



Perrott Hill

**AGENTS'
HANDBOOK**





From the Headmaster



I am delighted to welcome you to Perrott Hill, a leading day and boarding prep school for boys and girls aged 3-13 in South West England. For many of you, this will be your first experience of the school and I very much hope you come away with a good feel for what we offer and, indeed, wanting to find out more. It is a very special place to learn and to grow and I have every confidence that any association between us would be a long and happy one.

There is a breadth of excellence here at school, with Perrott Hill pupils going on to some of the biggest and best senior schools in the country, many with scholarships and many going on to represent their schools as Head Boy and Head Girl. The boarding community here is warm and welcoming, with pupils commenting that the school is like a family. We won the Supporting Junior Boarders Award at the BSA (Boarding Schools' Association) Awards 2020, with the judges commenting: "Supporting junior boarders to flourish and fulfil themselves is at the heart of everything Perrott Hill does."

I hope this handbook answers any questions you might have but if not, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

With best wishes,

Alex McCullough
Headmaster





An Introduction to Perrott Hill

Why Perrott Hill?

Perrott Hill is a small and traditional British prep school with around 180 boys and girls aged 3-13. We have an excellent track record of academic success and feed on to some of the top senior schools in the country, both locally and nationally. We are known for our family ethos and nurturing environment and have won several national awards, including Pre-Prep of the Year at the Independent Schools of the Year Awards 2019 and the Supporting Junior Boarders Award at the BSA (Boarding Schools' Association) Awards 2020. We were also shortlisted for Prep School of the Year at the Tes Awards 2022, Best Prep School at the Tatler Schools Awards 2022 and Small Independent School of the Year at the Independent Schools of the Year Awards 2022.

The school is situated amongst beautiful countryside on the borders of Somerset and Dorset in South West England, yet only about two and half hours from London and all the major airports.

The British School System

The British independent education system is broken down into three sections: Pre-Prep, which is for ages 3-7, Prep, which is for ages 7-13, and Senior, which is for ages 13-18 – although some senior schools go from 11-18. Generally speaking, the schools we feed (which are listed on page 7) start at 13 and there is the expectation that all our pupils will sit the Common Entrance examinations in the final term of Year 8.

“Results at Common Entrance are consistently impressive, as is the school’s enviable scholarship record”

Absolutely Education

The Academic Year

Our academic year runs from the start of September to mid-July, with the following school holidays:

October half term	Two weeks
Christmas	Four weeks
February half term	One week
Easter	Three weeks
May half term	One week

We have exeat weekends every three weeks, whereby school finishes at 1230 on Friday afternoon and reopens at 1800 on Sunday evening for boarders. We request that all international boarders have a UK guardian for these weekends, half terms and holidays.

View from our pupils

“I gained so much from my time at Perrott Hill. The additional Monday night academic lessons were great, especially maths - I had a lot of support getting ready for my exams. I hadn’t done a lot of sport before, but really enjoyed it. I was very happy boarding at Perrott Hill; the boys’ den is very homely and I made lots of new friends.”

Ryan Yang, China

“Being a pupil at Perrott Hill was one of the best years of my life and I really miss it. Every Spanish child should have the experience.”

Sofia de la Fuente, Spain

“When I came to England, I did not speak English at all, so I really thought going to school in another country would be a tremendous challenge. But the staff at Perrott Hill were amazing in helping us to adapt to school life. The EAL programme was extraordinary and I was never left behind. My favourite lessons were Latin, maths and sport – plus you can take lessons on a variety of instruments, and take part in the choir. Boarding is a fantastic opportunity outside the daily routine for you to socialise and have fun with your friends. There are so many activities you can do, from hockey to playing in the woods. You are lucky if you board on Fridays, because you get sweets and a film. If you are lucky, you might even get to pick one yourself! A very delicious supper and breakfast is included too. If you feel homesick at any time a member of staff will help you get over it. There is always a gap student next door, who you can talk to at any time about anything.”

Gerleif Schmö, Germany

View from our Agents

“As an educational recruitment agency, we look to place our pupils at schools where we know there is a caring and pupil-centred ethos and where boarding has a family feel. We know from experience that pupils settle quickly at Perrott Hill and that the staff, especially in admissions and boarding, go the extra mile to ensure that the children feel comfortable in their new surroundings. Communication is frequent and pertinent and our families are reassured that their children are happy and flourishing at the school. We are delighted to work with Perrott Hill and look forward to future collaboration.”

Katie Nie, Director, Connexcel Ltd.

