



Believing in Excellence



The Cavendish School, Eastbourne



# Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

I am delighted that you are considering The Cavendish School for your child.

We believe in Excellence. We ensure that our high educational principles are maintained. We ask that students, parents and teachers work collaboratively, as partners in learning, to encourage and support our young people; enabling each individual child to achieve their full potential.

We are a forward thinking, innovative and ambitious Academy school where students feel happy, safe and respected.



We believe that each individual is important and that every child is entitled to the very best education. We want students to make outstanding progress, be part of a highly positive school life experience and become responsible, capable and confident citizens.

We boast a range of excellent facilities, equipment and resources to support your child's learning within our traditional school building, whilst also enjoying our purpose built, fully equipped 'Little Theatre' venue, on-site Sports Centre and Dance Studio, Apple MAC and dedicated IT suites as well as numerous Science laboratories.

We offer a diverse and exciting range of extended school experiences, clubs and workshops to inspire and challenge your child both mentally and physically. These experiences enable our students to pursue their hobbies and interests, work with a wide range of people and develop new skills.

I am extremely proud of our students, who are the very best advertisement for our school.

This prospectus will only give you a very brief overview of life at The Cavendish School and so I warmly invite you to visit us in person to experience our school for yourself during one of our Open Events or by prior appointment during any normal school day.

We have an exciting future ahead of us. We hope your child will be a part of it.

KJ Fitzpatrick MA  
**Head Teacher**

*“There has been a sustained upward trend in attainment, with the proportion gaining five or more A\* to C GCSE grades, including English and Mathematics, significantly above average”*

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## Our heritage

The Cavendish School has a complex and intriguing history, which dates as far back as 1843, making it one of the longest established schools in the area. It was in this year that actor Douglas Moleheimer established the first incarnation of The Cavendish School, in order to pass down his love of acting. A true Specialist School for the Arts, Cavendish became an intrinsic part of Eastbourne life, and the name quickly grew within the town.

The Cavendish School was established on this site in 1979, but the building was first opened as a Girls' High School in 1939. An extension was built in 1982 and further programmes of building and refurbishment have been completed in the intervening years. The school is well resourced.

Today Cavendish is a popular co-educational comprehensive school catering for the 11-16 age range, with Specialist Status in the Arts since 2002. We became an Academy in September 2013. We have a planned admission number of 200 in each year group and an academic staff of approximately 60. Our support staff is first class, with highly trained teaching assistants, excellent administrative, technical and site staff, working alongside specialist agencies from outside of the school to provide the best opportunities for our students.

We want all our students to believe in excellence and strive to achieve it. The realisation of academic potential is aided by a strong system of pastoral care. The majority of our students continue their studies at a Further Education College, with others entering the world of work.







## Believing in excellence: our values

The Cavendish School is an outstanding community school, which is fully inclusive and has the highest educational standards built around a high performing core.

