

# Ready Culford Anything



**Prep School (ages 7-13)**

Independent boarding and day school for boys and girls aged 1 to 18 years



**Claire Bentley MEd**  
*Head of Prep and Pre-Prep*

## Welcome

Thank you for considering Culford. We aim to develop flexible, innovative, dynamic and resilient children, making them ready for life. To do so, our teachers work hard to ensure lessons inspire children to be curious and inquisitive by tapping into their imagination and creativity. As they move through the school, pupils start to make things happen for themselves and revel in the opportunities to be adventurous. They become flexible in adapting to challenge and change and love the journey of discovery through the Prep School. Our rich and varied co-curricular programme is stimulating and exciting, and as the pupils note, there is something for everyone.

Whilst this prospectus provides lots of important information, there is no substitute for visiting Culford. Our friendly Admissions team will be happy to make arrangements to suit you, so do please give them a call. We want parents to get to know us well.

We very much hope that you choose to visit us soon as you will receive a warm welcome from us all.



# Values for Life

To make pupils ready for life means developing them into flexible, innovative, dynamic and resilient children. The first three are key values in a world in which change is the only constant; and children also need to learn resilience as failures and setbacks sometimes lead to our greatest successes.

To provide the right environment we demand the same attributes from ourselves as a school and as teachers, modelling the values we want pupils to learn. In line with our Christian ethos and Methodist foundation, we also seek to model the honesty to learn from our own flaws whilst treating others with compassion.

**It is a simple proposition: children should leave Culford ready for life, a credit to us and a delight to you.**





# Learning for Life

In Culford’s Lower Prep (Year 3, 4 and 5) we combine an academic curriculum with high quality teaching and creative opportunities. Lower Prep pupils are in one of two mixed ability classes that are deliberately small in size so pupils’ progress can be carefully monitored.

Typically, about half of a pupil’s lessons will be with the class teacher, but there is specialist teaching for science, French, Spanish, music, art, design technology and sport from the start. The pupils have access to the impressive music and sports facilities at Culford School. From Lower Second (Year 5), they will be set according to ability for mathematics; lower sets are small so that individual attention to numeracy skills can be given.

In Culford’s Upper Prep (Year 6, 7 and 8) all teaching is carried out by subject specialists and, through streaming, we can support those with learning differences and stretch the most able and gifted pupils.

Individual progress is monitored closely and pupils take internal examinations in the Autumn and Summer terms. Subject teachers and form tutors work together so that all pupils are stretched and supported. We constantly seek to build strong partnerships between pupils, parents and teachers. Assessment grades are provided to parents at each half term with written reports twice a year.



The Library, located at the heart of the Prep School, contains a great array of fiction and non-fiction works, along with plenty of research resources.

“

Culford is a truly wonderful school that educates from the heart. In today’s world this foundation is more meaningful than anything.

Parent Survey





## Ready for Something Different

Culford Prep School seeks to give our pupils a memorable education through which they can develop and thrive.





# Beyond the Classroom

Culford believes that what goes on outside the classroom is just as important as the work that goes on within it and there are plenty of opportunities for children to get involved in a whole host of activities.

As well as major sports, children may opt to play football, golf, take up dance, run cross-country, or go horse riding, amongst the many alternatives on offer.

A variety of non-sporting activities are offered too, including the orchestra and choir, cooking and gardening, Spanish and French clubs as well as an opportunity for budding environmentalists to become involved in our eco club.





# Enrichment for Life

Our pupils enjoy a wide variety of educational trips and visits to places such as Kentwell Hall, the north Norfolk coast and London’s Globe Theatre. Overseas trips to France, covering an immersive residential experience and a ski trip, provide good practice in speaking French. There is also an outdoor adventure trip to Switzerland at the end of the Summer term for Upper Third pupils, which challenges and builds confidence prior to moving on to the Senior School.

