



# BEECHWOOD

*Sacred Heart School*



*Prospectus 2009-10*

Beechwood Sacred Heart School  
Pembury Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3QD, UK

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Headmaster: Mr Nicholas Beesley MA(Oxon)

Registrar: Mrs Sue Dyke  
[registrar@beechwood.org.uk](mailto:registrar@beechwood.org.uk)

Chairman of Governors:  
Father Kevin Taggart OSB

## SCHOOL AIMS

Beechwood Sacred Heart intends to be a vibrant, caring school, providing an education based on Catholic, Christian principles, affordable to parents and attractive to pupils, enabling all who study here to achieve their full potential and equipping them to compete successfully in the outside world.

In particular, Beechwood aims to be:

- ✦ *a happy, friendly school with a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere*
- ✦ *a school in which every pupil is known and valued personally*
- ✦ *a school in which pupils can grow and develop with confidence*
- ✦ *a school that maintains traditional values, but always seeks to keep up with modern innovations and developments*

In order to achieve these overall aims, we have the following specific intentions:

- ✦ *To provide for all pupils a curriculum that is broad, balanced, coherent and relevant*
- ✦ *To assist all pupils to acquire the knowledge and skills which will enable them to lead fulfilling lives at school, at home and at work*
- ✦ *To enable all pupils to become confident, independent, self-disciplined adults, able to co-operate with others in a responsible and considerate manner*
- ✦ *To assist all pupils to appreciate human achievement in all forms: art, drama, literature, music, science, technology and physical pursuits and to encourage participation in these fields as appropriate*
- ✦ *To enable all pupils to gain a knowledge of and respect for people of other races and nationalities and their beliefs, cultures and ways of life, and to encourage them to live together harmoniously*
- ✦ *To develop in all pupils a care and concern for others*
- ✦ *To promote in all pupils respect of religious and moral values, especially those of the Catholic Church*



# BEECHWOOD

## *Sacred Heart School*

Tranquillus mediis in undis  
*Calm amidst the waves*

### ADMISSIONS POLICY

Beechwood Sacred Heart School admits boys and girls with a wide range of academic ability. The school does not permit race, colour or disability to be used as criteria for pupil admission and it welcomes pupils from diverse cultural, racial, socio-economic and religious backgrounds.

Admission normally takes place according to the following process:

- ✦ *Initial visit and tour of the school*
- ✦ *Entrance Day or Trial day for prospective pupil*
- ✦ *Interview with Headmaster or Head of Prep*
- ✦ *Written reports from current school*
- ✦ *Offer of a place*

### OVERSEAS PUPILS

Pupils from overseas may not be able to comply with the usual entrance procedures. They will normally be required to complete the school's own tests for overseas pupils in English and Mathematics. Selection will be based on performance in these tests and on a report from the pupil's current school. Other criteria set out in this Admissions Policy will apply equally to pupils from overseas.

### ENTRY

In the Preparatory School, entry is usually into Reception (age 4) or Year 3 (age 7). In the Senior School entry is normally at age 11, 13 or 16, into Year 7, Year 9 or Year 12 respectively.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection for entry in any part of the school will be made on the basis of performance in entrance tests, the impression made during interview and/or a trial day, and on reports from the prospective pupil's current school. The single most important criterion used for selection, however, is that the prospective pupil should be able to meet and maintain the standards required by the school for all its pupils and should feel comfortable with the ethos to which the school aspires. In cases in which other factors are equal, preference may first be given to a sibling of an existing pupil. In light of the school's Catholic foundation, preference will also be given to Catholic candidates.

For entry to the Senior School, preference may first be given to an existing Preparatory School pupil. For entry into the Sixth Form, pupils will be expected to have achieved a minimum of 5 GCSE A\* – C passes (or their equivalent).

The school may refuse entry to a pupil whose educational special needs are considered by the school to be beyond those which we can provide through our own Learning Development Department.

All decisions regarding selection for entry to the school are at the sole discretion of the Headmaster.

