



SHIPLAKE COLLEGE



HENLEY-ON-THAMES · OXFORDSHIRE



**SHIPLAKE COLLEGE
HENLEY-ON-THAMES
OXFORDSHIRE RG9 4BW**

WHY CHOOSE SHIPLAKE

- A school that believes in "added value" for each and every pupil
- Warmth and enthusiasm in a disciplined structure
- An imaginative and energetic staff
- Expanding modern facilities in buildings of character
- A young school that respects, but is not a slave to, tradition
- A strong boarding community
- Unspoilt country setting but only minutes from the motorway network
- A small school with extensive grounds
- An enormous range of activities

FROM THE HEADMASTER

A recent guide to independent schools described Shiplake as a "super confidence-building establishment". This summarises our approach. Boys are taken for what they are and we encourage them to develop their talents and gifts. Whether in the classroom or orchestra, on the stage or sports field, every opportunity is given for boys to develop their full potential because we are not satisfied with second best. The motto of the College is "Exemplum Docet" (Teach by Example) and staff and boys are encouraged to remember this.

Since its foundation in 1959 this young school has owed a great deal to the wholehearted commitment of its pupils and we expect the same involvement from all boys who join us. Parents also have played their part as the school has expanded. We offer all the facilities and challenges of the larger, traditional schools whilst retaining the friendly relationships and attention to the individual which we believe are the unique attractions of the smaller school.

After several years at Shiplake I am still impressed by its special atmosphere. Above all, it is a cheerful, happy and purposeful place with a certain style which distinguishes it from other such communities. It would be simple and easy to say that Shiplake College is friendly, but the boy who looks you straight in the eye with a ready smile and a helpful response has clearly developed the gift of friendship.

I hope you will come and experience Shiplake for yourselves. You will be made most welcome.

***N V Bevan
Headmaster***

The College is situated in beautiful countryside on the north bank of the river Thames, two and a half miles upstream from Henley-on-Thames. We have all the advantages of a country school and yet are within easy reach of London, Heathrow Airport and the M25, M4 and M3.

Buildings and facilities

Our history has been one of steady expansion. There are a number of historic buildings alongside extensive, modern facilities. The 1980s saw considerable improvement with new, purpose-built teaching areas.

■ The College is based on *Shiplake Court* and its estate buildings, including the Tithe Barn, the boathouse and the Stable Block. The Parish Church is situated next to the College grounds. The College library is housed in the main building.

■ *The Stables* were converted into the first important teaching area and are now used for Arts subjects and Modern Languages. *The Tithe Barn* is a multi-purpose hall used for dramatic and musical productions, meetings and lectures.

■ *The Goodwin Building* increased teaching space at the school by almost a third when it opened in 1990. It provides specialist accommodation for maths, information and design technology, and three superb physics labs.

■ *The Jubilee Building*, opened to celebrate the College's first 25 years, includes the College shop, the Junior Common Room Club and offices and accommodation for domestic staff.

■ Modern extensions to *Burr House* and *Welsh House* include some of the most original designs for boys' rooms to be found in any school in the country, and in 1992 the redeveloped *Everett House* was opened.

A UNIQUE RIVERSIDE LOCATION



■ *The John Eggar Sports Hall* is a quarter size bigger than those found in most schools. There are three squash courts and it is equipped for a wide range of indoor activities.

■ An attractive new Careers Centre, including a library, seminar room, offices and interview room opened in 1992.

■ The College has extensive sports fields and a new all-weather hockey/tennis playing surface. There are three boathouses on the Thames, two minutes' walk from the main school building. The Sailing Club uses facilities at Sonning.



THE SHIPLAKE COMMUNITY

Visitors to Shiplake soon recognise the special atmosphere. This is a product of our being a relatively small school with a recent foundation where there is a close working relationship between pupils and staff.

