



TONBRIDGE  
SCHOOL

# FROM SUPPORTING PASSIONS TO BUILDING CAREERS

TONBRIDGE ONLY CONNECT



# WELCOME TO TONBRIDGE

Tonbridge is renowned globally for nurturing creativity and intellectual curiosity in boys. Emphasising independent thinking and leadership development, we also offer a broad and deep co-curricular programme which includes a strong element of community engagement. Underpinned by the School's motto, 'Only Connect', boys are valued as individuals and are inspired to meaningfully interact with the world around them, developing a strong sense of responsibility and compassion.

Our boarding ethos defines the experience of both day boys and boarders alike, with seven boarding and five day houses ensuring that every boy is part of a close-knit community. This strong identity is further cemented by dedicated tutor rooms, kitchens, games rooms, gardens and House dining. Furthermore, the vertical integration of boys within Houses enables senior boys to be role models, whilst giving them the opportunity to build leadership and organisational skills. The 25+ annual House competitions give the chance for everyone to participate, adding to the sense of fun, camaraderie and House spirit. Our commitment to developing confident, well-rounded boys is underpinned by our staff, who inspire and support them as they prepare for life beyond school.

The School has been endorsed by The Good Schools Guide (2025) as having "Intellectual stimulation at every turn, with sky-high academic standards set by the specialist teachers who pupils told us are 'passionate about their subjects' and 'challenge all including the absolute brightest'".

## LOCATION AND TRANSPORT

Tonbridge School is situated on a campus of 150 acres in the town of Tonbridge, located in West Kent. Tonbridge was ranked

"the happiest place to live in the south-east" in Rightmove's annual survey in 2020, a study that evaluated factors including community, local services, environment and green spaces.

The School is located at the top of the High Street and is surrounded by beautiful Kent countryside. Rail links to mainline stations in London are excellent, with the journey into the capital taking approximately 40 minutes. The M25 and M20 are a short drive from the School.

## HISTORY AND GOVERNANCE

Tonbridge School was founded in 1553 by Sir Andrew Judde, a distinguished member of the Worshipful Company of Skinners, one of the oldest City Livery Companies. Sir Andrew left property in the City of London and the parish of St Pancras as an endowment for the School, with the Worshipful Company of Skinners assuming governance of Tonbridge following his death.

The Master and Wardens of the Skinners' Company remain the trustees of the School, and an independent Board of Governors is responsible for governance.



# OUTSTANDING A-LEVEL RESULTS



73%

of all grades are A\*/A

92%

of all grades are A\*/A/B

80

boys achieved straight A\*/A grades

“The revised sixth-form curriculum provides pupils with a flexible and personalised educational experience.” **This is a significant strength of the school.**

ISI Report, 2024



## FACILITIES

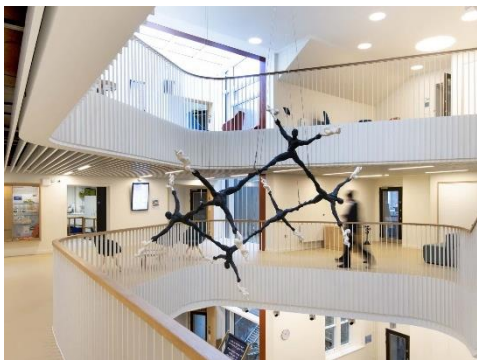
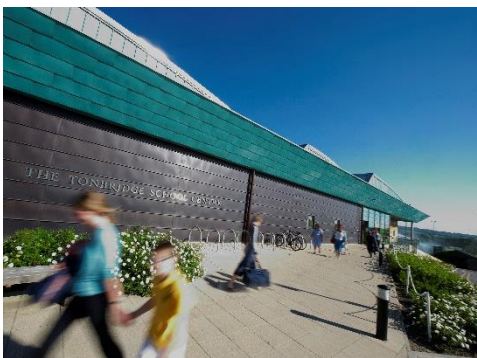
Tonbridge School offers an exceptional environment for both pupils and staff, with world-class facilities that enhance both teaching and learning.

The main buildings of the School date from the second half of the nineteenth century. Further building works have been completed, including the magnificent restoration of the Chapel of St Augustine in 1995, Barton Science Centre in 2019 and The Cawthorn, a space for teaching and support staff, in 2024.

The award-winning EM Forster Theatre hosts theatrical and musical events for students and the wider community. The state-of-the-art Barton Science Centre, a £20m facility, places science and technology at the heart of the School, with access to the latest resources and spaces that inspire curiosity and innovation.

Our Music Department is widely regarded as one of the best in the UK. Tonbridge is an All-Steinway school, and our world-class facilities include the Chapel's Marcussen Organ, two recital halls, a music library, designated rock and percussion suites, and a double recording studio.

Tonbridge was recognised as an Olympic training venue for London 2012, and has provided a pathway for a host of international, county and professional sportsmen over the years. In addition to our 100 acres of meticulously maintained pitches, our facilities include state-of-the-art gyms, and a 25m swimming pool. Tonbridge's sports facilities are among the finest in the country, attracting not only our pupils but also elite sports teams such as the Australian Olympic team, Saracens, Harlequins, and England Hockey.



## ACADEMIC

Tonbridge has an extremely strong record of academic excellence.