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS

At Beechwood we strive to achieve the best possible academic results for every pupil. Teachers are generous of their time in supporting pupils, and in stretching the most able, ensuring that all pupils reach their full potential. Our value-added record is remarkable with measurements showing that, on average, pupils gain more than one grade higher in GCSE examinations than predicted by their baseline tests at age 11. At A-level, our students often exceed expectations and we are regularly placed in the top 10% schools nationwide, with all leavers gaining places on their chosen courses in Higher Education. Our public examination results at all levels, from Key Stage 1 SATs to A-level, can be seen on the school website.

## ENTRANCE & SCHOLARSHIP DAYS

- ✦ *Sixth Form Entrance & Scholarship Day:*  
Saturday 21 November 2009
- ✦ *11+ Entrance and Scholarship Day:*  
Saturday 16 January 2010
- ✦ *13+ Entrance and Scholarship Day:*  
Thursday 14 January 2010
- ✦ *7+ Scholarship Day (if places available):*  
March 2010

On these days, tests are set in English, Mathematics and non-verbal reasoning, and all candidates have an interview with the Headmaster. Entrance tests are not for the purpose of selection, but are used to assess scholarship candidates and to give the School a baseline assessment of all new pupils.

## SENIOR SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

We expect that students receiving scholarships will make a significant contribution in their subject areas and be good ambassadors for the school. All scholarships are reviewed at the end of each Key Stage.

## ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

*11+ & 13+ awards* – Candidates will sit examination papers in English, Maths and non-verbal reasoning, with scholarships awarded to the highest scoring candidates.

*Sixth Form (16+) award* – Candidates will sit a non-verbal reasoning test and examination papers in two subjects of their choice that they wish to study at A-level. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of the performance in the test and exam papers, together with the school reference and interview.

## ART SCHOLARSHIPS

*11+ & 13+ Awards* – Candidates should bring their complete Art portfolio. They will sit a short drawing test and be interviewed by the Head of Art.

*16+ Award* – Candidates should bring their portfolio, in which they demonstrate their ability to draw from observation and their use of imaginative colour. They will take a short drawing test and be interviewed by the Head of Art.

## DRAMA SCHOLARSHIPS

On Scholarship Day all candidates will perform a prepared monologue that they have learnt by heart.

*11+ & 13+ Awards* – candidates should choose their monologue from pieces supplied by the School. They should be able to demonstrate characterisation and physicalisation. The candidate will also take part in a drama workshop, when they will have the opportunity to display creativity and the ability to work as part of a team.

*Sixth Form 16+ Award* – The candidate may choose their own piece, which should have a maximum length of three minutes and they should demonstrate characterisation and physicalisation. Candidates will also be interviewed by the Head of English & Drama.

Students who are awarded a drama scholarship are expected to become actively involved in school drama.

### **MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarships are awarded for above average musical skill and aptitude. Candidates without the specific qualifications but who can demonstrate proficiency comparable to this standard will also be considered.

*11+ & 13+ Awards* – Candidates would normally have reached a minimum of grade 3.

*16+ Award* – candidates would normally have reached a minimum of grade 6.

On Scholarship Day, candidates will give a performance on their first study (instrument or voice), with an optional performance on their second study. They will take a sight reading test and be interviewed by the Director of Music.

Students who are awarded a music scholarship are expected to make a full contribution to the extra-curricular music of the school, including joining the school choir.

### **SPORT SCHOLARSHIPS**

Candidates are expected to have reached a high standard in their chosen sport (County or Club) or have the potential to achieve at this level. They would have represented their school in one or more sports. On Scholarship Day candidates will take a fitness test, they will be assessed in a variety of skills and take part in a team game. They will also be interviewed by the Head of the PE Department.

We expect students awarded a sports scholarship to lead by example, show enthusiasm and keenness to improve by attending sports practices, and become key members of a school team.

### **THE CURRICULUM – Preparatory School**

In the Preparatory School we aim to encourage a genuine enthusiasm for learning and we believe that happy and confident children learn best. In our friendly, caring environment, we will help to build every child's confidence so that they can discover their talents and realise their full potential.

