



Brentwood School

# Prep Co-Curricular Programme

Brentwood Preparatory School firmly believes in an all-round education where academic pursuits are supported by wonderful co-curricular opportunities. Our current co-curricular programme provides a wide range of activities and clubs that allow pupils to foster existing passions, as well as finding alternative avenues of interest to explore and enjoy. By involving the pupils in this rich programme we hope that their enjoyment of school life will be enhanced and personal skills will be developed.

We ensure that each individual pupil is safe and valued in an inclusive community, providing a range of opportunities designed to enable every pupil to further their potential, enjoy their learning and achieve the best possible academic outcomes. We inspire students to emerge as intellectually curious and resilient young people with leadership skills, who work well with and care for others. We challenge students to develop strong moral purpose and take principled action. We are committed to educating the 'whole person' and embrace a holistic approach to nurturing and supporting each individual child, ensuring they are safe, valued and enabled to fulfil their potential.

The Brentwood School programme of sports, performing arts, community outreach and charitable work and other activities and hobbies is unrivalled in its breadth and quality. It is based on our view that participation in such activities helps pupils to cultivate a range of personal qualities, such as self-confidence and resilience, and acquire skills, such as leadership and teamwork, which will help them develop into successful, rounded, young people. Equally importantly, we hope that pupils will enjoy their activities.





The wide range of activities on offer allows pupils to discover new activities as well as to develop skills in activities they have already experienced. Expert coaching is on offer from outstanding coaches and we place as much value on the introduction of pupils to new activities as we do to the success of our pupils on the local, regional and national stage.

The structure of our co-curricular programme is called ACES and it encourages pupils to experience and participate in a range of activities in and outside school in the following categories:

# A rts

# C ommunity

# E nrichment

# S port

As pupils progress through their Brentwood School career, their co-curricular activities will provide an important balance to their academic studies and prepare them to pursue varied interests and activities once they move on to Senior School.





Arts

Brentwood Prep is a school alive with the Arts. We believe that exposure to the Arts is essential if we are to provide a rounded education for our pupils. By involving pupils with opportunities across art, design, dance, drama and music, we hope that our pupils' enjoyment of school life will be enhanced and that they develop personal skills and a cultural appreciation of the Arts that will last a lifetime.

## Dance

Dance is an extremely popular part of the curriculum at Brentwood School and is a fantastic art-form offered to all pupils, with a natural starting point at the Prep. The Foundation children have weekly classes which through mime, music and movement take them on magical journeys. Dance Clubs for Reception through to Year 6 encourage pupils to gain confidence through Dance, thus developing creativity, artistry and musicality. Years 3 and above are given extra opportunities to enter choreographic competitions, and perform in dance festivals and in annual dance displays.





# Music

We have a very busy music department at Brentwood Prep School. As well as a varied curriculum which covers tuned percussion, african drums, samba drumming, composition software, improvisation and Soundtracks (to name just a few) we also have many visiting music teachers who feed into our range of informal concerts, weekly assembly performances, music exams, large scale musical events and of course – playing music for fun!

We have several ensembles ranging from the School orchestra, cello club, brass ensemble, recorder ensemble, drum club and string orchestra through to a range of choirs for all ages who sing music in a wide range of styles. We even find time to visit the O2 for the annual Young Voices event, and this year we visited the Royal Albert Hall with the Music Man Project.

Our Visiting Music Teachers offer one-to-one lessons across a wide range of instruments. Whether your child is just starting out or looking to refine their skills, our expert teachers provide personalised guidance to help them grow in confidence and ability, working closely with our Director of Music.

