



Shiplake College
— Henley-on-Thames —

Welcome

Whilst Shiplake College has evolved and moved forward since its founding in 1959, many principles remain the same. We aim to admit a well-balanced range of pupils with a variety of skills and talents, be they in the classroom, on the sports field, in the theatre or the Chapel. We look for young men and women who will take the opportunities that they are given and grasp them with both hands. We challenge the pupils in our care to help them move to bigger and better things.

We ensure that every pupil is challenged and supported according to their need and ability. We provide an education that is tailored to the needs of the individual. We do this through inspirational multi-sensory teaching, delivered in small classes where our teachers can know and understand each pupil's method of learning.

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At Shiplake...

... a rich and inspiring-ly-taught curriculum creates an environment where personal values and a strong work ethic can develop. To enable pupils to fully benefit from our curriculum we underpin it with the finest pastoral care. In addition, participation in a sports team, musical ensemble, drama production or community service is as vital for personal development as classroom-based teaching.

In class, on the stage, on the river, on the rugby pitch and in the concert hall our boys and girls have to step forward and give of their best. There are many opportunities and Shiplake is a school for pupils who wish to make the most of them.

Our reputation has been built on young men and women who go out into the world and earn respect for their ability to adapt, to succeed and to lead. This reputation has been earned whilst admitting pupils with a broad range of academic abilities. Shiplake's secret is to prepare pupils, regardless of their individual talents or abilities, to take their place in the world beyond the school walls.

Gregg Davies, Headmaster

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Academic

At Shiplake, the academic curriculum is delivered through small classes and individual attention in a supportive, stimulating environment. Pupils have the time to understand and explore their subjects thoroughly and the opportunity to ask questions and discuss interesting issues. Our teaching is delivered through a mixture of conventional teaching and inspirational multi-sensory methods to provide for a range of learning styles.

Classroom teaching is enhanced through educational visits, demonstrations, theatre trips, lectures and practical work.

We believe that in our rapidly changing world pupils need relevant qualifications and a wide range of transferable skills and personal attributes.

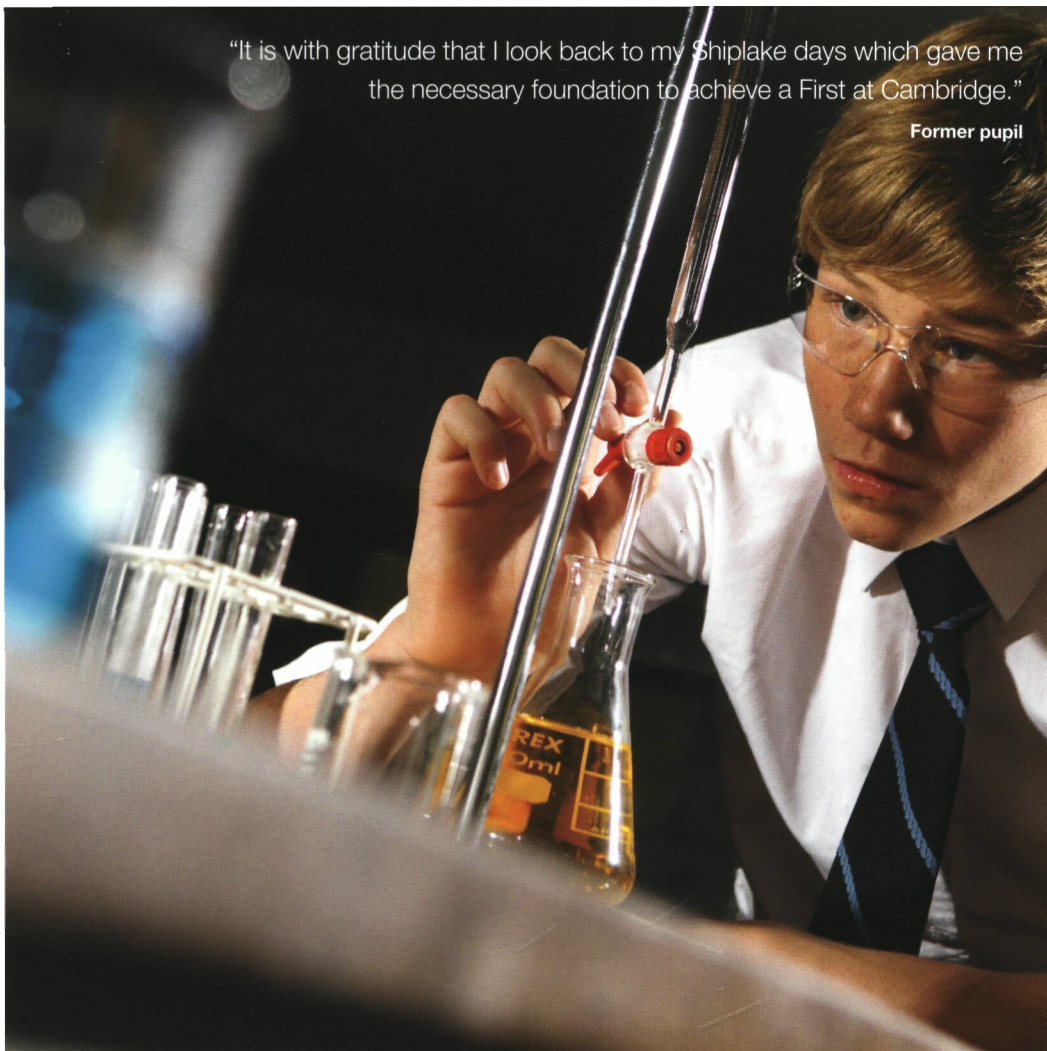
Boys normally take nine subjects at GCSE as we believe that this represents a more than adequate number. We prefer our pupils to do well with nine GCSEs and avail themselves of all the other aspects that Shiplake has to offer. English, English Literature, Mathematics and Science are compulsory subjects for GCSE. Beyond this boys select from a range of sciences, humanities, languages, and creative and practical subjects.

