



Vita Et Pax
 PREPARATORY SCHOOL
 NURTURING EVERY CHILD'S POTENTIAL

PROSPECTUS 2026



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Contact Us

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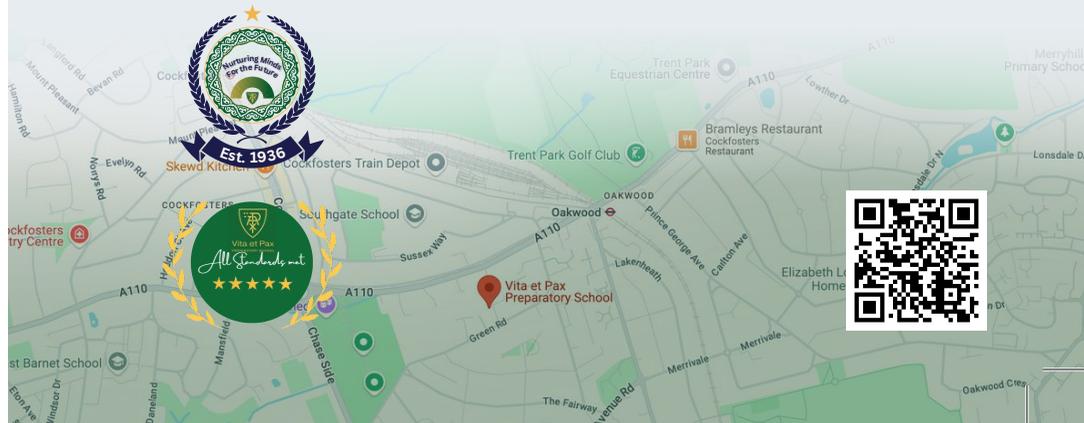
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 Vita et Pax Preparatory School



Headteacher Introduction

Welcome to Vita et Pax Preparatory School

It is a privilege to welcome you to Vita Et Pax, a school with an almost 90 year old tradition of academic excellence and personal achievement. As Headmaster, I am honoured to lead a school where the highest standards of scholarship are matched by a deep commitment to character, courtesy, moral and social development.

At Vita Et Pax we strongly believe education should be both rigorous and enriching. Our pupils are challenged to think critically, act with integrity, and pursue knowledge with curiosity and determination. The breadth of our curriculum, complemented by a well developed programme of sport, music, drama and the arts, ensures that every child has the opportunity to flourish and to discover their individual strengths.

Our ethos is grounded in respect, discipline and tradition, values which continue to prepare our pupils not only for success in examinations and for secondary school life, but also for leadership and responsibility in later life. Small classes and dedicated teaching allow us to nurture both talent and character, producing young people who are confident, articulate, and prepared to contribute meaningfully to society and the wider world, to which we all owe responsibility. We are immensely proud of our heritage and longevity, with equal ambition for our future. I warmly encourage you to book a personal tour of the school with me, to meet our staff and pupils, and to experience first-hand the distinctive spirit of Vita Et Pax.



Please contact Maria Castro in Admissions to organise a tour.

Darren May BA (Hons) MEd
Headmaster

School Curriculum

At Vita et Pax Preparatory School, the curriculum is carefully designed to provide a coherent progressive and enriching educational experience for pupils at every stage of their development. It balances academic rigour with personal, social and emotional growth ensuring that children are well prepared for future learning and life beyond school.

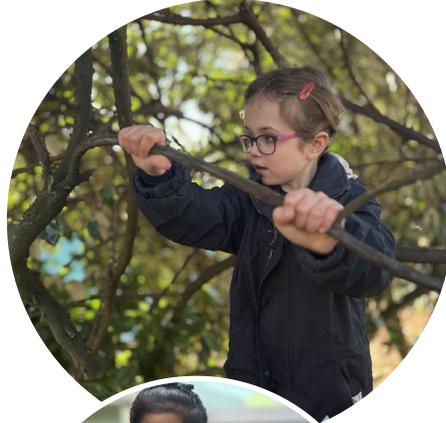


Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), children benefit from a broad and engaging curriculum that lays strong foundations for lifelong learning.