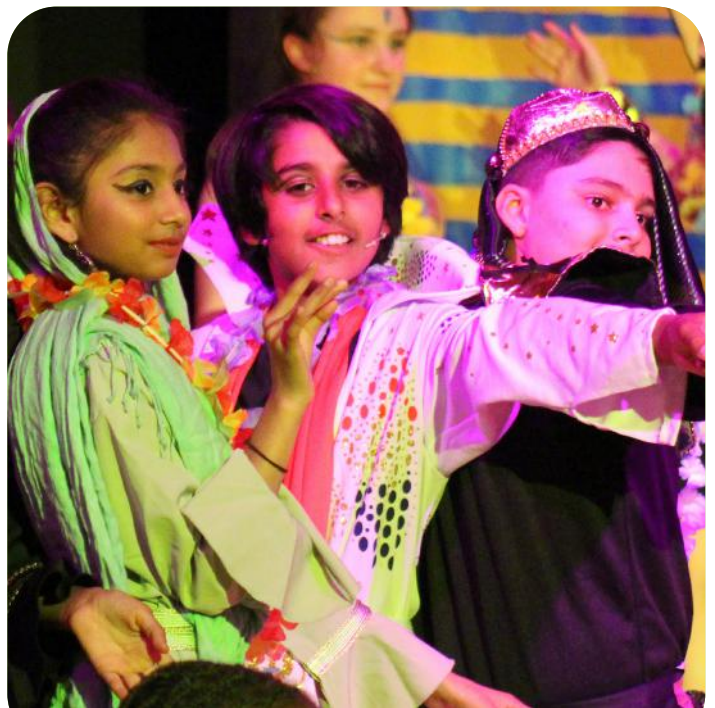
Instruments available include violin, viola, cello, double bass, flute, fife, clarinet, oboe, recorder, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, french horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, guitar, piano, drum kit, harp and singing lessons too.

Our Endangered Instruments Scheme is another example of how we can enrich with music, offering pupils the chance to explore the joy of music by removing the obstacle by providing a school-owned instrument, and an instrument that is perhaps not as popular. It's been a wonderful initiative and well received by all.

In short, whatever your child's taste in music, we have something to suit them. And with the natural progression into Senior School, Music at the Prep is a great place to start.

## LAMDA

Our pupils can study for the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts LAMDA examinations. This club revolves around the transformative power of the dramatic arts and the value to society of creativity, innovation and authentic, confident communication. The focus is to provide all pupils with the opportunity to improve self-expression, self-assurance and to most importantly have fun.





## Community

Community and Charity Service are part of life at Brentwood Prep, commissioned with the School motto of Virtue, Learning, Manners providing a most appropriate foundation. We are proud of the contribution that pupils make to a wide range of events that are organised at form, house, and Whole School level. We welcome representatives from a range of charities each year to contribute to the PSHE and Assemblies programme and our hope is that, through their exposure to a range of activities and causes, our pupils will develop a sense of the type and scale of need that exists in our local and wider communities.

## Assemblies

We welcome a range of internal and external guest speakers to engage with our pupils and share their experiences and stories with our community. Assemblies provide our children with an excellent opportunity to learn more about our school, provide a platform for pupils to further grow and develop values and interests, whilst also providing an inspirational environment which encourages children to explore many great opportunities in life. Our external speakers have previously included various sport professionals like Sir Trevor Brooking, actors like Dominic Short, as well as various public services like Essex & Herts Air Ambulance and charities such as the NSPCC. And not to mention, visits from many staff from the Senior School, including the Headmaster, Mr Bond.



## School Council

In EYFS & KS1, School Councillors are elected from each class from Reception to Year 2, with each class voting for the Councillor that will hold the position for a term. Before elections are held, the outgoing School Councillor will talk to their class about the responsibilities and expectations of the role. Council members are expected to attend meetings to discuss ideas for upcoming fundraising events, including organisation and advertising. The main points of the meetings are taken back to individual classes to gather more ideas. Activities based on each class ideas are then implemented.

In KS2, School Councillors are also elected by their class. Each candidate has to present to their class and two School Councillors are selected, holding this position for the academic year. All children are encouraged to create a poster advocating themselves for the School Council, becoming a well known face of the School. Children are made aware of the expectations and responsibilities of a School Councillor and have the opportunity to discuss these with the outgoing councillors. They too, are expected to attend meetings to be made aware of upcoming events and then are able to discuss ideas to implement for them. Advertising and raising awareness is a key part of their role, with a platform to also present issues regarding events and campaigns that they feel passionately about.

Our School Council as a collective have supported various key events including Children In Need, Red Nose Day, Children's Mental Health Week and Walk to School Week, to name a few.

## Charity

At the Prep, pupils are encouraged to be enterprising and develop their own ideas and sense of responsibility. They learn to contribute to the wider community and through many pupil-led fundraising initiatives, their eyes are opened to the world beyond school.

We pride ourselves in our fundraising efforts, from non-uniform days, to sponsored silences, from art exhibitions to music concerts. We are very lucky to have such a supportive and generous community that help us support those charities closest to us.