#### **Reception Class**

The Reception Class forms a bridge between the Nursery and Key Stage 1. Children are taught in a similar way to those in the Nursery, so your child will spend the majority of the day with his or her class teacher. They will follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, which is carefully planned to encourage the children to reach their full potential, be it academic, creative or physical.

By attending assemblies, and having playtime and lunch with Key Stage 1 children, the Reception children are gradually integrated into the Prep school.

They are also included in the extra-curricular activities that take place throughout the year, so that they become very familiar with all the routines of Key Stage 1 and get to know the staff who will teach them.

#### **Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)**

In Key Stage 1 the children are taught by their class teachers most of the time, and they build a close relationship with them. They have specialist teachers for subjects such as PE, Music, French and RE.

At Beechwood, we follow the National Curriculum, with the addition of extra subjects such as Swimming, Cooking and French. We also enhance the curriculum in many ways, for example using themed days, visitors to the classroom and educational outings.

#### **Key Stage 2 (Years 3 – 6)**

The work continues to build on these foundations as subjects are developed beyond the basic skill level. All subjects are timetabled separately and are taught by either the class teacher or increasingly by subject specialists, either from within the Preparatory School or from the Senior School, so aiding a smooth transition from primary to secondary education.

## THE CURRICULUM – *Senior School*

We follow a broad curriculum in order to provide a balance that can stimulate the talents of every pupil. The core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science are taught throughout Years 7-11, together with Religious Education, Physical Education and Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education (PSCHE), which are compulsory for all year groups.

### Years 7 – 9 (Junior Division)

Subjects studied:

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| ✦ English             | ✦ Modern Languages   |
| ✦ Mathematics         | ✦ Art                |
| ✦ Science             | ✦ Music              |
| ✦ ICT                 | ✦ Drama              |
| ✦ History             | ✦ Design Technology  |
| ✦ Geography           | ✦ Physical Education |
| ✦ Religious Education | ✦ PSCHE              |

Class sizes are small, with up to 20 pupils. Most groups are mixed ability, with some subjects, such as Mathematics, set by ability where it is educational advantageous.

In Year 7, 8 and 9, all pupils take French, and in Years 8 and 9 they also choose German or Spanish. The Design Technology programme includes cookery, textiles, ceramics and woodwork for both boys and girls in Year 7 and 8, with the addition of resistant materials and graphic design in Year 9.

Year 9 pupils have the opportunity to gain an Award in Digital Applications, which is a qualification in ICT. A whole-school wireless network provides Internet access in all classrooms, further enhancing teaching and learning.

### Years 10 – 11 (Middle Division)

In Year 10 and 11, pupils study English, Mathematics and Science, together with four optional subjects. Science can be taken as a co-ordinated course of Biology, Chemistry and Physics that leads to two GCSEs, in Science and Additional Science, or they may take GCSEs in the three separate Sciences.

Core subjects (taken by all pupils):

- ✦ English Language
- ✦ English Literature
- ✦ Mathematics
- ✦ Science and Additional Science or Physics, Chemistry and Biology

Optional Subjects:

- ✦ History
- ✦ Geography
- ✦ Religious Education
- ✦ French
- ✦ German
- ✦ Spanish
- ✦ Art
- ✦ Music
- ✦ Theatre Studies
- ✦ Home Economics
- ✦ Textiles
- ✦ Information & Communications Technology (ICT)
- ✦ Physical Education

Class sizes vary from about 8 – 20, according to the subject options taken. Mathematics continues to be taught in ability groups. English and Mathematics may also be set by ability, where it is educationally advantageous.

The Performing Arts of Music, Drama and Dance are an important part of life at Beechwood. More than half the pupils have extra lessons in singing or instrumental music and opportunities to perform are wide and varied. Pupils of all ages and abilities are encouraged to take part in a variety of dramatic activities and Theatre Studies is a popular and successful choice for many pupils both at GCSE and A-level.

## OVERSEAS STUDENTS

Overseas pupils, whose first language is not English, will be assessed on their level of English on entry to the school. Most pupils will take regular lessons in English as an Additional Language (EAL) and these are given in small groups. At every stage the emphasis is on improving the standard of English so that pupils can participate with confidence in their subject lessons, and integrate fully into the life of the school.

