

THE DUSTON^{TDS}₄₋₁₉ SCHOOL



Principal's Message



Dear Applicant,

'Every child – whatever it takes'

Thank you for your interest in working at The Duston School. Our school has a great deal to be proud of in its recent history and we aspire to achieve even more in the future.

As Principal I take great pride in leading the school and supporting the students in their educational journey. The school mantra, 'Every child-whatever it takes,' sits at the core of my own educational philosophy and influences all that we do as a school. As a staffing body we really do seek to get to know our students. I also firmly believe, as a parent myself, that if something is not good enough for my children then it certainly is not good enough for anyone else.

TDS is a unique 14.-19 mixed school. It is a high performing, successful and oversubscribed school of some 1500+ students with a secondary phase, thriving Sixth Form, and a recently opened primary phase. Our facilities are truly outstanding, including extensive sports grounds, a swimming pool and state of the art purpose built curriculum suites including a designated Sixth Form area. Learning here has never been more exciting.

We believe that TDS should provide our young people with both the currency and character to succeed. We work relentlessly to nurture our students to unlock and achieve their potential. Our students are actively encouraged to make a valuable contribution to society and thrive in a mutually supportive environment. All of our students are educated to enter the adult world with a strong moral compass, a real sense of resilience and to be armed with the key transferable skills that will allow them to succeed in an ever changing and fast paced globalised labour market. Our innovative curriculum enables them to gain the highest qualifications, acquire flexible life-long learning skills, and be ready to act responsibly as global citizens. We also promote the social, moral, spiritual and cultural development of our pupils, including a recognition and understanding of Fundamental British Values.

Underpinning all that we do are incredibly high expectations and a crucial person in any student's school career is their form tutor and parents are actively encouraged to develop a professional working relationship with this key advocate for their child.

If you share our vision and know you want to make it a reality for The Duston School, we very much hope you will apply for this post. We look forward to hearing from you.

Samuel Strickland

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Strickland', written in a cursive style.

Principal

The Duston Education Trust

About The Duston School

The Duston School is very much part of the local landscape and is at the heart of the local community. The school sits on a large and attractive site in the village of Duston which is on the outskirts of Northampton. We were fortunate to benefit from the PFI scheme with both the Secondary and Primary schools being brand new. The secondary school opened in September 2008 and The Primary September 2015. We were the first All-through School in Northampton and when full we will have over 2000 pupils.

In September 2007 the school moved into a new £28m building which has state of the art facilities to make learning really come alive. Our spacious, well-lit buildings and extensive sports facilities offer high quality state of the art facilities for sports and both vocational and academic learning and teaching. The design of the buildings aims to reflect the school's successful ethos, and it's our pledge to ensure that all students are given the opportunity to achieve their potential whether their talents lie in the arts, literature, sport, science, technologies or more traditional subjects. We want The Duston School always to be a positive learning environment where we offer the best for all students. Our curriculum is designed to be personalised to the individual student therefore allowing them to achieve rapid progress to enable them to be successful in their future.

The school converted voluntarily to academy status under the Academy Enterprise Trust (AET). It chose to leave AET in 2014 and it is now governed by The Duston Education Trust (TDET) whose ethos is that it cares, builds possibilities and potential, and nurtures what students are and what they can become. TDET expects the best of everyone. Our students are happy, confident, resilient and self-critical. TDET values hard work, determination and ambition, acknowledging and celebrating the variety of ways in which learners can be excellent.

Staff well-being is also of prime importance to us. Staff working conditions are excellent; faculty work areas afford our staff amenities and resources of the highest quality and standard. We provide a health benefit package for our staff and our on-site Consultant Senior HR Advisor offers high quality personal support.

Sound, financial business management enables us to undertake change to innovative projects both large and small. Over the past 2 years, major school funded developments have included the opening of our Primary school and School Centred Initial Teacher Training Centre (SCITT). Smaller projects include the installation of smart boards and sets of tablets and iPads in classrooms. The school is fully networked so that computer-aided learning on PCs, tablets and laptop computers can take place throughout the site.



