



Chesham  
Preparatory  
School

Independent education for  
boys and girls aged 3 to 11



Making growing up  
amazing....

BECAUSE WE WERE ALL LITTLE ONCE

A family-oriented school



# Welcome to Chesham Prep

MR JONATHAN BEALE - Headmaster

## Our pledge

“We believe that we have a crucial role to play in looking after young children’s emotional health, building their resilience and giving them the skills to cope with all that life has to throw at them. We teach children to think, not just pass exams.”

“If a teacher can’t make me smile we don’t employ them.”

Jonathan Beale, Headmaster

“Pupils show self-assurance from the earliest years in the school and are confident to ask questions to further their understanding.”

ISI Report 2021

## A family-oriented school

IN THE HEART OF THE BUCKS COUNTRYSIDE

**Chesham Prep** is a unique environment and has a well-deserved reputation, for being a friendly, family-orientated school that provides exceptional learning and a kaleidoscope of experiences. Set in the Bucks countryside, and dating back to 1938, Chesham Prep combines tradition with progressive learning techniques, structured classes with the freedom to explore the great outdoors, as well as a wealth of sporting and creative arts experiences. Central to our philosophy is fostering a community and family and we do so by encouraging interaction across the school years.



**Our focus** is ensuring a happy and stimulating learning environment where children develop a love of learning, inspired to discover what is special about them and aspire to realise their best. The results that our pupils achieve are testament to this unique learning environment; they consistently record highly impressive results in exams for entry into senior schools; both Bucks Grammar Schools and excellent senior independent schools.

We hope you will come and experience the uniqueness of Chesham Prep, either at an Open Morning or Stay and Play event, or during a personal visit. I look forward to being able to welcome you and to sharing with you how Chesham Prep makes growing up amazing

Jonathan Beale, Headmaster

“My favourite thing about Chesham Prep is how fun the teachers make the lessons.” **A pupil**





“Parents commented on pupils becoming well-rounded, independent individuals who show empathy and consideration for others. These characteristics were confirmed by inspectors’ own observations.” **ISI Report 2021**

## Our ethos

Our aim is to nurture pupils by valuing their individuality, inspiring curiosity and promoting a love of learning, alongside ambition and self-belief, to enable them to pursue their goals and aspirations. We seek to foster understanding, respect and sensitivity towards others, encouraging pupils to be good citizens, who are kind, generous, courteous and considerate.

“A warm family feel, and the hands-on curriculum and top-notch facilities ensure pupils have fun while they learn, and learn they most certainly do.”

**The Good Schools Guide 2023**

# An amazingly Happy environment

## Our motto

EACH FOR ALL AND ALL FOR EACH

At Chesham Prep every child is nurtured and looked after with the utmost care and attention to their welfare and safety. We communicate any pastoral concerns immediately and ensure that our anti-bullying measures are robust. All our teachers work hard to really get to know each child in their care.



“I love how kind the teachers are.” **A pupil**

**As well as** a School Nurse and two school counsellors, we provide a confidential counselling service for children who wish to discuss any matter that might be troubling them. We also have worry monsters in areas of the school where children can write any

worries they have. We hold twice-weekly staff briefings where concerns about children’s welfare are highlighted to ensure that all staff can support those children who require extra TLC. We have introduced mindfulness, yoga and singing for wellbeing clubs to the school.

“The school community is a very caring one. Staff go out of their way to be helpful and the happiness and welfare of the children is at the heart of everything they do.” **A parent**



# Why choose Chesham Prep?



“Since starting at Chesham Prep our son has gone from plodding along at school, without much enthusiasm or zest, to a sparky, engaging, determined and confident boy with lots of varied interests and passions.” A parent

## Key facts

REAL WORLD PERSPECTIVE – We equip children to discover and understand what makes them unique. We prepare young minds for the real world through innovative teaching techniques, and by developing mutual respect and healthy competition

A HAPPY, STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT – we prioritise children's and enjoyment which enables them to thrive academically

ACADEMIC RIGOUR – Small classes, personalised learning plans, specialist teachers and results orientation to achieve outstanding results at 11+. Each child reaches their potential by working towards their individual targets

SENIOR SCHOOL PATHWAY - We monitor children's progress so that we can help advise on which senior schools will suit your child best

