



Duncombe
School

An Independent Preparatory
School and Nursery

History of the School & General Information



Duncombe School was founded in 1939 by local teacher Lily Taylor, who opened with just eight pupils.

The school quickly outgrew its premises in Pegs Lane, Hertford, and moved to a larger building in Westfield Road, Bengoe. In 1951, we moved to our present Palladian-style mansion and extensive grounds in Bengoe, just outside Hertford.

In 1973, the then-owners decided to close the school and sell the valuable site to property developers. The decision enraged parents – among them Sir Peter Davis. Led by Reg Davies, who became Chairman of Governors, they raised the large sum needed to buy the site and ran the school themselves.

The trustees relinquished control in 2006 and sold the school to the leading schools group Cognita.

The school is structured into three phases, Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) for children from age 2 to 5, Lower School for pupils from 5 to 8 and Upper School for pupils from 8 to 11 years.

Facilities include a purpose-built Music Studio, Art Loft, Science Room, All-weather 75m Athletics Track, Covered Astro Pitch, Accredited Forest School, Outdoor Gym, School Garden and the separate accommodate of “Treetops” for all children in EYFS. We also have our own 96 acre Outdoor Learning Centre just a 20 minute drive away.

The school aims to develop well-rounded individuals with keen minds, personal skills, social understanding and personal confidence through a wide variety of curricular and extra-curricular activities. The school aspires to deliver an enriched curriculum with a stable, caring Christian community in which pupils are enabled to reach their potential.

We provide a vibrant and happy environment where pupils feel secure and safe, but are willing to be challenged and stretched. We are a school that is prepared to engage and take a lead in the debate about curriculum development, green agenda and current issues.

Our expectation and ambition for our pupils and their families continues to grow.

ABOUT COGNITA

The Cognita journey began in 2004 with a single school, Quinton House, in the United Kingdom and a clear vision for what defines teaching excellence.

The British education system, with its worldwide reputation for quality and rigour, has provided the firm foundation for growth internationally. Cognita's first expansions outside the UK took place in 2007, with the addition of schools in Spain and Singapore, and since then we have welcomed schools in Hong Kong, Thailand, Vietnam, Brazil, Chile, India and Switzerland.

Today Cognita are a growing family of 80 schools in ten countries, with more than 50,000 students worldwide and 7,500 employees.

For more information, please visit www.cognita.com.