The Duston School – Primary Phase

Our Primary School opened in September 2015 with two Year R classes and one Year 1 class. Each year we intake two forms of Year R children, becoming full in September 2021. The school is a bright and modern learning environment with a caring and engaging feel. The vision of the Trust 'every child whatever it takes' is fully embraced in everything we do. A skilful, dynamic and personalised approach to teaching has led to outstanding outcomes overall for all groups of children in 2016.

A highly skilled staff works as a team to drive skilfully learning forward through specifically chosen, proven high quality teaching methods such as Singapore Maths and Talk for Writing. Highly effective targeted teaching, innovative groupings of children, swift intense intervention, high expectations for challenge, progress, presentation and feedback as well as close relationships with parents ensured that all groups of children achieved exceptionally well in 2016 with results well above the national average.

Every child's day in primary is planned in a very meticulous, yet creative way, to ensure that every child is constantly learning and maximum use is made of time. Core subject teaching is not fragmented, but is instead skilfully integrated across a child's day, ensuring children are given many opportunities to apply effectively and embed skills learnt. The integrated approach to each day ensures more time for children to gain hands on experiences, have more problem solving/research tasks and therefore learn in greater depth.

Children's comments about the school Year 2

'This school is awesome because we get to do loads of work and loads of learning'

'This school is really cool fun.'

'I love the school because I love the playground.'

'The teachers here do lots of cool things and I like going on the playground.'

'I love The Duston School because it's fun. The teachers are nice and you get to do fun things.'

'It is a very kind school. The teachers are very kind.'

'This school is the best because the teachers do fun things and the outside bit it's fab. I just love it!'

'I love this school because we do maths.'

'Duston is big. I love it.'

'I like this school because I made lots of kind friends and the teachers care about if we hurt ourselves.'

'I have lovely teachers because they make us have lovely fun and I love it because we do maths in our Singapore books'

'I like the playground, it's so much fun.'

'I like the little children.'

'iPad club is awesome. I love maths.'

'I like learning. The school is great. School is lovely. I make friends. I love iPads.'

'I love iPads and Show and Tell.'

'I love school because we learn lots of things and I love learning.'

The Duston School – Primary Phase (contd)

'I love this school.'

Specialist teaching from primary and secondary staff this academic year in Spanish, music and dance (ballet, modern, jazz & street dance) from EYFS upwards has greatly enhanced skills at a much younger age than expected. Specialist teaching will increase year on year ensuring a seamless transition into Year 7. Fabulous Friday which takes place fortnightly was precisely planned and taught throughout 2015 & 2016 to enhance the arts skills of all children. Focus weeks as well as cultural celebrations are held yearly to enhance the profile of all subjects and the understanding of different faiths.

We are dedicated to developing fully the whole child. Children say that they feel cared for and successful in their learning. They say that they enjoy coming to school, they like learning and that they are expected to work hard. Children also feel that any behaviour that does not match the school expectations is dealt with immediately. Protective behaviours are explicitly taught across the year. Children demonstrate through questioning that they know how to keep themselves safe in a variety of situations.

There is a strong bond between the primary and secondary schools. We are all fully dedicated to educate every child from 4 through to 19. A number of innovative cross phase initiatives have greatly improved outcomes for many children, including many hard to reach children during the last academic year. Our organisational model means we can provide a dynamic all- through education, ensuring that there is clear continuity through all stages of learning. We look forward to developing this relationship year on year.



The Duston School - Sixth Form



We are proud of our Sixth Form and the support, care and guidance we provide to our students, along with excellent teaching and the facilities you would expect from an Ofsted Outstanding school, including a designated Sixth Form area and an experienced Sixth Form team, made up of two assistant headteachers who work together to ensure a smooth transition from year 11, with the grades necessary to not only achieve but to succeed, a professional tutor responsible for the day to day activities of students, a study supervisor, academic coach, careers advisor and dedicated sixth form administrator. The team is a strong group of professionals whose focus on every student as individuals has driven up standards at a rapid pace.

