



Preparing for a bright future

AN INTRODUCTION TO **TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL**

A bright future needs strong foundations

A Town Close education offers children an exceptional start to their journey through life. They experience academic rigour, intellectual enquiry and an amazing array of co-curricular experiences, equipping them with many of the foundations they will need in later life.

We celebrate our pupils' individual talents and provide a home for each child's dreams and ambitions. The breadth of opportunity enables young people to discover their strengths, foster life-long interests and develop the confidence to persevere when presented with a challenge.

There is a spirit of happiness and collaboration amongst the Town Close family and our idyllic wooded site near the centre of Norwich gives children the space and freedom to play and explore. From the very first discovery-led years, children learn in fantastic indoor and outdoor teaching spaces and have access to high quality specialist facilities on our fifteen acre site.

Senior schools often comment on how impressive the pupils we send them are. They are polite, open and confident and have the ability to think for themselves. Our pupils have an excellent record in senior school scholarship and entrance assessments and the lessons learned in these formative years last far beyond.

We hope you enjoy this glimpse of how a child's journey through Town Close prepares them for a bright future.



A stimulating environment with traditional values

At Town Close School, the personal, social and emotional development of every child underpins the entire School's ethos and curriculum. Each individual engages with others within a safe, secure and stimulating environment in a wide range of contexts to develop their personal and social skills and become effective and motivated learners.

From the moment our younger pupils enter the Pre Prep, they are offered real opportunities to develop, grow and learn in beautiful and nurturing surroundings. We enable younger children to become independent by providing a scaffold of safe, secure relationships, developing and maintaining close partnerships with parents and fostering traditional values.

As children progress through the School they are offered a wealth of opportunities to develop an awareness of their responsibility towards others, and celebrate their own uniqueness. This is achieved through the house system, small, regular, mixed-age tutor group meetings, the School Council, our learning support department and numerous clubs and societies. All of these aspects complement our children's excellent academic development.

Town Close pupils have an innovative approach to fundraising and are given many opportunities to help others. This supports their understanding of the wider community and their future world.

Our tranquil setting enables children to appreciate the awe and wonder of nature, as we encourage them to develop an inner sense of well-being and a life-long appreciation of the world around them.

Town Close School offers the perfect setting for fostering healthy, well-rounded and happy individuals, ready to rise to future challenges and make a positive contribution to society.



Tiana and Henry

Learning through collaboration.

Henry and his Year 7 friends enjoy exploring the School's grounds during their breaks. "I like the scenery and the mix of old and new buildings," he says. "The teachers make the lessons fun and ensure everyone's included. There's lots of variety and I enjoy teamwork activities. It's good to collaborate and share ideas. You can think of things yourself but it's important to work with others as well because when you put your heads together you come up with lots of different things. We also help each other out - if you finish your work early, you help someone who's slower."

Henry enjoys team games too and plays cricket, hockey and rugby. "I like matches and going to other schools to see what they're like and meet new people," he says.

As Form Representative on the School Council, he relishes the opportunity to help make a difference. "We talk to our friends and decide on ideas and then put them forward," he says. "Recently we talked about the ways the teachers give feedback in our books and we have also come up with ideas to make sure people don't get bullied. I'm on the Eco Council too, where we find ways to make the School more environmentally friendly."

Looking to the future, Henry says he would like to work with people by being a lawyer or a surgeon.

Like Henry, Tiana, who's in Year 3, loves being with other people. "I have lots of friends and we play games and always let other people join in because I want to make sure they're happy," she says. "If my friends get into an argument I tell them to go away and think about it then come back and say 'sorry'".

Tiana's favourite lessons are maths and English. "When I was at nursery I thought my writing wasn't very good but when I came here it got better and that gave me confidence so now I like it. Maths is fun because you learn useful things, like how to do times tables and subtract. When I learn something new I feel good and that makes me want to learn even more."

She is also an extremely keen dancer and gymnast. "I love learning new dances and moves and get very excited when we have a performance because I like people watching me," she says. "Outside school, I do dancing competitions and make up new dances, like Indian dancing. Sometimes I practise at home then show my friends. My mum is looking for a gym class for me; she says I'm very flexible. I can do the splits, cartwheels and back hand springs. When I grow up I want to be a singer."