Our School Council and House Teams are active members of school life and help to plan, organise events, being wonderful ambassadors for not only the Prep, but for the charities we support. The Royal British Legion, RNID, MND, NSPCC, Sport Relief, Kids Inspire, Crisis at Christmas, First Step are just a few we support.







As a School with a proud academic heritage, Brentwood Prep looks to support all aspects of learning within its pupils, prescribing to a Growth Mindset approach that encourages each and every pupil to be the best that they can be. The Enrichment strand of the ACES Co-Curricular Programme provides opportunity for support and extension that both compliments curriculum study and facilitates new learning, inquiry and discovery, whether through a general knowledge club or a school trip or excursion.

## Creativity Club

Creativity club is a vibrant and inclusive space where imagination comes to life, offering pupils the opportunity to explore their talents through creative writing, artistic expression, and open-minded collaboration. Whether it's crafting stories, experimenting with poetry, or expressing ideas through drawing, the club encourages free-thinking and originality, whilst they are supported in developing their voice.



## Spanish

Our Spanish club helps children feel more comfortable at speaking, reading and writing in Spanish whilst enjoying the challenge of learning a new language. Pupils learn about Spanish culture as they develop their communication skills in a fun environment where their memory and multitasking skills are also put to the test.



## Outdoor Activities

Some of our more intrepid Prep pupils travel to Thriftwood Outdoor Activity Centre in Brentwood to immerse themselves in the great outdoors and adventurous activities. From kayaking to axe throwing and abseiling to archery, the children take part in a wide variety of activities designed to promote resilience, confidence and teamwork.

The children always have a lot of fun and speak highly of the activities and their instructors. The children also look forward to a hot chocolate to round off each session (whilst debating which teacher makes the best hot chocolate!). If you love being outside and you are ready for an adventure, Outdoor Activity Club is the club for you.



## Young Engineers

Young Engineers Club revolves around STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) where pupils learn a science concept by building their own working model using our custom K'NEX or motorised Lego kits. This is an exciting club where children are engaged in practical, hands-on science, engineering and technology activities.





The quest for sporting excellence at the Prep continues outside of the PE & Games structure, with the Co-curricular programme offering excellent opportunities to improve and excel in familiar sporting contexts, but also to try a new sport or pursuit. The Sport strand of the Co-Curricular Programme is a fantastic way for pupils to improve their health and fitness, as well as their confidence and additional core skills, all at the same time as having fun and strengthening friendships.

## Chess

Chess at the Prep has a long history, and during this time many pupils have represented Essex teams in county championships. We have been lucky enough to have team members in various competitions and championships including the Essex U11 girls' team, where they became national champions. In team events, the School has had success, winning the Essex zone of the National primary schools championships. And with the successes of our Senior School students, starting early at the Prep can be a great advantage.



## Tennis

The Brentwood School Tennis Academy offers pupils of all ability levels the opportunity to enjoy and develop their tennis at school. Pupils can start tennis in Year 1 where they will focus on developing fundamental movement skills. Our tennis pathway ensures pupils are developing good habits as they move through the stages of mini tennis within our programme. This culminates with Year 6 which focuses on stroke development and preparing pupils for competitive play. Each lesson has a tactical intention and an emphasis on developing technique. Pupils in Key Stage 2 also have the opportunity to further develop their tennis with individual private tennis lessons at the School which run all-year round.



## Football

Football is an extremely popular sport at Brentwood and our football club sessions aim to provide a fun and safe learning environment for children to develop their football skills. The sessions are designed by qualified coaches and support children of all abilities to reach their full potential through a variety of coaching methods. Clubs run throughout both KS1 and KS2 with First Kick providing a range of after school sessions for the early years. The majority of KS2 sessions are led by our experienced PE team who provide lots of opportunities for boys and girls to excel in football. Most sessions focus on match play, but will also feature tactical and skill based sessions within the programme. These blend in well with our pupils' PE and Games lessons, whilst also further preparing them for competitive play and national tournaments in the Senior School.



