

# CANONS

HIGH SCHOOL



**Excellence for all**



# Principal's Welcome



**I am incredibly proud to be the Principal of Canons High School and I am delighted to welcome you to our school. We are a diverse and inclusive comprehensive school that promotes high standards of excellence in all areas of school life. We are a community school where positive relationships are fundamental in enabling our young people to achieve their very best.**

We have clear behaviour expectations which are fostered and supported with a comprehensive personal development programme, which equips our students with the skills and opportunities needed to be successful members of society. All students study a broad and innovative curriculum where we embrace new learning technologies to prepare students for future education and employment. We have a highly qualified and passionate staff who care deeply about the wellbeing of our young people.

Canons High School has a deep and rich history. It was formerly known as Downer Grammar School and was the first Grammar school to be built in Harrow after World War II. It was named after Thomas Downer, a magistrate from Harrow who died in 1502. It became Canons High School in 1974 and this year celebrates its 50th anniversary. Canons was the name of one of the original four houses of the Grammar school and named after the local former country estate. In September 2008 Canons High School established a Sixth Form and opened its new Sixth Form Centre in September 2009. It now has over 300 students studying advanced level subjects Post 16.

The school officially gained Academy status in 2011 and in 2023 received its most recent Ofsted inspection achieving Good in all areas. It stated that, 'Leaders aspire to provide all pupils with a broad education within an inclusive environment. Pupils enjoy being part of a diverse school community, where they all feel valued.'

I hope this prospectus gives you an insight into what makes this school special and encourages you to learn more about our community and its fantastic students.

**Mr D Bullock**  
Principal



# The Spirit of Canons



Canons High School is an inclusive community where the aspirations are excellence for all. We help members of our community to grow as human beings so that they make progress and achieve success in order to reach and extend their goals and aspirations in life. The “Spirit of Canons” is something you feel when you are part of this community: friendliness, support, challenge and care.

All members of the Canons community feel a sense of belonging and motivation through our competitions, trips and celebration events. Health and wellbeing are developed and enhanced so that students can be successful through our PSHE curriculum which informs and safeguards our students in a rapidly changing world.

We recognise that our diversity is our strength, and so we prioritise equality and fairness in all that we do which can be seen in the breadth of our curriculum, our celebration of culture and diversity days. The voices of all our members are heard, understood and acted upon through students being selected to be ambassadors and even part of our selection process for new staff! This culture enables us to routinely support and challenge ourselves and others which can be seen through our strong relationships inside and outside the classroom.

As you can see, Canons is a school that strives to do the best for all members of our community in all aspects of their lives. This is a caring school, and we recognise that high expectations and strong relationships built on mutual trust are essential for the development of our community and the progress of its individual members.

**Pupils know that their teachers care about their education and want them to succeed. They said that teachers go out of their way to support them, even outside of lesson time.**

*Ofsted, 2023*



# Expectations

**At Canons, we treat every student as an individual and hold them to the highest standards. We work closely with our students so that they will be successful, well rounded young people who will be ready to face the world with a first-class education. We place a great emphasis on excellence for all and believe this can be achieved through hard work, a consistent effort and dedication to all aspects of school life.**

We value students having the best chance to succeed, not only here at Canons but also in whatever goals and ambitions they have in the future. In order to prepare students to achieve excellence we teach them our values through our Canons Keys for Success and the importance of being able to regularly apply these to all situations. These include being ready for learning, team work, resilience, applying yourself in all you do and going above and beyond.

Positive behaviour is promoted throughout the school and we employ an extensive pastoral team to support our students with their academic progress, physical and mental health. Our behaviour system is underpinned by having strong relationships built on trust and respect. We rely on the partnership between school and home and high expectations are reinforced by all staff in every lesson.

*Ofsted, 2023*

**There is a large team of pastoral and pupil welfare staff. Pupils thus have many adults they can turn to should they have any worries or concerns.**



# Learning & Curriculum



**Canons High School is committed to providing a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum for all students in all key stages. Our aim is to ensure that every student studies the full range of national curriculum subjects throughout Key Stage 3, in order to ensure that they begin Key Stage 4 and later move into Key Stage 5 with the strong knowledge, appropriate skills and deep understanding in all their subjects.**

This allows them to flourish in their chosen options and in English, Maths and Science. Our curriculum model allows us to prepare students effectively to engage with the increased content and difficulty of terminal examinations at Key Stage 4 and 5. We challenge and pursue excellence for all in order to ensure students enjoy learning, make progress and achieve success.

We aim for all students to acquire detailed knowledge and skills, and students are supported through quality teaching and a well-planned sequential curriculum. As a result of excellent teaching for all, students cumulatively know more, can do more and remember more as they progress through the curriculum in each subject. We are determined that every student leaves Canons at the age of 16 or 18 with the strongest possible outcomes that will allow them to transition successfully to the next stage of education, training or employment.

We have an excellent retention rate at Post-16 because our students want to stay with us for their whole seven-year curriculum journey. An average of 95% of Key Stage 4 students progress to education or employment or training with the majority continuing into our school's Sixth Form. Our Sixth Form is inclusive, successful and oversubscribed. An average of 80% of Key Stage 5 students progress onto further education or employment or training as a result of the excellent education they receive at Canons. 63% of our students continue into higher education which is well above national averages. We are also proud of the 41% of our students who went to 'high tariff' universities requiring BBA grades – showing we truly instil excellence for all.



