

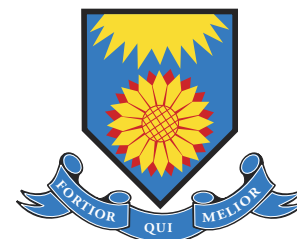


**THE BUCHAN SCHOOL**  
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**THE BUCHAN SCHOOL**

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ESTABLISHED 1875





*Laura Lady Buchan,  
gave £1,000 to promote a  
'higher class of education' on the  
Isle of Man.*

*On 14th October 1878,  
17 girls were welcomed to  
Castletown High School for  
Girls, which became known as  
The Buchan School in the late  
1920s.*

*The Buchan School and  
King William's College  
amalgamated in 1991 to form  
one independent foundation and  
the Buchan is now the location  
of the prep school of King  
William's College.*



# H

## ead's Welcome

Welcome to The Buchan School, the Isle of Man's only independent prep school.



We are a happy and lively school nestled in over 13 acres of beautiful grounds. We ensure that your child can make the most of learning, both inside and outside the classroom. Our curriculum is unique and exciting and pupils are provided with numerous learning opportunities on a daily basis.

Our pupils are guided by subject specialist teachers throughout the curriculum to ensure that they reach their potential. Our class sizes are small so that we can meet the individual needs of each child.

Our children are happy and inquisitive; they learn how to think and to solve problems. They develop skills which will enable them to be prepared for life.

It is impossible to capture the spirit of the School in a prospectus, so please visit to really see for yourself just what makes us unique!

**Janet Billingsley-Evans**

*An Island Education for a Global Future.*





# I

## ntroduction

The Buchan School has developed an excellent reputation for academic excellence and achievement in Sport and the Performing Arts. Pupils are admitted to The Buchan Nursery from the age of two and leave the Prep School at 11. The School consists of three main parts; the Nursery, Pre-Prep and Prep Departments. The curriculum offered is broad, with a particular emphasis on excellence and enjoyment. In addition to the main core areas, the School offers specialist teaching and facilities for Drama, Music, Languages, Art, Design and Technology, IT and Sport. A team of peripatetic staff offer a range of instrumental teaching. An extracurricular programme offers pupils further opportunities to develop different interests and skills.



We pride ourselves on the level of care that we give to pupils and our dedication to the happiness of every member of our community. Respect for the beliefs, rights and belongings of others is at the core of our pastoral care system, as we look to develop every pupil's confidence and willingness to have a go. We have the Buchan Charter – which reminds each pupil to be kind, honest, polite, to always try your best and love your neighbour (everyone) as much as you love yourself.





# Nursery



The Buchan Nursery is a purpose-built facility, providing excellent accommodation for children from the age of two years. Flanked by playing fields and a large enclosed outdoor play area, the Nursery enjoys a tranquil environment, situated away from the main road within The Buchan School's spacious grounds. Nursery children benefit from access to the large Sports hall and enjoy their lunches taken in The Buchan School's dining hall.

The Nursery offers a teacher-led curriculum, which provides learning opportunities in the year before a child starts school, as well as a play-based setting providing for the social, emotional and intellectual development of the child. Access to the Nursery is available all year round or during term time only.



*‘I started at the Nursery. Lots of things have changed, but the awesome factor hasn’t. I love everything about the School, but the highlight is the Sport.’*





# Pre-Prep

The Pre-Prep Department is a warm and friendly environment where each pupil is encouraged to achieve their potential. We aim to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, as well as fostering each pupil's confidence and encouraging independence. We work hard to enhance self esteem, so that our pupils feel confident and are successful in their achievements.



The teachers are skilled at assessing each pupil's individual level of development and supporting their progress so that they flourish. Specialist subject teachers deliver Art, Drama, Music, French and Sport to all pupils.

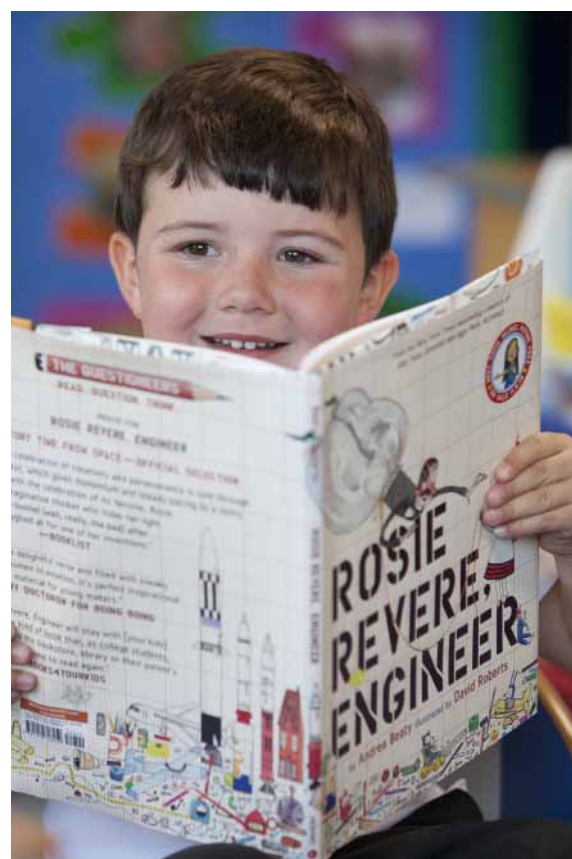
Pre-Prep 1 (Reception) has adopted the principles of the Early Years Foundation Stage, which builds upon the work done with the pupils in Pre-School. Pupils are encouraged to learn through real life experiences.



