About Us

Established in 2024 and nestled in Crowhill, in the picturesque Borrowdale valley, The Hill Preparatory School is more than just a school, it is a transformative educational journey whose aim is to unlock the full potential of every child.

At The Hill, our curriculum goes beyond the traditional focus of English, Maths and Science. Here pupils embark on an exploration of the Oxford curriculum in Computing, Global Skills Projects, Sustainability and Wellbeing – enabling them to develop critical thinking, creativity, ethical decision-making and environmental stewardship – while enjoying the dream of learning “Frui Somnium Doctrina”.

Our experienced teaching staff are led by the Headmaster, Mr Hans Christen, the Deputy Headmaster, Mr Tex Harding, The Head of the Infants’ Department, Mrs Pamhidzai Chikumba and the Director of Sport, Mr Graeme Ellis.

VISION

To be a beacon of excellence in holistic learning.

CORE VALUES

Academic Rigour: We are committed to upholding the highest standards of academic excellence, using the latest resources to unlock the full potential of every pupil.

Whole-Child Development: We believe in cultivating the intellectual, emotional, physical, and social well-being of our pupils,

empowering them to become self-aware, resilient, and adaptable individuals.

Global Mindset: We foster an international perspective, equipping our pupils with the knowledge, skills, and cultural understanding

to navigate and succeed in an interconnected world.

Ethical Leadership: We instil the values of integrity, empathy, sustainability and social responsibility, preparing our pupils to

become ethical decision-makers and agents of positive change.

Innovation and Creativity: We celebrate and encourage innovative thinking, problem-solving, and creative expression.

Inclusive Community: We celebrate diversity and build a collaborative, supportive community that respects and embraces individual differences.

Child Safety: The safety, security and well-being of our pupils is our top priority, and we maintain the highest standards of child

protection and safeguarding.

Discipline and Fairness: We believe in a culture of discipline, accountability and fairness, instilling in our pupils the values of respect, responsibility, and just conduct.

MISSION

To provide a transformative educational experience that unlocks every child’s potential.

ACADEMICS

INFANT DEPARTMENT

Infant Department: Laying the Foundation for Early Learning

The Hill’s Infant Department – comprising a Nursery class, an ECD A class, an ECD B class, two Grade One classes and two Grade Two classes - offers a dynamic and nurturing environment for our youngest learners.

The Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme is designed to provide a safe and adventurous setting where children can thrive through play-based learning. This approach allows our pupils to enjoy the process of discovery while developing their confidence and curiosity.

A key focus of the ECD curriculum is the development of gross and fine motor coordination, as well as pre-writing skills. These foundational abilities form the building blocks for future academic success and overall physical development.

To support the holistic growth of our learners, The Hill’s Infant Department uses specialist teachers for Art, Computing, Music and Physical Education.

Through this integrated approach, the Infant Department lays the groundwork for our pupils' academic and personal journeys, ensuring they are well-equipped to transition into the next stages of

their educational development.

JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

Our academic programme for our juniors focuses on a comprehensive approach. Pupils engage in a well-rounded Oxford curriculum that goes beyond traditional subject-based learning. It is structured to provide pupils with a solid foundation in core academic areas while encouraging the development of critical, creative, and global thinking skills.

In the early elementary grades, the focus is on building a strong base in English, Maths, and Science. Pupils develop fundamental skills in reading, writing, numeracy, and scientific inquiry through engaging, hands-on learning experiences.

As pupils progress to the upper elementary grades, the academic programme integrates more interdisciplinary and project-based learning opportunities. In addition to the core subjects, pupils will

participate in Oxford’s Global Skills Projects, which combines multiple disciplines to address real-world challenges. This approach helps pupils develop problem-solving, collaboration and communication skills.

Throughout the junior department, the academic programme also places a strong emphasis on wellbeing. Pupils learn about and practise healthy habits for their physical, mental, and emotional

well-being. This focus on holistic development aims to support pupils' overall growth and success, both inside and outside the classroom.

The Hill’s academic programme also incorporates the use of technology, with Oxford Computing that teaches pupils essential digital literacy and coding skills. This prepares pupils to navigate and thrive in the increasingly technology-driven world.

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

TABS

SPORTS ON OFFER

Cross-Country

Hockey

Soccer

Swimming

Tennis

Basketball

Golf

Netball

Volleyball

We encourage our children to participate in a range of sports. It is our belief that involvement outside the classroom is very important for a child’s overall development as it facilitates the growth of an improved sense of self in each participant.

ARTS & CULTURE

MUSIC & THEATRE DEPARTMENT

The Music education programme provides pupils from ECD level with a comprehensive and engaging curriculum. All classes have two Music lessons per week, allowing pupils to develop a strong foundation in music literacy, theory and performance.

Throughout this programme, pupils will learn:

Music Theory, where they obtain a thorough understanding of musical elements such as pitch, rhythm, harmony, and musical form.

Rhythmic Reading and Writing, where pupils develop the ability to read, write and perform various rhythmic patterns and notation.

Sight Reading, where they practise sight reading skills, enabling them to read and interpret different music notations with fluency.

Body Percussion, where pupils explore the use of the body as a percussion instrument, enhancing their sense of rhythm and musicality.

The curriculum draws inspiration from the syllabi and resources provided by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM), the Global Music Academy, and the new Zimsec Visual and Performing Arts syllabus. This ensures that The Hill’s music programme aligns with internationally recognized standards and best practices, enabling pupils to develop well-rounded musical abilities.

By immersing pupils in this comprehensive music programme, The Hill aims to nurture their artistic expression, critical thinking, and collaborative skills.

Departmental Activities

School Choir, Music Club, Drama Club, Instrument Lessons.

ARTS & CRAFTS DEPARTMENT

The Arts and Crafts programme offers a diverse range of creative outlets for pupils, allowing them to explore their artistic talents and express their unique perspectives. The programme is designed to nurture pupils' artistic abilities, foster their problem-solving skills, and develop their appreciation for various forms of artistic expression

ICT

In a world driven by technology, computing has become an essential part of the educational experience, recognized as a new "literacy" alongside reading, writing and numeracy. Our Oxford computing curriculum equips pupils with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in the digital landscape.

Through a comprehensive and engaging programme, pupils develop proficiency in a range of applications, including:

Computer Programming

Word Processing

Digital Graphics

Databases

Spreadsheets

Email and Presentations

Video and Animation

Digital security and e-safety

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

At The Hill we believe that a well-rounded education extends beyond the classroom. To this end, we offer a diverse range of extra-curricular opportunities that foster personal growth, leadership skills, and community engagement.

This includes affiliation with Cubs, Girl Guides and Scouts organizations, encouraging service-learning, outdoor exploration and practical life skills.

The Hill hosts an array of other clubs and societies catering to diverse interests.

OUR FACULTY

HEADMASTER

MR HANS CHRISTEN

Mr Christen has taught at Ruzawi School in Marondera, at Broadhurst Primary School in Gaborone and at Peterhouse Girls’ School. He is former member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors of the Peterhouse Group of Schools,

and a former headmaster of several schools, including Twin Rivers School. Mr Christen is an alumnus of Rhodes University South Africa.