Shiplake was founded in 1959 and is still evolving its customs and institutions. We respect and maintain traditional values but respond quickly to changes. For example, the educational world of the 1990s is reflected in our new timetable and in the varied building projects of recent years.

The feeling of community owes much to our size. There are about 325 pupils and it is possible for the teaching staff to get to know every boy and for boys to develop friendships



throughout the school, not simply in their own Houses.

There is a staff pupil ratio of 1:9. This has been our policy from the outset.

Shiplake can offer a great variety of activities and experiences. There is an active cultural life and all major sports are coached to the highest standards. A wide variety of clubs and societies suggests a feeling of constant activity, energy and enthusiasm.

Success without stuffiness

We encourage every boy to do his best, and Shiplake boys succeed. This may be in University entrance, GCSE grades, sporting honours, artistic endeavour, gaining responsibility within the school or simply in the vital task of growing up to be mature young men. Every boy has his strengths but he may also have weaknesses and those who experience difficulty in any area do not suffer for it. The academic boy who dislikes games and the sporting enthusiast who struggles with his academic work are still expected to persevere. We do not believe that high standards can be achieved in an atmosphere of excessive criticism. However, a healthy competitive spirit prevails.

People

Whatever the quality of its buildings, the essence of a good school is an enthusiastic staff. The long hours of a boarding school make particular demands and our staff take their responsibilities well beyond the classroom, involving themselves with pupils in many extra curricular activities.

Once a boy is at Shiplake, no important decision about him will be taken without full discussion between the boy, his housemaster, tutor, subject master, parents and the Headmaster. Indeed, we believe that parents have a vital role to play in the education of their children. They are welcome to visit the College to enjoy matches, dramatic productions, musical occasions and Sunday services. There are annual conferences for each year group, where parents meet members of staff and discuss their son's progress.



“I chose Shiplake because of its marvellously enthusiastic staff.”



“What’s different about Shiplake? . . . Elbow room. Everyone is recognised, considered and important.”

“It’s the right size school so you get to know almost everyone. The staff are always interested in you and your activities.”

SEPTEMBER

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 5th | Su .. Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost |
| | I .. (Duty House: Skipwith (MLW), Duty: JDFC) New 3rd Form arrive |
| 6th | M .. 08.40 Chapel in Parish Church (3rd Form) 10.30 Senior New boys arrive 12.00 First year 6th organisation begins 17.30 Remainder in Houses |
| 7th | Tu .. 08.20 Orchard reports 08.40 Chapel in Parish Church |
| 8th | W .. A.E.F. at R.A.F. Benson and on 15th |
| 9th | Th .. Rugby Football: Coaching session with Dick Best, Esq., England Coach |
| 10th | F .. McAlpine Prize flight 10.30/11.00 |
| 11th | Sa .. R.N. Section weekend afloat: depart 16.00 |
| 12th | Su .. Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost |
| | II .. (Duty House: Welsh (PCJG), Duty: PMD) Morning Prayer Shiplake Fun Run (a.m.) No leave |
| 14th | Tu .. Cards issued to U6th |
| 15th | W .. Rugby v. Douai School: 2nd & 3rd XV's (H), U15A & U14A XV's (A) |
| 16th | Th .. 13.50 Staff Photograph Minor Activities begin 20.15 Tithe Barn: Gillian Ford, violin |
| 18th | Sa .. Rugby v. Radley College: 1st XV (H), 2nd, 3rd & 4th XV's (A) ISIS Exhibition at Cheltenham |
| 19th | Su .. Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost |
| | III .. (Duty House: Burr (MAS), Duty: SAAF) Eucharist Cricket v. Kidmore End: U14A XI (H) 14.00 |
| 20th | M .. 17.30 S.C.R. A.G.M. |
| 21st | Tu .. U6th Cards complete |
| 22nd | .. Rugby v. Merchant Taylors' School: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & U15C XV's (A), U15A & B, U14A, B & C XV's (H) |

■ A page from the Calendar—the first two weeks of the Autumn term

There are five Houses, each located in its own building and run by a housemaster assisted by tutors for each year group. They are responsible for the general wellbeing and academic progress of pupils. The four boarding Houses, Burr, Everett, Skipwith and Welsh, have their own slightly different characteristics and accommodation. In the first two years, the boys usually share dormitories which have cubicles for individual study. In the third year, they share studies or study/bedrooms, while most Sixth Formers have individual study bedrooms. Each House has a day room, a library, cooking facilities and its own word-processing room.

