

SELF BELIEF
ASPIRATION
KINDNESS





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“We are **excited by the curiosity and thirst for learning** that each child naturally displays.”

Head's Welcome

Holmewood House is a really special place: a place where a child's educational voyage of discovery begins. Young children are naturally curious and full of energy and enthusiasm for life, so by providing them with bountiful opportunities to explore, investigate and experience the world around them, their life-long love of learning begins.

We encourage our pupils to believe in themselves and to aspire to be the very best they can be, regardless of their ability. By having a growth mindset, we help them to discover their strengths and to overcome their challenges. Our children are actively encouraged to ask questions, to be flexible in their thinking, to challenge knowledge and to seek new ways of doing things. Our broad and exciting curriculum is designed to ignite their intellectual curiosity and to celebrate all aspects of learning, including Academics, Sport and the Creative Arts.

Relationships are central to everything we do; they are the building blocks which help to create strong, confident, kind and compassionate human beings. Our fantastic pastoral system allows us to get to know and understand the individual needs of each and every child. We see the social and emotional aspects of learning as inextricably linked to academic success and so we devote substantial time to fostering the children's emotional wellbeing and resilience. We believe that happy children thrive and that their childhood should be protected at school. Climbing trees, building dens and singing at the top of your voice are all strongly encouraged!

Holmewood House is very much a family school, where we care deeply about the children, and we try to see the opportunities on offer to them through their eyes. The relationship between home and school is fundamental in helping us to get to know every child as an individual: their personalities, home environments and wider family. This vital partnership ensures every child is surrounded by the guidance, love, care and support they need.

The wonderful grounds and outstanding facilities support our ethos of 'allowing children to be children'. Wide open spaces mean the children can run free and enjoy the benefits of a healthy, active life. Well-resourced classrooms provide outstanding learning and teaching spaces, and our co-curricular programme is designed to have activities that appeal to all talents and interests.

We believe that any child can succeed and it is a huge privilege to be Head of a school that values, promotes and truly 'lives' a child centred and innovative approach to education. Please do come and visit us, where a warm welcome awaits you.

Mrs Ruth O'Sullivan

“...a sense of belonging and the safety of being genuinely cared for will unquestionably impact positively upon their journey through childhood...”



School Values

Social values form a backdrop to daily life at Holmewood and are fundamental to the core of the spirit of the school. We aim for the children at Holmewood to have a generosity of spirit and to understand the importance of the values of kindness, self-belief and aspiration.

We believe that emotional and social well-being, self-esteem and confidence are inextricably linked with academic progress and we aim to teach children resilience and an appreciation of global opportunities and developments in an ever-changing world.

Kindness - 'the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate,' plays a key role in well-being throughout our school for pupils, teaching and support staff. It promotes happiness and supports the children in feeling safe and encourages good behaviour.

**“It makes life better and makes you feel included”
Sofia – Year 7.**

Holmewood doesn't put limits on children, but supports them in accepting their next challenge. Self-belief builds confidence and helps children to discover their own abilities, whether it is to improve their writing abilities or score that first goal in a match.

“It's good to believe in yourself so that you can achieve your goals” Ava-Lily – Year 5

Aspiration - a Holmewood education doesn't set limits in terms of achievement. Children are encouraged to follow their passions, try out new activities, and to have a curiosity of life and learning.

**“If you aim high and achieve your goals, then you'll be in a good mood and be kind to others and have self-respect.”
Phoebe – Year 5**



Nurture

We are hugely proud of the relationship that exists between staff and pupils. It is one based on warmth, respect, kindness and care. Children's welfare is a number one priority for us. The provision of pastoral care at Holmewood is a core part of what we represent as a school. Central to our success is our Learning Support Department, our fully equipped medical centre and school counsellor, all of which are overseen by the Deputy Head, the Head of Pre-Prep and the Head of our Lower School. The pastoral system is part of the fabric of our school, not just an add-on to lessons. After all, a sense of belonging and the safety of being genuinely cared for will unquestionably impact positively, not only on the academic success of a child but on their journey through childhood.

As children's lives develop, so do the influences, pressures and challenges that they face and we as a community make every effort to equip all of our children with the skills and support necessary to overcome these. From day one of their Holmewood journey, every child is allocated to one of the school's six houses, each of which with its own identity, develops the sense of belonging and espouses the school's values.



