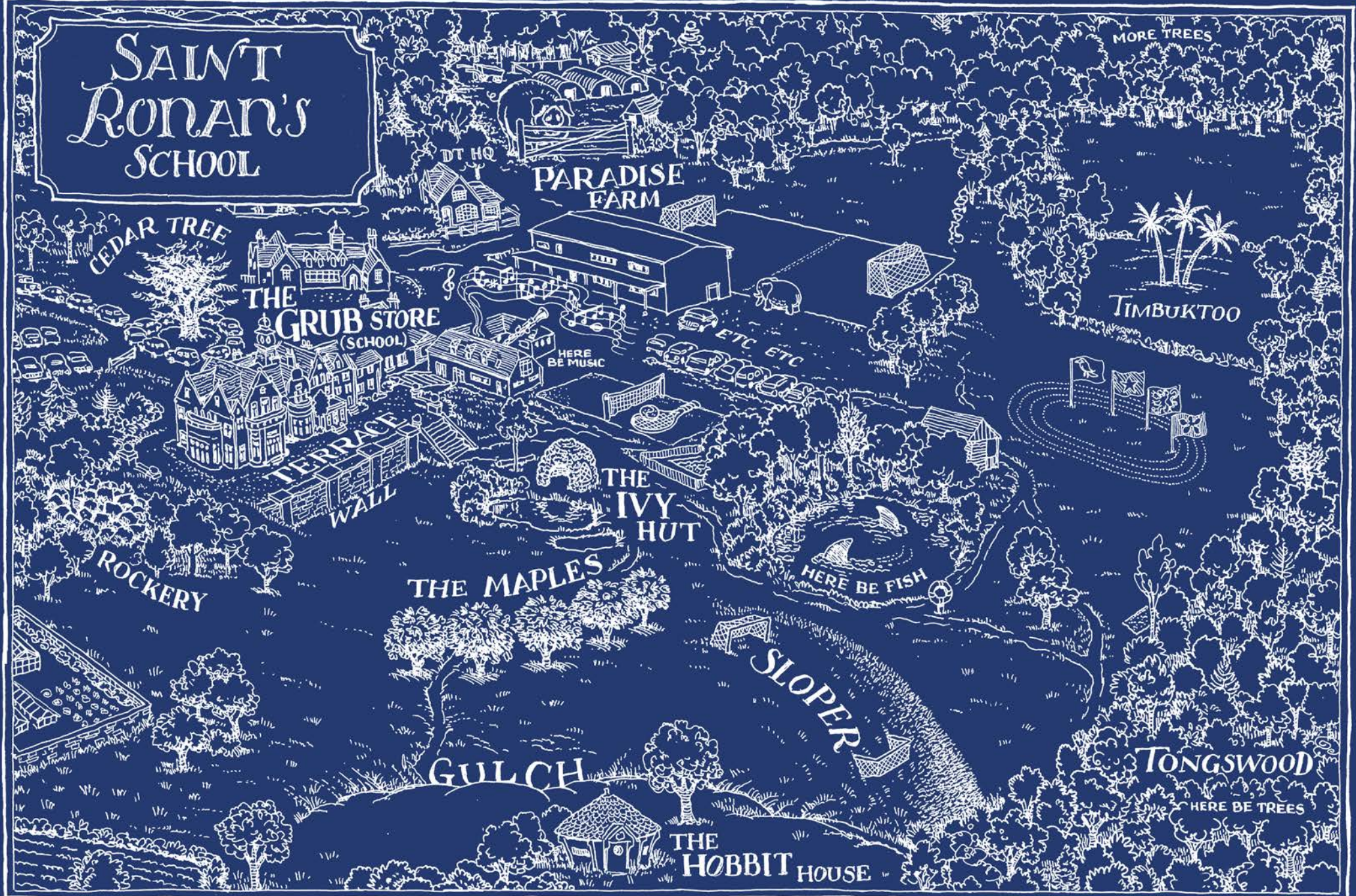


**SAINT RONAN'S SCHOOL**

Supplementary Information



# SAINT RONAN'S SCHOOL





# Headmaster

William Trelawny-Vernon (Mr TV to all) was appointed Headmaster of Saint Ronan's in January 2003 and frequently tells us that he has the

*“ best job in the world! ”*

Educated at the Dragon, St Edward's  
Oxford and Exeter University

William is married to Emma, who he  
met at University and they have four  
children, all of whom have been  
through a Saint Ronan's education

The teaching “bug” soon took hold and  
in true family tradition (his Father was  
a Prep School Headmaster) he found  
that teaching was where his heart lay.  
William spent the next 12 years at  
Stowe School, Buckinghamshire,  
where he taught Biology.

