Small, | smôl | adj, -er, -est, petite, precious, priceless, one in a million.

Modest, not large but sufficient in size or amount, power, unimposing, humble (of thought or action), soft or gentle in sound, the small print, the fine but important details of a contract, greater interaction, attention to detail, consideration, personal touch.
Tower House is home to just 180 pupils. Like a family, we understand that every child is different. Some will be faster out of the blocks than others. But we don’t give up on any child. We commit to every boy. We do this because we have no desire to turn education into a process. We want to produce individuals. If we are doing that, we’ve done our job.

We’re small
It’s key to our philosophy. For us, small defines all of the values that are sometimes lost in larger establishments.
Small gives us the time for individuals and a personal touch.
We foster an independent spirit without losing the essentials of cooperation and partnership.
Small is simply a kinder and more forward thinking approach.
Small is what we are, but it does not limit us.
It’s our ideas and achievements that are big.

www.thboys.org.uk
The boys

The aims of the school

We believe in academic excellence and the need to ensure that every boy goes to his choice of senior school at 13. Here our record is one of continual success.

This can only be realised by encouraging the qualities that will never be measured by tests and exams. It’s essential to ensure the development of character and confidence, to nurture the qualities of compassion, humour and responsibility.

This is achieved in so many ways. From the very start we believe in discipline that’s firm and friendly.

We obviously have our rules and these have been discussed and agreed upon with the boys. They are more likely to adhere to sensible regulations that they’ve helped formulate themselves.

Leadership roles are encouraged. Form Captain from Year 3, then House Captain, Games Captain, Prefect, Head Boy and even School Ambassador are just some of the duties boys can assume. Everyone is made aware that such roles are not authoritarian. To be a prefect is not to be above others but to serve the rest of the school.

Famous sayings and thought provoking quotations are evident throughout the school. Our choice is varied, designed to stimulate the inquiring mind: who said this, and why? The qualities that make us better people are the daily, gentle reminders beyond the academic that are designed to challenge and stimulate the boys.

In such an environment, confidence can be gained and expressed in a variety of extra-curricular activities, whether it’s sport, drama or music.

The school takes its role in the local community very seriously and has many links with both local and national charities. It’s hardly surprising when the values learned here are extended to the classroom. This is the foundation on which exam success is built.

It’s essential to ensure the development of character.

www.thboys.org.uk
In their early years, boys and girls learn at a different pace. At various times boys may be on a faster track while girls are slightly slower and vice versa. This is not a criticism of either. Essentially boys and girls arrive at the same educational destination, but often their journeys take different paths.

Why boys only?

To combine the two can often hamper the development of both. To maximise the opportunity for our boys, Tower House has been a single sex school since its creation in 1932.

The boys
For us, school is not about gaining the skills to be employable. We are not a factory processing and creating identikit boys. We will never focus on learning narrow bands of information to have them safely repeated under exam conditions.

None of the above acknowledge the need for personal development. It ignores the priorities we believe in: the enjoyment and growth that comes from new experiences, the ability to discover new talents, the development of confidence, and the duty to care for and encourage others.

To share in the success of others and recognise your own privileges is something special. To understand your own good fortune is a major step forward in your personal growth.

We make this the cornerstone of our approach to education, and in the eyes of others, it seems to work. The ongoing schools that select our boys recognise the individual qualities of Tower House boys. We often receive calls asking ‘...we like Tower House boys, can we have more?’

This is a tribute to be proud of. The boys are the spirit of Tower House.
Facilities
On a September morning at the age of four a Reception class can be a big step in your life. So boys will stay for mornings only in their first few weeks. Boys who enter further up the school will be allocated a ‘buddy’ so they know where to go, what to do, and have someone to play with.
Nurturing growth

This is a time when we want the boys to feel part of a warm, family atmosphere, where there are strong links between home and the pastoral care we can offer.

About twenty boys are admitted into the Reception class every year and class sizes will remain approximately the same throughout all their years at the school. From the age of 4 to 8 one of the main goals is reading. To inculcate a love of words in the early years is a major step in the development of literacy skills. This is the vehicle through which everything else is delivered.

