

Who am I ?



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OUR VALUES

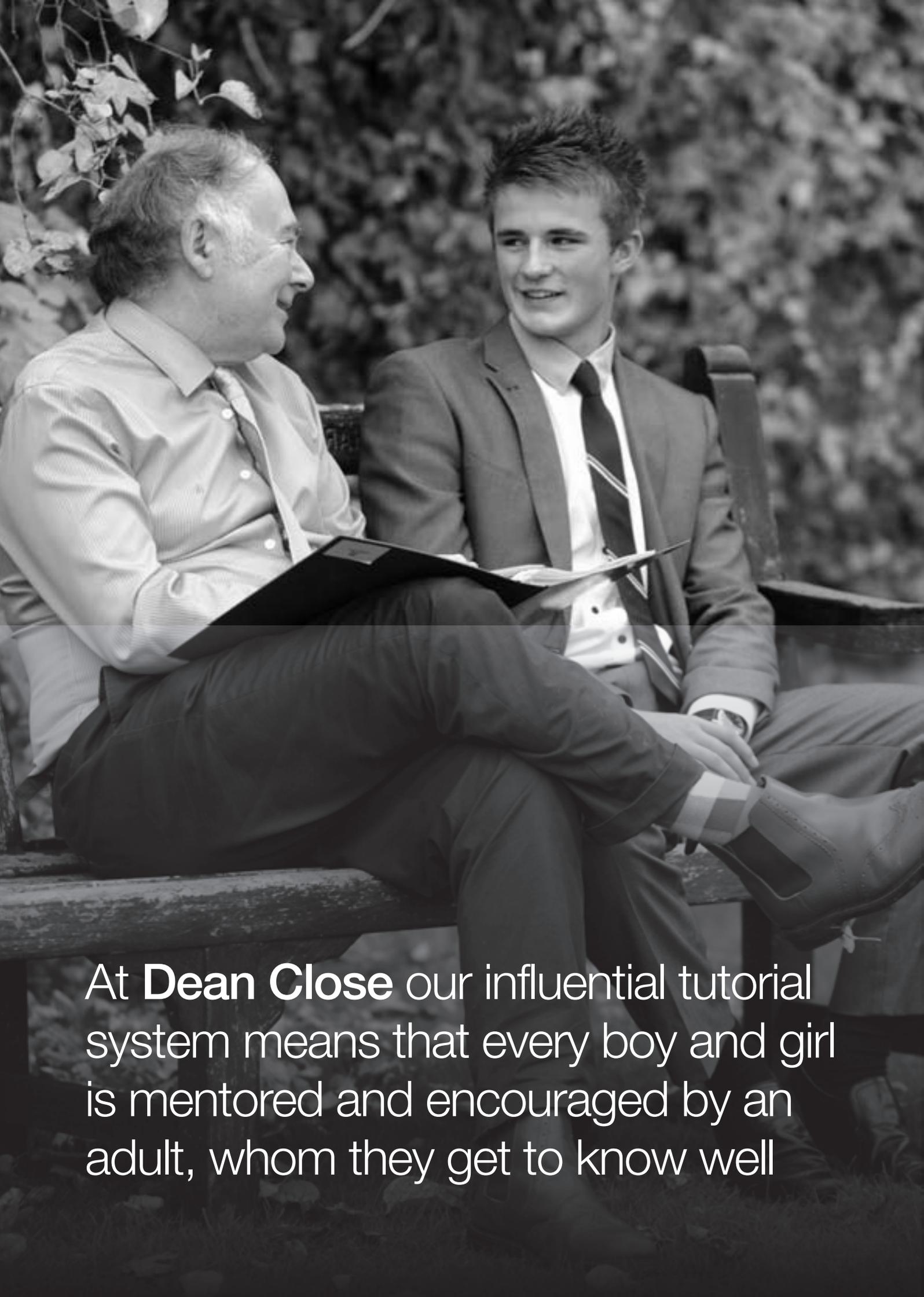


**Dean Close** seeks to treat every member of the School community as unique and equally valuable

# I am Valued



**Dean Close** is a fully co-educational, Christian School and community. The founding Christian values are seen as life enhancing and dynamic and therefore a positive force in the School even to the many who do not share this faith. It fosters a sense of individual worth and mutual support. This underpins the shared respect and warmth of friendships and relationships with staff; it enhances every aspect of School life.