At A-Level pupils normally take four subjects at AS-level and three or four at A-level.

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"It is with gratitude that I look back to my Shiplake days which gave me the necessary foundation to achieve a First at Cambridge."

Former pupil





"The challenges that I've experienced have prepared me to face the future."

Current pupil

Extra-curricular

We firmly believe that a successful education is about more than just exam results. Whilst academic success is undoubtedly important, sporting, social and cultural achievement is equally vital to a pupil's long-term development.

The development of self-reliance, self-confidence, independence and leadership skills is paramount in preparing for the future.

We offer a wide range of enrichment activities for pupils including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, the Combined Cadet Force, the Shiplake Mad Dogs Theatre Company and the Expedition Society. In addition we offer a number of clubs catering for a wide variety of interests and skills. Our extra-curricular programme enables our boys and girls to extend their horizons and experience new challenges and responsibilities.

Each term pupils are expected to participate in one of the following options in addition to their major games commitment - art club, badminton, basketball, cricket, fitness, football, geography club, kayaking, history club, hockey, martial arts, music club, rifle shooting, rowing, softball, squash, swimming, table tennis, and technology club.

We expect every pupil to take a full and active part in the extra-curricular programme to ensure that they gain the wide range of experience and skills that they will need in their future careers.

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Pastoral care

We firmly believe that a holistic approach to education is best. To support our pupils with their academic, sporting and extra-curricular endeavours we offer a pastoral care system that is second to none. Knowing our pupils well enables us to ensure that they get the best from their education here.

Every pupil becomes a member of one of the houses and their progress will be monitored by the Housemaster, Housemistress or Houseparents. We know that every pupil is different and we aim to tailor the support and guidance they receive to suit their individual needs.

The Chaplain is always on hand to support and advise pupils and their families and our weekly pastoral care meetings provide an opportunity for staff to be made aware of any pupils who may need extra guidance and support. In addition the student-led Peer Support Group provides a listening and advice service run by specially-trained Sixth Form volunteers.

All pupils have access to the fully-staffed Medical Centre for First Aid or general healthcare and the College doctor runs twice-weekly surgeries for boarders.