We have a traditional prefect system. Older boys are expected to take a positive interest in the affairs of the whole House.

There are over twenty inter-House trophies. Competitions range from rugby matches to General Knowledge and Public Speaking. In all cases these are keenly fought.

Orchard is a purpose-built day boy House and provides study and recreational facilities for all its pupils. Day boys are as involved in the life of the community as are the boarders. We encourage them to stay at school until after supper and do their prep in Orchard.

There is a very wide range of opportunities for boys of all abilities in the Sixth Form. The number of departmentally organised field trips and expeditions also increases. Social events include debates and dances with local girls' schools. A licensed Junior Common Room Club is run by senior boys with some help from masters. Here, boys of seventeen and over can socialise over a glass of beer.

■ The Junior Common Room



THE HOUSES

The school is organised into Houses. Each boy is part of a smaller community of between 60 and 70 members.



ACADEMIC WORK

Shiplake offers a thorough education in small classes. We keep a check on individual performance by a regular system of order cards on which every master who teaches a boy enters a progress report and a grade for effort. This helps housemasters, tutors and the Headmaster to keep in touch with the work of every boy. High standards are, of course, expected throughout the school and good work is rewarded with commendations which accumulate until a prize is won.

Our timetable has been redesigned to meet the needs of the National Curriculum and, in particular, the extensive course-work demand of GCSE. Double period lessons throughout the morning give time for both formal tuition and practical work. Full details of our curriculum accompany this prospectus.



Setting the right pace

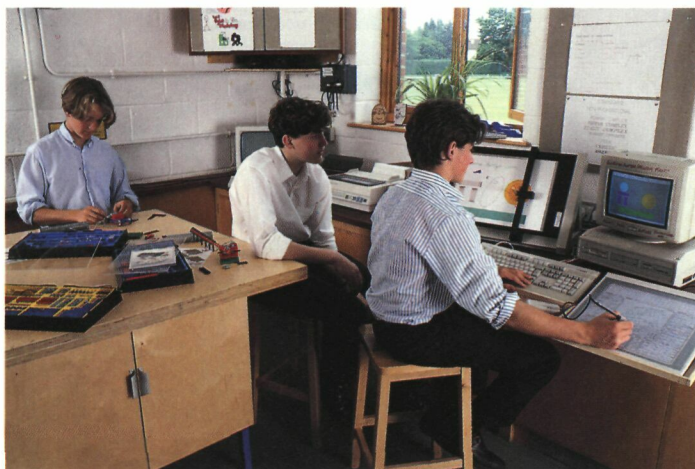
One of the reasons for Shiplake's sound academic record is its ability to respond flexibly to pupils' differing requirements. We believe boys must have targets that challenge them but which are within their reach. For this reason, classes are set by ability throughout the school. These are reviewed regularly so that we can respond quickly to individual progress.

Learning to Think

Shiplake has great respect for traditional teaching methods but is always ready to adopt new ideas where they clearly contribute to the educational process. The value of such innovation increases as the emphasis in education moves from acquiring facts to learning to think. Pupils appreciate that success in later life depends, not just on knowledge, but on ideas and imagination. Creative thinking and analytical skills are encouraged.

The Sixth Form

Entry to the Sixth Form is a significant milestone in a boy's education. The College offers a range of new activities and the demands on his time and initiative increase. Early in his Lower Sixth career we provide a special course in Study Skills. Every boy also spends one week completing work experience away from the College.