Visiting authors attend regularly and help put literacy at the heart of the curriculum with outside speakers helping to bring specific

topics to life. One week at the end of the Summer term is turned over to a complete enrichment focus, with themes for each year group. Children are introduced to experiences such as architecture through hands-on workshops, a ghost walk through Norwich, examining its long and rich history, trebuchet building and learning the rudiments of croquet and quidditch.

There are many opportunities within the magnificent Culford Park itself. All of these aspects contribute to and enrich your child’s learning experience.



“Our daughter loves coming to school. She is progressing academically, building strong relationships and making the most of all the extra-curricular activities on offer.

Parent Survey





# Ready for the Spotlight



Our ambition is to see pupils leave Culford as confident young adults, comfortable in their own skins and sure of their own talents.



# The Arts

A broadly based education is at the heart of our philosophy. Music, drama, art and design technology are essential elements of life at Culford, as part of the curriculum and within the wider culture of the school.

Our music teaching facilities are excellent with a wide range of classroom instruments for pupils to play. Throughout the School, children enjoy music lessons twice a week, covering all aspects from the elements of music and reading musical notation, to learning about the music of different cultures. First Form pupils take part in recorder

lessons, which complement the music starter-scheme, running parallel to Upper First music. Outside the classroom, individual lessons are available on a wide range of instruments. There are also a variety of ensembles and choirs, offering performance opportunities in and beyond the programme of regular concerts.

Concert outings, masterclasses, workshops, theatre trips and gallery visits all form an integral part of the curriculum and every child is encouraged to participate.

We place a high value on drama and productions are staged each year in which pupils perform and contribute to other areas of stagecraft such as set and prop making.

Dance classes are held in the historic Culford Hall, where dancers of all abilities enjoy modern facilities such as two dance studios which are fitted with Harlequin dance floors, ballet barres and full length mirrors. Dance clubs are held after school or are available on an individual basis.

All Prep School pupils have access to our superb art and design facilities in the Pringle Art Centre. A well-equipped art room provides a wonderful environment for pupils to explore their creative talents and all pupils are taught the skills of drawing, painting, printing and working with clay. Design technology is taught as a separate subject for all year groups and Upper Prep pupils study different specialisms in both art and design technology.





# Ready for the Competition



Our outstanding facilities include a world-class Championship Indoor Tennis Centre.



## Celebrating Sport for All

Your child will have exceptional opportunities for both team and individual sports and by the time your son or daughter moves on, we hope to have instilled a love of sport that will last a lifetime.

Our facilities are of the highest standard. Sports grounds at the Prep School provide tailor-made pitches for children at this age, including the use of two artificial turf pitches. We also have full access to the Culford Sports and Tennis Centre. This superb facility includes a swimming pool, cricket nets and indoor facilities for netball, football and basketball, as well as a climbing wall, and a championship-standard, four court Indoor Tennis Centre. Your child will receive specialist tuition, whatever his or her particular interests.

Our expectation is that everyone has the chance to represent the School in fixtures against other schools. Girls play hockey, netball and cricket as major sports, whilst boys play rugby, hockey and cricket. In addition, children can play golf, tennis and table tennis, as well as swim, run cross-country, ride horses or train in athletics. Every year pupils from Culford Prep School represent the county and region in a variety of sports. Culford offers high performance programmes in tennis, swimming, golf and cricket as well as specialist programmes in rugby, hockey and football.

We believe that there is a sport and activity to suit everyone and we will do our utmost to help each child discover the ones they love most and to play them to the best of their ability.



“The facilities are outstanding and there is so much choice in sport and activities.

Parent Survey





# Academy Sports

Our Tennis Academy boasts championship facilities with six indoor and six outdoor courts. We are an LTA Regional Development Centre and have won both the boys’ and girls’ National Championships in the last few years.

Our established Golf Academy benefits from an outdoor driving range and short practice area, as well as an indoor Golf Studio with Trackman for individual coaching. We have links to three golf clubs close to the school where pupils play and practice each week.

Finally, our new FIFA recognised Football Academy not only trains at Culford but also offers aspiring young players the opportunity to play at Bury Town Football Club to increase their exposure to the game.