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Boys

11+ Entry

Boys joining Shiplake at 11+ become members of the Lower School. They are under the supervision of the Head of Lower School who with assistance from matron and the tutor team, oversees the boys' academic development and pastoral care throughout Years 7 and 8.

The curriculum in the Lower School has been specially created to allow maximum exploration of subjects and curriculum areas. A solid foundation is created for boys to build on when they move to the Upper School.

13+ Entry

Day and boarding boys joining the school at 13+ become a member of one of the five houses. Each house is run by a Housemaster who is supported by the house matron and a team of tutors. Boys join a tutor group and their tutor, alongside the Housemaster, will form close ties with boys and their families.

The Year 9 curriculum is designed to ensure that all boys are well-prepared to begin their GCSE courses in Year 10.

16+ Entry

Both day and boarding boys join Shiplake post-GCSE. Lower Sixth pupils become members of a house but for their final year both boarders and day pupils progress to College House, our university-style house which helps to bridge the gap between school and university. College House has individual studies, enabling pupils to concentrate on their work in preparation for university entry. Pupils are expected to take more responsibility both for themselves and their work, and within the school.

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Girls

At Shiplake all girls enjoy the new purpose-built facilities of Gilson House. The house provides superb university-style boarding accommodation and well-appointed studies for day girls. Girls are under the care and supervision of their Housemistress who is supported by Matron and a team of tutors. Gilson House is a place where girls can study, socialise and relax together.

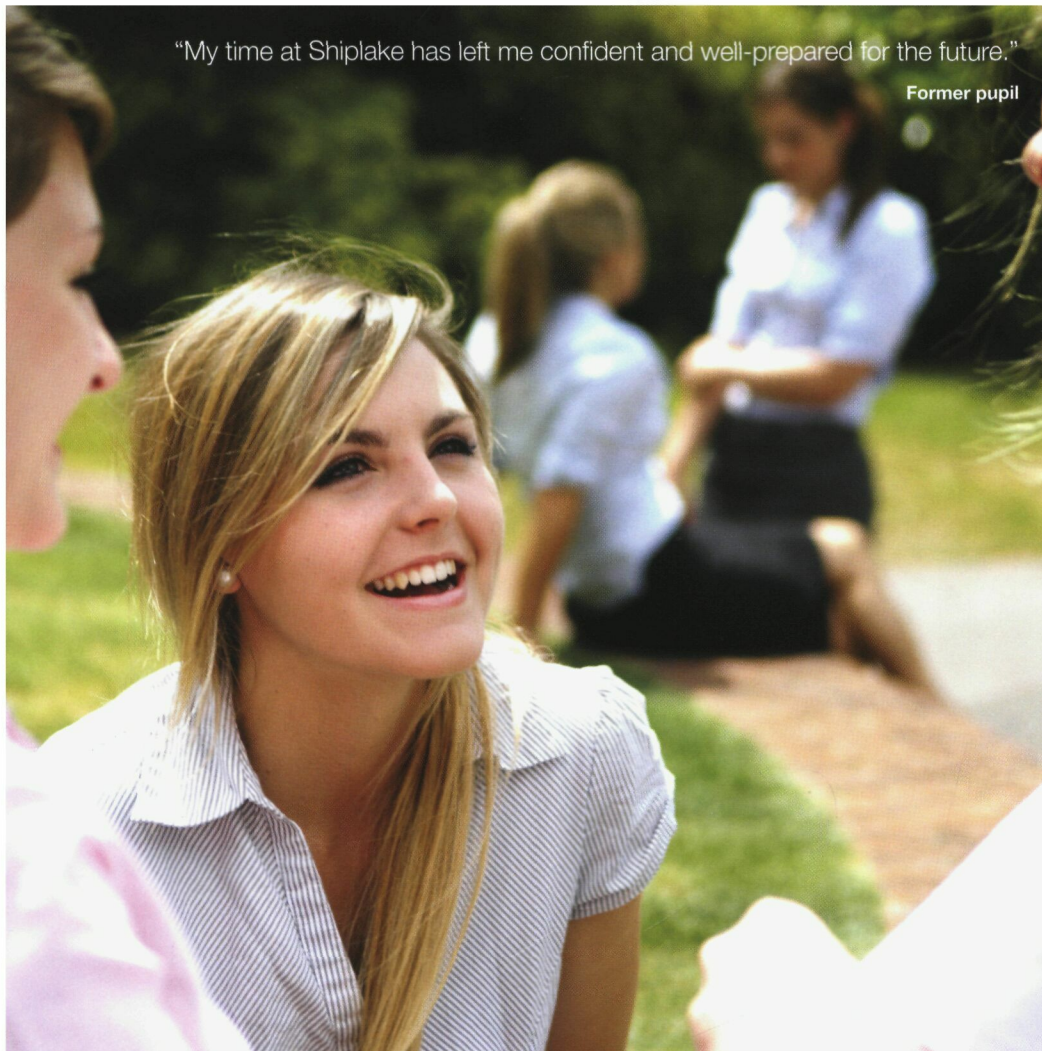
Girls join Shiplake from a wide range of schools: state, independent, single-sex, co-educational, boarding and day. We know from experience that they settle in quickly and benefit from the strong sense of community and pastoral care. Unlike in some larger schools, everyone has the chance to make their mark here in the academic, sporting, cultural and musical arenas.

