CATERHAM

SCHOOL .. Harestone Valley Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 6YA Website caterhamschool.co.uk Head Ceri Jones, MA, since 2015; previously Second Master of Tonbridge School Pupils 935. Day: 408 boys, 268 girls; boarding: 97 boys, 62 girls Ages 11-18 Term Fees Day: £6,245; boarding: £12,265 Oxbridge 10% Admission Assessment day, school's own exam, interview and previous school's report Alumni Actor Angus Deayton, cricketer Geraint Jones There's something special in the air at Caterham - and people are catching on. At five per place, application numbers are at an all-time high. Despite being a selective school, Caterham's Head Ceri Jones is renowned for encouraging applications from a wide range of prospective pupils, confident that they can develop and flourish at the school. It has a markedly strong sense of community and is 'unimposing but smart' - an insider comments that this is an accurate representation of the school's innovative and forward-

thinking ethos, which is reportedly

free from any hint of pretension. Jones - 'a visionary', according to one parent - places an emphasis on ensuring pupils don't focus solely on academia. He is passionate about each child staying authentic and using their school years to develop themselves as individuals, discovering their own interests and passions while making lifelong friendships. Sport is for everyone, music is reportedly flourishing under the newly appointed Head of Instrumental and there's a wonderfully colourful magazine highlighting the artistic and literary achievements of pupils, published annually and titled Cat Amongst the Pigeons. Wellbeing is a big focus here, and their award-winning programme - complete with two popular school 'wellbeing dogs' - gets a big thumbs up from both pupils and parents. On top of all this, academic results are impressive: 2019 saw 86 per cent of A-levels graded A\*-B and almost 80 per cent of GCSEs graded 9-7. The majority of leavers head to Russell Group universities, with last year's impressive destinations including Bristol, Durham, Exeter and Leeds.