LEISURE AND ARTS FACULTY

The leisure and arts faculty is an exciting team of high quality professionals, combining the traditionally strong departments of art, music, drama and PE. The faculty comprises of over 25 teachers and technical support staff. There is a head of faculty and two deputies who specialise in teaching and learning and assessment. There is a dedicated creative arts block, housing the drama, music and art departments and all of these subject areas have specialist rooms for teaching. Further to this, there is a well-equipped photography studio and editing suite in the sixth form block, a large sportshall, two gymnasiums, two multi-purpose activity halls, a swimming pool, a large 3G astro pitch and extensive fields. The faculty is dynamic and forward thinking, always looking to update the resources provided for students, finding new innovative ways to educate and in a constant state of self-evaluation to ensure the opportunities offered are the most appropriate for the students we teach.

The faculty is fully committed to the professional development of all individual members. Opportunities are regularly provided to ensure that this takes place. These include one-to-one mentoring, in-faculty training, whole-school induction and external training and networking opportunities. The faculty is consistently developing the use of accelerated learning techniques in order to further enhance students' learning.

Whilst the faculty has been ready to adopt all that is best in current educational practice, its philosophy is based on traditional values, in the belief that the creative arts need to be explored from a practical direction, students learn best by doing**!** All team members actively contribute to policy, management and the development of new resources and the staff have a range of experience from which to draw upon.

The art department consistently produce artwork of the highest standard, putting on exhibitions and displaying a wide variety of students' work in public places around the school. The staff regularly support students' learning through many extra-curricular opportunities and inspire the students to push themselves to attain even higher standards.

The physical education team organise an extensive extra-curricular programme, which includes the completion of well over 500 competitive sporting fixtures every year, from local leagues, through Essex competitions to national tournaments. Most notable have been the successes of the basketball and badminton teams. The department is committed to the improvement of standards and opportunities at the school, which includes regular off-site activities and trips, overseas sports tours and ski trips.

The music department offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities including concerts and participation in whole-school productions. Staff regularly organise trips to external venues and visits from musical practitioners, most recently the Katatsitsi African drummers and a choir trip to Paris. Music is taught by passionate staff and is popular both in the lower school and at GCSE level, where the department gained 100% A*-C last summer.

The drama department offers a variety of productions and clubs through the year. There is a regular series of theatre visits, both locally and to the West End. The subject is very popular in the lower school and oversubscribed with enthusiastic candidates at GCSE and A Level.

There is a large creative arts faculty team room with fridge, microwave, tea and coffee making equipment as well as several department offices. These areas lead to plenty of social and professional discussions in a relatively relaxed atmosphere. The different departments work together in developing effective strategies for teaching and learning, striving at all times to provide excellent opportunities for all the students.

The Governing Body will ensure that all staff, job applicants and students seeking admission to the school do not suffer direct or indirect discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, religion or belief, and are not disadvantaged by any other condition or requirement which cannot be shown to be justifiable.