

**WINCHESTER**  
**HOUSE**





# Welcome to Winchester House

I fell in love with Winchester House the moment I first arrived at the School on a cold, blustery day in Brackley. I was standing under the facade, the rain was pouring down around me, and all I could hear was a group of small children singing a rather brilliant interpretation of 'What shall we do with the drunken sailor'. Having followed the singing, I found this dedicated group of Winchester House pupils who were completely committed to their performance, singing the song to their own actions and dance. They were finding such joy and pride in performing to an audience of one (their teacher!), and that was the moment I realised how wonderful the school community at Winchester House truly is.

We passionately believe that there is no such thing as a typical Winchester House pupil, and that it is our job to nurture and inspire every child to help them be the best version of themselves.

It's wonderful to see how pupils at Winchester House develop as individuals with their own passions, strong opinions and interests in learning, growing throughout their time at the School and developing as creative, robust individual learners.

At Winchester House, a creative curriculum flows throughout the whole school into all areas of learning. We have a proud reputation for strong academics, feeding to leading Senior Schools across the country, however our learning goes beyond, with pupils not just learning Science but learning how to be young Physicists, Biologists and Chemists, not just passing Common Entrance French but to revel in the joy of learning another language, to not just pass Grade 4 piano but to find a life-long love of playing.

We're a place where swimming against the tide is celebrated by friends and staff and we proudly live by our motto *Non Nobis Solum* 'Not for ourselves alone'. A place of collaboration and challenge, where pupils are on the edge of their learning all the time, whether it be in the classroom, on the sports field or during an enriching evening activity. Above all, it's a place where every child will be known personally and be given every opportunity to thrive and have fun in all areas of school life, via an exciting and dynamic co-curricular programme and a cutting-edge, creative curriculum.

With warmest wishes,

**Antonia Lee**  
Head at Winchester House School





**“Pupils’ academic and other achievements are excellent in all areas of school life.”**

Independent Inspectorate Report, January 2022

Scan to read full report.





# Academic

**Winchester House develops life-long learners, who thrive on challenge, adventure and a dynamic range of educational opportunities and experiences.**

We inspire children to become fully immersed in their studies, with high aspirations on what they can achieve as an individual. Creative teaching, delivered by passionate teachers, ensures that the learning experience is active and engaging for all ages and abilities.

Following Pre-Prep (see later in prospectus), children move to The Seligman Building for Years 3 and 4. This modern, comfortable and inspiring learning space in the heart of the main school site, sits across two floors, with the children having a class teacher with specialist teaching across some subjects.

From Year 5, all classes are taught by subject specialist teachers (including three separate sciences), with small class sizes giving focused, personalised teaching throughout the school. Our extensive facilities feature modern classrooms throughout, as well as an IT suite, three science labs, art room, Design, Engineering and Technology class, language rooms and library.

We have a long proud history of supporting many children in achieving scholarships to leading Senior Schools across the country, with recent success to Stowe, Rugby, Cheltenham Ladies' College, Malvern, Radley and Uppingham.







“...a happy,  
balanced  
**environment**  
characterised  
by **innovations.**”

Tatler Schools Review, 2022



# Common Entrance

At Winchester House, pupils follow the Common Entrance (CE) syllabus from Year 3 onwards, working towards examinations in Year 8 in preparation for their Senior School. This well-established, rigorous and dynamic framework, teaches and inspires discovery, curiosity and critical thinking skills across the curriculum, whilst helping pupils develop confidence, independent working skills, resilience and a love of learning.







“ I love Winchester House because it has such a friendly and exciting environment. Everyone is so happy and ready to learn. The teachers are so inspiring and supportive, always there if you need them. I also enjoy and love all the extra curriculum activities, especially sport and drama.”

**Nina**



# School Life

**We're a school community where every child is known personally and where we nurture every child's self-esteem to ensure that they develop resilience, and have the tools to tackle and overcome obstacles. Above all, we're determined that every child should have a safe and happy experience during their time at Winchester House.**

Small tutor groups help build close relationships between children and tutors and all children belong to one of our four Houses, giving the opportunity for cross-year friendships to blossom.

