



PREP

Belhaven Hill

North & Scotland

ARDEVRECK ●●

Crieff, Perthshire PH7 4EX
Website ardvreckschool.co.uk
Head Ali Kinge Pupils 128 day and boarding: 72 boys, 56 girls
Ages 3–13 Term Fees Day: £5,550; boarding: £8,340

Children with a sense of adventure thrive at this co-ed prep perched on a hill in rural Perthshire. Its magical setting makes it perfect for Outdoor Learning ('everybody's favourite subject'), which runs the gamut from Forest School and afternoons spent tackling the new roped tree climb and assault course to 'Barwick' expeditions to climb Munros and 'scale Nevis once in a while'. The fact that pupils head out 'whatever the weather' makes them a 'tough breed' with buckets of character and a 'deep-rooted resilience' – which, paired with their strong academic standards, makes for very desirable senior school candidates. Last year's cohort received an impressive 19 scholarships to top UK schools.

AYS GARTH ●

Newton-le-Willows, Bedale, North Yorkshire DL8 1TF
Website aysgarthschool.com
Head Rob Morse Pupils 201 day and boarding: 183 boys, 28 girls in pre-prep
Ages 3–13 Term Fees Day: £6,630; boarding: £8,630

It's all about balance at this super-smart prep – alongside academia and sports, the boys are 'still able to play and make camps and dens', and they hardly realise that they're scaling academic peaks to gain entry to the top public schools in the country (which they invariably do – with a good handful of scholarships). 'Work hard, play hard' seems to be the order of the day; Head Rob Morse comments that 'even the shy ones get swept along in the current of everyone having a bash at everything'. This is definitely a school for all, brilliant at preparing students for life after the bubble of prep school. The friendships forged here are lifelong.

BELHAVEN HILL ●●

Belhaven Road, Dunbar, East Lothian EH42 1NN
Website belhavenhill.com
Head Olly Langton Pupils 101 day and boarding: 49 boys, 52 girls
Ages 7–13 Term Fees Day: £6,400; boarding: £8,525

Pupils are the best ambassadors of this outdoorsy school: 'engaging without being cocky, they exude good manners, confidence and charm.' Multiple parents cite the exceptional attention to students as individuals, the warm 'special community' established by the pupils' families, the making of enduring friendships and, of course, the idyllic location: a stretch of coast in the sunniest county of Scotland that lends itself perfectly to afternoons paddle-boarding and running along the sandy dunes. Smartphones are banned, meaning children really embrace the great outdoors and enjoy the opportunity to make their own entertainment. September 2020 saw the arrival of Head Olly Langton from Radley, where he was Housemaster – the feedback so far is positive. Belhaven holds its own on the competitive Edinburgh prep school sporting circuit and pupils happily head off to a wide range of senior schools such as Fettes, Rugby and Oundle.



Schools Guide 2021
 the top prep and public schools in the UK

Housemaster – the feedback so far is positive. Belhaven holds its own on the competitive Edinburgh prep school sporting circuit and pupils happily head off to a wide range of senior schools such as Fettes, Rugby and Oundle. Crafts-style building, five minutes from the centre of Edinburgh, Cargilfield nurtures a 'family-feel environment'. At break time, the pupils can snuggle up by a fire while a teacher reads to them, and mindfulness classes have been introduced. But the draw here is the great outdoors, with sport played every afternoon, and pupils loving their frequent trips to nearby Cramond beach. With 50 clubs on offer, including den-building, robotics and chanter (pre-bagpipe practice), pupils' time is well balanced with a 50-minute morning break. The astro pitches are so smart that Scotland's U21 hockey team train on them, inspiring the younger players. Scholarships abound, with pupils heading to Harrow and Wycombe Abbey in the south; Merchiston and Strathallan in the north. A 'lovely stimulating atmosphere' *Tatler's* researcher opines.

Cargilfield

