

Preparatory School Information Book

September 2024



DEAN CLOSE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL
CHELTENHAM

#DeanClosePrep

#DeanCloseCourage
#DeanClose5Cs
#DeanCloseFlourishing



#DeanCloseLove
#DeanCloseContribution
#DeanCloseFun



A Welcome from the Head

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to welcome you to Dean Close Preparatory School. When visitors come and spend time with us, invariably what strikes them is the positive culture of the School, with both staff and children happily enjoying being part of the school community. Whilst many factors contribute to this, it is the school's Christian ethos, underpinning all that we do, that is undoubtedly the influence.

At Dean Close Preparatory School, great importance is placed on pastoral care, academic achievement and co-curricular experience. From the youngest pupil who joins us in Year 3, to those aged 13 whose next step will be the Senior School, there is an emphasis on the right combination of supervision, encouragement and challenge.

Pupils excel within our broad curriculum and are stretched to ensure that progress is made, whether in the classroom, the music school, on the games field, or on the stage. Through the teaching of the 5Cs (Compassion, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Communication and Creativity), they are continually prepared for life beyond school; to appreciate what it means to exist in community, to share in celebrating success and to handle failure.

With a Prep School population of approximately 300, the sense of family-like community is developed in such a way that it is possible for every child to know each other and to be individually known, valued and cared for by our staff. A sense of the whole school community and shared values is prevalent across the Dean Close Foundation and through our interdependent schools, allowing us to provide the kind of continuity that parents seek and in which children thrive.

Whilst mindful that people shape communities, buildings and facilities help schools such as ours to function at their best. Within a 50 acre town-based site, the School boasts enviable facilities in a wonderful environment.

Please come to see for yourself and I look forward to discussing with you what Dean Close Preparatory School has to offer.

Mr Paddy Moss
Head

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DAY AND BOARDING

The House System

The day and boarding houses are all located in the Prep School grounds. There are three day houses and three boarding houses, including a junior boarding house dedicated to the needs of younger boarders.

Day

All day children are members of a day house – it is their home within school, a place where they can relax amongst friends at the beginning and the end of the day. The three day houses are close together in the centre of the School. Children are allocated a day house when they join and it is their home for the remainder of their time at the Prep School. Each house has a mixture of boys and girls from Years 3 to 8. It encourages friendships across the years and enhances the sense of community. Siblings automatically join the same day house, unless parents request otherwise, which enables the pastoral team in each house to support each family fully.

Children join together in their houses before school starts in the morning and after school. Many children are keen to stay after school and play with their friends in the house if they are not participating in one of the many clubs that are on offer through the week. Each of the houses is equipped with a selection of games and toys, including table tennis and pool.

School meals are eaten in the Prep School Dining Hall. Day pupils are welcome to join the boarders for breakfast for a small additional charge. Lunch is provided for all pupils and supper is for boarders only.

Day pupils are able to stay for occasional nights in Hardy House, our dedicated flexi-boarding house.

Day pupils can arrive from 8.00am and stay until 6.00pm. The school day starts at 8.15am, and unless involved in activities, day pupils may leave at 4.15pm on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday the pick up time is 4.00pm for children who are not involved in matches. There is a supervised Independent Study Time (IST) session for all pupils in Years 6 to 8 on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday until 5.00pm for Year 6 and 5.15pm for Years 7 and 8. On Saturdays, pupils in Years 6, 7 and 8 attend 5 Time, our wide-ranging programme of stimulating skills-based activities designed to enrich the curriculum on offer and provide an exciting alternative for both our day and boarding pupils. 5 Time sessions will finish at 10.30am and are usually followed by sports matches. Years 3, 4 and 5 do not have lessons on a Saturday, but may be playing in sports matches.

There is a School bus service with a number of routes which arrives at Dean Close at 8.10am and departs at 6.00pm. Full details can be obtained from the Admissions Department.