Children can visit our Wellbeing Mentor to talk about feelings and share any worries they may have. Based in 'The Cupboard', a cosy room located between the School Office and Chapel, our Wellbeing Mentor's door is always open should someone need a chat.

The 'Circle of Support' outlines different people, opportunities and resources for children who need support and is displayed throughout the school.

'Buddy Benches' can be found in the playground, for when one of our younger children wishes to be included in games but might be feeling alone or nervous about joining in. Staff and children always keep an eye out for anyone using these benches so no-one is ever without a buddy!

Winchester House has wraparound care from 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday. As well as a busy activity programme in the evenings, children from Year 3 can join Prep to work on their homework whilst still at School.







“ I’ve been at Winchester House since Year 3 and I love it here. I remember playing football in Seligman with all my friends, it got a little bit competitive, which is always quite fun. I love all the sports, running round and going to other schools doing races and seeing how well I do and seeing how well other people do. ”

**Harry**



# Pre-Prep

## Nursery to Year 2

**The Pre-Prep at Winchester House is a small, close-knit family community. It's a collaborative, exciting and dynamic learning space where all the children know the teachers and all the teachers know the children.**

Innovative learning practices, both inside and outside of the classroom, have created an environment of hands-on exploration and enrichment which sees children thrive.

Within the structure of our Creative Curriculum, a topic formulates the learning across the subjects for a term (apart from Maths and Phonics). From English to ICT, Music to Science, topics are taught creatively, weaving into the theme of that term's topic. Children in Pre-Prep enjoy subject specialist teaching in Music, ICT, French and PE.

Children also undertake a huge amount of enrichment activities to support their learning - experiences that complement and support the learning within the classroom, such as visits from a jungle roadshow and planetarium, trips to castles, museums and farms.





# Sport

**Sport is a cherished and traditional strength here at Winchester House, and with a comprehensive and exceptionally competitive fixture list in all major and minor games, the record of success is impressive.**

Our all-inclusive approach gives children an opportunity to represent the School and experience all the additional benefits that come with it.

The core sports are rugby, hockey, cricket, netball, athletics and tennis. The children are coached by specialist staff from Nursery and leave Winchester House with a strong grounding in technique and sportsmanship.

Our superb onsite sporting facilities include rugby, football and hockey pitches, an outdoor swimming pool, an expansive Astroturf, cricket nets, squash courts and sports hall.

Away from core sports, children take part in a variety of exciting and challenging activities including polo, karate and skiing.











**“Positive values but with all the extra trimmings with the ability to feed into all the **top national** Senior Schools.”**

Muddy Stiletto









“Winchester House is an exciting place. We love playing with the Lego and our favourite lesson is Maths.”

**Max & Theo**



# Music

## **Music is an integral part of our school life.**

All children from Nursery age to Year 8 receive teaching in Music from specialist teachers as part of their curriculum, with over 150 additional individual lessons being taken every week in over a dozen different instruments, from piano to guitar to drums to bagpipes.

The vibrant curriculum covers a wide range of music disciplines, providing opportunity for children to learn across a wonderful spectrum of genres, from Beethoven to The Beatles to modern film scores.

Groups include woodwind, brass and guitar, with pupils being encouraged to form their own groups (including rock bands), school performances take place throughout the academic year with informal class concerts and large-scale annual summer and Christmas concerts, and musical trips in the UK and Europe are a regular part of the calendar.







# Drama

**We're passionate about the opportunities that Drama presents to our pupils. School shows and productions throughout the year provide an opportunity for pupils to hone their skills and showcase their abilities.**

Drama at Winchester House is taught organically, with an inclusive approach which encourages all pupils to thrive in. It's an approach where innovative practice, such as physical theatre and shadow puppetry, sits alongside traditional musical theatre, performances of Shakespeare and film-making.

LAMDA lessons are a key part of the school day, with around 100 pupils taking part every week.



# Outdoor

**Activities, clubs and external trips give pupils through the School opportunity and challenge in the outdoors.**

Forest School is an important part of life up to Year 2 and in school activities, clubs and external trips give older pupils opportunity and challenge in the outdoors.