Encouraging amazing academic talent

From their very first day, each child embarks on their own unique academic journey through Town Close. Children are closely supported by highly qualified staff, so that they feel safe and secure and are happy to investigate and explore a wealth of resources and facilities. Young learners are carefully introduced to a variety of activities and develop a broad range of valuable skills, both in and outside the classrooms.

As the children's natural enthusiasm and curiosity is harnessed, they develop a positive attitude to their learning along with the associated skills of perseverance, concentration, independent thinking and studying. Core skills in communication, reading, writing and mathematics are developed, thus laying the foundations for future learning in diverse academic areas.

As children progress through the School, they develop an extensive range of learning skills, acquire knowledge in particular subject areas and have a wealth of opportunities to discover where their particular talents lie. From the age of nine years, children receive all their lessons from specialist teachers. It is now that they develop further expertise in the many individual subjects, aiming ultimately at excellent Common Entrance results or even succeeding with scholarship level work.

All children are assessed, supported and encouraged according to their particular talents and learning needs, ensuring a unique academic journey through the School and thorough preparation for future education.



Daisy and Oliver

A hunger for learning.

“Do you mean other than break?” is Oliver’s reply when asked about his favourite lesson. “Well, probably everything,” he quickly adds. Oliver is in Year 2 and his enthusiasm for learning is evident in the animated way he speaks. “I’m a big fan of history. I know all about the Battle of Waterloo, even the dates. And I know about King Arthur and a bit about the Zulu Wars. We’re also learning about how the earth was made.

“I like writing and maths. It’s good because you learn things like if you have 56p and spend 34p how much you’ve got left. Today we did number squares and coloured in the three times table. I know my two times table and three times table and my five times table.

“The teachers are really kind because they sort out any problems you have, all you have to do is ask and they’ll come along and help you. You learn all the teachers’ names. Last year I had Mr Fisher and he still says ‘hello’ when he sees me in the playground.”

Oliver is proudly wearing his “Top Bird” badge and explains that he was awarded it by his classmates. “I had to say what I would do and my friends voted for me,” he says. “I was given my badge in assembly. Next Wednesday I will get my certificate too and I’ll be Top Bird until half term.”

Oliver moves to the Prep Department next year and is looking forward to learning more new things. “You get to be more independent, learn more times tables and get to use those snazzy computers they have,” he says.

Daisy, who is in Year 7, is equally energised and also makes the most of all the opportunities Town Close offers. “One of the reasons I love being here is that you’re not limited, you can do pretty much anything,” she says.

“I love writing stories and using my imagination to describe things and people’s feelings - I’d like to be an author when I’m older. I also love reading. Right now we’re reading and talking about ‘Beowulf’ and we can also bring books from home. My favourites are about seeing things from other people’s point of view. It’s interesting when they seem to have normal lives which then become extraordinary, like the struggles of people living through World War Two. I really like history too, learning about your ancestors and what happened before you.”

Daisy is also learning Latin. “It’s interesting because you can see where words in other languages such as English, Spanish, French and Italian derive from and it helps you with your spelling,” she says.

“The teachers are all enthusiastic. You know they’ll help you but they encourage you to figure things out for yourself as well.”

Daisy likes to be busy and does activities every lunchtime and evening as well as sport at the weekends. “I go to ASA, where we camp and do activities, am in the Chamber Choir, learning the piano and have play rehearsals. I also do Pre-Prep duties once a week and this year I did my Playmakers Award when I learned how to teach younger children and help them join in.”



Skills for an expanding digital and technological world

'But why?' A question we never tire of exploring and answering in Design and Technology and Computing. A Town Close child encounters technological challenges and is guided by ambitious staff who embrace technical development and innovation. Consequently, our children never lose the natural investigator within them. They are resilient and confident learners who are given the freedom to explore, to question and to solve.

Our innovative Design and Technology curriculum builds on the children's natural curiosity for the world around them as they evaluate, create and test, whether this is up-cycling materials in our Nursery or engineering and developing full-size electric racing karts in Years Seven and Eight. From the age of seven, children have access to our well-equipped specialist workshop and to a wide range of tools and materials.

We want our children to feel supremely confident in dealing with a full spectrum of IT equipment from programmable toys and micro-bit computers to tablets and PCs, and to understand how this technology can enrich and support their daily lives. Through engaging with computer programming, considering e-Safety, using software, exploring animation and creating digital imagery, children develop the adaptability they will need as they grow up in an ever-changing world.