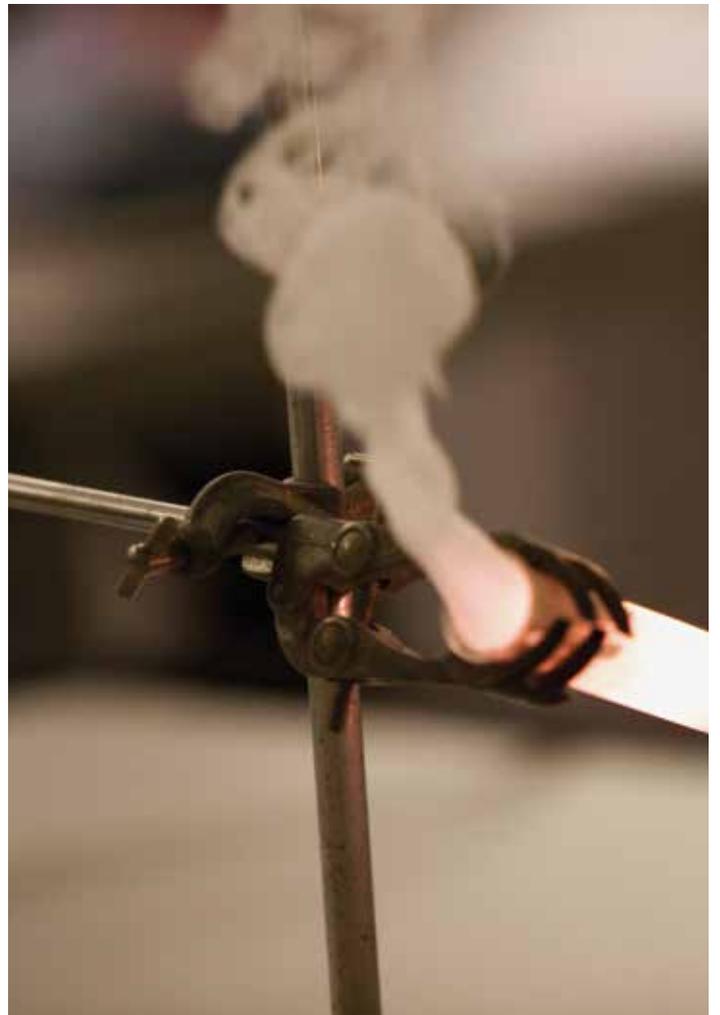
We offer the highest quality learning and teaching expertise, with excellent examination results. All students are challenged to exceed their expected progress and meet ambitious and attainable targets.

We believe all our students should have the best possible life chances. Therefore, it is important for our learners to be:

- Respectful of themselves, others and their environment
- Functionally literate and numerate
- Technologically intelligent
- Independent, creative and enterprising learners
- Aspirational about their future
- Responsible citizens able to take their place in society by the time they leave our school.

*“The school offers a lively and well-supported programme of extra-curricular activities, with sports and performing arts strongly represented”*

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*“Good levels of literacy, numeracy and computer skills”*

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## A supportive and caring environment

Students at The Cavendish School are part of a mixed ability tutor group which meets twice each day with their form tutor. Students remain in this group for the duration of their time with us, providing them with a familiar and stable foundation for their school life. Older students are encouraged to care for the younger members of the school, fostering a sense of respect for each other at all times.

Form Tutors are the first point of contact for parents. They in turn work with our Progress Leaders, teaching staff and our Guidance and Welfare teams to assist and support students individually; providing students with a constant and reliable structure where they feel supported and cared for throughout their school career.



## Our curriculum

The Cavendish School offers a broad and balanced curriculum, designed to enable all students to realise their full potential. Subjects include Art, Dance, Drama, English, French, Spanish, Geography, History, ICT, Mathematics, Music, PE, PSHE, RE, Science & Technology.

Our students consistently exceed national average standards in EBACC subjects, including English & Maths, thanks to our dedicated focus on these important subject areas, whilst the enormous strengths in the Arts, Science and Sport ensure similar success; providing students with a full and rounded education.

To ensure your child receives the very best education possible, our dedicated team of teaching staff are highly qualified, skilled and experienced. Their endless enthusiasm, expertise and knowledge is further developed through regular teaching standards appraisals and training.

We extend our learning experiences by inviting professional practitioners into school, who bring a 'real life' perspective on particular subject areas. We have been privileged to include professionally trained actors and recognisable television personalities to run Shakespeare workshops with Drama students, a professional musician and member of a well known band to work with and inspire our Music students, Olympic athletes to work alongside and mentor PE students, and local business partners to offer advice and expertise to Business Studies students. Students also have the opportunity to work alongside professional practitioners in our own Little Theatre.

