Ready Culford the Future

Senior School (ages 13-18)

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


VIRILITER AGITE, ESTOTE FORTES



Claire Bentley MEd
Head

Welcome

Thank you for considering Culford. Our mission is to unlock the potential of every child, develop lifelong values and a love of learning, all within a community that strives for excellence and nurtures compassion and resilience.

The world our pupils will inherit will demand a wide variety of skills and talents from them. They will need academic success, clear moral values and transferable leadership skills; as well as a lifelong passion for learning.

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 hold Open Mornings every term and can also arrange taster days and boarding tasters for pupils.

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 children ready for life means developing them into flexible, innovative, dynamic and resilient young adults. The first three are key values in a world in which change is the only constant; and young adults 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: young adults should leave Culford ready for life, a credit to us and a delight to you.





Ready for the World





Our teaching and learning offers highly-personalised pathways so that every pupil can fulfil their academic and personal potential.

Learning for Life



> I am taught by such inspiring and energetic teachers whose passion for their subject is not only evident, but contagious.

Ophelia Upper Sixth





We aim to provide an education that is challenging, enriching and fun for every pupil. This begins in the classroom, where our teaching is judged on learning outcomes based upon individual needs and aspirations.

Pupils need to be appropriately challenged and intellectually stimulated, and work may at times be tough. But the classroom should also seek to offer joy as, without it, pupils will not respond fully to the challenges and enrichment on offer.

Academic success comes from passing exams; success in life comes from an appetite for learning. The latter is the true aim of all education and it is at the very heart of Culford.

Enrichment for Life

Academic results are important and we promote rigour in the classroom to drive examination success for our pupils.

We also, however, value achievement outside the classroom. We expect everyone to get involved in the opportunities we offer: whether in charity work, in the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) or working backstage on the latest drama production; or in the many sports and other activities on offer inside and beyond the campus.

The Culford day is deliberately full and offers a range of activities every afternoon. We want pupils to identify and develop their individual talents, as our experience shows that success outside the classroom often leads to renewed self-belief, effort and achievement within it.







“

I’ve been able to fulfil my dream of representing Great Britain, whilst also achieving the grades I want. My teachers are always on hand to lend support when I need it.

Tom Hudson GB UX Skiing Team

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.



Confidence for Life

The arts are a fundamental part of human culture and an appreciation and understanding of them is key to being a fully developed person.

Pupils are involved in a wide range of musical, dramatic, artistic and other cultural events. In keeping with our values, however, many of them are organised by the pupils themselves.

The orchestra, chamber choir, carols choir, wind band, jazz band and other ensembles are organised to great effect by the music department. On the other hand, House concerts, acoustic rock evenings, Sixth Form concerts and other events are organised, promoted and performed entirely by the pupils to a very high standard.

The drama department produces an annual school musical to the highest production values and with the talents of many pupils on display. Pupils lead as well as support both onstage and behind the scenes, and other events are fully organised by them. House concerts often include dance, drama and film.

The dance department is housed in Culford Hall, boasting two dance studios with purpose built Harlequin sprung floors. Pupils have the opportunity to develop their performance skills through dance shows, choreographic and solo competitions, as well as other events at school and in the community.