“Perrott Hill School is one of those increasingly rare schools which feels like a big family and not a corporation.”

Laura Chalk, Connections London

“We have just started working with Perrott Hill and have found the school’s joining documents to be very precise and user friendly - some schools produce a thick booklet which is quite daunting! We are also impressed with the uniform organisation which is smooth and accurate.”

Ayano Tetsuya, Watanabe

“It is a real pleasure to work with Perrott Hill. My questions as an agent have always been answered quickly and efficiently and families have been delighted with the welcome given to their children. I look forward to placing more pupils at the school; I know that they will have a very happy time.”

Olivia Bédier, School Britannia

Year Groups

Typically, we welcome up to four international pupils per year group in Middle and Upper Prep (Years 5, 6, 7 and 8). This means that at any one time we are likely to have up to 16 international pupils at school, with a diverse mix of nationalities and backgrounds. We feel this is the perfect number for our international pupils to be able to fully immerse themselves in the life of a busy British prep school. The year group each child is placed in will depend on their date of birth, as follows:

September 2022 Entry		
01 Sept 2012 – 31 Aug 2013		Year 5
01 Sept 2011 – 31 Aug 2012		Year 6
01 Sept 2010 – 31 Aug 2011		Year 7
01 Sept 2009 – 31 Aug 2010		Year 8

September 2023 Entry		
01 Sept 2013 – 31 Aug 2014		Year 5
01 Sept 2012 – 31 Aug 2013		Year 6
01 Sept 2011 – 31 Aug 2012		Year 7
01 Sept 2010 – 31 Aug 2011		Year 8

September 2024 Entry		
01 Sept 2014 – 31 Aug 2015		Year 5
01 Sept 2013 – 31 Aug 2014		Year 6
01 Sept 2012 – 31 Aug 2013		Year 7
01 Sept 2011 – 31 Aug 2012		Year 8

We recognise and take into account the differing worldwide systems of education, so do please get in touch with our Admissions Assistant if you have any questions about entry year groups.

Academic Success

We have an excellent track record of academic success, and of preparation for senior schools and life beyond Perrott Hill. Preparation for senior schools can start as early as Year 5, but typically takes place in Upper Prep (Years 7 and 8). The senior years at Perrott Hill are focused on preparation for transfer into senior school and life beyond.

There are many benefits to this, not least the fact that all our pupils sit the Common Entrance examinations in Year 8, which provide academic breadth across a range of subjects and are synonymous with high academic standards and rigorous syllabuses. There is much anecdotal research to suggest that children who sit the Common Entrance examinations in Year 8 are better prepared for their GCSEs and A Level exams later. Some senior schools offer places based on their own pre-test and we help and prepare our pupils for these, too.

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Our talented and dedicated academic staff are well versed in nurturing and developing those international pupils who need additional support with English and we have a thriving EAL department to ensure they make good progress across the curriculum. Our Learning Support and EAL department takes an active pastoral role in supporting our international pupils during the day; the EAL classroom is a warm and welcoming place and all boarders are assigned day and boarding 'buddies' when they join. We have an intense programme of EAL support for those who need it, including both 1-1 and group support, and we prepare some of our students to take the internationally recognised Cambridge Key English Test, the Preliminary English Test and the First Certificate.

Senior School Destinations

Perrott Hill pupils go on to a wide range of senior schools, both locally and nationally. Indeed, the ability to match each child to the senior school in which they will most thrive is one of the school's key strengths, along with its impressive record of scholarships. Please see below a list of independent senior schools our pupils have gone onto.

[Blundell's](#)

[Bradfield College](#)

[Bryanston](#)

[Canford](#)

[Downside](#)

[Eton](#)

[Harrow](#)

[King's Bruton](#)

[King's College, Taunton](#)

[Leweston](#)

[Marlborough](#)

[Millfield](#)

[Queen's College, Taunton](#)

[Milton Abbey](#)

[Oakham](#)

[Radley](#)

[Sherborne](#)

[Sherborne Girls](#)

[Stowe](#)

[Taunton School](#)

[Wellington School](#)

[Winchester](#)



Scholarships

Pupils have been awarded an impressive 82 senior school scholarships and awards over the past five years. These include:

- 11 academic scholarships to senior schools including Canford and Sherborne
- 14 art scholarships and awards to senior schools including Harrow and Sherborne Girls
- 9 drama scholarships and awards to senior schools including Wellington School and Milton Abbey
- 5 music scholarships and awards to senior schools including King's Bruton and Blundell's
- 29 sport scholarships and awards to senior schools including Millfield and King's College, Taunton
- 9 all rounder scholarships and awards to senior schools including Bryanston and Radley College

In addition, we offer scholarships to Perrott Hill for pupils who can demonstrate significant potential in one or more areas of school life, as outlined above. Please contact our Admissions Assistant for further information about this.