**My Heart
My Mind
My World**

Self Belief • Aspiration • Kindness

We employ a qualified School Counsellor who offers counselling to children and parents of Holmewood House School. Our Learning Strategies Department plays a key role in helping to ensure that Holmewood House School is a fully inclusive, vibrant, educational environment. We see the positive impact of our pastoral provision every day, and we know that when you ask our pupils "Do you think that your school values you?" that every child will have plenty of positive things to say in response. If a child feels valued, safe, appropriately challenged and trusts the adults caring for them, we are most likely to see them thrive and enjoy everything that is wonderful about childhood.

My Heart, My Mind, My World was introduced at Holmewood in 2021 and encompasses our belief that every relationship is valued and as such requires time, attention and nurture in order for it to thrive. Our bespoke teaching ensures that children understand the physical, mental and emotional journey they are travelling, so that they can be reflective and curious about both themselves, others and their world.

It is not a cliché to say that every child matters; at Holmewood - they genuinely do. We are privileged to be able to care for your wonderful children and absolutely accept the responsibility we have for teaching, caring, guiding and supporting your child on their most important journey.



“Pupils’ skills, knowledge and understanding are developed to an excellent and sometimes exceptional level.”

ISI inspection report February 2017



A Love of Learning

Learning at Holmewood is exciting, varied and child-centred. Relationships are at the heart of everything we do and one of the first things our visitors notice when they visit us. We put our pupils at the centre of our innovation in teaching and learning. We frequently seek out their feedback, ideas and voice in finessing our provision to ensure we provide an exceptional education for every child in our care. It is this attention to the needs and interests of the individual that allows us to foster a love of learning amongst our pupils, and we are proud of our learning culture where curiosity is cool and pupils proactively seek out opportunities to grow their understanding of the world around them.

Learning at Holmewood House is carefully tailored in order to meet the needs of our pupils and develop the 21st Century competencies our learners require in order to thrive in a rapidly changing world. We have an exceptional Learning Strategies department who work tirelessly to support teachers in meeting the needs of every child. We offer highly specialised support for our pupils and our proactive approach in reviewing pupils' progress and overall happiness means we are skilled at making the interventions that matter, allowing every pupil to build their confidence and understand their strengths.

Our teachers care deeply about all of our pupils and this is reflected in everything we do. Learning across the school offers a diverse array of opportunities for the acquisition of new knowledge and skills and we offer a truly broad and balanced curriculum where every child can discover

their strengths. At Holmewood House, we recognise the fundamental importance of digital technology to the learners of today. Our curriculum design and extracurricular activities on offer harness the power of technology to deepen pupil learning.

The Holmewood House approach to learning is designed to:

- Educate the heart and minds of pupils.
- Enable our children to develop the key transferrable and subject specific skills and good learning habits which will prepare them for their future lives.
- Empower children to be intellectually curious, creative and independent learners.
- Provide a broad, balanced, challenging and enriching educational experience for all children, whatever their starting point.
- Encourage active learning, hard work and commitment.
- Inspire lifelong love of learning in our pupils.
- Prepare our children to enter into an ever-evolving, increasingly multilingual and globalised world.



The Early Years

Holmewood's Early Years department (EYFS) is an exciting place for children to start their journey and encompasses our Pre-nursery, Nursery and Reception classes. Our emphasis is on the children feeling secure and happy within a cosy and nurturing environment, giving them the opportunity to develop in a holistic and aspirational manner. The importance of kindness, good manners and self-belief are rooted in everything we do. Our children settle very quickly within our vibrant and supportive atmosphere. Every child is treated as a valued and unique individual. Our strong partnerships with parents along with the caring environment, provide children with a firm foundation and a secure start to their educational journey.

They also have a huge amount of fun!

Experienced and highly qualified staff support our children to enable them to make rapid progress at this age as they start to become aware of their own potential and in how they interact with others socially. Through child-initiated play and adult directed activities, we provide the children with a variety of stimulating and exciting opportunities where they can explore and develop their learning experiences, helping them to make sense of the world in which they live. Our daily routine offers small groups and individualised programmes which ensure that each child maximises their progression in a happy and organised environment, whilst also enjoying music, swimming, physical education and a foreign language under the guidance of specialist teachers.

We believe children thrive when they are given abundant opportunities to play in a creative and supportive environment and this is what we strive to provide in our foundation department. We genuinely treasure the magical early years at Holmewood. Our children are a joy to be around and a privilege to work with.