DAILY ROUTINE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday - Hall	Friday - Chapel	Saturday
Period 1	8.50 - 9.40	8.50 - 9.40	8.50 - 9.40	8.50 - 9.40	8.50 - 9.40	8.50 - 9.40	9.00 - 10.30 5 Time Activities
Period 2	9.45 - 10.35	9.45 - 10.35	9.45 - 10.35	9.45 - 10.35	9.45 - 10.35	9.45 - 10.35	
Break	10.35-10.55						
Period 3	11.00 - 11.50	11.00 - 11.50	11.00 - 12.15 Yr 3: Games	11.00 - 11.50 Yr 4-8: Lesson	11.00 - 11.50	11.00 - 11.50	10.30 - 12.00 Fixtures/Home
Period 4	11.55 - 12.45	11.55 - 12.45		12.20 - 12.45 Yr 3: Congo	11.55 - 12.45 Yr 4-6: House Time	11.55 - 12.45	
Lunch	12.45-1.45						
IST	1.50 - 2.15	1.50 - 2.15	Yr 3: Extended Lesson 5	Yr 4-8: Games	1.50 - 2.15 Yr 3-6: IST Yr 7-8: Congo	n/a	n/a
Period 5	2.15 - 3.05	2.15 - 3.05			2.15 - 3.05	1.45 - 2.35	1.45 - 2.35
Period 6	3.10 - 4.00	3.10 - 4.00			3.10 - 4.00	2.40 - 3.25 Yr 3-5: 5 Time Yr 6-8: Lesson	2.40 - 3.25 Yr 3-5: 5 Time Yr 6-8: Lesson
Hall/Chapel	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Hall: 3.30 - 3.55	Chapel: Times vary	

Boarding

Over a quarter of the pupils at DCPS are boarders. 90% of the boarders are full boarders, the majority are children of military parents which means there are always plenty of other children to play with at the weekends.

The three large bespoke boarding houses are on the edge of the School site, so there is a real sense of going home. There is a house for younger boys and girls (Years 3 to 5), one for girls only (Years 6 to 8) and one for boys only (Years 6 to 8). On the lower floors there are games rooms with table tennis, pool, air hockey and also a kitchen so the children can cook and make snacks. On the ground floor there are sitting rooms and a Prep room for study and on the top floor are the dormitories and bathrooms. Each of the houses has been designed to suit the age of the pupils living in them.

After school the children can be found playing outside. The go-karts and trampolines are always popular and the children also enjoy exploring the extensive School grounds. The wide range of sports facilities and organised activities mean that they learn to use their time constructively.

The children are able to email or phone home every day and the Houseparents can be contacted throughout the day and night if necessary. In case of illness there is a fully staffed medical centre on site and a hospital two miles down the road, so all medical problems, large or small are dealt with immediately.

Weekend Activities

For boarders, weekends are full of activities including bowling, visits to the cinema and outings to local places of interest such as Drayton Manor Theme Park, Cotswold Wildlife Park or a sleepover at Airhop in Bristol. We are well served in this area of the county for places that also offer more physically challenging pursuits such as canoeing, sailing, hill walking or paddle boarding. We have a covered play area, which is floodlit and in the winter months provides a base for outdoor play, such as football or hockey up until the bedtime. During the light evenings, under supervision, the boarders are able to take advantage of the extensive School grounds and the excellent facilities such as the cricket nets and tennis courts. Every weekend there is a different fun activity organised for the whole Prep School boarding community.

Day Boarding

Day Boarding allows a child to enjoy the benefits of boarding without, in the first instance, becoming a full boarder. This is an excellent way for many families to begin to experience boarding life. It can be of enormous benefit for extremely busy families and it often serves as a stepping stone to full-time boarding. Pupils can stay up to three nights a week as a day boarder.

Flexi-Boarding

Flexi-boarding offers day pupils the opportunity to board on an occasional basis. This can be seen as a way of easing into boarding. Flexi-boarding also enables those who have extra curricular commitments to stay in school overnight, and can be used as a service to assist parents who occasionally have long or irregular working hours and may need to travel from time to time.

Overseas Pupils

Overseas pupils, whether they are from overseas or from expatriate families, need extra care when they are living such a long way from home. We help in the following ways:

- For those parents who do not have a guardian in the UK, the School is very happy to suggest reputable guardian agencies, with whom they have worked very closely over many years.
- The School can make arrangements to equip children with all the necessary uniform at the School Shop on campus.
- The boarding community work hard to recognise and embrace other cultures by acknowledging notable cultural events throughout the year.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

The School has an evangelical foundation and Christian principles are at the very heart of our ethos and are reflected in all that we do whether it be in a classroom, sports field or chapel setting. Rev Ian Gulland is our Foundation Chaplain based at Dean Close School. Rev Alice Monaghan is our Associate Chaplain based at Dean Close Prep School. We have two lively whole-School Christian assemblies every week and Chapel services prior to Exeat weekends and holidays.

