

# Academic rigour *and* tree climbing

**A**t Fosse Bank we congratulate our eleven year olds on their examination successes as they prepare to take their place, some with scholarships, at excellent senior schools in Kent. It is the number and variety of these schools that attract many parents to this part of the country; this, and the promise of a more rural lifestyle with a fast commute to London. One of the advantages of being a small school is that all staff know the children very well and work with parents to ensure that every individual goes to the senior school which suits their ability, potential and character.

Fosse Bank, just a ten minute walk from Hildenborough railway station, is set in twenty-eight acres of landscaped gardens, woods and playing fields. The younger children have outdoor sessions every week, rain or shine, as part of the curriculum, and this is being extended throughout the school as we become officially a 'Forest School'.

Reading, writing and mathematics are core subjects around which science, humanities, and computing are woven. The addition of the many sports played here and the arts provide a rich and broad curriculum. Add to that the 'soft skills' including perseverance, resilience, independence and curiosity about the world, and you have a well-balanced child who enjoys primary school and is ready for the challenges ahead.

As pupils progress through Fosse Bank they acquire the ability to succeed in senior school tests including 11 plus and Common Entrance.



Learning is already of a quality that will lead to future success, but from Year 4 our pupils begin formal preparation for senior school examinations. Recognizing the type of questions that may be asked, particularly in verbal and non-verbal reasoning tests, and answering questions at speed, are examination techniques that will stand them in good stead for the future. These are all learned in the context of personal challenge and perseverance.

When our two and three-year-olds run into school they are excited about playing with particular toys and with their friends. What they do not realise is how the games and activities for the youngest children enable them to learn the skills that will take them to senior school, university and to the world of work.

## FOSSE BANK

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