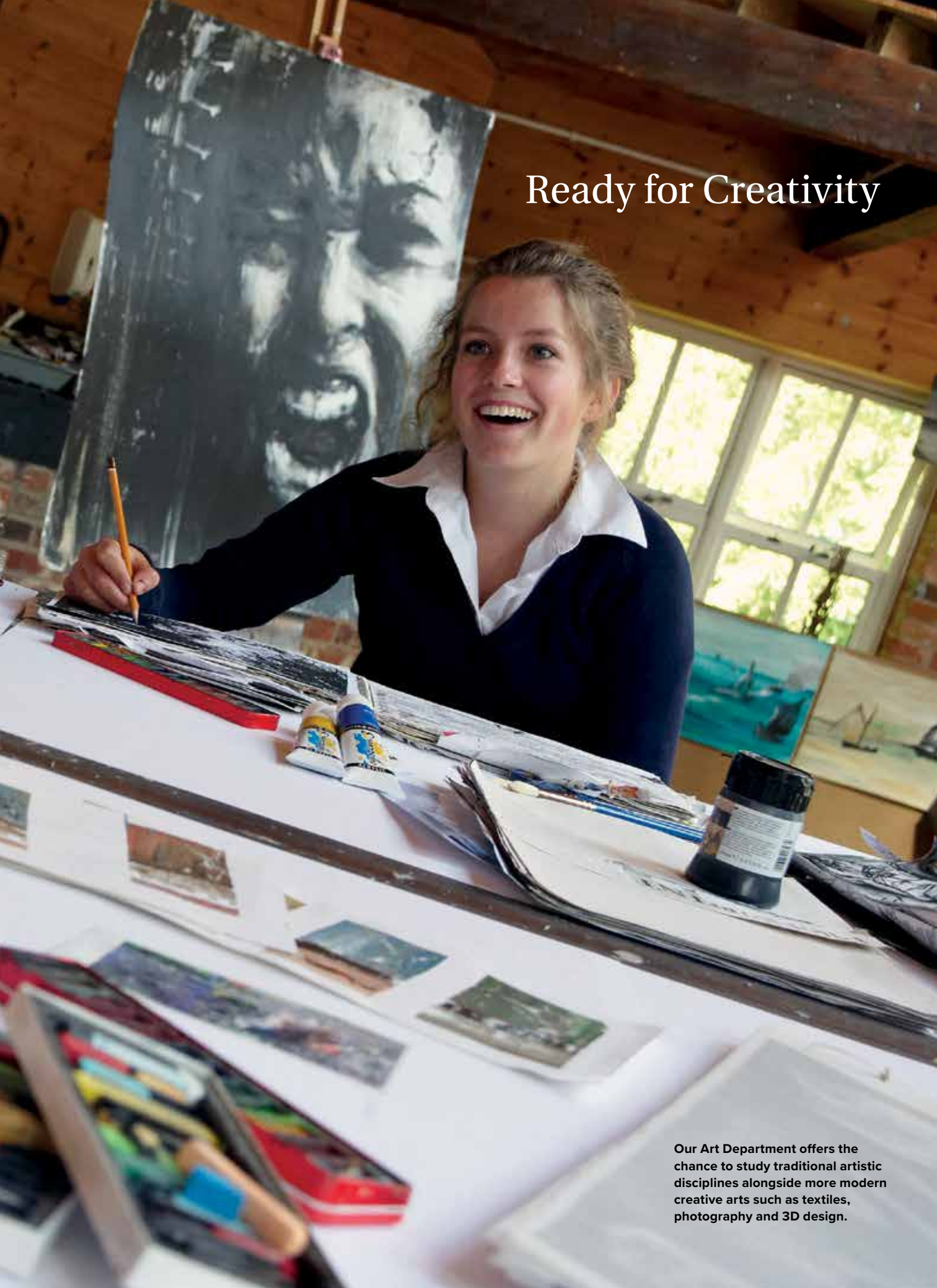


Music, drama and dance are widely popular with pupils across the whole school. Recent productions include *Grease, Legally Blonde* and *The Wiz*.




24 JUMBO
Oil Pastels

Ready for Creativity



Our Art Department offers the chance to study traditional artistic disciplines alongside more modern creative arts such as textiles, photography and 3D design.

Creativity for Life

The expressive arts are also central to human society. Our creative urges are deeply ingrained and we encourage all pupils to be imaginative, creative and passionate in their expression of their views.

Drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, textiles and other artistic media are richly explored in our art department. Pupils achieve stunning results each year but, just as importantly, we ensure that we tap the creative impulses of all our pupils, whatever the skills they possess.

Design Technology offers the chance to design and build projects in wood, metal, plastic and other media. Computer Aided Design is a central part of the process and modern facilities ensure that the most ambitious designs can come to fruition.










HEAD

Ready for the Competition



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

Sport for Life

Culford is known for high levels of achievement, but the foundation of our ethos is to provide every pupil with an opportunity to fulfil his or her sporting aspirations at whatever level. The cornerstones of provision are: technical analysis and skill development; bespoke competitive programmes; sports specific strength and conditioning; and sports injury treatment and rehabilitation. All of this is allied to specialised coaching and first class facilities.

