



Senior School

PROSPECTUS



SUTTON VALENCE SCHOOL



A warm welcome to an inspiring journey

Pupils have been inspired by the beautiful surroundings of Sutton Valence School since 1576. We are very proud of our history but we also look keenly to the future.

From the school's opening until now, our greatest strength is our community. The relationships enjoyed between staff, pupils and parents allow us to craft an educational journey that is individually suited to every pupil.

If we feel supported, cared for and recognised for what we are, then we will feel comfortable pushing ourselves beyond our comfort zone to discover the limits of our ability - these are our primary aims. It is only through this process that we can truly achieve.

Through the high expectations and standards we set, all our young people are encouraged and helped to go further than they had thought possible in their academic, co-curricular, community and leadership journeys. We want them to become confident, civilised, tolerant and open-minded individuals who possess a love of learning and a strong sense of self-discipline along with a set of values

reflecting our principles as a Christian Foundation.

Each will have taken a slightly different journey by the time they finish their School education, but our ultimate destinations for all are the same: that they will work hard to fulfil their true potential and add value to their lives.

All of us in the SVS community have strengths and weaknesses, but it is our unique qualities that add to the overall strength of the whole and in recognising this we uphold our ethos: a community where each cares for all and individuality is cherished.

I have been touched in my early days here by the sense of purpose, support and happiness. I hope that if you visit us you will feel these as well.


I look forward to welcoming you to our unique school.

James Thomas, Headmaster



The Sutton Valence School difference

- ◆ Combining excellent teaching with pupils' effort to produce results that exceed expectations;
- ◆ An enrichment programme that offers a breadth of experience, growing essential skills for now and the future;
- ◆ A School which is big enough for diversity, small enough to care;
- ◆ A community which goes above and beyond in order to support one another;
- ◆ Limitless opportunities for leadership, service, challenge and growth;
- ◆ Balancing traditions with innovation: giving our students a sense of place and history.



“ When you view a school as prospective parents, every school promises the Earth but Sutton Valence School delivers ”

Current parent





Academic

IT IS NOT WHERE YOU START THAT MATTERS,
IT IS THE DISTANCE YOU TRAVEL.

A predicted D grade that ends up a C is just as big a journey as an A to an A* or even A* to full marks, it is just a different starting point. With focused hard work, excellent teaching and high expectations we aim to improve every child's predicted attainment by between 0.5 and 1 grade. In academic terms, this is known as 'added value' and it is what education is all about: improving ourselves and being better than we thought we ever could be. We can only do this if we know the individual, if we know every dip and peak and profile of your child.

We are very proud of the relationships our teachers build with pupils and the success this brings in the School's outstanding academic results.

By challenging students to compete with themselves academically, we set them on a path of identifying strengths and strengthening weaknesses. We strive to make learning stimulating and encourage pupils to push themselves further, stretching their abilities and their expectations.





“Our individualised approach allows us, as experts, to support each pupil in both their strengths and weaknesses.”

Becci Ball, Academic Deputy Head





Enrichment

SVS FIRMLY BELIEVES IN OUR
TOTAL CURRICULUM WHERE ACADEMIC
PURSUITS ARE SUPPORTED BY EXCITING AND
CHALLENGING ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

Somewhere in education your child must learn the vital, transferable skills of self discipline, commitment, focus and effort and this does not always happen in the classroom in front of a whiteboard.

We have a broad range of enrichment activities and we encourage students to sample many of them, building the confidence and courage to succeed.

The value of emotional, cultural, mental, physical and social growth cannot be underestimated in the holistic education of your child.

As they mature they will grow in their determination and self-esteem, leaving the School as confident, charming and capable, but not arrogant, young adults.



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“Sutton Valence School definitely shows you who you are; the School has the ability to instil you with confidence.”

Current student

Recent trips have included skiing trips to Italy and the USA, a Geography trip to Iceland, a cultural visit to Neeja Modi School in Jaipur, India, expeditions to Peru and Morocco, adventure training in the Lake District, CCF expeditions to Nepal and Brunei and exchange visits to Chile, France and the USA.





Leadership and Service

LEADERSHIP TEACHES PATIENCE AND
CONSIDERATION AS WELL AS CONFIDENCE
AND INTRINSIC MOTIVATION.