In Year 10, depending on the level achieved, pupils can either be prepared for IGCSE in English or join the GCSE English Language or Literature courses taken by home students. In Year 12 and 13, students are prepared for the IELTS examinations required for entry into university.

To improve their pronunciation and give them more confidence in spoken English, all Year 12 students also have lessons in oral communication from Speech and Drama specialists.

Group lessons form part of the curriculum and are included in the school fees. If we feel that a particular student needs more support, or that their rate of progress is holding them back academically, we may suggest a short course of individual EAL lessons and these are charged as extras on the school account.

## CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Extra-curricular activities complete each day at Beechwood. From 4.15pm to 6pm, pupils can take part in a wide range of activities, designed to complement their academic studies, or they can work in the supervised study room.

There are many different options allowing all pupils to find activities that suit their specific interests. Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is especially popular, with pupils in Year 9 tackling the bronze award and older pupils working towards silver and gold awards.

The timetable of extra-curricular activities changes each term. Typical clubs include Aerobics, Art, Bridge, Chess, Choir, Cookery, Dance, Drama, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, Photography, Science Club, Sports Clubs, and the Young Enterprise Scheme. Further details can be found on the school website.

## BOARDING LIFE

Boarding helps students to become more independent whilst still benefiting from the care and attention of experienced, dedicated staff. At present, we offer boarding places to girls only, but home stay can be arranged for boys who wish to board.

### Accommodation

Boarders live on the upper floors of the main school building. Bedrooms are arranged in peer groups, with modern, spacious shower areas. Younger girls enjoy sharing bedrooms in small numbers, whereas Year 11 and Sixth Form students have their own single study bedrooms. After school, pupils can use the school's facilities for study and sport or they can relax and socialise in common rooms. The Sixth Form have their own kitchen in which hot drinks, snacks and simple meals can be prepared.

### Weekends

Most boarders choose to stay at Beechwood at the weekends to take advantage of school facilities and the extensive grounds. A varied programme of cultural and entertaining activities organised each weekend includes workshops in school, theatre outings, visits to places of interest and shopping trips. Boarders may go away on any weekend, with written parental permission.

### Study

Most boarders feel that they work better at school than at home. This is helped by supervised study periods in the evenings and at weekends for pupils up to Year 11; older girls work in their study bedrooms, monitored by a member of staff. All boarders have extensive use of the library and ICT centre. Pupils in Year 10-11 may use their own laptop computers, which are collected in at bedtime, whereas Sixth Formers may use their laptops at any time.

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Can my daughter stay overnight in school?*

Yes, flexi-boarding is available at a small cost for all day-girls from age 9 upwards. This is becoming an increasingly popular option for local families with busy social lives or business commitments.

*Do Sixth Formers have to wear uniform?*

We see the Sixth Form as an important transitional phase between school and university, during which our students learn to be more independent and to take on more responsibility. As part of this process, Sixth Formers have some freedom to choose what they wear, within certain agreed guidelines. We expect them to dress in a business style on normal school days, and wear a tailored jacket with trousers or skirt for formal school occasions.

*Will the change to co-education affect the standards and ethos of the school?*

The change to co-education is now well underway, and the boys entering the Senior School have absorbed the ethos and they understand our expectations, just as they do in the Prep School. We will continue to offer the same care for the individual and supportive atmosphere for which we are renowned. Our small class sizes and the excellent rapport between pupils and teachers mean that we can expect academic standards to be maintained.

*Is there any school transport to Beechwood?*

There are, at present, three minibus routes to Beechwood: from Sevenoaks, Crowborough and Forest Row. For details, please contact the school or visit the school website.



