

DERWENT LODGE SCHOOL

INFORMATION HANDBOOK FOR PARENTS

**Somerhill
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I.A.P.S.

**This School is accredited to the Independent Schools Council.
The Head is a member of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools.**

June 2008

To: The Parents of New Girls

A very warm welcome to you all! We value the close contact with our parents and we are very grateful for their supportive contribution to the life of our community. I hope that this booklet will help you to understand how Derwent Lodge runs, particularly at the beginning of your daughter's career here. Please keep it for reference and let the School know if you think there are serious omissions; your views are always of great importance. I will always be glad to see you.


Derwent Lodge aims as its priority to give your daughter a first-rate broad academic education to meet the demands of the excellent independent secondary and maintained grammar schools in the area. At the same time we attach great importance to the development of other interests and skills, whether they be creative, sporting, cultural, or the qualities of initiative and leadership. We firmly believe that excellence, in any aspect of school life, will lead to increasing confidence and achievement elsewhere.

At Derwent Lodge, above all, we value equally all the girls entrusted to us for their preparatory education. We hope that the school will enable your daughter to fulfil her potential and that it will provide an education and a way of life that she will truly enjoy.

I hope that you will support the combined events arranged by the Parents Association of all three schools here at Somerhill. Our unique combination of three schools on one site, working separately yet living together, is here to provide a first-rate early education for all the children in the family. The social and fund-raising events organised by the Association will enable you to meet other parents and members of staff on an informal basis: they will also help you to keep in touch with what is going on at Somerhill.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Hill', written over a light grey rectangular background.

**Ellen Hill
Head Teacher**

Aims of the School

To create a happy community in which personal morality and spiritual values are developed by example.

To enable every child to explore and develop her talents and interests to the full.

To encourage every girl to work hard and show initiative.

To offer experiences which encourage an enquiring mind.

To provide a broad range of opportunities in sport, art, music, drama and specialist activities.

To create a caring community in which confidence is developed through personal achievement.

BEFORE YOUR DAUGHTER JOINS THE SCHOOL

This section of the handbook contains information about:

Uniform

School Rules

The School Day

Individual Music Lessons

School Uniform

A Uniform List is enclosed. We are proud of the appearance of our girls and we appreciate the co-operation of parents in helping us to maintain the standard of our uniform. Our uniform is based on the blue chosen by our founder, the Hon Helen Gully.

The school outfitters are Simmonds who run a branch at the School; we also have a 'nearly new' uniform shop.

School Rules

Our School Rules are kept to the minimum needed to ensure that life in our community is safe, calm and orderly. The over-riding principle is that the girls should treat others as they would wish to be treated themselves and that their behaviour should always be courteous and well-mannered. The rules which we do have are intended to help the girls develop consideration and self-discipline.

We expect the girls:

To wear full school uniform as detailed on the uniform list, in letter and in spirit!

To arrive punctually for registration and lessons, bringing the necessary books and equipment with them.

To complete any homework set and hand it in on time.

To respect the buildings and grounds.

To respect other people's property.

To walk when inside the buildings and to keep in single file on staircases and in passageways.

To remain within sight of the member of staff on duty when out of doors at break times and to remain 'within bounds' at all times. (Out of bounds areas are explained to the girls when they join the school.)

To comply with the list of items not allowed in school (detailed later in this booklet)

Organisation of the School Day

The School is open from 8.00 a.m. and the official start of the day is at 8.30 a.m. when registration takes place.

Years Five and Six finish lessons at 4.30pm on each day and Years Three and Four finish at 4.00 pm, except Wednesday, when the day ends at 3.45 pm. There is an optional homework period until 5.20pm for girls in Years Five and Six.

There are extended day arrangements for girls to remain at school until 6.00pm, at which time the caretaker locks the buildings. This late supervision is provided by non-teaching staff and a nominal charge is made for the service. A full school tea can be provided if required and is charged to the next fee account.

Individual Music Lessons

An application form for individual music lessons is enclosed. Parents are asked to note the following points which apply to all children attending lessons with peripatetic staff:

Fees are payable directly to the teacher concerned, who will invoice parents accordingly

Music instrumental tuition is held during normal school lesson times, and therefore is organised on a rota basis in order to keep absence from a particular subject to a minimum

Teachers are under no obligation to make up lessons missed by pupils

On occasion, because of the varying length of terms or because of illness, it may be necessary for fewer lessons to be given during one term and more during another.

