

The Skinners' School

WELCOME PACK



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ABOUT SKINNERS'

Skidders' School was founded in 1887 and is a thriving boys' grammar school. There are currently 1060 pupils, 290 of whom are in the Sixth Form. A friendly and hard-working community, the school is amongst the highest achieving in the country, both academically and in terms of extra-curricular provision. Pastoral care is also a real strength.

ADMISSIONS

The School is significantly over-subscribed and has an excellent reputation in both Kent and Sussex. It has no specific catchment area and admits 150 boys (five forms) at age 11. Entry is achieved via the Kent 11+ examination.

Nearly all Skidders' students stay after Year 11 to enter the Sixth Form and are joined by a small number of students from other schools. Pupils are required to achieve a total of 50 points over their best 8 GCSE grades in order to enter the Sixth Form.



HISTORY

Skinners' is one of the Skinners' Company's family of schools – the others being Tonbridge School, Judd School, Skinners' Kent Academy, Skinners' Academy, Skinners' Kent Primary School and the Marsh Academy. The Skinners' Company, one of the original twelve London livery companies, provides a rich seam of support, governance and tradition. Since the construction of the original school buildings in 1887, further building has taken place in order to accommodate an increasing school roll. The Leopard building (1994) houses Mathematics, Art, Design Technology and ICT. The Beeby building (2002) created specialist accommodation for Modern Languages, and the Byng Hall (renovated in 2008) provides a wonderful theatre for Music and Drama. A £2.5 million Sports Hall complex was opened in September 2012, dramatically increasing the range of sports available. In the past year we have developed and improved our Sixth Form Centre and a new science laboratory, along with a redeveloped performing arts studio and an astro turf hockey pitch.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Examination results at Skinners' are excellent. At A Level, 80% of grades are at A-B. Students thus access the top universities in the country: last year over 95% went to top 30 universities or top 10 courses rated nationally. At GCSE, in 2018, 70% of grades were at 9-7 grades; over 96% have continued into the Sixth Form.*

Our goal is to help each pupil develop his talents and interests to the full. The curriculum is thus aimed at giving a broad education, leaving specialisation as late as possible. At Key Stage 3 this includes work on metacognition and an integrated STEM curriculum. At GCSE and A Level there is a wide range of options.

Plans are now in place for an ambitious new building to house the English department, the Library and the Sixth Form. Planning permission has been granted with construction starting in 2019. The school achieved recognition as a high performing specialist school (Science) in May 2008, gained a second specialism in Mathematics & Computing in April 2009 and was recognized as a STEM Pathfinder school in 2010.

In February 2014, Skinners' converted to academy status, but remains closely tied to the ideal of being a leading Kent Grammar school.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

We place great emphasis upon the development of character and potential through extra-curricular activities. A wide range of clubs and societies supports both the learning of pupils and their interests. These operate during and after the school day, with pupils immersing themselves in Chess, HEAL, Politics, STEM, Human Rights and World Challenge, to name just a few. Drama, Music and Art play a significant role in the life of the school, with concerts and a wide range of productions a regular part of the school's life.



CCF AND DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Skinner's School has the largest CCF contingent of any state school in the country, including Army and Air Force sections. The attractions of Adventurous Training, Easter and Summer camps, along with rifle practice in the School's range, draw significant numbers to join. Alongside, the Duke of Edinburgh award, recently re-established, is also very popular: pupils can graduate through Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.



PASTORAL SYSTEM

Skidders' has a reputation as a friendly and supportive community. The responsibility for general welfare and progress lies with teams of Form Tutors. The successful candidate will be expected to work as a Form Tutor. Heads of Year work closely with Form Tutors to ensure every pupil is known and supported. Good relationships between students, staff and parents are at the heart of all we do and are a key element in our success.

THE SCHOOL DAY

School begins at 8.45am with form tutor time and assemblies. Each day has five periods, which last for one hour. School ends at 3.35pm but many activities take place at lunchtimes and after school. In addition, many sporting fixtures are played on Saturday mornings. Pupils enthusiastically take part in the extra-curricular life of the school and value it as highly as they do their academic studies.

SPORTS AT SKIDNERS'

We consider involvement in team sports to be a valuable part of the pupils' education. There is a very strong fixture list every Saturday and we also achieve success in national competitions. We place an emphasis upon excellence, but also upon mass participation and team work. We often, for example, field six rugby teams for Year 7 alone. We think it is important that every pupil can say that they have represented the School competitively.

The main sports are rugby, hockey and football during the winter months and cricket, tennis and athletics during the Summer Term. However other sports include basketball, table tennis, badminton, cross-country and shooting. The Sports Hall is also equipped with a state of the art fitness suite, which is also freely available to staff at the school.



STATEMENT OF VALUES

The Skinners' School is place of learning. Students learnt not only qualifications, but a respect for scholarship and learning and as things worthwhile in themselves. We intend that they will also develop an appreciation of human achievement in the arts, humanities, languages, science and literature. Students develop the ability to think critically, to respect evidence, to distinguish between options and prejudices and to make balanced judgments of their own. Through involvement in our varied extra-curricular programme every boy should develop and grow intellectually, physically and spiritually.

Skinners' is a caring school. No young person will learn effectively unless he feels happy and secure. At Skinners' we try to address the particular needs of every pupil through a comprehensive, supportive and flexible pastoral system. We value everyone as unique and special, capable of spiritual, moral, intellectual and physical development. As such we work together to develop self-respect, self-discipline and self-understanding. We aim to make responsible use of our talents and opportunities, strive for wisdom and knowledge and take responsibility for our lives.

Skinners' is a community. We respect others for themselves, not for what they have or what they can do for us. We believe that the capacity to form strong relationships is the foundation of a happy and fulfilled life. As such we strive to show others that they are valued, to earn the trust and loyalty of others and to work together co-operatively. We do not tolerate bullying, violence, theft or abuse.

Skinners' is at the heart of a wider community. We learn to take on our responsibilities as citizens. We respect and celebrate religious and cultural diversity. We promote opportunities for all. We place truth, integrity, honesty and goodwill at the heart of our public and private lives. The ethic of service is more highly valued by us than that of self-interest. We believe that from those whom much is given, much is expected.

These values will underpin our work and relationships at Skinners' School; they are at the foundation of all that we do.