He eventually ran Chatham House,  
a boarding house for 13-18 year olds  
for 7 happy years.

A move to Prep Schools was always hoped for, and William now enters his 19th year at Saint Ronan's where the School has grown from 160 pupils to over 400. Numbers have increased, facilities have improved, but the same happy family ethos is as present today as it has always been. There is still magic in the air.

## The *History* of Saint Ronan's

Saint Ronan's was founded as an all boys boarding school in 1883 in Worthing by the Rev'd Crick. A small school, it prospered and quickly outgrew its small beginnings in Selden Terrace. It moved to Mill Road in Worthing and was eventually taken over by Headmaster Stanley Harris. Stanley was a keen sportsman and a fine scholar. He had, what was at the time, a revolutionary approach to teaching, preferring “to convince, rather than compel”. His ideas were laid out in his book “The Master and His Boys”. Sadly, Stanley's time at the helm was cut short by illness and he touchingly approached his brother WB or “Harry”, to take over running the School. Harry, a Housemaster at Lancing, honoured his brother's wishes to become the next Headmaster. It was Harry who took the boys down to Bicton in Devon during the war and then Harry who brought them back up to their new post war home in Hawkhurst.

Since Harry's death in 1957, there have only been four Headmasters. An enviable record and an indication of the fact that this is a very special place indeed.



## Our Aims

To provide the children with an excellent all-round education and extra-curricular opportunities

To provide inspired teaching which promotes both learning and achievement

To encourage the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

To provide highly effective pastoral support and guidance

To maintain a constructive relationship with parents and carers

To "mind the magic"

## Ronian Characteristics

We champion one of our six Ronian characteristics each term. They are:

- |   |                  |   |                     |
|---|------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1 | <i>Curiosity</i> | 4 | <i>Co-operation</i> |
| 2 | <i>Empathy</i>   | 5 | <i>Perseverance</i> |
| 3 | <i>Awareness</i> | 6 | <i>Imagination</i>  |

## What really matters to us

We are gentle  
- we don't hurt others

We are kind and helpful - we don't hurt anybody's feelings

We listen - we don't interrupt

We are honest - we don't cover up the truth

We work hard- we don't waste our own time or others

We look after property - we don't waste or damage things

We treat each other as we would like to be treated



We do things rather  
*differently* here!

So much about Saint Ronan's is in the place, that indescribable "something" you get as part of our special community. That is why a visit is essential



# HOW DOES SAINT RONAN'S SUPPORT ME?



IF PERCHANCE THIS SCHOOL MAY BE A HAPPIER PLACE BECAUSE OF ME...

## COMMUNITY

RONIANS FRIENDS

BOARDING  
HEROES  
PSHEE



HOUSE LEADERS  
Selden  
Tongswold  
Bickton  
Pembroke

## SPIRIT CHAPEL

AMBASSADORS

KEW  
gardens

PHEW!

MOTIVATE

HEALTHY  
LIVING

Mindfulness



## WHO TO TURN TO?

FORM TUTORS

MR ANDREW

HEAD OF YEAR

MR  
TV  
MRS  
TV

## CULTURE

WHAT REALLY MATTERS?  
HARD-WORKING GENTLE KIND  
LOOK AFTER PROPERTY

HONESTY

ENRICHMENT

CHARACTER

LISTENED WELL  
WELLBEING



## HOW CAN SCHOOL HELP?

AS TRACKING SCUTARI HOW AM I?



