



Dear Parent

September 2022

I hope you had an enjoyable summer break. I wish you a positive start to the new and final year in your daughter's primary education. The move to secondary school can be daunting for you as parents, particularly if this is your first time through the system but please be reassured that there is a lot of help and guidance out there. I would like to invite you to Hillview School for Girls' open events over the coming weeks and this letter will provide you with some of the practicalities you need at this point in the selection process. Hillview School for Girls has a strong pastoral ethos, high academic attainment and focuses upon the development of the individual. We highly value the benefits of studying the Performing and Visual Arts and the skills therein.

Performing & Visual Arts Places

As a specialist Performing and Visual Arts College with a long-standing reputation for excellence in these areas, we offer 10% of places to students with talents in Dance, Drama, Art or Music. Should your daughter show aptitude or an interest within these areas please read the selection criteria detailed on the following page. Due to the increase in applications last year we recommend anyone living more than 6 miles away from Hillview to consider applying for the Aptitude testing to support your child's successful entry to Hillview School for Girls. Please [click here](#) to access the online application form for our Performing and Visual Arts places. It is very simple and quick to complete. The deadline for the application forms to be received at Hillview is **Thursday 6th October**.

You can view our Admissions Policy here: <https://www.hillview.kent.sch.uk/about-us/admissions/>

Visiting the school

I would recommend to all prospective students to visit Hillview on one of our open sessions and on one of the day tours. This enables both you and your daughter to view the school setting, ask any questions you may have and also see the school on a normal working day. I appreciate that many of you have time constraints and therefore we offer additional day tours outside the times publicised below, please contact the school on 01732 352793 or admin@hillview.kent.sch.uk to book yourself on a tour.

Year 6 Open Events and Open Morning Tours

Open Morning	Saturday 1 October 2022 – 10 a.m. – 12noon
Open Evening:	Thursday 20 October 2022 – 5.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.
Open Morning Tours:	Tuesday 4th October – 8.50 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
	Wednesday 5th October – 8.50 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
	Wednesday 12th October – 8.50 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
	Thursday 13th October – 8.50 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

Last Open Morning Tour is at 10.10 a.m.

Admissions

This year our admissions area was 9.98 miles on first allocation, stretching to 13.76 miles by September. Many parents choose Hillview over their closer schools due to our strong educational, pastoral and creative ethos. Should you be concerned that you might live too far away from Hillview, please be re-assured that it is still worthwhile applying as, with patience and perseverance, it is highly possible you will be offered a place, later in the process. If your daughter is Performing or Visual Arts inclined, it is vital that you apply for the **Visual or Performing Arts places** as, if successful, this will guarantee them a place if you have applied through KCC by Monday 31st October. Please take note of the information included with this letter.

Headteacher: Mrs H Burkett BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

We are supported by our strong transportation links and proximity to the centre of Tonbridge and the train station. We aim to support every parent who would like their daughter to come to Hillview, to achieve a place within our friendly and supportive community.

If you would like to find out more about Hillview please look on our website: www.hillview.kent.sch.uk where you can find our online prospectus.

I look forward to welcoming you to Hillview School for Girls on one of our many open sessions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Burkett', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mrs H Burkett
Headteacher

Hillview School for Girls Specialist Performing & Visual Arts Status

Selection procedure for students based on aptitude in the Performing Arts & Visual Arts

Hillview School for Girls is a specialist Performing & Visual Arts college and as a result of this is able to select 10% of students based on their aptitude in one of the four Performing & Visual Arts disciplines Dance, Drama, Music or Artistic skills.

A student with aptitude is one who is identified as being able to benefit from teaching in the Performing & Visual Arts subjects of Drama, Dance, Music or Artistic skills or who demonstrates a particular capacity to succeed in one or more of these subjects. Through a workshop the school will assess whether a pupil has an aptitude for a subject by determining whether she demonstrates a particular capacity to learn or to develop skills in the Performing & Visual Arts, and that she can benefit from the particular expertise and facilities at the school.

There will be workshop assessment in all four disciplines and a formal listening exercise in Music. The assessment will be objective, have a distinctive subject focus and will not discriminate against applicants in any way, including on the grounds of ethnic origin, disability or family background. The assessment will only assess aptitude in the four disciplines of Music, Dance, Drama or Artistic skills and not ability or aptitude in any other subject.

The 10% selection is equally based across the four disciplines, with 2.5% of places being awarded to each area. Based on the school PAN of 208: Five students will be selected on their aptitude in Music, five students in Dance, five students in Drama and five students in Artistic skills.

Final date for applications is Thursday 6 October 2022. To complete the online application form, [please click here](#).

Students will be required to attend a practical workshop-based session at the school. This will be held on Friday 14 October and applicants will be allocated a time to attend:

Workshops will be taking place on Friday 14 October 2022 from 2.00 pm.

The subject areas will be assessed in four common areas:

- (1) Performance/Response
- (2) Composition/Making
- (3) Appreciation/ Evaluation
- (4) Personal skills.

Assessment criteria have been written for each subject area but these and the tasks will be given on the day and not in advance to prevent prior training or coaching of applicants. Students applying for musical aptitude should prepare a short piece to perform on any instrument (including voice) and of any standard.

Quality and fairness will be assured with a specialist teacher from the school leading the workshop assessment whilst another specialist teacher observes and assesses. In addition, an outside expert observer will act as an independent assessor.

If there are fewer applicants than places, all applicants will be admitted.

Following the workshops, assessment decision letters will be sent the following week.

If you feel that the assessment has been conducted unfairly in any way, you may address your complaint in the first instance to the Chair of the Admissions Committee, c/o the school.