THE NORTON KNATCHBULL SCHOOL

YEAR 7 PROSPECTUS

Benefactorum Recordatio Jucundissima Est

Headteacher's Welcome

Thank you for showing an interest in The Norton Knatchbull School (NKS). This prospectus will give you an insight into what makes NKS such a special place to study and work. Having proudly served the local community of Ashford in Kent since the 17th century, we combine traditional values with a forward-looking and vibrant learning environment where young people are nurtured to become considerate, confident and well-rounded individuals. There are two key elements which extend and excel our approach at NKS which we believe encapsulate who we are and how we work. These are our Mission Statements and our approach to the curriculum – The Knatchbull Baccalaureate.

Mission Statement

At The Norton Knatchbull School we are proud of our history, tradition and achievements, at the same time as looking to the future for fresh challenges.

We value each individual for whom they are and their ability to improve and grow.

We share mutual respect based on care, integrity and trust.

We are inspired by a passion for creative and demanding learning experiences.

We work with the wider community to make a positive difference.

We celebrate our achievements, both in the classroom and beyond.

The Mission Statement was written by our student leaders in 2019 and reflects the values and qualities which inspire young people in the 21st century – linking with and resonating with the motto of the school - Benefactorum Recordatio Jucundissima Est, "Things done well make the best memories" – the words of the school's founder, Sir Norton Knatchbull in 1637.

Our approach is underpinned by The Knatchbull Baccalaureate, which comprises of four key elements.

- Academic study
- Enrichment
- Community and Leadership
- Extension and excellence

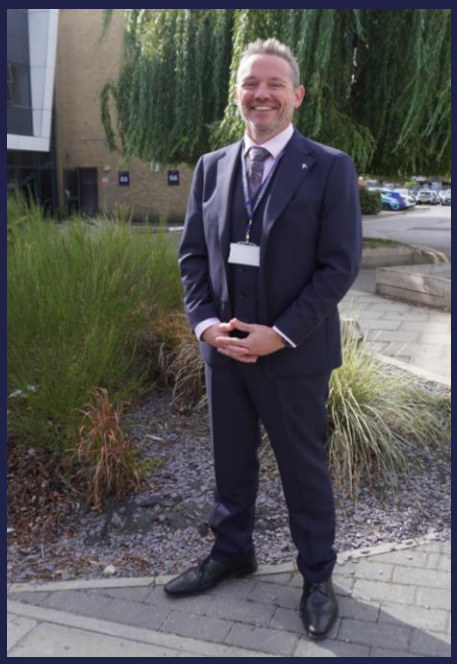
As students progress through school, they will be afforded opportunities in each of these areas, and colleagues will work to support, challenge and push our young people to achieve the best possible outcomes. This includes academic grades, but also more holistically in developing the qualities, skills and experiences necessary for life in the 21st century.

Alongside this there is one other commitment we will make – which is to care for you. Our staff – teaching and support, get to know our students more quickly and better than you might imagine.

I hope that as you find out more about us that you will see that our approach is not a case of one size fits all, but that we endeavour to get to know each and every one of our students as an individual and thus able to provide them with an environment where they can explore their interests and passions, uncover new ones – and through all of their experiences in school secure the academic grades as well as the broader human qualities – resilience, flexibility, tolerance and compassion to enable them to make significant contributions in the communities that they live, study and work in.

Beyond the pages of this prospectus, I hope that you are able to come to the school in person so that we are able to meet in person, and that above all you have the opportunity to meet our students, to see their qualities and characters. In so doing you will realise why we are so proud of them.

Mr MacLean
Headteacher



What is the Pastoral team?

We are the Year 7 team and are very much looking forward to welcoming you here at NKS. Our role is to guide our students through their time in Year 7.

From embedding our students into the school and its routines; to then guiding them throughout their first year here, supporting students with their academic achievement and welfare needs.

We will be the first port of call for our students or yourselves, and available for any questions or matters that may arise during the year.

Mrs Parsonage oversees the pastoral welfare of the year group, whilst Mr Trafford covers the overall leadership of academic and pastoral development of our Year 7 Students.

Mr Trafford – Head of Year 7
Mrs Parsonage – Student Support Manager Year 7

Where can I get help?

At NKS there may be times when you need some help or support. We have a wide range of ways to provide that depending on what you or your child need help with.

If you have academic concerns, then we encourage students to speak to their teachers. Or alternatively having a quick chat with Mr Trafford (HOY) or Mrs Parsonage (SSM) will hopefully alleviate those concerns and allow us to ensure your child reaches their potential.