IMAGINATION



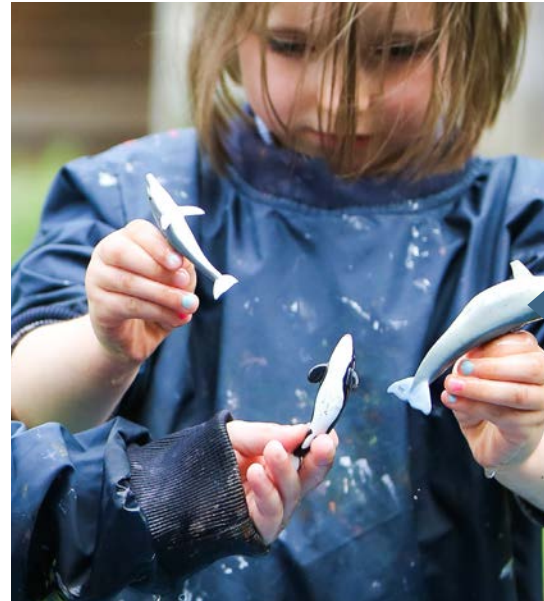


# The structure of the school

We are ONE school, albeit in 250 acres

## Nursery

We take children in the term that they are rising three years old. They can join us for half or full days, for one day a week to every day a week. The Nursery is situated in the Stable Block and has its own self-contained garden.



## Pre Prep

From Reception to Year 2, the Pre Prep is in the purpose built Harris Building. Each classroom has its own wet area and access to the outside. Developing the children's literacy and numeracy is, of course, the cornerstone and the children also benefit from a broad range of subjects, PE, Music, an integrated Forest School, regular visits to the Farm and the challenge of achieving twenty things in the Prep School (from fetching eggs to going on a mud slide)

## Prep School

This is largely situated in Tongswood House. Academic excellence is important, and each child should be supported to do his or her best, and we work hard to achieve this. From Year 4, children have specialist teachers and as they rise through the school, setting becomes more common. We prepare children for Common Entrance and Scholarship papers and have an enviable record here. We have had 100% pass at CE and 100% pass to Cranbrook at 13+ for several years.

Communication is key and parents are encouraged to liaise with their child's tutor. We have interim grades measuring effort and achievement. We write full reports in the Autumn and Summer Terms and we also have at least one Parents' Evening a year, depending on the stage of the children. William likes to meet all parents in Year 5 to map out the route for the next step.

We track each child as they progress through the school through formal preps, classroom assessments, examinations and external testing.



