



Langdon Park was opened in 1965. There has been a school on our present site since 1865, when the London Board opened first St. Michael's and then Hay Currie School. Many students have parents who attended here and some have grandparents who were educated at one of its constituent schools. The original splendid Victorian building is still in use at the heart of our site, but Langdon Park now occupies an extensive and attractive campus made up of five separate buildings.

A building programme completed in 2006 brought a major upgrade in the school's teaching accommodation including an assembly hall, new gymnasium, multi-gyms, dance hall and a re-furbishment of the whole site. Further development started in August 2011 to build new accommodation for a number of faculties and re-model others to meet the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A separate development called the Spotlight Centre provides Sixth Form teaching accommodation for the school which is part of a sixth form consortium with 3 other local secondary schools.

## Overcoming obstacles to achievement

The school is committed to ensuring equal access for all to the curriculum and this includes a significant number of our students who have Special Educational Needs. The school scores very highly on Social - Deprivation Indicators and the vast majority of students are entitled to free school meals. Year after year we are proud of the way that these students achieve far more highly than national statistics would indicate they should. The dedication, commitment and quality of our teachers are supported by our equally dedicated teams of teaching assistants and learning mentors to make this happen. Our Heads of Year, SENCO, SLT and others form ESS (Ensuring Student Success) teams in each year group that identify those who are underachieving and the strategies used to support them. We work hard at, and are successful in, engaging the support of our parents in making sure the children at our school achieve.

We carry out all of our work in the context of very high expectations for all students in terms of their appearance (uniform), effort and behaviour for learning. We want all our students to be happy, safe and successful and take care in ensuring they have the skills, qualifications and experience they need to become confident, successful and responsible adults.

## Broad and balanced curriculum

We make very little use of non GCSE qualifications believing that they offer little value to students when approaching colleges and employers. In the past this has not helped us in league table positions but has helped us to maintain a very low proportion of students who classify as NEETS (Not in Education Employment or Training).

We have a very successful sixth form with amongst the highest value added scores in the country.

In both key stages students are offered a broad mix of academic, creative and practical subjects. The Visual and Performing Arts are an important part of our offer and we are firmly committed to the widest participation in **artistic, cultural, and sporting activities**. Students regularly visit theatres, museums and galleries. Journeys are organised both in this country and abroad. We have been involved in major joint projects with the following organisations: the *Royal National Theatre*, the *Royal Shakespeare Company*, the *Royal Opera House*, Rambert Dance Company, the *Royal Court Theatre* and *Sadler's Wells*.

## Partnership working

The **Poplar Partnership** is a soft federation with charitable status, joining Langdon Park with 9 local primary schools. Staff from our schools are jointly focused on creating strong home-school partnerships and greater continuity in teaching and learning between Key Stage 2 and 3.

Together with three local secondary schools we are in a 6<sup>th</sup> Form Consortium, called **Sixth Form East**, aimed at providing our students with wider opportunities for continuing their studies post-16.

Links with Business are well developed. The school is a highly active member of the **Education Business Partnership** and through this has been involved in a range of projects, among them

- work experience for Year 10 and year 12 students
- Student mentoring from successful business people
- 'Head to Head' interview practice for Year 11 students with business managers.
- Study skills residential weekends for Year 10/11 students.
- Careers fair events with speakers of different industries

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