The staff will guide the boys all the way with every class having a form teacher and a classroom assistant. In the early days much of the work will be focused on the individual before we gradually introduce class teaching.

When the time comes to pass to the Senior School the boys will not arrive as unknown quantities. The liaison between teachers of both schools ensures a seamless transition.

We want the boys to feel part of a warm, family atmosphere.

Junior School

www.thboys.org.uk
Developing minds

Boys will join at the age of eight. We introduce class teachers at first and subject teachers a little later. By Year 5, their second year, subject teachers will take over fully and guide the boys through to the Common Entrance exams in Year 8.

The subjects run the gamut of academia: English, Maths, Science, French, Religious Studies, History, Geography, Art, Music, and Design Technology. Latin is introduced in Year 5, for 9 year olds.

Senior School

www.thboys.org.uk
Developing minds

Academic

In the past eight years we’ve had a 100% success rate in getting all our boys to the next school of their choice through the Common Entrance Exams or Public School Scholarship examinations.

This is a remarkable achievement for a school that is non-selective. Of course, it’s easy to believe that clever boys will always get to where they want to go. But it’s the boys who’ve had a little more difficulty who’ve also come through with flying colours.

The philosophy is simple: if it’s in there, we’ll find it.

Learning support

Every boy is different and some may have specific needs. We have a number of programmes that are designed to help and a Special Educational Needs Coordinator who can help each gain access to the curriculum.

But there’s also something else: the support of the community, of the boys themselves. Recently we asked some Year 8 boys to mentor a child with learning difficulties. They joined him in Reception class, monitored his progress and showed a perception of his needs that was probably beyond those of some adults.
Assemblies are not a time to lecture the boys. They are an opportunity for a two-way dialogue where the Junior and Senior Schools have the time to discuss anything that concerns them. This is a time when we foster the genuine interest the boys have in the world around them.

Yes, there are hymns and prayers. But they are non-denominational and inclusive, not exclusive. We like to draw on influences from all religions, but only in the spirit of education rather than instruction.

An opportunity for a two-way dialogue.

www.thboys.org.uk
Encouraging talent

Boys need little encouragement to make music. With four music suites to practice in, Tower House can be a cacophony of styles.

Instruments played include the recorder, clarinet, flute, piano, violin, classical and electric guitar, saxophone, trumpet and percussion.

Not only do we have a choir, but also a rock band, an orchestra, a swing band and a jazz group. Our boys have also done what all budding musicians would expect to do: gone on tour to Germany with four events played in three days.

Music

www.thboys.org.uk
Encouraging talent

Camera, lights, action. There’s no limit to the ambition of the projects that have been undertaken.

The Junior and Senior School have combined to perform productions such as Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Little Shop of Horrors, Sweeney Todd, The Importance of Being Earnest and something that would normally have required a cast of thousands: The Lord of the Rings.

The opening sequence was filmed by a professional crew in the caves below Matlock and on the surrounding peaks, followed by a polished stage performance by over 70 of the boys played to a series of packed houses.

More than acting, this was an exercise in stage management, prop making and lighting of the highest standard.

Sport

We’re fortunate to base ourselves at one of the best equipped local venues: the Bank of England Sports Centre.

Here, depending on the season, our main team sports of rugby, football and cricket are played. Swimming, basketball, hockey, squash, gymnastics, tennis, dance and athletics are also included, with fencing as an extra curricular activity.

The story of any sporting year is rich with the numerous tales of individual exploits and team success. We could name names, but we won’t.

We’re proud that in external fixtures every boy gets to represent the school in one sport or another. This is about giving everyone a go.

Drama

www.thboys.org.uk
Encouraging talent

Technology

This wired world shortens the distances between staff, boys and parents. With our intranet system the school reaches beyond the gates of Tower House.

Homework can be filed online, a syllabus reviewed anywhere and a community fostered through message boarding. Classrooms are equipped with computers and interactive teaching boards. There is also a dedicated IT suite where the boys can work together.

www.tthboys.org.uk
School life

Art

This is an opportunity to discover not only the classical but the contemporary as well.