Remedial teaching

Shiplake has an excellent reputation for its remedial teaching. Every year we admit a limited number of boys who need special help with English, usually because they are dyslexic or because they have specific learning difficulties. They are divided into two groups, each receiving intensive teaching. The two specialist teachers help boys to deal with specific problems as well as to gain confidence in their own abilities. The Remedial English lessons replace French. Apart from this small adjustment to their timetable, these boys are as much a part of the school as any others. After one year some discontinue this subject whilst others continue to be taught in smaller groups. By arrangement with the Examination Boards, some 5th and 6th formers are allowed extra time in public examinations due to their difficulties with English.





“Not only is our son achieving far more than we dared to hope for in academic terms, but, even more importantly, he is becoming a really great person to be with—responsible, reliable, caring, humorous. What more could we ask for?”

THE ARTS AT SHIPLAKE

The strength of the College's artistic work is immediately apparent to visitors. Pupils' art decorates the staircase and landing of the main building. Drama, poetry and music flourish and the annual magazine is a lively showcase for writers, photographers and artists.

Art

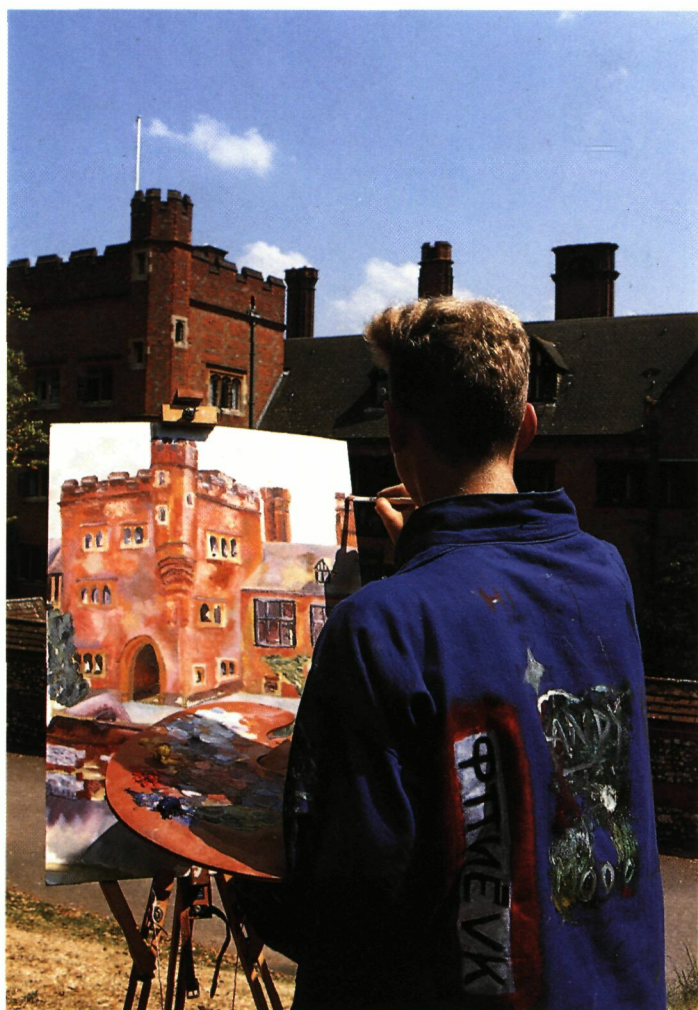
Art is very popular. Several boys take the subject to 'A' level each year, many continuing in higher education. Overseas study tours have been arranged in recent years to Italy and France. Pupils not only visit galleries but also have the opportunity for their own painting. There are also regular trips to London galleries and College artists put on their own exhibitions in our new art gallery.