It comes in many forms: on a cold wet mountain with a Duke of Edinburgh group; on the field of sport; holding a position of responsibility or just managing your way through a busy week. Leadership offers all pupils the scope for development as they step beyond their comfort zone into uncharted territory, discovering that they have more in them than they could imagine.

As they progress through the School, pupils develop their leadership skills and take on new responsibilities. They discover when to lead both themselves and others, and when to follow.

Your child will learn to take the rough with the smooth, to be gracious both in success and failure, to deal with adults and peers with courtesy, honesty and



good humour and to pick themselves up when things don't go their way and try again.

Our Leadership and Service programme is integrated into School life. Pupils find that good leadership has many qualities: the ability to listen; to be properly informed and prepared; to respect the responsibilities of others; to know,

accept and admit when you are wrong; to serve and to learn from others. Sometimes referred to as 'soft skills', it is these qualities that will help your child stand out and inspire the trust and support of those around them.



“ We all have a reserve, a ten per cent within us, that we do not always use and sometimes do not realise it is there. ”

Current student





Community

**SUTTON VALENCE SCHOOL IS THE HEART OF
KENT EDUCATION; WHERE EACH CARES FOR
ALL AND INDIVIDUALITY IS CHERISHED.**

Our ethos reinforces our community as the backbone that supports School life.

We are a family, large and diverse, but a family nonetheless. To provide support and engagement across the years, we create smaller units: the day and boarding houses; tutor groups with 15 or so pupils of differing ages that meet every day; Chapel Choir; Rugby squad or the Drama cast, call them what you like, they are all

opportunities for your child to feel cared for and valued.

Our boarders occupy a special place in our community and their presence is much appreciated for the richness and the diversity they bring to the School.

The School is deliberately the size it is so that each child is known. The strong between pupils and staff and pupils and




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pupils foster feelings of security and confidence. Good relationships, trust and the knowledge that we care, allow teachers to tell pupils when they get things wrong, pick them up, dust them down and redirect them.

Our detailed knowledge of every child ensures that no one gets lost in the middle or overlooked. The top and the bottom of any group are easily identified, but those with average ability, where most of us are, are in danger of not being recognised: they are no trouble, get on with their work, but are they under-achieving? For some a C grade is a triumph, for others a tragedy, but you only know the difference, and how to respond, when you know the child.

Our community gives your child an environment in which to feel safe and supported and to fully engage with their individual journey.



“We are a small community with strong relationships. Everyone matters; our culture is always to look out for each other.”

Sally Rose, Assistant Head



A photograph of three students in school uniforms walking outdoors. On the left is a girl with long brown hair, wearing a dark blue blazer over a dark blue V-neck sweater and a blue and black plaid skirt. In the center is a boy with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue blazer over a light blue shirt and a dark blue tie with a gold and red pattern. On the right is another girl with long brown hair, wearing a dark blue blazer over a dark blue V-neck sweater and a blue and black plaid skirt. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a brick building and greenery.

Our rich history

**FOUNDED IN 1576 BY WILLIAM LAMBE,
A LOCAL PHILANTHROPIST, SUTTON VALENCE
SCHOOL HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF
VILLAGE LIFE FOR WELL OVER 400 YEARS.**

William was a member of the court of King Henry VIII, a chorister and a Master of the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers. He set up the School to provide a good education for the boys of the village. Until 1912, the School was entirely housed in the original School building known as Lambe's and, as was common in public and grammar schools of the time, offered a limited curriculum dominated by subjects

such as Latin and Greek. Governance of the School was handed to the United Westminster Schools Foundation and in 1912 the School expanded into the current buildings on the top of the ridge, overlooking the Weald of Kent.

Our history, dating back to 1576, has given us some wonderful traditions and a wealth of expertise. We still embrace William



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Lambe's Christian values and retain many of the customs and rituals that have been established over the centuries. For example, the Headmaster still receives the annual rent of a rose given by the village for use of the village green and the Baton Race, run through the School's grounds and playing fields.

Today the School continues to go from strength to strength. With our roots in

the past and our focus firmly on the future, Sutton Valence School offers your child a community built on, literally, centuries of experience of educating and understanding young people.



To arrange a visit, please contact our Admissions department
admissions@svs.org.uk



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