## FINANCIAL INFORMATION *Academic Year 2009-10*

Tuition and Boarding Fees (per term)	Day	Weekly Boarder	Full Boarder
SENIOR SCHOOL	4530	6675	7500
PREPARATORY SCHOOL			
<i>Key Stage 2</i> (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6)	3225	5370	6225
<i>Key Stage 1</i> (Years R, 1 & 2)	2650	–	–
NURSERY			
<i>Full Week</i>	2200	–	–
<i>Full Day</i>	445	–	–
<i>Half Day</i>	225	–	–

*The fees for all pupils include lunch at school, stationery and text books.*

*The fees for boarders include all meals but do not include accommodation over Half Term and Holidays.*

Flexi-Boarding: £40 per night

### Registration Fee

*A non-refundable registration fee of £100 per prospective pupil is charged to cover administration costs.*

### Deposit

*Deposits are due with acceptance of the offer of a place (see terms and conditions).*

Boarder (parents resident outside UK)	£1,500
Boarder (parents resident in UK)	£ 700
Day (Senior School)	£400
Day (Preparatory School & Nursery)	£200

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

### TO ACCEPT A PLACE

A deposit must be paid to the school to confirm acceptance of a place at Beechwood Sacred Heart School. The school will hold this deposit until the pupil leaves the school. Interest will not accrue on these deposits.

### DEPOSITS

<i>Boarder – overseas</i>	£1,500
<i>Boarder – UK</i>	£700
<i>Day pupils</i>	£400
<i>Preparatory pupils</i>	£200
<i>Nursery pupils</i>	£200

The deposit will be held as security against any debts remaining unpaid at the end of the pupil's time at the school. It will be returned, less any outstanding expenses, at the end of the pupil's last term after the accounts have been finalised.

### PAYMENT OF FEES – *UK Residents*

Fees and extras are payable via Holmwoods Termtime Credit (HTC) with whom you sign a legal agreement to pay by 10 monthly instalments. There is no additional cost to you for this service. Details of the scheme will be sent to you before your child joins the school, or they can be obtained in advance from the Accounts Department.

### PAYMENT OF FEES – *Overseas Residents*

All fees should be paid by the first day of each term. Late payment will result in interest charges being added to the account. A pupil may be excluded from the school if at any time payments of fees are in arrears by more than half a term.

### NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL

Parents are required to provide the school with one academic term's written notice of withdrawal from the school, of withdrawal from extra subjects, or of change of status from boarding to day: that is, notice should be received by the school before the first day of term, to be effective at the end of that term. A full term's fees will otherwise be payable in lieu of this required notice.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships awarded are reviewed regularly on the basis of the pupil's progress and commitment to Beechwood Sacred Heart School and such scholarships may be withdrawn if the school believes that the pupil concerned is not achieving their expectation. No withdrawal or reduction of scholarship will be made without full consultation with the parents.

### GUARDIANSHIP

All parents based overseas should appoint a Guardian for their child. This should be a responsible adult, over age 25, who resides permanently in the UK and with whom their child can stay during any holiday breaks from school and at other times when necessary.

If the guardian is unable to look after their child during holiday periods or parents are unable to provide a suitable guardian, they should use the services of a recommended guardianship service.

### MISCONDUCT

In a case of serious or persistent misconduct, the school reserves the right to request the removal of a pupil from the school. In this event, the fees for that term and the pupil's deposit are not refundable.



## WHAT TO DO NEXT

We hope that by reading this prospectus and visiting the website you will have an accurate and positive impression of Beechwood and whether it might be the right school for your child.

To appreciate fully the very special atmosphere that we are fortunate to share here at Beechwood, we do urge you to visit the school in person. To arrange a visit, please contact the Registrar, who will arrange for you to have a tour of the school, followed by a meeting with the Headmaster or Head of Prep.

## OPEN DAYS

Saturday 3 October 2009 9.30am – 1.00pm  
 Saturday 13 March 2010 9.30am – 1.00pm  
*The Headmaster will give a presentation at 10.30 and 11.30am.*

To save time when you arrive at the school, please register in advance for Open Day, on the website at [www.beechwood.org.uk](http://www.beechwood.org.uk). The Registrar is always happy to answer any questions about registration.

We all look forward to welcoming you to Beechwood.