At **Dean Close** our influential tutorial system means that every boy and girl is mentored and encouraged by an adult, whom they get to know well

# I am Supported



As part of its founding principles, **Dean Close** greatly values the individual, something that is borne out in the embedded tutorial system. This system is designed to ensure that each pupil has an adult who takes a particular interest in them, not just academically, but in terms of their wider well-being

and interests. In the Lower School, the tutor will be a member of the pupil's House tutor team with whom they will meet on a weekly basis. Sixth Formers choose their own tutors and the tutor-pupil relationship is usually a very strong one which can last a lifetime.

# I am Learning



**Dean Close** believes in welcoming a breadth of academic ability and will encourage each person to reach their potential, whatever that is. Academic Scholars are challenged by cross-curricular discussions and presentations at the Bowden Scholars' Society, whereas a very professional Learning Support department supports those for whom academia is more of a challenge.

Education goes well beyond the classroom and examination hall. Classicists learn how to declaim Latin poetry in public competition, Biologists study

the habits of amphibians that reside within the department, Psychologists experiment gender differences through car racing, English students write and recite Romantic poetry on top of the Quantocks.

Together, staff and pupils make learning a rich and rewarding experience. Over recent years, an average of 98% of pupils have gone on to universities including Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Durham, Exeter, Imperial, Manchester, Oxford, St. Andrew's, Trinity Dublin, UCL and Warwick.



**Dean Close** sees it as vital to educate both the gifted, and those who find academic life more of a challenge

**Dean Close** holds community,  
respect for others and relationship  
at the heart of the School

# I am Among Friends



Several times a week the School grounds resound to five hundred voices boldly singing in unison, which speaks of the confidence and connection within the community. Pupils are happy to take risks on the stage, in the classroom and in competition, knowing that they will be cheered on by their peers.

Every waking hour, **Dean Close** is vibrant with life. The place hums with clubs, societies, hobbies and people

just relaxing with friends. Boarders fill their evenings and weekends with a variety of activities – go karting, paintballing or ice skating, going to the cinema or shopping centre, or visiting the Clothes Show Live. So, while the School invests heavily in accommodation to ensure the comfort and wellbeing of the pupils, it is the overall sense of active participation that matters more. It helps create friendships that last for life.

# I am Questioning

**Dean Close** is well aware that many pupils will not share the Christian values of the School but everyone is encouraged to explore what they think of the world around them. Equally, those who have a faith, however certain or not, are fully supported in their spiritual quest.

A lively Chaplaincy team runs a number of activities including Growing Leaders, Alpha, house Bible studies, Christian Union and camps, and welcomes a number of inspirational speakers each year.



**Dean Close** affirms that we are all of body, mind and spirit and encourages spiritual exploration and questioning

# I am A Team Player



Sport is an integral part of the daily running of the School, challenging pupils of all abilities to strive for realistic goals. The wide range and high quality of sports, activities and facilities means that everyone has a chance to find their sporting niche on the rugby field, hockey pitch, netball court, swimming pool, badminton court or polo field.

This investment in sport means that the very highest sporting ambitions can be fostered at **Dean Close**,

with teams and individuals regularly competing for county and country. Coaching staff include a former Wales hockey player, a former England rugby player and a former New Zealand cricketer.

Because everybody's talents are valued, everyone can experience the challenge and the thrill of being part of a team that wants to win, whether in a house rugby match, or at the National Hockey Finals.



**Dean Close** pursues excellence  
without being exclusive



**Dean Close** supports ambition  
to use talents to their fullest

# I am Passionate



Music is vibrant at **Dean Close** and this is reflected in the striking purpose-built Music School and Concert Hall. Almost half the School play at least one instrument or sing, resulting in some 300 music lessons each week. Participation in instrumental and choral ensembles inspires loyalty, confidence and an appreciation of quality.

