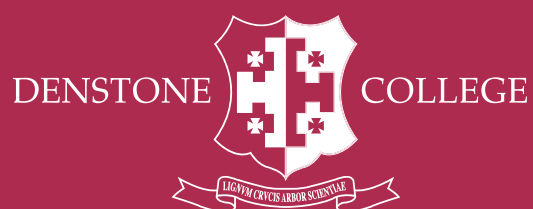


DENSTONE COLLEGE

Infinite
Possibilities





WELCOME

To define a Denstone education is to look beyond the here and now, to gaze in to the future and imagine what our children will become.

Parents invest emotionally in the College, safe in the knowledge that their children will be taught well, coached wisely and raised to be upstanding citizens of the future. They will be confident and happy, and both interesting and interested.

Our commitment to the individual needs of each child surpasses the expected, and, as a result, our diverse community conforms to no stereotypes.

As Head, I believe passionately in the celebration of success and allowing that positive culture to bleed through all elements of school life. Children need positivity, excellent role-models and a platform from which to shine: to be their own beacon of excellence.

No website, prospectus, virtual tour or social media platform can do this College justice, a place which thrives on human interaction and relationships. Please do take the time to come and see us in action; the door is always open.

Lotte Tulloch, Head



WHY CHOOSE DENSTONE

Becoming part of the Denstone College community allows pupils to thrive because of the highest quality academic teaching and pastoral care. In addition, it allows them to explore so much beyond the classroom and gives them the confidence and ambition to build successful futures. Our values of honesty, endeavour and kindness are woven into the way of life here, shaping our Denstonians from their Prep School days to the rest of their lives.

Since 1873, Denstone College has provided an exceptional education for its pupils. Our magnificent grounds and buildings are nothing short of inspirational. The main building itself is awe-inspiring, built in the neo-Gothic style; first sight of it is a spectacular encounter that can only ignite a sense that students' time here will be remarkable and full of opportunities.

Our teaching staff strive to support every one of our pupils and provide them with tailored opportunities to challenge themselves and make the most of our incredible facilities.

Choosing Denstone College for your child will set the stage with infinite possibilities for their future.





ACADEMICS



ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

The overarching goal at Denstone College is to prepare pupils for their future by helping them achieve their absolute best, reach for the stars and develop a lifelong love of learning. Whether our pupils are aiming for higher education, vocational courses, or the world of work, we prepare them for whichever pathway they choose.

The College examination results are impressive because we have the highest expectations and standards in the classroom, and we take care to mentor every pupil.

Our pupils are fortunate to have excellent subject specialists whose aim is to develop enquiring minds, stretch ability when they can, and complement academic learning with superb enrichment opportunities. We know that there are many kinds of learners and for that reason, teaching is tailored to your individual child's needs. The staff here know and support pupils as individuals, use many teaching and learning methods, and are committed to continued professional development to ensure their approaches are cutting edge and relevant.

Denstonians are fortunate to be able to read, research, work and relax in the centrally located library with space for 15,000 books and other collections. Energy-efficient classrooms are fitted with state-of-the-art technology and flexible workspaces for all to thrive.

At Denstone College, inspiration and education goes beyond the classroom, each pupil is on their own path and we are there to support from through opportunity and engagement.

A LEARNING JOURNEY

Many of our pupils start their learning journey at The Prep at Denstone College. Our Prep pupils have unrivalled access to all the facilities along with pastoral care offered by the College. This ensures a seamless transition as pupils move into their secondary education phase.

Others come into the College from a variety of other schools at different points of entry. Whenever pupils join the College, they can be sure to be enveloped by a rich curriculum from the start. Academic momentum increases as pupils progress through the school, but the curriculum from the first year of College is full, varied and challenging.

Pupils work in small sets and every pupil has a member of teaching staff as their tutor; in tandem with the pastoral team this personal overview allows a student's work and development to be closely overseen.

As an independent school, we are free to focus on innovation, and when the time comes to study for national exams, we offer so much more than GCSE and A Levels alone.

