

Brambletye



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Welcome

Brambletye is a leading day and boarding preparatory school for children aged three to thirteen, where there are many opportunities for young boys and girls to develop their different talents and interests. The School has a strong academic record but the curriculum is designed to give our pupils the broadest possible education, whilst preparing them for their senior schools at the age of thirteen. Brambletye is a happy school where every individual counts, and the Christian ethos of the School quietly influences all that we do. This prospectus gives an introduction to the life of the School, although only by walking round yourselves will you experience the special atmosphere in which our children grow up.

Please contact the Registrar to arrange an appointment or if you would like details of an Open Morning.

Lucy and I very much look forward to meeting you.

Hugh Cocke *Headmaster*





Tradition and Ambition

Brambletye was founded at Sidcup Place, Kent in 1919. The School moved to a glorious location in rolling countryside in West Sussex in 1933. The large country house, in its own wooded estate of 140 acres, overlooks Ashdown Forest and Weir Wood Reservoir. The School stands just off the A22, one mile south of East Grinstead. Gatwick Airport is only twenty minutes by car and Heathrow is also easily accessible. London is thirty miles by road and fifty minutes by rail. There is escorted travel to and from London at the beginning of all exeat weekends and half term holidays.

The School became a charitable trust in 1969 with a board of governors. Developments over the years have provided first class facilities throughout the School which have ensured that Brambletye has maintained its position as a leading preparatory school in the country. Building projects have included a purpose built arts centre, with its own 250 seat theatre, a sports hall and a pre-prep building. Brambletye is non selective and registration may take place any time after birth.









A Secure and Happy Start

Our Pre-Prep is a day school for boys and girls aged three to seven. Children may join the Nursery Class before progressing to Reception at the age of four.

The Pre-Prep is housed in a separate purpose-built building adjacent to the Prep School. Form teachers are assisted by ancillary staff and this low pupil/staff ratio ensures that all children acquire the key skills in Literacy and Numeracy. There are plenty of opportunities provided to develop creative skills not only in Music, but also in Art, Craft, Drama and Dance. Outings and educational trips are arranged in conjunction with the termly topic work. Children have swimming lessons throughout the year in the indoor pool, and teachers from the Preparatory Department visit to teach ICT, Music and Games. The working day runs from 8.45am to 3.15pm on Mondays to Fridays, although children can then stay on for clubs and After School Care.





A Sense of Belonging

An enormous amount is fitted into each school day. For all our pupils, school is very much at the centre of their lives once the term is underway. For this reason, we place great emphasis on the pastoral care of all our children. The health and general welfare of the children is supervised by the Headmaster's wife, assisted by a Sister and Matrons. The Form Tutor has responsibility for a group of pupils in each year group. Brambletye also has a long standing system of 'Houses'. Houses compete each term for the House Shield, most notably through the acquisition of stars for good work in the classroom. The member of staff in charge of each House keeps a close eye on the general well-being of pupils in their house and is in regular contact with Form Tutors to monitor progress.









Academic Studies Breadth and Rigour

Brambletye prepares pupils for transfer at thirteen to a wide range of senior schools. Junior forms each have their own form teacher but older children are taught by specialist subject teachers in well-equipped classrooms and laboratories. Classes are small and each pupil is able to receive individual help and attention. In addition to the examined subjects at Common Entrance, pupils study Art, Music, Design Technology, P.E., ICT and Drama, and are introduced to Latin at the age of nine.



Parents are positively encouraged to be involved in their child's education. There is continuous assessment of each pupil's progress throughout the School and regular information is provided on their academic progress and attainment. At the end of each term, detailed subject reports are sent home and there are regular parent/teacher meetings.

The School's Admission Policy is consciously broad. Every year pupils are prepared for academic scholarships and as a community concerned with the well being of each child, we can provide help for those who need additional curriculum support.









Creative and Inventive

The Music School is part of the Brambletye Arts Centre. Children have the opportunity to learn a wide range of instruments under the guidance of the Director of Music and a team of peripatetic teachers. There is an orchestra, a chamber group and a wide variety of other instrumental groups. Three choirs perform throughout the year.

Brambletye enjoys a justifiably strong reputation in art, and senior pupils win awards each year. Children are encouraged to develop their talents in a wide variety of media. The Art Room is extensively used in free time and there is an annual exhibition of pupils' work in the local Arts Centre in East Grinstead each January.

