

The logo for Dean Close Schools, featuring a stylized 'DC' monogram in white on a maroon background, followed by the text 'DEAN CLOSE' in white serif font.

SCHOOLS

CHELTENHAM

# I am at home

Dean Close School, Cheltenham | Founded 1886

A large, historic red brick building with a prominent tower and many windows, set against a blue sky with white clouds. The building is surrounded by green lawns and trees.

Co-educational | Full Boarding | Age 7-18



## Welcome from the Headmasters

**D**ean Close School is set in 50 beautiful acres, on the edge of Cheltenham town, and all pupils from age 2-18, are educated and housed on one enclosed site. 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.

I joined Dean Close having spent several years in Kenya as Headmaster of a premier, British-curriculum, preparatory boarding school. Pupil welfare lies at the heart of what Dean Close Preparatory School strives to achieve. As a school with over 300 pupils aged 7 to 13, the School's focus is on the individual. From day one, pupils are thoroughly integrated into our pastoral house structure. In Years 7 and 8 pupils build close relationships with their House Tutor, with average group sizes of six pupils. This allows our pupils to be championed, challenged and, at times, cajoled in a supportive environment where emphasis is placed on the importance of building strong relationships and knowing each child.

As Head of DCPS, I am passionate about ensuring pupils are suitably supported as they strive to reach their potential, both in and out of the classroom. Through the broad range of opportunities provided at our school we expect pupils to develop the life-long habits of resilience, kindness and respect for each other.

**Paddy Moss** Headmaster

With around 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. 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 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.

**Bradley Salisbury** Headmaster

## Dean Close at a glance:

### 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.

The Art School is a fantastic purpose-built facility which offers excellent studio spaces and designated work areas for seniors. The integrated BonBernard gallery plays host to external and internal exhibitions throughout the year and has even showcased work by Picasso and David Hockney in recent years.



### 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.



### 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.



## Academic

The main purpose of the curriculum is to offer a challenging and balanced academic education, equipping our pupils for the opportunities and demands of their future lives. We aim to stretch the minds of the most able pupils while ensuring that those of more moderate ability obtain the necessary qualifications and the greatest intellectual satisfaction of which they are capable. The Director of Studies advises pupils on subject choices at all stages of their progression through the School.



Class sizes average between 15-20 with a maximum of 12 at Sixth Form. All classrooms, laboratories, library facilities and seminar rooms are fitted to the very highest standards with state-of-the-art technology. Coupled with an excellent teaching staff, this is what accounts for the 98 percent of pupils who obtain university places each year.



A committed common room uses a range of teaching styles to deliver a broad-based curriculum, with most pupils sitting 9 or 10 GCSEs. Alongside core subjects, there is a genuine breadth of choice from Design Technology to Greek and from Physics to Spanish to Drama. Almost one hundred per cent of pupils achieve six or more GCSEs.

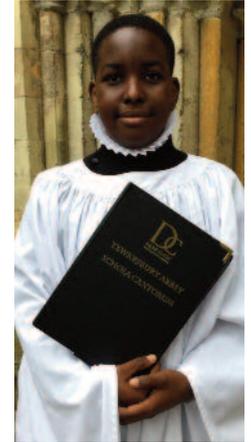


## Chaplaincy at Dean Close

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

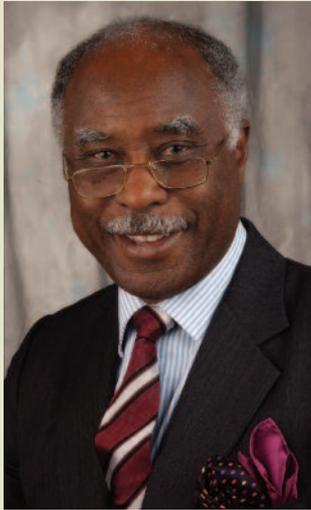
**Service** - proactively meet a need

**Resilience** - develop grit

**Curiosity** - desire to know

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

# International Alumni



**The Lord Ribeiro CBE** (Tower 1962). In 1952, with a brother at Dulwich College, I was destined to follow him, when serendipity in the form of a chance meeting on a London bus between Douglas Graham – Headmaster of Dean

Close and my father, also a teacher, saw me heading for DCS. ‘Don’t send your son to Dulwich’ said Graham ‘send him to Dean Close and Neil will look after him’.

I arrived at school in 1957, the year of Ghana’s Independence. My House Master in Tower House was Mike Girling, whom after my father was appointed Ambassador for Ghana to Ethiopia in 1959, became in loco parentis and a lifelong friend.

I enjoyed rugby, athletics and hockey and studied Biology, Chemistry and Physics, gaining a place at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School in 1962. In 1974 I spent a year at Korle Bu Hospital in Accra, Ghana as a Lecturer in Surgery and was appointed a Consultant General Surgeon to Basildon Hospital in Essex in 1978.

I became President of the Royal College of Surgeons in 2005-08 and a member of the House of Lords in 2010.



**Chrystabel Chinye** (Shelburne 2016) studied A levels at Dean Close. Whilst at Dean Close, she studied Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Geography. Chrystabel thoroughly enjoyed her Dean Close experience, especially because of the great friends she made in her boarding house, the rigorous but fun netball training seasons and her role as the Chapel Warden. Chrystabel said, “my teachers were always passionate and willing to help and encouraged me to engage during lessons”. Chrystabel is currently studying Pharmacy at the University of Bath and is due to graduate in 2020.



**Goz Ubosi** (Gate, 2017). Goz was raised in Africa from the age of two and moved back to the UK when he was 13. He moved to Dean Close for Sixth Form and studied Maths, History and Economics. Goz said “Dean Close was a great experience for me as I made a lot of lifelong friendships, and enjoyed 1st XV rugby, boarder’s football and Wacky Wednesdays. I also enjoyed being Deputy Head of House and helping plan all the socials. I am currently at Aston University studying Business and Politics”.

## 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.



[www.deanclose.org.uk](http://www.deanclose.org.uk)

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