Timetables are posted on the Music Notice Board, which is situated in the corridor outside the music practice rooms. It is the responsibility of the pupils concerned to read these timetables regularly and to abide by the instructions given on them.

Pupils may be entered for graded examinations if their parents so wish and their teachers consider it to be appropriate.

A term's notice in writing must be given to Head of Music if a pupil wishes to discontinue instrumental lessons.

WHEN YOUR DAUGHTER ARRIVES AT DERWENT LODGE

This section contains information about:

Assemblies
Curriculum
Breaks and mealtimes
Awards for Achievement
Sanctions
Parents' Consultations and Reports
Homework
Pastoral Care
Equipment needed for lessons
Clubs and Activities
Messages from Home for Girls
Absence, Illness in School and Medicines in School
Asthma
Outings and Residential Visits
Not allowed in school
Delivery and collection of children at School
School Library
Moving on to Secondary Schools
General Matters
Houses
Lost Property
Physical Education Programme
Matches

Assemblies

School assemblies takes place after lunch on most days and all pupils attend. The assemblies often contain a moral or lesson and the children are often asked to speak or read aloud. Prayers and hymns are included in the assemblies. On one day each week the girls have a Form Period with their tutors instead of assembly and on another day we have a hymn practice.

Curriculum

On entry at 7+ the girls study English and Drama, Mathematics, Science, French, Religious Education, History, Geography, Art & Design Technology, Information and Communication Technology, Music, PE, Games and PSHE.

Breaks and mealtimes

Break-time snacks and lunches are included in the fees. Squash and biscuits are provided at morning break time and a piece of fruit in the afternoon.

Lunches are cooked on the premises, including a vegetarian option, and special diets can be catered for. Salads can be provided as an alternative to a hot meal if requested in writing by parents. Please let the Head Teacher know in writing if your daughter requires vegetarian meals or has other particular requirements.

Awards for Achievement

Commendations are awarded for consistently or unusually good work. The girls bring their work to the Head Teacher who signs it on the House board. Merits are awarded for good conduct. These points are awarded as House points and are displayed each week. A cup is awarded each term to the winning House. House points are awarded for achievement in Sport. Prizes are awarded at Prize Giving for attainment, industry and progress as well as individual subjects in Year Six.

Sanctions

These are few and are seldom necessary. We aim to encourage and guide the girls towards self-discipline. Minor misdemeanours are corrected by pointing out the aspect of behaviour which has been found unacceptable. More serious issues warrant a demerit or an interview with the Head Teacher. If a girl's work is inadequate by comparison with her ability she will be asked to repeat it. Parents will always be informed of any major problems and you are asked to let us know at an early stage if you are unhappy with any aspect of your daughter's work or personal development.

Parents' Consultations and Reports

Parents are invited to two Consultation Evenings by appointment during the school year. A written report is sent home at the end of the Autumn term and a brief summary is issued at Easter. The Summer report will summarise the year's achievements. You are always welcome to see your daughter's Form Teacher or the Head Teacher by appointment to discuss her progress if you wish.

Homework

In Years Three and Four there will be weekly spellings to learn and your daughter will bring her reading book home. If she is still working through a Reading Scheme, she will have a record book which you are asked to sign. Multiplication tables are worked through according to individual progress and work in other subjects will occasionally be sent home to be 'finished off'.

From Year Five there is regular homework each evening from Monday to Friday, which should take about 30 minutes. The amount increases to about 45 minutes in Year Six. Your daughter should not take appreciably longer than the allotted time on her homework. By all means discuss with her what she is required to do but draw the line at doing the work for her.

Homework diaries are issued to all girls so that they can record details of work which is set and parents can see what their daughters should be doing! Brief messages between home and school can be sent via the diary. Parents are asked to sign the homework diary at the end of each week to indicate that they know what their daughter should have done. Form teachers also sign the diaries on a weekly basis. There is space on each page for comments and messages between home and school.

Pastoral Care

A form tutor has responsibility for your daughter's day-to-day welfare and progress and you are welcome to make contact over any minor concerns. The tutors are in regular daily contact with the Head Teacher and keep her fully informed of all contacts with parents. Any matters causing major concern are dealt with personally by the Head Teacher in consultation with your daughter's Form Tutor.