Music

There is a full-time Director of Music supported by visiting specialists. Boys are encouraged to learn a musical instrument by being offered a term's free tuition in most instruments. There are termly concerts and an inter-House music competition in the Spring term in which every boy takes part. One of the features of the musical year is the annual carol service in St Mary's, Henley-on-Thames, attended by all the boys and most parents.

Drama and Public Speaking

All first year boys join a regular drama workshop. During the remainder of their College career many continue their enthusiasm with an evening drama group. There is a major production in the Autumn term as well as Third and Fourth Form plays in the Spring term. Recent productions have ranged from 'Journey's End' and 'Pirates of Penzance' to 'Sword in the Stone' and a most ambitious Son et Lumiere based on the history of Shiplake Court over the past 900 years. During the year there are informal performances, sometimes put on by individual Houses. Each May, the College enters local drama and public speaking competitions. There are frequent visits to the theatres in Henley-on-Thames, Oxford, Windsor, Stratford and the West End.



“The good thing is you’re encouraged to find out what you’re good at . . . I really enjoyed being in the play.”





■ Shiplake Court makes a splendid setting for dramatic productions

SPORT

The College's modern facilities provide opportunities for boys to enjoy many different sports. For a school of our size our competitive record is remarkable. The games organisation is most efficient. While spending most afternoons on their major activity, all boys spend one afternoon a week enjoying a minor sport or activity. Senior boys are fully involved in the administration and organisation of their chosen sport.



First VIII winning at Henley

Rowing

Shiplake competes at the highest level of schoolboy rowing, regularly providing members of international rowing teams. In recent years, Old Boys have successfully represented Britain in the Olympics and other major international competitions. Several of these oarsmen had no record as prep school sportsmen, and rowing provides an important opportunity to try a completely new activity.

At the same time, we can cater for those who want to do little more than enjoy the river in the Summer term. Pupils, with little sporting prowess elsewhere, find the prospect of boating from the convenience of the school's river front very tempting and become enthusiasts for "messaging about in boats".

Cricket

Along with rowing, cricket is a major Summer term sport. In our early days it was one way of making regular contact with other independent schools in the area. The present strong fixture list confirms that this is still the case. With ten grass nets and two artificial turf nets available, along with indoor facilities including nets and a bowling machine, we can compete with the British summer and allow members to practise all year round.

Rugby

Rugby is the main Autumn term sport. It is an excellent game for the skilful, the strong and the willing. The College fields up to nine XVs against other schools and the determination and spirit of the 'B' and 'C' sides is proof of the popularity of the game at all levels. Shiplake enjoys much success in these inter-school matches. The fixture list is always improving and Shiplake is respected as a breeding ground for talent, supplying members of County and Regional sides.

Hockey

Hockey has been strong at Shiplake from the early days. Six pitches are normally available but we rely heavily on the new surface and the sports hall when weather conditions are unsuitable. We also have access to a nearby all-weather pitch, where the First XI play most of their home matches.

Tennis and Squash

In the Summer term, tennis is a popular sport and our excellent facilities include five all-weather courts and an indoor court. In the Autumn and Spring terms, tennis is also available as two courts are kept in use all year. Professional coaches are employed and both the tennis and squash clubs enjoy strong fixture lists against other schools.

