



Homewood School & Sixth Form Centre

LEARNING • RESPECT • BELONGING



# Discovery College Guide 2019-2020

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Please visit our website: [www.homewood-school.co.uk](http://www.homewood-school.co.uk)

For further information contact us on: [info@homewood.kent.sch.uk](mailto:info@homewood.kent.sch.uk)

Follow us on twitter: [@Homewood\\_School](https://twitter.com/Homewood_School)



# Welcome to Homewood

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre “Learning, Respect, Belonging”.

It is a real pleasure for me to welcome you and your child to Homewood School & Sixth Form Centre. This is the start of a new and exciting stage for you as a family and I hope you are all looking forward to being an important part of the Homewood community. Learning new skills and exploring new areas of knowledge should be an engaging and exciting experience and we know our students will find plenty of opportunities here to discover that for themselves.

For all our new students the next few years will be a time for developing independence and self-reliance. It will be a time when individual strengths are developed and new skills discovered. A time when lifelong friendships are made and ambitions realised. There is so much to look forward to.

We recognise that changing schools is a big step and it would not be surprising if your child and indeed yourselves, experience some anxiety about the transition to Homewood. We fully recognise this at Homewood and know that students achieve their best when they are happy and engaged fully with their learning. We are committed to making the step up to Homewood from primary school as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

All students in Year 7 and Year 8 belong to our Key Stage 3 “DISCOVERY COLLEGE”. The Discovery College Team provides outstanding support to help students with any difficulties they may face, ensuring the change in schools is seamless and providing you with a professional point of contact.

Homewood is a happy place to learn. Mutual respect is at the heart of the ethos of the school and this is reflected in the relationship between staff and students. Homewood is a school where every student is valued whatever their age or ability, they will be offered pathways to success which will allow them to achieve their full potential.

Homewood has a wonderfully diverse curriculum. We are committed to a creative approach to learning with clear links to the “real world” in which we live, so preparing our students for further education, the workplace and their futures.



We have high aspirations for everyone and will be working closely with you as parents throughout your child’s time at the school. We look to you to provide your full support of the ethos of the school, helping us to maintain high standards of behaviour, uniform, attitude and readiness for learning. Simply, working closely together we can provide the best possible education for your child.

It is my pleasure to welcome you and your child to our community at Homewood.

Mrs Sally Lees MA (Oxon) NPQH  
Principal

# The Discovery College

Dear Parents/Carers

It is a great honour and privilege to welcome our new families into Discovery College, where your sons and daughters will be based for their first two years at Homewood School. Our aim in Discovery College is a very simple one, to ensure that all our students have the very best opportunity to excel and realise their potential in a rigorous but very supportive learning environment.

Over a number of years the curriculum that we offer at Homewood School has been nationally recognised for its breadth of opportunity and innovation, Discovery College is central to this. In collaboration with the Innovation Unit, the Discovery College is a design for learning that connects deep subject content with real world problem solving. This framework enables all students to create extraordinary work that matters in and beyond the classroom.

The focus on extraordinary work, whilst prepares students for GCSE study creates the habits of work and learning equipping them to succeed in further education and the world beyond. Our approach to learning is indeed innovative; however the day to day classroom experience is that of gaps, growth and grit. Firstly, gaps in knowledge and skills are identified, providing opportunities for students to grow and develop to address these gaps and importantly grant them with the grit and determination to overcome obstacles and succeed.

Ensuring the wellbeing of your son or daughter is of paramount importance to all of us at Homewood School, and our dedicated team of Discovery tutors working alongside highly skilled non-teaching professionals will seek to ensure that every single student is part of a community that supports and values every single student. Consequently, this will allow us to focus on making sure that all students are fully equipped to meet the challenges of 21st Century learning working in conjunction with all our families throughout the two years in Discovery College.

Finally on behalf of all our staff I look forward to sharing with you the successes of all our students, initially in the first two years of secondary school but also well beyond that.