Pre-Prep 2 and Pre-Prep 3 follow an enhanced National Curriculum and lessons are carefully planned and taught in a variety of styles to appeal to all learners.

The curriculum is extended further by the provision of daily after-school activities for all Pre-Prep children, including construction club, strength and conditioning and Mandarin.





The School encourages good manners and expects good behaviour. Pupils are taught by example to become thoughtful and confident individuals. We believe that praise is essential and encourage pupils in a variety of ways, including 'Pupil of the Week' certificates and 'The Golden Table' certificate, a special reward for excellent table manners.

The Pre-Prep Department is committed to work in partnership with parents, as we recognise the importance of a good relationship between home and School.

The success of the Department is reflected in its high academic standards and warm friendly atmosphere, with an emphasis on fun.



*"I love Buchan because of how much fun the teachers are and all the trips away."*





# P<sup>rep</sup>

From the moment your child enters the Prep Department they will benefit from the specialist subject teaching we offer. Our highly experienced staff spend time getting to know every pupil and work hard to inspire, motivate and challenge all pupils to aim for excellence in all things.

Academic excellence is encouraged at every level and pupils are supported in their endeavours to build upon their prior knowledge and to develop a love of learning. We are aware that there is more to school life than academia and have developed a curriculum that gives every pupil the chance to shine. Our specialist Music rooms, equipped with a wide range of instruments, Language room, Science lab, Home Economics room, Drama studio and Art room, are just some of the busiest places in the School. IT is taught by our specialist teacher, yet permeates through the whole curriculum. All pupils learn French and Spanish is introduced in Upper-Prep. After-school language activities include Mandarin and Latin.

Beyond the classroom, we have excellent sporting facilities, which include dedicated Sports pitches and a Sports hall. Our specialist Physical Education staff offer expertise in the teaching of major sports and swimming. As a result, we are able to field teams that perform to an extremely high level, both on and off the Island.







There are a number of sporting tours that are organised each year and competition for places is intense.

Once the main school day is over, we offer a broad range of after-school activities to expose pupils to experiences beyond the curriculum, such as creative dance and strength and conditioning.

We have an optional Breakfast Club and After-school Club. There are also clubs during the School holidays.



*“We also get the chance to do languages, for instance we can do Spanish and French. We are lucky because in French we actually have a French person to help us and we have a Spanish person teaching us Spanish.”*





*The Buchan is a bit of everything, sport, academics, drama and everything else!*

# B uchan Badge

Buchan Badge has been running since 1996; historically it was completed by pupils in Form 4, but for many years now, the programme has been enjoyed by every child in the Prep School.

The programme gives the opportunity to study an enhanced curriculum, combined with the opportunity to learn new skills. It encompasses and reflects the ideals of well established and respected extracurricular programmes such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

It is presented in modules throughout the year. These may change from time to time, as they follow the interests, skill sets and passions of the staff, but the following are some examples:

- **Theatre Arts**
- **Outdoor Skills**
- **Healthy Living/Cooking**
- **Nautical Awareness/Sailing**
- **Exploring Language**
- **Young Enterprise**
- **IT**

The children look forward to their Buchan Badge day and always head home with a smile on their face and, if they have been cooking, a box full of tasty treats.





*Before I joined Buchan I had never played a game of rugby but now I have been on four rugby tours and all of them have been amazing.*



## Sport

The importance of Sport at the Buchan is recognised by the pupils having generous weekly Physical Education lessons, with both a full-time male and female teacher. The school benefits from excellent on-site facilities and, in addition, the older pupils are taught some of their games lessons at King William's College.

In Pre-Prep, lessons are focused on developing core fundamentals to ensure a strong pathway into becoming able sportsmen and women. Swimming is taught all year round in small groups. For all activities pupils are taught in mixed sex groups.

In the Prep Department, the major games for boys are rugby, football and cricket and for the girls, netball, hockey and rounders. In PE pupils are taught basketball, gymnastics, short tennis, cross country, fitness and athletics. They also continue to swim throughout the year.

In the Prep Department all pupils get the opportunity to represent their house team in a variety of sporting activities, so as to enrich learning, develop social skills, encourage team building and promote good sportsmanship. In addition to the Inter House events, pupils also participate in a traditional Sports Day, Swimming Gala and multi-sports event.







