

About Dr Challoner's High School



'This is an outstanding school. Outstanding education is rooted in a well structured curriculum that amply meets needs. Students further benefit from numerous opportunities to excel in varied extra-curricular activities and to exercise responsibility and leadership.' Ofsted May 2012

Dr Challoner's High School (DCHS) was founded in 1962 to meet the local needs of an expanding population and sits on a 20 acre site in Little Chalfont, Bucks.

Our ethos, **'we educate, we enrich, we enable'**, underpins our approach to providing a supportive environment in which every girl can reach her full potential and fulfil her goals. In May 2012 we were rated **'Outstanding'** by **Ofsted** and in 2014 we achieved the **Exceptional Schools Award**. Our reputation means the School is consistently oversubscribed.

Academic excellence

DCHS is highly successful. We're consistently in the top 2% of national league tables for our excellent academic results and we're in the top 6% of UK schools for our KS2-4 value added scores.

We're obviously very proud of these achievements but we're also passionate about ensuring girls develop a wide range of skills for future life.

In particular, we aim to:

- Develop independent, enquiring minds
- Encourage reflective and rigorous life-long learning
- Engender self-esteem and sensitivity to others
- Foster creativity and originality
- Encourage active participation in the life of the School and its community
- Nurture compassion, honesty and spiritual awareness
- Enable girls to acquire flexible skills for a rapidly changing world

Admissions

DCHS is a popular selective girls school with 1113 girls (c180 per year). One of 13 Grammar Schools in Buckinghamshire, applicants are required to achieve the qualifying score in the 11+ Transfer Test which is centrally administered by Buckinghamshire LA. Tests are taken each year in September for admission the following year.

Exam results

In 2014 70% of girls studying for GCSEs achieved 5+A*/A including English and Maths. At A Level our girls achieved a 100% pass rate with 81.8% of grades at A*-B.

Virtually all Year 13 (2014: 95%) girls go on to higher education, predominantly at the UK's top universities. In 2014 72% gained admission to their first choice university and 12 girls currently have offers to study at Oxford or Cambridge.

'The quality of work seen in many subjects was simply stunning!'

Ofsted May 2012

DCHS has a particularly impressive track record in maths and the sciences and regularly attracts large numbers to study these subjects.

In 2014/2015, 139 girls studied A Level Biology 117 studied Chemistry and 58 studied Physics. 171 studied Maths.

Curriculum

We offer a broad and challenging curriculum delivered via imaginative and innovative teaching.

All girls follow nine or ten GCSE courses of which a number are compulsory elements of the curriculum. The Sixth Form provision involves 3 or 4 A Levels, an EPQ or an AS, volunteering and General Studies.



We aim to provide:

- A broad and challenging curriculum
- Rich and varied extra curricular activities
- Imaginative and innovative teaching
- Opportunities for responsibility, teamwork and leadership
- A secure and stimulating learning environment
- Support, challenge and the encouragement to succeed
- Participation in a learning community

'The well-planned, vibrant curriculum ensures considerable scope for the promotion of the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.' **Ofsted May 2012**



'The sixth form is outstanding. Students make outstanding progress gaining very strong examination results because the well-planned curriculum meets their needs so well. Teaching is outstanding and demanding, as are leadership and management. Students thrive in the challenging, but highly supportive, environment.'
Ofsted May 2012

The Head Girl Team provides an important role in key decision-making within school

Sixth Form

Most of the girls meet the entry requirements for Sixth Form and so progress from Year 11, where they meet external candidates who meet the same entry requirements. This year we have had a record number of external applications (115 for 40 places).

We offer to support Sixth Form girls through:

Excellence: In academic work but also in our desire for every girl to achieve her best wherever her strength lies. We encourage girls to stretch themselves and go on to the best possible future, whether in higher education or the world of work.

Pastoral Care: We place high value on strong pastoral care. As well as our Deputy Director of Sixth Form, a professional Counsellor and our School Matron, Form Tutors lead a wide programme of PSHE studies.

A Broad Curriculum: Alongside A Levels and EPQ, girls can study additional subjects to attain a further qualification or skill.

The current Year 12 also attend weekly lectures and can learn Italian, Russian, train as Sports Leaders or attend Music Appreciation classes.

Extra-Curricular: Many additional activities including drama, music, debate, Duke of Edinburgh, Young Enterprise and spiritual fellowship as well as overseas trips and expeditions. We encourage girls to be active members of the wider community and to celebrate diversity and tolerance.

Clubs, Societies & Community Projects

Extra-curricular activities and participation in the community are enthusiastically encouraged from the moment girls join the School. Numerous clubs and activities are on offer. Over 50% of girls currently take part in extra-curricular sport, 300 are learning a musical instrument in School and around 70 trips take place each year.

Participation in charity events and community projects gives girls an informed and responsible attitude to the world around them and helps them develop vital leadership and teamwork skills.

Pastoral care

Pastoral support and academic guidance for every girl are of major importance. We place strong emphasis on high moral and personal values. Girls are encouraged to accept full responsibility for themselves and others, and for the development of a 'collegiate' and mutually supportive ethos and atmosphere. Each year group has a Pastoral Head, who reports to the Deputy Head (Pastoral).

House system

The School operates a house system with girls placed in one of five houses when they first arrive and in which they stay throughout their time at the School. Houses are named after notable women in history and play a part in School music and sport as well as a pastoral role.

Estate and Facilities

Our School was built to accommodate around 500 girls but now serves over twice that many. Over the years we have added new facilities which more recently include a drama suite ('The Courtyard'), a new language laboratory, a new music room and a refurbished sports hall. We're currently refurbishing our Sixth Form facilities although our longer term vision includes building a new Sixth Form centre for which planning permission has already been granted. Fundraising strategies are being considered and implemented.



'The high quality of extra-curricular provision through music, sport, drama and a variety of clubs most effectively promotes students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.'
Ofsted May 2012





Governance and Leadership

As an Academy, DCHS is led by a strong team of Governors, the Head and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), working together towards a common vision and goals.

The Governing Body, comprising 19 governors, provides advice on strategic direction and policy and seeks to support with specific expertise as needed. Governors work through a number of committees with full delegated powers to achieve fast and effective decision making and problem solving.

The Head acts as 'Chief Executive', responsible for the management and operation of the School. The Head leads the SLT, which comprises two Deputy Heads (Giles Monks, Pastoral and Amanda Meredith, Academic), two Assistant Heads and the Business Manager.

The SLT controls the School at an executive level. It meets twice a week and is collectively responsible for the day to day operation of the School as well as strategic planning. The Business Manager reports directly to the Head and is responsible for all other parts of the School, including finance, health and safety, premises and facilities.

There are seven faculties: Creative Arts, Humanities, Maths & Computing, Languages, Physical Education, Science and English & Drama. Each has a Faculty Head reporting to the Deputy Head (Academic) with heads of subjects reporting to Faculty Heads as appropriate.

Whenever possible, Form Tutors and Heads of Year move up the School with form/year groups until Year 11. Years 12 and 13 staff remain with tutor groups in the Sixth Form as do Years 12 and 13 Heads of Year.

Significant additions to the School budget are provided by parental donations, covenants, gift aid contributions and the Parents' Association.

The Challoner's Girls Foundation was created to support three key areas - funds, time and skills - in recognition of the many people interested in the School's continued excellence who support through their energies, ideas and talents. For example, our innovative 'Parent Prefect' scheme sees parents with specialist skills and expertise pair with and support Sixth Form girls.