For pastoral concerns students are able to come to the Hub. This is a dedicated area where students are able to get support from their Student Support Managers (SSM). Should their SSM be unavailable as all the SSM's are located together then an SSM of another year group will be able to provide the support that they need. Our First Aid facility is also located in the Hub, so that students can get the help they need as quickly as possible.

For general concerns that your child is having they should start by talking to their Form Tutors. Each morning we have Form time from 08:45-09:00hrs. In these groups we have structured development tasks, which also gives your child the chance to bond with their form and their tutor as they will be on the seven-year journey to Year 13 together. Form groups will also compete in a range of House Competitions throughout the year. From sporting events, to Music and Drama, these allow the students in the form to bond and contribute to the overall House Cup Competition.

Apps (Purple)	Named after a much loved and respected former student and Vice-Chairman of Governors who devoted a great deal of time to the school.
Barrett (Yellow)	Named after a very successful 18th century Headmaster.
Burra (Blue) **Harper (Green)**	Named after two benefactors whose generosity helped to re-establish the school on the Hythe Road site.
Knatchbull (Red)	Named after the Founder.
Lamprey (Orange)	Headteacher from 1908-1927.
Woodworth (White)	Student (1904), Teacher, Headteacher, Governor (until 1979).

How will I be stretched and challenged?

We believe that students need to be stretched and challenged in order to achieve their academic potential. Therefore, we offer a range of academically focussed additional support outside of the curriculum.

Our school Library allows students to extend their understanding of topics or explore topics they are interested in. Students are able to use this before school, at break and lunchtime plus it is also where our after-school homework club is located.

Students are able to push themselves in a range of leadership opportunities. Each form will have a Form and Deputy Form Captain, which are voted for during the first term of the school year. There are also roles which require students to represent their form in Year Group and Whole School Councils.

Our KS4 Knatch Bacc Lead, Mrs Dryland, organises a range of opportunities that focus on our Excel and Extend drive as well as driving aspiration and creativity through her work on our Super-Curriculum.

The Knatchbull Baccalaureate

The Knatchbull Baccalaureate encompasses four pillars:
Academic, Extra-curricular, Community and Leadership, Excel and Extend

Students are given the opportunity to record their achievements in each pillar. This provides students with an embedded stretch and challenge structure as they progress through the school.

The Academic pillar
This pillar is addressed through our curriculum. Students will have not only have assessment data which they can record, but also more personal achievements e.g. a run of excellent scores in low-stakes tests or an award for effort or achievement in a Celebration Assembly.

The Extra-Curricular pillar
Many of our students have full and balanced lives, including out-of-school activities which they will be able to record for this pillar. Some of our students like to join in lunchtime and after school groups and clubs held at NKS which can also be recorded under this pillar. To assist those who do not have access to out-of-school activities and may not wish to join in lunchtime and after school activities, we have a programme of extra-curricular challenges which can be completed at home. Evidence of these achievements can be shared with form tutors and lead towards bronze, silver and gold certificates.

The Community and Leadership pillar
Like the Extra-Curricular pillar, many students will serve their community through out-of-school activities and may hold leadership roles as they progress within these activities as well. There is a variety of opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills and community service throughout their time at NKS including leadership roles within the form group, raising money for charities and showing prospective students around the school during open mornings.

The Excel and Extend pillar
Students will record how they have stretched themselves in one of the above pillars. Examples of this could include reading a book which includes further information on a topic studied in school, reaching a particular level in an out-of-school activity or of the Extra-Curricular challenges or standing for form captain.

What will I study?

Whilst in Key Stage 3 students will explore a wide range of subjects. These provide students with the opportunity to deepen their understanding of core subjects, whilst also exploring the creative arts and sports.

When your child reaches KS4 and KS5 they will choose subjects they wish to take forward for their GCSEs and A Levels respectively. A series of Option Evenings and Assemblies ensure that your child makes the decision which is right for them.

Please look at the curriculum section of the website for a more detailed look at each subject and what they offer during your child's seven-year journey at NKS.

In KS3 all students will study:

- Maths
- English
- Science
- History
- Geography
- RE
- Personal Development
- PE
- Drama
- Design and Technology
- Art
- French and Spanish for Y7
- Computing
- Music

How will I be rewarded?

At NKS we truly believe in rewarding our student's hard work and achievements. This ensure that students are rewarded for their hard work and that they feel valued for their contributions. Therefore, we recognise this in a variety of different ways to encompass as many different students as possible.

The first of these are Achievement Points. Students can earn these through a variety of ways, be it inside or outside of the classroom.

