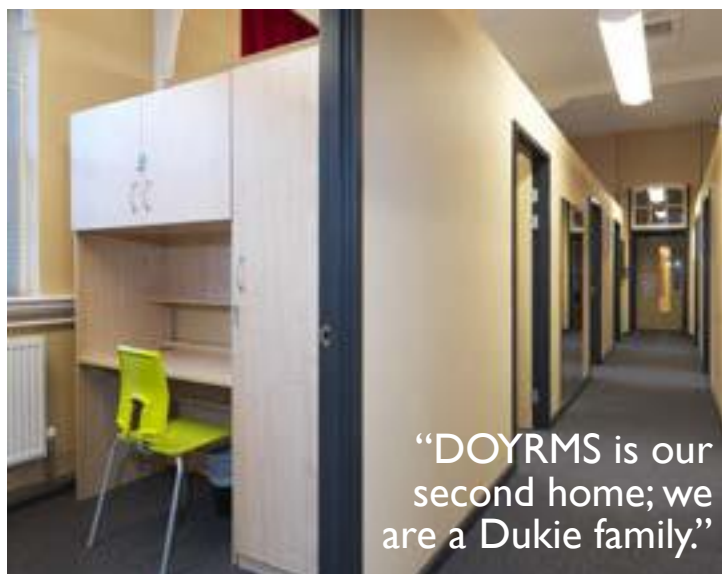
FOOD AND NUTRITION

Fresh, local, seasonal, nutritionally balanced and fun food – all nut free – make up our menus which are based on an initial four-week rotation to allow for greater variety and choice.

We regularly ask students and parents for feedback and invite any parents who wishes to try our food for themselves to visit our dining hall.

Educating students on good food habits is important so we have talks on nutrition, chef demonstrations, farm supplier visits with new and interesting foods to try, and awareness initiatives on good gut health and eating for better sporting performance.

In addition, the tradition of High Table is held several days of the week which allows senior staff to interact with Dukies on a more relaxed and personal level, get invaluable feedback and to teach dining etiquette and conversation.



“DOYRMS is our second home; we are a Dukie family.”





SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE

A dedicated team supports students and staff in all aspects of safeguarding and welfare. We have developed a close relationship with many external support groups to further enhance our provision. Our strong bond and close links with children's services and Kent County Council ensure a proficient and up-to-date level of knowledge for all our staff, not just our safeguarding and wellbeing team.

Through PSHEE teaching and external presentations and workshops, we provide students with education and access to information to keep themselves safe online, in school, out of school and at home. We have our own on-site IT provision which ensures online engagement is kept within correct boundaries, and computers have a 'confide' button should students want to discuss any worries.

We have buddy and peer listening systems, and while students are not permitted to have mobile phones in lessons, they can use them at other times, mainly after final lessons to stay in touch with you. There are also exeat weekends throughout the School year for home visits.

SPIRITUAL WELLBEING

The School celebrates and promotes the diversity of cultures, backgrounds and faiths. The traditions of the Armed Forces shape our faith-based activities, and worship is influenced by a Christian ethos embracing all faiths and encouraging those with no faith to explore life and contemporary issues from another perspective.

Our Chapel of St Michael and St George commemorates generations of Dukies for their war time sacrifices, and our former Colours are 'laid up' in this historic building. A whole School prayer is said in assembly on Monday, with chapel services on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Dukies are particularly known for their robust singing!

SUPPORTING GOOD HEALTH

The School has its own Medical Centre offering an excellent level of on-site healthcare along with wellbeing initiatives to keep students healthy, both physically and emotionally. Highly qualified Registered General Nurses, medical administrators, professional counsellors, and designated wellbeing staff make up the team. They are also fully supported by visiting doctors from St James' surgery in Dover, providing an enviable level of care to our students. In addition, there are first-aid trained staff in each house and across teaching and administration areas.







