

F R E W E N



C O L L E G E

## *The Dyslexia Specialists*



P R E P  
S C H O O L



S E N I O R  
S C H O O L



S I X T H  
F O R M









*"We can't believe the difference in our daughter in just a few weeks. It's been absolutely phenomenal - we can't thank your staff enough."*

Mr H



Welcome to Frewen College - a unique school for young people between the ages of 7 and 19, with Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) such as dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia, and Speech, Language and Communication needs.

Frewen's roots go back over 100 years, making it one of the oldest such schools in the world.

Our school has a friendly, "family" feel, and the pupils are courteous and cheerful. In a recent Ofsted Inspection, inspectors judged the pupils' behaviour to be "outstanding", and commented on the school's "highly appropriate focus on the pupils' specific learning difficulties".

SpLD can affect children of all abilities, and we are committed to ensuring that every Frewen pupil achieves the highest level of success possible. Each child's needs are thoroughly assessed, and individual support provided, in small classes, supplemented where appropriate with one-to-one tuition or therapy, the setting of ambitious but achievable expectations, the careful tracking of progress and the provision of quality feedback.

Pupils joining Frewen College from other schools may have been working as hard as, or harder than, their peers, but they have been held back and made to feel undervalued because their Specific Learning Difficulties have either not been recognised, or have not been properly addressed.

Our team has immense experience in helping children with a range of educational needs. All our classroom staff, including Teaching Assistants, have specialist dyslexia training, and our therapists and counsellors provide additional one to one support on site where required.

The school is divided into three parts: the Prep School, the Senior School, and the Sixth Form, which we run in conjunction with our partner establishments Bexhill College and Plumpton College. This means we can provide 'all through' education from age 7 upwards, and can admit appropriate pupils at any stage of their school career. We can also boast pupils and staff from all over the world!

If you think Frewen may be the right school for your child please contact us and we will arrange for you to visit us. I sincerely hope that we can help you, and I look forward to meeting you.

Nick Goodman  
Principal

*"Staff and pupils are proud of their school and are extremely happy there. Parents are delighted with the provision and feel that their children have made progress, and are supported emotionally as well as for their learning difficulties"*

CReSTeD

## Frewen College Philosophy and Aims

The school's ethos is best seen in our three aims. We believe these aims to be essential to achieve happiness, contentment and fulfillment in later life.

Our aim is that each child in our school will be:

- Well educated with an interest in learning, ready to engage with a wider world;
- Happy and self-confident with a good sense of humour;
- Generous in spirit, kind to others and aware of others' feelings.

Our teaching staff are trained to use a range of strategies to enable pupils to find ways around the learning difficulties that can make academic subjects seem so difficult. Frewen is not a traditional school with extra help for dyslexia - the support is provided in all lessons, all of the time. We have a typical maximum class size of eight pupils, and there is often a second adult, or Learning Support Assistant, in the classroom as well.

English and Literacy are at the core of all our work at Frewen. Our most important responsibility is to remove the fear of the written and spoken word and give our pupils the skills and the confidence to read and write competently. In the brilliantly eloquent words of a recent leaver:

*"When diagnosed with severe dyslexia, the prospect of confronting this condition can be daunting to the best of us. Frewen College helped me when no other school would. Before Frewen I couldn't read and I had very poor communication skills both written and linguistically. But due to Frewen's excellent teachers and speech therapists I have been given the gift of literacy. I now embark to Keele University to read History and Politics. None of this would have been possible without Frewen or my parents."*

## E-Library and Reading Resource Room

Our Reading Resource Room is packed with books, computers and an interactive screen, with books graded by subject and reader ability. Students are encouraged to take books home to read, and we are always happy to help parents learn how best to support their child's reading at home. An e-library complements our more traditional reading resources.



*"It's such a wonderful thing to see him growing in confidence and actually enjoying going to school. I cannot put into words the difference Frewen has made and is making."*

*Parent of Prep Pupil*

*"Richard seems to be having a wonderful time with you..... In fact the changes we and our family have observed in him have been nothing short of miraculous."*

Cpl & Mrs G



We want every pupil at Frewen to feel safe, happy and supported.

Each pupil has a form teacher with whom, in the Prep School they spend most of their time, and who, in the rest of the school, they see at least twice every day, and who is responsible for their overall welfare, as well as teaching them for PSHE and other subjects as appropriate. The form tutor is the adult to whom the pupil would normally turn first in the case of problems or concerns, and who would, in most cases, communicate with parents with regard to all aspects of welfare.

One of the aspects of Frewen College that makes it so special is the fact that it is a small school with corresponding class sizes, so there is a sense that everyone knows each other and is part of one big family.

There are excellent pupil/teacher relationships, and staff regularly meet and discuss pupils' progress, welfare, concerns and successes.