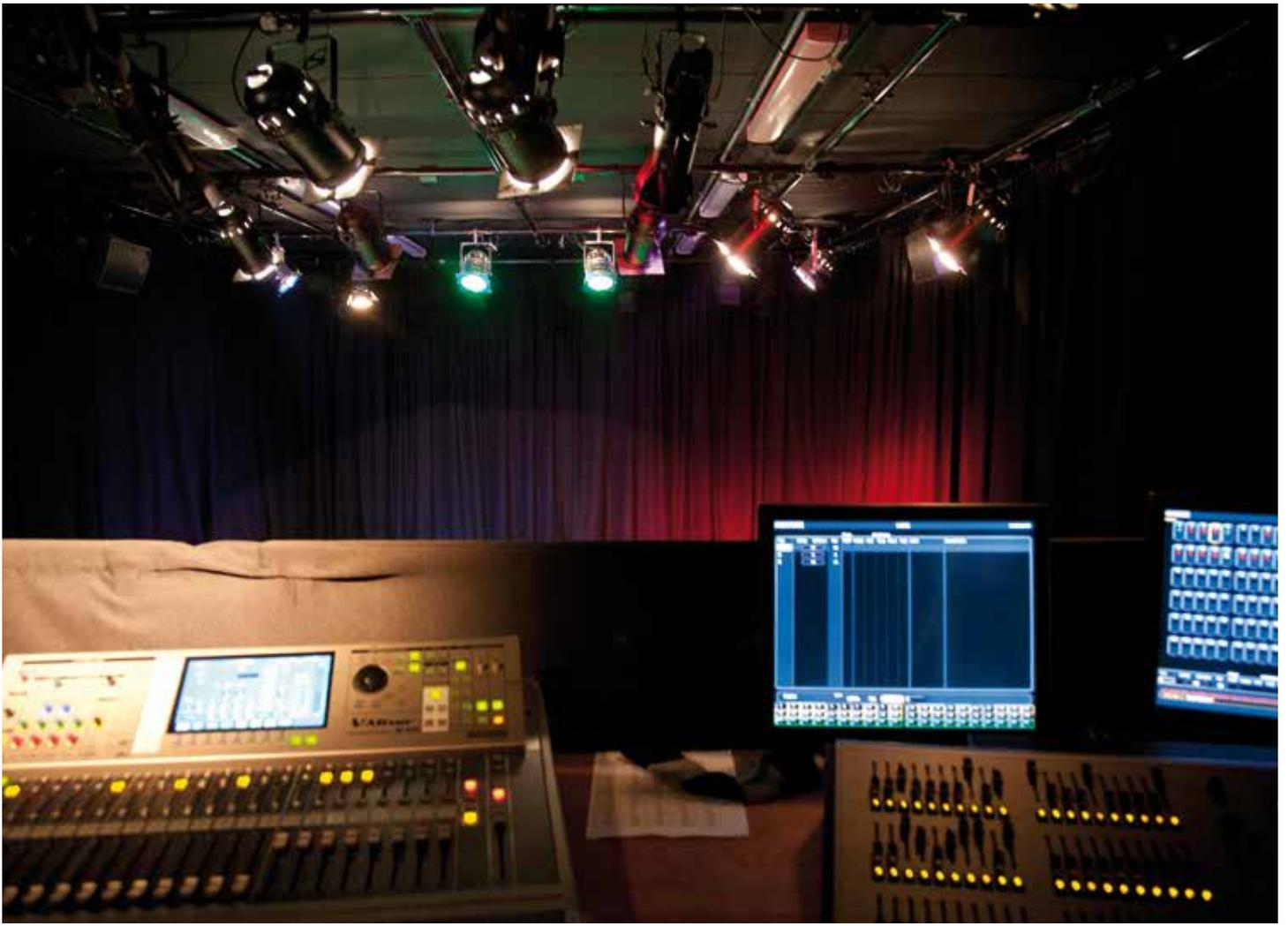
Our exciting and diverse approach to offering students a variety of teaching methods and sources means that students feel valued, inspired and their interest in all subjects is retained.

We pride ourselves in offering students a 'bespoke' education and each student embarks on a pathway which is personalised to them. As students progress through the school flexibility supports choice; enabling some students to focus on a vocational route or on particular elements of a subject area where appropriate, in addition to their core curriculum lessons whilst keeping a particular emphasis on English and Maths.

In years 10 and 11 students may follow a pathway to GCSE and/or BTEC subjects within school.

All years follow a Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme designed for each particular year group, which contains a wide range of topics that will set your child in good stead for an educated and well informed life outside of school.

*“Through elected councils and working groups, students participate usefully in school planning and improvement. They contribute to local primary schools and the wider community”*



## Your child's progress

Your child's academic progress is monitored by continuous and regular teacher assessment in all subjects, as well as modular and unit tests throughout the year.