Oliver and Amalie

Inquisitive technical minds.

“I knew nothing when we first started learning about computers but now I can write Raspberry Pi programs and build games,” says Oliver. “I like that aspect of computers – you can make them do whatever you want them to. I use Python to build RPGs – that’s Role Playing Games. My favourites are quests for medieval knights, and one of the best I’ve invented is called ‘The Medieval Adventure’. My friends and family enjoy playing them too. I like using my imagination to create a story and then doing the programming. I definitely want to become a computer games programmer when I’m older.”

Amalie who, like Oliver, is in Year 6, enjoyed creating interactive stories in Powerpoint, using images and links. “You can let your mind go wild,” she says. “My story was based on ‘Little Red Riding Hood’ and it was good fun showing what would happen if you made different choices in the story by creating hyperlinks.”

Both agree that it’s good learning about different types of technology. “The best thing about Year 5 was using micro bits to make flashing lights on a computer,” says Amalie. “You could make them into a happy face or a sad face or a heart. The teachers make learning how to use computers fun.”

“I have been very inspired to do things at home as well,” agrees Oliver. “I’m even teaching my brother how to write programs now.”

Both are equally enthusiastic about Design and Technology. “We’ve learned how to use lots of different tools,” says Amalie. “I can saw and use a glue gun and even solder things. We use a lot of different materials like wood and metal and plastic in our projects and can get really creative.”

“We made a picture frame and the photo in it is of the frame before it had the photo in it – I still have mine!” adds Oliver. “I love skiing so most of my projects are based around that. I’ve just designed and built a ski transfer vehicle. I love thinking of what to make and then designing it. It’s very detailed work.”

“We’ve also built a fan-powered car with a battery and a balloon-powered car,” says Amalie. “The teacher tells us what to make and then we can do what we want.”

Amalie has also made a colourful maze. “I enjoyed making the box and painting it and devising the maze for the little ball to move around. Mine works really well but my friend’s didn’t. I like using everything I’ve learned to help my dad build things at home. We made an extension to our guinea pig cage which we attached to the main hutch and I’ve also built a World War Two Anderson shelter out of the plastic at the bottom of a pizza.”



Building confidence from creative expression

Set out on a long walk in unfamiliar country without a map and compass, and it is easy to get lost. The creative journey at Town Close begins with equipping our children at the outset with the necessary tools, and the skills to use them, in order to enable them to reach their destinations with confidence.

There are regular and varied productions - dramatic, musical and poetic - in the Read Hall, where children can experience their moment in the limelight, or alternatively program the lighting itself. In addition, the early introduction of curricular drama develops cooperation, empathy and confidence through group work, games and exercises.

Music at Town Close is exciting, practical and varied. With the emphasis on practical music making and many different opportunities for performance, children explore the history of Western music: commercial, popular, jazz, computer music and world genres. They develop a broad practical knowledge of music and an understanding of its importance in today's society.

In the early years, our children explore art to develop their awareness through visual and tactile experiences. This awareness is progressively built upon through the learning of new skills and techniques. Children become increasingly independent in the creation of their artwork and are empowered to make personal choices, which are celebrated in displays of art around the School.

Whatever their goal, our children are encouraged to focus on their destination and also to appreciate and enjoy the varied landscapes they encounter along the way.



Toby and Harriet

Happy to create and perform.

Toby is a keen and talented artist who was a member of the Town Close Art Club even before joining the school in Year 6. "I enjoy sketching most," he says, showing a beautiful pencil drawing of a sea bird in front of a cove that he drew on holiday, and another of a tiger's head.

"The great thing about art here is that we learn to use so many different types of equipment. I like sketching in pencil but also use charcoal and chalk pastels and have been shown how to use a putty rubber to rub out very thin lines."

Toby is still in the Art Club, where he enjoys learning more skills. "At the moment we're working in batik, where you put wax on paper or cloth to create shapes with dye," he says. "Our teachers let you try different things and encourage you. I want to keep doing art, and when I'm older I'd like to be an artist, tennis player or lego designer."

"I find painting relaxing; it's my favourite lesson," announces Harriet, who's in Year 3. "We're painting oranges and lemons and limes that are cut in half, which is a bit hard as we're doing it from our imagination. Last year we went outside and sketched a tree."