KALEIDOSCOPE OF EXPERIENCES – Children enjoy a vast range of activities thanks to fields for sport and playtimes, an 800m2 sports hall, a 4-lane 25m swimming pool, Forest School, Science lab, Music room, Art and DT room and IT suite

SENSE OF BELONGING – Excellent relationships between parents, staff and children, alongside older children acting as valuable role models for younger ones, lie at the heart of the school

UNIQUE LOCATION – Set in the beautiful Bucks Countryside next to a working farm, with easy access into London by train or car, allows children to feel rooted to the world around them



# Amazingly Curious

## Individual pupil targets

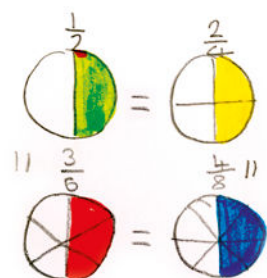
### CREATING A PASSION FOR LEARNING

Small class numbers of 20 ensure that teachers quickly get to know their pupils. Every child reaches their potential by working towards their own individual targets within a personalised learning plan.



**Pupils** have an excellent attitude to learning, reflecting the high expectations of their teachers.

In Early Years, children make excellent progress due to well-planned activities. This includes a well-structured and expertly delivered Phonics programme, using



high-quality resources for Numeracy to encourage engagement.

In Junior School, children learn through the Creative Curriculum following a single subject such as the story of *Sir Charlie Stinky Socks* which results in building castles in History, medieval maps in Geography, and testing waterproof capes in Science.

In Senior School, all lessons are taught by specialist teachers and are set for English and Maths. The pupils are fluent, articulate communicators who enjoy engaging in discussion and debate in class and can grasp complex concepts.

“First-rate staff from the top down bring out the absolute best in children here at CPS.”

**The Good Schools Guide 2023**



“Pupils’ knowledge and understanding strongly reflect the impact of the enthusiastic and often dynamic teaching.”

**ISI Report 2021**



# Amazing Adventures

“A popular pirate ship play area is next to the neighbouring working farm so pretty cows watch as children plunder and pillage on the high seas. ” **Good Schools Guide 2023**

“Engaging the 7+ age groups in Forest School requires more than bug hunts and mud, and in the case of CPS they’ve had a go with some more age appropriate clubs – Eco Warriors, who hope to grow food for the school kitchen (there’s also a school orchard – perfect for that Eureka moment...), plus they get stuck into the pond habitat and have sown wild flower seeds. ” **Muddy Stilettos 2021**

## Beyond the classroom

### LEARNING FROM NEW EXPERIENCES

We run over 30 clubs, complementing lessons and allowing pupils to further hone their skills in sport, music and other creative activities.

**The children enjoy** Forest School whatever the weather. They learn how to make fires and toast marshmallows, as well as cooking food such as sausages and pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. The children love hunting for mini-beasts and building bug hotels for them, building assault courses and tyre swings, and making concoctions in the mud kitchen. There is often some art and craft on the go and pressing flowers is a favourite activity.

Lessons in the classroom are enhanced by regular trips to relevant places of interest. From Year 4, children are invited to attend annual residential trips. These offer pupils the opportunity to develop their independence away from home, helping them grow in confidence as well as acquiring skills in a wide range of land-based and water-based activities.



“Throughout the school pupils have excellent levels of social development, enabling them to work naturally, happily and effectively with others.” **ISI Report 2021**



THE EARLY YEARS

# Happy, friendly and welcoming

FOUNDATION STAGE, NURSERY AND RECEPTION



“Parent after parent agreed that the two magic ingredients are the school’s ability to nurture and inspire.” **The Good Schools Guide 2021**

## Our Early Years department

is a happy, friendly and welcoming place. We pride ourselves on developing very close relationships with both the children and their families.

We value and reward not only academic achievement but also kindness, good behaviour and thoughtfulness. With teaching assistants in all the classes, children enjoy an excellent teacher-to-

pupil ratio of never more than 1 to 10. The children receive specialist teaching in Music, Computing, PE, Spanish and French.

Chesham Prep is very much a family school. As the youngest members of that family we believe it is our role to build the solid foundations that will enable every child to thrive, succeed and make the most of every opportunity offered.

