



Hurst

HURSTPIERPOINT COLLEGE

SENIOR PREP SCHOOL



*"We want every child to love coming into Hurst each morning by creating and cultivating a learning environment with fulfilment, respect and happiness at its core."*

SIMON LILLEY, HEAD OF SENIOR PREP SCHOOL



# WELCOME TO HURST SENIOR PREP

---

Welcome to the Senior Prep School at Hurst College. The Senior Prep focuses on pupils in Years 7 and 8, an exciting time in their lives, as they prepare to move up to the Senior School.

The Senior Prep combines pupils who have moved up from the Junior Prep School with an equal number of pupils who have joined us from as many as 20 local schools.

At whichever stage your child joins us, we have a dedicated network of teachers, tutors and support staff whose priority is to make everyone feel welcome, safe and connected. They ensure that all pupils are consistently engaged, challenged and supported in order to fulfil their potential in the classroom and beyond.

Our broad and balanced curriculum for Years 7 and 8 is delivered by outstanding, enthusiastic and subject-specific teachers. Pupils' timetables are similar to the Senior School to help with the transition to Year 9, where the cohort grows and diversifies.

Pupils are encouraged to take on leadership roles such as Prefects, Guardians and House Captains to support children in the Junior Prep.

Our co-curricular opportunities span a huge range of activities and interests to engage every pupil. These clubs and activities not only enhance pupils' learning, they provide the children with interests they can continue to enjoy beyond their school years.

You are warmly invited to visit and find out more about what makes Hurst such a wonderful school. We would be delighted to meet you and your family, to show you the campus, introduce you to our pupils and answer any questions you may have.

**Simon Lilley**

*Head of Senior Prep School*

*"We are a genuine through-school, with outstanding resources, which is a huge advantage when challenging and supporting pupils to fulfil their potential."*

SIMON LILLEY, HEAD OF SENIOR PREP SCHOOL



# SUPERB FACILITIES

---

Situated within a 140-acre campus, surrounded by beautiful countryside, the school lies on the border of the South Downs National Park, close to the village of Hurstpierpoint in West Sussex.

Easily accessible by car or train, Hurst is located just north of Brighton and south of Gatwick, a short drive from the A23; or reached via Hassocks and Haywards Heath train stations.

All Prep School classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards and computers. The Prep School also houses a library, computer room, art room, music rooms, gym and specially built on-site Woodland School for outdoor education.

All Prep School pupils have spaces to relax, play games and socialise during their breaktimes, including a playground; junior-sized AstroTurf; netball court; outdoor table tennis; wooden 'jungle gym' on grass and indoor areas such as the library.

Senior Prep pupils also benefit from being part of the overall college in sharing the Science labs and DT workshops.

Facilities for the creative arts are impressive, with the Senior Prep benefiting from the college's Music School, Moore Hall and recently built Performing Arts Centre, which are all used for creative performances. The college Chapel is used for weekly services. Pupils also make use of the college Sports Hall, playing fields, hard courts, AstroTurfs and grass pitches. All year groups have swimming lessons in the college's heated indoor pool.

In recent years extensive (but sympathetic) building developments have been completed, including the Academic Quadrangle, new boys' changing rooms and two Prep School Science labs.

For the sports enthusiasts, a third AstroTurf, further netball/tennis courts, a new cricket practice facility and sports pavilion have all been built. For the performers, our new theatre has been opened, swiftly followed by the adjoining Music and Dance facility.



*"We are committed to continuous development and investment to meet growing demand."*

TIM MANLY, PRINCIPAL





*"Hurst offers so much for pupils and it is great when your child engages and you see them grow, develop and enjoy their school days."*

PARENT

# THE HURST EXPERIENCE

---

## INDIVIDUALS IN THE HURST FAMILY

At Hurst, pupils are known and valued as individuals and for the contribution they make to our Hurst family.

Years 7 and 8 are exciting for pupils. At this stage they are more able to articulate ideas and emotions and have a greater ability for complex thought. Challenging them, whilst maintaining a supportive environment, can lead to great things.