Equipment needed for lessons

On entry in Year Three, each girl will need:

A named pencil case containing HB pencils (2), a rubber, a pencil sharpener (which will contain the shavings), scissors with slightly rounded points and a 30cm ruler with a central ridge. When she has mastered the use of a roller-writer she will need a fountain pen. Tippex is not allowed and we discourage the use of ink-killers. Ball-point (biro) pens are not allowed. A small Pritt Stick is needed. A set of colouring pencils will also be needed. For your convenience, these items are listed on a separate sheet as a 'shopping list'.

From Year 4, each girl will also need geometry instruments (180° clear protractor, set square and compasses). Please purchase a pair of compasses which hold a pencil firmly and which can be tightened if necessary.

All these items need to be named.

All text and exercise books are provided by the School.

Clubs and Activities

Extra-curricular activities in mixed age groupings are a feature of the school which helps to develop a family atmosphere and plays an important social role. Musical, artistic and sporting interests are provided for so that the girls can participate in shared interests and enthusiasms. Details of the clubs and activities available will be circulated at the end of each term in preparation for the start of term.

Messages from Home for Girls

We will try our best to pass on urgent messages to the girls, such as changes of collection arrangements or unexpected delays, but please keep telephone calls for genuine emergencies.

Absence, Illness in School and Medicines in School

Attendance registers are taken at the start of morning and afternoon sessions. All absences have to be recorded together with the reason for the absence. Please telephone to let us know if your daughter is unwell and try to give an estimate of how long she is likely to be away. The reason for absence should be confirmed in a brief written note to your daughter's form teacher on the day she returns.

If your daughter becomes unwell during the day we will contact you so that she can be sent home as soon as possible. Parents are asked to make arrangements to be able to collect their daughter if requested to do so by the School. Please ensure that we have your up-to-date address, home and daytime telephone numbers in case we need to contact you in an emergency. You are also asked to let us know the names and telephone numbers of relatives or close friends who can be contacted if both parents are unavailable. A contact form is enclosed for you to complete and return. Please let us know at once of any changes, especially to numbers for mobile telephones.

If any injury occurs requiring hospital treatment, arrangements will be made to take your daughter to the Accident and Emergency Department at the Kent & Sussex Hospital or to the Minor Injuries Unit at Sevenoaks Hospital. Every effort will be made to contact a parent and the pupil will be accompanied by a member of the school staff until the parent arrives.

A medical form is also enclosed. It is important for us to know of any medical conditions or allergies affecting your daughter. Please complete and return the form and let us know of any changes or new developments during your daughter's school career.

If your daughter needs to take any medicines during the school day, please note the following points:

The smallest practical dose should be brought to school, preferably by the parent, to be handed to the Head Teacher or Form Tutor.

The medicine should be accompanied by written details giving your daughter's name, the name, dose and timing of medicine, and, in the case of any difficulties, where and when a parent can be contacted.

Written advice must also be provided on the storage of the medicine, including pharmaceutical requirements (e.g. refrigeration if necessary).

The school will decide the way of ensuring access to the medicine taking into account the age and responsibility of your daughter.

In general, arrangements will be made for self-administration, under adult supervision, of the medicine concerned.

No cause, except illness, is considered a sufficient excuse for absence from school. Please arrange normal dental appointments outside school hours or during the holidays. If, for a pressing reason, leave of absence is required during term time, a letter requesting permission should be sent well in advance to the Headmistress.

Asthma

If your daughter is asthmatic and manages her own inhaler this should be the normal procedure at school provided that you give us written details for our records. A spare inhaler should be kept at school and should be carried in a 'bum bag' during all sports activities.

Outings and Residential Visits

The emergency contact form enclosed includes a section seeking your permission for urgent medical treatment if necessary on outings from school. These forms are taken on all outings by the member of staff in charge. An up-to-date form is needed for any school outing and is a requirement before any girl can be included.

Not allowed in school

Any cash payments brought into school should be handed straight to the member of staff concerned. Money should not otherwise be brought to school. Valuable items, including electronic games, mobile telephones and personal stereo equipment should not be brought to school and neither should sweets be brought into school. The girls are not allowed to swap or purchase each other's

possessions. (Some girls like to bring birthday cakes to share with the class; please ensure they are guaranteed to be 'free from nuts' if you do this. Please hand these on arrival to the Form Tutor.) Please do check that your own personal insurance covers the personal property of your daughter while she is away from home. This should include her watch, if she wears one.