Pre-Prep

Within our small classes, our enthusiastic and highly qualified staff ensure that the children develop a positive and confident attitude to learning. With numeracy and literacy lessons featuring each day, the children also enjoy topic work that allows them to further develop their inquisitive minds through science and the humanities. The curriculum for our young learners is packed with enriching opportunities that add variety and always ensure the opportunity to succeed.

The children's self-expression and creativity are fostered through inspirational art and design technology projects; specialist music lessons, assemblies and a variety of performances in our wonderful theatre. The curriculum is further broadened with specialist French lessons, swimming and physical education, focussing on skills and coordination, and games lessons which introduce the children to the benefits of team sports.

The Pre-prep children access the wealth of resources at Holmewood, while having the security and familiarity of their own dedicated building and play areas. Our girls and boys are encouraged to be independent learners and creative thinkers. Through the My Heart, My Mind, My World scheme, the children learn to understand and name their emotions and will begin to develop strategies to cope with these feelings from as early as the Nursery years. Don't be surprised if you visit a class who are in the middle of a 'chilling' session! We are of course blessed with beautiful grounds which we make the most of, and this in turn also inspires our youngest pupils with a sense of wonder and exploration.

Each child, from the very youngest, thrives on the rewards they earn through believing in themselves, and striving to do their best. Our focus on the whole child creates a kind, welcoming atmosphere where everyone in the community cares for the welfare and happiness of others.



“Pupils of all ages
and abilities make
excellent progress.”

ISI inspection report February 2017

The Prep School

In Years 3 & 4, Holmewood children experience an exciting new chapter in their learning journey. They move into the beautiful Collings building where they enjoy an inspirational environment that is designed to support and encourage their continuing development. A calm, comfortable and light building, Collings combines cutting edge technology in the classroom with atmospheric controls for lighting and air quality which further reinforce the school's commitment to a first-rate environment for teaching and learning.

Each child has a form teacher devoted to their academic progress and pastoral care, who also delivers the core curriculum, aided by specialist teachers in languages, art, music, sport and drama. Classes take place in and around the classrooms with a wide-range of opportunities for small group teaching as well as whole class delivery. Individual support is provided through quiet areas and office space. The strong sense of community that runs throughout the school is reinforced in these crucial years.

Upstairs in the Prep School, the children move through into Year 5 where they receive teaching across the curriculum from subject specialists and, whilst predominantly based in their form room, they develop their independence by moving classrooms for some subjects. Complemented by the state-of-the-art Cloisters building, the academic needs of the children are supported by form bases with dedicated form teachers and pastoral staff, underpinned by the provision of the Learning Hub, the ICT suites and the Learning Strategies department.

These three areas are in the centre of the school, reflecting the importance of these elements in our educational provision.

Our provision for science, technology, art, music and drama takes place in adjoining buildings and all children, irrespective of their year group, have access to the experience that these subjects offer in specifically designed teaching areas. Physical education and swimming are a core part of the curriculum throughout the prep school, further enhancing the co-curricular programme and all pupils in the Prep School enrich their day with either a games or an activities session from one of a multitude on offer at Holmewood.



“We offer a vast array of sports and activities for our children to experience and enjoy.”

Extracurricular

At Holmewood House, learning is not confined to the classroom. Visiting speakers, poets and authors, as well as educational visits, international days, language days and enrichment days feature strongly in our co-curriculum. Learning must be fun and lifelong learning is our aim. We believe that if you embrace a child's natural curiosity and love of learning, their future will be a bright one. We believe that every child has strengths and many have hidden talents; our challenge as teachers and educators is to unlock and nurture them. The activity programme is a key vehicle in enabling this process, as well as in helping our children to become more confident and self-motivated.

Holmewood not only recognises this view but embraces it wholeheartedly and offers an extensive and varied activities programme throughout the school as an integral part of the school day and a child's wider education.

Our core values are fostered through the provision of sport for each and every pupil, whether it be swimming their first width, putting on rugby boots for the first time, representing a school team or looking after a team-mate. We aspire to produce young sportsmen and women with a genuine love of sport. To that end, we offer a vast array of sports and activities for our children to experience and enjoy. We believe that it is of great importance that children who wish to have the opportunity to be part of a team are able to do so, not least because it brings them additional enjoyment, life skills and inculcates a strong sense of belonging.

