



# I am at Home

*Dean Close School, Cheltenham*  
*Founded 1886*



Co-educational | Full Boarding | Age 7-18

# Welcome from the Headmaster



**D**ean Close School is located in a beautiful, enclosed parkland campus a short walk from the centre of Cheltenham, a town on the edge of the idyllic Cotswolds. We are well known for many things but at the heart of the School lies our Christian ethos. The ethos is not measured by formal activities or events, but by our overwhelming commitment to each individual. If we are to make this happen, we have to be large enough to afford us the opportunity to deliver a wide range of activities at a very high level whilst remaining small enough to ensure that we know each pupil in their own right.

With just fewer than 500 pupils, the School is small enough to allow everyone to know and be known; it allows everyone to get fully involved in the life of the School. One thing that you will see about Dean Close pupils (Decanians) is that they tend to be busy, managing their academic commitments alongside a wide range of co-curricular activities and social events. The pupils are looked after by a combination of a very strong House system and excellent coaching by their tutors.

Dean Close is made up of a combination of a very strong Boarding and Flexi-Boarding community combined with a significant number of Day pupils. The needs of these different groups are met via a six day a week boarding school with a day of rest and activities on the seventh. With a strong culture of learning and curiosity confirmed by impressive academic results and high standards of behaviour, we are rightly proud of the achievements of our pupils in the classroom.

Outside of the classroom you will see a vibrant and exciting creative arts programme, a remarkable sporting reputation, an outward looking Community Action programme and an eclectic mix of trips and activities to challenge our wide variety of pupils.

Kindness, curiosity, respect, resilience, service and integrity flow out of Dean Close and are embedded in all we do from studying the latest scientific developments to creating beautiful art; from debating political matters of the day to playing sport at the highest level. Decanians leave school equipped for a changing world and ready to lead and serve wherever they are called.

**Bradley Salisbury** Headmaster

## Dean Close at a glance:



### High Flyers

Dean Close has a lot to offer in terms of excellent results backed up with a challenging range of activities, opportunities, visits and speakers. An academic scholar at Dean Close has an excellent chance of getting a place at a top university; this year eight pupils received offers to Oxbridge, 8% of the year group.

### Determined

Sporting development is enriched by the breadth of top-level coaches, many of whom have played or coached at professional or international level. It is a privilege to witness the individuals within the various programmes excelling across a variety of sports. They have proved to be fantastic ambassadors for the School at all levels; be that in rugby, hockey, netball, fencing, equestrian, biathlon or tennis to name but a few. It is fantastic to see so many challenging themselves to achieve their goals in their chosen discipline.



**Special mention should go to the following pupils who have achieved success:**

**RUGBY** - There are over 30 boys in the Gloucester Academy pathway with the following receiving particular recognition:

**England U18** - George Barton

### Gloucester Rugby U17/U18

**programme:** George Barton, Josh Gray, Tom Pearson, Ed Harvey, Archie Benson, Harvey Dickinson, Joe Lambon, Freddie Thomas, Matty Jones and James Humphreys

**HOCKEY** - There are over 40 boys and girls in the performance pathway, with the following achieving high honours:

**England U18** - Jessica Thomas and James Hunt

**England U16** - Ellis Robson, Oliver Smart and Jacob Payton

**Wales U16** - Theo Bancroft

**TENNIS** - **Aaron Osmond** - U18 ranking (national): 60 and Men's ranking (national): 139

**Alice Howitt** - Winner of the Cheltenham U16 Open and runner up in the U18 Open

### OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

**Danielle Gibson** - Senior Academy England Cricketer, Western Storm and Gloucestershire Women

**Estella Depierre** - Team GB in Biathlon and Modern Pentathlon

**Matt Smith** - in the British Ski squad for European Majors.

**Sophie Clink** - Cheltenham Water-polo - Women's National League

**Mollie Davies** - Representing Great Britain at the European Selection Show Jumping trials in Belgium

**Lydia Ward** - Winning the Pony Club Dressage Championships

## Creative

Art is a vital and thriving subject at Dean Close where dedicated students often excel beyond their own expectations. Pupils are encouraged to be ambitious and independent in their creative responses and opportunities are available to work with a wide range of media and techniques, including ceramics, painting, printmaking, photography and IT, with a Fine Art emphasis.



## Passionate

Music is vibrant at Dean Close and this is reflected in the large number of vocal, chamber and orchestral groups. These include Orchestra, Sinfonia, Choral Society, Chapel Choir, Concert Band, Jazz Band and Chamber Choir, as well as many chamber ensembles and rock bands. Since January 2011 the School has been fortunate to have the world-renowned Carducci Quartet as Quartet-in-Residence, teaching individual lessons and coaching chamber groups on a weekly basis.



## Home away from Home

Dean Close is very much a boarding school, with a full programme of teaching and activities all through the week and at weekends. The School has a healthy mixture of Day and Boarding pupils plus a small number of Flexi Boarders who stay one or two nights per week. With families from as far afield as Australia or as close as across the road, the School does the utmost to accommodate the different needs and circumstances of each individual family.