"Academic results are undeniably impressive"
The Good Schools Guide

A Broad Curriculum

The school's motto is 'time and space for a full education' and we are proud to offer a broad and engaging curriculum. As well as a sharp focus on the academic subjects, Perrott Hill places emphasis on sport and the creative arts (music, art and drama). Pupils take part in matches every Wednesday and Saturday and learn to play a range of sports including cricket, rugby, hockey, football, netball, tennis and athletics. The creative arts are very popular and successful at Perrott Hill. All pupils take part in drama lessons, with plays in Years 6 and 8 and our art department is thriving, with pupils taking part in whole-school and individual projects and competitions. We recently added a ceramics to our offering in art lessons, with a kiln funded by our parent body, the Friends of Perrott Hill. Music lessons take place in an eco-build music school on the edge of the woods, with all children having the opportunity to join the orchestra and take part in our senior choir.

Extra-Curricular Programme

Perrott Hill has a diverse and innovative programme of extra-curricular activities, which take place each day throughout the term. Activities include pond conservation, beekeeping, bell-ringing, chess and book clubs. Pupils take part in the UK Primary Maths Challenge each year and we have termly House events such as poetry recitations and music competitions. We host a Mock Trial for surrounding schools in Year 6, where the children take part in a fictional court case presided over by real-life Magistrates and we have a debating programme for Years 6, 7 and 8. In addition to our Year 7 Public Speaking Competition, we host a series of Lectures for Years 3-8 and Careers Talks for Years 7 and 8; recent guest speakers include barrister, Susannah Asprey, and photographer, Giles Edwards.



Boarding at Perrott Hill

The boarding provision at Perrott Hill is excellent; the school recently won the 'Supporting Junior Boarders' award at the BSA Awards 2020 and was the only prep school in the country to be shortlisted for the Boarding Innovation Award in 2019. The school was an early adopter of the BSA Covid-Safe Charter – a voluntary code to reassure families that we are following all appropriate measures to ensure the safety of our boarders. You can read the charter [here](#).

Pupils can start flexi and weekly boarding once they go into Year 3 (age 7+) and full boarding once they reach Year 5 (age 9+). The boys' dorms – called the Boys' Den – are located in the main house, at the top of the Grundy staircase and across the hall from the Headmaster's Study. The girls' dorms – called the Girls' Den – are located in the main house, next to the Surgery. There are additional dorms at the top of the main house – called The Loft – and this is where our year group Loft Nights are held. Each room has between four and ten beds.

“Supporting junior boarders to flourish and fulfil themselves is at the heart of everything Perrott Hill does”

Boarding Schools' Association (BSA)

The boarding community is inclusive and we celebrate and encourage diversity. There are boarding 'buddies' and captains, as well as responsibilities for all boarders. We have Saturday school from Year 5 until 1600 and there is a programme of events at the weekends including swimming, bowling, cinema trips and visits to World Heritage Sites, including the Jurassic Coast which is on our doorstep. Each term, we hold activity weekends, Loft Nights and socials, and we have a thriving programme of weekend activities, too.