Our Sports Centre has a 25m heated indoor swimming pool; a fitness and strength & conditioning suite; indoor cricket nets and Merlyn spin bowling machine; and a modern indoor climbing wall. Outside are netball courts, two floodlit AstroTurf hockey pitches, a stunning cricket square and immaculate grass pitches for the major games.

Rugby, hockey, netball and cricket are at the heart of our weekly competitive sporting provision. Specific programmes and pathways enable talented pupils to combine an excellent education with tailored, high-performance programmes.





“With one-to-one lessons available across all sports you can really make the most out of the fantastic coaches and facilities at Culford.

Will Upper Sixth



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 more recently 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 and pupils use their facilities 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 basketball and horse riding to table tennis and scuba diving, are designed to spark interest in a healthy and social lifestyle. Their wide range means that everyone should discover something they can enjoy.







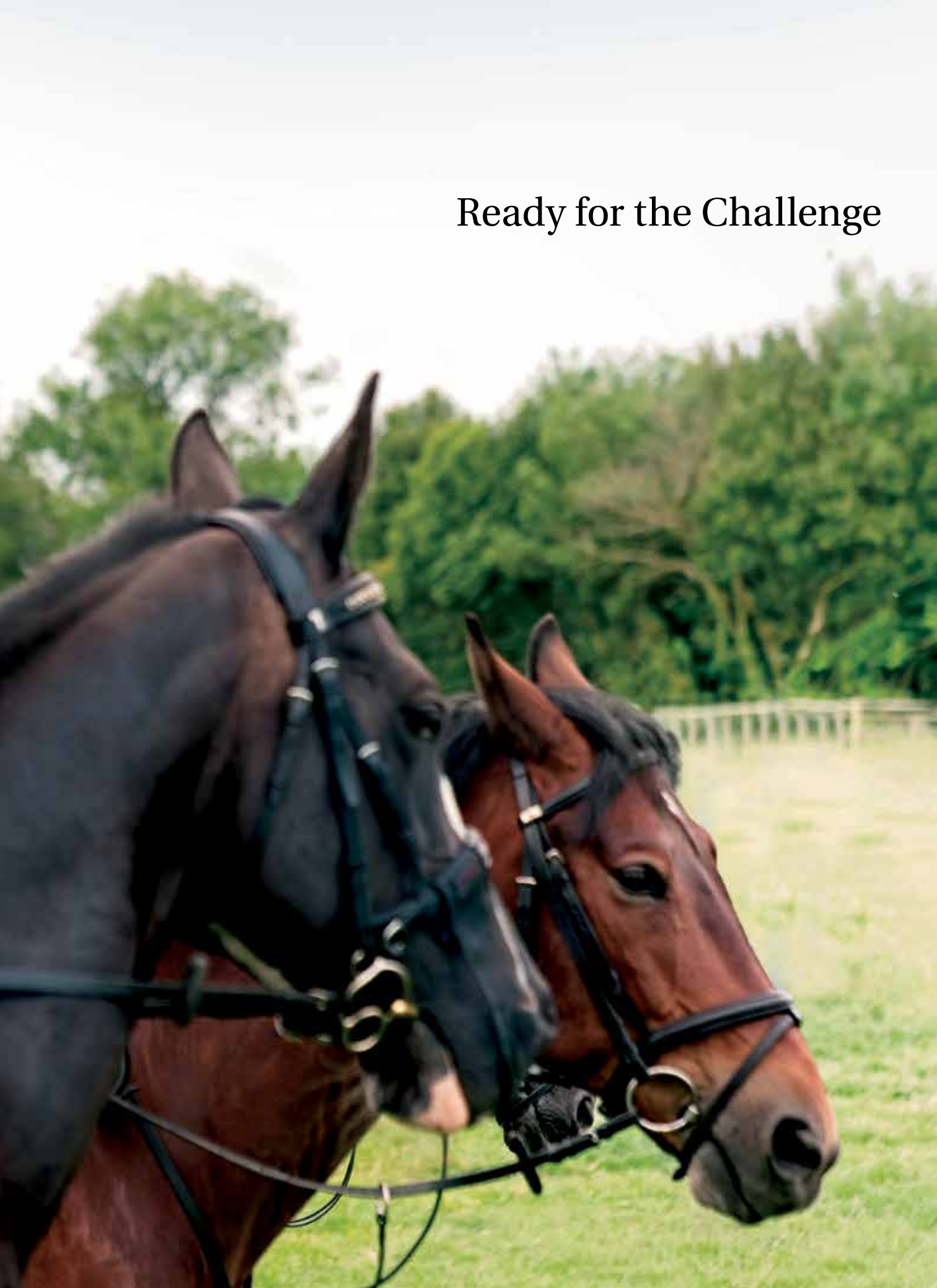
Being part of the academy helped me achieve my ambition to study at an American university on a full tennis scholarship.

