



SLINDON
COLLEGE

Prospectus

Headmaster's Welcome

Welcome to Slindon College. I have the privilege of leading a College that offers an outstanding educational experience for boys who struggle to fulfil their potential in independent and mainstream schools. Our surroundings provide a calm and meaningful setting for a dedicated team of professionals to fully understand the individual and offer pathways for visible and long term success.

The impact of social anxiety – feelings of acute self-consciousness – have been a barrier to progress for our pupils but our approach reduces the anxiety and allows self-fulfilment. At Slindon College, we work with each boy and his family to create a fully rounded, bespoke, social and educational development package offering both nationally recognised qualifications and social development targets agreed with parents and their child. 'Keep it small, know them all' is a message that reflects our total commitment to getting the very best outcomes for each boy in our charge.

The College is evolving and building a legacy of respect, tolerance and happiness that will remain with the boys throughout their lives. This prospectus is intended to give you a flavour of our aims, ethos and expectations - nothing can replace the vibrancy of day-to-day life here at the College. We will always welcome visitors to experience College life in action.



“The academic curriculum is excellent and particularly well suited to the needs of the pupils, placing a strong focus on literacy and numeracy while offering a wide range of creative and practical subjects.”

The Independent School Inspectorate (ISI)

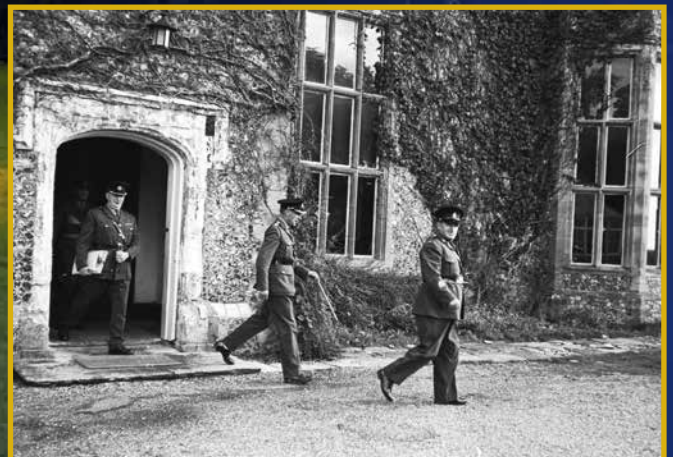


The History of Slindon House

Slindon Village is listed in the Domesday Book of 1086 as “Eslindone”, meaning “sloping hill” in Old English, and is most famous for the English game of cricket, invented within the village during the Saxon and Norman times.

Constructed on the site of the summer palace of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Slindon House has seen several transitions. Gifted the estate by Mary Tudor, the Kempe family built the house that stands today, having gone through extensive alterations in the 18th and 19th centuries. In 1913 Slindon House and Estate was purchased by Mr F. Wootton-Isaacson who carried out more alterations. The house underwent Georgian architectural modifications both inside and out, and further changes were completed after the World Wars where the house was used as a hospital, a common occurrence for large estates during this time.

The entire Slindon Estate was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1948 and Linfield School moved into the main house from their Surrey home. In 1972 the school was taken over by a new charitable trust and renamed Slindon College.



Our Curriculum and Teaching

We believe that with the correct intervention and support, our pupils can overcome any learning challenge, finding and fulfilling their potential. The College provides a low pressure learning environment that builds on each individual's strengths and talents. We have created a diverse curriculum that can be individually adapted to a pupil's requirements.

Most subjects need a certain amount of coursework and practical work combined, allowing the pupils to increase their chance of success, while continuous assessment enables teachers to identify each pupil's individual strengths. Our curriculum is enriched by a broad range of extracurricular activities designed to build the pupil's skills, knowledge and confidence. Our talented teachers have specialist training and experience enabling them to find bespoke solutions to learning barriers.

The optimisation of multisensory and augmentative teaching approaches for all pupils enables our staff to determine the most appropriate learning methods for each one. Our classrooms are all equipped with assisted technology: smartboards, tablets, reader pens and speech recognition tools, to better promote enjoyable, engaging learning. The high teacher-to-pupil ratio means that learning can be consistently monitored and evaluated. Small teaching groups allow for more pupil-teacher interaction, greater opportunities for 1:1 teaching, a wider variety of instructional approaches, increased social and academic engagement. Many classes benefit from teaching assistants who support the teacher and ensure that each pupil gets the individual attention they need.

Pupils leave Slindon prepared and eager to meet the challenges ahead. Through work experience placements, life skills courses and building links with local colleges and universities, we give our boys the experience necessary to make this transition a positive one.