A relentless approach to student focused achievement and progress is what specifically drives in Sixth Form. The Sixth Form has increased in capacity over the last few years, with a wide range of level three academic and vocational subjects. There has been a record number of Russell Group successful applicants, with over half of our grades at A*-B, with 1/5 grades being A*/A. We are above national average for progress and have a 53% increase in A Level entries since 2014. 75% of our Year 13 attended university this year, with 22% at Russell Group institutions. Our students believe their best interests are at the heart of all that we do, and have recently said that 'it is the best they could wish for.' We have excellent programmes for enrichment, including EPQ, and Sports Leader. We are a leading school for Core Maths and have an extensive work experience programme. Our Sixth Form is an integral part of the whole school community and the students in all year groups benefit from our focus on role modelling and mentoring.

Our Sixth Form study centre offers opportunities for both independent and supported study, and staff is always available to offer academic support. All students undertake engaging and meaningful enrichment activities, and we encourage students to take on roles of responsibility within the school community, such as Head Student Team, Student Voice, Peer Mentoring and Curriculum Support.

We also recognise that education is not solely based on achieving those vital qualifications, but also about becoming a confident young adult. We offer high quality pastoral care, careers guidance, and Higher Education support so that our students are fully informed of the wealth of opportunities open to them in the future.

We are ambitious for our students, and our expectations of conduct and commitment are high. Our Sixth Form is a place for students who want to work hard and realise their potential, and we are proud to support them on their journey.

Students' Quotes

'Sixth Form staff inspires us to achieve our potential'

'Since coming to TDS and taking the role of Head Boy I have seen a massive change in my ability to see things from different perspectives, it's the tolerance, respect, and liberty of diversity at TDS that has helped me develop in this way.'

James Stockwin – Head Boy

'I am able to be independent, knowing there is support when I need it'

'The sixth form at Duston, alongside the excellent teaching, gives an amazing support and guidance system, with staff that really care about every student. They took me from a decision of not going to University to being accepted to one of the best Universities in the country, I cannot thank them enough.'

Jack Barrett – Ex-student now studying Mathematics at Warwick University

'Sixth Form has a real sense of community'

Quotes from Richard Sutton, School Improvement Advisor, following a Sixth Form review:

'Teaching is effective and this is why learners are making strong progress. Teachers have high levels of pedagogical subject knowledge and they provide an excellent level of support to their learners, both in class and in additional activities which many willingly offer and which are well attended.'

'Assessment and tracking is robust and rigorous at all levels, from class teacher to strategic oversight. This information is used well to inform 'next steps' for teachers and learners.'

Teaching School Alliance

The Duston School is proud to be an accredited Teaching School Alliance. The Duston Teaching School Alliance (TDTSA) became operational in October 2014 to support and engage many schools in the local area through the key priorities of bespoke and collaborative CPD, outstanding Initial Teaching Training (ITT) and effective school to school support (S2SS).

Throughout this growth TDTSA has developed excellent collaborative relationships with other local teaching schools across the county resulting in CPD programmes which cater for all local schools from NQTs to new heads. This relationship is further enhanced by being an active member of the School Direct (SD) network, supporting the development, growth and excellence of school based ITT across the county. TDTSA is a very active and important member of the East Midlands Teaching School Alliance (EMTSA), contributing to their regional conference in June 2015 and 2016 and supporting successful funding bids for £100,000 for programmes to support recently qualified teachers (RQTs) and Aspirant Heads.

The Duston School is delighted to be an accredited ITT provider through its School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) provision – Teach Northants. We have our first cohort of 16 trainees in September 2016 with plans for further growth in the coming years. Excellence in ITT is a key strength of the school, drawing on best practice and exceptional system leaders to support trainee development. The Duston School has an impressive record of over 7 years with 100% of trainees graded good or outstanding with 100% employment. Supporting both TDTSA and Teach Northants, the school has invested in a suite of purpose built training rooms adjacent to the school, offering a truly professional setting for effective teacher development. The spaces can cater for up to 80 delegates and provide opportunities for small group working as well as larger conferences making it an ideal learning and development space.