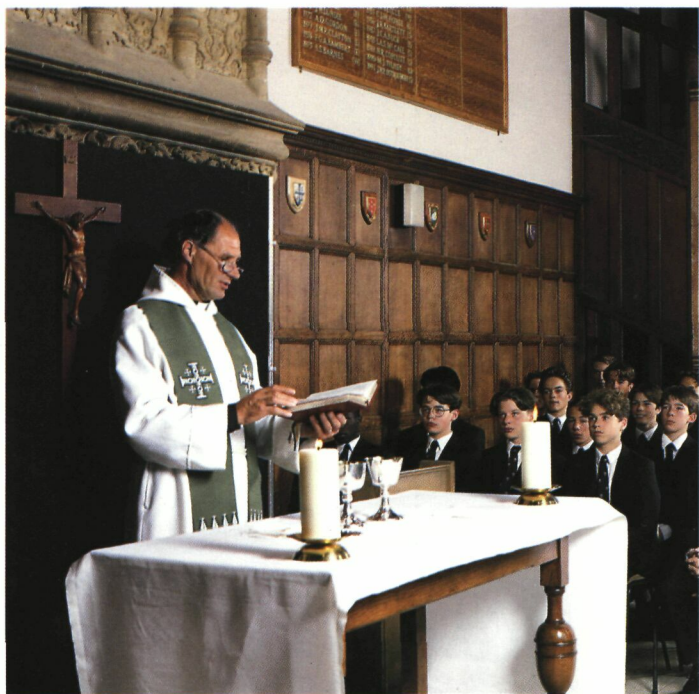
Other sports

The sailing, cross country and shooting teams also compete against other schools while there are inter-House competitions in soccer, athletics, swimming and basketball. Amongst the minor sports available on Thursday and Friday afternoons are golf, riding, badminton and rock climbing.



A BUSY LIFE

There is much more to our life as a community than academic, cultural and sporting pursuits.



Chapel

Although Shiplake is a Church of England school, boys from other denominations and religions are welcome. Regular use is made of Shiplake Parish Church where school services are held twice a week. On Sundays, we hold our own services in the Great Hall. These are attended by all boarders who are at the school at the weekends and parents are particularly welcome. There is a further weekly voluntary Eucharist. The resident chaplain is a full time member of the teaching staff and takes a special interest in the welfare of all pupils as well as preparing those who wish for Confirmation.

Careers

We see the careers service as an integral part of a Shiplake education, helping each pupil to make the best choice of the options available to him when he leaves school. We are a member of the Independent Schools Careers Organisation which enables boys to take advantage of a wide range of holiday courses and work experience activities.

The careers room has recently been completely refurbished. It is permanently staffed by a careers secretary and it offers a wide range of computer software, videos and literature covering all aspects of work and higher education.

From the fifth form onwards, each pupil receives a weekly Careers period and there are regular workshops involving guest speakers throughout the year. In the Autumn term the Lower Sixth have a one week work experience placement with a local business and in the Summer term they visit several other firms to gain an insight into current selection procedures for recruiting prospective employees.

Combined Cadet Force

The College CCF contingent has Navy, Army and Air Force sections. Boys normally join at the beginning of their fourth term but only go into uniform at the end of their second year in the school. The first two terms in the CCF are spent on adventure training and outward bound courses building self-reliance.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is very popular and the CCF sponsors a D of E training camp in South Wales in the Easter holidays. For senior boys there are also annual major expeditions. In recent years these have gone to South America, East Africa and the Himalayas.



QUESTIONS THAT PARENTS ASK

Is there a College Shop?

The College shop is in the Jubilee Building below the Junior Common Room Club. Everything a boy needs for his progress and welfare may be put on his parents' account. Food and tuck have to be paid for in cash.

What is the food like?

All meals are taken in the Great Hall. The catering is run by a manager under the general supervision of the Bursar. Meals are organised on a cafeteria system. There is a salad alternative available every lunchtime. Boys are also supplied with milk and buns in their Houses at break in the mornings.

Is there a uniform?

On weekdays the boys wear sports jackets or blazers, grey flannel trousers, a coloured shirt and an official tie. Older boys may wear a dark suit of their own choice on formal occasions, while juniors wear a blazer and grey flannels. All items of uniform may be obtained from the College shop.

Who looks after health?

A resident nursing sister is on call 24 hours a day and is in charge of a small sanatorium for boys who are ill. All boys are registered with a local doctor who carries out a routine examination of all entrants and holds a twice weekly surgery and deals with all emergencies. Day boys continue to be registered with their own doctor but can always see the College doctor during the day. Parents must, of course, inform the College of any health problems affecting a pupil on entry or return to the College.

