



HAZLEGROVE

Deo Juvante



Proud to Serve our Forces Families

THE PREP SCHOOL OF CHOICE FOR SERVING FAMILIES



HAZLEGROVE

Deo Juvante

www.hazlegrove.co.uk

+44 (0)1963 442606

admissions@hazlegrove.co.uk

Hazlegrove Preparatory School, Sparkford,
Somerset, BA22 7JA, United Kingdom

King's School Bruton Foundation



Contents:

Welcome from the Headmaster	3
Family Life at Hazlegrove	4
Pastoral Care and Ethos	5
Boarding is a Family Choice	6
Weekends	7
Food, Glorious Food!	8
What do the Parents say?	9
Communication	10
Parent to Parent: FAQs	11
Visiting the School	12
Admissions	13
CEA: The Hazlegrove Forces Package	14
Leaving the best until last: What do the children say?	15

Welcome from the Headmaster

Boarding is the heartbeat of Hazlegrove. With around 80 boarders, many as a result of personal recommendation from forces families, there is a great deal of support and understanding for parents and children from serving families. Boarding at Hazlegrove is thriving. Our busy evening and full weekend programme of activities ensure that the children in our care develop a sense of self and well-being in a safe and caring environment.

This is a school in great heart where the dedication of staff to children's welfare is paramount. A vibrant and creative curriculum, exceptional pastoral care and stunning rural Somerset location combine to make children feel nurtured, motivated, inspired and encouraged to love learning for life.

Hazlegrove is an exciting, warm and friendly place in which to grow up. Alongside the fantastic house parents and resident staff, Amanda and I also take an active role in contributing to the boarding life, and all of us constantly strive for a happy, nurturing, family community. We would be delighted to meet you and your child and show you around the school. Do please call Ali Rogers in our Admissions Office (01963 442606) to arrange to visit.

Ed Benbow, Headmaster

Boarding Statistics:

- 80+ boarders
- 80% of our boarders are from forces families
- Equal ratio of boys and girls
- Full weekends: At least 50-60 children are in school every weekend. Excluding *'In-weekends'* when the entire boarding community stay in school.



Family Life at Hazlegrove

It's all about the family feel at Hazlegrove, as one of our boarding parents said, 'We're all in the same boat'.

Hazlegrove Prep School and all that it offers through its three boarding houses and Houseparents are the constant in the face of the ever-changing military lifestyle.

One in three children board in the Prep School at Hazlegrove and, with a boarding community of over 80 children, 80% of those are from serving forces families.

We understand the very particular needs of serving families.

Our boarders are at the centre of school life. It is of paramount importance to us that your children feel safe and happy staying here, and our thriving community is testament to our success. Pastoral care in the boarding houses is underpinned by the philosophy that each and every child should be parented every day.

You can be confident that our experienced Houseparents and boarding staff will take care of your child's physical and emotional wellbeing, ensuring they have a relaxed and enjoyable time at our school.



Pastoral Care and Ethos

'We unashamedly make time to talk about children. The weekly boarding meeting is attended by the full team of Headmaster, Houseparents, School Nurse and Matrons. Any children of concern are also discussed at the Pastoral Leadership Team meeting which is attended by representatives from across the School. Matrons also meet twice a week too and our gap students meet once a week.

We believe in being a parent to the children and finding a connection with each and every child, which can only be done by spending time with them individually.

Kindness and empathy are present in all that we do.

We accept the children for who they are and where they are at present. We are able to accomplish this by having dedicated and passionate staff, who believe wholeheartedly in the role that they play in the children's lives. We all believe in promoting childhood and making sure that the children have a magical time whilst at Hazlegrove'.

Mr Schreiber, Head of Boarding



Boarding is a Family Choice

Take your child's hand and enjoy the boarding journey together: Boarding works when it is a family choice. Head of Boarding, Regan Schreiber explains:

'Harper Lee once said that you never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view... Until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it. After almost twenty years of houseparenting, I have finally "climbed" in to the skin of a boarding parent. I thought that I had heard it all, seen it all and felt it all. This all changed when I helped my son get ready for full-time boarding in Year 9.

Boarding only works if the child, the parents, indeed the whole family and the school are all in it together. It is a most magical journey of discovery, boarding is a choice – a choice a family makes together.