Mr Adam Lawson  
Head of Discovery College

# The Discovery Team



Assistant Head of College  
Melanie Croucher



Early Intervention Officer  
Samantha Earll



Principal Teacher Discovery  
Matthew Nisbet



Senior Family Liaison Officer  
Scarlett Faulkner



Family Liaison Officer  
Melanie Spackman



Family Liaison Officer &  
Attendance  
Susan Taberer



Admissions Officer  
Lynn Castle



Senior Administrative Support  
Steph Sivyer



Coordinator of  
Strategic Engagement  
Heather Hayes

# The Discovery Curriculum

The Discovery College curriculum is based on the National Curriculum and includes the following:

Maths	4 lessons per week
English	4 lessons per week
Science	4 lessons per week
Humanities	5 lessons per week (History, Geography and ERS).
MFL	3 lessons per week
PE	2 lessons per week
Art/DT	2 lessons per week
Drama	1 lesson per week
Music	1 lesson per week
Dance	1 lesson per week
ICT	1 lesson per week

*Note: The Grammar Plus Stream may follow a slightly amended timetable*

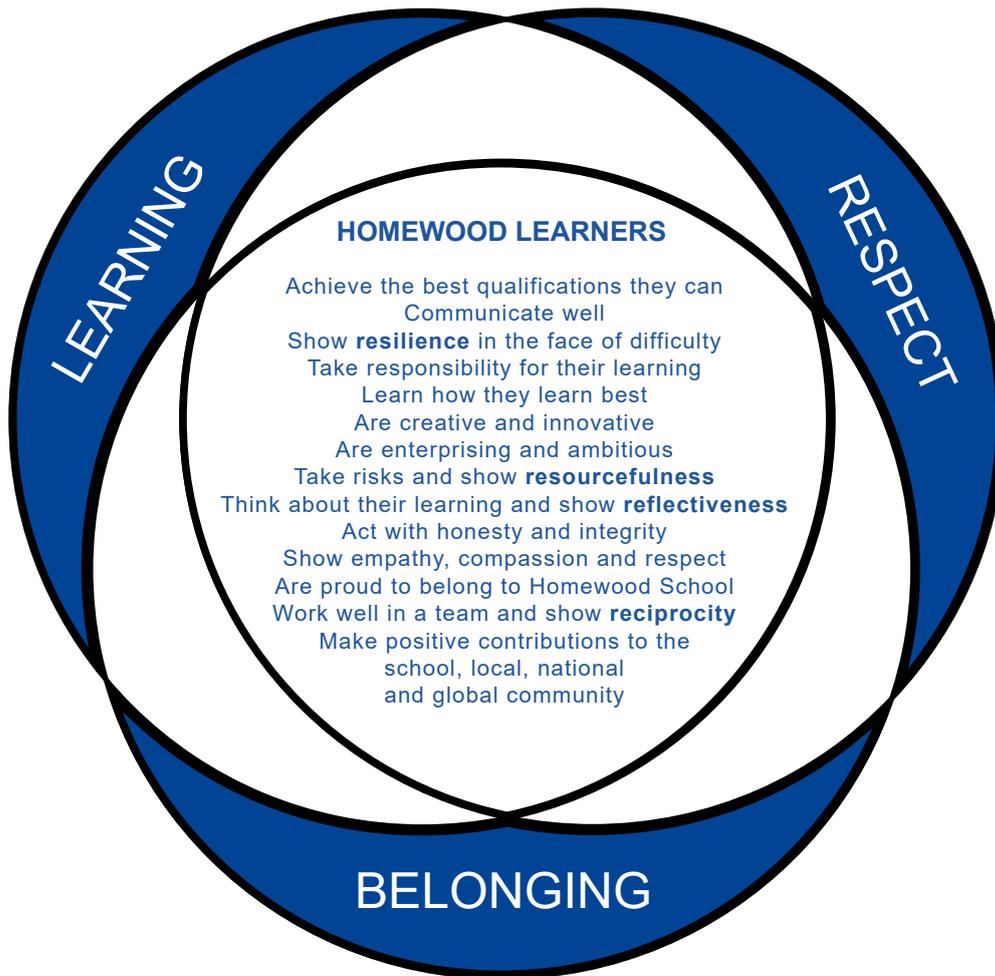
Individual subject lessons will follow national curriculum guidelines and ensure that students have highly developed subject skills and knowledge allowing them to make excellent progress against subject assessment grades and criteria.