As our Senior Prep pupils are at the traditional senior school age we want them to have an ambitious vision of themselves and be keen to embrace added responsibility and expectation. At the same time, rather than being at the bottom of our Senior School, they are placed at the top of our Prep School and linked with our Junior Prep (primary school years). This provides them with an opportunity to take on positions of responsibility and be role models for the younger children.

## LIFE SKILLS

As part of our PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic education) pupils develop the key skills they will need as they grow into young adults. Together we explore career options, prepare their first CVs and gain qualifications in basic First Aid. They learn effective time management and develop their public speaking skills.

We actively encourage our pupils to share their passions and invite them to present year group and whole school assemblies.

The PSHCE programme also teaches pupils, in an age-appropriate way, about wider aspects of life such as healthy relationships; looking after their own physical and mental health; how to stay safe and manage their digital wellbeing. We create safe spaces for pupils where they can have open discussions and time for self-reflection.

*“Our aim is for pupils to reach a point where they instinctively make excellent decisions.”*

SIMON LILLEY, HEAD OF SENIOR PREP SCHOOL



# GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

---

Adolescence can be a tricky time in youngsters' lives. It is a time of huge physical, mental, emotional and social change, which brings tremendous opportunities as well as vulnerabilities.

The peak time for these changes tends to be during Years 7 and 8. This is the time when individuals start to develop their adult personalities and behaviours and therefore it is essential they receive guidance and support through this period.

## **SMALLER ENVIRONMENT**

Our focus on Years 7 and 8 provides pupils with a smaller environment in which to deal with the changes in themselves and the world around them. We find that being around younger pupils - and taking on leadership roles - is particularly useful for this age group.

## **EXCELLENT PASTORAL CARE**

Our pastoral care is primarily delivered through our tutor system. Tutors take a lead in guiding pupils to develop as individuals and support them with any challenges they face. Tutors also help pupils to develop the learning skills they will need to achieve their personal best in all aspects of their lives.

*"Tutors, Heads of Year, Guardians, School Councillors, Support Staff and many more, all contribute to the outstanding pastoral care every child receives - and for which Hurst is renowned for."*

SIMON LILLEY, HEAD OF SENIOR PREP SCHOOL









*"Pupils of all ages appear happy, healthy and active and they are very positive about their school."*

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE

# CARING COMMUNITY

---

## CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION

Founded in 1849 by Nathaniel Woodard, Hurst is a Church of England School and the Christian ethos underpins school life. However, we are a diverse community and welcome those of other faiths, or no faith, and pursue an inclusive approach in all that we do. We maintain our religious ethos through assemblies and a weekly Chapel service.

## HOUSE SYSTEM

There is a house system with four houses for pupils across the Prep School. This allows different years to work together in teams for various house events, which encourages healthy competition and teamwork.

## LEADERSHIP ROLES

Pupils are encouraged to take on leadership roles to support our younger children in the Junior Prep and we expect all of them to be

good role models. Pupils can apply to become a School Guardian and a House Captain.

Our guardians work across year groups to foster a welcoming and inclusive playground space. In addition, our dedicated work to be an openly inclusive school - which is promoted through our joint student and staff Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Group - helps our pre-teens feel confident in being themselves.

## OUR WIDER COMMUNITY

Pupils are taught to understand the importance of helping others and to appreciate the value of their local and global community. Our pupils support various charities by holding special fundraising events within their houses, year groups and as a whole school.

We encourage our pupils to care for the natural world, discuss environmental issues and how to tackle them. Pupils can work towards an Eco School Award within our EcoHurst Club.

*“Hurst has a strong community where students are known, nurtured and challenged to the best of their ability.”*

JANNEKE BLOKLAND, CHAPLAIN





# ACADEMIC FULFILMENT

---

Academic life is the cornerstone of a Hurst education. We are ambitious for all pupils and support each child to be the very best that they can be.

## **A LOVE OF LEARNING**

Lessons are carefully tailored to meet the needs of the individuals within each class, to ensure that each pupil is appropriately challenged and to encourage a life-long love of learning.

