



COTTESMORE SCHOOL

'PREP SCHOOL OF THE YEAR'

Tatler Schools Awards 2020 - 21

'BOARDING SCHOOL OF THE YEAR'

Times Educational Supplement Awards 2019



Becoming the best version of you

Welcome from The Headmaster

Dear Parent

We are delighted to send you this snapshot of Cottesmore life and hope that it goes some way to introducing all that Cottesmore has to offer. You will receive the warmest of welcomes when you visit Cottesmore in person to witness the buzz and purposefulness of life here.

We very much look forward to seeing you.

Warm wishes
Tom Rogerson
Headmaster




 independent schools council


 BOARDING SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATION


 INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS' BURSARS ASSOCIATION



Welcome to Cottesmore School

Surrounded by a thousand acres of forests and parkland, Cottesmore is nestled in the peaceful countryside with wonderful views over the North Downs. Cottesmore has all the advantages of a country school yet it is within easy reach of London, the M23 and Gatwick Airport.

Cottesmore, above all, is an academic school and we arrive at excellence through methods that promote well-being, self-actualisation and joy.

Celebrating 130 years, Cottesmore School is an award winning boarding prep school for girls and boys, aged 7 to 13. Cottesmore Pre-prep educates girls and boys from Reception. Cottesmore is a community with a warmth that children immediately respond to, where every member of staff knows every pupils' names and their hopes and dreams. Children at Cottesmore feel nurtured, safe and happy; school swiftly becomes a home from home. A plethora of mathematical, scientific, creative, linguistic, sporting and technological opportunities are filtered through the school's unofficial motto 'Everyone has a talent'.

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A parent from London told us Cottesmore had the best combination of options one could get: A* in all the things that really matter in life.

GOOD SCHOOLS
GUIDE

A young boy with light brown hair and blue eyes is looking upwards with a thoughtful expression. He is wearing a dark blue and pink striped polo shirt. His right hand is resting on the thick, textured trunk of a large tree. The background is a soft-focus view of green leaves and branches, suggesting a sunny day in a park or school grounds.

One of
Cottesmore's mottos:
'Be kind, work hard,
have fun'



Creating inner confidence

Creating inner confidence is key at Cottesmore. It is our mission to find, for each child, an area in which she or he can excel – whether academically, on the sports field, or in other areas of Cottesmore life.

The personal satisfaction that comes from excelling in a particular field creates that inner confidence which permeates all aspects of school life and is essential to successful learning.

Cottesmore is run very much as a family, with a natural balance between freedom and order together with the needs of the individual and of the community. The children are encouraged to be kind, work hard and have fun – all of this, in a secure and warm environment.

One of
Cottesmore's beliefs:
'Everyone has
a talent'





Cottesmore's Philosophy

Everyone has a talent

Cottesmore has a longstanding relationship with a wide variety of senior boarding schools in the country and we are extremely proud to boast a wealth of experience when it comes to finding the right fit for your child: a senior school that shares Cottesmore's belief in nurturing a rounded, dynamic individual.

There are no 'perfect moulds' here; put simply, we work hard with the children to build on their talents, to nurture and support their learning. Cottesmore School prides itself on enabling its children to be the best version of themselves they can possibly be.

The children flourish because they are allowed a childhood at Cottesmore; there are no mobile phones and you are more likely to see them climbing a tree than swiping a screen.



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Children here are bubbling, confident and eager... we've rarely met a group of children so content to be themselves.



Academic Excellence

A passion for learning

Our academic system enables staff to work on a more bespoke basis which can allow children to move quickly through the school to join the scholarship stream.

Our scholarship record is excellent – the children achieving top academic, music and art awards. A great breadth of subjects are offered throughout the school which includes maths, English, science, languages, history, geography, classics, theology, philosophy, religion, ICT, AI, coding, art, music and design technology.

Endeavour and fun are key to life here at Cottesmore School. Children leave fulfilled, focused and ready for their next step. Success follows this explosion of discovery and purposefulness.

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Pupils of all ages have excellent attitudes to learning.

ISI 2019





Boarding at Cottesmore

A day in the life

BREAKFAST 7.30AM

Rise and shine! Enjoy a cooked breakfast every morning, freshly prepared by our chefs.

LESSONS 9.00AM

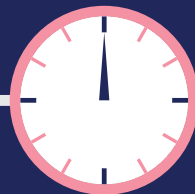
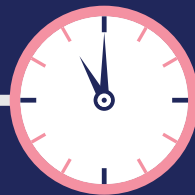
Lessons are 35 minutes long and can be doubled or tripled to create longer periods when needed.

LESSONS & LUNCH 12.00PM

Lessons then lunch at 1.00pm with fresh salads every day.

SUPPER AT 6.00PM & THEN ACTIVITIES

Activities include, for example, tennis on our floodlit all-weather Astro pitch, yoga or art at 6.30pm.



'LINE UP' 8.40AM

The boys and girls congregate in the Hall to celebrate successes and to find out about the busy day ahead. Then it's chapel.

BREAK & ACTIVITIES 11.00AM

Time for a snack, breaktime fun and array of activities including archery, craft, golf and extra academic sessions.

LESSONS & SPORT 2.00PM

Two more lessons, then it's time for games, which includes football, netball, hockey, rugby, swimming, cricket and tennis.

BEDTIME & LIGHTS OUT 9.00PM

Juniors' lights out at 8.30pm after a story. Seniors' lights out at 9.00pm.



Cottesmore School won the Times Educational Supplement (TES) 'Boarding School of the Year 2019'



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The family atmosphere throughout the school ensures that pupils from all ages mix happily and support each other.