Students will be taught a mix of subject based lessons and a series of projects where they will apply their skills and knowledge in a problem solving environment based on real world contexts. The project element of the curriculum will be planned by subject specialists and built on the natural links between subjects, for example Maths and Science. Students will be encouraged to work in teams in collaboration and to dig deeper, based on enquiry questions, multiple drafting of answers to develop an excellent final outcome and in time display to a real audience.

All Discovery College lessons will be underpinned by state of the art ICT provision and an emphasis on the development of numeracy and literacy in all lessons equipping students well for their GCSE options and further study beyond.



# The Homewood Learner Profile



Our aim is to support students in their learning and personal development so that they are better placed to make a strong meaningful contribution to the society and community that we live in. The Homewood Learner Profile embodies the skills and attributes that we feel will ensure that each and every student is able to meet this aim.



# The School's Governing Body

The Governing Body of Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre

The Governing Body of Homewood School works in conjunction with the Directors of the Tenterden Schools Trust.

## **Parent Governor (4 year Term)**

Mr Timothy Barton	September 2019
Mr Jonathan Capstick - Vice Chair	December 2021
Mrs Louise Jennings	December 2021
Ms Katie Smith	September 2019

## **Teacher Governor (4 Year Term)**

Ms Shabana Raman	October 2021
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## **Staff Governor (4 Year Term)**

Mrs J Ross-Smith	September 2019
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## **Partnership Governor (4 Year Term)**

Mrs S Mash	October 2019
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## **Community Governors (4 Year Term)**

Mrs G Guthrie – Chair	September 2019
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## **Clerk**

Mrs K Douglas

## **Principal**

Mrs S Lees



# School Uniform and Equipment

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

### GIRLS

School black blazer  
School jumper or cardigan  
School polo shirt  
Black tailored skirt (to just above the knee) or  
Black tailored trousers  
Black socks, black tights or flesh coloured tights  
Black leather shoes

### P.E. KIT

School black netball skirt or  
Black school shorts  
School PE polo shirt  
Short black or white socks  
Plimsolls/trainers  
School tracksuit bottoms (optional)

### COATS

Plain black or navy blue

### BOYS

School black blazer  
School jumper  
School polo shirt  
Black tailored trousers  
Black socks  
Black leather shoes

### P.E. KIT

School black shorts  
School PE polo shirt  
Long black socks  
Short white socks  
Plimsolls/trainers  
Football boots  
School track suit bottoms (optional)

### COATS

Plain black or navy blue

## ALL ITEMS MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH STUDENT'S NAME

IF IN DOUBT ..... DON'T!

The following is a list of clothing NOT allowed at Homewood School. Form tutors and Discovery College staff are happy to provide assistance and guidance where appropriate.

### Skirts

Short skirts, tubular skirts, denim or lycra

### Trousers

Jeans, skinny fit trousers,  $\frac{3}{4}$  length trousers, combats

### Tights

Patterned, leggings or footless tights

### Footwear

Opened toed, sling backs, plimsolls, canvas, trainers, visible boots or Ugg style boots

### Coats

Logos, hooded tops, sweatshirts, leather, fur accessories

## UNIFORM SHOP

Is situated on the ground floor of the Kirk Building

### Opening times:

Term time: 8.30am – 4.30pm Tuesday and Thursday (12.00pm - 1.00pm closed for lunch)

Also open during Induction Week (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> July) during the summer holidays (late July and August) Summer

opening: By appointment only. Please call 01580 764222 ext. 207 or email

[uniformshop@homewood.kent.sch.uk](mailto:uniformshop@homewood.kent.sch.uk) Appointments can be booked on our website.

