



FINBOROUGH  
SCHOOL

BOARDING



# WELCOME TO FINBOROUGH

Finborough School is an independent, co-educational day and boarding school for children up to the age of 18 years. Situated in the heart of the Suffolk countryside, Finborough is a popular choice for families looking for a day or boarding school in the Great British countryside, with exceptional links to local towns, London and airports.

Driven by its mantra 'Better Never Stops', Finborough prides itself on its unique character-driven approach to education which enables independence and interdependence to grow so children and young adults prepare themselves for the extraordinary lives that will lay ahead of them. Pupils leave Finborough School with the best preparation for life.



# OUR HEADMASTER

With a teaching career spanning thirty years, twenty as a Headmaster, Finborough is extremely fortunate to have Steven Clark at the helm of the school. A notable presence, Steven joined Finborough in 2015 and enjoys leading the teaching staff and collaborating with parents and our young people to create a rich and dynamic school community.

Steven's infectious passion for teaching and seeing our students thrive, was initially borne after the completion of his higher education and teaching qualifications at Cambridge University.

From starting his first Headship to joining Finborough, Steven has possessed boundless positivity and an ability to see and inspire the best in every child. This coupled with his powerful belief that best academic achievement must be combined with the development of character, sets Finborough apart from the rest. Alongside his teaching roles, Steven has contributed to education policy nationally and is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He is a keen sportsman and likes nothing more than a challenge, something that has seen him running all over the world, most recently across the polar icecap in Greenland.



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Our bravely different, yet boldly ambitious methods allow students to become the best versions of themselves. High expectations set alongside steadfast support, enable us to bring out the best in each individual.

*Steven Clark, Headmaster*

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Leaders create a tangibly happy, vibrant and welcoming school that is nurturing and caring. Pupils become confident, independent and develop a love of learning.

ISI report 2023

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## OUR DIRECTOR OF BOARDING

James Conlon brings a wealth of experience to his role as Director of Boarding at Finborough School, with 11 years in the boarding sector and over 20 years in education. His career has been dedicated to the pastoral care of students, consistently prioritising their wellbeing and safety.

He has held a variety of positions throughout his career, including Learning Mentor at a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), Lead Houseparent at a boarding school in Devon, and Head of Boarding in Surrey. Now at Finborough, James leads the boarding provision with a strong focus on creating a nurturing and enriching environment.

James holds multiple qualifications from the Boarding Schools' Association (BSA), including certifications in Pastoral Care and Boarding Management. His goal is to ensure that every boarder enjoys a fulfilling experience, filled with fun, laughter, and lifelong friendships. He believes that boarding life should create lasting memories while also encouraging students to work hard and achieve the academic success needed for their future.

James lives onsite with his wife, three children, and their dog Bunty, who is a firm favourite among the boarders. He believes that having his family present adds to the boarding community and helps foster a warm, family-like atmosphere.



# WHY BOARD AT FINBOROUGH?

## **A commitment to excellence**

Our school motto is the 'best preparation for life' and we follow the mantra 'Better never stops'. We have an outstanding track record of providing value-added education and aim for all children to perform above expectations.

## **Providing the best environment**

Set within a spacious 40-acre site, Finborough offers some of the best facilities that includes a newly refurbished boarding house, specifically designed to give every pupil the space they need, a state of the art theatre, dance studios and music centre, an artificial turf sports pitch as well as an abundance of natural grass space for sports, a modern gymnasium, tennis courts and dedicated Sixth Form centre.

## **The best staff**

We have an amazing group of teachers who bring different life experiences, who are a mix of ages and who specialise in different areas of education. Headed up by Director of Boarding, Mr. James Conlon, our boarding teachers are involved in all aspects of school life and provide both academic and pastoral support to all of our pupils.

## **Proximity to London and airports**

With a direct train line to Stratford and Liverpool Street, pupils can easily reverse-commute from the city, making beautiful Suffolk remarkably close and convenient. Slightly further afield, but perfectly accessible are London Luton, London Gatwick and London Heathrow.

## **Exciting weekend activities programme**

Regular trips and visits to attractions and cities, as well as sporting activities and games make Finborough School a fun place to be during the evenings and weekends. And for the older students, a little freedom and independence is offered.

## **A range of boarding options**

From flexi-boarding to short stays to full boarding, boarding at Finborough is offered to children from Year 3 all the way to Sixth Form. We have options to suit families from different locations – whether you reside an hour away, in another country or even if you're more local!