**Pupils know their teachers care about their education and want them to succeed.**

*Ofsted, 2023*

# Developing Character



**At Canons, student leadership is valued and promoted across all year groups. Students are offered a range of different leadership opportunities to help them develop and improve their professional skills for their future.**

We ensure students have opportunities to work with our local community and partnership groups to create a feeling of belonging which can be seen through our charity events and partnerships with other schools. We inspire every student to undertake new challenges that have a positive impact on others and have many students who participate in Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and Police Cadets.

To develop students' educational and social skills in a way that promotes physical and mental well-being we have a huge range of extra-curricular clubs – from chess to astronomy to the choir – there is something for everyone!

We empower students' voices to be heard and acted upon which is why there are responsibilities given to Year 7 students to be Year 6 buddies, sports ambassadors, student government members and Sixth Form ambassadors. Our library helps know our systems inside out and many students volunteer to help with our whole school events like Open day, Transition day and induction weeks. There are many opportunities for students to develop their character and be recognised and rewarded for making a positive contribution to school life.

The final prize giving evening of the year is always a great showcase of our students' amazing achievements and a fantastic opportunity to celebrate student excellence.



**Pupils enjoy being part of a diverse school community.**

**Pupils have opportunities to take part in enrichment activities. For example, there are astronomy, chess and sporting clubs.**

*Ofsted, 2023*



# Enrichment



**At Canons High School we believe strongly in excellence for all and place considerable value on a broad education that creates cultural capital and enables social mobility. We are proud to offer the opportunities for students to experience a wide range of extra-curricular activities and trips.**

Every year group have a diverse and varied enrichment programme, that takes place both during the school day and after school.

Our Enrichment programme allows students to enhance their learning whilst developing a passion for specific subjects. We aim for all students to take part in at least one extracurricular activity, and opportunities to participate across all subjects means there is something for everyone.

Part of our extensive programme includes sporting activities, Chess club, Astronomy club, Creative Arts projects, Duke of Edinburgh Award and international projects.

We are pleased to also offer our students the opportunity to take part in a range of offsite trips including day visits to residential experiences. We value the opportunities these bring to our students to allow them to learn about the world around them outside of a classroom context.



# Sixth Form



**Canons Sixth Form is a community with a culture and ethos that embodies excellence for all. We empower all members of the Sixth Form so that they feel a sense of belonging and motivation in order to achieve their potential.**

University placement figures demonstrate our continuous success towards Higher Education and employment. We take pride in the fact that year on year Canons Sixth Form student attendance rates at university are significantly above the National Average of 61.5%.

We have an ambitious curriculum for our Sixth Form students. Canons Sixth formers can choose from and study a wide range of qualifications including both A-levels, T levels and BTECs. Most are delivered on-site and some are delivered in conjunction with partnerships through Harrow Collegiate. We foster and promote strong relationships and with the support of the staff. Students acquire the qualities of self-discipline and responsibility for their academic studies. Through this we believe that they can achieve their true potential and benefit fully from the opportunities available at Canons.

We value academic excellence but also encourage and place significant importance on the development of leadership skills. Our students are valued for their varied contribution to the life of the school and community. Students are given a range of opportunities to develop a skill, these include leadership, sporting, communication, and supporting younger students.



Our partnership with Barnet Football Club allows for opportunity to represent and gain experience from a wide range of professionals. We are proud that this is part of Sixth Form life for all students and their commitment to the wider school community. Such experiences stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives and help to develop confident, well rounded citizens of the future.

We challenge our students to be the best versions of themselves, as well as providing a range of pastoral support to help them overcome any obstacles they may have to learning. Throughout their time in the Sixth Form, our students are given high quality, ongoing academic and personal support by a team of committed and dedicated staff. The result of all this is that our students are incredibly successful when they leave us and go on to enjoy great success in higher education and employment.



**The school's curriculum is ambitious. It offers pupils and sixth-form students a wide range of subjects, both academic and vocational.**

*Ofsted, 2023*

# Careers

**At Canons High School we strive to provide first class careers information, advice and guidance, so that when students leave us they will be able to make informed decisions about their future education training or employment.**

To do this we ensure that students have had access to a wide range of experiences and opportunities that support personal and professional development. They are encouraged to explore the opportunities likely to be available in the future labour market and to develop the skills that will be needed in order to be successful. Our students understand the role that diversity, inclusion and equality have in the workplace and are provided with a wide range of opportunities to engage with activities that create cultural capital and enable social mobility.

We are proud to meet that The Gatsby Benchmarks as they define what world class careers provision in education looks like and provide a clear framework for organising our careers provision. Our high-quality careers guidance includes the following elements:

- 1 A stable careers programme.**
- 2 Learning from career and labour market information.**
- 3 Addressing the needs of each pupil.**
- 4 Linking curriculum learning to careers.**
- 5 Encounters with employers and employees.**
- 6 Experience of workplaces.**
- 7 Encounters with further and higher education.**
- 8 Personal Careers Guidance from a qualified advisor.**

Our careers guidance is underpinned by the guiding objectives for skills and development set out by the Careers Development Institute in the Career Development Framework. These include:

- 1 Grow throughout life.**
- 2 Explore possibilities.**
- 3 Manage career.**
- 4 Create opportunities.**
- 5 Balance life and work.**
- 6 See the big picture.**

This supports us in providing high quality careers guidance so that we can achieve excellence for all.



**Pupils benefit from a comprehensive, impartial careers guidance programme.**

*Ofsted, 2023*



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