Learning Support

Slindon College is a centre of excellence for moderate learning difficulties. The College adopts a holistic approach to learning support so that class teachers and specialist staff work together for the benefit of pupils who require individual support. The Learning Support department aims for every pupil to be fully included, enabled, valued and encouraged to be the best version of themselves. Specialist dyslexia teachers, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, learning support assistants and the boarding team each work collaboratively with the class teachers to ensure that the impact of any potential learning barriers are minimised.

Within the department, support is tailored to suit each pupil's particular needs. These needs are determined by assessment of the child's particular strengths and weaknesses. Some pupils have Educational Health Care plans supported by a Local Authority; others had their needs identified by professionals such as educational psychologists. Some of the pupils have no formal diagnosis of a specific need but parents and teachers recognise that they require a different learning environment in order to achieve their academic and personal potential.

Slindon College has experience in supporting pupils with a range of difficulties such as Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Social Anxiety. The Learning Support department plays a key role in promoting the social and emotional skills that underpin effective learning, positive behaviour and the well-being of all pupils. Learning support also extends to helping pupils who have English as an Additional language. (EAL). Multi-lingual pupils can take advantage of our intensive English tuition, which can be offered on an individual or small group basis.



Sixth Form

Our Sixth Form differs from others in its provision of a fulltime, bespoke timetable. As class sizes are small (usually no more than four) we have a large amount of flexibility in organising an individual programme of study for our Post-16 pupils. We offer a tailor-made curriculum helping our pupils transition to the next phase of their personal and academic development, encouraging them to complete any outstanding qualifications they may require for their future.

Moving on to meet the academic and personal requirement of Sixth Form can be a worry for many young people who can find the change quite challenging. At Slindon College we offer a full support package; including committed Sixth Form tutors, specialist A-Level teachers, dedicated personal space and the knowledge and skills of our Learning Support department. With some pupils, we offer a 'back to basics' approach to their education and learning experience, ensuring every pupil leaves with their fundamental needs met, new skillsets in place and an opportunity to build character and improve overall confidence.

At Slindon we have no academic entry requirements and aim to achieve the highest results for all of our young people. Our links with local universities and further education colleges allow our pupils to make the transition out of Slindon a far more positive experience. At Slindon we expect our Sixth Form to experience work placements, to try out potential careers and to accept the guidance we offer in directing them toward an agreed outcome. Parent/College communication links are vital in a unified plan for each pupil's future. We recognise the need to prepare pupils for their next steps after school. Most subjects can be studied at a suitable level, ranging from Level 1 (Entry level) to Level 3 (A-Level).

*"I love boarding.
I have had a chance
to experience new
activities along
with meeting
new friends and
growing up in a
fantastic place."*

Boarder

A LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY





Primary

The Primary day is planned to suit the needs of each pupil. Lessons are broken down into smaller units of work, using multisensory stimuli to improve the communication of ideas. Whole class teaching takes place around a group table while individual work is carried out at work stations to encourage focus and minimise distraction. Using timers, task sheets, personal timetables, tray and box systems pupils can track their own work and progress.

The transformation we see in our primary children who have faced challenges in mainstream class settings and have been at risk of school refusing is outstanding. Our boys quickly settle into the highly structured, highly supported Primary Department where they leave happy and eager to come back the next day.

Most subjects are taught by class teachers in the Primary Department. Art, DT, Music, Cookery and Drama are currently taught by specialist staff in our Secondary School, enabling the pupils to get a taste of life in the wider College.



Boarding

Our warm and welcoming boarding team offer the comfort and stability of family life whilst developing independent living skills and a thirst for new experiences. An outstanding pastoral support system enables every pupil to be listened to in a calm and caring environment. As well as full-time and weekly boarding, we offer flexi-boarding which can be adapted to the individual pupil's or family's needs. This includes occasional or one-off 'stay-overs' in the familiar and secure surroundings of the College. This provides respite for families and refuge for pupils from sometimes stressful social situations outside school.

Dormitories and study bedrooms are light, airy, comfortable and well-furnished in a modern and practical style. Pupils in years 7-9 live in dormitories that sleep 2-6 boys. We aim to accommodate all our boarders in congenial, compatible company. Year 10 pupils and above have private study bedrooms, offering a greater degree of privacy for independent study, free from distraction. Accommodation includes three recreational rooms to enhance the boarding experience and provide a real home from home.

The Family Room is used by the boarders to relax, socialise, watch TV and just generally socialise. It is also for the weekly Boarding House meetings where staff and boarders can discuss any relevant issues. The Snug is a smaller, cosier space, furnished with sofas, TV and a kitchenette. The Pool Room speaks for itself and is very popular with all our boarders. WiFi, suitably protected, is available throughout the Boarding House. In the evenings and at weekends, the pupils are free to participate in a variety of recreational activities.