Delivery and collection of children at School

A separate sheet gives details of current arrangements.

School Library

Somerhill has a central reference library for use by the girls of Derwent Lodge and the boys of Yardley Court. Children from both schools act as librarians. Each class has a card with bar codes for all members of the form, which is kept in the Library, for the computerised issue of books. There is a fiction section in the library, and Derwent Lodge also has an extensive collection of books for personal reading in each form room.

Girls are responsible for the safe-keeping and return of all library books issued to them. If books are lost and cannot be found after a reasonable period of time then the cost of a replacement will be charged.

Moving on to Secondary Schools

The Head Teacher is happy to discuss plans for your daughter's secondary education and an early start is advised. The choice is extensive and the process can be complex. The Head Teacher is always willing to suggest schools which parents might wish to consider, but the choice lies firmly with them. Alternative and 'fall back' plans are strongly advised in order to relieve the pressure felt by your daughter when the time comes.

Parents are reminded that the intention to remove a girl from the school before the normal age of transfer to secondary education, at the end of Year 6, must be sent to the Head Teacher at least one full term in advance, or fees for the following term will be required in lieu. Such notice must be received by the Head Teacher on or before the first day of the 'notice term'.

General

All parents have been sent a copy of The Standard Terms and Conditions (for acceptance of a place at Derwent Lodge School) with the offer of a place at the school. All parents new to The Schools at Somerhill are required to pay fees by direct debit. A form will be sent to all parents. Please ask the school secretary if you require another one.

Please let us know if there are any forms mentioned in this booklet which you have not received or if you require further copies.

The school often sends out letters to parents which are delivered by the children themselves. Please ask your daughter at the end of each day whether there has been any communication from school which is still in her bag! Increasingly we are communicating with parents via e-mail so parents should inform the school of their e-mail address and also sign up for 'Parentmail' as a more efficient means of communication. (See www.parentmail.co.uk which is an electronic mailing system that we use).

Houses

There are four houses which compete throughout the year leading to the award of the House Cup. They also compete in sporting activities to gain the Inter-House Rose Bowl. As befits the name of the school, the houses have names linked to the Lake District - Ullswater (Blue), Windermere (Red), Coniston (Yellow) and Grasmere (Green).

Swimming hats and School caps are available from the school second-hand shop.

Family connections with one of the houses are encouraged - sisters are placed in the same house on entry to the school.

Lost Property

Named lost property is returned to the girl concerned when it is found. We depend on parents to ensure that all clothing and other items of equipment are named so that prompt return of property can take place. Un-named lost property is taken to the Reception Office then handed to Mrs Hill. The Head Teacher will announce details of lost items in Assembly provided that she is given a written description by your daughter.

Physical Education Programme

Derwent Lodge offers all the girls a wide and varied Physical Education Programme.

In the Autumn and Spring Terms the girls take part in Netball, Hockey, Gymnastics and Cross Country (Year Three – Six inclusive) to match standard. In the Summer Term the girls' take part in Rounders, Tennis, Athletics and Swimming and they take part in matches on a regular basis.

The school has a wide and varied fixture list in all major sports and girls enjoy increasing opportunities to join a team and play in matches including Inter-House.

A number of individual cups and trophies are awarded each year at Prize Giving for achievements in Sport. P.E. colours are awarded for Netball, Cross Country, Athletics, Rounders, Tennis, Hockey and Swimming.

Detailed daily timings

School opens	8.00 am
Registration	8.30 am
Assembly	1.20 am
Lessons end	4.00 pm Years Three and Four 4.30 pm Years Five and Six except on Wednesdays when all years finish at 3.45 pm.

The Somerhill School Shop

The Somerhill School Shop is where all the uniform supplied by Simmonds is sold. Stock is not held at their shop in Tunbridge Wells. During term times it is open as follows:-

Monday	8.30 - 9.30 a.m.
Wednesday	3.00 - 4.30 p.m.
Friday	8.30 – 9.30 a.m.

It is open at advertised times in the holidays. Appointments can be made by ringing 01892 510123 and asking for the School Department. Simmonds now provide the opportunity to purchase uniform on line, using the links from The Schools at Somerhill Website (www.schoolsatsomerhill.com) or by going direct to www.simmonds-ltd.com/derwent Simmonds do not recommend that new entrant parents use this service initially.

