



Papplewick
Ascot



'The school achieves its aim to ensure the happiness of each pupil.'

Independent Schools Inspectorate



Papplewick, a boarding and day preparatory school for 190 boys between the ages of 6 and 13, was founded in 1947 and became a charitable trust in 1964. Situated in 15 acres of land opposite Ascot Racecourse, the school is both rural and within 25 miles of Central London, while still enjoying convenient links to Heathrow Airport.

"At the heart of life at Papplewick is a belief that boys will only fulfil their true potential if they grow up in an atmosphere in which they feel secure and confident. Such confidence invariably leads to success for our boys, and yet the achievement of excellence is worth little unless the happiness of the boys comes first. Therefore, our final and most valued award on Speech Day goes to the boy who has shown the greatest enthusiasm for life, contribution to the community and, above all, kindness to others. My wife Sallie and I, and our four young children, Harry, Mollie, Lily, and Archie, very much hope you will be able to visit us soon so that we can show you the happiness and confidence of our boys at first hand."

Tom Bunbury, Headmaster



Where happiness comes first





'Teaching is high calibre and despite non-selective entry, boys are prepared for all the great public schools.'
Tatler Schools Guide



Boys thrive on high expectations and challenge, whether in the classroom, on the sports field, or in the arts. By setting the bar high, Papplewick boys gain entry to the top UK senior schools including Eton, Harrow, Winchester, Wellington, Charterhouse, and Stowe.

We have an outstanding academic record at both Common Entrance and Scholarship level, and the aim of the staff is to challenge and excite the boys in the classroom through inspirational teaching. One size rarely fits all in education, and it is through our willingness to be flexible that we are genuinely able to look after the needs of each and every boy on an individual basis. The very best in modern technology enhances this process, as does the average class size of 12 boys.



High expectations

Opportunity to shine



'Papplewick is an academic powerhouse that wears its success lightly; a school so strong in sport, in art, in music and in drama; but above all, a happy and relaxed school where the boys seem to be inspired to succeed rather than pushed to do so.'

Former Parent



The academic, the sportsman, the musician, and the artist are all valued equally at Papplewick. Although excellence abounds in each of these areas of school life, our inclusive approach, and the size of the school, ensure that all boys have the opportunity to shine and thereby build their confidence.

The three main team sports are rugby, football and cricket in which no fewer than 15 teams regularly represent the school on match days. Inter-school matches are also played in tennis, hockey, swimming, athletics, squash, basketball, golf, shooting and polo, and our large sports hall, covered pool, and floodlit astroturf add further variety to the sports programme.





'Strong teaching, good ethos,
smashing school with trails of glory
on the scholarship field.'
Good Schools Guide



Music, art, and drama flourish at Papplewick. Led by the music scholars, three quarters of the boys learn instruments, and the school's long choral tradition is upheld by our four-part first choir in daily chapel. Many boys play in bands and all enjoy our 'state-of-the-art' music technology suite as part of their music curriculum. In Art and Design Technology, every boy's creative potential is realised simply through outstanding teaching, and our art scholars' programme ensures portfolios are developed that are at least GCSE level in standard. In drama, with productions for all ages every year, all boys can enjoy one of life's great 'team' experiences with stars of the show and backstage crew valued alike.





Boys can still be boys



'The two boys who guided us around the school were by far the most articulate and confident children of their age that I have ever met.'

Prospective parent



We know that boys of prep school age have a natural 'spark' and individuality about them, and we believe these qualities should be celebrated throughout their time with us. We also know that boys thrive best when trusted with responsibility, and that this in turn breeds confidence both in themselves, and in their rapport with adults.

In an ever-changing world, Papplewick is therefore a school where boys can still very much be boys. Whether it is through our dynamic and energetic approach to teaching, through our snake and reptile club, our rocket club, our outdoor education programme, or simply through boys buzzing around on scooters or ripsticks during break times, we really are specialists in knowing what fires prep school boys' imaginations.





'Many times through the inspection, staff and boys referred to the school and boarding as a family.'

Ofsted Inspection



A special bond exists at Papplewick between boys and staff that carefully balances friendship and respect, and it is a distinctive feature of the school that as many as two thirds of staff, including the Headmaster and his family, live on site. All staff are tutors to a mere handful of boys to ensure the highest standards of pastoral care, and the three sets of House Parents provide an additional layer of home from home comfort for our boarders.

However, it is our family friendly atmosphere, both modern and open and yet still traditional, that lies at the core of the school. From the much valued relationship between parents and staff, to our weekly family chapel service and lunch on Saturday, to Grandparents Day, our Summer Hog Roast, and Fathers and Sons camp-outs, boys grow up in the security of an extended family that makes Papplewick much more than just a school.



More than just a school





Memories for life



'In my final year, I was lucky enough to go on tour to South Africa during which I made friendships and shared experiences that will last forever.'
Head Boy's Speech



Our commitment to providing the boys with the widest possible variety of extra-curricular activities, outings and overseas tours is central to our belief that confidence inside the classroom is so often bred through achievement experienced outside of it. In short, we believe that 'the more a boy does, the more he can do'.

We have a long tradition of taking sports and adventure tours to countries as far flung as South Africa, Argentina, Zimbabwe, Belize, Uruguay, New Zealand and Hawaii. These tours, together with our remarkable extra-curricular programme, and the 'fun and friendship' of boarding, all help to create memories for the boys that they genuinely treasure for life.





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