



ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL

CANTERBURY

FOUNDATION



YEARS 7 & 8

STEDMUNDS.ORG.UK





THE VISION

At St Edmund's, we recognise that Years 7 and 8 are a pivotal stage — where childhood curiosity meets growing independence.

From September 2026, Foundation will open within our Senior School, offering a distinctive approach to education at this important point in a child's development.

Year 7 and 8 pupils will have their own base in our state-of-the-art Academic Hub, dedicated social spaces and a pastoral team of Key Stage Three specialists, alongside tailored PSHEE, Citizenship and Careers programmes.

Every pupil is known as an individual and encouraged to develop their strengths, interests and character. As full members of the Senior School, Foundation pupils join their Senior School House from the outset, taking part in competitions, events and leadership and team-building expeditions that foster belonging, mutual respect and school spirit.

Foundation provides a secure, inclusive and rewarding start to secondary school life.

PASTORAL FOUNDATIONS

Every pupil within Foundation is known, valued, and supported.

A dedicated Head of Programme and team of experienced tutors provide daily pastoral care, ensuring that each child feels seen and secure.

Small tutor groups and regular wellbeing check-ins create an atmosphere of trust in which pupils can take risks, make mistakes, and learn from them.

Pastoral education lies at the heart of the Foundation experience.

Carefully structured PSHEE and wellbeing lessons explore emotional literacy, friendship, digital life, and moral decision-making, equipping pupils to navigate adolescence with empathy and self-awareness.

A new Citizenship Programme seeks to develop community awareness and a strong sense of social responsibility.







ACADEMIC FOUNDATIONS

Academically, Foundation bridges the nurturing environment of the Junior School with the excitement and rigour of Senior School life.

As members of our Senior School and Senior school houses, Foundation pupils are taught by subject specialists who combine expertise with approachability, ensuring that lessons are both intellectually stimulating and personally supportive. The curriculum develops higher-order thinking, research skills, and independent study habits, while maintaining breadth and creativity.

Regular 'Learning to Learn' and Oracy sessions develop communication, curiosity, and critical thought — skills that will serve pupils long beyond the classroom. Pupils also receive tailored Careers guidance.



LEARNING TO LEAD

Life in the Foundation Programme extends far beyond academic lessons. Co-curricular opportunities at St Edmund's are diverse and inclusive: sport, drama, debating, music, coding, outdoor education and community service all help pupils to discover their strengths and passions.

Leadership is encouraged from the outset — Year 7 pupils take on community and eco-initiatives, while Year 8 pupils mentor younger children, lead sports teams and organise charitable events. Through these experiences they learn that leadership is built on service, integrity, and teamwork.



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“At St Edmund’s, we believe that education is about more than academic success. By encouraging pupils to explore their passions and take on responsibility from an early age, we help them grow into confident, compassionate leaders.”

— Ed O’Connor, Head

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A CURRICULUM DESIGNED TO INSPIRE

Lessons in Years 7 and 8 at St Edmund's are carefully designed to engage, challenge and inspire. Alongside a strong academic core of English, Mathematics and Science, pupils are introduced to a broad and enriching curriculum that includes modern languages, computing, coding and digital skills as part of the core curriculum, design and technology, music, art and drama.

This thoughtfully structured programme encourages pupils to explore new interests, build confidence and develop the skills needed to discover their individual strengths. Above all, our aim is to nurture curiosity and a genuine love of learning that will support pupils throughout their time at St Edmund's and beyond.



Main Reception

HUMANITIES

- Exploring history, culture and identity
- Understanding belief systems and ethics
- Analysing historical change and cause & effect
- Developing empathy and critical thinking

STEM

- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
- Develops analytical thinking and problem-solving
- Encourages innovation and creativity
- Builds strong foundations for future careers

SPORTS & OUTDOOR EDUCATION

- Promoting physical health and wellbeing
- Building teamwork and resilience
- Developing confidence and leadership
- Encouraging active, outdoor experiences

FOUNDATION CURRICULUM

CITIZENSHIP & CAREERS

- Preparing pupils for life beyond school
- Building leadership and communication skills
- Exploring career pathways and aspirations
- Promoting responsibility and ethical awareness

SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Understanding how societies function
- Exploring global issues and sustainability
- Studying behaviour, economics and government
- Developing critical thinking about the modern world



BUILDING CONFIDENCE THROUGH PERFORMING ARTS

Performing Arts is central to Foundation years at St Edmund's, giving Year 7 and 8 pupils the chance to explore creativity, build confidence and develop performance skills. Through Drama, Music and Dance, pupils collaborate, communicate and think creatively within a structured curriculum.