Nearly new uniform is available from the Second-hand Shop. This should be handed in to Reception, clearly named, for processing.

School second-hand uniform shop

This shop stocks uniform “already enjoyed” in good condition. A certain percentage of the money charged is returned to the original purchaser with the remainder being donated to the school.

The shop is open: Second-hand only

Monday 3.15 - 4.15 p.m.

Wednesday 8.30 – 9.15 a.m.

It will also open for special appointments – contact via Reception

Both shops are open at advertised times during the School Holidays

UNIFORM LIST

Unless indicated otherwise, all uniform is obtainable from: The Somerhill School Shop, which is run by "Simmonds" at Somerhill Tel: 01732 352124

Winter Uniform

Navy blue waterproof fleece jacket (with DL Logo)
School blue scarf
Black shoes
'Blue Ramsay' knife-pleated tartan skirt
Cream open-necked blouse
Blue jumper (v-neck) with striped insert
Navy blue fleece (with Somerhill logo) - Optional
Black knee length socks
Black Cotton tights (November to Easter) - Optional
'Winter white' polo-necked jumper (November to Easter) – Optional
Blue Woollen Hat (Optional)

Summer Uniform

Blue patterned dress
White socks - long or short
Black or navy blue sandals or shoes
Blue blazer with badge
Blue School Sun Cap (obtained from school second-hand shop)

Sportswear

School tracksuit
White sports shirt with school badge
Blue netball skirt
Blue running shorts
Royal blue leotard
Royal blue cagoule
Royal blue knee-length football socks
Plain White sports ankle socks
DL Kit Bag
Shin pads
Gum Shield Years Four, Five and Six. We can put you in touch with a supplier who will custom fit

Swimming Kit – Summer term only

Swimsuit - black
Swimming cap (obtained from school)
Swimming towel
Swimming bag with Derwent Lodge Logo

Footwear N.B All items must be named.

White non-marking indoor trainers/plimsolls (for use in hall)
White Trainers – for outdoor sports activities (and for use at breaks)
Football boots (named clearly) (moulded Soles for Yrs 3 & 4)

Royal blue painting apron

All girls in Years 5 & 6 will require a Derwent Lodge School bag, with school logo
Girls in Years 3 & 4 require a Derwent Lodge book bag (obtained from school)

ALL ARTICLES SHOULD BE MARKED CLEARLY WITH THE OWNER'S NAME, PREFERABLY WITH WOVEN NAME TAPES. THE HANDBOOK FOR PARENTS INDICATES THE POSITION REQUIRED FOR NAME TAPES ON SPORTS KIT.

DERWENT LODGE SCHOOL STAFF LIST

PRINCIPAL

J T Coakley M A (New Brunswick) BA Hons York PGCE (Oxon)

HEADTEACHER

Mrs E Hill B.Ed Hons (Sussex) Cert Ed Maths (Sheffield)

DEPUTY HEAD

Mrs H Humphry-Baker B Sc Hons (Exeter) PGCE (Sussex)

TEACHING STAFF

Mrs G Bird B Ed (London) Cert Ed

Mrs J Green B Ed (Southampton) Cert Ed.

Mrs K Harman B Ed Hons (Sussex)

Mrs K Helyar PGCE (The Institute of Education, London) BA Hons (Portsmouth)

Mrs D Jones BA Hons (Lancaster) PGCE (Univ. of Wales)

Mrs L Lester BA Hons (Exeter) PGCE(OU)

Mrs M Lilley B Sc Hons (Goldsmiths) PGCE (Canterbury)

Mrs A M Middleton B Ed (Southampton) AMBDA

Miss Clair Robinson BSc Hons (University of Teesside) QTS (Canterbury)

Mrs J Saby GTCL Hons, LTCL, PGCE (Roehampton)

Mrs J Speechley B Ed Hons (Canterbury)

Mrs J. Fleming Dip AD PGCE (Manchester)

Mrs E. Wallace B.Ed Hons (Avery Hill)

Mrs K Forward Assistant Teacher

Mrs M Dicks Classroom Assistant

Mrs Jan McGeary – School Secretary

Governors of the Schools at Somerhill

Mr. Peter Braggins

Educated at Christ's College Cambridge. Head Teacher Skinners' School, Tunbridge Wells 1992 -2005. Previously Head of History and Assistant House Master, Bedford School. Member of the Secondary Transformation Team and School Improvement Partner for KCC. Chairman, Management Committee, Study Support Centre for West Kent Learning Federation. Coach to debating teams, Citizen Foundation's Magistrates' Court Competition teams, school football and water polo teams. Umpire junior cricket for over twenty years. Magistrate, North Kent Branch.

