



CASTLE COURT
SCHOOL

PATHWAY



NURTURING CHILDREN AND DEVELOPING EXCELLENCE

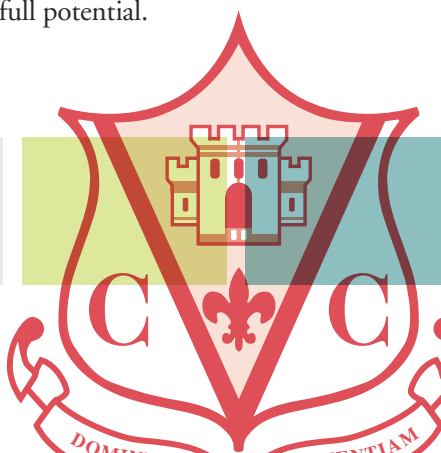


Castle Court has an outstanding record in preparing pupils for a wide variety of future schools, both state and independent, at a local and national level. This is achieved through a curriculum that embraces academic rigour whilst acknowledging the importance of the enjoyment of learning and the precious time spent as a child.

At the heart of our flourishing co-educational prep school is a curriculum that offers every child the opportunity to grow skills, acquire knowledge and develop character as well as enjoy their childhood in the safety of a nurturing environment. The importance placed on the spiritual, emotional, social, physical and academic development of each child will enable them to be positive contributors in tomorrow's society. The landscape of tomorrow is ever-changing, but what is constant is our delivery of a broad curriculum which lays the foundation for your child's love of learning, and firmly establishes curiosity, creativity, commitment, courage, collaboration, courtesy and compassion as the bedrock of the skills they need for their future.

This document outlines your child's journey through the school. The Castle Court Pathway covers all stages of the journey and looks at your child's progress through the school from all perspectives, whether academic, pastoral, sporting, creative or extra-curricular. The Castle Court Pathway is an essential roadmap to enable us, and you, to ensure that your child reaches their full potential.

Luke Gollings – Headmaster



APPENDIX I

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PREP SCHOOL BACCALAUREATE (PSB)

Q. Why is CCS moving away from CE?

A. The rise of pre-testing in Year 6 and Year 7 now determines the vast majority of Senior School entry decisions, and essentially renders CE irrelevant in the process. It also begs an important question about what the curriculum focus should be for our children in Years 7 and 8.

Q. How will the PSB benefit my child in Year 7 and 8?

A. The PSB will provide your children with a flexible, broad, creative and purposeful educational experience. It will give your children a better and more relevant education for the evolving workplace. And it will also make them more attractive to Senior Schools.

In most cases, children are now offered a place to their senior schools in Year 6 or Year 7. In Year 8 they have to sit a limited range of tests to finalise their place, but they do not have to sit the Common Entrance exams in order to secure their place. This has meant that at a key stage in a child's development, both academic and social, we are no longer hindered by having to coach the children purely to pass an exam. Rather, as your child enters Year 7, we are able to develop the curriculum, and look deeper into certain areas to ensure that their intellectual curiosity is fully sparked, that they remain open-minded and optimistic without cynicism.

Our excellent, expert teachers, who know your children really well, will now be better able to tailor the pace, content and variety of learning to their individual needs, rather than being restricted by the content-driven, rote-learning required by some of the Common Entrance courses. Children will spend more time developing their independent learning and collaboration skills under the auspices of a broad, differentiated and knowledge rich curriculum. Academic rigour and challenge will not be diminished.

The end of year exams will still ensure pupils leave Castle Court ready for the examination challenges of Senior School. However, the new curriculum allows more time to cover a broad range of subjects and their associated skills in greater depth. We want to develop a more robust platform for future learning, purpose and fulfilment: this is an opportunity to move away from memorising and back to learning.

Q. Have you already discussed this with Senior Schools? Have they confirmed that they will accept PSB?

A. Yes. Please refer to the Senior School Views section towards the beginning of the Pathway for a selection of feedback from senior school heads. Every school is happy with the changes that we are making.

Q. What are other schools doing?

A. The PSB is a consortium of a growing number of Prep Schools nationwide. Some Prep Schools have been following the PSB curriculum for a long time while others have decided to create their own schemes of work. Others are continuing with CE.

