

The Roche School

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Dear Parents,

In my travels as a Headmistress, I see many secondary schools and thought it might be helpful to update you in terms of new schools on the radar or changes to schools to which we habitually send our pupils.

This week, I visited Belmont School in Dorking mainly because they have just announced that they are extending the size of the school (from September 2019) and extending the intake from 13+ (Year 8) to 16+ (Year 11). The school is set in 65 acres of woodland and from an outdoor learning point of view is truly fabulous. They have camps, ropes, pirate ships, and the pupils are set free every break time to make the most of this lovely spot. Academically, they mirror The Roche School with a wide intake, classes on the small side and plenty of consideration for the individual. The plan is for pupils to take up to 12 GCSEs if they so wish but for those for whom this is a stretch fewer will be advised. There is plenty of sport and drama and the school has a nice family feel to it. As things stand, they have been "feeding" to City of London Freeman's and St John's Leatherhead so the standard is high.

Parents can choose between their child being a day pupil, or weekly boarder (4 nights). Some flexi-boarding is possible. They also run a boarding school day - that is, pupils can have breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as a club and all prep done before going home.

The Head is impressive - very well qualified, sensible and kind - and the school is most definitely a happy place, so for those of you who feel the journey is negotiable I would recommend looking at it. For Earlsfield people it is reasonable since it is a 35minute train journey to Dorking and the school minibuses wait at the station. Assessment is a full day in school.

Please get in touch with the school directly or with me if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

Vania

Belmont School – Dorking

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