Each pupil belongs to one of four houses named after famous dyslexics, which compete with each other in a number of areas.

There is a very active Student Council, with representation from all tutor groups in the Senior School and Sixth Form, and pupils are encouraged to organise events, for example to raise awareness of, or money for, their chosen charities. In the Prep School, pupils' views and suggestions are sought and represented through the prefect system.

Regular assemblies provide an opportunity for pupils to present, on a range of themes, to the rest of the school, thus increasing their self-confidence and public speaking skills. Other assemblies celebrate pupil success, with one of the four houses each week being awarded a cup for amassing the largest number of good order marks.





Our separate Prep School welcomes SpLD children from age 7 up to age 11, following which pupils can then transfer either to our own Senior School, or to mainstream schools where appropriate. We are happy to meet children in Year 2 to start the admission process.

The Prep has its own premises across the road from the main site, and has access to many of the Seniors' specialist facilities. We also have a number of shared staff, and combine with Year 7 for choir practice and some activities. We have our own secure play area, which includes an adventure playground, and a Lottery funded 'Sensory Produce Garden'.

All this means that our Prep pupils enjoy the benefits of a very small and nurturing environment while having access to excellent facilities and good opportunities for social interaction.

Specialist teachers offer individualised programmes tailored to each pupil's specific needs. We support pupils' learning with additional Key Stage 2 work above and beyond the mainstream curriculum; this includes opportunities to revisit Key Stage 1 concepts using individualised approaches in spelling, phonics and handwriting. Additional ICT support is given using specialist software. Curriculum input is supported by our fully integrated therapy team, who work within the classroom, and also provide weekly one-to-one input where appropriate.

We teach using the 'Creative Curriculum' approach to enthuse the children and stimulate an excitement about learning. We adopt one creative theme for each term and then weave all the different strands of the curriculum together rather than teaching isolated subjects.

Outings and activities are invaluable in extending learning opportunities, and the whole school is able to get involved, with regular trips supporting learning in the Creative Curriculum. A wide range of onsite activities includes archery, judo, camps, gardening and many more. Team sports are offered and there are regular sports events where maximum pupil involvement is encouraged.

*"Without the wonderful, dedicated help the boys received at Frewen Prep I am sure they would have stayed demoralised and disheartened, with no confidence to attempt to reach their potential. Sending them to Frewen College was a very hard decision, but one we do not regret."*

J&S H





# THE SENIOR SCHOOL



*"When he started at Frewen he had very low self-esteem. Over the time he has been at the school I have seen a gradual and miraculous change." Mrs C*

The Senior School is housed in our purpose-built teaching block, which includes an auditorium, science labs, three ICT suites, and specialist classrooms, all of which are equipped with interactive whiteboards in order to accommodate the full range of learning styles.

In the Senior School, as in the Prep, classes are small and teachers adopt a range of techniques to ensure effective learning.

Pupils in Key Stage 3 follow a traditional curriculum, based on the National Curriculum, with additional English and Literacy, and, where required, additional support and therapy.

At Key Stage 4, pupils study English, Maths, Science, plus four option subjects. Pupils may take GCSEs, Entry Level, vocational subjects, or a mixture of these depending on their ability in individual subjects. They also follow a programme of PSHE, Games, and Literacy sessions.

Option subjects vary from year to year depending on demand, but typically including a range of subjects including History, Geography, Media Studies, Design and Technology, Food and Nutrition and ICT. Arts subjects are popular, with many pupils choosing to pursue Art and Design, Music and Drama - subjects which do not rely so heavily on literacy skills.

ICT is an area in which many of our pupils flourish, and it is utilised across the curriculum to aid pupils' learning.

All pupils in Years 7 to 9 receive homework in one subject per evening, and homework clubs are available alongside other activities. In Key Stage 4, homework is set in two subjects per evening.

Careers Guidance and Work Experience are an important part of Year 10, while Year 11 includes mock exams and preparation for external examinations.

In Year 11 pupils can choose between applying for a place in the Sixth Form, or continuing their studies elsewhere.







# THE SIXTH FORM

The aim of the Sixth Form at Frewen is to offer a holistic education, providing support where needed, whilst encouraging each student's movement towards greater independence in preparation for higher education or adult working life. Our emphasis is on tailor-made teaching and learning through a personalised programme of study and support.

Our partnerships with Bexhill College and Plumpton College mean we are able to offer Sixth Form students a wide variety of academic and vocational courses at a range of levels, so allowing us to cater for students of all abilities who want, or need, to retain access to the specialist support our team provides.