Communication, collaboration and community are all at the heart of Denstone College's philosophy. We work with inspirational leaders throughout our co-curricular programme as well as using tutorial time to ensure pupils are given every opportunity to develop.

Innovation is key to our philosophy. Exposing pupils to leading sportsmen and women, react to pedagogical research and use tutorial time to ensure pupils are given every opportunity to create 'winning mindsets'. Pupils are provided with digital toolkits to enable them to gain insights and develop their mindsets to fulfil their potential.





DENSTONE DIPLOMA

At Denstone College, we believe it is important to expose our pupils to as many opportunities to develop life skills as possible.

We offer a Diploma which ultimately encourages pupils to work and learn independently in preparation for their next steps. The enrichment and extension programme, studied alongside traditional school qualifications is unique to the pupil, packed full of activities, competitions, and challenges to develop pupils' skills and mindsets.

The Diploma has been constructed to give pupils the chance to develop research and organisational skills, key to life in higher education. A range of tasks are set by Heads of Department and these include:

- MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses, one modern way to acquire new skills and educational experiences).
- National competitions such as the UKMT maths challenge.
- Extended essays.
- Other challenges.

Each task has a tariff, earning points towards a total which will equate to an award.



THE PREP AT DENSTONE COLLEGE

For children from the ages of 4-11 we are lucky to have The Prep at Denstone College on site. We cater for day and boarding pupils between the ages of 4 and 11. Boarding is available from Years 3 to 6.

TPDC provides an incredible environment which takes full advantage of the outstanding facilities offered by the College in which every pupil can flourish. These opportunities are realised in a variety of different ways, there is no 'one size fits all' approach at The Prep. We recognise that our wonderful pupils are individual and that, for them, the classroom is much bigger than the room where their desk is. Our classrooms are also outside, in our woodland and in our Forest Schools. Our classrooms are in the superb music rooms, on stage and also on the sporting field.

We constantly strive to ensure a happy and contented cohort of pupils who are challenged every day to learn and to achieve in every aspect of school life. This results in confident and resilient young pupils who are fully prepared to take the next step up to the College.





FIRST TO THIRD FORM

Pupils in our Lower School follow a bespoke curriculum that provides a solid and stimulating grounding in traditional academic disciplines. Lessons are designed to be accessible to all pupils, regardless of their previous educational experience, with our Denstone Diploma offering enrichment opportunities to complement formal lessons and the College's extensive co-curricular programme.

With an emphasis on breadth and inclusion, these years promote the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes that will pave the way for academic progress and success in our Middle School and Sixth Form. Pupils experience a full range of subjects during this stage of their education: from Drama to Design & Technology, Modern Foreign Languages to Music, PSHE to Physics.

With variety and challenge spread across a regular timetable of 41 lessons each week, pupils are encouraged to develop a positive love of learning as well as important organisational skills. They also have plenty of opportunities for fun along the way!

All pupils are carefully supported and monitored in their studies through our tutor system, with house tutors providing daily academic as well as pastoral guidance.



GCSE

A Denstone education caters for all abilities; here you will find that pupils get a rounded education but one where proper emphasis is given to academic achievement. High standards are a priority. They need to be so, not least because in today's competitive environment, universities and colleges want to see evidence of intellectual appetite and excellent grades. Our impressive track record for value-added performance at GCSE is evidence of this.

We teach pupils how to perform well in public examinations; but beyond that, we pass on a love of learning, which we hope will stay with them for life. The curriculum at GCSE is made up of a mixture of compulsory and optional courses and pupils take between 8 and 10 GCSE/IGCSEs. Pupils are encouraged to keep breadth in their choices to allow them the maximum variety of choice at A Level.

In tandem with GCSE courses, the tutorial programme runs to ensure that pupil's personal development is always a focus. Themes covered range from personal finance and communication to revision techniques, growth mindset, and strategies for dealing with stress. Of course, there are many co-curricular activities available which pupils engage in to help learn to balance their work-life situations.

This input from House Tutors ensures pupils have all the tools they need to successfully navigate these important years.





SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form is a truly special time for our pupils. It is a time for greater independence, a time to refine subject choices and a time to explore the freedom that comes with more independence. It is a chance for pupils to explore new privileges and to lead and shape their own destinies.

The College is here to help pupils prepare for the next stage of their lives and the Sixth Form is a time to develop interests that may end up being lifelong passions. Not only do pupils gain intellectual ambition, but also the courage to step outside their comfort zones. From debating to volunteering, taking part in national competitions, or starting a new venture, our pupils' CV's are brimming with reflections of the wonderful opportunities afforded to them.

Preparation for university or other next steps is unrivalled, largely due to our LIFE (leadership, innovation, future ready and enterprise) programme and Extended Project Qualification, both of which are highly valued by universities. The timetabled LIFE programme covers financial capability, business and economic understanding and communication skills.

Lectures, seminars, interactions with Old Denstonians for unique insights, and UCAS mentoring ensure that pupils develop those skills most desired by universities and future employers. These include critical thinking, negotiation and problem solving.

Pupils can also take the Denstone Diploma and still have time to fit in a wealth of enrichment and co-curricular opportunities to balance their academic and non-academic endeavours.



DENSTONE GOAL

Oliver

From the start, Denstone has made me a more rounded and confident person. Through effort and the support of my teachers from First Form onwards, I feel we have maximised my academic achievements to date. I have also improved my team working and communication skills, not only in the classroom, but in sport and extra-curricular activities too. This includes being actively involved with lighting and sound for many of the drama performances at Denstone. I am currently enjoying Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Computer Science at A Level.

Bradley

Denstone College had always been extremely supportive of my passion for creative media & film making.

It all started in Third Form when I approached my drama teacher and offered to film the upcoming Second Form plays. I told her I would love to film the full production with multiple cameras and provide a full edited video. This allowed me to practice my editing skills on a professional project and focus on delivering a quality product. This was a successful process because soon after, I was invited to film further performances along with leading on a sports promotional video, all whilst helping build my portfolio.

Since leaving Denstone, I have directed short films at university, one of which has won multiple awards and now I run my own video production company, DigiMake.

#InfinitePossibilities

Oliver

- Current pupil



Bradley

- Stage Director
- Old Denstonian



CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

At Denstone College, we know that every pupil is unique. However, they have one thing in common: a drive for happiness, confidence and achievement. Every pupil will achieve this in a different way, not least by taking part in a different combination of co-curricular activities that keep them active, inspire the mind and inspire creativity.

We want all our pupils to try new things and that could not be easier at Denstone. We love to offer infinite possibilities and our co-curricular programme is constructed with the aim of igniting passions and building confidence.

The timetable is arranged to ensure there is time for an extra-curricular session in the afternoon every day, except Friday, when the whole school meets for the main Chapel service of the week. The week is divided to allow days to focus on sports, music, drama or other activities.

With over 100 activities on offer per week in an environment that can only inspire, the opportunities are available for pupils to discover hobbies, passions and interests for life.





A TASTE OF OUR CO-CURRICULAR OFFERING

It would be impossible to list every club or activity on offer at the College in print, for the simple reason that the list evolves constantly.

We are proud of the specialist sports coaching we offer, as well as the fact we have a dedicated Head of Outdoor Pursuits who runs a range of expeditions for pupils. These include activities such as camping, climbing and canoeing. Linked to this is the Duke of Edinburgh Award that is also run for many pupils and is hugely popular.

Sports range from rugby, hockey, netball and cricket, to judo, golf, lacrosse and rock climbing. Our 100 acres offer plenty of space for athletics, cross-country and our CCF, who also use our indoor shooting range.

For pupils who love more creative adventures, we have an incredible drama studio with theatre seating, and a music department made up of many orchestras and ensembles that regularly put on concerts and go on tours. Instrumental and vocal lessons can always be heard in the College and many pupils work towards music examinations.

The music and drama departments work together to produce regular musical and stage shows which students love to take part in.

Other facilities include kilns, a printing press, a dark room and milling machines to enable art and design clubs to meet for everything from photography to model making.