Q. Will there be any changes to the scholarship programme?

A. No. Preparation for scholarship will remain as it is. However, the grounding and breadth of thinking introduced from Year 7 will ensure that, if anything, pupils are even better prepared for their scholarship exams and interviews. Over the last three years children at Castle Court have won 14 academic scholarships to Canford, more than any other prep school in the country. In addition, they have been awarded a further

53 scholarships including an Election to Winchester (regarded as one of the toughest scholarship tests in the country), five academic scholarships to Talbot Heath, two to Bournemouth Collegiate and one to Millfield. We are proud of this level of academic rigour and see PSB as a key move to ensure that our pupils continue with this level of success.

Q. Will there be any changes to Learning Support?

A. The development of the tutor programme will allow us the time to spend more time focusing on the individual needs of our children.

Q. What do these changes look like?

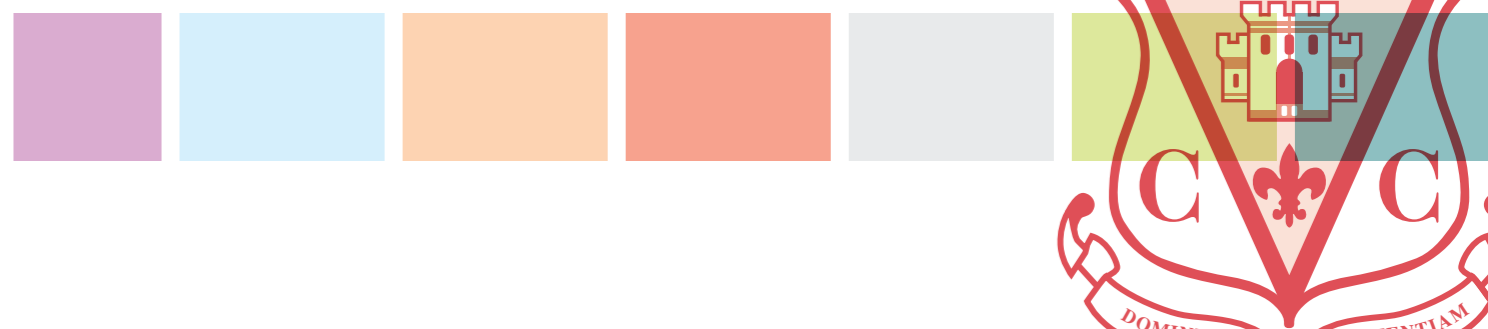
A. In short, your children will be developing their thinking skills rather than their remembering skills. Success in CE relies to a greater degree on the simple acquisition of knowledge. Over the two years children will be immersed in a programme which delivers the acquisition of knowledge AND the acquisition of skills AND the application of knowledge.

Q. What about Character Education?

A. We will continue to teach subject specific knowledge and skills but we will also bolster and integrate the importance of our 7Cs and core learning skills across all learning environments and subjects. These key values are the foundations of all learning in school, work and life; they underpin our attitude to learning, our concentration and focus; our desire to learn and our attainment, achievement and future opportunities and success.

Q. How does assessment work?

A. The PSB is a flexible and adaptable assessment model recognised by all senior schools that will allow your child to leave CCS with a cumulative externally recognised and verified certificate of achievement across all aspects of school life. Teachers will be able to track achievement in subject-specific skills, transferable skills and character virtues alongside knowledge-based content. A combination of end of year exams, projects, presentations and in-class teacher assessment will contribute toward each child's individual portfolio and grading. This means that the senior schools will have more information on your child when they transition, ensuring that they are supported more effectively and appropriately from the start.



APPENDIX 2

WHAT DOES A PREP SCHOOL LOOK LIKE?



Christopher King, chief executive of the Independent Association of Prep Schools

Close your eyes and picture a prep school in your head. Open them and think again. The Independent Association of Prep Schools (IAPS) was founded 126 years ago and currently has 670 of the world's leading prep schools in membership. The question that comes to mind is: "*Why does this association continue to thrive?*"

There are those who want to believe their own version of reality and who see us setting like the sun going over the horizon, drifting inevitably to a gentle end, but an end nonetheless. The truth is the opposite and the past 126 years does not reveal, on interrogation, over a century of struggle for survival but a record of innovation, adoption of new ideas, and true depth in commitment to values which are enduring.