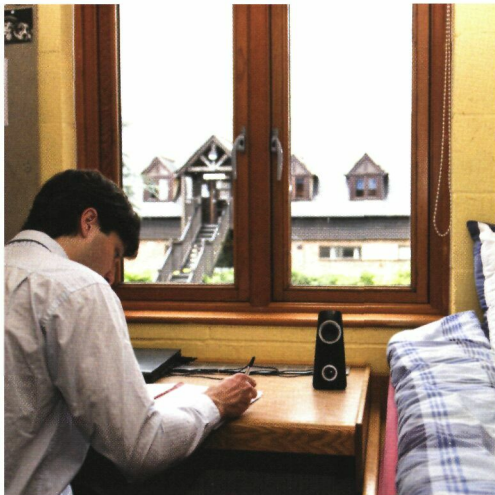
Our girls play a full part in the life of the College and are strongly encouraged to make the most of the opportunities available. Every girl becomes a member of one of the boys' houses for social purposes, duties and inter-house competitions. In the Upper Sixth they are expected to take on positions of responsibility within the school, perhaps as prefects or Lower School mentors. All girls participate in the co-educational extra-curricular programme and enjoy a fully co-ordinated girls' games programme including polo, yoga, pilates and self-defence.

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"My time at Shiplake has left me confident and well-prepared for the future."

Former pupil





Boarding

Boarding is an important part of life at Shiplake, enabling our pupils to benefit from all the extra-curricular opportunities that we offer and also saving many hours each week of travelling time. Pupils can board at Shiplake from Year 9 onwards and with around half of the college community boarding it is an integral part of school life.

In Year 9 new boarders join Burr, Everett or Welsh where they remain until the end of Year 12. Upper Sixth boarders live in College House whilst all Sixth Form girls reside in Gilson House.

The houses are at the heart of College life and are run by the Housemaster, Housemistress or Houseparents with assistance from the Matron and the tutor teams. The house system underpins the pastoral care system and helps to build a solid sense of community throughout the school.

Boarders enjoy a programme of activities and outings at weekends including trips to cultural and leisure attractions, cinema visits and sporting pursuits such as golf, bowling or go-karting.

Pupils quickly come to regard their house as a home away from home and boarding enables them to learn a range of skills, including independence, self-reliance and getting on with others which will stand them in good stead later in life.