We offer trips and excursions to local places of interest such as Chichester Festival Theatre, Flip Out Trampoline Centre, Slindon Village and walks in the South Downs National Park. All trips and activities are supervised by the boarding team, supported by members of the academic staff. All meals are cooked and served by our own in-house catering team. The boarding team sit and eat with the pupils at meal times, offering them an opportunity for relaxed, informal conversation. Any dietary requirements for allergies, religious or moral reasons can be easily catered for.





Admissions

We understand that finding the right school for your son is a big decision. The admissions process is a key part of this. We aim to make the experience of applying for a place at Slindon College as straightforward and gentle on the prospective pupil as possible, ensuring that you are confident with your choice and that your son is comfortable and excited about beginning his new adventure with us.

To assess the suitability of a pupil, we will request copies of reports and references from the applicant's current school, educational Psychologist reports and Educational Health Care Plans. If it is felt Slindon College would be able to meet the prospective pupil's needs an invitation for the family to visit the College for a tour and a meeting with the Headmaster will be extended. For prospective boarding pupils from overseas or long travel distances, a Skype interview with the Headmaster will be scheduled initially followed by an invitation to a boarding taster trial.

During the trial period, the prospective pupil will join other pupils in their current year group and participate in lessons and activities. They will have an assigned buddy for the trial who will look after them during their stay. Taster boarding trials are chargeable.

You are welcome to attend one of our Open Mornings which are held twice a year and consist of a tour of the school and grounds, meeting the Headmaster and speaking to staff and members of our Parents' Association. The dates of these open mornings are published on our website.



Enrichment and House Activities

The College provides a curriculum that promotes personal development and a breadth of experience that encourages success and life-long engagement with learning. Our enrichment programme offers opportunities for self-exploration and a safe environment for calculated risk-taking. These activities enhance physical and emotional wellbeing, stamina, coordination, team building, initiative, creativity, self-expression, focus and curiosity are among many facets of the pupils' development to be improved or sparked by this programme. We cater for outdoor enthusiasts with mountain biking, orienteering, Greenpower electric car racing (national competition), Forest School, our school farm and horticulture.

Our range of sporting facilities includes sports halls, a swimming pool, multi-use games area and playing fields where pupils can enjoy rugby, football, cricket and softball among other activities. For the creatives, we offer a Trinity Arts programme, textile studies, graphics, photography, creative writing, drama and cookery. We have access to key links in the South Downs National Park and Chichester Festival Theatre.



The House system is central to the spirit of the school; it brings the boys together with a sense of belonging, competitiveness and creates opportunities for everyone to take part in the activities. There are many House competitions including drama, music, maths, athletics, basketball, badminton, giving all pupils an opportunity to represent their Houses. Each House raises money for a charity chosen by the boys. The Regular House assemblies encourage greater participation within the local community, while inviting external speakers to share their wealth of diverse experience enhances the pupils' understanding of the wider world.





Pastoral

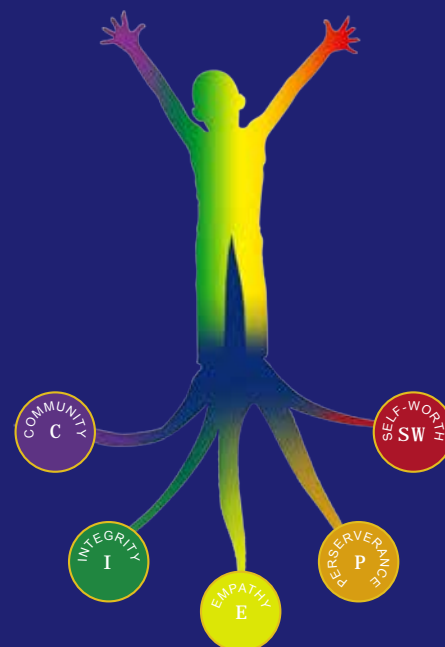
It is very important to us that our pupils enjoy their educational experience and that they eagerly engage with learning and school life. Pupils are encouraged to develop self-confidence and self-esteem, to be determined and motivated in both academic and personal development. The staff are dedicated to keeping the pupils healthy, happy and safe, encouraging each to feel that they are a valued member of society. We encourage pupils to accept, tolerate and celebrate diversity and differences in each other, in themselves and the wider community, showing care, concern and respect for themselves, for others and their environment.