## Netball

Netball at Brentwood is popular with all pupils. There are competitive teams in each year group with our U10s and U11s representing Brentwood Prep in local and National tournaments. All pupils are welcomed and encouraged to attend training sessions which run after school throughout the week. Netball begins in KS1 with our youngest members of the community developing their hand eye coordination skills in PE lessons before moving onto movement with the ball and spatial awareness in PE and club sessions at the end of KS1. Pupils continue to develop their skills and tactical understanding throughout KS2 in preparation for further competitive play and national tournaments in the Senior School.



# Mindfulness & Wellbeing

Our programme aims to help our pupils develop social skills, communication skills and to raise confidence levels by providing information relevant to their needs.

The holistic ethos of Brentwood School recognises that students are not just intellectuals to be brought to their full potential: they are also young people who face dilemmas in all aspects of their lives. Our exciting Life Skills programme aims to provide students with the knowledge and skills to lead healthy, safe and fulfilled lives.

Through discussion, drama, sport, speakers, workshops and multimedia presentations, students have the opportunity to make the choices necessary to confront challenges and changes in life and to respond effectively to these important questions.

Our Wellbeing Programme supports the pastoral system and strengthens School aims, especially regarding relationships within the School community.



“Wellbeing for both pupils and staff is becoming increasingly important in schools across the UK. In particular, schools are beginning to recognise the importance of developing resilience and opportunities for reflection as well as the need to nurture self-esteem. Like most schools, we are dealing with more and more mental health needs – anxiety, depression, stress and numerous other forms of mental health challenges.”