Pastoral care



The strong pastoral system at Cottesmore revolves around the premise that every pupil is treated as a member of the extended family and has responsibilities to that community. The size of the building allows most activities, academic and pastoral, to take place under one roof recreating the feeling of home.

Pupils are encouraged to express their feelings openly and freely. Well-being and mental health have long been a priority at Cottesmore and this permeates through the ethos and culture. New starters are allocated a 'shadow' ('buddy') to support and expedite their transition into life at school.

There are many layers of care which include Form Tutors, Pastoral Tutors, Matrons and Peer Mentors. A more in-depth explanation can be found on our website.

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Pupils' excellent personal development is influenced especially by the high standards of pastoral care and boarding.

ISI



Cottesmore Community

A home from home

One of the most important lessons boarding teaches one is that one exists as part of a whole and that one must contribute to the society of which one is a member. The fun one will have will match the effort one puts in; one is part of a wider team and the success of that team relies upon one's contributions and one's good character. Engaging with boarding school life will provide enormous amounts of opportunity to practice and perfect these skills before one reaches the wider world.

For all here, Cottesmore is considered a home from home and settling into boarding life is made as easy as possible. Days are filled with learning, fun and activities.

Cottesmore's traditions are at the heart of what makes Cottesmore great and the children are the most important part of that. Much anticipated school events include 'Cottesmore Has Talent', our 100-year established 'Carson Cup' cross-country run and the leavers' boat race on the school's lake. Whole school water-fights are also a popular summer activity.

With the entire adult team trained in mental health and safeguarding, children are always encouraged to express their feelings. At the heart of boarding the emphasis is on the all-round experience and the opportunities that are available to the children to help them build character foundations; this enables them to develop into confident and capable young adults.

The position of School and Dorm Monitors (most seniors hold these responsibility) provide leadership opportunities in order to practice these skills in a controlled across the school community. Staff live on site providing children with continuity of care and giving parents peace of mind.



Sport at Cottesmore

Success in sport can lead to success in other fields

Major games for the girls and boys are football, cricket, hockey, netball, and rugby, with some lacrosse. The teams are highly competitive and the school is represented in national competitions.

The school caters for 36 different sports and each child is involved. We have our own golf course and lake for paddle boarding, fishing and rowing. Cottesmore pupils have won the U13's National IAPS Clay Pigeon Shooting competition and the swimming relay team were champions at the IAPS Nationals this year. The skiing team also achieved 1st place in the IAPS skiing tournament. Cottesmore's sporting teams frequently achieve unbeaten seasons. Match days are on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.







The Arts

Collaborative Creativity

The Sopwith STEM Centre, named after Old Cottesmorian Sir Tommy Sopwith, houses an impressive range of equipment. This inspirational centre is where the children can learn to develop practical skills including, art, design technology, information technology, AI, coding, 3D printing and practical science.

Information Technology is an integral part of the curriculum at Cottesmore. From the beginning, computers become a natural part of the children's lives both in lesson and in their free time. Pupils are introduced to all platforms, including Microsoft, Apple and Android operating systems.

The large, airy design technology room houses a stunning array of equipment, and the children learn to work with their hands here. They learn to design and realise projects in a wide range of disciplines.

At the very top of the centre, is the art studio. The light, space and bucolic views over the North Downs make it an inspiring place to work. Here, children experiment, create and learn using different media. The studio is open at all times and children are welcome to use it to work in their free time.





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Pupils demonstrate excellent creative skills in a range of artistic, musical and drama activities.

Music & Drama

Hitting the right note

Music plays an important role in the life of Cottesmore with 90% of children learning to play a musical instrument. We have three choirs: The Chapel Choir have sung in Florence, Ephesus, Venice and Salzburg, as well as being much in demand at concerts and weddings. The School Choir was founded to include singers of all abilities. The Junior Choir starts the younger Cottesmorian off on the right note. Musical performance is part of everyday life with weekly concerts on Tuesday and Friday mornings, informal recitals in the Drawing Room and formal school concerts. There are also various bands and a school orchestra.

Cottesmorian are likely to be found centre stage with drama playing a key part in their education. A record number of children are studying LAMDA and they have enjoyed taking part in recent productions including 'The Lion King', 'Fantastic Mr Fox' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. There are also junior drama productions and house plays.

A dancing coach teaches various disciplines; dancing is frequently integrated into drama productions and there is at least one display each year. Children of all ages are given the opportunity to appear on stage and they also have tremendous fun producing their own plays. There is a role for everyone with many involving themselves in stage-design, prop-making, lighting and sound. A popular improvisational drama club is offered on Wednesdays and Saturdays after matches and games.







Beyond Cottesmore

Growing independence

At the age of 13, our children leave Cottesmore fulfilled, focused and ready for the next step in their education. Cottesmore works with the children, their parents and senior schools to find the most suitable school which will cater to the needs of your child

Children go on from Cottesmore to a wide variety of Public Schools, taking entrance exams and scholarships to Eton, Harrow, Radley, Downe House, Benenden, Kings Canterbury, Marlborough, Charterhouse, Cheltenham Ladies' College and many more.



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Our son has settled in well and is very much enjoying life at senior school. I am sure that this is in large part due to his time at Cottesmore and the confidence his time there gave him within such a kind and nurturing environment.



'INDEPENDENT SCHOOL OF THE YEAR'

Times Educational Supplement, 2019 finalist

'INDEPENDENT PREP SCHOOL OF THE YEAR'

Times Educational Supplement, Independent School Awards, 2023 finalist

'SUPPORTING JUNIOR BOARDERS AWARD'

Boarding Schools Association, Supporting Excellence Awards, 2023 finalist



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