Pupils can become more self-conscious in these years, and worries about failing can be an issue. At Hurst we create a culture which combines the natural enthusiasm and creativeness of the children with the intellectual capabilities of the young adults they are becoming.

## **QUALITY TEACHING**

Our dynamic teachers take the best from both traditional and modern teaching methods. They teach our pupils to use desktop computers, digital devices, interactive whiteboards and laptops as tools for learning. Learning experiences also include visits from writers, artists and musicians and off-site trips.

## **BROAD CURRICULUM**

Our curriculum is broad, and although we take the national curriculum as our base, we extend this in many ways. As a genuine through-school we are able to provide a curriculum that is not only informative, relevant, creative and engaging, it is also one that will provide our pupils with an understanding of the world we live in and prepare them for the next stage of their education.

Pupils follow a varied curriculum designed to lay the foundations for GCSEs. Alongside the core subjects of Maths, English and Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics in Year 8) all pupils study Art; Computer Science; Design and Technology (DT); Drama; French; Geography; History; Latin; Music; PE; Religion, Ethics and Philosophy; and Spanish.

The Senior Prep timetable is in line with the Senior School and pupils are predominantly taught by Senior School teachers. This creates greater fluidity between the two teaching environments. Whilst GCSEs are still a few years away we focus on fundamental skills whilst fostering genuine intellectual curiosity.

# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

---

We encourage all pupils to try new activities, not only for the achievement, fun and wellbeing they bring, but also because they facilitate the development of many life skills. Our co-curricular programme includes a wide variety of sports, outdoor pursuits, creative and performing arts, and clubs for all interests.

## **MUSIC**

We have music groups for instrumentalists of all levels, such as an orchestra, jazz band, brass group, flute group, guitar group, string group and numerous choirs.

Many Hurst pupils take extra individual instrumental lessons. As well as singing lessons, musical tuition spans keyboard/piano, brass, string, woodwind and percussion instruments.

There are many opportunities for pupils to showcase their musical talents, including assemblies, termly informal concerts and annual whole-school concerts.

## **DRAMA**

We offer after-school drama clubs for all ages and hold workshops led by industry professionals.

For those who want to perform, large-scale drama productions are held each year. Acting on stage is the most popular option, but pupils are also offered opportunities to be involved in stage management, technical theatre and hair and make-up design. Our scholars also perform in their own play.

We have an outstanding London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) department which offers additional drama and music lessons. Pupils are also able to take LAMDA examinations and our results are consistently among the best in the country.

## **DANCE**

We are proud to have a thriving dance department and we offer numerous dance groups for girls and boys of all ages and abilities. Dance clubs - which include ballet, contemporary, street and tap dancing - are delivered by our dance department and external professional dancers. We also offer Royal Academy of Dance (RAD) graded examination classes in ballet.

Our dancers have opportunities to perform to an audience and our annual Dance Showcase is a highlight of our creative calendar.







## **SPORT AND OUTDOOR PURSUITS**

We believe that sport is beneficial not only for our children's development but also for nurturing teamwork and talent.

Within our timetabled PE lessons we teach sports skills to help prepare pupils for healthy and active future lifestyles. Our PE programme includes swimming, gymnastics, dance and games. All lessons are taught by specialist PE teachers, including fully-trained swimming instructors.

The games timetable in the Senior Prep features the following seasonal sports: hockey, rugby, football, netball, cricket and athletics.

Within our co-curricular programme, pupils have the opportunity to further their skills in our major seasonal sports. They can also take part in additional sports such as: cross-country; ninjitsu; running; swimming; table tennis; tennis; triathlon; water polo and yoga. In addition, there is an Outdoor Pursuits programme for climbing, kayaking, mountain biking, sailing and wakeboarding.

Pupils have the opportunity to represent Hurst in competitive fixtures and competitions in almost every sport. Throughout the year we also hold inter-house sports competitions.

In their final year, pupils take part in our Leavers' Challenge which involves hiking, orienteering and camping along the South Downs Way over four days.