What happens at weekends?

Boys are kept very busy at Shiplake. There is a full programme of activities throughout the week, but on Sundays they have the opportunity to plan for themselves how they spend their time. A wide range of activities and facilities are available to them.

What are the admission procedures?

■ *Common Entrance*

Normally, boys are admitted after the Common Entrance examination and a satisfactory interview with the Headmaster. Boys who have had early difficulties with reading and spelling are given every consideration. The earliest age for admission, except in special circumstances, is thirteen.

■ *Shiplake Entrance*

Boys who have no previous education usually because they have been in the voluntary sector, sit an entrance examination and take an I.Q. test.

■ *Sixth Form Entrance*

It is sometimes possible for a boy to join the Sixth Form on his school record.

■ *Scholarships*

A Scholarship examination is held for Academic and Artistic subjects from the Registrar.

What are the special arrangements?

Before they arrive, boys are interviewed by the Headmaster and interviewed by the school by a College representative.

However, it is sometimes necessary for a boy to arrive before the residential term, therefore, arrive at the College so that they may establish themselves in the facilities of the College.

On Monday afternoons a variety of activities are available. Afternoons are reserved for the Third and Fourth Years.

Shiplake College (0734 309651) conducts entrance examinations for boys who appoint a Headmaster. The College has been an Education Trust since 1965. Income is spent on the education of the boys.

The Governors review the terms of this provision in the interests of the boys and may increase fees with the consent of the parents made to give at least £100 per annum.

Parents must give notice of withdrawal of a pupil at least one month before the subject. Otherwise the Headmaster may remove a pupil from the College and, if necessary, the remainder of the term.

THE NEXT STEP

... is to come and see the College for yourself. You will be shown round by one of the boys and will meet the Headmaster.

Please contact the Registrar.

**SHIPLAKE COLLEGE
HENLEY-ON-THAMES
OXFORDSHIRE RG9 4BW**

**TEL (0734) 402455
FAX (0734) 402455**

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■ *Shiplake Entrance Papers*

Boys who have not been prepared for Common Entrance, usually because they are at schools in the maintained sector, sit an entrance examination in Maths and English and take an I.Q. test.

■ *Sixth Form Entry*

It is sometimes possible to accept older boys, particularly in the Sixth Form. Boys are admitted on their previous school record.

■ *Scholarships*

A Scholarship examination is set in May of each year. Academic and Art awards are offered. Details are available from the Registrar on request.

What are the special arrangements for New Boys?

Before they arrive, all new boys at Shiplake will have been interviewed by the Headmaster and shown around the school by a College boy.

However, it is still felt necessary to allow them to settle in before the rest of the school returns. New boys, therefore, arrive a day before the Autumn term starts so that they may establish themselves and be shown the facilities of the College.

On Monday afternoons, new boys are introduced to a variety of activities and sports. In addition, Thursday afternoons are reserved for minor activities for all boys in the Third and Fourth Forms.