Our many other activities on offer, from fitness and horse riding to table tennis and life saving, are designed to spark interest in a healthy and social lifestyle. This wide range means that everyone should discover something they can enjoy.



“Being part of the academy helped me achieve my ambition to study at an American university on a full tennis scholarship.”

**Kira** former tennis scholar





## Ready for a Busy Day

Cadogan is a mixed boarding house with boys and girls on separate floors. It overlooks our extensive playing fields and the adventure playground. All the outstanding facilities at Culford Sports and Tennis Centre are available to boarders who also enjoy a full programme of activities at weekends.



# A Home from Home

The pastoral care of your child whilst they are at Culford is our highest priority. Cadogan House, the Prep School's own boarding house for boys and girls, is in an enviable setting at the heart of the School. The Housemistress and her dedicated team of residential staff ensure a real home from home experience.

During the weeknight evenings, the focus is completing prep, playing and getting ready for the following day. There is a superb programme of events for the weekends. From den-building in the woods to quad biking, from ice-skating and cinema trips to a day at the beach, there is always something to look forward to.

While many children choose to full board, some take advantage of our flexible boarding scheme, committing to two or three nights boarding each week and others choose occasional boarding. For busy parents, we also offer an extended day which provides breakfast in school from 07:30 through to evening pick-ups for day pupils, all included in our fees.

Culford also has its own on-site medical centre with a resident nurse and a school doctor always on call should your child need urgent medical attention.



**We believe it is not enough for pupils to be busy, challenged and successful; they must also be happy. Excellent pastoral care, in the context of a safe, caring and vibrant community is key.**





# A Caring Community

We pride ourselves on the high standards of pastoral care we provide. A relaxed and informal atmosphere with easy and open relationships characterises the school. Pupils are encouraged to speak their minds and to contribute to shaping the community in which they live, work and learn.

In our community, anti-social behaviour is not accepted. Your child will be protected by a very strong and effective anti-bullying policy. Pupils themselves enforce clear, positive behaviour patterns, stemming from the Christian ethos which gives Culford its special atmosphere of care and calm combined with a real sense of purpose.



Twice a week, the Prep School meets for Collective Worship and an assembly. One of these services is led by a senior member of the Common Room supported by the Chaplain and the other is a pupil-led service.



# Ready for Innovation

We aim to develop confident, independent learners with enquiring minds and high ethical standards, who have fun together in a spirit of mutual care and toleration.





## Transition to Senior School

All pupils are thoroughly prepared for progression to Culford Senior School and there is a high level of communication between the two schools to ensure that the transition is seamless. Pupils proceeding to the Senior School are invited to the Culford Discovery Day, which is supported by the Head of Fourth Form Transition.

Discovery Day provides a welcome antidote to standard entrance examination days for Upper Third and prospective pupils. During the fun-packed day, children take part in a range of activities that span from producing music in the recording studio, to firing crossbows followed by Q&A sessions with Senior School Prefects.

The Head of Fourth Form Transition's job is to ensure that pupils arrive at the Senior School feeling confident and prepared on their first day. They will also be a point of contact for parents in the lead up to Senior School Induction Day and remain so for the Autumn term.



Culford Prep School has given my child the confidence and inspiration to leave his comfort zone and try new things.

Parent Survey





# What to do next

We hope you have enjoyed reading about life at Culford Prep School. Of course, the best way to get to know more about our school is to come and visit us.

Culford holds regular Open Mornings each term and we welcome individual visits at a time to suit you. We encourage you to visit and ask lots of questions of both teachers and pupils while you are here.

We will make you very welcome and look forward to seeing you. To arrange a visit or find out more, please contact the Admissions team on **01284 385308** or email **[admissions@culford.co.uk](mailto:admissions@culford.co.uk)**







# Culford

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This prospectus describes the broad principles on which Culford School is run and the information within it may be subject to change. The prospectus does not form part of any contractual agreement between parents, pupils or guardians and the School.

Culford School is part of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust.  
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