#WeAreDukies

The School has naturally evolved since its foundation and is, today, a 'regular' school that is proud of its distinguished heritage and traditions. Most of the time, students wear the same style of smart uniform as found in many schools. However, what sets us apart is our military ethos and celebration of ceremonial traditions when students wear their Dress Blues. They would be the first to admit that this traditional dress worn on certain occasions instils them with enormous pride and an awareness of being part of something extraordinary. On their Dress Blues, students wear the cap badge of a family member who has served in the Armed Forces. We call this their 'heart badge' as it is a poignant recognition of their family's own military heritage.

PARADES

Students learn to parade, under the watchful eye of our Regimental Sergeant Major, as soon as they enter the School to earn their berets which begins their careers as Dukies. Ceremonial parades, led by our magnificent marching band, follow with both Royal guests and senior officers invited to act as Inspecting Officers. This culminates in a full Trooping the Colour ceremony on our spectacular Grand Day in July. One of our most distinctive historical hallmarks was inscribed upon us in 1825 when we were granted the privilege of carrying Colours. The original Colours were presented by King George IV at Chelsea. The School Colour trooped today was presented to the School by our patron Field Marshal HRH The Duke of Kent KG, GCMG, GCVO, ADC in 2003.

MILITARY BAND

We are enormously proud to have a full military marching band, incorporating a core of 28 drummers and buglers. No-one could fail to be moved by the spectacular sight and sound when it leads the School's parades. On certain occasions, the separate drum corps is equally inspiring, they recently played for HRH Prince Edward at Hever Castle in Kent. We find that participating in the band helps students appreciate the value of teamwork, giving them the chance to show off their considerable instrumental skills. Our Sixth Form band members can find themselves playing at important national events such as the annual Torch of Remembrance service at Westminster Abbey.

UNDER OFFICERS

The appointment of Under Officers is highly sought after by Year 13 students with successful applicants undergoing a competitive interview process. Other senior ranks are appointed according to age and responsibility. Those given ceremonial leadership roles are selected because of their ability to inspire others.

GRAND DAY

Grand Day crowns our year when we commemorate our heritage and tradition with prize giving in the morning to celebrate our students' academic success, followed by the Trooping the Colour ceremony in the afternoon. The Colours are a symbol of unity of the School and a mark of respect to our foundation and forefathers.

Preparation for this very special parade, attended by families and many dignitaries, takes place throughout the year with all students participating. Indeed, all aspects of the ceremony are conducted by students themselves, they fill the parade appointments, form the Escort to the Colour, the Guard and the military band.



Sport

Excellence is pursued wholeheartedly but the aim is also to cater for every student, at their own level of ability, and encourage enthusiasm. Our main objective is to cultivate a life-long love for sport and the values it embodies.

Students are given the opportunity to play competitively at School as there is a full fixture list in each of our major Sports per term, as well as a healthy Inter-House competition. With more than 15 sporting disciplines on offer across the year, most students find themselves involved in physical activity two or three times a week; through expert coaching that comes from dedicated staff, students flourish as they develop team spirit, camaraderie and self-belief.

Our fantastic facilities include six high quality rugby pitches, a floodlit AstroTurf, three cricket squares, eight tennis courts, floodlit Olympic grade athletics track, indoor heated swimming pool, floodlit netball courts, a large fully equipped sports hall, climbing wall, combined fitness suite / weights room / gymnasium, dance studio, cross-country course, outdoor fitness trails, squash courts, and a sports pavilion.

Sport is an integral part of school life and plays an important role in personal growth and development. From time to time, Olympic winners and professional players are invited to coach students. We also have our White Rose Academy, funded by the School's alumni, which majors on hockey excellence. On a regular basis, we compete in county and national competitions such as the NatWest Rugby Cup.

DOYRMS is also one of only a few schools nationwide to be part of the Talented Athletes Scholarship Scheme (TASS), a Sports England funded project for 16+ students. Under the scheme, young athletes are given the opportunity to successfully combine academic and sporting abilities which includes access to a range of services and educational training from strength and conditioning, to nutrition and sport psychology.

As well as all of the mainstream sports and games, pursuits such as horse riding, kickboxing, air rifle shooting, and Latin fusion dance aerobics can be offered.