This allows teachers to track your child's learning and plan to meet their needs as well as making sure that work is set at the right level for your child to succeed.

Reports on your child's progress are produced regularly throughout the year. These include written reports, progress profiles and a tutor and subject evening where relevant information and feedback can be shared.

Monitoring and reporting progress is placed high on the agenda. Our staff and governors are keen to ensure that all students make the progress they should and, where possible, exceed their targets.

Our rewards system is designed to inspire and motivate students to achieve and progress and, in doing so, gain credits that they can then use to purchase educational themed goods from our school shop or offer access to a range of activities, including our Dinner Dance for Year 11 leavers.

In addition to this we host an annual 'Celebration Awards Ceremony' which takes place at a local Theatre venue and is attended by staff, students, friends and families. We use this opportunity to recognise and reward students' personal and academic achievements and to inspire all students to aim for the very highest level of personal achievement.

*"The Performing Arts specialism makes a major contribution to the school's participation in the local community"*

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# Foundations for the future

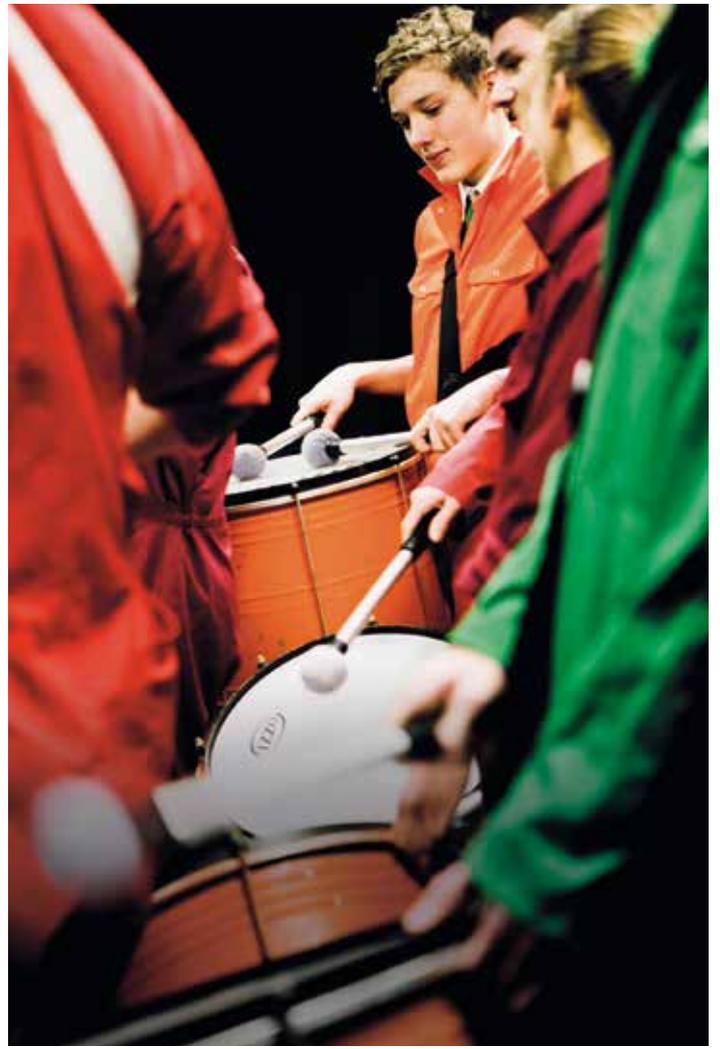
We believe that it is vital for all young people to be knowledgeable and well informed about future career options and training opportunities. Students should be able to make informed choices and have a clear direction to follow, which enables them to reach their full potential and embark on their chosen career path.

Our Career Education Programme, lead by tutors, curriculum staff and external agencies is designed to encourage the development of a personal, aspirational plan. It serves to highlight the key areas of academic focus required to enable students to embark on their chosen career path upon leaving school and also to identify specific personal strengths as well as opportunities for further development.