The 30 strong, full-time and visiting instrumental staff are an experienced and dedicated team and in January 2011 were joined by the world-renowned Carducci Quartet as Quartet-in-Residence, teaching individual lessons and coaching chamber groups on a weekly basis.

Unparalleled performing opportunities exist for pupils of all abilities with over 50 concerts each year ranging from informal lunchtime recitals to Concerto performances at prestigious venues.

Choral music is a particular strength, regularly leading services at St Paul's Cathedral and Tewkesbury Abbey, with touring appearances in Girona Cathedral, Barcelona, St Mark's, Venice and Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris. Choirs also regularly record professional CDs.

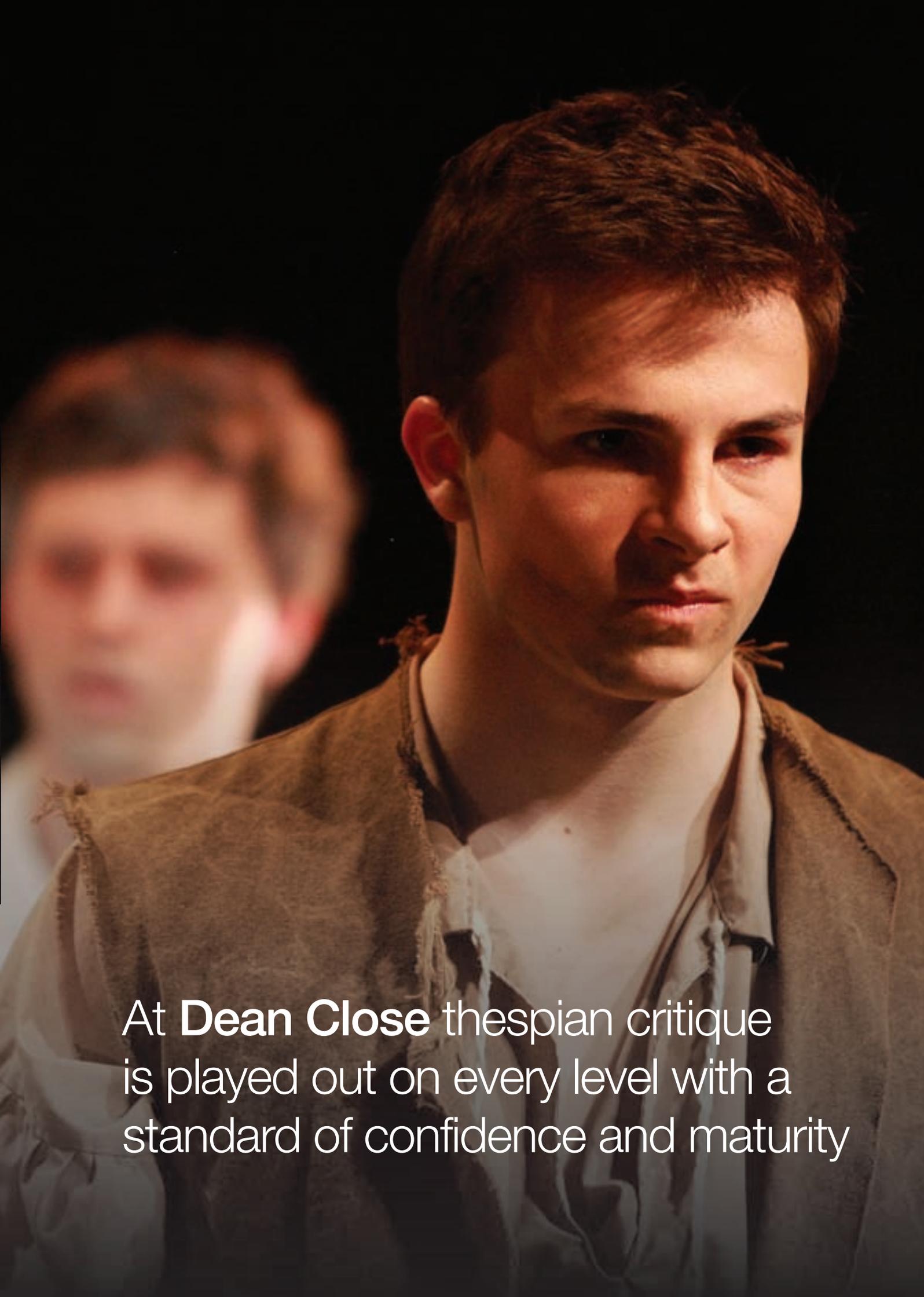
# I am In Character



The School regards Drama and Theatre as being culturally and academically vital to the educational life of our pupils. An ambitious and challenging programme of up to twelve productions a year involves pupils in a stimulating variety of plays, but we believe strongly in challenging our actors and our choice of demanding drama by difficult playwrights reflects this. Every two years there is a lavish musical, the highlight of the School year, and recent productions have included *South Pacific*, *Cabaret* and *Les Misérables*.

There are over 150 pupils currently opting to study Speech & Drama as a co-curricular activity, a high number of whom gain LAMDA and Victoria College diplomas.

The annual Edinburgh Fringe Festival is one of the major events in the dramatic calendar, where the **Dean Close** production company - Close Up Theatre - has been awarded elite Sell-Out Status for the last eight years.



At **Dean Close** thespian critique is played out on every level with a standard of confidence and maturity



