



Brentwood School

# Prep



# School

*Find out more* →



# we

Welcome to Brentwood Preparatory School. We are privileged to be with children as they embark on one of the greatest journeys in life: education.

It is in these early years that our pupils begin to investigate the world with great expectation, interest and energy. It is in these early years that we can show them the world is indeed a feast for the curious and full of opportunities.

From the age of three, we welcome children into a community that is small enough to feel secure, but large enough to offer a huge breadth of experiences. Whether in our well-equipped Foundation playground, Forest School, or our cutting edge Futures Room, pupils are encouraged to think for themselves and develop their own ideas. Whether they are taking part in the School Council or joining in one of the many clubs, sports, music and drama activities, our pupils soon develop their own sense of responsibility. They learn to care about their work, to value their contribution to the wider school community and through many pupil-led fundraising initiatives, their eyes are opened to the world beyond school.

Academically, our pupils are high achievers. Our curriculum is augmented by inclusive academic enrichment and activity programmes. We use technology with a high degree of competence; our Modern Foreign Languages department offering is highly ambitious (we teach French from an early age, Spanish from Year 3 and German, Chinese and Latin in Years 4, 5 and 6 respectively); and our creative curriculum places emphasis on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths) subjects which means there is not only a logical cohesion to what's being learnt but also a close eye on the future that our pupils will encounter when they eventually leave us.

Our curriculum is entering its next stage of evolution, and we are proud to be part of the global community of schools delivering the Primary Years Programme (PYP) which is part of the International Baccalaureate.



We encourage all pupils to have the confidence to stretch themselves, to celebrate their own achievements and to be generous about the success of others.”

# elcome

The PYP is a curriculum designed to put the children at the centre of their learning, not as passive receivers of knowledge but as creators of transdisciplinary knowledge, as curious and driven learners who ask interesting questions and who want to make the world a better place for everyone. It's an exciting next phase of our curriculum, building on the excellent teaching and facilities we already have.

Our staff teach with great energy, flair and sensitivity and because we keep class sizes small, our Form Teachers get to know their pupils really well. Our School Nurses and the School Chaplain play central roles in taking care of the children and the House system enables each pupil to build relationships with older peers. What this means is that across the school there is always a listening ear or a helping hand whenever a pupil needs it.

Visitors often remark about the genuine warmth they find on their visits and I truly believe it is the most important attribute in our success. As we all know, the simple truth is – happy children learn best – so we focus on giving our pupils a positive start in their education; a positive beginning that will influence the rest of their lives.

At the end of this year, I shall be retiring after 17 years as a Head Teacher at two different schools. It has been an incredible privilege to have been the Head at Brentwood Preparatory School for the past 13 years, and I know that this wonderful school will continue to flourish under the guidance of my successor, Mrs Goodfellow. Alongside myself and others, Mrs Goodfellow will be looking forward to meeting you at our Open Morning.

I encourage you to find time to come and discover this for yourself. Much has changed since our establishment in 1892, but our motto of Virtue, Learning & Manners remains and you will see that in droves when you visit us.

*Jason Whiskerd, Headteacher*





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Having had two children progress through the School I particularly value the Brentwood Preparatory philosophy of nurturing each child as an individual.”

Entry at  
3+ & 4+

# Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

## Beginning a Great Adventure

The joy of wet sand between your fingers; the transformation of a little grey seed into a plump green shoot; and working with your friend to build the tallest tower ever, are all valuable learning experiences.

Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is a place that the children settle into quickly and love coming to. The staff team create a nurturing environment which results in happy children. A team approach is at the heart of what we do. It feels like a Brentwood family with positive staff-parent relationships. Our provision is very flexible. We're confident that we'll be able to find a weekly pattern that suits both you and your child.

EYFS offers creative and exciting ways to deliver all seven areas of the Early Years Curriculum. This is supplemented with specialist teachers in areas such as French, Dance and Music. Our curriculum is "child led" with learning opportunities indoors and outdoors and regular Forest School lessons. Daily observations and experiences are shared with parents using a user-friendly app. Parents and carers are also able to upload their own observations of their children.