# Equipment

All Homewood students are encouraged to be ready for their learning at the start of each day. This is especially important for our Year 7's in Discovery College.

Parents have an important role to play by ensuring that preparations are made the evening before by keeping a copy of the timetable handy placed at home (fridge doors are a favourite!)

Checks for students to make – What does the day look like? - Do they have PE, Performing Arts or Cookery? Are they taking lunch? Are there after school activities?

**BE PREPARED** – get organised in good time. No last minute rushes with buses to catch! Before your child leaves for Homewood, please check uniform and equipment.

Discovery College students should possess a suitable school bag (large enough to accommodate the Chromebook). Separate bags may be required for PE kit etc.

Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Generously sized pencil case</li><li>• Blue or black rollerball pens/biros</li><li>• HB pencils</li><li>• Pencil sharpener</li><li>• Rubber</li><li>• 30cm ruler (folding ones often better)</li><li>• Compass</li><li>• 360-degree protractor</li><li>• Set square</li><li>• Scientific calculator</li><li>• Plastic/cardboard folder to store work</li><li>• Reading book</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Set of colouring pencils</li><li>• Glue stick</li><li>• Scissors</li></ul>



# Extra Curricular Activities

The school provides a wide range of extra-curricular activities that operate at lunchtime and after school. Further information can be found on the website.

Below is an example of clubs and activities offered:

Badminton	Golf	Reading Club
Basketball	Graphic Design	Rugby
Gymnastics	Tennis Club	Breakfast Club
Cheerleading Club	Help with Homework	Textiles
Choir	Homewood Band	World Challenge
Computer Club	Italian	Young Farmers
Cricket	Jazz Club	
D of E Award	Drama Club	
Football	Girls' Football	

## SPORTING AIMS AND PROVISION FOR SPORT

The school has a long tradition of sporting involvement and success. We give all students equal opportunity to participate and experience working in both co-operative and competitive situations. Through enjoyable learning we aim to allow students to:

- Develop self-confidence and self-discipline
- Work with initiative
- Make informed decisions
- Work and develop within clear safety guidelines
- Evolve a philosophy of Physical Education

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- Develop self-confidence and self-discipline
- Work with initiative
- Make informed decisions
- Work and develop within clear safety guidelines
- Evolve a philosophy of Physical Education

## Indoor Facilities

2 dance studios – with a fully sprung beech floor, sound and lighting system  
Sports hall – six court badminton size- fully equipped including indoor cricket nets.

Gymnasium – fully equipped.

## Outdoor Facilities

3 Jumping Pits	Tennis Courts (summer only)
3 Netball Courts	2 Football Pitches
2 Basketball Courts	3G Pitch
Country Running Course	Bike Trail

# Learning Support in Discovery College

We are an Inclusive School and we aim to provide a learning environment in which all students are able to achieve their potential. All students are individuals who learn in different ways.

Our skilled Staff can adapt teaching methods to meet different needs. We aim to meet KCC Mainstream Core Standards in every classroom as well as providing additional provision via the Learning Support Team.

The Learning Support Team currently comprises of a number of Learning Support Assistants (LSAs); subject specific Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs) and our Key Skills Team (specific Teachers, HLTAs and LSAs).

Students also have support from HLTAs and LSAs who specialise in specific areas of additional need such as literacy or communication and interaction or social, emotional and mental health difficulties.

## **IN-CLASS SUPPORT**

Our aim is to minimise the time students spend out of lessons. This has been achieved by looking at where targeted support can be built into the classroom environment to offer additional provision for students.

Learning Support Assistants are assigned to specific groups. They are allocated based on need and work in tandem with the class teacher to support the students. The LSAs may provide support in accessing learning, communication or social interaction.

Our Higher Level Teaching Assistants for core subjects (English, Maths and Science) work alongside colleagues in these departments to encourage students that are not achieving their potential. This will enable small group work to take place with students learning at their own pace.

