Home Counties prep schools

Prepped for life

There's nothing like a traditional prep school to instill character and individuality as well as giving a brilliant academic grounding. Here, we select 25 of the best in the Home Counties, many benefiting from glorious country-house settings as well as having upped their game with the sort of modern facilities previous generations could never have envisaged.

Essex
Felsted Prep
500+ pupils, mostly day (including prep-prep)
Fees £3,150–£8,495

'This stage of your child's life is all about discovery—of interests, talents and passions,' writes the headmaster, Simon James, who explains that his favourite word is 'yet' as in 'not yet', because it points to ambition, perseverance and desire to learn.

Shortlisted for the TES Independent School Awards this year, this is the high-flying prep department of the county's premier senior independent school, which is across the road in a picturesque village in rural north Essex.

Every child learns a stringed instrument in Year 3 and takes the English Speaking Board exam in Year 4. All learn Spanish, plus French or German and Latin is on offer from Year 7. As well as learning support, there's a Very Able Pupil programme in operation.

Arriving The next open morning (for September 2020 entrance) is on September 28 and Key Stage 2 Assessments take place on February 1, 2020.
Leaving Nearly all go on to the senior school
www.felsted.org