

ISA Awards 2023

Case Study:

Junior School of the Year

FINBOROUGH SCHOOL

JUNE 2024



INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS
ASSOCIATION



History of the School

Nestled in 40 acres of idyllic Suffolk countryside, just a stone's throw from the A14, lies Finborough School. The school boasts a rich history spanning over two decades. It is currently family-owned and led by Mr Steven Clark, Headmaster. Finborough prioritises the holistic development of its students, aiming to nurture well-rounded individuals prepared for life beyond academics—their philosophy centres on five key pillars.

First and foremost, Finborough believes in providing the best possible learning environment. This commitment extends far beyond the realm of academics. The school has invested heavily in its infrastructure, creating a stimulating atmosphere that fosters intellectual curiosity and exploration. The Prep School itself resides within the walls of the historic Finborough Hall, a Grade II listed stucco-faced Tuscan-style country house originally built in 1795. Steeped in history, the building offers a unique and inspiring backdrop for learning. Additionally, a brand new Pre-Prep building caters to the youngest pupils, providing them with age-appropriate facilities to support their development.

Beyond the beautiful surroundings, Finborough emphasises a culture built on the "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" and their own unique "Learnability" framework. This common language allows teachers to empower their students, fostering confidence, self-esteem, and a strong sense of identity. The school's motto, "strive for the highest," is a constant reminder to put forth one's best effort, while "Learnability" ignites a passion for lifelong learning and a desire for continual improvement.

At Finborough, every child is known and valued as an individual. Teachers, carefully recruited and continuously supported in their professional development, create a nurturing environment that celebrates each student's strengths and encourages them to reach their full potential. With a focus on high expectations coupled with unwavering support, the school empowers its students to become not only academically successful but also well-adjusted and responsible young individuals. From the historic charm of Finborough Hall to the modern amenities of the new Pre-Prep building, Finborough's Prep School offers a unique blend of tradition and innovation, ensuring a stimulating and enriching learning experience for every child.



Mr Steven T. Clark
Headmaster

<https://www.finboroughschool.co.uk>



Aims

- Develop responsible global citizens through PSHE, Wellbeing, and International Studies.
- Promote a proactive and solutions-focused approach based on Covey's Seven Habits.
- Nurture a "better never stops" mindset for continuous improvement.
- Help students reach their full potential through "Learnability" – a unique model for tracking learning behaviours.
- Embed a positive character-centred approach to behaviour management.
- Foster deep, creative thinking with a focus on solutions.
- Create a fully immersive learning experience within and beyond the classroom.
- Celebrate diversity and encourage teamwork.
- Offer flexible intervention programs to support individual learning needs.
- Foster a collaborative and positive learning environment.
- Prepare students for future academic success and beyond.
- Champion the needs of all students, regardless of ability.
- Build strong relationships with families for student success.
- Cultivate a love of learning and a desire for continuous improvement.
- Empower students to use their voices and create positive change.



ACTIONS

Finborough Prep School translates its aims into action through a variety of initiatives. To cultivate responsible global citizens, they utilise a PSHE, Wellbeing, and International Studies program, encouraging students to grapple with real-world issues and develop a comprehensive understanding of the world. Furthermore, the school culture is built on the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, fostering proactiveness and a solutions-focused mindset.

Individual growth and inspiration are nurtured through "Learnability," a unique model that tracks learning behaviours to ensure academic success. Additionally, a positive character-centred approach to behaviour management empowers students to take ownership of their actions and contribute meaningfully to the school community. Finally, the curriculum is designed to encourage deep, creative thinking by focusing on solutions rather than punishment.

Diversity and individual development are celebrated through an immersive learning experience that extends beyond the classroom walls. The curriculum itself is research-led and fosters teamwork by establishing cross-curricular links. Flexible intervention programs address individual needs, while strong teacher-student-parent relationships create a collaborative learning environment.



Preparing students for the future goes beyond academics. Finborough embraces inclusivity with a non-selective admissions process and dedicated LEAD provision to support students of all abilities. Strong family relationships are fostered through regular communication, and student-led projects inspire independent learning beyond the classroom. Ultimately, the school creates a positive and encouraging environment that instils a love of learning, a "better never stops" mindset, and empowers students to use their voices to create positive change.

OUTCOMES

- Students have developed a strong understanding of the world and their role as global citizens.
- A proactive and solutions-focused approach has been fostered within the school community.
- Students are exhibiting the "better never stops" mindset for continuous improvement.
- Students have reached their full potential through the "Learnability" model, achieving excellent academic progress.
- The positive and supportive school environment has encouraged student ownership and positive contributions.
- Students have developed deep, creative thinking skills with a focus on solutions.
- Students experience a fully immersive and engaging learning environment.
- A culture of diversity and teamwork has been fostered within the student body.
- All students, regardless of ability, are supported and make excellent progress.
- A collaborative learning environment has promoted a love of learning and a positive attitude.
- Students are well-prepared for the next stage of their education and beyond.
- The needs of all students are championed, fostering inclusivity.
- Strong family relationships have contributed to student success.
- Students are developing a lifelong love of learning and a desire for continuous improvement.
- Students are empowered to use their voices to make a positive impact.



NEXT STEPS

- To continue to embed and track student welfare through Finborough's Learnability Program.
- To continue to foster positive relationships across the school community.

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