# Chaplaincy at Dean Close

Dean Close School was established on an Evangelical Christian foundation within the Church of England, and this is still very much lived out in who we are and what we do as a School.

This is seen most obviously in the way that at Dean Close we value every person, regarding them as uniquely created and loved by God; we seek to provide an environment and opportunities where everyone can explore what this means, primarily discovering the gifts that God has given them within a safe and happy environment. Whatever a pupil's creed or background, we find that the Chaplaincy can provide both a home from home setting where pupils sometimes many miles from family, can enjoy real community, and a safe nurturing space.

We are also passionate about pupils feeling able to ask the big and sometimes personal questions which the Christian faith both explores and encourages. Whatever their age, prior knowledge, or personal persuasion, Decanians have many opportunities to discover their faith. There are a variety of settings for this, spanning the formal and the informal and including pupil-led activities.



## Dean Close Values

The School is defined by its values. They are both enduring and pervasive; all our activities and decisions are made with reference to them, and all of our community should know and understand them.

Dean Close is willing to say in public what it believes. Making a difference both as individuals and as an institution is central to the Dean Close ethos.

**Respect** - give and receive due regard

**Kindness** - care without conditions

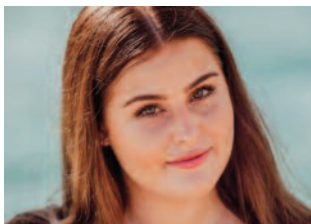
**Service** - proactively meet a need

**Resilience** - develop grit

**Curiosity** - desire to know

**Integrity** - be consistently truthful in words and deeds

# Cayman Island Alumni



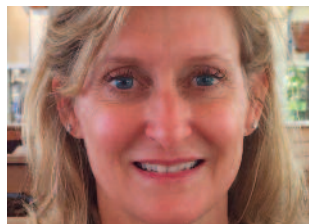
**Gweneth Stabler** (Turner, 2018)

*"I was born in the Cayman Islands and attended Cayman Prep & High School until the end of GCSEs. I moved to Dean Close for Sixth Form and studied English Literature, Drama and Music. When I arrived I was overjoyed with the amount of musical opportunities on offer at Dean Close and became heavily involved in Chapel Choir, Chamber Choir, Close Harmony, Acoustic Night and other Jazz events. I was involved in multiple drama performances, and was cast as the female lead in the biannual School Musical 'Fiddler on the Roof' in my first year, which was a great opportunity to make friends. I am currently studying Theatre and Performance at the University of Leeds."*



**Henry Bolton** (Tower, 2014)

*"Having moved to Cayman when I was 14 months old I had the privilege of growing up there with all my friends (at Cayman Prep) that I'm still so close to now. Dean Close gave me the platform to really progress my academics, I studied History, Philosophy & Ethics, Politics and Classical Civilisation, taking forward all but Politics into my final year. After Dean Close, I studied Ancient History at the University of Exeter, where I achieved a 2:1. Dean Close provided me with the capabilities and support to be able to manage sporting commitments alongside my academics, that I feel have been the building blocks to me getting a job in London, where I get to engage with the biggest fashion and travel brands in the world."*



**Nadia Hardie** (Fawley, 1989)

*"I was born in Trinidad and lived in the Caribbean before joining my sister in England, at Dean Close. I immediately felt at home as there were a number of other children who, like me, had parents overseas. Being an extremely active person, I loved the different sports and activities on offer, whether it be playing as part of a sports team, or a member of the Cadet Force. I left Dean Close with A levels in French, Economics & Politics and History of Art and was accepted into my first choice university; University of Kent at Canterbury, to read European Studies with French. I enjoyed 11 years working in London before returning to the Cayman Islands, where I am now the Executive Director for the National Trust."*



**Richard Harrison** (Court, 1994)

*"I moved to Dean Close School for Sixth Form. I studied History, PE and Social Biology at A level before going onto Manchester University where I qualified as a Chartered Accountant and I am now working in Cayman in the renewable energy field. The School is close to the town centre which I found a real plus when compared to some other schools, as it allows the pupils some independence. Dean Close days were primarily about friends and sport for me. The pure variety of activities on offer combined with the great facilities help make it a place for everyone's talents to shine."*



## Location

Dean Close School is situated in South West England in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, close to the picturesque Cotswolds. It is easily reached from Junction 11 of the M5 motorway via the A40, or from the nearby Cheltenham Spa Railway Station. The nearest international airports are Birmingham, Bristol and Cardiff which are all about one hour away by car.

The School sits on the largest plot of privately owned land in Cheltenham, just on the outskirts of the Regency town. The Senior School is located on Shelburne Road, and for SatNav purposes, visitors should enter the postcode GL51 6HE. Visitors should come through the iron gates into our Visitors' car park located at the front of School.



**DC** | **DEAN  
CLOSE**

SCHOOLS

CHELtenham