



INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Morpeth is an eight form entry, mixed, 11-19 comprehensive school situated in Bethnal Green, Tower Hamlets. Our pupils very much reflect our local community and we see this diversity as one of the strengths of the school, prioritising the development of trust and understanding between pupils from different backgrounds. We also welcome pupils with a range of special educational needs having typically 90 EHCP pupils at any one time. We are fortunate in that the entire school has been rebuilt or refurbished to a very high standard over recent years, and we have been able to invest heavily in learning resources for pupils. Schools across Tower Hamlets have a long tradition of working closely together and in recent years this has been facilitated and strengthened by the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership.

In September 2011 we implemented a new curriculum model, with a two-year Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) and a three-year Key Stage 4 (Years 9 – 11). This enables us to offer a broad and rich curriculum with two option subjects in each year of Key Stage 4, alongside the core subjects of English, Maths, Science, PE and Religious Studies. It also enables greater flexibility and personalisation for pupils.

Our pastoral system has long been a strength of the school, but this year we are introducing a vertical tutoring structure so that three times a week, coaching groups made up of twelve pupils from Year 7 to 11 meet with a coach who may be a teacher or a non-teaching member of staff. The 100 coaching circles are then allocated to five Houses named after local historical figures. Our aim with this structure is to create the environment for the strengthening of relationships between pupils and staff, and between pupils of different year groups, helping to build the strong sense of community that is important to us.

Our sixth form is relatively new, having started in 2009 in partnership with two other local schools. Since then, we have all expanded so successfully that we are now operating independently. We have built on our success at KS4 and are pleased that results are improving incrementally at KS5. The vast majority of students go on to university each year, many to the most competitive courses and universities, and a significant proportion choosing to study at universities outside London - highly unusual within Tower Hamlets. We have also proved very successful at placing students on post-18 apprenticeships.

Morpeth is an extremely friendly school with excellent relationships and there is much importance placed on enhancing the school ethos outside the classroom. There is an extensive programme of extra-curricular experiences and a wide range of lunchtime and after school activities, particularly in sport and music. We aim to enhance and enrich the basic curriculum through developing these opportunities and raising aspirations.

We have over 110 teaching staff, 35 Teaching Assistants, and 70 other support staff who share a strong belief in what our pupils can achieve. The school is committed to creating an environment in which all pupils and staff feel equally valued and respected but we know that this is something that requires constant and explicit consideration. We also know that to provide the best support for our pupils, we need to have staff who feel happy in their role, trusted and well-supported. Teaching staff are able to work from home for some of their PPA time, we take a positive approach to requests for flexible working, we create regular opportunities for all staff to mix socially through free staff breakfasts and our Staff Association who run events and trips throughout the year, and we have a strong belief in the importance of ongoing professional development for all colleagues.