Hazlegrove boarders are incredibly fortunate children. Their boarding houses and boarding staff are not their replacement family – they are additions to their life's rich tapestry. A boarding house at Hazlegrove is a place where a child can make life-long friendships; develop character and resilience; and importantly,

make the most out of all that an independent education offers. Home is still home and parents should still be massively involved in their children's lives. While at school, parents should not feel guilty about phoning, sending letters and smuggling in the odd treat! This is not bribing or appeasing a guilty conscience, it is being actively involved. Boarding is a choice and we should celebrate this choice and journey of discovery.

In our years of being Houseparents, we have always seen children develop and grow at a rate that is quite honestly staggering and inspiring. These children are able to stand tall and be confident individuals, safe in the knowledge that they are loved deeply by their families and cared for by their boarding staff.

Of course, we miss our children. But we love them and we still have a huge part to play in their development. The strong family bond is not broken by being at boarding school; our parenting has not been placed on pause, whilst the boarding staff take over; if anything, our parenting has been strengthened and evolved. Boarding is a positive choice; be proud of the choice and let's enjoy the experience as much as our children will.

You are giving your child an amazing opportunity to flourish in a safe and enriching environment.

Weekends

The most frequently asked questions from forces families are 'What do the children do?' and 'How do I know that they are busy and fulfilled?'

Weekends are always a very busy time for Hazlegrove. With Saturday school for children in Years 4 to 8 followed by matches in the afternoon, the children have access to the wonderful facilities, including the swimming pool, sports hall, Art Department as well as their own go-kart track in the School woods. They bake, collect fruit, have bonfires, visit the beach, go to Wookey Hole, walk, the list goes on and on. The children attend Chapel on Sunday morning as well as write letters home and enjoy a fantastic Sunday lunch.

We are proud to be a very busy boarding school with lots to entertain and engage the children who stay in every weekend.



Food, Glorious Food!

Food and family sit together at Hazlegrove. We have our own in-house catering team who source the best ingredients in order to provide a nutritious and delicious range of food for the entire school community. From the Boarders' Feast at Christmas, the regular delicious roast on a Thursday to the food celebrated for International Languages Day not to mention the famous Hazlegrove brownie, the children experience a broad and varied range of tastes and textures every day. Staff eat with the children and ensure that each child has a good variety of food on their plate.

In the evenings, 'Family Service' ensures that children sit as families, siblings are together and the children serve from the table just as they would at home. All dietary requirements or allergies are very well catered for.

Getting food right in a boarding school is essential, but more so, it is the time spent with one another over a meal which lies at the heart of our approach.



What do the Parents say?

Boarding is not an easy decision to make, but with many of our boarding families choosing Hazlegrove on the strength of personal recommendations from past and current pupils, we know we offer a positive boarding experience both for boarders and their parents. It is a wonderful opportunity for your child to reach their potential, grow in confidence and make friends and memories that will last a lifetime. We are one of very few schools who always have at least 50-60 children boarding every weekend.

'It's such a difficult decision to make; to send your 7 year old off to boarding school when they still sit in a full car seat, believe in the Tooth Fairy & Father Christmas and watch CBeebies, they are so, so little and yet Hazlegrove has got it so, so right; that perfect balance of letting them be children and innocent for as long as possible whilst allowing them to mature at their own rate, never hastening. With the general fast pace of society, I think you'd be hard pressed to achieve that at home, even if you really wanted to. In deepest Somerset lucky children get to do just that!'

Year 8 Boarding Parent



Communication

We understand that good communication is vital for parents who are deployed away from their children. We ensure that there are many different channels through which you can feel connected to all that your child or children are enjoying whilst at school. Photos can be accessed easily via twitter, Facebook, Flickr. As parents you will automatically become part of the parents' group, Friends of Hazlegrove and Boarding Reps ensure that you can easily contact other parents as well as see who is posted near to you.

For an 'unplugged school' we are very good at keeping parents up to date with all that is going on. Whilst the children enjoy a stress free childhood, free from the trappings of online devices, parents can be happy in the knowledge that the School will be posting



up photos of activities, quite often on a daily basis, giving you an insight into what the children have been doing during their day.

The boarding staff post a weekly blog about the weekend activities that have gone on complete with pictures. Whether it be a trip to the beach, the Dorset Water Park or a lung filling bracing walk, you will always know and, to the very best of our ability, feel involved with all that is going on.