Twice a year we run Achievement Assemblies. Within these all teachers nominate students in each subject for Effort and Achievement prizes. This is combined with Head of Year prizes ranging from Attitude to Learning to support in the Library. This celebration culminates in our Prize Giving events occurring in Term 6 of each year.

Alongside these Celebration Assemblies we run a buffet where selected students are able to celebrate their hard work outside of the normal classroom setting. These are well attended, and the smell of pizza causes envious looks from across the school!

On top of this each Head of Year will run a variety of reward trips. As an example, this year we have taken a selection of Year 7 students to Hollywood Bowl and will be leading a fully paid for trip to Chessington for 25 lucky Year 7 Prize winners in June.

What does a school day look like?

The school site opens at 08:00, with form time at 08:45. Students in Year 7 to Year 9 finish at 15:15.

After school we run a free homework club that all students are able to attend until 16:30.

During the school day we have five, 60 minute lessons.

Year 7 to Year 9 lunch runs from 12:30-13:10.

During this time many of our students use our on-site caterers Culinera in our Knatch Hatch. A full dinner is on offer or alternatively a salad bar with some tasty snacks. For more details of what they offer please see the catering section of our website. Some students also bring a packed lunch and use our inside and outside eating areas.

KS3	Activity
08:45 - 09:00	Registration/Assembly
09:05 - 10:05	Period 1
10:10 - 11:10	Period 2
11:10 - 11:30	Break
11:30 - 12:30	Period 3
12.30 - 13.10	Lunch Year 7 to Year 9
13.10 - 14.10	Period 4
14:15 - 15:15	Period 5

What enrichment opportunities are available?

At NKS we have a wide variety of ways to extend and enrich your understanding outside of the published curriculum. It is vitally important that all students engage in opportunities outside of the curriculum and this is a cornerstone of The Knatchbull Baccalaureate.

These clubs and groups can be student or staff led and take place at lunchtime or after school. A full published list can be seen on our website, however a selection are listed below.

Music –Choir, Instrumental Lessons, Jazz Club, Brass, Wind, String, Guitar ensembles, Rock Band

Drama - Tech Club, KS3 Drama Club, Shakespeare Society

Performing Arts - Drama Production and Showcases

Sports teams – two Football teams, Rugby, Hockey, Tennis, Cricket, Basketball and Athletics.

Clubs – Design and Technology, Alternative History Society, Card Game Club, Medical Society, Debating and Chess.

What sporting achievements are there?

We are proud to offer a range of extra-curricular sporting opportunities for our students at NKS. These include Football, Rugby, Hockey, Basketball, Badminton, Cross Country, Table Tennis, Athletics, Tennis and Cricket. We also compete in many of these Sports at District and County level.

Recent sporting achievements:

Football 2025 -2026
U13 District Champions
U14 District Champions
U16 District Champions

Rugby 2025 - 2026
U14 XV Shield Runners Up
U14 Kent 7s Shield Champions
U15 Kent 7s Shield Champions

Basketball
U14 District Champions

Athletics 2026
U12, U13, U14, U15 District Champions
U13 Ranked 5th in UK in ESAA cup
U15 Ranked 5th in UK in ESAA cup

Tennis
U13 & U15 Aegon Division 2 Kent Finalists
Entered more teams into Aegon Leagues than any other local school

Cross Country 2025
U12, U14 & U16 District Champions

Who can I contact for more information?

We understand that the decision of which school to transition to can be overwhelming and unclear. Therefore, if you have any further questions, please direct them to the teams below and we will ensure that we contact you as soon as possible.

We are fully inclusive of all educational needs. Please contact us if you would like to find out more about how we can support your child's additional educational needs throughout their time here at NKS.

We host a range of events where you will be able to visit the school site. In June, of Year 5, we hold two Open Mornings and an Open Evening. In October of Year 6, we hold a further series of Open Mornings allowing you to see the school in action for a further time.

Responsibility	Name	Contact Details
Admission Officer	Mrs Seccombe	eseccombe@nks.kent.sch.uk
Head of Year 7	Mr Trafford	wtrafford@nks.kent.sch.uk
Year 7 Student Support Manager	Mrs Parsonage	sparsonage@nks.kent.sch.uk
Additional Educational Needs	Mr Uttin	puttin@nks.kent.sch.uk
School Office	Mrs Dearden	schooloffice@nks.kent.sch.uk
Senior Leadership Link for Year 7	Mr Hoyte	rhoyte@nks.kent.sch.uk

THE NORTON KNATCHBULL SCHOOL

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Chairs of Governors: Dr M Highwood