Mr Joe Davies

Headmaster of Sutton Valence School, educated at Christ College, Brecon and St. John's College, Cambridge. Former housemaster at Tonbridge School and Deputy at St. John's School, Leatherhead. Married with four children.

Mr Nicholas Héroys MA FCA

Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee. Married with two sons both educated at Yardley Court. Educated Tonbridge School and Sidney Sussex College Cambridge. Finance Director of McCorquodale PLC, an international publicly quoted printing group (1977-86). Finance Director of Slaughter and May, City Solicitors (1987-95). Fellow of Institute of Chartered Accountants. President of Kent County Cricket Club 1995/96, appointed an Honorary Life Member of the Club in 2006 and currently Chairman of Trustees of their Benevolent Fund. Trustee of the High Hilden Retirement Home.

Mr Mark Jiskoot

Educated at Tonbridge School and graduated Imperial College, London; Honours Degree in Engineering. Married with two children (boy/girl who passed through SPP, Yardley/Derwent). Held roles in development before moving to Houston to establish a company from grass roots. International expert (consultant) on loss control, published and presented numerous papers at variety of international conferences. UK representative to the ISO standards committee in field of crude oil sampling. Chairman/Managing Director of a niche, systems design engineering company, based in Tunbridge Wells, 60 employees, wholly owned US subsidiary. Former Kent exporter of the year, ISO 9001 accredited and an Investor in People. Supports Young Enterprise. Pension Fund trustee. CBI - Member of regional council and National Executive.

Mr Paul Latham

Senior Partner with Bristow Johnson & Partners, a Chartered Quantity Surveyors practice. Bristow Johnson have been the Skinners' Company's Quantity Surveyors since 1983 and he has personally been involved with all the major building projects for Tonbridge School, the Judd School and Skinners' Company's School for Girls since that date, also having recently been appointed to the Skinners' School, Tunbridge Wells. Married with two sons and lives locally.

Mrs. Jill Milner

Educated St. Anne's College, Oxford. Headmistress Walthamstow Hall Sevenoaks. Previously Assistant Head Teacher/Acting Deputy Head at Tonbridge Grammar School. Teacher elected Governor at TGS serving on Personnel, Curriculum and Finance sub-committees. Member of the Secondary Heads' Association and of the Girls' School Association. Sidesperson and Bible-study Group Leader, St. Mary's Church Speldhurst and Trustee of The Hospice in the Weald, Pembury.

Mr. Michael Norrie

Married with son (Yardley Court and Tonbridge School) and two daughters. Chartered Accountant and director of Corporate Finance company specializing in mergers and acquisitions. Governor (Chairman 2002-2006) Tonbridge Grammar School. Vice President Tonbridge Juddians RFC.

Mr Paul Taylor

Married with four children, all of whom were at Somerhill prior to their move to Canterbury in 2004. Educated at Canford School and Exeter University, where he read History and Politics. Currently Deputy Head at The King's School, Canterbury having previously been a Housemaster and Director of Sport at Tonbridge. Prior to teaching played professional cricket and was in the advertising business, working with Young and Rubicam and Still Price Lintas, where he was an Account Director.

Mr Hugh Tebay

Educated at the Simon Langton Grammar School Canterbury and King's College London. Degree in Mathematics and Physics and a postgraduate Certificate in Education. Schoolmaster at the Judd School for three years and then at Tonbridge School for thirty-five years. Taught mathematics, coached all major sports, Housemaster and Deputy Head. Headmasters' Conference Schools Inspector. Married with four children, two sons educated at Yardley Court and Tonbridge School. Previous experience as a Governor in another Prep. School. Involvement in local community in Crime Protection.

Mr Philip Thomas

Educated at St. Dunstan's College. Qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1966. Joined Creaseys in 1971 and became partner in 1974 and senior partner in 1990. Invited by Michael Bickmore to be a Trustee of Somerhill Charitable Trust in 1993 on its formation and then appointed as Chairman in 1995. Also a trustee of TACT – a fostering and adoption agency. Married with four children (three girls and a boy). Son educated at Yardley Court and Tonbridge.

May 2008