The modern prep school demonstrates this more than ever. There is curriculum innovation where prep schools are free of the shackles of government ministers'diktat. In 1967, the then education minister, Tony Crosland, introduced sweeping changes to many aspects of English education but, nevertheless, he said: "I didn't regard either myself or my officials as competent to interfere with the curriculum"(Kogan,1971). Move on to 2013 and the then Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove, was entirely comfortable saying: "We have stripped out the piously, vapid happy-talk and instead laid out the knowledge that every child is entitled to expect they be taught."

The World Economic Forum reported in 2016 that you will need the 10 skills listed below to thrive in 2020:

1. Complex problem solving
2. Critical thinking
3. Creativity
4. People management
5. Coordinating with others
6. Emotional intelligence
7. Judgement and decision making
8. Service orientation
9. Negotiation
10. Cognitive flexibility

The skills on this list make sense for the age that we are living in. But are they enough for you to succeed? Marty Neumeier, a speaker on work and brand design, defines four types of work in his 'Rules of Genius'. These are:

Creative – Unique, imaginative, non-routine, and autonomous

Skilled – Standardised, talent-driven, professional, and directed

Rote – Interchangeable, routinised, outsourceable, and managed

Robotic – Algorithmic, computerised, efficient, and purchased.

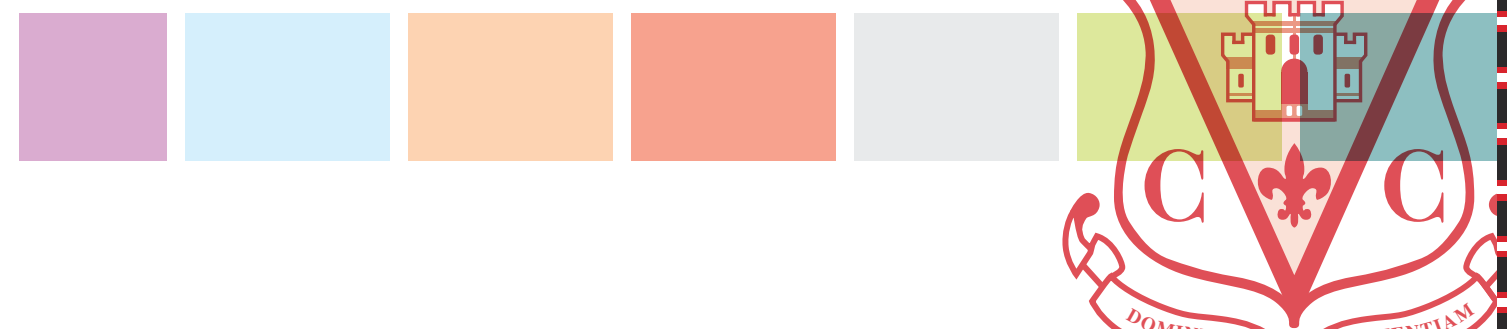
Of these, the focus really needs to be on creative work, because that is where you are likely to remain employable in the future.

You might have started to realise that you will need more than the 10 skills listed earlier. Alvin Toffler, author of *Future Shock*, as long ago as 1970 said: "The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn." His words are as true now as they were prophetic at the time he wrote them.

It is a simple truth that one of the great joys, and indeed responsibilities, of being a head in an independent school is that you get the freedom to choose the curriculum and co-curricular shape that is best for the pupils in the school.

IAPS schools are innovating and very much have the sense that a major objective must be to equip their children with the skills relevant to the future world. There are any number of schools adopting a baccalaureate design to their curriculum with problem-solving embedded at the heart. Growth mindset, wellbeing and resilience-building feature increasingly prominently in the prep school day and not as a bolt-on after-school club. Seeing what is really happening behind the doors of flourishing prep schools will cause you to open your eyes wider and to understand why such schools are relevant and entirely well set for the future, whatever it throws at them.

The 46 Rules of Genius: An Innovator's Guide to Creativity, 2014, New Riders Press: A book of concise insights about how people innovate and create Marty Neumeier *The politics of Education*: Edward Boyle and Anthony Crosland in conversation with Maurice Kogan 1971 Harmondsworth: Penguin Gove, M. (2011) House of Commons Oral Answers to Questions, February 7.





CASTLE COURT SCHOOL



CASTLE COURT
SCHOOL

The Knoll House, Knoll Lane, Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 3RF
t: 01202 694438 e: office@castlecourt.com w: www.castlecourt.com