Sixth Form students are expected to play an active role in school life, developing their independence, leadership skills and self-confidence in doing so. This can take many forms including involvement with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (Silver and Gold) or the National Citizen Service, musical, dramatic and sporting activities, organising whole school events, or taking on roles with younger pupils such as "buddies" for Year 7 pupils, reading seniors and peer mentors, or by helping out at lunchtime clubs. They also organise and present their own school assemblies each term and have a representative on the student council.

The high level of pastoral support present in the Senior School continues through to Sixth Form with every student having a mentor, as well as form tutor. All students, whether following a Plumpton, Frewen or Bexhill programme of study, have in-house support for both their academic work and their personal and emotional development.

Sixth Formers are encouraged to consider boarding even if they have previously been day students, with some Sixth Formers flexi-boarding for one or two nights a week. Boarding provides many excellent opportunities to develop personal, leadership, organisation and independent living skills.

Our Sixth Form is open to both internal and external candidates, as long as they pass our own selection process, and are accepted onto the course of their choice at our partner colleges. All transport and meals are included, and students have specialist support whether on or off-site.

## Sixth Form Life

All sixth form students have a personalised study programme comprising their main course choice(s) plus English and Maths as required, Personal and Social Development, extra-curricular activities and work experience opportunities. Sixth form timetables also include independent study periods enabling students to acquire the essential skills of self-management.

Students follow their main course for approximately twelve to fifteen hours each week. Students attending Bexhill College are part of a Bexhill tutor group run by one of their subject teachers which helps them to develop new friendships, feel part of college life and give them another adult they can ask for help. Students following Plumpton College horticulture-based courses at Frewen enjoy specialist teaching from visiting Plumpton staff and, through partnership with Great Dixter, the world-renowned historic house and garden in Northiam, a full day's work experience every week.

Sixth Formers also attend workshop days each year which focus on topics such as careers, study skills, employability skills and independent living skills.

*"She has been totally transformed and now blooms with self confidence. She achieved excellent GCSE results and is now really enjoying college."*

Mrs O





# BOARDING



*"It's really fun to board, there's lots of nice things to do and I have lots of friends here."*

*"Staff really care for us."*

*"I enjoy taking responsibility for myself, and helping to look after the younger pupils."*

Our very experienced boarding team all work to make boarding life as homely as possible. We believe our boarders have a right to feel completely safe, to be respected, and to have fun, within a clearly defined structure. They learn to respect each other and to develop social skills that many have previously lacked, but we also understand the need for privacy and contact with home. Boarders have access to private landlines and Skype if they wish to make private calls home.

Boarding is fully flexible, and we make no additional charge for weekend boarding. About half our boarders now stay at the weekends. We accept boarders from age 9.

In the boys' boarding house there are two common rooms - junior and senior (both equipped with large plasma screen TVs) and a quiet room. We encourage boarders to personalise their rooms and nearly all are en suite, with a maximum of four beds in junior bedrooms, and two in the senior rooms.

Girls' boarding is located in a comfortable modern house (previously the Head's house), with its own private garden, and facilities that at least match the boys'. The girls join in with the boys for most meals and many activities, but have their own common rooms.

## Catering

We fully recognise the importance of healthy eating in helping to create a positive environment for learning. Our catering team is regularly assessed as 'outstanding' by Ofsted, offering an excellent range of hot and cold menu options, all cooked in-house. We use locally produced ingredients wherever possible, including increasing quantities from our own gardens.

# EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & OUTDOOR EDUCATION

## Extra-Curricular Activities

A wide choice of extra-curricular activities is available to all pupils. After-school clubs include (subject to time of year, and demand), Art, Kayaking, Boardgames, Design and Technology, Craft, Pottery, Archery and Horseriding. All teaching staff contribute to the programme and we are always open to suggestions from pupils for new activities!

Many of our pupils receive individual music tuition, in a wide range of instruments, and much extra-curricular activity centres around rehearsals for the many concerts and performances which take place within the school each year.

## Outdoor Activities

Outdoor activities contribute a great deal of what makes Frewen so special. Our facilities are the envy of many larger schools, indeed we host a wide range of regional sports fixtures for mainstream as well as special needs schools. In many sports our pupils compete with mainstream schools on equal terms, greatly contributing to the enhancement of their self confidence.

While we strongly encourage all pupils to get involved, we also understand that there can be very good reasons why some children, particularly those with sensory integration issues, find this difficult. We ensure suitable alternative activities are available so that these pupils feel included.

Encouraging regular involvement in physical activity is also an important element in developing a healthy lifestyle, and complements our work in Food and Nutrition and PSHE.

## Games & Sports

We have 60 acres of playing fields and grounds and offer a full range of sports options including rugby, soccer, cricket, netball, swimming, tennis, orienteering, archery, mountain biking and rounders, as well as a range of indoor activities.

