



## Solefield School

### How we achieve our exceptional 11+ and 13+ results

At Solefield, we give our pupils the confidence and determination to believe that they can achieve anything they want in life. We support parents and pupils to follow the route that best works for them whether it is leaving us at the end of Year 6 for grammar, secondary or independent school, or staying with us until the end of Year 8 to join an independent senior school. Children are nurtured and their ability to reason and question are developed, as are their talents and values.

**Exam results:** Solefield is a non-selective school and so our exam results at both 11 and 13 are particularly impressive. We have exceptional pass rates for the Kent Test and ISEB pre-test to first choice schools, over 95% average over the past few years (this year, 70% of these to Judd/ Skinner's). Every year, the vast majority of Year 8 pupils gain As and A\*s in their Common Entrance exams to senior school, an excellent springboard for future GCSE studies.

**Managing stress:** we help all pupils to discuss emotions and to manage stress through our reading initiative, Mindful Mondays, Wellbeing Hubs, Wellbeing Dogs, counselling and attentive pastoral care.

**Tracking and progress:** our individual tracking and regular discussion of each child's progress ensures that no pupil is ever overlooked. Small class sizes mean that we know each pupil very well and can make informed decisions about the best senior school route for each. Parents meet with the Headmistress and Deputy Head at any stage in their child's learning journey to discuss future schools, as many times as required and there are regular talks for parents about future schools and entrance procedures.

**Future schools:** in the Autumn Term of Year 5, the Headmistress and Deputy Head discuss individual cases with all parents to give clear and honest feedback about the best way forward. Many pupils who take the Kent Test 11+ to grammar decide to stay at Solefield until they are 13 and join independent schools at this age, making the most of our tailor-made education until 13 and our all-inclusive Scholarship Path Programme. At Solefield, parents have the chance to see how their children develop and the freedom and guidance to choose the best future school for their child.

**All-round education:** we ensure that all pupils develop both soft and "sharp" skills and prepare pupils for their future lives, not just to pass exams. Solefield pupils collaborate, listen, take turns and speak in public from a very young age. They learn to think critically and question. Thinking skills and Philosophy, Politics & Ethics lessons run throughout our curriculum for children as young as 7. Our Scholarship Path Programme, Solefield Diploma and excellent debating and chess provision also ensure that children hone their ability to reason, enquire and deduce.

**Exciting lessons:** we also aim to extend and enrich our lessons on a daily basis. Whether it is making a Spitfire model, using VR headsets or firing rockets, learning at Solefield is exciting and adventurous.

**Years 7 & 8:** all pupils who stay on for Year 7 and 8 follow a scholarship programme of their choosing: Art, Drama, Music, Sport, STEM or Academic. This opportunity enables them to gain a greater depth of knowledge in their particular field of interest and provides a platform to explore their discipline outside of the classroom. Specialist teachers curate a programme of activities and events, which include visiting galleries, theatre productions and recitals. Small class sizes in vertical groups allow for the programme to be refined, dependent on the child's own skill set and interest. This allows for them to demonstrate and develop their own individual strengths.

**Confidence & integrity:** pupils invariably leave us confident, independent young adults full of integrity and a love of learning. One of the things that has given me greatest pleasure in my 14 years so far at Solefield is seeing the development of our pupils from sometimes shy and uncertain 4 year olds to confident, world-ready young men. I'm proud of all the Solefield pupils I have seen thrive in my time at the school – and excited to see what talented, kind and dependable young adults we will produce in the future.

***Helen McClure, Headmistress***

**What do our parents say?**

- *'Solefield's greatest strength is to help the children to believe in themselves, helping them to discover what their strengths are'*
- *'Our only regret is that we didn't move our son sooner'*
- *'Our son had the freedom to try so much and discover himself'*
- *'What a brilliant life changing decision it was to send our sons to Solefield'*