Useful Information Links

Ofsted

Report:
<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/138214>

Department of Education Performance Table:

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/138214>

The Duston School website:

<http://www.thedustonschool.org/>

Teaching School Alliance:

<http://teachnorthants.org/>

The Duston Education Trust:

<http://thedustoneducationtrust.org/>

Northamptonshire

Northamptonshire is a great place to live and work with a future, promising huge investment and growth in the area. Here are the reasons why you should buy a house and live in Northampton and the surrounding area:

Prime Position

Northamptonshire's prime position is not only a key factor in the development of the county's economy but also a catalyst in helping it remain one of the fastest growing counties in the UK. Located halfway between London and Birmingham, with easy access to the M1 motorway, Northampton is ideally placed for getting around the country. Furthermore both the Midland Main Line and West Coast Main Line pass through the county. Exciting times are ahead for Northampton with 20 new projects that will shape the future of the town in a multi-million pound investment. The Northampton Alive programme of regeneration includes more than 40 projects. Initial infrastructure works have commenced which will create a confidence and contribute to Northampton's future prosperity.

Milton Keynes and South Midlands Growth area

Northamptonshire forms part of the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Growth area. This area has been identified as an area which is due to have tens of thousands of additional new homes built in the next ten years. In addition to the 100,000 planned new dwellings, 84,000 new jobs are also planned. This will bring an influx of further investment and opportunity throughout North and West Northamptonshire.

Lovely Villages

The county of Northamptonshire is famously known as "The Rose of the Shires", but is also referred to as the county of "Spires and Squires". Rural Northamptonshire is renowned for its picturesque villages and is a fantastic place to live or visit. Separated by miles of rolling countryside and surrounded by hedgerows and dry stone walls, the villages are a mix of styles and periods. Lime, sand and iron-stone cottages and manors contrast with Victorian red brick houses and the area's industrial canal heritage is evident in some villages along the Grand Union Canal. If you enjoy walking or cycling, there are miles and miles of trails in the county.



Travel and Relocation Information

- Strong road and rail links North and South
- Close to M1 and A5
- 59 minutes to Euston from Northampton by train
- 35 minutes from Milton Keynes to London by train

House Prices

The house prices in Northamptonshire are very reasonable in comparison to the London area. Most of the sales in Northamptonshire over the past year were detached properties which on average sold for £318,158. Terraced properties had an average sold price of £163,465 and semi-detached properties averaged at £194,760. Northamptonshire, with an overall average price of £218,656 was more expensive than nearby Leicestershire (£204,405) and Nottinghamshire (£171,470), but was cheaper than Rutland (£286,397). The most expensive area within Northamptonshire was Guilsborough (£469,700) and the cheapest was Corby (£158,333). In the past year house prices in Northamptonshire were 4% up on the year before and 18% up on 2013 when they averaged at £185,463.

Travel and Relocation expenses

Reasonable interview and relocation expenses will be considered on an individual basis. Notification of claim must be made within the first month of joining the school. If a member of staff resigns/leaves before the end of the first term of the claim, a payment, determined by the Chair of the Board of Governors, will be returned to the school.

Useful links:

- <http://www.rightmove.co.uk/house-prices/Northampton.html>
- <http://www.zoopla.co.uk/for-sale/property/northampton/>
- <http://www.northamptonez.co.uk/alive/>
- <http://www.visitnorthamptonshire.co.uk/>

Accommodation Information

If you require overnight accommodation there are many hotels in the area and below are a few suggestions:

<http://www.hoppinghare.com> £85pn

18 Hopping Hill Gardens, Duston, NN5 6PF (0.7 miles)

<http://www.premierinn.com> £65pn

Northampton Road, Harpole Turn, NN7 4DD (2.2 miles)

<http://www.accorhotels.com> £85pn

Ibis Northampton Sol Central Mare Fair, NN1 1EQ