Later, the time becomes more structured and we open up the world of numbers, reading and writing in a fun and creative way. Through our Creative Curriculum we give the children the experiences that leave them with a positive attitude to learning for the rest of their lives. French, Music and Forest School all continue with the addition of swimming lessons in our swimming and training pools to enhance the curriculum further. It is wonderful to watch the building up of each child's personality as ideas and play become a little more sophisticated. By the end of the year, a confident young school child will emerge from the toddler they were on day one.



Years 1 & 2

# Key Stage 1

## A Confident Leap

Putting your hand up in class to share your idea or your answer... it is an image that will always signify "School". It could be one of the first big challenges a child faces. By the time academic lessons begin, we have nurtured the children to feel safe and happy in this environment.

Our goal is to grow confidence, good learning habits and moral sense. We achieve high standards through kindness, good discipline and good humour.

We monitor every child's progress closely and make sure that parents – our partners in education – are kept well informed. We fulfil and surpass the National Curriculum through Years 1 and 2. We are establishing learning habits for life here, so we help children to ask searching questions, use reasoning to think through a problem and start to enjoy looking at things in detail. Our effective Creative Curriculum enables the pupils to make powerful links with the world in which they live in a meaningful way.

We aim for our curriculum to be creative and stimulating and ensure that the children really engage with and enjoy their learning in order to achieve high standards in all areas. At the end of Year 2, all our pupils are well prepared for a seamless progression to Year 3.





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**The School has developed my daughter’s self-esteem, confidence and enthusiasm for learning. She has been stretched and challenged at her own level and rewarded for her efforts.”**

Years 3 to 6

Entry  
at 7+

# Key Stage 2

## High Standards and Great Fun

Our pupils achieve excellent results in their academic work. We find that teachers' high expectations are met with pupils' enthusiasm. A large proportion of Brentwood pupils achieve scholarships to the Senior School.

Every Year Group has teachers who combine expertise in their field with a love of their subject, so lessons are full of energy and depth. With a maximum class size of 22, staff are able to pay close attention to the development of each child and adapt what they deliver to an individual's needs. Children who are particularly able in a subject are challenged to go further with their skills and ideas, and those who might be finding something harder to understand are given focused help.

We study all the National Curriculum subjects plus drama, Chinese, French, German, Latin and Spanish. As they move up the School, pupils are given tasks that require more independent study and research. We also cultivate a sound work-ethic in preparation for Senior School. Classroom learning is regularly enhanced with trips and visits around this country and abroad, and we have an academic enrichment programme which is timetabled for all in KS2.





“**Academically, my son has benefitted from his teachers’ high standards. By tailoring their teaching to the needs of the individual child and by making lessons interesting and fun, they ensure those standards are met.**”



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## Encouraging Individuals

We welcome children into a secure and caring community that feels small enough to each individual, but large enough to offer a huge breadth of experiences. Pupils' wellbeing is the foundation for a successful education and we encourage their sense of belonging by letting them know that their contributions are extremely valuable in making Brentwood a vibrant, friendly place.

All the children are encouraged to be enterprising and develop their own ideas. We make sure that as they progress and mature they have a sense of responsibility and care about their work and their role in school. Year 6 pupils are encouraged to take up a position of responsibility. We are often inspired by our pupils' ideas for the School and for the community beyond.

Form teachers get to know their pupils really well because we keep class sizes small. Our Deputy Head (Pastoral) leads a close team of Directors of Pastoral care & Wellbeing, Heads of Year, Form Tutors, Pastoral Mentor, our Chaplain, our School Nurse and assistant School Nurse, all of whom play central roles in taking care of the children and we make sure there is a listening ear or a helping hand around whenever they need it. From Year 1, each pupil becomes an active member of one of our six Houses, where they can build relationships with older peers and House tutors.

Being in a House means that pupils find another layer of belonging at the School; they learn about teamwork and try out their leadership skills. Our House System is lively and inclusive; it gives all children the chance to represent their House in different activities. All children at Brentwood Preparatory School are assigned to one of six houses.