Kira former tennis scholar



Our Equestrian Programme is open to all levels of rider from complete beginners through to advanced competition riders.

Ready for the Challenge



Community Values

Boarding is a great route to develop self-reliant, mature young people who have clear values and compassion and tolerance for others. Whether as boarders or day pupils, our community ensures that all pupils see school as not just a place of work, but as a society in which their leadership can make a difference.

Outstanding pastoral care ensures that Culfordians learn to live and work with people whose talents, beliefs, backgrounds and cultures are diverse and respected. It is the perfect preparation for today's world.

> Culford has a very happy and dynamic vibe; it is a great community in which to live and study.

Dominic Ford Head of Boarding





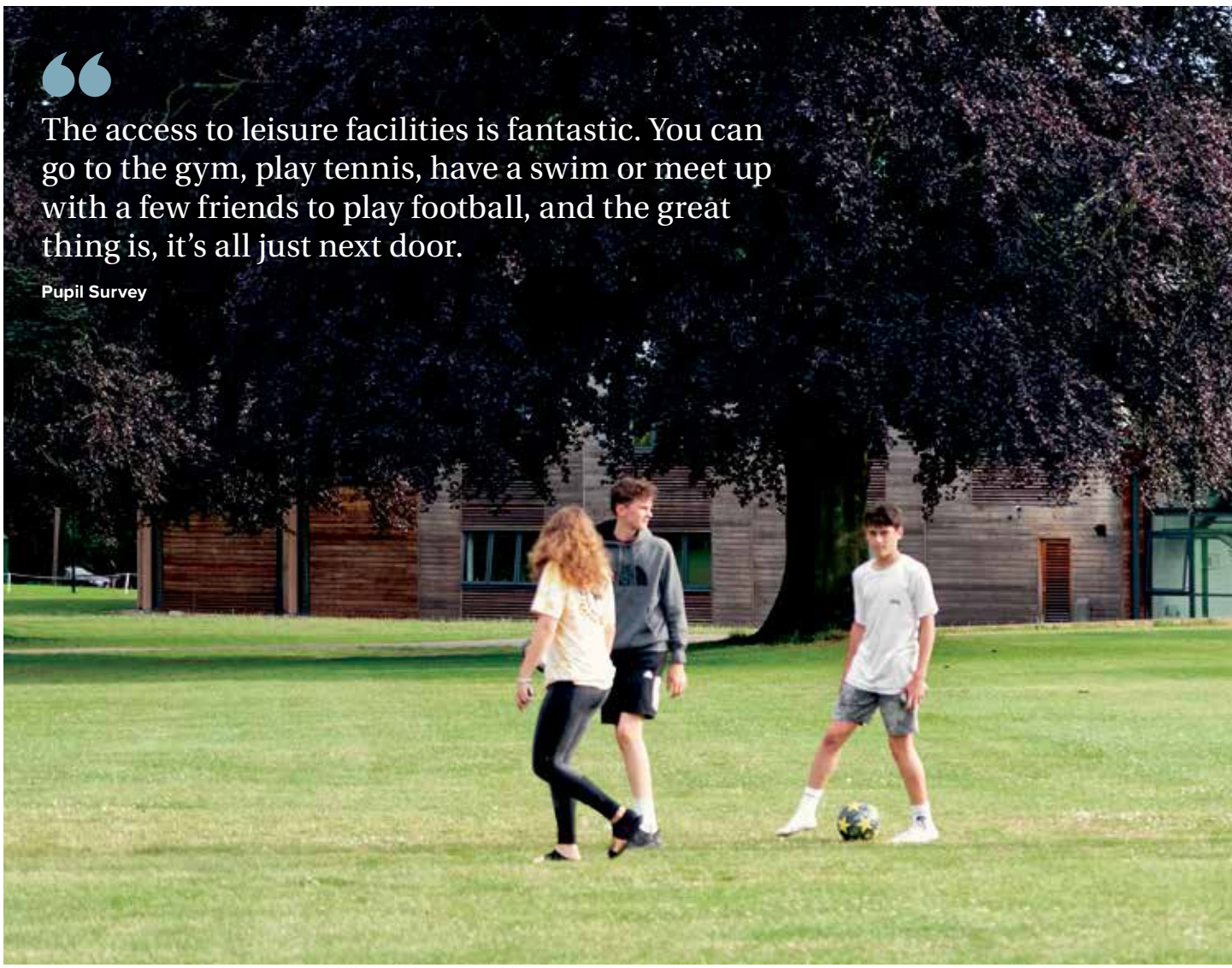
LAURA BUSH
GOOD AS DEAD

Friendship for Life

Everyone belongs to one of four Houses. Each pupil has a Housemaster or Housemistress, as well as a personal tutor, who is responsible for his or her welfare and academic progress.

The Houses are central to our community and offer a home environment for all, whether as a day pupil or a boarder. Day pupils are fully involved in all aspects of life and are always welcome to join the boarders on weekend activities and outings. Houses mix well and friendliness between the years is a natural part of life at Culford.

The school is characterised by a relaxed and informal atmosphere with easy and open relationships. Pupils are encouraged to speak their minds and to help shape the community in which they live, work and learn.







Ready for Service



The Combined Cadet Force aims to promote teamwork, leadership, service and self-reliance through military and adventure training.



The World Beyond Culford



Culford offers a whole host of opportunities for each individual to enrich their own and other people's lives. Fundraising initiatives such as the annual Charity Restaurant, the funding and building of classrooms in Malawi, and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme give Culford pupils every chance to roll up their sleeves and get involved.

By the time they leave us, pupils should have developed broad transferable leadership skills to equip them for their futures. They should also have a sense of their responsibility to serve those whom they would lead.

The world will be theirs to change for the better.









Excellence for All