Learning is delivered through a combination of structured activities and purposeful play, both indoors and outdoors, supporting the development of key early skills such as communication, language and early literacy including systematic phonics instruction.

The curriculum is enriched through specialist-led lessons in Music, Physical Education and Spanish, from Nursery, offering pupils early exposure to a wide range of disciplines. Small class sizes allow for personalised teaching and careful observation, enabling practitioners to respond to individual needs and learning styles. This nurturing and stimulating environment fosters curiosity, confidence and a positive attitude towards learning.



Pre Prep

In Pre-Prep, pupils build upon the foundations established in EYFS through a curriculum that deepens academic understanding while promoting personal development.

Core subjects are complemented by opportunities to develop essential attributes such as resilience, independence and adaptability.

Specialist teaching in Physical Education, Music and Spanish continues to enhance pupils' learning experiences and broaden their horizons. Children are encouraged to explore their interests, develop confidence in their abilities and approach new challenges with curiosity and enthusiasm, ensuring a smooth transition into the next stage of their education.



Prep and 11+ Preparation

From Year 3, pupils follow a more structured Prep curriculum that supports academic progression alongside personal growth.

Formal 11+ preparation begins in Year 3 and continues through to the autumn term of Year 6, equipping pupils for entry into selective grammar schools and leading independent schools.

The 11+ programme includes specialist teaching delivered by experienced staff using modern resources, including platforms such as Atom Learning. Pupils undertake regular assessments with termly evaluations and fortnightly progress updates shared with parents. Complimentary after-school support sessions are provided to further consolidate learning.

In Years 5 and 6, pupils participate in Enterprise Week, an applied learning initiative focusing on marketing, budgeting, advertising and sales. This programme develops entrepreneurial thinking, teamwork, creativity and problem-solving skills, demonstrating real-world applications of academic learning.

As a charitable organisation, Vita et Pax also offers merit-based scholarships to support and nurture talent throughout pupils' 11+ journey. The overarching aim of the Prep curriculum is to develop well-rounded, confident and compassionate learners who are academically prepared and socially resilient.



Science

Science plays a central role in the Vita et Pax curriculum, fostering curiosity and encouraging pupils to explore and understand the world around them.

From an early age, pupils develop essential scientific skills, including observation, enquiry, prediction, reasoning and evidence-based thinking.

Through practical investigations and discussion, pupils explore natural phenomena and contemporary issues such as environmental sustainability, pollution and climate change. Science education at Vita et Pax promotes critical thinking, collaboration and problem-solving, while encouraging pupils to engage with new ideas and respond thoughtfully to evidence.

By developing strong scientific literacy, pupils are equipped to make informed decisions, evaluate information critically and contribute meaningfully to an increasingly complex and scientific world.



School Trips

School trips are an integral part of the Vita et Pax curriculum and extend learning beyond the classroom, offering opportunities for experiential learning, cultural engagement and personal development.

Educational and residential visits include local residential trips for pupils in Years 4 and 5, as well as visits to the V&A Museum and the RAF Museum.

Each year, pupils in Years 5 and 6 take part in an annual ski trip to Italy. This residential experience supports the development of independence, responsibility and confidence as pupils learn to live away from home. Pupils return from the trip more mature, self-assured and socially confident, having gained valuable life skills.



Sports

Vita et Pax places strong emphasis on physical education and competitive sports.

Pupils regularly achieve success in borough and regional competitions, reflecting high standards of coaching, commitment and teamwork.

The school works in partnership with specialist coaches from Southgate Hockey Club and Cockfosters Cricket Club, supporting skill development and encouraging lifelong participation in sport. Through competition and collaboration, pupils develop resilience, discipline and sportsmanship.



Music

Music is an important aspect of the Vita et Pax curriculum and contributes significantly to pupils' creative and personal development.

Specialist music teaching includes instrumental tuition, such as piano and guitar, alongside structured learning in music theory.

Regular singing opportunities, including assembly performances, promote confidence, teamwork and self-expression. Pupils are encouraged to develop musical skills at their own pace while cultivating an appreciation for music as a form of artistic and emotional expression.



Arts

Art is embedded within the ethos of Vita et Pax and is highly valued as a means of creative expression and critical thinking.