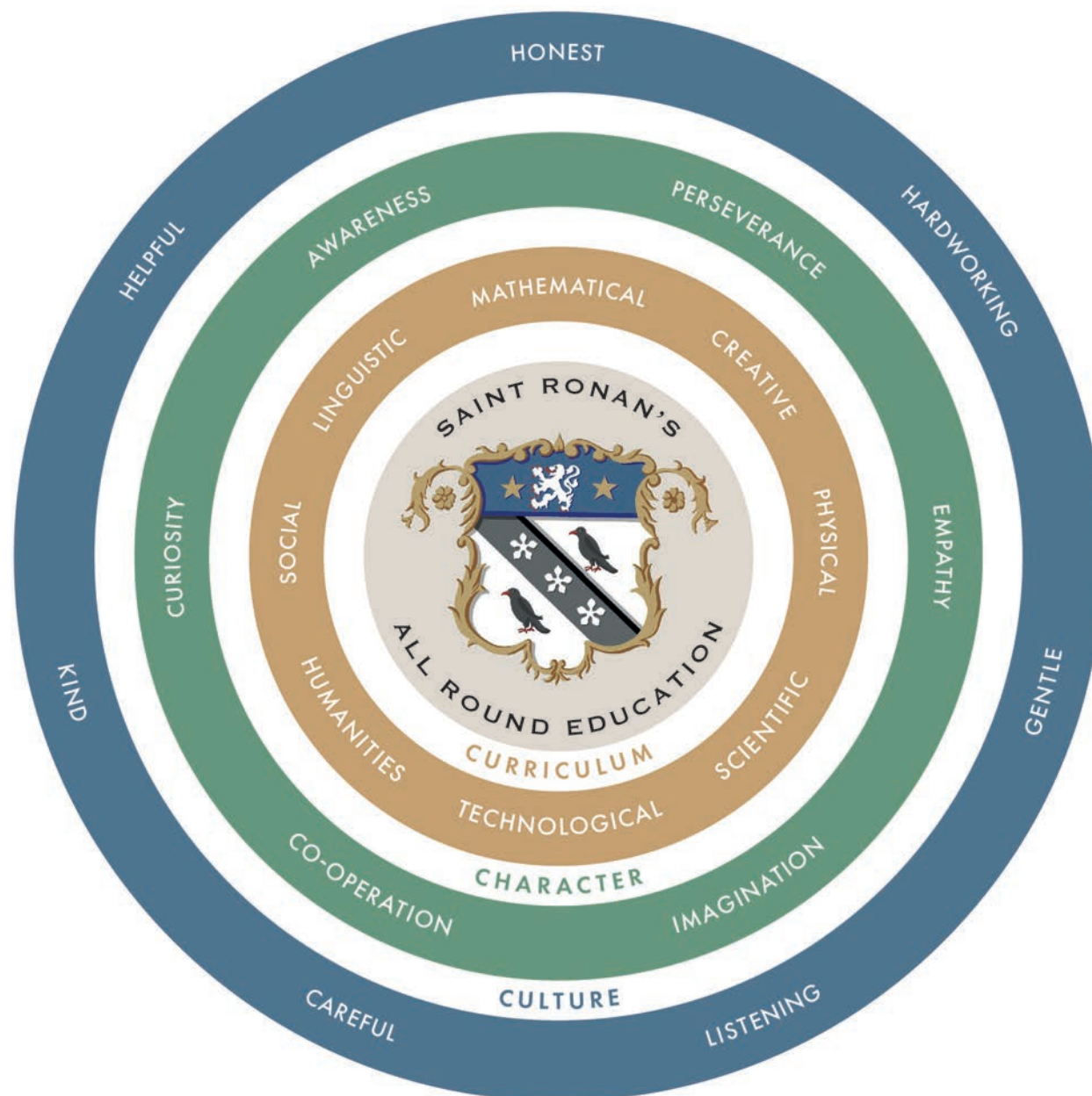
# An All Round Education

By combining the 3 Cs of Curriculum, Character and Culture, Saint Ronan's offers an excellent all round education, preparing children for whatever their future may hold.

The curriculum is broad and balanced and equips the children with knowledge, skills and understanding.

Building character is key. Children need to develop their 'soft skills' to ensure they are best prepared for the challenges of their future education and their role in society.

Operating within a supportive culture, which fosters emotional as well as intellectual intelligence, is essential.





# Boarding

Saint Ronan's has had a proud boarding tradition throughout its history and currently offers weekly and flexi boarding (Monday to Thursday nights inclusive). Currently over 110 children board each week and we cater for up to 48 children a night. There is no Saturday School and most children flexi board at some point in their school career. Tim Fox is Head of Boarding, ably assisted by M'Julie our Matron and by a team of duty staff.



# Drama

The School is particularly well placed for Drama and we have had considerable success at Scholarship level. We opened a new Drama Studio, Bumblebee, in 2016. We have curriculum drama lessons up to Year 6 and a Musical is held every Spring Term, recent examples are "Mulan", "Aladdin" and "Into the Woods". In the summer we always have a Junior Shakespeare play and there are several opportunities during the year for performance.

# Pastoral Care

Saint Ronan's has an excellent team and pastoral care is at the forefront of all we do. Alongside the "normal" pastoral routines, we also have the "over and above". Sitting alongside our Student Council, we have a tradition that the Prep School children vote for their preferred Head of School each term. We have pastoral year group assemblies. In 2016 we introduced a mindfulness programme called "Phew, it's Friday". We were the first Prep School in the area to adopt AS tracking, an external measurement system for emotional wellbeing, which informs our pastoral care. William has an "open door" policy for parents.



# Phew! It's Friday

in 2018 we opened 'Kew', our mindfulness garden, a place to just "be". We also opened Treetops our outdoor play centre.





## Music

Our music provision is exceptional. It is led by David Force, who moved from Eastbourne College and joins Lesley Anne Hill and Tom Elliott. The Department is supported by 20 peripatetic music staff offering both breadth and depth, which enriches the already enviable musical provision. Saint Ronan's runs a sizeable Orchestra, Chapel Choir and Chamber Choir. Its Jazz and Brass Bands are well established and there are several further musical ensembles including an excellent Flute Choir, Guitar group and Junior, Intermediate and Advanced Strings.



