



Ashford School and Ashford Friars Preparatory School

Our Ethos - Michael Buchanan, Head

Adventurous Learning – The Best in Everyone

Ashford is an Independent day and boarding School. It provides childcare and education for boys and girls aged from 3 months to 18 years through three constituent sections (Pre-Nursery, Preparatory and Senior schools) sharing a common ethos and led by the Head as one School. It is one, of a number of Schools and Academies operated by the United Church Schools Trust (UCST). We are proud to share the Trust's core values and the objective of bringing out the 'best in everyone'.

This document is available to all on the School's website (www.ashfordschool.co.uk). The document applies to all sections of the School: Senior, Prep, Boarding and Bridge House.

Our Mission

We will be one of the leading Independent coeducational schools in the United Kingdom, providing an excellent, balanced education that develops the potential of every pupil and enables students to move on to university courses of their choice.

Our Aims and Ethos

- The School promotes self-reliance, responsibility, compassion and boldness, and also fosters a sense of teamwork, the intellectual freedom to be creative, the confidence and enterprise to initiate and the resilience to cope with adversity. We aim to prepare every pupil and student for future life in an increasingly competitive and complex world
- The School is a diverse community where individuality is valued. We encourage intellectual curiosity and aim to help each boy and girl to develop independence of mind and spirit. Vital to this development is the breadth of co-curricular opportunities available to every member of the School. All pupils have the opportunity to discover their own creativity, abilities and strengths through a range of sporting, artistic, cultural and social activities which run in parallel to their academic development. Underpinning every facet of our life is a carefully designed and established system of pastoral care and guidance. It is these complementary elements which give Ashford its character; all pupils are part of a friendly, stimulating community that prepares them well for whatever life they choose to follow
- We set out to create opportunities to realise, recognise and reward the best in everyone. This is achieved through learning that is carefully tailored and adventurous
- We embrace diversity and aim to foster understanding between people of different backgrounds. We welcome children of all faiths and of none: our values and traditions are broadly Christian in line with the values of UCST, as is our approach to religious teaching

Adventurous Learning

- Learning that is motivating, rewarding, stimulating and leads to success is the most important thing that happens in the School. We encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own learning, recognising that each pupil learns differently and that making mistakes and taking risks are both part of learning
- Pupils and their parents are our central focus. We seek to serve our pupils and to meet their individual and collective needs
- Our pupils achieve good results in public examinations. They are encouraged to aim high, with an emphasis on doing their best and making full use of their talents. Nonetheless, we aim continually to improve the attainment of our pupils at every level
- Encouraging pupils to set high expectations of themselves and to take responsibility in setting out to achieve the best they can are important elements at Ashford
- We try to ensure that no pupil will fall behind or be overlooked and that all will be challenged
- Regular and frequent evaluation of how much and what each pupil has learnt provides staff, pupils and parents with feedback so that the pace and level of learning can be appropriately adjusted
- Success of every sort is rewarded.

Teaching that Motivates

- The teaching is good and the teaching staff is of high calibre. We succeed in attracting high achievers, from those newly recruited to the profession to those with many years' experience
- Teachers lead the learning process with the assistance of good facilities and excellent support staff
- We aim continually to improve our facilities and resources with the purpose of enhancing teaching
- The teaching values and encourages independent learning and learning through collaboration. We are responsive to the variety of learning styles found amongst the pupils
- Teaching reflects the fact that effective learning is enjoyable learning, encourages innovation and excitement and also allows time for reflection

A Rich and Challenging Curriculum

- We encourage flair, imagination and creativity in all our pupils; the curriculum reflects this
- We provide pupils with a curriculum that is balanced and broadly based and that promotes their spiritual, moral, mental, cultural and physical development
- The curriculum is designed to ensure every pupil has the skills to enable him or her to be successful in life and work
- The focus is on depth and quality within each subject or area; enabling every pupil to learn how to learn effectively is emphasised at all stages
- The curriculum prepares pupils to thrive in a technology-rich world and to develop an enterprising attitude

- We seek to open new doors to individuals through the many co-curricular activities on offer; as elsewhere, in these we embrace diversity and expect pupils to participate

The School as a Community

- Every pupil, student, parent and employee is welcomed and valued as a member of our School community
- We work in partnership with pupils and parents to ensure high expectations are set and achieved in all areas of the School
- A well-developed system of pastoral care is very important to the School and underpins all of its activities. Parents are an integral part of this system
- We seek to encourage social contact between families and nurture a sense of belonging
- Teachers get to know their pupils well, keep in regular contact with parents, monitor each individual's academic progress and general well-being, and provide support and advice as well as delivering personal, social and health education
- Boarders make their home at the school and we aim to make them and the staff who look after them into a close-knit family
- Senior pupils help to oversee the running of the School and the care of others

A Professional Approach

- A strong, professional culture pervades the School, characterised by high expectations and conduct, service, loyalty, enterprise, innovation, adventure and fun
- All staff are expected to be positive role models, inspire confidence and earn the respect of pupils and parents
- Teachers lead learning but contributions from all employees are valued; everyone in the School shares the collective responsibility for the success and promotion of the School
- Professional development is an entitlement and a requirement for all
- We are committed to providing staff with a positive working environment that balances support and challenge. We believe strong leadership at all levels and in all areas is essential for success: staff are accountable for their actions and for outcomes
- The Head leads and inspires others, motivates and manages performance and engenders a strong team spirit

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