Pupils' work is displayed throughout the school, celebrating creativity and individuality.

Artistic excellence is recognised through the annual Livia Award established in memory of a former pupil. With continued support from her family, this reinforces the school's commitment to nurturing imagination, originality and artistic confidence.



Drama

Vita et Pax maintains a strong and well-established tradition of stage and drama productions, which form an important part of the school's cultural and educational life.

These productions provide pupils with valuable opportunities to develop creativity, confidence, communication skills and collaborative working practices through performance.

Each year, pupils participate in high-quality productions that reflect the school's commitment to the performing arts. Recent performances include Aladdin (2022), Oliver Twist (2023), and Captain Hook (2024), which was staged at the Queenswood School Theatre. Through these productions, pupils engage with all aspects of performance, including character development, rehearsal discipline and stagecraft.

Alongside major productions, younger year groups take part in assemblies and smaller performances, ensuring that all pupils have the opportunity to experience drama from an early age. Year 6 pupils assume leading roles in productions, demonstrating a high level of confidence and maturity, while developing theatrical skill.

These experiences not only celebrate pupils' artistic abilities but also promote teamwork, self-expression and a strong sense of community within the Vita et Pax school environment.



Languages

At Vita et Pax School, modern foreign languages play an important role in developing communication skills, cultural awareness and global understanding.

From Nursery onwards, pupils are introduced to Spanish, providing a strong foundation in early language learning.

From Reception to Year 5, this foundation is developed through a structured Spanish programme, building vocabulary, grammar and confidence in spoken and written communication.

In Year 6, French is introduced to broaden pupils' linguistic experience and support progression to secondary education. Language learning is enhanced through practical, hands-on activities and cultural experiences, ensuring pupils leave well prepared for further language study.



Academic Excellence

Zayn Hadayat achieved exceptional outcomes in 2025, securing prestigious scholarship offers and places at St Albans Boys' School and Christ's Hospital School, alongside offers from several of the UK's leading independent schools. These achievements reflect both his academic ability and the high standard of preparation provided by Vita et Pax.

Zayn joined Vita et Pax in Reception as a shy pupil with limited confidence. Through consistent pastoral care, personalised teaching, and a nurturing school environment, Vita et Pax played a vital role in developing his confidence, resilience, and leadership skills.

His personal growth was further exemplified through his lead role as Captain Hook in the school's drama production, where his confident and engaging performance captivated audiences and demonstrated his maturity and expressive ability.

By the time he left the school, Zayn had become Deputy Head Boy, a scholarship holder, and the recipient of the Head Teacher's Award. His journey is a clear testament to the Vita et Pax ethos of nurturing every child's academic, personal, and creative potential, ensuring pupils leave the school confident, capable, and well prepared for the next stage of their education.



Leavers Destinations

	The Latymer School 2024/25 - 1 2023/24 - 2 2022/23 - 3		Queen Elizabeth Boys 2024/25 - 1 2023/24 - 1 2022/23 - 1
	Henrietta Barnett 2023/22 - 2 2022/23 - 1 2021/22 - 1		St Michael's Catholic School 2024/25 - 2 2022/23 - 2 2023/24 - 3 2021/22 - 3
	Dame Alice Owen's School 2023/24 - 3 2022/23 - 1 2021/22 - 1		Christ's Hospital 2024/25 - 1 2023/24 - 1 2022/23 - 1
	North London Collegiate School 2023/24 - 1 2021/22 - 1 2022/23 - 2		St Columba's College 2023/24 - 1 2021/22 - 1
	Haberdashers' Boy's School 2022/23 - 1		Haberdashers' Girls' School 2023/24 - 2 2022/23 - 1
	St Paul's School 2022/23 - 1		Haileybury 2022/23 - 1
	Queenswood School 2023/24 - 2 2022/23 - 1		Mount House School 2023/24 - 1 2022/23 - 1 2021/22 - 3
	St Albans Girls' High School 2024/25 - 1 2023/24 - 1 2022/23 - 3		City of London Boys 2023/24 - 1 2022/23 - 1 2021/22 - 1
	City of London Girls 2023/24 - 1 2022/23 - 1 2021/22 - 1		Forest School 2022/23 - 1 2021/22 - 1