Activities such as our annual careers fair coupled with visits from external speakers and agencies ensure that our students are given up to date advice and information, work experience and training opportunities.

*“Students collaborate productively, confidently sharing ideas and supporting each other”*

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*"An ethos of mutual respect and tolerance"*

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## Your child's transition

We aim to ensure that your child's transition from primary to secondary school is smooth and stress free. We have dedicated members of staff who, through Outreach activities, work with our local primary schools on a range of workshops, activities and productions throughout the year.

Each year, a number of children from local primary schools participate in joint activities or events such as Sports day, Drama clubs, Maths and Science lessons and whole school or community based productions. There is an exhaustive array of PE events and activities run by our PE staff, aimed at gently integrating primary school children into the new and larger surroundings of secondary school life, making The Cavendish School a familiar and friendly environment for them in readiness for their move up.

Once you and your child have made the decision to come to The

Cavendish School, the Year 7 Progress Leader will visit your child's school to give students an opportunity to ask any questions they have about secondary school and life at The Cavendish School. The Progress Leader also meets with primary school staff to gain a personal profile of each child.

All Year 6 students experience a full day at our school, where they meet their new class, engage in team building activities and get to know their environment. We also plan bespoke transition days for any students who might benefit from extra support in starting their new School.

We encourage parents to attend our Year 6 'Welcome Evening', where staff are available discuss any needs or questions you have prior to their start in September. If you are arriving mid-year, then your child's Progress Leader will meet with you to discuss easing entry into The Cavendish School.



# Opportunities

Our Community and Extended Schools team pride themselves on providing a packed diary of events and activities throughout the year, including during school holidays, after school and at weekends. The range of clubs and activities from all areas of the curriculum is extensive and very well supported.

As a school with Specialist Status for the Arts, we offer fantastic performance opportunities and indulge our students' passion for these subjects through events and activities led by professional Arts practitioners as well as our own staff; providing a regular programme of productions, student performances, visits to professional theatre venues, dance and musical events.

Our fully resourced 'Little Theatre' operates as a theatre venue in its own right, hosting comedy nights, live music and drama performances throughout the year from amateur and professional companies. It also provides our students with a working example of an operational theatre space in which they learn through their drama lessons.