## Sport

We offer all the major sports and several minor ones. We have excellent standing for Rugby, Lacrosse, Hockey, Cricket, Netball and Rounders. Several of our children compete at both Club and County level at the weekends.



## Engineering, Art and Design

In 2020 we opened the 'Powerhouse' a new centre for Engineering, Design and Art. It is also home to our Computing teaching suite, so we are able to offer an integrated approach, well suited for the modern world and fitting for our ambition to be the leading provider of STEM in the South East.





## Classrooms

We don't have bells between lessons and we don't have numbers for classrooms. We have character and connection. All the classrooms in the Prep School have different names, shapes and sizes.

We have names of gun emplacements in the Thames in WWII (the Ally Pally, The Crows Nest), to names that came from Bicton after the War (The Great Space), to names that transferred from Worthing (10 Downing Street, the Bear Garden and the Zoo). We have Tongswood names, such as the Still Room (where the jams were kept), to names that depict various themes- Piccadilly Circus (the busy IT office) and Bletchley Park and Colossus (IT suites).



## Senior Schools and Scholarships

Our Leavers go on to a broad array of Senior Schools. In Years 7 and 8, CE and Scholarship work is challenging, but rewarding. At Saint Ronan's we want our children to become intellectually inquisitive, we want them to have developed excellent work habits, not to be afraid of exams and to approach any issue with an "I can" growth mindset.

Pastorally, the opportunities we give the children encourage a growing independence and a willingness to take responsibility. The academic rigour helps the children "hit the ground" running at their Senior Schools and we regularly hear what an asset Saint Ronan's children are to their Senior Schools and, ultimately, to themselves and us.



## Clubs

We run a full clubs programme in the Pre Prep, including STEM, Bushcraft and Fun Clubs. This then continues throughout the Prep School. In 2021 we introduced the Airey Neave (OR) Award. This aims to develop our Ronian characteristics and will combine the best of our clubs programme with an awards scheme.



## Admissions

To obtain a place on the waiting list, parents should complete a Registration Form. Mr TV likes to show all prospective parents around the School himself. Securing a place is done a year before entry with a Taster Day. If the "fit" is right with the School and the child and parent, then an Acceptance Form is completed and £500 deposit paid. The School may ask for clarification on any issues which may arise, including any special educational needs, prior to the place being secured. Emma TV is the Registrar and can be contacted on [emmatv@saintronans.co.uk](mailto:emmatv@saintronans.co.uk)

## Forest School and the Hobbit House

We have 100 acres of Woodland and are home to a well established Forest School. From the very tiny Nursery children to the biggest children in the School, our woodland is a magical place. The newest addition is our Hobbit House, which houses 24 children and has a woodburner for snuggling up in the warm and cooking delicious food.



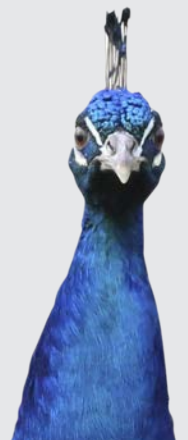
## Scholarships and Bursaries

Depending on places being available, we run the Stanley Harris Scholarship programme in the early spring. Awards in Music, Drama, Sport or Academic are offered and these equate to 10% off the day fees and access to means tested Bursaries.



## Farm

Paradise Farm is a much loved part of the School, both in the Prep School and the Pre Prep. We have long eared black pigs, multitudes of chickens in all shapes and sizes, ducks, sheep, donkeys, goats and peacocks. In 2019 we were the proud winners of a School Farming Network Award for the use of the farm in the Curriculum.





# The Great Space

This is a wonderful room and is used for performances, parents 'evenings, presentations and once a year for our famous Christmas Feast.



SA •



## Choosing the Right School

The Headmaster teaches all children in Year 5 and likes to have individual meetings with the parents to plan "next steps" at this point.

Over the last five years, 242 Ronians have transferred at the end of Year 8 to a total of 29 senior schools amassing 143 scholarships in the process. Our preparation for scholarships is well planned and effective. We have also enjoyed 100% success in the most recent 13+ Cranbrook Grammar School entry tests, as well as 100% pass rate at Common Entrance.