The Scholars' Programme offers an inspiring programme of events and activities each year. Most events are open to all pupils and some also welcome parents. There are also Oxbridge style tutorial sessions and debates for our Sixth Form scholars.

From astrophysics to medieval literature, or renewable energy to Buddhist philosophy, pupils encounter and enjoy a wide range of diverse topics introduced by experts.

The programme is designed to introduce new, stretching ideas and sow the seeds of potential future passions.

Culford offers Scholarships to recognise and encourage pupils who show real talent and potential for excellence. Academic, music, art, design technology, drama, various sport and all-rounder awards are available; they are awarded openly on the basis of merit.

We are proud to be a charity and we offer financial assistance to help families who could not otherwise afford to accept a place at Culford, or to help pupils already here to remain.





Being at Culford gives me the opportunity to reach my academic potential whilst honing my musical talents.

Jiawen Upper Sixth



Ready for Teamwork



The whole Lower Sixth have their own Freshers' Week, which involves three days of fun and team building in the Peak District.



Moving into the Sixth Form



Culford's Sixth Form does not just focus on academic grades, it ensures pupils are ready for life for when they leave us.

> I have been able to pursue my passion, win a place at the National Youth Film Academy and secure a job in a leading marketing company as part of their video team. It would not have been possible without Culford's support which went above and beyond.

Hadley Butler recent leaver





Joining Culford's Sixth Form is an exciting and defining moment. Students are entering the final stage of their secondary education and choices made here are crucial for later life.

Culford Sixth Formers enjoy a high degree of independence and freedom. From the moment pupils join us and embark on their Freshers' Week Adventure, it is obvious that this is not an ordinary school.

The Sixth Form does not just give pupils the chance to achieve vital academic grades; it also gives them the chance to develop personal qualities that are arguably even more important in the long term.

Our Sixth Form provides the pastoral care to make academic excellence possible. It provides pupils with the ability not only to make competitive applications to university, but also to become well-rounded, impressive and articulate candidates in the employment market, with the social and inter-personal skills necessary to make the most of their individual academic talents.