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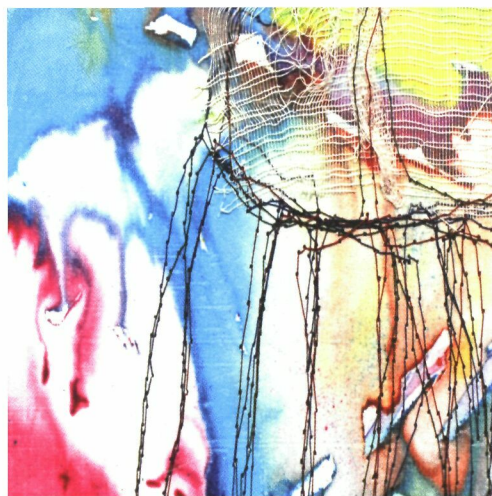
Creative Arts

ART: The dynamic art department at Shiplake continues to ensure that pupils produce outstanding work right across the school. The department regularly gains a number of A* grades at A-Level.

Pupils in the Lower School are introduced to a range of disciplines including ceramic sculpture, watercolour, oil painting and print-making. Their skills and knowledge are consolidated and enhanced as they move up through the College and many pupils choose to take Art for GCSE and A-Level. Art is also part of the activities programme.

Our visiting artist programme ensures that during the academic year our students have the opportunity to access the expertise and knowledge of a contemporary artist. Pupils' work is exhibited in and around the College, at venues in the local community and also during the Henley Fringe Festival.

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Creative Arts

MUSIC: Shiplake has a thriving musical life and a variety of instrumental and vocal groups. Music plays a strong part in the life of the College and we have a range of choirs and ensembles including the Chamber Choir, Wind Band, Jazz Ensemble, Big Band and Barbershop Group.

All pupils in the Lower School learn a musical instrument as part of the curriculum with many choosing to continue lessons as they progress through the school. Visiting teachers offer instrumental and vocal lessons to pupils throughout the College.

A regular programme of concerts and performances provides opportunities for musicians to gain experience throughout the year. Professional musicians visit the College every term to give demonstrations and masterclasses and pupils are taken on trips to concerts in the local area and in London.

Pupils are also involved in such musical festivities as the annual 'Battle of the Bands' and the House Singing Competition which are enjoyed by the entire College community.

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Creative Arts

DRAMA: The College has its own theatre company founded in 2004, 'The Mad Dogs Theatre Company,' which has gained a reputation for producing challenging performances, often in unusual spaces or outdoors. Because our theatre is small, we have to think big.

Younger members of the College have a lively programme of extra-curricular drama activities to complement the taught curriculum ranging from the annual Junior Drama Festival to involvement with the senior company's productions. Add to this a full range of visiting practitioners and theatre trips and the Drama department is constantly challenging students with the wealth of possibilities for performance.

Recent performances include *Service 14*, where actors produced food for hungry diners, *Nativity*, a community production held in the Parish Church, *The Red Shoes*, performed in Hailey Woods and Bertolt Brecht's *The Threepenny Opera*.

In the summer of 2009 the 'Mad Dogs' were commissioned by Philip Pullman (His Dark Materials) and The Story Museum in Oxford to create *Alice* for Alice's Day, a celebration throughout the City of Oxford of the life and work of Lewis Carroll. *Alice* drew from, and was inspired by, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking Glass* and *Alice's Adventures Underground*. Since the performance the Mad Dogs have returned to Oxford with *Snark* in 2010 and *Jabberwocky* in 2011.

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Sport

Our 45-acre site on the banks of the River Thames makes Shiplake the ideal location for pupils who love sport. The College has excellent sporting facilities and pupils regularly compete at county, national and international level.

Boys in the Lower School follow a specialised sporting programme designed to improve and consolidate skills in preparation for joining senior squads in Year 9. Senior boys follow a major games programme including football, rugby, cricket, rowing and tennis and there is an extensive range of minor games and activities. Coaching sessions prepare pupils for fixtures in rugby, hockey, cricket, tennis and rowing. Inter-school fixtures are also arranged in football, basketball, badminton and squash.

Inter-house competitions are held in all the major sports listed above and in a large variety of activities including athletics, cross country, indoor hockey, indoor football, swimming and tug-of-war.

Girls enjoy a wide range of games including netball, hockey, rowing and tennis in addition to participating in the minor games and activities programme.