## OUR BOARDING HOUSES

Finborough's boarding houses have recently undergone a substantial refurbishment that includes a new layout for the girls and boys dormitories, modern washroom facilities and communal areas, as well as new furniture and personal spaces throughout. Dormitories are equipped with a desk for each pupil, giving them the space that they need to study at times that suit them.

Across all year groups, pupils come together during evenings and weekends to enjoy time in their shared communal spaces, an environment where Finborough's commitment to character development truly shines.

Our dedicated boarding staff bring warmth and safety to the house, living on site and always on hand to help.



# INTERNATIONAL BOARDING

Choosing to study in the UK is a life-changing opportunity for international students, and at Finborough School, we are committed to making that transition as smooth, enriching, and supportive as possible. Our experienced Admissions team have in-depth knowledge and experience of supporting international families through the admissions process. Either working with families directly, or with agents, we are committed to giving the best care and attention to each family's situation and ambition.

Finborough School is licensed by UKVI to sponsor international students applying for a child student visa. Our team ensure that each international student feels not

only prepared but genuinely welcomed into our school community, fostering a sense of belonging and connection that continues throughout the admission journey.

Finborough School is more than a place to study, it's a nurturing home where children from around the world thrive academically, socially, and personally. With our experienced guidance, families can embark on this exciting journey knowing they are in safe, supportive hands every step of the way.

Some frequently asked questions and answers about international admissions and boarding can be found on our website.







# ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME

The Director of Boarding ensures that homework and relaxation are balanced with a structured range of evening and weekend trips and activities throughout the year.

Evening activities are not compulsory but are offered to boarders throughout the week and we actively encourage participation. These include Art Club, crafts such as jewellery making, cookery and a range of sports. Boarders may use the Sports Hall, gym and music facilities providing they are accompanied by a member of staff. We encourage and support our boarding pupils to join local clubs and groups to enhance their experiences out of school and become involved in the wider community. Examples of this are local sports teams, Scouts and Guides.

## Typical weekend activities include:

- Paddle boarding
- Go Karting
- Visits to Cambridge and Bury St. Edmunds
- Visiting the dry ski slope
- Bowling
- Crabbing
- Arts and crafts



# PASTORAL CARE

Ensuring a positive boarding experience is paramount to our boarding team and wider staff. Whilst all students will have a form tutor they can approach regarding any aspect of school, someone from the boarding team is always on hand for boarders to ensure they are happy, their opinions are heard and ideas shared. Our boarding community is tightly knit and our boarding staff offer consistent pastoral care and support to all.

What's more, the school also operates a mentoring programme for students who may benefit from peer support from senior students. In addition to drawing on support from their boarding family, our Head Mr. Clark operates an open door policy for all young people, should they wish to speak to him regarding any aspect of their school experience.

Health and well-being are at the heart of our care, with a full-time nurse on-site to ensure students receive all the support they need.

# FOOD AND NUTRITION

All meals are cooked on site by Finborough's experienced catering team. Boarding pupils dine with our day pupils in the dining hall during the school day, and as a boarding community for evening meals. Healthy snacks are plentiful and to the delight of pupils, sweeter treats make the occasional appearance! Drinks and light snacks are available in the boarding house.

Mealtimes are a much-loved part of the day at Finborough and our family-style dining, with children and staff engaging in conversation outside of the classroom, acts as an important opportunity to connect with each other on a social level.

Nutrition and a balanced diet are of the utmost importance to everyone at Finborough, ensuring that pupils have enough food to sustain a full day of learning and activity. Our chef creates menus of nutritional value to support the growth and development of all children and young adults in our care, being especially mindful of those whose sporting commitments mean they have long sports training sessions in the evenings and weekends.





# ADMISSIONS

Following your initial enquiry to Finborough's admissions team, families are invited to tour the school, be that in person or virtually. A tour offers the best way to see our school in action, and families are encouraged to ask as many questions as possible! We recommend bringing your child with you so they can see the school for themselves, as the tour will include the boarding house and facilities.

Once families have toured the school and met key staff, we ask you to confirm your interest and register your child if you would like to progress their application. Where possible they will be invited to a taster session at our boarding house with our boarding community to get a flavour of life at Finborough, as well as experiencing lessons during the day.

If all parties are in agreement, and references have been collected from previous educational settings, a non-refundable deposit will be payable and a start date agreed.

For students joining the Sixth Form, trials will include an interview with either the Head or Head of Sixth Form and an assessment to determine the appropriate curriculum pathway.





# FINBOROUGH SCHOOL

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