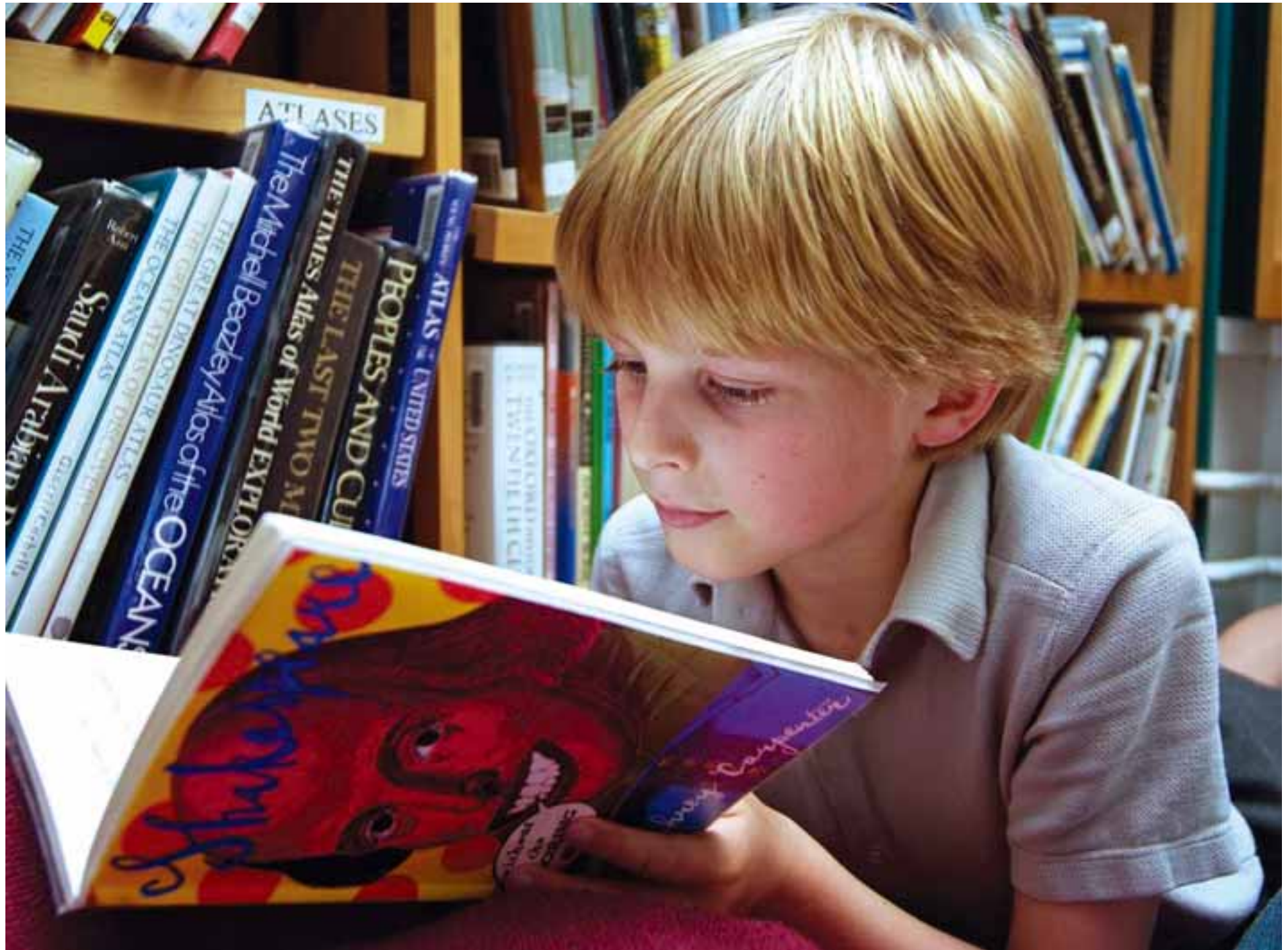
Drama has always played an important part in the life of the School. There is a fine, modern 250 seat theatre, which offers superb facilities for actors and actresses, technicians and stage managers. A production is staged each term, involving children across the whole age range. Advice and supervision are given by enthusiastic staff, several of whom also write some of the material performed. As well as formal plays and musicals, drama is also used in our Form Assemblies.



The Things That Matter

Most boys and girls at Brambletye board before moving on to their senior school. Pupils are housed in comfortable dormitories, with residential staff close at hand. A programme of evening activities take place after supper, and special events are always arranged at weekends. Children keep in touch by telephone and e-mail. Parents are encouraged to support concerts, matches and plays and to attend the School Service on Sundays. The Headmaster's wife co-ordinates all the travelling arrangements for our overseas pupils. The Chapel plays an important part in the life of the School. Brambletye is an Anglican foundation but we welcome children of other denominations and faiths. We are fortunate to have our own Chapel and all members of the School attend weekday morning prayers led by the Headmaster and other members of staff. On Sundays, guest preachers from senior schools or the local community are invited while our Roman Catholics attend Mass at Worth Abbey.











Teamwork

With extensive games fields and excellent facilities, sport plays a large and important part in the life of the School. There is a full fixture list against other schools in most sports and parents are always welcome to come and watch matches. Although we take pride in the standard of our senior teams, we aim to prepare as many teams as possible in a number of sports, trying to find for each and every child something he or she can enjoy.

Our major games are athletics, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rounders and rugby. Children are coached also in canoe polo, chess, fencing, golf, judo, squash and swimming. Great emphasis is placed on good sportsmanship, by winning in a sporting manner and losing with grace.















The Brambletye Education

Brambletye has always had a very special family atmosphere. A happy, working relationship exists between staff and pupils. We believe that children who are happy and relaxed will excel. We place strong emphasis on high standards of manners and good behaviour. The principles of a Christian upbringing are a major influence in the day to day activities of the School. By consulting and encouraging our pupils to make their own decisions, we look to develop independence, self-reliance, confidence and concern for others.

We accept that it is our responsibility to find for all boys and girls an area or subject at which they can gain confidence and self-esteem. Our aim is to develop a happy, confident and well-adjusted child, who works hard and enjoys art, drama, games and music, plays a part in some of the numerous societies and hobbies and takes a full share in the corporate life of the School.





The Registrar **BRAMBLETYE** East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 3PD



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