We have a wonderful group of Boarding Representatives made up primarily of forces parents who will introduce you to the network of other boarding families by contacting you even before your child joins the school and talk you through all of those questions that parents need to have answered.



Parent to Parent: FAQs

What happens to the children when they are poorly?

The children can spend the day in their dorm or in sick bay and the night in sick bay. The school nurse or the matrons will look after them. If the illness lasts more than a few days then families are encouraged to ask their guardian family to help if they are unable to get there themselves.

Do the house staff support parents in finding a family to have a child over exeat if there is no family nearby?

Yes, the children are asked within a week or two in advance about their exeat plans. If, for whatever reason, parents cannot see them during exeat, the Houseparents talk to the children about friends with whom they would like to spend the weekend and then contact the potential host families. The two families then touch base and swap contact details.

How are the children parented while at school? - Who checks that they have brushed their teeth?

There are Houseparents, Matrons and Gap students present in the House and they ensure that teeth are cleaned and keep an eye on hygiene (showering, laundry, bedding) as well as administering medication. There are at least four adults in each house every night. The staff say prayers with the children at bed time and grace at

breakfast and supper.

How do boarders celebrate their birthday?

The birthday boy or girl have a celebratory hot-chocolate in the morning complete with a birthday banner and card as well as a rousing rendition of 'Happy Birthday' in the dining hall, at breakfast time. Often parents' will arrange to have cakes sent in to the School.

What are the hidden costs? - School trips, weekend trips, pocket money, etc

Children bring in £20 pocket money per term. Activities rarely cost more than £3. All transport and activities are included in the fees.



Visiting the School

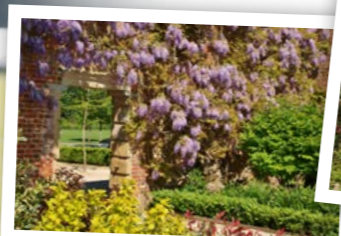
It is always a pleasure to welcome forces families to Hazlegrove. Throughout the year, we hold a number of Open Mornings during which you will have the opportunity to meet the Headmaster and staff and will be shown around by a senior pupil.

Alternatively, you are welcome to visit on an individual basis. The Headmaster and his wife will usually show you around the School. At this point you will have the opportunity to meet pupils and staff. You will also be able to look around the boarding houses

if you would like to. Some parents bring their children with them, whilst others prefer to make the first visit on their own and return with their children at a later date.

The Admissions team would be very happy to provide details of places to stay near to the School if you would like to take the opportunity to see around the beautiful area of Somerset and Dorset in which Hazlgrove is based.

For further information, please contact the Admissions Office on 01963 442606, email admissions@hazlegrove.co.uk or request a visit via the website www.hazlegrove.co.uk



Admissions

Taster Days are a wonderful way for your child to experience what their day will be like at Hazlegrove. Children join their current year group and have a guide to help them throughout the day, each guide remembers well their first day and can relate and help with any concerns that arise.

During the day, a short assessment will take place in order to provide the School with a 'snap shot' of current academic ability. Children who are hoping to join our boarding family are invited

to include an overnight stay as part of their Taster Day. Again, this is the ideal way for children to begin to imagine themselves coming to the School.

Parents are invited to attend a feedback session with staff after the Taster Day. If a child is unable to visit Hazlegrove for a Taster Day, please discuss this with the Head of Admissions, we are able to help using Skype in order to ensure that you have good communications and access to the School. An offer of a place will usually be made for pupils applying to join Year 1 to Year 8 following a Taster Day at the School or Skype appointment.



CEA: The Hazlegrove Forces Package

CEA is complicated and we try to ensure that it is as simple a process as possible. On acceptance of a place we provide a To Whom it May Concern letter which you will need in order to start your application for CEA. Our Forces Package is 5% of fees which essentially means that you will pay approximately 10% of school fees. Sodhexo Vouchers can also be used at the school.



Leaving the best until last: What do the children say?...

"It's so much fun and it feels like everyone is your family after a while."

"I think boarding is amazing because our parents don't have to find new schools every two years."

"We have amazing events like the Boarders' Feast - it is always really good and you get to do things with other people."

"Boarding is like two open doors ready to walk through and have fun."