Harriet enjoys using water colours and proudly describes how she's learned to mix them. "You have a paint palette and take the lid off the paints and mix them up in the middle," she says. "I like bold colours best because they stand out, especially dark blue. We wear big overalls and they get all messy which is fun. I sometimes get paint on my hands as well."

"The teacher shows us how to use the brushes. There are thick ones and really thin ones - I like the thick ones because you can get more painting done.

"A good thing about art is that you can be creative and even if you're all painting the same thing you can do it differently from everyone else. Sometimes our paintings are displayed and last year one of mine was in the Read Hall Art Exhibition and Mum and Dad came to see it."

Toby and Harriet both play musical instruments too. Toby is working towards his Grade One piano exam. "I played the piano for a few years before I came to Town Close but didn't do my grades. Now I'm being taught here, I feel ready to enter them," he says.

As well as being a member of the choir and doing drama and dancing, Harriet plays the flute. "I got a Distinction in my Grade Two exam and am in the Intermediate Flute Group and have played it on my own in assembly," she says.

"I enjoyed it once I got going because I pretended I was on my own practising. I think I'll join an orchestra when I'm older and when I grow up I want to be a rock star, artist or musician."



Success through fair play and respect

A vital ingredient for a successful education is a child's physical well-being. In the Early Years children develop their physical literacy. We encourage them to use their bodies through swimming, dancing, throwing, catching, using outdoor play equipment and exploring woodland areas. The children have a broad range of opportunities to refine their manual skills and we encourage active learners.

Not only is sport an area in which children gain confidence and develop all aspects of physical literacy and fitness but it is also a medium through which many life skills are developed. These include teamwork, good sportsmanship, self-discipline, respect for others, communication and fair play. Through an inclusive curriculum, they are encouraged to develop their own character and personality through early exposure to competitive situations, often leading to regional and national competitions. By fielding numerous teams at each age group, not only are we able to ensure that there is healthy competition for places but also that all children will have the opportunity to represent the School at various points during their journey through Town Close.

We offer a diverse and exciting programme of co-curricular activities taking place at lunchtimes and after school. From our Adventure and Skills Academy to dance and sailing, the choice is vast, allowing children to be inspired, develop their passions and achieve success in their chosen field.



Rosie and William

Playing for fun. Playing for the team.

William, who is in Year 5, loves all kinds of sport and his eyes light up when he talks about his role as captain of the rugby team. "Rugby has been my favourite sport since I was little and is good fun, especially tackling," he says. "I like being part of a team and talking to my friends during the game. We predict what the other players will do and make jokes. But I also like the responsibility of being the captain and work really hard to be chosen. It gives you confidence for lots of other things too and it makes me very proud to represent my school."

William also enjoys tennis. "I play singles and like thinking about where to hit the ball. We're very lucky because we can do so many sports at Town Close, even when it's raining and at lunchtime. I play hockey and do athletics, and like cross country in the woods because I can see nature all around me when I run."

"Sport makes you fit and I like being outdoors when I'm not at school too. I horse ride and play rugby at North Walsham Rugby Club. My brother likes sport as well and my dad used to play hockey. We are always busy at home!"

"When I'm older my ambition is to play for Scotland. My mum is from Scotland and I have supported the Scottish team all of my life."

Rosie is an equally enthusiastic sportsperson. "Town Close taught me everything I know," she says. "I've been here since Reception and love all sport. You don't have to be competitive, you can enjoy playing for fun – but I do like the competitive side."

Rosie is now in Year 7 and is captain of the U12 hockey team. "I enjoy being captain. I like thinking about tactics and the ways we can do better, like passing the ball faster. I also like working with the teacher and having a say about things as well as helping people to be the best they can be by sharing what I've been taught."

"It's good being part of a team, it's more fun playing with other people than by yourself. The most important thing is that you don't have to be really good to enjoy playing, and the teachers are really encouraging. When I started at Town Close I didn't like athletics but because the teachers encouraged me and taught me the techniques I got better and now I enjoy that too."

The clubs Rosie belongs to include cross country, netball, rounders, cricket and hockey. "I'm also in Norwich City Hockey Club and Acle Tennis Club," she says. Not surprisingly, she's won several trophies including the one she's most proud of, U12 Hockey Player of the Season, which she was awarded last year.

"I love being outside, especially after a day indoors doing lessons," she says. "I want to keep doing sport and to work hard and be an England hockey player."





TOWN CLOSE SCHOOL

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