Our children participate regularly in school, regional, national and international competitions and tours. The team sports are football, rugby, hockey and cricket for boys and hockey, netball, and rounders, with a growing provision of cricket for girls. All children have lessons in swimming and athletics, with opportunities to play squash, do gymnastics, shoot and play tennis. With a combination of outstanding facilities and highly qualified teachers and coaches, we provide excellent sporting opportunities for every child.

Creative subjects including Art, DT, Music and Drama at Holmewood are an exploration of the senses. Children's talents are valued in a warm and inviting environment. Extracurricular activities included community art projects, mindfulness art, painting and drawing, LAMDA and orchestras. The door is always open to those keen to learn even more!



“The range of extra-curricular activities is exceptionally wide.”

ISI inspection report February 2017

Drama is one of the great forms of human expression. Our drama education at Holmewood begins with role play in the Early Years, expanding to an exploration of theatre studies. Pupils have the opportunity to pursue drama and public speaking through a host of activities, from staging a performance to competing in internationally recognised public speaking exams. Every child in the school takes part in a yearly production at some stage in their Holmewood acting career.

Everyone at Holmewood is involved in music, either in the classroom or through extracurricular activities. Class music lessons begin in the Nursery, and most of our pupils also learn one or two instruments on an individual basis; with many joining various musical clubs. Children regularly give concerts, whether informally in a small group for parents or grandparents on a Friday afternoon or for larger audiences in the school productions or musical performances. At Holmewood, we believe that music is for everyone. Everyone can delight in music and learn to be involved at their own level, whether simply for enjoyment or within the context of a lifelong passion.

There really is much more to a great education than that which simply goes on in the classroom!