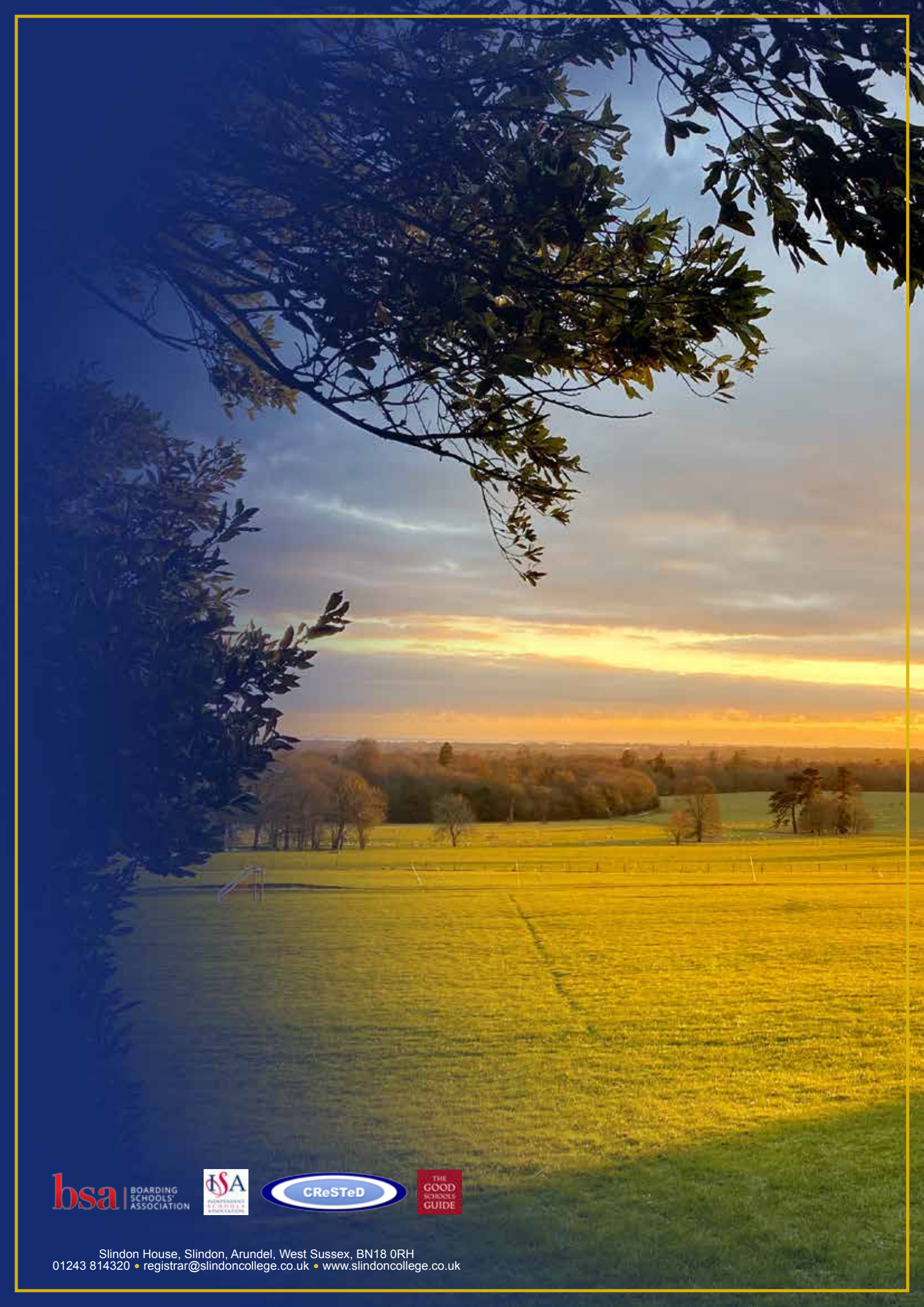
The introduction of our 'Time to Talk' team, the first point of call for any mental health issues, has been a great success and allowed every child access to a team member to share their thoughts and concerns.

The House system reflects our strong emphasis on community and traditional values. Slindon promotes honesty, respect for others and diligence, and we aim to instil these values in our pupils through the efforts of our House teams, PSHE curriculum and reciprocal links with the local community. Our House system builds on these ideas and through vertical grouping which creates opportunities for peer mentoring and modelling of these traditional values.

At Slindon College our goal is to cultivate happy, confident, capable, motivated young men who respect others as much as themselves and the world around them, who are resilient and fully prepared to meet the challenges on the next steps on their journey.

Slindon College uses these five core qualities to help grow each pupil.





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SCHOOLS'
ASSOCIATION



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