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History

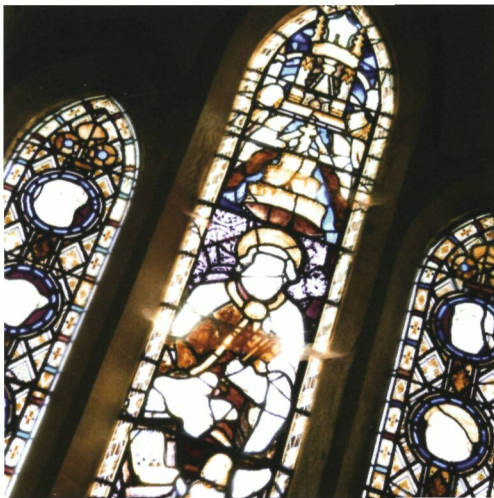
Shiplake College was founded in 1959 by Alexander Everett and his wife, Eunice. In late 1958 they purchased Shiplake Court with the intention of founding a school which duly opened as Shiplake College on May 1st 1959.

The land on which the school now stands was bought by Robert Harrison in 1888 and the original buildings date from 1890. The main house, now Skipwith House, was built as a private residence in the Tudor style for the Harrison family.

The house was sold in 1925 and was at first a private home to Lord Wargrave and then briefly home to a prep school, Ladbroke Grove, before being sold to the BBC in 1941. Initially the BBC used Shiplake Court as a storage facility until in 1943 the BBC Monitoring Service moved to Caversham and the house became a hostel for BBC staff. The BBC closed the hostel in 1953 and the house remained largely unused until the arrival of the Everetts in 1958.

The College now stands in 45 acres of land on the banks of the Thames and the site and buildings have been imaginatively adapted to the needs of the 21st century.

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—Henley-on-Thames—

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Tel: 0118 940 2455

www.shiplake.org.uk

Public Transport

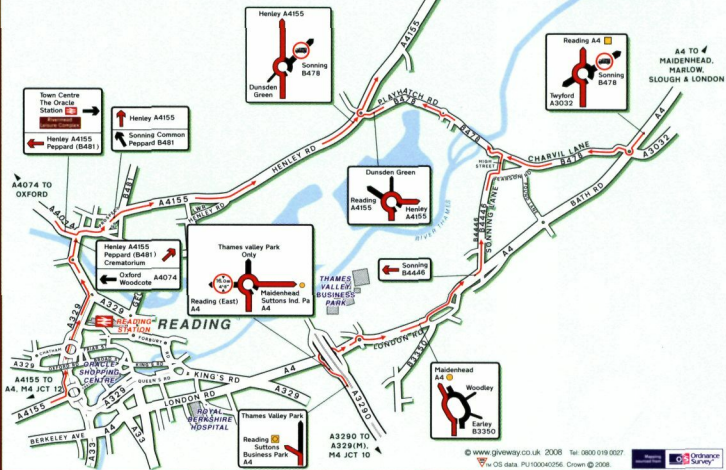
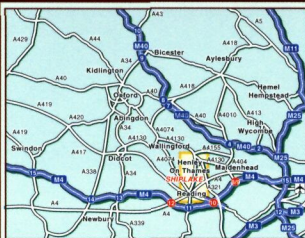


By Rail, Reading Station

For information on train operators and times
phone National Rail Enquiries on 0845 7484950



By Air, London Heathrow Airport.



Shiplake College

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Visit us

Whilst we hope the prospectus and website will give you a glimpse of life at Shiplake we invite you to come and see the College for yourself.

We offer a number of Open Mornings during the year which provide an opportunity for prospective parents and pupils to get a feeling for Shiplake. Details of Open Morning dates and online booking are available on the website at www.shiplake.org.uk/open_mornings.

For families who are close to the point of entry or who have already attended an Open Morning we are happy to arrange an individual visit to the College and an appointment with the Headmaster.



We are situated on the A1455 between Henley-on-Thames and Reading with easy access from the M40 and M4. The College is approximately one hour from London and Heathrow and Gatwick airports.

To arrange a visit to Shiplake or to discuss how a Shiplake education may benefit your son or daughter please contact the Admissions Office on 0118 940 2455.

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