

# Ready for a New Start



## Senior School (ages 13-18)

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



## Welcome

Culford is a jewel of a school set in a remarkable location. We are just three miles from Bury St Edmunds, but are blessed with a 480 acre park that makes working here a wonderful experience. We are deliberately small with around 800 children in the Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior Schools, but our facilities match or exceed those of much bigger schools. Our size means we know our pupils well and visitors remark upon our family feel time and again.

Year to year, between 50 - 60% of the Senior School are boarders and we are a vibrant pastoral community as well as an academic place of learning. A commitment to the boarding life of the school is expected of all teachers, and engaging with pupils this way is part of what makes the job so rewarding. Our pupils and teachers develop outstanding relationships based upon mutual respect and support.

Culford is academically selective within a deliberately broad framework. We seek pupils who are committed to learning and who can cope well with GCSE and A Levels, but we ignore league tables resolutely. Most pupils go to Russell Group universities in due course; some to Oxbridge most years, and a number to universities abroad, often on scholarships.

Culford has an outstanding reputation for individual and team sports: tennis, swimming, golf, cricket and hockey have outstanding facilities and high performance programmes. Regular national success may seem remarkable for a small school that is determined to stay small, but we see our ability to focus on individuals as a key part of their success.

We want our pupils to be flexible, innovative, dynamic and resilient in their future lives, so we seek to model those values as teachers and as a community. If that sounds like it might be you, I would be delighted to receive your application to join us.

Mr Julian Johnson-Munday MA MBA  
Headmaster



## Our Approach to Teaching and Learning

Even before the pandemic hit, Culford had adopted Google Classroom and the Google Suite as our learning platform. We were, therefore, very well placed to support our pupils' online during this challenging time and parents have been delighted with the education pupils have received. Since returning to in-school learning, we have continued to develop our blended learning approach, and remain committed to preparing our pupils for working life in the digital age, while acknowledging the part that more traditional approaches have to play in successful classroom practice. We actively encourage staff to be research-based and innovative in their lesson and curriculum design, and look to appoint candidates who are continually seeking to improve.

## The Benefits of Working at Culford

We are blessed with a low turnover of teachers at Culford and it is easy to see why. We are a small, friendly staff, with the community and sense of family that pupils feel reflected in our professional relationships. Staff join us from a range of teaching backgrounds, with many having taught overseas and we actively welcome candidates who have state school experience: you certainly do not have to have taught in the independent sector before to fit in here.

Culford is committed to each staff member's professional development and one afternoon each week in the Senior School is dedicated to CPD as testament to our commitment to investing in the growth of all of our teachers. All teaching staff are also provided with a new laptop or tablet of their choice, up to a certain value.

We work in beautiful grounds and many staff take advantage of this, going for a walk at lunchtime or a run after school. Culford also boasts superb sports facilities, including a pool, gym and tennis courts, all of which are available for staff use. Our dining hall provides a varied range of food, from hot meals to salad and soup, all of which is free to staff every day. While there is no doubt that the boarding schedule of a five-and-a-half day week and evening events makes for an enriching and busy term time, we are rewarded with longer summer holidays, a two week October half-term and over three weeks of holiday at Christmas and Easter.

## The Location

Suffolk is a wonderful place to live and Bury St Edmunds is a special town. Small enough to feel like a community, it boasts its own Cathedral and Abbey Gardens and its medieval heart gives it a charming feel. It is also a modern shopping centre, however, with a retail development, the Arc. As well as the normal retail outlets, the area contains the Apex Centre, a venue that offers theatre and live music of all sorts regularly.

The town is home to a number of independent retailers, craft pubs, breweries and restaurants. As well as a multiplex cinema, there is also an Art House cinema that shows an eclectic range of movies which can be watched with wine or beer and from the comfort of a sofa; and the town also boasts a lovingly restored Regency theatre.

Suffolk has low crime rates and high sunshine levels compared to the rest of the UK; and accommodation around Bury St Edmunds is relatively affordable. It is, however, centrally located on the A14 with Norwich and Cambridge both 40 minutes away for a wider range of shops, museums, restaurants and theatres. The coast is less than an hour away with Aldeburgh and Southwold well known for their beauty.

London is a 90 minute drive down the A11/M11, or under two hours by train. Further flung destinations are equally close: Stansted airport is 45 minutes away and Gatwick and Heathrow are both within 2.5 hours drive.

