

Information about the school

Frewen specialises in supporting young people aged from 7 to 19 whose education has been adversely affected by Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, and Speech, Language and Communication needs.

The school has a national reputation for dyslexia expertise, offering advice to professionals and parents. The school was originally founded in 1910, making it the oldest dyslexia school in the country, if not the world, and was Winner of the ISA Award for Outstanding Provision for Learning Support and Finalist for Senior School of the Year, 2021.

The school is set in 60 acres of grounds and housed mainly in a Grade 1 listed mansion in Northiam, Nr. Rye, East Sussex. There are strong links with the local rural community, including the Primary school, Parish Church and local sports organisations.

Our Prep School, with its own Head and an innovative curriculum, is situated in a Grade 2 listed house across the road from the main school.

The Senior School (Key Stages 2 and 3) are housed in the auditorium block, and some temporary classrooms, ending our new building. Students study a typical curriculum, but the small classes and dyslexia-trained staff enable them to make accelerated progress and to exceed CAT projections in GCSE and equivalent courses at the end of Year 11.

Our highly successful Sixth Form was introduced in 2014, and main courses are offered in partnership with Bexhill College, with the remainder of the week spent at Frewen, being supported by the Sixth Form Team. As a result, students invariably succeed in gaining the relevant qualifications and go on to further or higher education, apprenticeships or employment. We are looking forward to the Sixth Form relocating to the planned new build within the school grounds.

Examinations offered include in A Level, GCSE, BTEC, Entry Level, OCR Nationals and ASDAN.

The school has grown in size in recent years, and we are just at the pre-application stage for a new building, which will incorporate a state of the art Performing Arts Centre, Drama and Music teaching areas, a Sixth Form centre and a dedicated Therapy suite. We are working with Ptolemy Dean Architects with the intention that this will be complete by September 2024.

About one fifth of our students currently board, and we are planning to increase to at least a third. Girls' boarding is housed in The Warren, a dedicated home within our beautiful grounds. Boys' boarding is located in the top two floors of our 17th century main house. Boarders enjoy a full evening and weekend activity programme.

Admissions are from a wide geographic area, drawing students from 14 different local authorities. Local Authority funding for students with EHC plans accounts for about 70% of fee income. A small proportion of students are from overseas, including USA, Germany and Hong Kong.

Current student roll stands at 139 (January 2022). (See table).

The school has a full time Speech and Language and Occupational Therapists. Sensory Integration Therapy and Auditory Therapy are also available. The wellbeing of students is supported by a Counsellor and Child Psychotherapist.

Frewen College is owned and operated by The Frewen Educational Trust Ltd, a registered charity. It is a member of ISA, ISC and BSA, and is a supporting corporate member of the BDA.

We are inspected by ISI for education and an inspection is imminent, the last being a compliance inspection in 2019.

Boarding is inspected by Ofsted, under the Social Care framework. The last full inspection took place in December 2021, when we were rated as 'good' in all areas.

The school is also inspected by CReSTeD on a 3 yearly cycle, being last inspected in 2017.

The school's finances are managed by the Business Manager who is also responsible for marketing and estate management. The school is projected to show a healthy surplus at the year end, and we are in good financial health.

The Estate consists of the Grade 1 listed Jacobean mansion, much extended in the 1840s; a Grade 2* Victorian stable block; a Grade 2 Queen Anne farmhouse extended and converted to house our Prep School and some staff accommodation; a 1970s teaching block; a 1970s Head's house converted and extended to house girls' boarding; sundry other smaller buildings; a 17c walled garden; and about 60 acres of gardens, playing fields and grazing.

This is an exciting time in the development of the school. Our Principal, Mr Nick Goodman, has been at the school since September 2014, student numbers are growing, and we are working to consolidate the school's position as a national leader in the education and support of dyslexic students. We have ambitious plans for the future, including the further expansion of the Frewen brand, and the provision of new facilities.

	TOTAL	Day boys	Boy boarders	Day girls	Girl boarders
Years 3-6	15	9	0	6	0
Year 7	12	8	2	2	0
Year 8	24	16	3	4	1
Year 9	21	16	2	2	1
Year 10	20	10	5	2	3
Year 11	23	18	2	2	1
Year 12	13	4	3	5	0
Year 13	7	5	2	0	0
Year 14	4	2	2	0	0