Christian Union Clubs

We have well attended Christian Union Clubs. Every Monday afternoon, at the end of the academic day, three separate Christian Union clubs meet. Each group is led by Christian members of staff who cover different topics during the term and who lead the children in discussion, song, prayer and fun. Events for members of the Christian Union are held throughout the year including residential weekend camps and days out.

TEWKESBURY ABBEY SCHOLA CANTORUM

The choristers of Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum are all educated at Dean Close Preparatory School, Cheltenham. They sing in public four times a week – usually at the weekday services in Tewkesbury Abbey. They do not sing at Easter or Christmas and their commitment to the choir is largely term time only. Since September 2021, places in the choir have been open to girls as well as boys.

The choir's day to day repertoire is wide-ranging and includes music from the 15th century to the present day. New music features regularly and in the last few years Matthew Martin, David Bednall and Roxanna Panufnik have all written new works for the choir. Schola Cantorum frequently performs concerts including major works by Handel and Bach. CD recordings are a regular feature and the choir is often invited to broadcast Choral Evensong on BBC Radio 3.

The choristers love touring and in the last few years the choir has visited France, Sweden and the Netherlands. Closer to home the choristers have also sung at several Oxford colleges and St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. From time to time the choir is invited to sing at other special events such as the Festival of the Sons of the Clergy at St Paul's Cathedral. Choristers are usually offered chorister scholarships from Years 3 or 4 until the end of Year 8. They spend their first year as 'probationer' choristers, learning the ropes with a reduced timetable of services. All choristers receive individual singing lessons free of charge. Their schedule is demanding, but the children enjoy the huge rewards of working in a team, travelling as a group of friends and performing as professionals.

Choristerships

We audition children for chorister scholarships from Years 3 to 6.

All external pupils will be asked to sit an English paper and a Cognitive Ability Paper.

Candidates will need to bring a piece of music of their own choice which can be of any style they like – or just a hymn – but something they feel confident to sing. The audition includes some aural tests and they will be asked to sing some exercises to explore their vocal range and potential.

Successful candidates will become probationary choristers. They will also be encouraged to take up an instrument and to become fully integrated members of the School, taking advantage of everything that a Dean Close education has to offer.

Probationary choristers receive a bursary of 10% which increases to 20% after the first year. Additional bursary support can be applied for if necessary.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

The children follow a broad and stimulating curriculum that is delivered by teachers who bring their own love of learning into the classroom. In Year 3, the majority of lessons are delivered by pupils' class teachers, giving them important continuity. However, there are also specialist teachers for a number of subjects, and as pupils move up the School, they see an increasing number of subject specialists. The academic curriculum is based upon an independent Year 7-9 curriculum for Years 7 to 8. This helps ensure that the transition from Dean Close Preparatory School to Dean Close School is as smooth as possible.

Dean Close Preparatory School meets the educational needs of a wide range of individual abilities and aims to provide an appropriate education for every child in the family. Small classes, a challenging curriculum and an experienced Learning Support Department all mean the School is able to extend the most able to academic excellence whilst supporting lower attainers to achieve their best.

We seek to develop the whole person in preparation for entry to the Senior School. All children take part in a Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education programme (PSHCE), including stimulating Healthy Living Days for Years 7 and 8 which encourage them to consider issues about their lives and the lives of others.

Academic life at school is very busy and the pupils quickly learn how to apply themselves with a keen sense of purpose.

Digital Learning

As well as discrete Computing lessons for all year groups in our computer suite, pupils in Years 5 to 8 have a chromebook as part of their kit list. This powerful learning tool opens up all sorts of creative digital opportunities and computer-based learning sits alongside more traditional pen and paper methods as we recognise the importance of both when preparing this generation for adulthood.

Educational Activities

Throughout the year the children are given the chance to take part in many different activities both in and out of school. These are designed to enhance their educational development. Visits to the theatre, art galleries and museums as well as to places of historical and geographical interest take place for children of all ages throughout the year. Apart from off site residential trips, all trips are included in the fee structure.

Years 3, 4 and 5: Junior Forms

At the age of seven children join the Preparatory School. Initially, most teaching is based in their classroom. In Year 3 the majority of lessons are taught by the class teacher, with a gradual increase in specialist teaching as time goes on. Carefully chosen sets are used for Maths from Year 3 and Spelling in Years 4 and 5. For these lessons, the year group is divided into two or three sets, where the same curriculum is followed in all sets, but the pace of teaching may vary, with some groups working more quickly on occasions or being challenged to apply their knowledge and understanding to new contexts, while the necessary support and reinforcement work is offered for pupils who need it. Sets are fluid throughout the year as we assess the children regularly.

