

# Dr Challoner's High School

## Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)



The world is ever changing;  
Challoner's Girls will shape that world

# About Dr Challoner's High School



*'All your staff are very passionate and committed to doing the very best for the girls in your school and this came across with everyone I met on Friday. You are very lucky to have such a dedicated staff team.'*

*Ex-Ofsted inspector  
September 2021*

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

**We are here to provide the best possible education for all of our girls.** Our tradition of excellence will never change but we are also passionate about breadth of aspiration and opportunity. At the heart of our inspirational school we strive to free girls to be themselves – to become bold, whatever their personality. We believe that girls deserve an environment that enables them to be confident, resilient and ready to contribute significantly to the world. We are rated '**Outstanding**' by Ofsted and achieved the **Exceptional Schools Award**.

## Academic excellence

We were the top state school in Buckinghamshire in the government's most recent league tables. Our Progress 8 score was 1.1 in both 2018 and 2019 (when data was last released), placing us fifth in the country in the Telegraph's league table.

## Our Values

We are a school with a clear sense of purpose based on long-standing values that underpin everything that we do.

- **Best for all our girls:** We will always act with integrity and only ever do what is best for girls.
- **Bold:** We believe in an openness to taking appropriate risks; we are a school where all can be confident and courageous.
- **Intellectually ambitious:** We believe that high expectations and aspirations are essential goals.
- **Joyful:** We believe girls learn best when all are valued, inspired, curious and happy.

We therefore hugely value our tight-knit community and place a particular emphasis on collaboration, supporting each other and doing all we can as staff to make a difference.





## Governance and Leadership

**Challoner's High is led by a strong team of Governors, the Headteacher 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. The Chair of Governors is a retired selective girls' school headteacher (Christine is excellent!).

The Head, Alan Roe (in his seventh year), is responsible for the management and operation of the School. The Head leads the SLT, which comprises two Deputy Heads (Caroline Russell, Pastoral and Amanda Meredith, Curriculum, who is retiring in August 2022), the Business Manager (Debbie Grimsdale), and three Assistant Heads (Andy Bird, Kate Brown and Ed Walter).

The SLT leads the School at an executive level 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.

Our Senior Team is very motivated, experienced and ambitious for the school and our girls. We work hard and very collaboratively, making the most of each others' strengths and support. Day by day, year by year, we constantly seek to improve our school for the good of our girls and staff. We thoroughly enjoy working together as a team and put a healthy emphasis on good humour and positivity. Our school remains in excellent shape and continues to move forward with purpose and positivity, despite the challenges of the pandemic.

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 Heads 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.

## Curriculum

We offer a broad curriculum and we teach with a strong sense of commitment, focus and mutual respect, whilst having an instinct for the fun, creative and clever. We have a phenomenally talented and committed teaching team right across the curriculum.

Our commitment to breadth is reflected in all Year 7s studying French, German and Spanish before opting for two in Year 8 but then taking up Latin. At the top end of the school we offer 25 A Levels and run them, even for tiny numbers because we aim to provide the best for all of our girls.

All girls follow 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, volunteering, PE and lectures.

This role is a wonderful opportunity to lead, support and develop an incredibly capable, motivated and passionate team of Heads of Faculty and Department – the best team the school has ever had. Whilst the curriculum is in very good shape, a world of opportunity and possibility awaits. We are particularly excited about exploring further the best possible balance between academic personal bests, wellbeing and personal development and, working with the Deputy Head (Pastoral), this is a key part of the role.

The postholder will continue to develop the curriculum to support the girls becoming even more confident, resilient and courageous, so they will be joyful, bold and prepared to shape the world – whilst already strengths, there is still great potential in these areas.

We also believe that we can be even more at the cutting edge of girls' education, pushing the boundaries and sharing best practice, both within and outside of our school.



The pandemic has made a tough but wonderful profession even tougher. This role is also pivotal to our focus on constantly seeking the best possible ways to support and develop staff so they thrive, love their jobs and support our vision and values.

We aim to provide:

- A broad and challenging curriculum
- Rich and varied extra curricular activities
- Imaginative and innovative teaching
- Regular opportunities for responsibility, teamwork and leadership
- A nurturing, sparky, warm and stimulating learning environment
- Support, challenge and encouragement

*"I have visited and inspected many grammar schools but Challoner's High is very different to other grammar schools. Don't let go of those things that are making you wonderful."*

**Ralph Batten (Recently retired Senior Ofsted executive)**





**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 with the vast majority progressing 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.

All students study 3 A Levels plus the Extended Project Qualification. In addition, there is a comprehensive programme of enrichment consisting of weekly PE, volunteering, a lecture series and complementary studies. Attainment and progress of students from all groups is outstanding and pastoral support is second to none. The Assistant Headteacher: Sixth Form is ably supported by two Deputy Directors and two Sixth Form Administrators.