Conditions

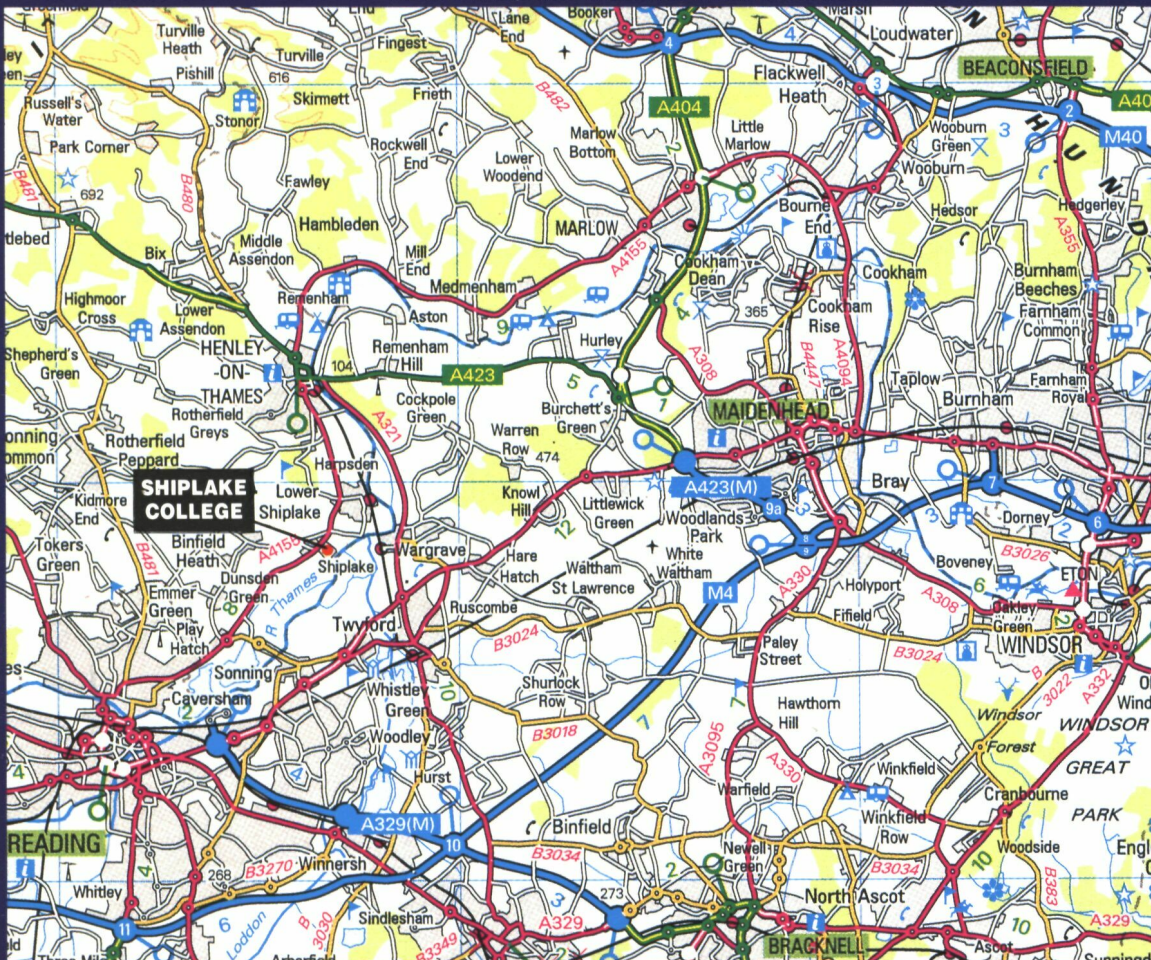
Shiplake College is an educational trust (Charity No 309651) conducted by a representative Board of Governors who appoint the Headmaster, Bursar and Deputy Headmaster. The College enjoys all the benefits of having been an Educational Trust since 1963. There are no profits; income is spent on educational activities.

The Governors reserve the right to alter, amend or add to the terms of this prospectus as they may deem advisable in the interests of the College. They reserve the right to increase fees without notice, although every effort will be made to give at least one term's notice.

Parents must give one term's notice, in writing, of the withdrawal of a pupil from the College or from an optional subject. Otherwise the full term's fees will be payable in lieu. The Headmaster may require the suspension or removal of a pupil if, in his view, it is in the best interests of the College and, in such circumstances, fees for the remainder of the term will not be refundable.



TO OXFORD, MIDLANDS AND HIGH WYCOMBE



TO WALES AND THE WEST

TO LONDON

TO HEATHROW
AND LONDON

TO WINCHESTER AND
SOUTHAMPTON AND M3

TO M3

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