Mr TV ensures that he regularly visits Senior Schools and keep up to date with developments, aiming to achieve the "best" fit for each child at the next stage of their education.



# The House System

The Prep School has four houses and selection for a house takes place at the beginning of Year 3, by means of the School's traditional "Sorting Cup" ceremony. Children take part in interhouse matches, debating, house singing and also have regular house assemblies.



*Tongswood*

Tongswood is Yellow and is named after the magnificent ancient woodland surrounding us



*Selden*

Selden is Blue and takes its name from the road in Worthing where the School was first located



*Bicton*

Bicton is Red and is named after the Devon Estate where the school was evacuated to in WW11



*Pembroke*

Pembroke is Green and is named after the Cambridge College where the first three Headmasters studied

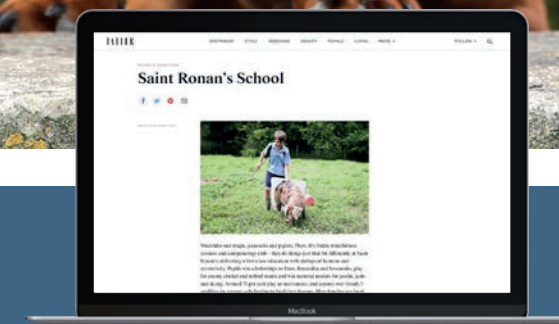
# Tatler Award

## Prep School of the Year 2018

We were delighted to be named as the “Best Independent Prep School” for 2018. With nearly 700 Prep Schools in the UK, we are very proud of this accolade.

“Mudslides and magic, peacocks and piglets, Phew, It’s Friday mindfulness sessions and campanology club – they do things just that bit differently at Saint Ronan’s, delivering a first-class education with dollops of humour and eccentricity. Pupils win scholarships to Eton, Benenden and Sevenoaks, play for county cricket and netball teams and win national medals for javelin, judo and skiing. Around 75 per cent play an instrument...”

Whilst we delight in the success of the School in terms of academic achievement and are proud of our excellent Art, Engineering and Design, Drama, Music and Sports Departments, what we love most is that we are not dull and really do ‘do things differently’. We are a family school and want a child’s Prep School years to be happy and magical, full of opportunities to excel.



# TATLER

‘Best independent schools in the country’ School Guide 2018



# Tes Independent School Awards

## *TES' Prep School of Year 2021*

Saint Ronan's was named as the Tes' Prep School of Year 2021 at the Tes Independent School Awards, one of the biggest nights in the UK education calendar.

The award recognised an outstanding performance during COVID and recognised that Saint Ronan's had maintained 'continued excellence'.

Lead judge Michael Abraham said Saint Ronan's showed 'extraordinary creativity and innovation'. Its 'year of wonder' showed 'a wonderful care of the development of the individual', and his highlights included 'outstanding scholarship results, the Saint Ronan's TV and radio, the PHEW mindfulness programme, new arrivals at the farm and the many examples of staff 'sprinkling fairy dust' on areas of school life.'



Jon Severs, Editor of Tes magazine and Chief Judge of the Awards said

“ *The Tes Independent School Awards is a celebration of the fantastic achievements of the independent sector. These winning and shortlisted schools have shown ingenuity, ambition and perseverance during what has been an unbelievably challenging year.* ”



The School was also in the final for the 2020 Tes Creativity Award and the 2021 Tes Wellbeing Award. It was shortlisted for the 2020 and 2021 BSA Awards for Supporting Junior Boarders.

“ *This place fizzles with warmth, gusto and authenticity* ”

Good Schools Guide  
2021

“ *Bursting with character...rock solid in quality and totally flash free* ”

Talk Education Top  
200



## Moving to Kent and East Sussex

We regularly welcome families who are moving to the area from London or further afield. In recent years people have returned from Dubai, Hong Kong, Singapore and even Russia! A Saint Ronan's education, and its setting in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, provides families with the very best of ancient and modern.