The Junior Forms classrooms are all next to each other in a separate building, giving the department a small and comfortable feel, but the children get plenty of opportunities to play and interact with older pupils in the Houses outside of lesson times. Traditional teaching and learning methods are supplemented with a bank of chromebooks for Years 3 and 4, and every class has an interactive whiteboard.

These are the subjects taught in Years 3 to 6:

English	Geography	Design Technology
Mathematics	Religious Studies	Music
Science	Computing	PE and Games
French	PSHCE	Drama
History	Art	Forest School

Years 6, 7 and 8: Senior Forms

Academic lessons take place Mondays to Fridays. On Saturday mornings, pupils attend our brilliant '5 Time' enrichment programme. (All boarders take part and it is optional for day pupils). We run five modules across the year, each containing ten different courses which focus on developing the 5Cs: Compassion, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Communication and Creativity.

As a preparatory school, we want to give pupils the opportunity to experience a broad curriculum, and prepare them for life in the Senior School. We want to help them discover interests and talents they might not have been aware of. To that end in Year 7 children start to learn Latin and Spanish.

These are the subjects taught in Years 7 and 8:

English	Spanish	Art
Mathematics	History	Design Technology
Science	Geography	Music
French	Religious Studies	PE and Games
Latin	Computing	PSHCE
		Drama

In Years 6 to 8 each child is assigned a house tutor who is responsible for their academic and pastoral progress. This system ensures that every pupil has a member of staff looking out for them, celebrating their successes and supporting them as necessary.

From Year 6 onwards, children have the option to stay for supervised Independent Study Time after school three days a week, where they can complete their prep. Staff are on hand to give extra help if needed.

At the end of Year 8, children take their end of year exams to go onto their Senior School of choice. The vast majority of pupils go on to Dean Close School.

Monitoring Progress

All pupils are assessed at regular intervals at an age appropriate level, and parents are informed of progress. If any child is not making the necessary academic progress after an initial settling-in period, a meeting is organised with parents as soon as possible to work out a route to resolving the situation. This may include the creation of an Individual Support Programme that sets out specific milestones to be achieved in class or with the help of Learning Support. CAT4 tests are taken at the start of Years 3, 5 and 7 and standardised tests are taken yearly in Reading, Spelling, English, Maths and Science. We are then able to track pupils whose achievement lags cognitive ability and put intervention in place for them.

Year 3 Entry

The School offers a 7+ academic scholarship to pupils joining in Year 3. The assessment process takes into account pupils' ability, potential, attitude and work ethos. The Prep School awards commence on the 1st September of Year 3 and run to the end of Year 6, by which time pupils will have the opportunity to sit 11+ scholarships.

Year 7 Entry

The School offers a number of scholarships for pupils joining in Year 7. These are: Academic, Sport, Music, Art and Drama. For those applicants who show considerable academic promise, but not of the standard required for a Scholarship, a Headmaster's Award may be offered. Awards are subject to good behaviour, academic endeavour and commitment to the whole life of the School. Scholarships given at 11+ continue until the pupil leaves Dean Close. They are rarely revoked or reduced; however, they are reviewed annually and reassessed at 13+ for entry to the Senior School.

LEARNING SUPPORT

The Learning Support Department is an integral part of the School's academic provision. The department provides a range of additional support services in literacy, numeracy and the curriculum. It tailors specialist tuition, one-to-one or in small groups, to the individual needs of each child. All one-to-one tuition is charged. All pupils who receive support follow a mainstream academic programme.

Literacy Support – The department offers specialist support for pupils with specific learning difficulties and provides a structured course to develop spelling, literacy, comprehension skills and study skills.

Numeracy Support – In collaboration with the Head of Mathematics, a small number of pupils are selected for individual tuition from a specialist teacher. A charge is made for individual Mathematics support, which is added to the bill on a termly basis.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)

For those pupils who need extra help with the English language, we offer English as an additional language tuition with two specialist teachers in our EAL department. Children either have one-to-one or group lessons which cover vocabulary, grammar and phonics as well as key vocabulary for other curriculum subjects. There is a strong emphasis on reading and exploring the classics of English literature, appropriate for the EAL pupils.