Finally, innovative clubs that are aligned to academic subjects or are more specialised or hobby-based are also plentiful. From astronomy club to politics club, French conversation to the College magazine club, the hardest part is fitting it all in.

DENSTONE GOAL

Millie

I've been playing netball since I was 5 after seeing how much my sisters loved it. In Third Form, I had my first opportunity to play for Denstone's 1st team as well as playing for the College, I am able to also play at regional U16 club level alongside the U15 Staffordshire County Academy.

I am also a member of Thunder netballs U14 performance squad having progressed from Thunder Youth where we played against North East England, on occasions I was named captain.

Denstone have supported me with tailored gym sessions as well as always being on hand to give me training and support. I would love to represent England, with the Commonwealth games being held in Birmingham as a big inspiration.

Joe

I started playing rugby at 14 for my local club, Stoke RUFC, before joining Denstone College for Sixth Form.

For me, Denstone was an enabler, the link with Leicester Tigers meant I could get to and from training. In the week there was plenty of communication between Tigers and the College in terms of what they needed from me. Rugby being a part of the curriculum was also a massive help with constant exposure to sport, the facilities and the culture.

Now being in the senior academy with Leicester Tigers and the England Rugby Sevens squad, I am aiming to push for first team rugby whilst still being a part of the Rugby 7s when I can. In the long run, my goal is to pull on the senior England jersey.

#InfinitePossibilities



Millie

- Current pupil



Joe

- Leicester Tigers & England 7s
- Old Denstonian



BOARDING AND PASTORAL CARE AT DENSTONE

The Pastoral Team at the College is a key reason our pastoral care has been rated as first class by the ISI and Ofsted. Our inspection reports note the fact that pupils' strong personal development owes much to our pastoral system responding to individual needs and circumstances.

The Head of House and many pastoral and boarding Tutors, Head of Wellbeing, medical staff and School Counsellor are the bridge between College and home. Every pupil has a Tutor who they meet regularly. Discussions range from choices to achievements, problems and anxieties, and are frequent and meaningful, contributing hugely to pupils' wellbeing.

It is not just pupils whose wellbeing we focus on, but our whole community, and that includes staff and parents, through our Wellbeing Blog and podcasts. Our House system also contributes to a sense of wellbeing among pupils.

Every pupil, boarding and day, belongs to a House and it is here they forge friendships for life. Each has its own character and inspires tremendous loyalty. The Houses are competitive but also instil a sense of pride in pupils. Houses have their own activities and festivals that celebrate contributions, and every year we celebrate highlights at the House dinner.

Our boarders thrive in this 'home at school' environment, where wellbeing is the priority; pupils live, work and socialise in their own spaces embracing this spirit of friendship, commitment and success.



A HOME FROM HOME

At Denstone College we understand the importance and needs of busy families and our boarding provision is structured to accommodate this. Pupils can board on a full, weekly and occasional basis. Flexibility is key to ensure our pupils thrive.

Many schools boast their boarding facilities are a home from home, but what does this mean in practice? At Denstone College, we hope it is the little things: communal areas to replicate family life, large family kitchens to promote socialisation, cooking and bonding spaces and decorations to reflect a family feel. Our facilities have been created to also develop a sense of self-reliance and prepare our pupils for the additional autonomy they will experience at university. They are also always under review to ensure they are the best they can be.

Our boarders' evenings and weekends are filled with trips such as those to try indoor skiing or visit a theme park, activities, competitions, birthday celebrations or boarders' themed suppers. Pupils, of course have extended use of all of the College's superb facilities.

Round the clock supervision and 24-hour medical care puts our parents' minds at ease, along with the knowledge that the community of residential staff create a truly positive environment in which their children are nurtured. Our parents will tell you that the relationships their children have with staff here are based on openness, trust and respect and that they feel able to visit and be welcomed with the same values.



HERITAGE OF DENSTONE COLLEGE

Denstone began life as a school in 1873 after five years of building work established it as the flagship independent boarding school in the Midlands. The striking building is built in an 'H' shape and takes a prominent position within 100 acres of beautiful English countryside in the county of Staffordshire.