The majority of our parental body takes advantage of the convenient rail links with London. Our commuting parents have access to different rail lines to London: the Hastings Line (Etchingham, Wadhurst, Stonegate) and the Ramsgate and Dover Priory line (Staplehurst, Marden, Headcorn), via Ashford. There is also the Ashford fast link. Trains run into London Bridge, Charing Cross and Cannon Street.

The School runs a number of minibuses both to and from school, including a shuttle route to Cranbrook.

To keep you up to date with what's happening at School, we have a very active Facebook and Twitter feed and also communicate directly to parents as and where necessary, via SMS and email.

For the flexibility and ease of working parents, we run a full programme of after-school clubs, from the Nursery to Pre-Prep. From Year 4 we offer weekly and flexi-boarding, which is very popular.

This is ideal for any parents having to work away from home during the week, or those needing flexibility for meetings or conferences. We also offer breakfast and supper clubs for those requiring a longer day. Children doing these clubs just become absorbed into the wider boarding family (over 100 children a week) and they seem to love it!

The Hawkhurst area, like Saint Ronan's itself, offers the very best of ancient and modern, with old English pubs, exclusive eateries, golf, rugby clubs, Bedgebury Pintum and so much more, including a sandy beach at Camber!

Parents quickly become integrated into the School community through birthday parties, parent lunches and breakfasts, Form Assemblies and our 'buddy' system. We also have weekly toddler Music and Ballet sessions for littlies wanting to get to know us before they start. We are blessed with an especially friendly and welcoming parental body.



### *Private tour*

Open Days don't necessarily give the most accurate view of any School and the Headmaster prefers to meet all prospective parents himself. It's easy to arrange an informal tour. Just contact Emma or Charlotte and we will happily arrange a time to welcome you to this magical place.

EMAIL:

**[emmatv@saintronans.co.uk](mailto:emmatv@saintronans.co.uk)**

**[charlottesinclair@saintronans.co.uk](mailto:charlottesinclair@saintronans.co.uk)**

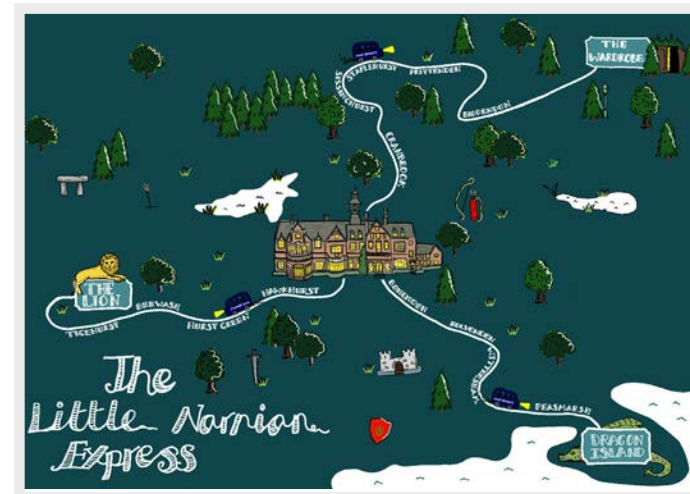
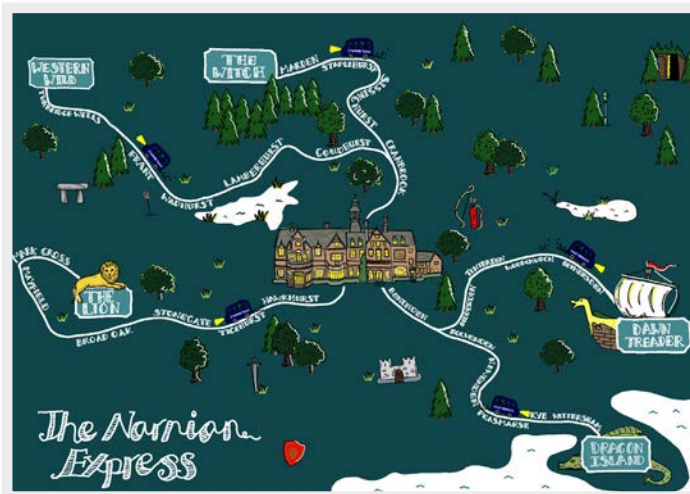
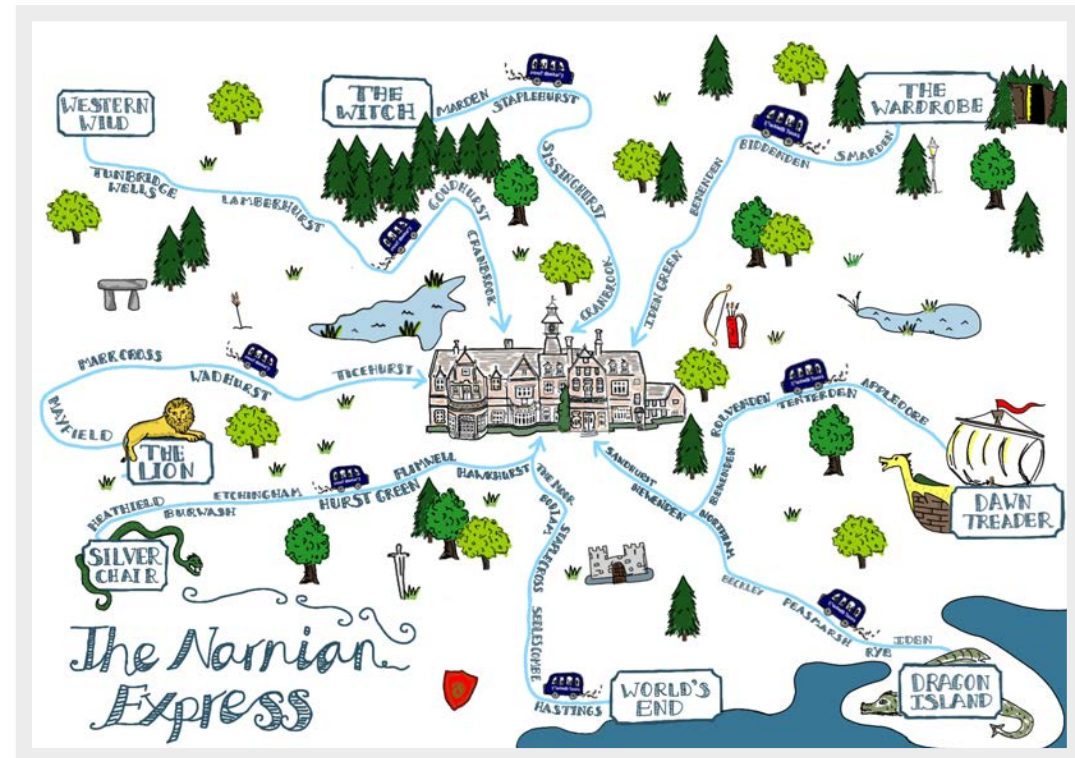


# Minibus Routes

The service:

- Runs from Monday to Friday
- Is available from Reception upwards (please note there will only be a driver on the minibus)
- Is a chargeable service.

The School reserves the right to amend the routes and adjust the fares on a termly basis.





# Useful links



Governors:

[www.saintronans.co.uk/informations/governors](http://www.saintronans.co.uk/informations/governors)



Nursery teachers:

[www.saintronans.co.uk/nursery-teachers](http://www.saintronans.co.uk/nursery-teachers)



Fees:

[www.saintronans.co.uk/informations/fees](http://www.saintronans.co.uk/informations/fees)



Staff:

[www.saintronans.co.uk/informations/staff](http://www.saintronans.co.uk/informations/staff)



Pre prep teachers:

[www.saintronans.co.uk/teachers](http://www.saintronans.co.uk/teachers)



Senior schools:

[www.saintronans.co.uk/senior-schools](http://www.saintronans.co.uk/senior-schools)



Twitter:

[www.twitter.com/saintronans](https://www.twitter.com/saintronans)



Prep teachers:

[www.saintronans.co.uk/teachers-2](http://www.saintronans.co.uk/teachers-2)



Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/SaintRonans](https://www.facebook.com/SaintRonans)











# SAINT RONAN'S SCHOOL

[www.saintronans.co.uk](http://www.saintronans.co.uk) | [info@saintronans.co.uk](mailto:info@saintronans.co.uk) | 01580 752271 | Saint Ronan's School, Water Lane, Hawkhurst, Kent, TN18 5DJ