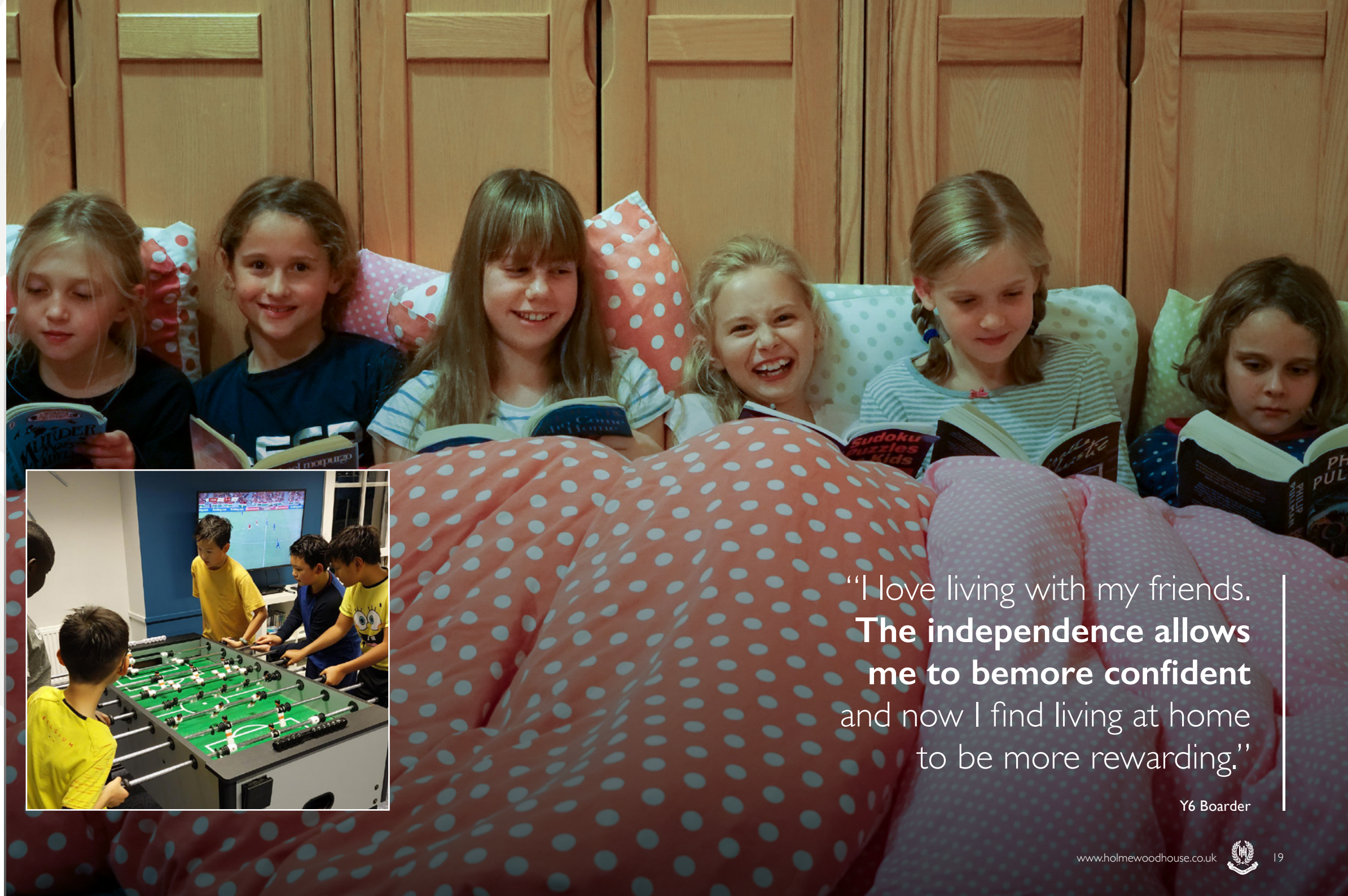


Boarding

At Holmewood, the experience does not stop when lessons finish. Children benefit from being part of a close-knit family which allows boarders to live our values of kindness, self-belief and aspiration. With a large proportion of parents choosing boarding at 13+, the opportunity for flexi, weekly and full boarding at Holmewood can help prepare children for the boarding experience at a later stage. With capacity for forty five boarders, Holmewood has a vibrant boarding community at the heart of the school. Evening and weekend activities are carefully planned, so that boarders can relax and enjoy themselves with their friends at the end of a busy day, without wasting time and energy in travelling to and from home and school.

Boarding at Holmewood continues to bestow on pupils a valuable sense of independence for the future. It is an ideal preparation for the challenges and responsibilities of their future education.

We recognise that every child is different and will be ready for boarding at different times. Our pupils may start their boarding experience from Year 3, allowing a flexible approach so that families can make the most of the opportunities available to them. It may be that parents require a single evening of boarding, a more regular arrangement or weekly boarding and our adaptable approach to boarding makes all of this possible. We are acutely aware of the demands placed upon the modern family and are here to help!



“I love living with my friends.
**The independence allows
me to be more confident**
and now I find living at home
to be more rewarding.”

Y6 Boarder

Community

Houses are the community core of our school and underscore the key aspects of collegiality, cooperation, and collaboration. These qualities and characteristics form part of our whole school values, and the House system provides a platform to put them into practice. Each of our 'Houses' is led by an experienced staff member, providing continuity, as each pupil makes their way through their Holmewood journey.

The Houses are named after trees in the school grounds, with the first House formed being Oak, then Cedar, Beech, Cob, Yew and Ash. Each House has its own nominated charity, which the pupils choose and the colour of the House ties in with the charity logo. Some of these charities are local, some national and some international. Pupils also have opportunities to run their own charity events, in support of charities dear to their family. Charity is very much embedded in the whole school community, in line with one of the core values of the school – kindness. Our second-hand uniform shop also supports a number of different charities, both locally and internationally and senior pupils get the opportunity to visit such charities and carry out much needed work at their centres.

Cultural days and workshops celebrate the rich diversity of our community and with international trips arranged, we give pupils the opportunities to visit places as far afield as South Africa and China, where the school has close links with partner schools and local communities.

Our links to the wider community - local, national and international, are seen as being integral to the future development of the school.



Future Schools

When it comes to the difficult choices regarding senior schools, we are here to support parents in finding the right senior school for their child. It is absolutely imperative that parents and the school work together in identifying the right school for each child and, once a school has been identified, the school will support the child and parents through the journey to entry.

- Ardingly College
- Bede's Senior School
- Benenden School
- Brighton College
- Charterhouse
- Claremont School
- Cranleigh School
- Eastbourne College
- Eton College
- Harrow School
- Hurstpierpoint College
- Lancing College
- Mayfield School
- Sevenoaks School
- Sedbergh School
- Stowe School
- The King's School, Canterbury
- Tonbridge School
- Walthamstowe Hall
- Wellington College
- Worth School



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