This is the added value of the Sixth Form at Culford, where pupils look beyond the merely academic to the development of themselves as fully realised individuals.

Sixth Form Academic Life

In the Sixth Form teachers become more like mentors as pupils explore their specialist subjects. With small class sizes, our courses allow for an even greater level of individual attention and personalised, supported learning.







Active Learning Journeys
In the Sixth Form we offer a full range of learning activities and expect pupils to play a far more active role in lessons, which can sometimes lead them in fascinating and unexpected directions. Our approach fuels our pupils' passion for their subjects and those with particular interests can become subject ambassadors, advising younger pupils and helping us to improve courses still further.

Support for All
Culford prides itself on being a supportive learning community and we give our Sixth Formers all the support they need to fulfil their academic potential.

We provide rigorous and regular assessments, feedback and advice to help our pupils get the grades they need to achieve their goals. Those who work hard, listen to our feedback and take our advice often exceed not only our expectations, but also their own.

As well as providing stretch and challenge for the most able, students who find elements of the course tough can access help through academic clinics and revision sessions that run throughout the year. Our teachers are also available for one-to-one help. Individual attention is a key part of our offer and pupils tell us, through feedback questionnaires, that it is of real benefit to them.

Academic Extension
Students are challenged beyond the study of their Sixth Form subjects to give them a competitive advantage. All students have the opportunity to take the Extended Project Qualification, a world recognised qualification that enables students to pick any topic of interest and create a product or essay that highlights the academic debate around that topic.

> The opportunities at Culford are huge; it is these experiences that will set you apart when you are applying for university or your first job and that will help you shape your future.

Marcus Rackowe Head of Sixth Form



Sixth Form pupils have the opportunity to help organise social evenings, charity fundraisers and high profile school events.





Life after Culford

Our pupils develop a love of their subjects, an appetite for learning and have a wide range of extra-curricular interests and experience. This stands them in good stead for completing their UCAS application for university or at interviews for their first job.

The vast majority of pupils move onto higher education institutions, usually university but also Art Colleges, Drama School or vocational courses. To help them choose and successfully apply for courses, our students benefit from having their own individual tutors, as well as subject teachers, a dedicated Head of Sixth Form and Head of Careers. They enjoy one-to-one advice and guidance throughout their decision making process: from choosing A Levels to choosing a degree course.

University Entry
We begin even before Sixth Form with the 'Future Pathways' seminar for pupils and parents at the start of Upper Fifth (Y11). There is a Careers Convention, a key event where pupils can discuss a variety of careers with a number of professionals from different areas.

At the end of Lower Sixth, a 'Life after Culford' conference includes expert speakers from universities, businesses and student organisations; trips to universities, a Q&A with recent leavers and a workshop with HR specialists, all designed to make our students ready for the challenge of employment.

At the start of Upper Sixth, students progress their final application and we provide intensive support through tutors and the Head of Sixth Form. Interview practise sessions are organised for all applicants as necessary. We also work with Morrisby, a dedicated careers platform which guides students on their future pathways and includes a range of diagnostic testing to support students to make informed choices.

Oxbridge Support
There is extensive support for students who wish to apply to Cambridge or Oxford. Aspiring pupils are able to visit an Oxford or Cambridge Student Conference, with our proximity to Cambridge making Open Days easily accessible. We organise a separate visit to Oxford in the Summer term. One-to-one interview workshops are given to all who secure an interview.

Our Commitment

Education is preparation for life in its fullest sense as even one's career forms only a small part of a fulfilled life. The true measure of success in any school is young people who have achieved their full potential not only academically, but also as mature young adults.

Culford offers a whole host of opportunities to challenge each individual and to enrich their own and other people's lives: from fundraising initiatives and direct work in schools and orphanages in Malawi; through to scuba diving in the Red Sea or participating in the CCF and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Our pupils are humble enough to recognise the good fortune their education brings them. That makes them not only ready for life, but deserving of its opportunities and rewards.

By the time they reach 18 your child should be a bright, articulate, caring young adult with clear moral values. They should have the confidence to stretch themselves to the benefit of those they lead or serve, and be engaging and mature for their years.

They should be a credit to us and a delight to you.







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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