Our facilities include a large outdoor swimming pool, rugby, cricket and soccer pitches that we also make available to other local clubs, tennis and netball court, five-a-side hard court, grass athletics track and a fitness centre. We have regular fixtures against other schools, resulting in a steady improvement in results and confidence. Our pupils also helped design our popular mountain bike trail.

## Duke of Edinburgh Awards

All Year 9 pupils are strongly encouraged to pursue the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, and can then move on to the Silver and Gold Awards. We find these extremely helpful in building self reliance and confidence for the future. With access to 100 acres of ancient deer park as well as our own extensive grounds for camping and orienteering, pupils can build up their skills in a completely safe environment.

## Activities for Boarders

Many of our day pupils envy the range of activities we provide for our boarders. Boarders can watch or participate in a wide range of sports, music, arts and crafts. Popular pastimes include trips to the cinema or theatre, water sports, banger racing and mountain biking. For the less active we have a dedicated Playstation room, computers, board games, TVs....

*"I commend you for the brilliant schooling you provide for the otherwise 'forgotten' children. It is truly remarkable."*

*Mrs A.*







*"A wide range of strategies, appropriate for developing skills for children with SpLD, is used. Children demonstrated a high level of confidence and self esteem."*

CReSTeD Report

## Health & Wellbeing

We believe in a whole school, 'holistic' approach to supporting the children entrusted to us. Our policies and practices embrace children's health, social and emotional wellbeing, as well as dealing with their Special Educational Needs and education. We have a multi-faceted team of professionals to support this approach, including Speech and Language and Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapist, School Counsellor, and School Matron.

## Therapies

We have an extremely experienced and wide ranging team of well qualified professionals to address all the principal needs of our pupils. One of our Speech and Language Therapists has additional training in Audio Therapy, including Johansen Sound Therapy, and our Physiotherapist can deliver Sensory Integration Therapy. We are also fortunate to have a fully qualified and experienced counsellor trained in mentoring young people in need of one-to-one support. Our pupils have access to small group or individual sessions with these specialists as required. Staff also lead groups to support the development of good practice and understanding.



Frewen College is based at Brickwall House, near Rye in East Sussex. Brickwall is a 17th century country house and estate, and was home to the Frewen family, for over three hundred years.

We believe that Frewen's direct predecessor, Down House School, was the first specialist school for dyslexics in England and possibly the world.

Dyslexia was first described by Dr W Pringle Morgan in 1896, whose practice was based at Seaford in East Sussex. It is known that Morgan's practice encompassed a number of schools in the area and it seems likely that these included Down House School, then based at nearby Rottingdean. Down House School was established in 1910 by Seaburne Godfrey Arthur May Moens, an amateur historian born in India. The school was evacuated to Herefordshire during the Second World War and upon its return settled at Brickwall House. We know that, by this time, the school already possessed specialist experience with dyslexics.

Down House changed its name to Brickwall House School, and then to Frewen College after Admiral Sir John Frewen GCB transferred the school into an educational trust. Since 1972 the school has specialised in dyslexia and related learning difficulties.

# ADMISSIONS

## Who do we admit?

We teach boys and girls aged from 7 to 19, but we do not admit new pupils into Year 11 or 13, nor usually Year 10 or 12 after the first half term as it is too disruptive to others. We prefer early years admissions as that gives us the best opportunity to make the biggest difference. We welcome day and boarding pupils, and boarding is fully flexible. Please note that availability is very limited in some year groups.

We welcome international students, provided that English is their first or strong second language.

## Special Educational Needs

The great majority of our pupils have Specific Learning Difficulties, principally Dyslexia and/ or Dyspraxia, together with some Dyscalculia. We also cater for Speech and Language and Sensory Integration disorders. We only admit children we consider will fit into and benefit from our school community. We do not admit children with Emotional Behavioural or Social Disorders. Please ask the Office for a copy of our Disability Equality Policy if your child has physical disabilities.

## How does the admissions process work?

We encourage prospective parents initially to attend one of our regular Open Mornings to meet some of the key staff and see the school, often guided by some of our pupils. Please see the website for dates. We prefer not to get into too much detailed discussion at this stage but if you are travelling from a considerable distance please ask the Secretary to book you extra time. If, after meeting with the Principal or SENDCo, it is decided to take matters further, we will ask to see a recent Educational Psychologist's Report and any other relevant reports.

If after studying the paperwork we agree that we may be able to help your child, they will be invited to attend for Evaluation and Assessment, usually comprising two school days for day pupils, or three days with two overnight stays for boarders. We will normally be able to let you know within 48 hours of completion whether we will be offering a place. Provided that funding is available, new pupils can start straight away, or at an agreed later date.



*"He has thrived at Frewen and been happier in the past 9 months than I have ever known him. His confidence and self-esteem have improved considerably"*

*Mrs J.*









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FREWEN



COLLEGE

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