## **OTHER INTERVENTIONS**

It is sometimes necessary for students to take part in specific programmes of intervention. These vary depending on the needs of the students. Some of the interventions include: Social Skills groups; Drawing and Talking Therapy; Lego Therapy; Talk Fitness Programme; Phonics tuition; Dyslexia support; Numeracy and Literacy booster sessions; personalised one to one study or emotional support; English as an Additional Language (EAL) Tuition; Jump Ahead and Sensory Circuits groups.

## **REVIEWING PROGRESS OF INTERVENTIONS**

All students are part of a whole school provision and any additional support they receive is carefully monitored to ensure it has an impact and that they make significant progress whilst at Homewood.



# Medical Care in School

## **SCHOOL SICK BAY**

Homewood operates a medical facility within school with a full time qualified nurse. If students are feeling unwell in a lesson, they should inform the teacher who will issue them with a pass, enabling them to leave the room and go directly to sick bay.

If students feel unwell during the morning break or at lunch time, they should go directly to sick bay.

The nurse will make a full assessment of the condition, administer medication as necessary and decide on further action which may include contacting parents/carers to collect their child where appropriate. Students are not encouraged to use their phones to contact parents and ask to be collected if no visit to the nurse has been made or the decision has been made for the student to stay in school.

Having a duty of care for our students, the school cannot give them permission to leave the site without prior agreement.

## **STUDENTS USING CRUTCHES**

If a student is having to make use of crutches and is seeking to return to school, parents/carers are asked to contact the nurse directly (ext.297), at least 24 hours before any planned return.

Non-weight bearing students may be allocated a space in the Student Support Centre. This is a calm, supervised environment, away from the mainstream, where work will be supplied. If they are weight bearing, they will be assessed by the nurse to ascertain whether they are safe to use the stairs and to consider any other individual needs.

## **MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

Details of medical conditions affecting students are logged before your child starts at Homewood and the nurse is available to discuss these and ensure that measures can be put in place and accurate records maintained.

Please inform the nurse of any changes in medical conditions, new illnesses or hospital admissions. Do not hesitate to contact the nurse should you have any concerns.

## **CHANGE OF DETAILS**

If any of your child's personal details change or different contact numbers become available, please contact Student Reception on ext. 296, who will ensure that their computerised school record is update. This information can also be updated using the SIMS Parents App.

# How to Contact Us

We fully understand the importance of having positive lines of communication and there may well be times when you feel it necessary to get in touch with the Discovery College to discuss academic matters or an issue of concern you may have. With this in mind we would like to illustrate the best ways of communicating about your child.

In the first instance the person to contact regarding any general issues should be your child's form tutor. They meet with their form group on four mornings per week and have an overview of learning, progress and student welfare. Our form tutors will be able to deal with all initial enquiries and either give you all the answers you will require or will pass the enquiry to the relevant person.

If you have a subject specific query please contact the class teacher directly or the key stage three co ordinator for the subject. They will be in possession of all progress information and will be in a position to answer any questions you have linked to each subject that your son or daughter is studying.

In addition to this we have a superb pastoral team who will be able to support you with more detailed pastoral and welfare issues. Miss Faulkner (Senior Family Liaison Officer), Mrs Spackman and Mrs Taberer (Family Liaison Officers) are contactable if there is a serious issue that has arisen and are there to support the student as well as the parents to ensure that your child is happy and doing well at Homewood School.

If you have any other enquiries of a daily nature or have been unable to get in touch with the person you wish to speak to then please contact the Discovery College coordinator Steph Sivyer on 01580 764222 ext. 242. We can also be contacted through our general school e-mail, [info@homewood.kent.sch.uk](mailto:info@homewood.kent.sch.uk).

While the Head of College is always willing to discuss any issues he may not be the best person to contact as he may not have all the information you need.

Finally, our school website is an excellent source of information and can be found at [www.homewood-school.co.uk](http://www.homewood-school.co.uk) or follow us on twitter [@Homewood\\_School](https://twitter.com/Homewood_School)