SPORT

The School's outstanding sports facilities include extensive sports pitches, two astro pitches (one of which is floodlit), indoor 25m swimming pool, large gymnasium, tennis courts, a bouldering and climbing wall and a sports block containing a large sports hall, dance studio and fully equipped gymnasium.

Everyone plays organised sport with Years 6, 7 and 8 playing three times and Years 3, 4 and 5 twice a week. Boys play rugby, hockey and cricket with pupils in Years 7 and 8 having the option to play tennis instead of cricket. Girls play hockey, netball and cricket with pupils in Years 7 and 8 having the option to play tennis instead of cricket. Every pupil is in a team appropriate to their ability and will represent the School in matches against other schools from Year 3 upwards. All children participate in cross-country and athletics. As well as the organised games lessons, every child has a PE lesson each week. In all sports, professional coaches encourage children to reach their potential. There are also lots of sporting clubs the children can join at lunchtimes and after school. We also offer free swimming lessons to pupils in Years 3 to 5 on a Saturday morning.

Break times in the morning and at lunchtime are always outside either on the playing fields or on our outdoor covered play area, so the children have the opportunity to run around and get some fresh air.

MUSIC

The School has a large spacious Music School which encompasses two music classrooms, a song school and music practice rooms. Every child has weekly class music lessons where they develop listening skills, composition skills and learn to read and write music. There is also a wide range of instruments on offer for private music lessons so every child has the opportunity to find something they can enjoy.

We can offer tuition in a range of instruments, including:

Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Harp, Clarinet, Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone, Recorder, Cornet, Trumpet, Baritone, Euphonium, French Horn, Trombone, Orchestral Percussion, Drum-Kit, Guitar – Bass, Electric and Acoustic, Singing, Piano, Keyboard and Organ.

Occasionally there are waiting lists for individual instrument lessons. Pupils are able to access information and music lesson timetables via the co-curricular website.

Music Groups and Concerts

The music groups vary year by year depending on the needs and abilities of the children. Currently the regular groups are:

Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Jubilate Choir, Junior Blowers, Senior Orchestra, String Quartets, Senior Strings, Flute Ensemble, Junior Strings, Guitar Ensemble, Rock & Pop Groups and Music Theory Groups.

There is a busy programme of approximately 35 musical events throughout the year, with one major concert every term.

Lunchtime Performance Platforms are open to all performers.

DRAMA, ART AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Drama

The School has a 320 seat theatre, an outdoor amphitheatre and two dedicated drama classrooms. All pupils in Years 3 to 8 in the Preparatory School have timetabled Class Drama as part of the curriculum. In these lessons, pupils are encouraged to express themselves vocally and physically, and learn to work with others in a group situation. They are also taught to listen and interact with others. The Class Drama Curriculum feeds into Drama as an academic subject in Year 9 at the Senior School, as well as complimenting the English Curriculum.

Two productions are performed annually – a Junior Production for Years 3 to 5 and the Senior Production for Years 6 to 8. This gives every child in the School the opportunity to be involved either in acting, dancing, singing or behind the scenes on the production side with set design, make-up or sound and lighting.

Extra-Curriculum Speech and Drama

Speech and Drama lessons serve to focus attention on the individual, developing performance skills such as diction, expression, characterisation and performance and communication skills. Pupils taking these lessons are entered for the LAMDA Verse and Prose, Performance Reading, Public Speaking, Acting and Musical Theatre graded examinations. Lessons are offered either individually, in pairs or in groups of three.

Extra-Curriculum Dance

Lessons are offered by Janet Marshall Dance School in Modern, Ballet and Tap in our dedicated Dance Studio, for all pupils in Years 3 to 8.

Pupils have previously had the opportunity to perform in the end of year Extravaganza, performed in the Bacon Theatre.

Art

The light and airy purpose-built art and pottery rooms provide excellent facilities for painting, drawing and collage as well as ceramics, sculpture and textiles. The children are encouraged to always try their best and to take great pride in their work, which is exhibited throughout the School. Pupils are given the opportunity to explore a range of skills, techniques, processes and experiences and to develop an appreciation of various artists and styles.

Design Technology

All children are taught Design and Technology in our state-of-the-art department which includes many power tools, machines and five 3D printers. During their time in the Prep School, pupils gain experiences using different materials and processes to broaden their knowledge. The Year 7 pupils currently do a joint project with the Year 2 pupils in Pre-Prep and the Year 8 pupils often make projects with our schools in the community. These projects are great for reinforcing our School Values and the 5Cs (Compassion, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Communication and Creativity).