For young horse riders, there are a number of school equestrian teams. Pupils can compete in National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA) events and local competitions. Hurst has a close relationship with the world-class equestrian showground at Hickstead and sponsors the National Schools and Pony Clubs Championships and organises the Inter-schools Showjumping Championships.

## **ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS**

Activities and clubs vary each year but often include: Arts and Crafts; British Sign Language; Chess; Debating; Design and Technology (which includes CAD/CAM, electronics, jewellery-making and woodwork); Film club; Greek; the Hurst newspaper; Lego; Manga comic book drawing; Modern Foreign Languages; Philosophy; RLSS UK Rookie Lifeguard Training; Science; Tabletop Gaming, and Woodland and Campcraft skills.

Our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) opportunities include working towards a British Science Association (BSA) Bronze CREST Award in Year 8.

## MOVING UP TO SENIOR SCHOOL

---

Hurst Senior Prep is a place of learning, building connections and gaining experience. It is also a key part of our through-school where pupils transition from the Junior Prep, through the Senior Prep, and progress up to the Senior School at the age of 13.

Educationally, our overarching aim in the Senior Prep School is to provide a deliberately broad and engaging curriculum to lay outstanding foundations for GCSEs. Pastorally, our purpose is to support and guide pupils as they begin adolescence and look ahead to becoming young adults. It is important to keep in mind that almost all our pupils then transition to Hurst's thriving Senior School.

The Senior School begins with Year 9 (Shell) which leads students into their GCSE years. We remain ambitious for our pupils and each individual's progress is monitored through the Senior School's Challenge Grade Programme, the secret to our exceptional value-added results.

When students enter the Senior School they join one of twelve houses. We offer flexi and weekly

boarding in the Senior School and both are popular with the pupils.

Co-curricular opportunities continue and broaden, with scope for participation in more sports, outdoor pursuits, creative and performing arts, environmental conservation and additional STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) qualifications. From Year 10 (Remove), students begin the nationally recognised Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award scheme. They also join Hurst's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) which encompasses the Royal Navy, Army and Air Force divisions.

Our Christian foundation remains strong in the Senior School and the weekly chapel services book-end the week, with community at the core.

The wellbeing programme expands to cater for the growing challenges that modern teenagers often face. Hurst offers an on-site Wellbeing Centre, Chaplaincy, School Counsellor, Welfare Group, student Guardian Scheme and an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Group.

*"When they finish Year 8, pupils have greater clarity of the direction they want their lives to go and, more importantly, the skills, behaviours and qualities required to make that happen."*

SIMON LILLEY, HEAD OF SENIOR PREP SCHOOL





# SHAPING THE FUTURE

---



## PRINCIPAL

**Tim Manly**  
*BA (Oxon) MSc (LSE) PGCE (Cantab)*

Tim joined Hurst College in January 2005 as Headmaster of the College, having formerly taught at Oakham School where he was Deputy Head and, prior to that, at Sevenoaks School. During Tim Manly's stewardship, Hurst has evolved into a very attractive destination for families and, as a result, has doubled in size and changed profoundly without losing any of its core strengths in terms of characteristics and personality. In September 2022, Tim took on the role of Principal, responsible for the overall performance and the strategic development of Hurst.



## HEAD OF COLLEGE

**Dominic Mott**  
*MA (Queens College, Cantab)*

Dominic joined the Senior Leadership Team as Head of the Senior School in September 2015, and prior to that was Head of Languages at Sevenoaks School for four years and Head of Spanish for the previous three years. Before joining the teaching profession, he worked for Merrill Lynch and had a stint in the army. He has a MA in Modern and Medieval Languages from Cambridge. In September 2022, Dominic succeeded Tim Manly to become Headmaster of the College.



## HEAD OF SENIOR PREP

**Simon Lilley**  
*BSc (Loughborough), MEd (Buckingham)*

Simon joined Hurst in September 2018 from Brighton College where he was Head of PE, having started his career at Sherborne School. Simon gained his Sport Science BSc and PGCE at Loughborough University and in 2023 completed his Masters in Education via Buckingham University.