“Exceptional education and consummate care at this gem of a coeducational prep school.” **ISI Report 2021**



MRS HILARY RUDOL - Head of Pre-Prep

## We are supportive

“In EYFS it is vitally important that a child fosters a love of learning, an inquisitive mind and a sense of self-worth; we believe that a happy child will learn.”





MRS ALEX THOMAS - Head of the Juniors

## We are progressive

“Our teachers work hard to really get to know each child in their care; excellent relationships with parents, staff and children lie at the heart of the school's success.”

“Pupils are self-assured from an early age and show mature levels of self-esteem and resilience as they progress through the school.” ISI Report 2021

### THE JUNIORS

## Building greater confidence and self-esteem

FOUNDATION YEARS 1 TO 4, KEY STAGES 1 AND 2



**The Junior School years** are exceptionally important as children grow tremendously in independence, which in turn leads to greater confidence and self-esteem. They start to take more responsibility for their own learning.

In the Junior School we have a balanced curriculum where the children benefit from teaching by specialist teachers for

Spanish, French, ICT, PE and Music. At the same time, the pastoral provision is exceptionally high, as they are very much under the wing of a form teacher who liaises with the specialist teachers to ensure excellent communication and provision. From Year 1 to Year 3 the classroom teacher is supported by a teaching assistant, continuing the teacher-to-pupil ratio of 1 to 10.

“Our nervous son has been moulded into a happy, polite, conscientious and confident young man. What more could we ask for?” A parent

# The Juniors

Years  
1 to 4

KEY STAGES 1 AND 2





MR MARTIN COOK- Head of the Seniors

## We are growing up

“Once the children enter the Senior School their independence, self-reliance and organisational skills continue to flourish. We equip them with the skills and experiences to discover and develop their talents, to open up their range of opportunities for the future.”

“Thank you for everything you do to inspire confidence in our kids.” A parent

### THE SENIORS

## Forward-thinking, adaptable and independent

YEARS 5 TO 6, UPPER KEY STAGE 2

“Pupils show independence of thought when encouraged and enjoy debates, discussions and the opportunity to give an opinion, particularly at the top end of the school.” ISI Report 2021



**Happy children thrive** at Chesham Prep. The staff encourage every pupil not only to meet their potential but to exceed it. Life in the Senior School provides exciting opportunities for pupils to develop positive patterns of learning at an influential time in their development.

Our broad curriculum and wide range of extra-curricular activities motivates and develops a love of learning, encouraging children to be curious and try new experiences. They learn how to question, to think for themselves and to work collaboratively.

“This rural co-ed prep school pulls off the near impossible – amazing results for both 11+ and next schools while retaining a village school vibe.” Muddy Stilettos 2023

# The Seniors

Years 5 and 6

UPPER KEY STAGE 2



# Amazing Sporting opportunities

## THE MAIN SPORTS AT CHESHAM PREP

RUGBY  
HOCKEY  
FOOTBALL  
NETBALL  
CRICKET  
ATHLETICS  
SWIMMING  
CROSS COUNTRY  
GYMNASTICS  
BASKETBALL

### IN ADDITION

PARKOUR  
BADMINTON  
SKI CLUB  
PICKLEBALL  
BEAT THE GAME  
SAQ/FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS



## An inclusive approach

### NURTURING TALENT AND BUILDING CONFIDENCE

**All children** in Year 3 and above have two afternoons of sport a week plus a weekly PE lesson, whilst Nursery to Year 2 have two sessions of PE a week.

We strive to develop character and determination in our young sports players. We instill in them a love of sport and teach the skills they need to provide an excellent foundation for the next stage of their development at senior school. Our philosophy of encouraging children to compete in fixtures helps provide them with the tools they need to perform under pressure.

Chesham Prep enjoys a great deal of success at sport and regularly hosts teams at regional, county and national level.

Mistakes are part of the learning process. Developing pupils resilience and creativity are key aims of the sports department.