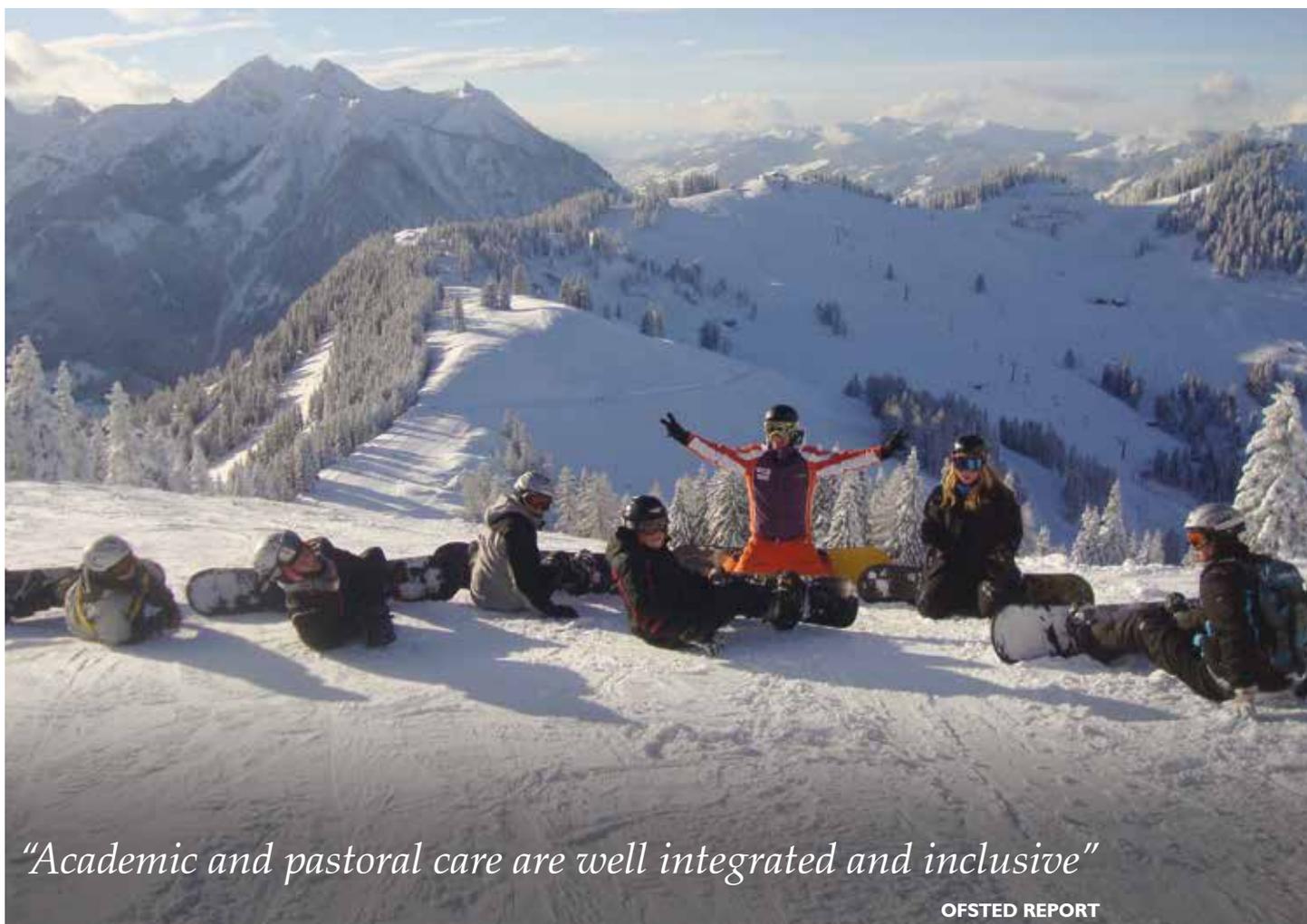
We offer LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts) examination opportunities, where students can work towards a professional qualification, and a range of instrumental lessons, working with East Sussex Music Service. Students can also partake in a wide range of performance related groups such as choirs, orchestra, brass ensembles and other music groups as well as our popular school Samba band.

Our Art clubs regularly host Art exhibitions both in and out of school, including our hugely successful Art Exhibition held at the prestigious Towner Art Gallery.

Sports staff provide a range of activities from Athletics, Gymnastics and Trampoline to traditional sports such as Netball, Rounders, Badminton, Rugby, Cricket and Tennis to name a few. There are also many curriculum based clubs in Languages, Science, Design Technology, ICT and STEMNET.

Our annual activities week provides students with the widest range of activities to engage with, from making their own cosmetics or fishing to visits to the Houses of Parliament and London theatres. Other recent events include a bi-annual ski trip, language exchange opportunities and even a tour of New York!

Finally, in support of our belief in 'Life long learning' we have a growing list of community education courses and groups available, details of which can be provided upon request.



*"Academic and pastoral care are well integrated and inclusive"*

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*"Students feel very safe in school.  
They treat each other and adults with consideration"*

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## Student Voice

The Student Management Team is made up of one representative from each year group with the purpose of supporting each other and working together to achieve our individual and collective goals.

Having a representative from each year ensures clear, open and easy communication between students of all year groups. Students feel their voices and opinions are heard; creating a sense of community and union throughout the school.

One of The Student Management Team's biggest achievements to date has been the creation of our 'Working Parties', whereby volunteers from all year groups create forums and meet regularly to discuss issues surrounding the community and their school environment. They work closely with staff, Year Councils, the School Council and Subject Captains to address any issues and implement the necessary changes.

There are currently three working parties:

- Partners In Learning promotes our shared belief that students and staff should work together as one.
- School Life is responsible for discussing a wide range of issues including extended school activities, the school environment, uniform, rewards and other general changes to everyday life at the Cavendish School, whilst our
- Charity group is responsible for bringing staff, students, friends and families together to form a broader community in which fund raising and charitable activities can be planned and implemented.







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## The Cavendish School, Eastbourne

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