Simon has taught PE and coached games throughout the college, as well as four years as a Head of Year. Simon was appointed as Head of Senior Prep from his previous position as Head of Shell in the Senior School.

# INSPECTION REPORTS AND REVIEWS

---

## INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS INSPECTORATE

“The quality of pupils’ academic and other achievements are excellent overall.”

“The quality of pupils’ personal development is excellent overall.”

“Pupils’ outstanding attitudes to learning are evident in lessons and beyond.”

“Behaviour is exemplary, and they are respectful and supportive of each other.”

“Pupils’ excellent personal development is supported very well by the all-embracing pastoral care provided by the school.”

“Pupils have outstanding attitudes to learning, working hard and showing resilience in order to achieve long term goals.”

“Pupils of all ages appear happy, healthy and active and they are very positive about their school.”

Summary from the full inspection report by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI), May 2019. Full report available at [isi.net](http://isi.net) and on the Hurst website [hppc.co.uk](http://hppc.co.uk)

## GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

“Pupils say the challenge grade system ‘helps you get to where you want to be’, and it certainly works, Hurst is in the top 10% nationally for value added.”

“A parent told us this is not a school for those who want to fly under the radar and just get to the end of their school days: ‘the thing you do at this school is engage - it can be anything, there are endless opportunities’”

“Parents choose Hurst because they feel it provides something more than an academic education: ‘We want (them) to do well academically but [...] we want them to be brought on as people’.”



THE  
GOOD  
SCHOOLS  
GUIDE

There are a number of guides for parents seeking objective information but many consider the Good Schools Guide to be the most authoritative. Its reports are based upon a rigorous independent appraisal, including an inspection and interviews with a range of current parents.

Full report available at [goodschoolsguide.co.uk](http://goodschoolsguide.co.uk) and on the Hurst website [hppc.co.uk](http://hppc.co.uk)

*“The first choice for many parents who would traditionally have sent their children further afield”*

GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

# HOW TO FIND US

---

## APPROACHING HURST BY ROAD FROM THE NORTH

- From the M25, join the M23 and then the A23 travelling south
- Leave the A23 at the Burgess Hill/Hickstead/Twineham turn-off, turning left at the roundabout at the head of the exit road to join the A2300
- Turn right at the next roundabout (road signposted to Goddards Green and Hurstpierpoint)
- At next junction (with The Sportsman Public House to your left), cross with care and continue straight ahead into Cuckfield Road
- After approx. 1.5 miles, turn left into Chalkers Lane (opposite the signpost for Hurstpierpoint College)
- Continue along the lane; the entrance to the Prep School is on the right

## BY RAIL

There is a fast and frequent rail service from London Victoria to Hassocks station. The College is a short taxi ride from the station. Haywards Heath station is also close by.

## APPROACHING HURST BY ROAD FROM THE SOUTH

- From Brighton, join the A23 travelling north.
- Leave the A23 at the Hurstpierpoint turn off B2117
- Turn right onto B2117 (crossing the A23)
- At the roundabout in the village go straight across, into Cuckfield Road
- After approx. 1 mile, turn right into Chalkers Lane (opposite the signpost for Hurstpierpoint College)
- Continue along the lane; the entrance to the Prep School is on the right

## BY AIR

Hurst College can be reached quickly from both London Gatwick and London Heathrow.



## ARRANGE A PERSONAL VISIT

We look forward to welcoming prospective pupils and parents to Hurst to experience our vibrant community.

**PLEASE CONTACT ADMISSIONS**  
[prepadmissions@hppc.co.uk](mailto:prepadmissions@hppc.co.uk) | 01273 836927

For more information please visit our website: [hppc.co.uk](http://hppc.co.uk)



Hurst Senior Prep School  
College Lane, Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex, BN6 9JS  
hppc.co.uk | 01273 834975

 @Hurst\_Prep |  @Hurst\_College |  @Hurst\_Prep

## Achieving your child's personal bests

An outstanding day, weekly and flexi boarding school for boys and girls between 4-18 years