Lessons are practical and performance-focused, with regular opportunities to present work, reflect and grow in confidence, supporting learning across the wider curriculum.

A broad co-curricular programme of clubs, rehearsals and productions allows every pupil to take part, whether discovering new interests or developing existing talents.

Specialist teaching and facilities provide an inclusive and inspiring introduction to performance.



SETTING THE STANDARD IN SCHOOL SPORT

Through a broad sports programme, pupils build confidence, teamwork and resilience, while developing habits that support their physical and emotional wellbeing.

A full fixtures schedule gives regular opportunities to represent the school and compete, applying skills in challenging settings. These experiences strengthen resilience, sportsmanship and a positive approach to both success and setback.

Whether trying a new sport or competing at a higher level, pupils are supported to improve and achieve their best across football, hockey, netball, tennis, cricket, basketball, badminton, swimming and fitness.

LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Life beyond the classroom at St Edmund's is enriched by a wide-ranging co-curricular programme that encourages pupils to explore new interests and develop their talents. With over 50 activities on offer, including more than 20 sports, every child is supported in finding something that inspires and challenges them.

From sport and outdoor education to music, drama, debating, digital innovation clubs, flying school and archery, these opportunities help pupils build confidence, teamwork, and resilience, while discovering what they enjoy most.

Co-curricular life is a valued part of the St Edmund's experience, supporting the development of well-rounded, enthusiastic learners.







YEAR 7 & 8 COMMON ROOMS

The Year 7 & 8 spaces will be brand-new, purpose-designed areas created especially for our younger students as they move up from Year 6 and continue their school journey. These welcoming environments will give pupils a strong sense of ownership and belonging, offering a space that is truly their own.

Whether they are studying, socialising with friends or taking time to relax during the school day, the spaces will support both wellbeing and independent learning. Designed to feel comfortable, safe and inspiring, these areas will help Year 7 and 8 pupils grow in confidence, build friendships and develop positive habits as they progress through the school.





GUIDED AND SUPPORTED BY OUTSTANDING TEACHERS

At St Edmund's, pupils in Years 7 and 8 are taught by highly experienced specialist teachers who bring deep subject knowledge and genuine enthusiasm into every lesson. Their expertise, warmth and high expectations help pupils build strong foundations and develop a lasting love of learning.

Great teachers change lives, and at St Edmund's they are at the heart of everything we do. Speak to our pupils and they will tell you that their teachers are what make the school special — inspiring confidence, nurturing curiosity and supporting every child to be the very best they can be.



THE NEXT STEPS

By the time they complete Foundation, pupils stand ready to flourish in Year 9 and at GCSE level. The pupils understand how they learn best, how to manage their responsibilities, and how to care for those around them. They have developed the courage to contribute, the resilience to persevere, and the curiosity to keep exploring new horizons.

If you are interested in learning more about Foundation for Years 7 & 8 at St Edmund's, please contact head@stedmunds.org.uk or call us to arrange an appointment and tour on 01227 475600.

ST EDMUND'S IN NUMBERS

RESULTS 2025

GCSE Pass Rate 9 - 4

90

A-Level Pass Rate %

98

0 20 40 60 80 100

SCHOLARSHIPS

ACADEMIC	11+ 13+ 16+
ART	11+ 13+ 16+
SPORT	11+ 13+ 16+
DRAMA	11+ 13+ 16+
MUSIC	11+ 13+ 16+
CHORAL EXHIBITION	13+ 16+
ORGAN SCHOLARSHIP	16+

NATIONALITIES



DAY VS BOARDING

Boarding
19.1%



Day Pupils
80.9%

FAMOUS ALUMNI

Orlando Bloom, Actor
Dan Caplan, Musician
Lawrence Durrell, Novelist
Sanjeev Gupta, Industrialist
Robin Jackman, Cricketer
Freddy Kempf, Pianist
Percy Mackenzie, Cricketer
Stuart Townsend, Athlete
Bernard Howlett, Soldier
Adar Poonawalla, CEO SII
Adrian Snell, Musician

YEARS OF HISTORY



AWARDS

EXCELLENT IN ALL AREAS



ISI Independent Schools Inspectorate



GOLD BOARDING SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH AWARD
2026-2029



UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS 2025





ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY

Junior | Senior | Sixth Form

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