# Music

The Buchan Music Department is a busy and thriving part of the school, renowned for the quality of its offering. Pupils have the opportunity to learn a variety of instruments and join choirs and ensembles, as well as having stimulating class lessons. We provide a comprehensive music education, which begins in The Buchan Nursery and continues through our Pre-Prep and Prep Departments and on to King William's College.



Our Head of Music is assisted by music specialists from King William's College, in addition to a team of visiting music teachers, who offer lessons in piano, singing, guitar, flute, clarinet, saxophone, violin, viola, cello, cornet, trumpet, euphonium and percussion. Music theory sessions are also a popular addition to our thriving Music Department.

Buchan pupils are given numerous opportunities to perform both in School and throughout the Island and the UK.



*"The range of extracurricular activities on offer here is more than I could have possibly expected."*





# Drama

Drama at The Buchan School thrives on enthusiasm and inventiveness. Each form follows a specifically designed curriculum, to involve them fully in all aspects of acting, directing and performing to the highest of standards.



The Drama Room at The Buchan School is a wildly exciting and creative space. A child could find themselves performing Shakespeare one term and producing their first silent short film the next, or recording and editing a radio play one week, then beginning rehearsals for the end of year school production the next. Every child is involved in every lesson and we pride ourselves on stretching our own ambitions as far as the children's imaginations can go.



*"Drama here is awesome! I've made films and just been in Henry V. My friends have just finished their first radio play."*



*“I was taken aback by the wonderful and wide range of activities like chess, film critics and too much sport to count!”*



## Extracurricular

We are proud of our varied and challenging activity programme. Each term, new lists of activities are scheduled and the pupils choose which they wish to join. Certain activities may be limited to particular year groups and some activities may incur an additional cost, for example dance and strength and conditioning.

### Sport

Early morning, lunchtime and after-school activities take place on a daily basis for a variety of age groups, in a full range of sports. Local fixtures are a big part of the School calendar, in addition to regular trips to the UK, to play against other independent schools.

### Other Activities

Clubs include; construction, Lego, art and crafts, beekeeping, string band, theory of music, strategic board games, science, maths, chess, walk and talk, Latin and Mandarin.

Each year, all children in Upper Prep get the opportunity to go to the Venture Centre for a wide range of outdoor educational activities and to the Chill Factor in Manchester for a full day of skiing. There is also a bi-annual ski trip to the Alps in the Easter holidays.







*"I started at the Buchan two years ago knowing no one, but as soon as I arrived everyone welcomed me. The Buchan is the place where I made true friends and realized I love school!"*

# Houses

The rationale of the House system is to encourage leadership, responsibility, involvement, loyalty, co-operation and good discipline amongst all pupils. On entering the Prep Department, all pupils become members of a House and are expected to do their best in lessons and in their commitment to extracurricular activities.



At the Buchan we are very proud of all of our pupils and look to celebrate their achievements throughout each term. One way we do this is through the House Points System. Pupils can be awarded any number of House Points for completing an excellent piece of work, for spontaneous acts of kindness or for meeting a personal target. Each week we aim to highlight those pupils who have earned a notable number of House Points, by inviting them to come forward in Friday Assembly to be applauded by the rest of the School.



Each House is led by House Tutors and individual House Assemblies are held once each half term.

The four Houses commemorate famous Viking rulers of the Island; Godred, Lagman, Magnus and Olaf.





# King William's College

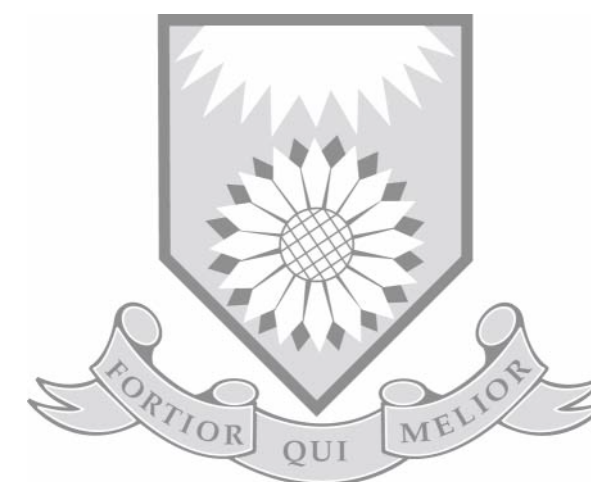
The majority of pupils at the Buchan will move up to King William's College for their senior education. All Buchan pupils have a place automatically reserved for them at College.






Buchan pupils visit the College for Sport, Music and Drama. They will also attend Chapel services, making the transition to senior school easier as they are already familiar with the surroundings.

Academic Scholarships and Drama, Music and Sport Awards are available to pupils entering the College in Lower Fourth. They are designed to reward excellence and celebrate talent. The Scholarships and Awards are taken in the January prior to entering College in the September.

*"I've been here since the first day of Buchan and have come all the way through. It's been the best time of my life and I have loved every minute of it."*





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-  King William's College and The Buchan School
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