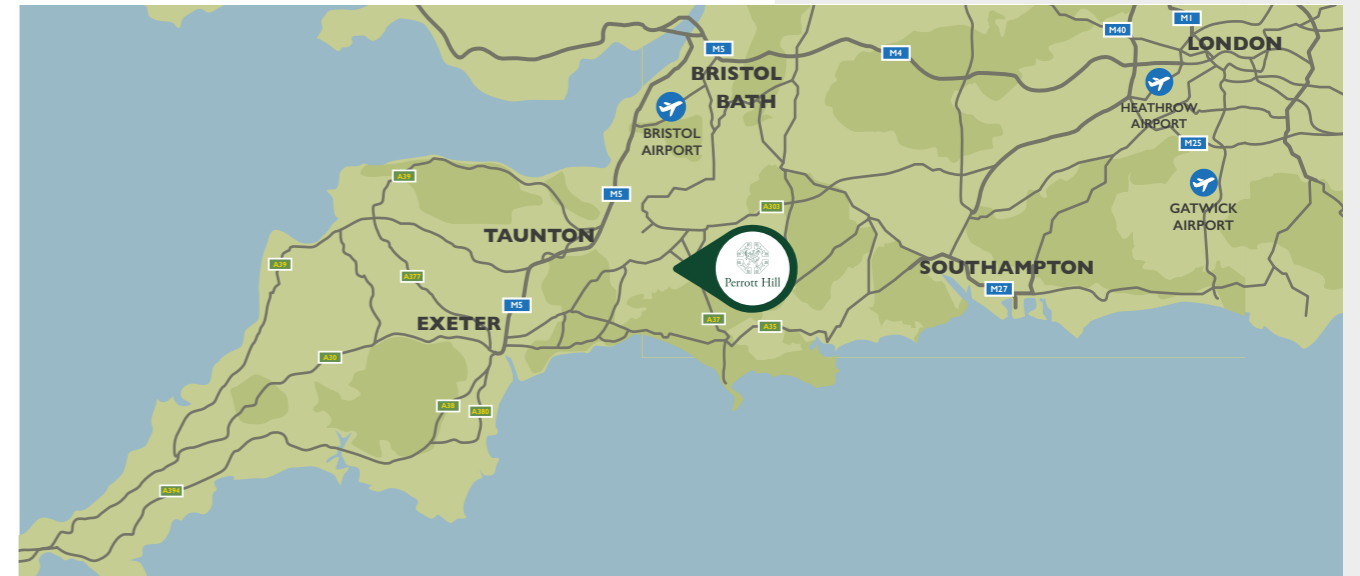
The Boarding Team at Perrott Hill



Emma Layfield
Head of Boarding
Head of Science



Matthew Edgar
Assistant Houseparent
Year 1 Form Tutor



Travel Arrangements

All international boarders must appoint a UK guardian, who is responsible for making the necessary travel arrangements at exeats and half terms/holidays. This includes collecting the child from the appropriate airport or railway station and delivering them to school, and collecting the child from school and delivering them to the appropriate airport or railway station at the beginning and end of term.

Guardians

Parents of international boarders at Perrott Hill must appoint a UK based guardian for their child. They must be resident in the UK, at a suitable proximity to Perrott Hill, and capable of providing care for the child in a happy home environment. For further details and a look at our Guardianship Form, please click [here](#).

Agents

We work with agents across the world and are always delighted to welcome more on board. Please contact our Admissions Registrar for details of how we can work together and our agency agreement.

Visa Requirements

Perrott Hill has appointed Connexcel to handle the visa process on behalf of the school. Once a place at Perrott Hill has been offered and confirmed, Connexcel will be in touch to assure a smooth and stress-free application procedure.

From October 2020, new UK Student and Child Student Routes are part of the new UK Points-Based Immigration System. These new routes replace the previous Tier 4 (General) and Tier 4 (Child) student routes. To learn more, please click [here](#).

To read more information about child student visas please click here: [here](#).

All international pupils studying at Perrott Hill will be provided with a hard copy letter of confirmation from the Headmaster indicating they are full time students at the school to help ease transit through immigration control.



Dorothy Longley-Cook
Assistant Houseparent
Head of Classics and
Year 6 Form Tutor



Kate Garman
Assistant Houseparent
Teacher of Girls' PE
and Games



Craig Layfield
Boarding Tutor



Marie Manley
School Nurse



Sharon Tarrant
Boarding Matron



Henry Davies-Evitt
Graduate Residential
Assistant (Prep)



Poppy Fletcher
Graduate Residential
Assistant (Pre-Prep)



**Arran De-Sousa
Butterworth**
Graduate Residential
Assistant (Sport)



Trixie Nicholson
Graduate Residential
Assistant (Sport)



The Next Steps

Your Points of Contact

Our Admissions Assistant, Scarlett MacEwen, is your main point of contact throughout the admissions process and is happy to help answer any questions you might have. No question is too small! Scarlett can be reached via email on admissions@perrotthill.com or by calling +44 1460 72051. You may also be in touch with the following members of staff in some form during the application process: Headmaster, Alex McCullough, Bursar, Neil Mapletoft, Head of Boarding, Emma Layfield, EAL Teacher, Melanie Gifford, Deputy Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead, Will Silk, and Director of Studies, Andrew Finch. Please do direct any questions via Scarlett in the first instance.