Art is a vehicle for self-expression and creativity and the boys embrace it wholeheartedly. There’s no prouder moment than when the works created here get to adorn other areas of the school.

We even have our own budding Banksy who’s created a mural on the walls of the school playground.

www.thiboys.org.uk
School life

Languages

Parlez vous français? Operor vos narro Latin? Our boys do. French is introduced from day one, while Latin is introduced in Year 5.

Charities

Class charities – all boys choose charities that they wish to support. By giving their time and effort they raise money for those that need it, both locally and internationally.

www.thsboys.org.uk
Prepared for the future

Four walls do not a classroom make. The greatest lessons can come from the physical experience of new places, different environments, and historic venues.

The Senior School classes all experience a residential trip every year. There are also several day trips.

We have five of the former every year and the boys stay at a variety of venues. Recent trips have included York, Dartmoor, Flatford Mill, North Devon and France to name but a few.

Every trip is designed to not only show the boys the wider world, but to get them to understand the benefits of team work and cooperation. These are valuable lessons that are gained in all weathers and in all circumstances.

Trips and outings

www.thboys.org.uk
Prepared for the future

Parents

The school gates are not closed to parents. There are plenty of avenues for contact between yourselves and the school.

When boys are in Reception class we hold a parents’ welcome meeting and frequent opportunities for a one to one discussion with the class teacher.

At any other time, in any other age group, you can always request a meeting with a class teacher or be part of the regular ‘Head’s at Home’ sessions.

We also value the support that a parent brings. It’s enough to know that you sometimes cajole and exhort your boys to do their homework. But your presence at forums and activities is always appreciated.

The Friends of Tower House hold regular events where you can get to know everyone, including other parents, on an informal level. It all helps to foster the family atmosphere that we believe is an essential part of the school.

We pride ourselves on our visibility.

Other facilities

Along with our IT room, Music suites, theatre, Art rooms and library, where we endeavour to create a love of the written word, we boast a fully equipped Science lab.

Here, under expert supervision, the boys can learn, experiment and discover. Everything here is designed to give them access to the latest technology in perfect safety.

Dining

A ‘home cooked’ meal is prepared daily within the school. Fresh ingredients are used to create a diet that is both healthy and nourishing.

This is also an opportunity for the older boys to show some responsibility. They act as table heads and will help the younger ones, if necessary.

www.thboys.org.uk
Prepared for the future

In both Junior and Senior School we run after school clubs that are driven by the interests of both the boys and the staff. They include Art club, Drama club, debating, chess, board games, squash, football, fencing, and wildlife studies. There’s no limit to the activities we welcome. If it’s possible and enough boys are interested, we’ll do it.

Tower House has governors who are experts in education and business. Some are ex-parents who still live locally. They are all fully supportive and take an active role in the life of the school.

After School Clubs

The Governing Body
Prepared for the future

Immediately after the Common Entrance exams we embark on an unique timetable of events. The boys can reap the benefits of a host of new experiences.

In the past this has meant, kayaking, fishing trips, visits to the House of Commons and, on one occasion, even piloting an airplane. These are all welcome distractions and a break before the next big step: the move to a new school.

The Dan Phillips Award is a social responsibility programme of environmental work that the boys are actively involved in. They volunteer their free time to assist in a number of activities from clearing parks and riverbanks to planting and re-fencing the local highway.

We're naturally proud that every boy has gone on to the school of their choice. These include Bradfield College, Cranleigh, Dulwich College, Epsom College, Eton, Hampton, Harrow, King’s College, Marlborough College, St Edward’s College, Oxford, St Paul’s School, Wellington College and Winchester.

With their own distinctive qualities and talents the boys have flourished and been a credit to themselves. They have never forgotten the lessons they learned that went beyond the academic: the small kindnesses, the understanding for others, a sense of social responsibility.

It’s often a privilege to meet them later in their school life to see how they’ve progressed. They never disappoint.

www.thboys.org.uk

Next steps...

Once a Tower House boy, always a Tower House boy.
Prepared for the future