“I have tremendous admiration for the PE staff who have such commitment, energy and enthusiasm to inspire and engage the children.” **A parent**

“My kids are not particularly athletic, but they feel they are.” **A parent.**”

**The Good Schools Guide 2021**

“I love sports and the teachers make it easy to learn.” **A pupil**

## FACILITIES

7 ACRES OF PLAYING FIELDS ON SITE

800M<sup>2</sup> SPORTS HALL

4-LANE 25 METRE SWIMMING POOL

ASTRO PITCH

ASTRO WICKET, GRASS WICKET AND BOWLING MACHINE

Professionally qualified coaches in rugby, hockey, netball, cricket, football, athletics, gymnastics and swimming. Specialist staff teach all classes from Nursery to Year 8.

## RECENT SUCCESSES SINCE 2021

### Athletics National Finalists since 2022:

- x15 National Athletics Finalists of which 3 achieved bronze medals, 1 achieved a silver medal, and 2 were crowned National Champions
- Prep School Lions Gothia Youth World Cup representatives since 2022: - x23 pupils
- Swimming National finalists - 29 pupils
- Hockey National finalists - 2 teams
- County Cricket representatives - 15 pupils
- 17 Sports Scholarships offered from a wide range of schools
- Cross Country Regional and National representatives - 6 pupils
- Snow Sports 7 pupils invited to train with the National School Alpine Squad

“With seven acres of playing fields, a 25-metre indoor pool, a grass wicket and all-weather pitch, exercise comes easily.”

**Tatler Good Schools Guide 2024**



# Amazing Creativity

## Learning through expression

NURTURING TALENT AND BUILDING CONFIDENCE



Art is presented in a lively and interesting way throughout the school. We place emphasis on learning through fun and discovery, enabling pupils to develop their knowledge and skills.

**We cover drawing,** painting, collage, textiles, 3D, clay, modelling, sculpture, printing, graphic design, artists, history of art, photography, screen and silk printing.

The school has a specialised Art and Design Room with an extensive range of facilities including a kiln.

We teach Design and Technology throughout the school from Nursery

to Year 6. From Year 5 pupils work in the specialist technology room where they learn to use hand and power tools to shape, join and combine a variety of materials in a safe environment.

Pupils are in charge of their own Design and Make projects, encouraging them to value their ideas and choices. They also work in groups, putting forward and adapting ideas, learning how to operate as part of a team to produce an end product.

“Throughout the school there is a tangible positivity from both pupils and staff which fosters pupils’ healthy and happy approach to life. Pupils’ positive attitudes result from the way staff genuinely care about their pupils and actively model enthusiasm and mutual respect. ” **ISI Report 2021**





# Amazing Performances

“My favourite subject is Drama because sometimes it is nice to be someone else for a while.” A pupil

“New and popular LAMDA saw an astonishing 100 per cent of children receiving a distinction at last assessment.” The Good Schools Guide 2023

CHOIRS • ORCHESTRA • WIND ENSEMBLE • STRING ENSEMBLE • DRAMA GROUPS

## A chance to shine

NURTURING TALENT AND BUILDING CONFIDENCE

We believe that the Performing Arts provide children with the tools to build confidence and character, encouraging them to use their imaginations and expand their creative boundaries.



**The dedicated** and purpose-built Music block provides excellent facilities for class music and instrumental tuition within acoustically designed and sound-proofed rooms.

Music is a key part of our school's curriculum. Whether it is in-class music lessons, which start from Nursery, ukelele groups, the string and woodwind ensembles, the orchestra, the choirs or individual lessons, our children are encouraged to involve themselves to the full.

Children love performing on stage. There is always great excitement around the auditions for our school plays and smaller assembly pieces. Every year a variety of performances take place, including Nativities for the Early Years and a spring and summer term production for the Junior and Senior Schools. Pupils have the opportunity to create a platform to express themselves, whether this is through jumping into the shoes of another character, crafting their own stories or speaking clearly in front of an audience.



"Praise and more praise – the consensus is that it hits the sweet spot of inclusivity and allowing children to be children, but also making sure they deliver on academics." **Muddy Stilettos 2023**



## Chesham Preparatory School

Independent education for  
boys and girls aged 3 to 11



"CPS, I'll miss you. I'll never forget anything that you've given me, all these precious memories that I will remember forever, and my friends. I'm really sad to finally leave. Goodbye CPS." **A past pupil**

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REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 310642

"I would like to say thank you to Chesham Prep,  
without you I wouldn't be half the person I am today  
– and thank you for igniting my passion for sport."

**A past pupil**