# unity



# Sport

## Playful and Competitive

We have 75 acres of playing fields surrounding the School where our pupils enjoy a fantastic range of sports, led by a team of specialist teachers and coaches. There is good humour and discipline in the sporting lives of all our children. We cultivate an atmosphere of enjoyment and encourage pupils to excel.

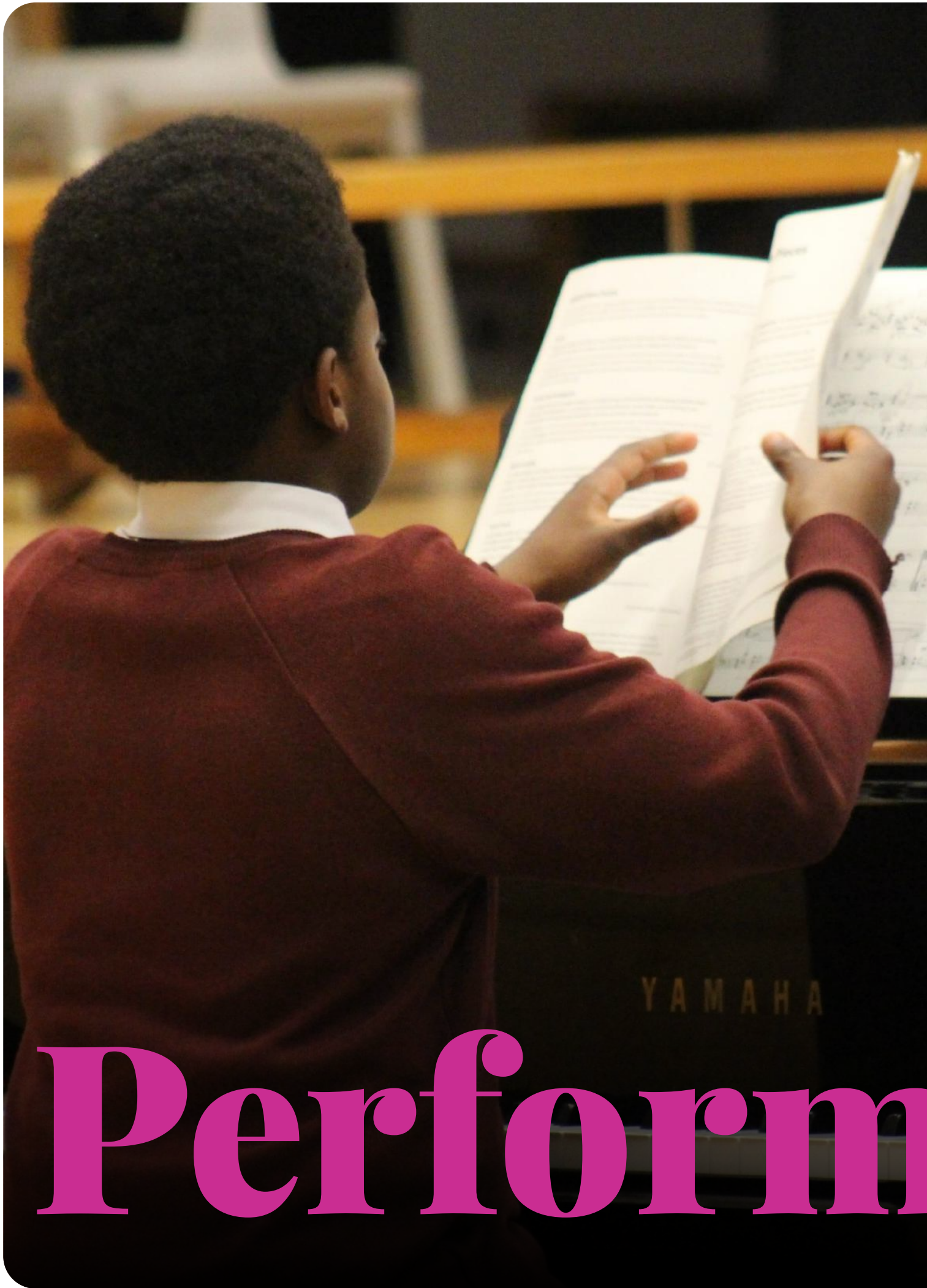
From Year 3, every child takes part in three and a half hours of timetabled sport each week through Games and PE lessons, as well as before, during and after school clubs within the Sport strand of our ACES Programme. Pupils can try their hand at a variety of sports and find the activity that enthuses them most. The Brentwood Tennis Academy is hugely popular and offers lessons on an individual and group basis much the same as our individual music lessons programme. Our impressive facilities include a 25-metre indoor swimming pool and training pool, sports hall, all-weather athletics track, fencing salle, four squash courts, AstroTurf pitch, netball courts and tennis courts.

