



Message from the Academy Sponsors

We are delighted that you are interested in securing a place for your child at the Skinners' Kent Academy. We intend the Academy to be an outstanding place of learning, creating a culture of high aspirations and achievement for all learners in the community.

As Sponsors we are fully committed to supporting young people and improving educational achievement for all. We bring a track record of success in education and believe that the combination of an outstanding grammar school – The Skinners' School, a centre of excellence for Further Education – West Kent College, and a high achieving Local Authority – Kent County Council is a unique and powerful combination. We are committed to developing an Academy which has high expectations, is high achieving and leads the way in learning and leadership for all its students.

We wish to instil in Skinners' Kent Academy students a sense of responsibility for all aspects of their lives and create a learning environment where all students can realise their potential. We are driven by the belief that all students, regardless of their ability and background, deserve choice and opportunity.

We take an active and ongoing interest in the Academy. Above all it is about benefiting the community of Tunbridge Wells and unlocking the talent of all its young people.

Our mission is clear.....to develop a passion for learning and achieving

The Skinners' Kent Academy seeks to create, develop and maintain an education that focuses emphatically on providing opportunities for success for all and celebrating the achievements of everyone in all aspects of life at the Academy. It particularly wants young people to recognise the potential that they have, and then to fulfil that potential.



Our Curriculum

The curriculum provides an all round education that has the capacity to inspire and excite and keep the students engaged. Our curriculum meets the needs of all learners and looks to the future, offering a number of skills based vocational subjects, as well as more traditional academic courses. We also spend time teaching students how they can learn best, in the knowledge that once they know how to learn, they are able to approach learning positively and enthusiastically. We place an emphasis on promoting participation in extra-curricular activities as a key element of the curriculum and our aim is to provide a personalised education experience for every student in the Academy.

All students follow the Academy's core curriculum and can opt to study from a wide range of academic and vocational courses allowing students to choose courses best suited to their needs and future career path. We aim to ensure that our students leave with qualifications that prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life.

The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme

The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme provides the framework for the curriculum at Skinners' Kent Academy. This is initially in Junior House (Years 7 and 8) and it will then extend into the personalised pathways programme in Senior Houses (Years 9 – 11). It provides a framework for all national qualifications and accreditations including GCSE. The Middle Years IB provides a framework of academic challenge that encourages students to embrace and understand the connections between traditional subjects and the real world, and become critical and reflective thinkers.

Science and Engineering Specialism

Skinners' Kent Academy is proud of its dual specialism of Science and Engineering. In partnership with The Skinners' School and West Kent College, we intend to create a centre of excellence to promote engineering, scientific and research careers for our students. We are excited by the opportunities which these specialisms provide for our young people and the wider community.

Extracurricular activities

Our extracurricular programme gives students a choice of opportunities which complements and extends their education. These range from sporting, musical, performing, cultural and community activities. Field trips, visits and residential visits are planned as a regular feature of the students' education at the Academy.

Our 'core business' is teaching and learning and we ensure that this is of the highest standard.

Joining our School

The transition from primary school to secondary school is a major event in any child's life and some students will feel anxious and apprehensive at this time.



Joining Year 7

We work closely with local primary schools to ensure effective and smooth transition and provide opportunities for pupils from the primary schools to visit the Academy. This allows students to become familiar with how we operate. Towards the end of Year 6, all of our new students from feeder primary schools attend an induction programme, where they will get used to their new school environment and meet key staff. In September each year, Year 7 are the first year group to start school, which allows both students and staff to get to know each other better and lay secure foundations for their future happiness and achievement at Skinners' Kent Academy.

Our House system

The House system is key to the ethos and culture of the Skinners' Kent Academy. It provides the framework by which all students are challenged and supported to achieve of their best. It enhances a sense of community within the Academy which encourages a feeling of identity and belonging.

Junior House (Year 7 and 8)

On joining the Academy the students enter Junior House. This House is made up of House tutor groups led by House Tutors and Head of Junior House who play a vital role in the everyday life of the student by providing a secure and friendly base where students are confident that they feel supported and guided.

Senior House (Year 9, 10 and 11)

Students move through to Senior House in Year 9 where they join all age House tutor groups led by Heads of House and House tutors. They remain in these House tutor groups throughout their time in Senior House. The Senior House tutor also plays a vital role in the life of each student within their care, supporting academic and pastoral progress.

 PRIDE IN OUR SUCCESS

Our Successes

Pride in Our Success

We focus on encouragement, underpinned by good discipline. Staff, students and parents work together to ensure that pride in our success means:

- Pride in our work
- Pride in our behaviour and attitude
- Pride in our attendance and punctuality
- Pride in our uniform and the way we look
- Pride in our commitment to learning and achievement
- Pride in our contribution to Academy life

Celebrating Success

We believe that it is vital that students' efforts and achievements are recognised and celebrated. The most valuable and immediate reward is appropriate praise. Therefore we endeavour to respond to students in a positive manner and expect that they do the same. There is a House rewards system which includes rewards for achievement, effort, good attendance and punctuality. At the end of each term there is an Academy Celebration Assembly. Every year there is a formal Prize Giving Ceremony to which parents and carers are invited.

We take pride in our success and to achieve this we set high standards with clear expectations.





Parent and Student Partnerships

Parents and carers are welcomed, informed and involved in their child's education. The three way partnership between parents/carers, student and Academy is built on shared trust, confidence and understanding.

Parent Partnership

Such a way of working in partnership is essential for each student's success.

We ask parents/carers to give support so the focus is on the positive. We have a culture which is one of recognising and rewarding achievement. However, if students are not doing what is expected we see it as our duty to remind them of our expectations and put in place any appropriate sanctions which we expect parents to support. All we ask is that each student does their best. We will not tolerate a student who disrupts the Academy experience for others.

Student Voice

The Academy has a Student Council which is led by the Student Leadership team. The Council is made up of one representative from each House group, each nominated by their peers in May of each year. The students have a one year term of office and meet regularly during House tutor period.

We asked the Student Council to say in their own words how the council benefits students:

"The Student Council is made up of representatives from each House Tutor group that are nominated each year by their class mates. The representatives meet regularly during House tutor period. We decide on the agenda items at the meeting before and then discuss the issues with our House Tutor groups before the Student Council meets. This way we can get to hear everybody's views, especially if they are different to our own! We bring these thoughts and ideas to the meeting and discuss them with the other Student Council representatives. We discuss things like Academy uniform, extra-curricular activities, fund raising, catering, the new build, ICT strategy for the future, the Academy environment".

Members of the Student Council have visited Skinners' Hall in London and have hosted visits from Skinners' Court Members and Friends at the Academy.



Our Vision

At the Academy, students are enabled to develop strong supportive relationships with both staff and peers, as these are the foundation of a happy and fulfilled life.



We develop self-respect, self-discipline and self-knowledge in all our students. They acquire a strong sense of belonging, and know they are valued and feel safe.

Learning and enrichment opportunities are accessed regardless of any learning disability or cultural barriers. To ensure success for all students in all aspects of Academy life we challenge students to achieve of their best and nurture all their talents. Strong partnerships are built and maintained with parents and carers in order to ensure families are made fully aware of their child's successes and any problems they are facing.

We have pride in our students, pride in our teachers and pride in our success.

 PRIDE IN OUR SUCCESS