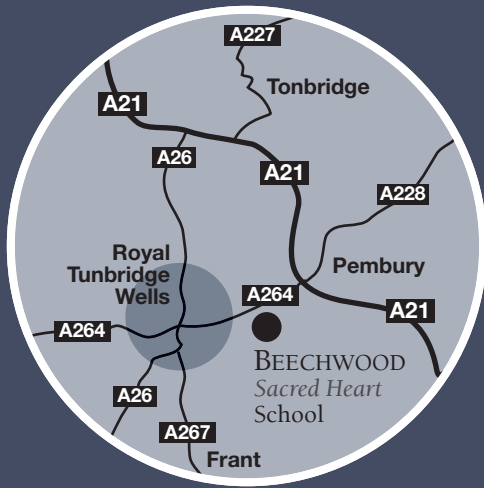
**REGISTRAR** Mrs Sue Dyke Tel: +44 (0)1892 532747 Fax: +44 (0)1892 536164 Email: [registrar@beechwood.org.uk](mailto:registrar@beechwood.org.uk)



## SCHOOL WEBSITE [www.beechwood.org.uk](http://www.beechwood.org.uk)

You will find further information on every aspect of the school on our website in one of the following sections:

WELCOME	PROSPECTIVE PARENTS	BOARDING	CURRENT PARENTS	FORMER PUPILS	NEWS & EVENTS	CONTACT
<p><i>News Story of the Week</i></p> <p><i>Forthcoming Events</i></p> <p><i>Urgent notices</i></p>	<p><i>General Information</i></p> <p><i>Preparatory School</i></p> <p><i>Senior School</i></p> <p><i>Sixth Form</i></p> <p><i>Learning Development</i></p> <p><i>Examination Results</i></p> <p><i>Sports &amp; Activities</i></p> <p><i>Exchange Programme</i></p> <p><i>Admissions, Entry &amp; Fees</i></p> <p><i>Open Days</i></p>	<p><i>Boarding Life</i></p> <p><i>Boarding News</i></p> <p><i>Boarding Information</i></p> <p><i>Information for Agents</i></p>	<p><i>Term dates</i></p> <p><i>Uniform lists</i></p> <p><i>Financial information</i></p> <p><i>Downloads of handbooks &amp; forms</i></p> <p><i>Beechwood Code</i></p> <p><i>Parents' Association</i></p> <p><i>Staff &amp; Governors</i></p> <p><i>School Policies</i></p>	<p><i>Registration for former pupils</i></p> <p><i>Former pupils' events</i></p>	<p><i>News Stories</i></p> <p><i>Sports Results</i></p> <p><i>Performing Arts events</i></p> <p><i>Art Galleries</i></p> <p><i>School Calendar</i></p> <p><i>School Events</i></p>	<p><i>School Contact Details</i></p> <p><i>Admin Staff</i></p> <p><i>Maps &amp; Directions to Beechwood</i></p> <p><i>Request a Prospectus</i></p> <p><i>Open Day registration</i></p>



## HOW TO FIND US

### Location

Beechwood is situated in the South East of England, approximately 30 miles from London, on the edge of the historic town of Royal Tunbridge Wells, with its excellent cultural and shopping facilities. The school is based around an elegant Victorian mansion in 23 acres of beautiful, landscaped grounds,

within walking distance of the railway station and the centre of town.

### Travelling by Air

*From London Heathrow:* Beechwood can be reached in about 1 hour by car via the M25 motorway, or by train via London Paddington and Charing Cross.

*From London Gatwick:* Beechwood is located

approximately 15 miles away. You can reach Beechwood by taxi, a journey of approximately 25 minutes or by train in approximately one hour.

### Travelling by Train

A regular train service runs from London Charing Cross to Tunbridge Wells, taking 50 minutes. Beechwood is a 20-minute walk or short taxi ride from the station.

### Travelling by Road

By road, take the A21 to Hastings from Junction 5a of the M25. After 12 miles, take the second exit signposted to Tunbridge Wells, the A264 (Pembury Road). Beechwood is approximately one mile from the junction on the left hand side of Pembury Road, as you approach the town centre.