We have a strong sporting tradition that sees many of our pupils reach representative levels, but within our sporting culture this in no way supersedes the progress and achievements of pupils who take part in sports primarily for health, enjoyment and to experience teamwork and collaboration.

*Take a virtual tour*







Perform



## Personality and Creativity

School life is packed with creative energy and there are opportunities for every child to shine. We weave the talents of our pupils into the fabric of School life. We have live music at all of our assemblies, including pupils on a wide variety of instruments accompanying their peers' singing. Our pupils take part in a variety of performance opportunities throughout the year, in and out of school, recent ones including Brentwood Cathedral, the O2 and the Royal Albert Hall.

Our children engage in a variety of Drama-led activities from letting their imaginations develop with visiting theatre groups to acting in their very own nativity play, some from as young as 3 years old. In KS2, drama is taught as a discrete subject and every child is given the opportunity to perform live on stage to an audience. Their confidence blossoms as they grow within their year groups and we have an extensive co-curricular programme to support those who wish to develop their passion or confidence further, for example, courses in LAMDA ( the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts). We have a Drama suite for lessons and activities, as well as a 'Green Screen' for filming opportunities, and of course, our wonderful hall stage is equipped with state-of-the-art LED stage lighting and sound.

To celebrate a wonderful 8 years at the Prep, we're always blown away by the talent our Year 6 pupils display for their end-of-year performance, with Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat being the latest to paint our stage with such colour, showcasing their performing arts achievements as well as those important skills of collaboration and project management.

The Music Department has its own specialist facilities including a music classroom and six music practice rooms. There are plenty of ensemble opportunities, with the Orchestra, String Orchestra, Cello Club, Brass Ensemble, Recorder Ensemble and three Choirs (one of which collaborates regularly with the Senior School Music Department). Over 200 pupils have individual instrument tuition in 18 different instruments and there are regular chances to perform in concerts large and small. We also run an Endangered Instruments Scheme at Brentwood School, to promote the rare instruments in our society and have a link with the Junior Guildhall/Kindergarten, which is held here on Saturdays. Upon leaving the Preparatory School, every child has had the opportunity to read and write music, has knowledge of computer-based music software and has grown in confidence through the many performing opportunities here.

# ning Arts

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a school uniform with a dark sweater and a striped tie, is reading a book to a young boy. The boy, also in a school uniform with a maroon sweater and a striped tie, is looking at the book and appears to be speaking. The background shows a classroom with a blue wall and a bicycle graphic.

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**Whenever we ask the children to show parents around, there is always a sea of hands from willing volunteers from our youngest to our oldest pupils...That's confidence; that's what Brentwood does.”**

Senior Member of Staff

# Next Steps

As you would expect, there is a close relationship between our Year 6 pupils and our Year 7 pupils and teachers. Each year, we organise a day at our Senior School to experience some lessons and interact with our teachers to get a feel for what life might be like as they transition to the next stage of their education.

They are already familiar with many of the facilities, since they often see our drama productions and music concerts, and use the sports centre, the Chapel and some performance spaces themselves.

Parents also have the opportunity to tour the School, and attend an informal evening event where they can meet the Headmaster and senior staff.

*[Explore more - Moving to Senior](#)*





**VLM**

*Virtue Learning Manners*