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We have a comprehensive and varied activities programme, which changes termly. Most activities are free, but one or two do come with an extra charge. Some of last year's activities included:

Art, Athletics, Chess, Christian Unions, Colouring, Creative Computing, Creative Kids, Cricket Nets, Cross County, Dance Classes*, Design Technology, Eco Warriors, Fencing, Football, Gardening, Gymnastics, Handwriting, Hockey, Horse Riding*, Mind Expansion, Minecraft Coding, Nature Time, Origami, Reading Under The Trees, Rowing*, Running, Sports Scholars' Conditioning, Swimming Clubs, Tennis, Yoga.

(*extra charge)

VISITING THE SCHOOL – The Admissions Process

Visitors are warmly welcomed to Dean Close Preparatory School either for a personal tour or to one of the three Open Mornings held during the year.

Personal Tour

All prospective parents are invited for a personal tour of the School. A personal tour gives prospective parents time to discuss all aspects of school life and ways in which the School can meet their child's individual educational needs. During a personal tour parents will be given the opportunity to meet the Head of the Preparatory School and other key members of staff such as the Academic Director, boarding and day Houseparents, the Director of Music, form and specialist teachers (subject to staff availability). To arrange a visit, please telephone the Admissions Office on 01242 258001.

Open Mornings

Regular Open Mornings are held throughout the year. They are usually held on Saturdays, starting at 8.45am and ending at 10.30am. These occasions are an opportunity for prospective families to hear from the Head and other senior staff, as well as spend time with pupils who act as their tour guides.

Tours of the Prep School are followed by opportunities to visit the Pre-Prep and Senior sections of Dean Close.

If you would like further information about Open Mornings, please contact the Admissions Office on 01242 258001.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

All pupils entering the Preparatory School will take a Progress in English test (PTE) and a Progress in Maths test (PMT), as well as completing a short piece of creative writing. Papers can either be completed at the Preparatory School in the Admissions Office or arrangements can be made to send the tests out to your child's school if appropriate.

Admissions Team

Registrars:

Mrs Clare Carter and Mrs Sarah Beeby
01242 258001
dcpsregistrar@deanclose.org.uk

Dean Close Preparatory School

Lansdown Road, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire, GL51 6QS

5 TIME FOR YEARS 3 TO 5

An exciting feature of our curriculum is 5 Time. On Friday afternoons, pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5 take part in a fun but stretchy challenge, designed to broaden their education whilst asking them to complete something they may not have been expecting.

Some of last year's challenges included:

Building a Go Kart	Geology	The CREST Award (STEM projects)
Dataface (in conjunction with the Science Festival)	German	Creative Sketchbooking
History Challenge	Volleyball	Production Challenge
Marketing Challenge	Podcasting	Technical Theatre
Girls' Rugby	The IDEA Award (enterprise)	
Darts	Debating	

FEES 2024/25

Dean Close operates an inclusive fee system where most items are included thereby avoiding a long list of extras.

In response to the Government's decision to levy VAT at 20% on independent school fees from January 2025, we have had to carefully review our fee structure.

As a foundation, we are committed to supporting our families by absorbing more than half of the additional cost, ensuring that the increase in school fees for the Lent and Trinity Terms 2025 will be limited to no more than 9.75%.

Updated fees are now available on our website. Please use the QR code below to access the details.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.



What is included?

- All course text books and stationery (charges will be made for lost or damaged textbooks).
- Laundry (Boarders).
- Games equipment not listed as an optional extra.
- Laboratory and CDT expenses (pupils wishing to keep completed items pay only for materials).
- Travel on strictly educational trips and for teams to School matches.
- Lunches for day pupils.

What is not included?

- Chromebook Laptop or Tablet.
- A few books (eg. atlas) and personal equipment (eg. calculator) listed in the joining instructions.
- Learning Support and English as an Additional Language lessons.
- Optional extras such as Instrumental lessons, Speech and Drama tuition, Dance and Riding lessons.
- Visits to plays, concerts, etc. outside the curriculum.
- Major trips such as the Year 7 Snowdonia trip and the Devon Leavers' trip.

