

## FREWEN PREP SCHOOL: A PARENT'S VIEW

" Our daughter has been at Frewen Prep School for just over one year. If you had told me a year ago she would be positive about going to school and looking forward to the lessons I would not have believed it!

We began to notice in Year 2 (from the age of 7) that she was becoming more and more disinterested in learning, despite a very supportive and stimulating school environment. Following assessment by an Educational Psychologist, it was somewhat of a relief to learn that our daughter had dyslexia, and explained her reluctance to read and write. Despite receiving additional learning support for English and Maths in Year 3, at the start of Year 4 it had become very clear that she was struggling to keep pace with the demands of the local Prep school curriculum and she was falling further and further behind her peers. At the end of Year 4 (age 9) our daughter could barely write a sentence (at least not a legible one).

When we first visited Frewen for an Open Morning, we were very impressed to see there was clearly intensive support and tailored learning programmes. We knew it was absolutely the right choice for our daughter. The prep school provides a calm, cosy, very friendly and supportive environment, with small class sizes enabling an almost one-to-one level of teaching support, delivered by staff who are all specifically trained and experienced in special educational needs. **Our daughter joined Frewen in Year 5 and after only two weeks we began to see some really positive changes – she seemed a lot happier, relaxed and more self-assured. Over the last year, we have been thrilled with her progress. I almost cried when, without any prompting, she wrote a sentence about her brother without spelling mistakes and in joined-up handwriting! Such a thing would have been unthinkable only a few months before.**

She has also become a lot more confident and able in Maths and it has been a revelation to see her taking

enjoyment in a subject she had previously come to despise. She has also benefitted from Occupational Therapy and, because of the positive encouragement received and strategies learned, she has finally mastered the art of learning how to tie her shoelaces and ride a bike.

In addition to the intensive support with core curriculum subjects, over the past year our daughter has benefitted from having the opportunity to experience a vast array of different activities including: gardening, cookery, art, birdwatching, cricket, cross country, netball, swimming, Danish longball and archery! The school has a wonderfully inclusive approach, and nobody is left out, or made to feel that a task is beyond their abilities.

Pupils are given the chance to shine in areas in which they perhaps would have previously been overlooked in a different school. She was delighted to be asked to do a short reading at the Christmas carol service and has enjoyed acting in several Prep School plays – something I never thought I would see her do.

Thanks to Frewen, we are confident that our daughter is in an environment that will lay the foundations for a well-balanced, happy, inquisitive individual who is not going to let her dyslexia stop her from doing anything she sets her mind to. We are very proud of the young lady that she is becoming. "

Mrs C, Prep School parent