Camilla Bracher
Admissions Registrar



Scarlett MacEwen
Admissions Assistant



Alex McCullough
Headmaster



Neil Mapletoft
Bursar



Emma Layfield
Head of Boarding



Melanie Gifford
EAL Teacher



Will Silk
Deputy Head
and Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Andrew Finch
Director of Studies

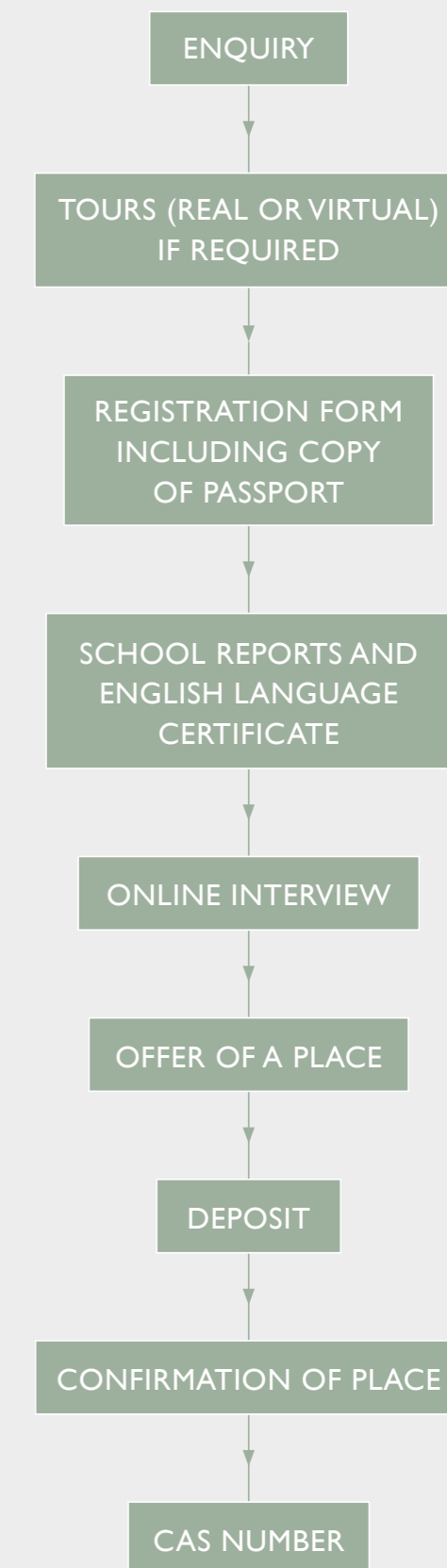
Visiting the School

We welcome visitors to the school at any point during the year, and have a Virtual Tour which agents and families can access via Scarlett. In addition, we arrange video calls throughout the year and are always delighted to chat.

Admissions Policy

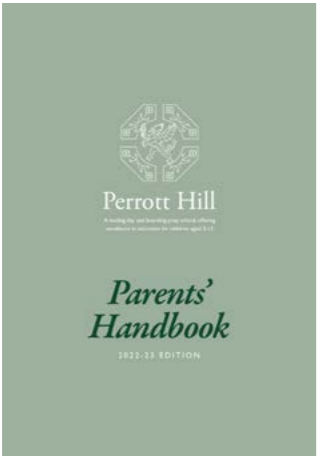
You can view our admissions policy, which details the admissions process, [here](#). If you would like to apply for a place at Perrott Hill, we require a completed registration form and £85 non-refundable fee in the first instance. We will then request two recent school reports and will book an online video 'interview' with the child and their parent or agent. If we are satisfied that the child will benefit from the education on offer at Perrott Hill, we will make an offer of a place. Once this is accepted and the deposit is paid, the child's place is confirmed. You can view our fees [here](#).

Admissions Timeline



Further Information

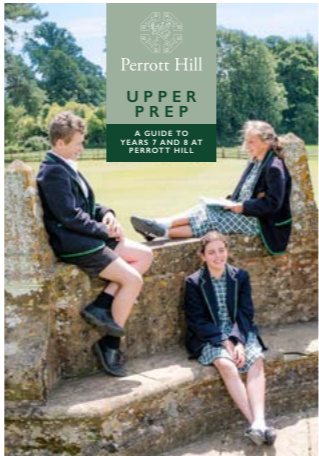
We have a range of brochures and forms detailing everything from pastoral care and safeguarding to uniform lists and daily timetables. Please click on the cover of each document to find out more. Our termly Review magazine covers all the goings on at Perrott Hill and should give you a further flavour of what life is like at our busy and successful school. We hope you enjoy them and we very much look forward to working with you in the future.



Parents' Handbook



Review Spring/Summer 2022



Upper Prep Brochure



School Prospectus



Main School Video



Boarding Video





Perrott Hill

Time and space for a full education

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