**Pastoral Care:** We place high value on strong, compassionate pastoral care through an experienced and fairly large Sixth Form Team, specialist Form Tutors, three professional Counsellors and our School Matron. Form Tutors lead a wide programme of PSHE studies.

**Extra-Curricular:** Many additional activities including drama, music, debate, 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.

**Sixth Form Centre:** We have raised £1.4 million for a very exciting Sixth Form Centre which will open in September 2022 and will be transformational.



## School Visits

At Dr Challoner's High School, trips and educational visits are an integral part of our school's curriculum. We offer a diverse and far-reaching programme of both residential and day visits, conferences and guest lectures. Pandemic-permitting, girls across all year groups take part in 80+ educational trips: including curriculum visits to New York, Washington, Salamanca and Berlin – to name a few. Our whole-school community also engage in a full week of visits and activities in June during our 'Enrichment Week'. As part of this, our Year 9 students are invited to travel to Barcelona, Austria or Iceland, as well as having the option to engage in visits to places of local, cultural significance, if they would prefer.



## Exam results

In 2019 (when exams were last held), 78% of GCSE grades were 9-7 grades, with 60% 9-8 and 34% grade 9. At A Level in 2019, 51% of all grades were A\* or A grades. 16% A\* and 83% A\*-B. Our results were even stronger in 2020 and 2021.

Virtually all Year 13 girls (c. 96%) go on to higher education. 83% gained admission to their first choice university in 2021, with a similar proportion going to Russell Group universities including Oxford and Cambridge.

## Admissions

DCHS is a popular selective girls school with 1280 girls. One of 13 Grammar Schools in Buckinghamshire, applicants are required to achieve the qualifying score in the 11+ Transfer Test which is centrally administered. Tests are taken each year in September for admission the following year.

Year 7 and 12 entry is heavily-oversubscribed.

## Pastoral Care

Pastoral support and academic guidance for every girl are of central importance. This area has been our highest strategic development priority over the last three years and we have invested heavily to increase our specialist pastoral staff capacity very significantly. 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 mutually supportive ethos and atmosphere. Many of our students identify our strong community as their favourite aspect of our school. Year groups have Pastoral Heads, who report to the Deputy Head (Pastoral).

## Clubs, Societies & Community Projects

Co-curricular provision 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 over 80 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.

## House System

The School operates a house system with girls placed in one of six 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 600 girls but now serves over twice that many. Over the years we have added new facilities which recently include new science labs, art and design rooms, a refitted and extended music department, a centre-piece languages room and stunning outdoor Garden Rooms. A stunning new Sixth Form centre will open in September 2022. We care deeply about all aspects of our school including its environment and the fabric of the school is in excellent condition to help staff and students feel valued.

## Sports Partnership

The Dr Challoner's High School Sports Partnership is a highly successful collaboration of 5 Secondary Schools (each with a dedicated Teacher Release position) and 22 Primary Schools across the Chiltern area. Our ethos is very much about every child, no matter their ability or previous experience of activities, having the opportunity to experience high quality Physical Education, Sport and Physical Activity.

*"There is a warm and caring environment where mutual respect and courtesy prevail."*

**Best Practice Network**





# Working at Dr Challoner's High School



Our aim is for Dr Challoner's High School to be a great place to work. The best schools have the best staff and so we do all we can to recruit, retain, support and develop great staff.

Amongst the many benefits of teaching at Challoner's, we offer: a proactive and highly regarded CPD programme, supporting middle and senior leaders alike; London Fringe; subsidised gym membership; staff discounts at local shops and restaurants in Little Chalfont; and a two week October half term.

Buckinghamshire is considered an "area of outstanding beauty" and Dr Challoner's is set in the heart of the Chiltern Hills surrounded by historic villages, endless country walks and National Trust properties, all within a 30/60 minute journey to the centre of London. There is a tube station in Little Chalfont, which is a five minute walk away, and a mainline train station in nearby Amersham and Chesham with fast and easy links to London and all its vibrant nightlife and

culture, as well as the north of England. We are within easy distance of the M25, M4 and Heathrow Airport.

We have staff social gatherings at the end of each term and a regular social coffee morning in the staff room each week as well as a number of not so traditional opportunities to join in with the real spirit of Challoner's High! We introduced a two week half term in the autumn term, a break that has been much appreciated by all of our staff, and demonstrates our proactive approach to staff welfare.

The best advert however for working at Dr Challoner's High School will always be our hard working, sparky, capable and hugely rewarding students. Our ethos of hard work and excellence in our profession is combined with a keen sense of fun, students and staff alike.