Our Secret Garden is a walled garden hidden within the school grounds that provides an exciting space for exploration and investigation in the outdoors. Areas in the garden are left to run wild but we also have a designated pergola for any outdoor lessons and a fire pit (which is particularly popular with boarders for marshmallow toasting in the evenings!).





# Co-Curricular

**Our enriching Co-Curricular programme is an integral and important part of life at Winchester House.**

An exciting range of activities and clubs seek to engage and challenge pupils, helping them develop new skills and inspire life-long passions and interests.

The broad choice covers academic areas such as Art Portfolio Club, Book Club and Study Buddies, sports such as Skiing, Tennis, Football and Badminton Clubs, and hobbies such as Chess Club, Card Sharks and Jewellery Making. For performing arts, children can choose activities such as Ballet, Musical Theatre and Dance.

A recent addition to the programme is Lacrosse Club on Saturday mornings, which is led by the Head of Lacrosse at Stowe.

Mastery Mornings for Years 7 and 8 are held twice per term on Saturday mornings, and give pupils the opportunity to broaden their learning, gain exposure to new ideas and inspire discovery in areas such as Computer Aided Design, 'Planning for my Future' and First Aid & Wellbeing.





# Community

**Our School motto *non nobis solum* (not for ourselves alone), is at the heart of our our philosophy and we're incredibly proud of the positive impact that Winchester House pupils continue to make in our local community. .**

Our busy, engaging and inspiring programme gives children across the whole school an opportunity to feel part of - and make a difference to - their community.

Activities include the Brackley Community Dementia-Friendly Choir which sees residents of local care homes visit the School for an informal sing-a-long with children, our Remembrance Service which welcomes back alumni to mark the occasion with current pupils, our annual Pumpkin Festival, a Classic Car Show and Flowers for Friends, where Winchester House families donate flowers to be distributed to local care homes.

Our Ignite speaker programme welcomes inspiring speakers to share their insights and experiences with pupils. Recent speakers have including broadcaster Clare Balding, CNN Reporter Clarissa Ward and Olympians Will Perry and James Rudkin.





# Boarding

**Our energetic, creative and nurturing Boarding Team create a real sense of home-away-from-home for our Boarders.**

An exciting activity programme awaits our Boarders every evening - there's always something fun to do or new to try! There's time to just relax too, with comfortable lounges, big screen TVs, games rooms, chill-out spaces and kitchenettes. The Boarders also make the most of the wide-ranging facilities and grounds here at Winchester House, they will often be building camp fires and toasting marshmallows in the Secret Garden, enjoying an evening swim in our outdoor pool and getting some practice in at our indoor cricket nets.

We offer flexible Boarding options throughout the week, with many of our Day Children staying in our Boarding House for a few nights a week.









# Alumni

On leaving Winchester House pupils become Housians; the collective name for our alumni. We keep in touch with Housians throughout their lives via an annual alumni magazine HOUSE, the “Under 30s” Club, the Ignite speaker programme, sporting fixtures, “class of” gatherings and exciting events like the Classic Car Show and Housian Carol Service.

“ Winchester House School definitely shaped me into the person I am today, the school ethos gave me the foundations to believe in myself and keep reaching for the next goal however high or low that might have been. The staff and way of life at Winchester House have influenced many aspects of my career including the type of leader that I am in the army. It was of the adventures at WHS that I fondly re-lived during challenging times crossing Antarctica.”

**Dr Nics Wetherill, Housian**



*Housian Dr Nics Wetherill  
in the Antarctic*



# THE *Stowe* GROUP

**Alongside Stowe and Swanbourne House, Winchester House is a member of The Stowe Group.**

Membership of The Stowe Group gives Winchester House pupils access to a combined site of over 800 acres with unrivalled educational and co-curricular facilities. These include Stowe's Worsley Science Centre, the Roxburgh Theatre, the Chung Music School, state-of-the-art gym, eight lane athletics track, equestrian centre, six lane competition swimming pool, clay pigeon shooting range and golf course.

Winchester House families receive a 10% discount on the Boarding fees or 5% discount on the Day fees at Stowe if their child chooses it as their Senior School.





**WINCHESTER**  
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For children 3 to 13 years

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THE *Stowe*  
GROUP