Insurance

The following pupil insurances are available on an opt in basis:

- i The School Fees Refund Scheme (loss of fees through sickness), at 0.95% of fees.
- ii The School's group membership of AXA PPP Healthcare, at £140 per term.
- iii Personal Effects Insurance Scheme at £7.80 per term.

Please note that personal possessions are not covered by the School insurance. Parents should check whether their own insurance covers such items whilst at School and if appropriate consider taking advantage of the Pupils' Personal Effects Insurance Scheme.

The School cannot accept liability for the loss of, or damage to, pupils' personal property or property on loan to them.

The Dean Close Foundation has arranged for all pupils from Reception Year upwards to be covered by the Pupil's Personal Accident Insurance Scheme (incorporating Dental injury) at no additional charge.



TERM DATES

Michaelmas Term 2024 (13 weeks)

Tuesday 3 September - Friday 13 December

Boarders return	Monday 2 September, 6.00pm
Start of Term	Tuesday 3 September
Exeat	Friday 27 Sep - Sunday 29 Sep
Half Term	Thursday 17 October - Sunday 3 November
Boarders return	Sunday 3 November, 6.00pm
2nd Half of Term Begins	Monday 4 November
Exeat	Friday 22 Nov - Sunday 24 Nov
End of Term	Friday 13 December after Carols by Candlelight

Lent Term 2025 (11 weeks)

Tuesday 7 January - Thursday 27 March

Boarders return	Monday 6 January, 6.00pm
Start of Term	Tuesday 7 January
Exeat	Friday 24 Jan - Sunday 26 Jan
Half Term	Friday 14 February - Sunday 23 February
Boarders return	Sunday 23 February, 6.00pm
2nd Half of Term Begins	Monday 24 February
Exeat	Friday 14 Mar - Sunday 16 Mar
End of Term	Thursday 27 March

Trinity Term 2025 (9 weeks)

Tuesday 22 April - Saturday 28 June

Boarders return	Monday 21 April, 6.00pm
Start of Term	Tuesday 22 April
Exeat	Friday 2 May - Monday 5 May
Half Term	Friday 23 May - Sunday 1 June
Boarders return	Sunday 1 June, 6.00pm
2nd Half of Term Begins	Monday 2 June
End of Term	Saturday 28 June after Speech Day

POLICIES

The following policies are available from the School Office (please ask for further details), and on the School website.

- Admissions Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Data Protection Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Recruitment Selection and Disclosures Policy
- Risk Assessment Policy
- Safeguarding Policy

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Head

Mr. P. Moss BA (Hons) (SOAS, London University) 2015

Head of Wellbeing (Deputy Head)

Mr. J. Harris BA (Hons) (Reading), PGCE (Bath) 1996

Academic Director (Deputy Head)

Mr. J. Gould BA (Hons) Southampton, PGCE (Southampton) 2011

Bursar

Mr. A. Bowcher MBA, DipFS, FCIB 2013

TRUSTEES Chairman Mrs. K. Carden

*Correspondence address for Chairman: Mrs K Carden,
C/o The Clerk of the Trustees, Dean Close School,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. GL51 6HE.*

*A full list of all Common Room and Trustees can be found on our website
www.deanclose.org.uk*

LOCATION

Dean Close School is situated in Southwest England in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, in the midst of the picturesque Cotswolds. It is easily reached from Junction 11 of the M5 motorway via the A40, or from the nearby Cheltenham Spa railway station.

The School is a five minute taxi ride or a ten minute walk from the station. Train times can be found on www.nationalrail.co.uk.

The nearest international airports are Birmingham, Bristol and Cardiff which are all about one hour away by car. There is a local airport at Staverton.

The School sits on the largest plot of privately owned land in Cheltenham, just off the outskirts of the Regency town. The Preparatory School is located on Lansdown Road, and for SatNav purposes, visitors should enter the postcode GL51 6QS. Visitors should come through the iron gates into our Visitors' Car Park located at the front of School.

On the School website (www.deanclose.org.uk) you will find links to Google maps as well as a range of downloadable site maps.

Recommended Local Taxi Company

727: 01242 242424

Dean Close Preparatory School

Lansdown Road, Cheltenham, Glos, GL51 6QS
www.deanclose.org.uk 01242 258000





Wilton: Mixed Junior Boarding House
Boys and Girls aged 7-10



DEAN CLOSE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

CHELTENHAM

Lansdown Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 6QS

Telephone 01242 258000
Email dcpsoffice@deanclose.org.uk

www.deanclose.org.uk