Sports scholarships are available for highly talented students, and Physical Education exam courses can be taken at GCSE and A Level.





You're never bored, as a Dukie you are always busy learning new things, enjoying activities and adding to your CV."



Performing Arts

Performing Arts encourages students to develop their talents as part of the curriculum and beyond. Each discipline allows students to explore their potential and perform to a high standard.

MUSIC

Music permeates through the whole School and is what makes us different from any other with students coached to achieve their best in their chosen artistic style.

Music staff have an array of educational experience, enhanced by their professional musical expertise, including careers in the music services of HM Forces, West End stage productions, broadcasting and recording industries, and the Church.

There are ensembles of varying sizes that include choirs, the concert band, big band and a rock and pop band. All of these are in addition to our highly acclaimed military band. Instrumental lessons are offered for the majority of woodwind and brass instruments as well as percussion, guitar, voice and piano, along with performance opportunities.

All Year 7 students are introduced to the instruments that make up a military band; they receive tuition on one instrument as part of their normal, curricular music lessons. Students are encouraged to continue with instrumental lessons as they move into Year 8 with a further year's free tuition for those who demonstrate musical promise and dedication.

DRAMA

The School boasts a purpose-built Drama studio which, along with Nye Hall Performing Arts Centre, provides students with superb facilities to learn and perform. In addition to the junior and senior annual major productions, students can also participate in outside activities such as the National Theatre Connections Festival with performances at the School and the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury. Throughout the year, the Performing Arts department presents showcases, short plays and examination performances staged by students studying Level 2 and 3 Drama and Dance.

DANCE

Since Dance became part of the School curriculum several years ago, a new dedicated studio with full mirroring, sound system and practice bars has been added. Dance is an empowering form of non-verbal communication that increases confidence, creativity and self-expression. It is popular across all Year groups and is offered as a GCSE subject. Different Dance techniques are taught with student performances, including staged pieces in collaboration with the Music and Drama departments.



Dukie life

What makes us unique is our special blend of academic school life, including Sports, Music and Drama, combined with our distinctive military ethos and impressive heritage. Our core values of courage, integrity, respect, commitment, loyalty and self-discipline underpin each day as we actively encourage students to embrace them as their own; staff work hard to instil our values across all areas of the School, academic and pastoral.

A typical school day at DOYRMS begins with a hearty breakfast then assembly or a short Chapel service, and into lesson one. Two, one-hour long lessons are followed by a 25-minute morning break, two more lessons, a nutritious lunch in the main Dining Hall, then two more lessons.

Afternoon lessons are followed by a games session or club activities. Physical Education plays a key role, and the sports slot might be anything from rugby or tennis to swimming or athletics, taking advantage of our outstanding facilities. After supper and before prep, it's free time and many students chat online or by phone with Mum or Dad, and eventually it's time for bed and lights out.

Following Saturday morning lessons, students can play in School teams, take part in activities or they can just relax and do their own thing such as play pool or computer games, go into Dover town or chat with their friends. Saturday night is often movies and pizza, or another fun event organised by the House.

Weekend House activities can include trips to the cinema, bowling, Dover and Canterbury visits, Bluewater shopping trips and special House dinners.

Through the many activities, experiences and closeness of our community, great friendships are forged by Dukies, which are often life-long. Students learn the importance of collaboration, manners, healthy competition and positive relationships, all qualities needed for good values and life skills.





A rich variety of clubs and activities beyond the classroom are available subject to student demand, and some are weather dependant. They are extremely popular and change over the year, helping to keep Dukies fit and engaged, while providing a hobby-style approach. We always welcome new ideas from students themselves and provide both junior and senior options. The following list is representative of our many clubs and activities:



- | | |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Art | Girls Hockey |
| Athletics | Girls Rugby |
| Badminton | Girls Swimming |
| Basketball | Horse Riding |
| Big Band | Jack Green Sprint Academy |
| Book Club | Jewellery Making |
| Boys Choir | Jigsaw & Board Games Club |
| Boys Hockey | LAMDA Acting Classes |
| Boys Swimming | Latin Infusion |
| Braille | Le Marchant Society (current affairs) |
| Ceramics | Maths |
| Chapel Choir | Mindfulness |
| Chess | Music |
| Christian Union | Music Theory |
| Climbing | Peer Listeners |
| Codebreaking | Philosophy |
| Coding | Puppet making |
| Computer Programming | Rifle (air) Shooting |
| Crafts | Rock Band |
| Creative Writing | Rugby 7s |
| Cricket | Scholars Band |
| Critical Psychology and Research Methods | School Production |
| Cross-Country | Science |
| Dance Troupe | Set Design & Making |
| Debating | Social Skills |
| Design | Spanish Speaking |
| Eco Club | Squash |
| Electronics | STEM Club |
| Engineering | Team Sport |
| Fitness | Trampolineing |
| Food Science | War Gaming |
| Football | Wu Shu Kwan (Chinese kickboxing) |
| French Speaking | Yoga |
| Functional Fitness | |
| Girls Choir | |



Our adventures

Exciting trips and expeditions take place throughout the year; many are free and payments for some vary but parents are always asked for permission before a student can take part.

Academic Trips – range from theatre trips and photography days out to maths workshops, cultural food trips, national competitions and places such as the Houses of Parliament. Science trips are popular with CERN in Switzerland being a favourite. Foreign Exchanges are organised as part of the Modern Foreign Languages curriculum.

Ceremonial Duties – selected Junior students are invited every year to the Chelsea Hospital Founder's Day, while Seniors provide a Guard of Honour for the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior at London's Westminster Abbey for Remembrance.

Sports – students who are part of a team can attend away matches, regional and national competitions and meet visiting sporting legends particularly connected to Rugby and Hockey. The Kent County Trampolining Championships and the IAPs Athletics national finals are also favourites.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award – every student takes the Bronze Award in Year 9, learning a new skill, volunteering and completing an expedition when they spend a week away engaged in camp craft and navigation training, kayaking, sailing, climbing, abseiling and two days of hiking / camping. The School is a DofE official centre, so can fully equip students for adventure training and overnight camping – everything except boots! Students are encouraged to continue with Silver and Gold Awards, and many do.

COMBINED CADET FORCE

DOYRMS has one of the largest school Combined Cadet Force in the country. Students can select Army, Royal Navy or Royal Air Force, and experience the excitement and challenges of the great outdoors, testing their teambuilding and leadership skills in ways which simply are not possible at home or in the classroom. Working to the CCF syllabus, the Cadets train for two hours every week. This culminates in an annual summer camp where alongside six other schools they enjoy a thrilling programme of activities including live ranges, laser firing, platoon attacks, windsurfing and paintballing.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

All students from Year 7 to Year 13 can take part in outdoor education / adventure training during holidays. The outdoor activities teach them vital leadership and team building skills, overcoming challenges, confronting fears, and developing important life skills. They enjoy walking, sailing, kayaking, windsurfing, raft building / racing, high ropes course, trapeze, tree climbing, gorge walking, mountain biking, climbing, abseiling and more.

EXPEDITIONS

February half-term offers a skiing trip while summer sees students venturing further afield to places such as Nicaragua and India to explore and experience the wonderful scenery and very different cultures.







How to apply

Whole School open mornings are usually held in March and October, and we recommend attendance to meet current students and view our many facilities. For those who cannot make these dates, private tours can be arranged; you are always very welcome.

With the exception of Sixth Form, we are non-selective, but students do need to pass a boarding suitability interview and we apply for references from previous schools.

You should visit www.doyrms.com to complete the admissions enquiry form, or contact the School Registrar to request an application form and information pack:

+44 (0)1304 245023
admissions@doyrms.com

How to find us

The Duke of York's Royal Military School is set within 150 acres of countryside. Located near Dover, the school is close to major road links, Dover ferry port offering crossings to Calais & Dunkirk, Eurotunnel and Eurostar offering trains to Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam as well as a high-speed rail route to London.