**The School recorded outstanding exam results in academic year 2024/25. At A Level 92 per cent of all grades awarded are A\*, A or B, with 73 per cent of those being A\* and A. Notably, almost half of the cohort (80 boys) have achieved straight A\* and A grades**

Our curriculum has been inspired by the skills identified by The World Economic Forum as having the greatest value in the future, such as complex problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity, leadership, resilience and flexibility.

We offer 26 subjects taught by outstanding subject specialists, often with an impressive reputation in their field. All are passionate advocates for their subjects and their students, encouraging our boys to go beyond the curriculum in order to gain a mastery of the topic.



“Pupils develop into very well-rounded individuals through the school’s broad and extensive range of education and recreational opportunities. Pupils discover new interests and talents. **They flourish academically, socially and physically.”**

ISI Report, 2024

## CO-CURRICULAR

At Tonbridge, the co-curriculum transforms interests into lifelong strengths. With a wealth of activities ranging from sports to the arts, leadership to adventure, we offer boys countless ways to explore their passions, discover new talents and challenge themselves beyond the classroom. Participation is widely encouraged at both School and House level.

As an All-Steinway School, more than half of students learn an instrument and a third learn more than one. Guided by a distinguished conductor who has performed with many of the of the UK’s top orchestras, the Department nurtures top-level musicianship. Our students frequently achieve top honours at leading universities and conservatoires and perform at prestigious venues in the UK and internationally.

The E.M. Forster Theatre offers boys the chance to be part of professional-level productions, holding eleven productions each year, often in collaboration with local girls’ schools. Whether mastering the art of acting, directing, or production, students explore every element of theatre—following in the footsteps of alumni like *Beauty and the Beast*’s Dan Stevens.

More than 20 different sports are played at Tonbridge, including Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Climbing, Cross-country, Fencing, Fives, Football, Golf, Hockey, Judo, Rackets, Rugby, Sailing, Shooting, Squash, Swimming, Tennis, Ultimate Frisbee, Volleyball and Water Polo.

Dedicated curriculum time provides space for boys to discover and pursue their passions. In their first year, boys are introduced to the wide range of activities available, such as Formula 1 Design, Investors Club, Model United Nations and many more. Many also participate in clubs and societies, with over 20 to choose from.

## THE HOUSE SYSTEM

Pastoral care at Tonbridge is based around an outstanding House system. Strong and positive relationships between boys, staff and parents are central to its success. The Housemaster, Matrons and team of Tutors of each House get to know each boy extremely well, supporting their academic progress, assisting with day-to-day practicalities and ensuring they feel fully at home and well supported.

Boys return to their House for every meal and are joined by their Housemasters and Tutors. This culture of House dining supports our family ethos.

There are numerous House competitions throughout the year. On Friday nights, boys can sometimes take part in a 'social' with girls from our partner local schools. Socials range from quiz nights and bowling to meals out together.

“Boarding provides a safe and happy environment where pupils thrive socially and emotionally... **They feel listened to and safe in their houses.**”

ISI Report, 2024



## ALUMNI

Old Tonbridgians (OTs) embark on a variety of vocations once they leave the School, ranging from art, architecture, academia and education to science, business, sport and the performing arts. Tonbridge's Universities and Careers Department and networking service is regarded as among the best service of its kind across the country.

Journalists and writers educated at Tonbridge include novelists E.M.Forster, Frederick Forsyth, Christopher Reid and Vikram Seth. Scientists include Norman Heatley OBE, who turned penicillin into usable mass medicine, and Professor Derek Barton, a Nobel Prize Winner for Chemistry.

Well-known names in sport include former England cricket captain Colin Cowdrey and former national cricket selector Ed Smith. Ben Earl (rugby) and Zak Crawley (cricket) have both played for their national sides, having left Tonbridge in 2016.

Among other alumni are actor Dan Stevens; members of the best-selling band Keane; opera singer Freddie de Tommaso; documentary film-maker Vikram Jayanti; artist Anthony Whishaw; former ambassador Sherard Cowper-Coles; prominent scholar Owen Chadwick; cultural entrepreneur Sir Tim Waterstone; financier Sir John Bond, and historian Sir Anthony Seldon.



## THE NEW BEACON

In 2021, Tonbridge merged with The New Beacon Preparatory School, a leading independent day and boarding school for boys located seven miles from the School in Sevenoaks. Together, the schools provide an educational pathway for boys from 3 to 18, with a shared ethos, yet retaining their own dedicated staff bodies, uniform and sites.

## WORKING AT TONBRIDGE

Tonbridge has an outstanding record of developing staff and promoting good practice. Professional development is regular, supported and actively encouraged.

## MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about Tonbridge School, please visit our website: [www.tonbridge-school.co.uk](http://www.tonbridge-school.co.uk). Find us on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn.

“I enjoy how passionate teachers are about their subject area - **they constantly push us to think more critically and develop our own perspectives on what we are learning.**”

Upper Sixth Student



**TONBRIDGE**  
**ONLY CONNECT**

Tonbridge School  
High Street  
Tonbridge  
Kent TN9 1JP  
+44 (0)1732 365555  
[hrdept@tonbridge-school.org](mailto:hrdept@tonbridge-school.org)

**TONBRIDGE-SCHOOL.CO.UK**

Tonbridge School is a registered charity No. 1097977

The information contained in the brochure is accurate at the time of going to press