The original eight Houses were named after the original benefactors and housed 46 pupils. Over the years, numbers increased, and in 1976, day boys and girls were admitted, with girls' boarding launched in two Houses in 1981.

Facilities have grown with the school, and over the years there have been constant developments including the swimming pool, 9-hole golf course, sports hall, theatre, music school, sports pavilion, astro turfs, acres of pitches and the library, all having been added or developed in recent years. Pupils benefit from many incredible facilities which can only truly be appreciated by seeing them in person.

There is a rolling programme for improvements to all our buildings, new and old, and the College maintenance, grounds and domestic teams continue to keep the College at its best. We are incredibly proud of our beautiful buildings, facilities and grounds, not least because they help open up the world of infinite possibilities we strive to give our pupils.



DENSTONE GOAL

Kitty

Joining Denstone seemed like a very daunting thing. However since starting, I have nurtured my interest in academic life as well being provided with a great balance of education and co-curricular activities, giving me a perfect basis for developing my knowledge and self-confidence.

Now in the Sixth Form, after having achieved 10 grade 9s at GCSE, I am getting settled with my chosen A levels. I have been able to study two new subjects that have always interested me, namely Philosophy & Ethics as well as Politics. The choices of subjects I've made are not only educationally stimulating but have also helped me outside of the classroom setting. They are equipping me with the tools I need to engage in educated discussions around topics I am passionate about.

More recently, I have been afforded to take part in Denstone's Oxbridge programme, which provides one-to-one support for students that share an ambition to attain a place in one of the top universities. The support I receive from both home and school in this stage of my academic life is something that I am very thankful for.

Emily

I was fortunate enough to spend seven happy years at Denstone, making the most of all the opportunities on offer. Denstone provided an education that extended well beyond the classroom, whether that be sports, drama, or the many amazing organised trips. As a proud member of Philips House, I also thoroughly enjoyed the competitiveness of House events. I truly felt like I belonged at Denstone and I am extremely grateful for the values the school has instilled in me.

Denstone also helped me achieve my academic ambitions. When I made the decision to apply to study Law at Cambridge during the Sixth Form, I was incredibly well-supported. I was offered one-on-one interview practice and the chance to attend 'Discussion Dinners' with fellow students and teachers. These experiences were instrumental in securing my place at Sidney Sussex College. I spent three wonderful, albeit challenging, years at Cambridge and was delighted to graduate with First Class Honours in July 2020. I am now busy training to be a solicitor with Norton Rose Fulbright in their London office and hope to get the chance to work in their international offices in the near future!

#InfinitePossibilities

Kitty

- Current pupil



Emily

- Trainee solicitor
- Old Denstonian



APPLYING TO DENSTONE

If you would like to find out more about the College please contact our Admissions Department, who will be pleased to arrange a convenient time for you to look around, meet particular members of staff and have a bespoke tour of key areas of the College. As well as a bespoke tour, you are invited to our Open Morning events to experience the College at work and see it through the eyes of our current pupils.

To learn more about the assessment process, including our scholarships and bursaries, please visit the website for more details or contact our Admissions Department via admissions@denstonecollege.net or call 01889 591415.



SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

The College offer scholarships in recognition of outstanding ability in art, drama, DT, music, sport and academia. Our scholars are supported through a personalised programme including bespoke support and benefits. Assessment for scholarships usually takes place in the November before the year of entry and offers are based on a satisfactory report and reference from the current school.

Scholarship awards are honorary, but it is possible to apply for means tested bursarial support, for families who could not otherwise afford the fees. They can be of any value and in exceptional circumstances can constitute the full amount of the fee. Demand is often oversubscribed, so the entry assessment process will contribute to the decision on prioritising support. Parents wishing to apply for a bursary will need to submit an application around financial circumstances in advance of any assessments.



“We aim to be recognised as, without question, one of the best value boarding and day schools in the country, and to provide for our pupils the best possible educational foundation for life.”

Lotte Tulloch, Head

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