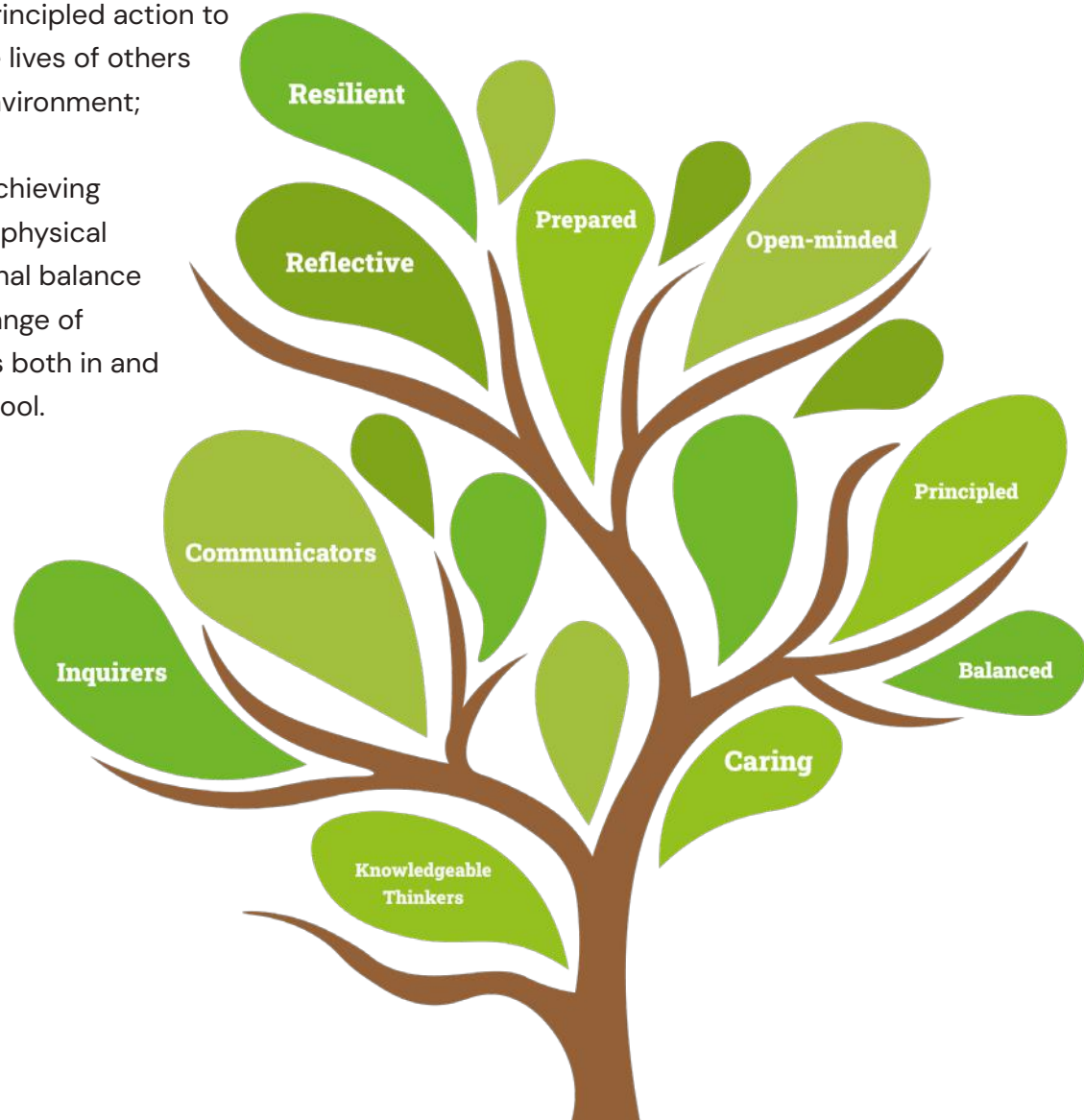
Mr C Smith  
Director of Wellbeing



# Brentwood Learner Profile

As reflected in our Brentwood Learner Profile, through our pupils' learning experiences, our ACES programme aims to develop pupils who are:

- Reflective learners – they set clear goals and devise strategies for personal growth, evaluate their experiences and monitor their performance;
- Open-minded to new situations, creative adaptable flexible thinkers;
- Resilient, determined and resourceful when approaching unfamiliar situations;
- Communicators and leaders – active participants in sustained, collaborative projects; they have confidence in their contribution and adapt their behaviour to suit different roles and situations;
- Prepared and organised, managing themselves and their time effectively;
- Principled, caring, responsible citizens – they appreciate their own culture and identity, while being open to the perspectives, values and traditions of others; they take principled action to improve the lives of others and their environment;
- Balanced, achieving intellectual, physical and emotional balance through a range of experiences both in and outside School.





SOCS is the programme used by the School to schedule and log all co-curricular clubs. It is also the location of the School online calendar and where team sheets are published for all sporting fixtures.

[The SOCS login page](#) for Brentwood School pupils where they can log in using their School username and password. A live list of clubs and activities will be published on SOCS and you can use this programme to check where and when clubs are running throughout the term.

Signing up for clubs is completed through MySchoolPortal, our secure parent platform.

We have [an online School calendar](#) which can be viewed by pupils and parents. The calendar can be filtered and synced with mobile devices.

We also have a [dedicated School sports website](#) where pupils and parents can view team sheets, venues, results and much more. Fixtures will appear on pupils' personalised calendars if they are selected on a team sheet.

## **Our House System**

The House System is an integral part of school life. There are 6 Houses with pupils being placed in one of these Houses: Bayman, Brimley, Heseltine, Lawrence, Quennell and Tasker. Each House is run by two staff who provide pastoral support for all pupils. Pupil House Captains are elected and are involved in decision making. During the course of the year, each House takes part in various events and activities and also helps to support our School's elected charities.

Pupils are awarded House Points throughout the year for both team efforts and for individual successes too, like following the Brentwood Learner Profile, being an ambassador for our School motto of Virtue, Learning, Manners, amongst other things. These points are collated and awards are presented to pupils for every 30 points they achieve, starting at a Bronze award working their way up to a Platinum award, and maybe even beyond. At the end of each term, these points are totalled and an average per pupil is calculated and the House Shield is presented to the winning House.



# Head of Prep's Awards, GOBs & Blog

Head of Prep's Awards are presented to pupils for outstanding work, kindness, virtue, learning, manners or something that generally goes above and beyond. The Head of Prep presents these awards herself, allowing the pupils to get some individual time with the Head of Prep for their achievements.

Following staff inset training from motivational speaker Steve Head, we were all on the lookout for Glimpses of Brilliance (GOBs). These awards are to shine a light on something a pupil, (or indeed a colleague), class or year group has achieved that week that deserves a special mention and affords an alternative method of praise to a Head of Prep's Award.

The Weekly Blog is the Head of Prep's platform to address parents and our wider school community. The Blog is designed to highlight the extraordinary elements of the week in school: pupil achievements, that special lesson, as well as the various Co-Curricular spotlights, along with the musings of the Head of Prep. The Blog is also used to publicise Glimpses of Brilliance (GOBs), Head of Prep's Awards and House Point Awards.