At **Dean Close** the exhibition of artistic flair is both an inspiration to the viewer and a personal accolade to its creator

# I am Inspired

Art is a vital and thriving subject at **Dean Close** which maintains a high profile, with work exhibited all around the School.

An exceptional two-storey, purpose-built Art School provides a versatile and creative environment where pupils can immerse themselves in an exciting range of artistic endeavours and fully explore their talent and potential.

The BonBernard Gallery, at the entrance to the building, is a major asset and has been the venue for a variety of excellent exhibitions including those of artists of international acclaim. Talented alumni and local artists, including photographers, painters and sculptors also exhibit on a regular basis and, whenever possible, provide talks and practical workshops. Of course, the Gallery also shows the work of our pupils and exhibitions are held for each year group at some point during the year, the high point being the impressive Commemoration Speech Day displays in the summer term.

# I am Outward Looking

**Dean Close** challenges selfishness, greed and consumerism. It believes that each individual should make a contribution; the principle of service is embedded in many activities, and in particular within the Community Action programme.

Plastering walls in a Ugandan school, feeding the homeless, teaching English to refugees, visiting and befriending the elderly, teaching and coaching in our own Prep and Pre-Prep schools – through such activities pupils learn the immeasurable value of each person and the need for active and committed involvement within the community.

Dean Close believes  
that our gifts are used  
most effectively in the  
service of others



I am  
Adventurous



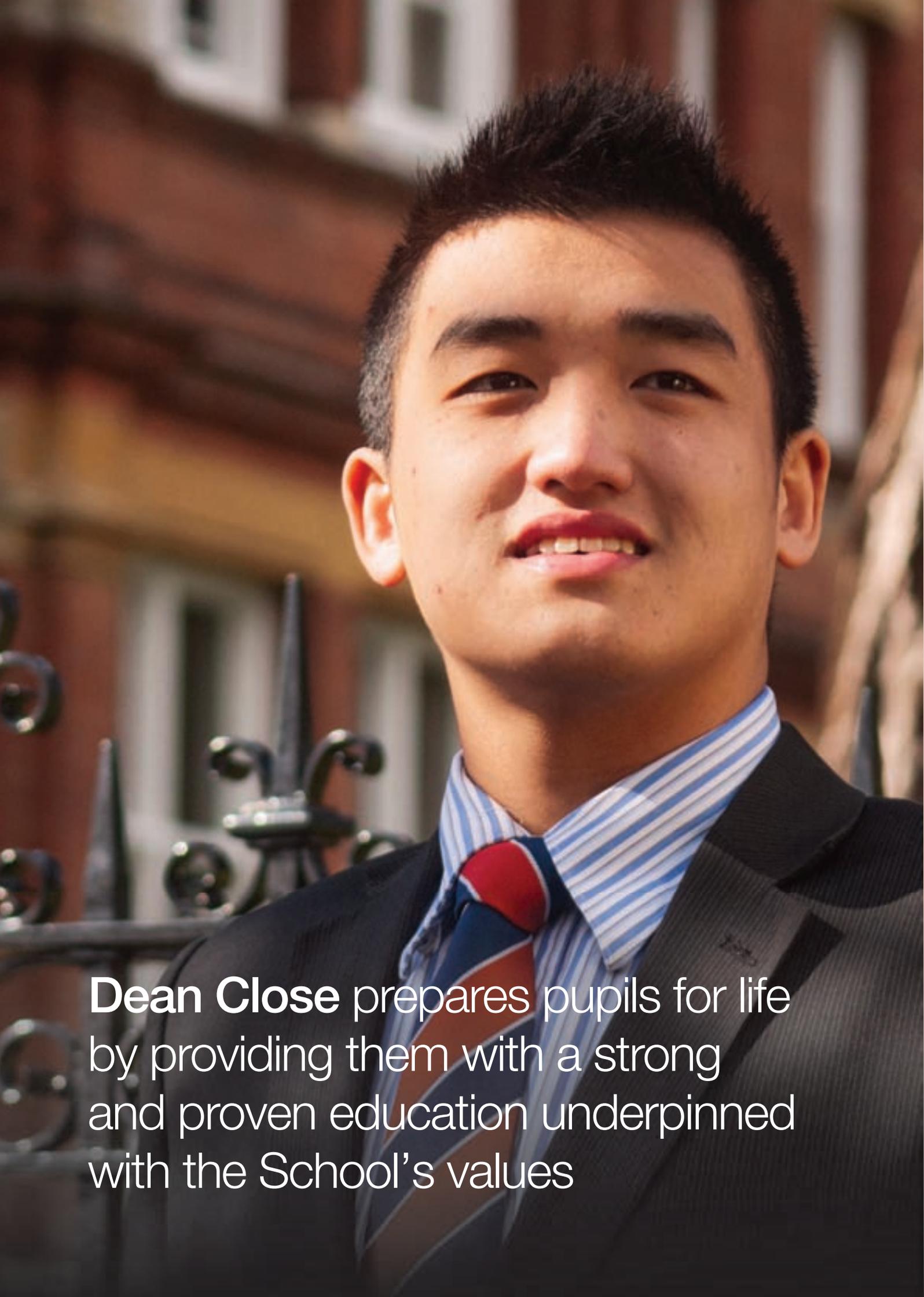
Whether its learning to fly with the cadet force, gaining a Leiths Cookery Certificate, competing in a 3-day National Eventing competition or joining the biennial trip to our link school in Uganda, **Dean Close** takes its pupils on a varied journey of discovery.

The School opens doors to countless experiences for young explorers through its hugely popular Bronze and

Gold Duke of Edinburgh programme and its whole School involvement in the Combined Cadet Force. Expeditions, raft-building, climbing, fencing, judo, rifle ranges are all part of education for Dean Close pupils.

Grasping opportunities when young forms the habit of openness to new experiences as well as providing lasting memories of fun and discovery.

Opening pupils' eyes to what the world has to offer is a vital aspect of the role of **Dean Close**

A young man with short, dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket, a blue and white striped shirt, and a red and blue striped tie, is looking slightly upwards and to the right with a gentle smile. He is standing in front of a brick building with a decorative metal fence in the foreground. The lighting is bright, suggesting an outdoor setting during the day.

**Dean Close** prepares pupils for life by providing them with a strong and proven education underpinned with the School's values

# I am Ready

There are many definitions of success: financial, academic, emotional, creative and spiritual. For **Dean Close**, success means preparing pupils for whatever future challenges they may face.

The aim is that every leaver is equipped with an active imagination, an inquisitive spirit and the confidence and flexibility to live life to the full. The Careers Department gives expert advice and support at all key moments of transition.

Pupils are then ready for the next stage, whether that is a gap year, straight to university or into the workplace. But more than that, they are ready to make decisions, to build relationships and to make a difference.

I am  
Dean Close





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



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