Redborne
Upper School & Community College

prospectus

Academic excellence  Shared values  Outstanding education
Redborne is a highly successful and popular school of over 1,500 students. Our sixth form is large with over 420 students, of whom 80% go on to university including Russell group and Oxbridge universities.

We have maintained our OFSTED ‘outstanding’ rating since 2008 and had a very successful ‘Section 8’ inspection in June 2015. Our results are some of the best in the country and our A Level results are better than many fee paying and selective schools. As a result of our high performance, we have been awarded Leading Edge Status and are recognised by the National College as a Leadership Development School.

We hope you will find this prospectus informative and helpful, a lot more information is also available on our website. At a time of considerable change in education, we have tried to describe Redborne and give you an impression of what we consider to be the essential features of an outstanding and developing school:

- first rate facilities and equipment
- a warm and supportive environment
- smooth liaison with our feeder schools
- a curriculum for the future – broad, balanced and flexible
- examination success
- links with employers
- large and successful Sixth Form
- care for the individual student
- excellent behaviour and discipline
- partnership with parents
- a wide range of leisure activities and extra curricular provision.

We cannot describe all aspects of such a large and active school and we therefore offer an invitation for parents to visit us and find out more.

Please telephone for an appointment:
(01525) 404462
Website: www.redborne.com
Email: admin@redborne.beds.sch.uk
Redborne, a 13-18 Upper School since the early 1970s, is ideally placed to provide community education in the area. As an Upper School and Community College, Redborne serves Ampthill, Flitwick, Maulden and neighbouring villages.

The North and South Schools, the two main groups of buildings that make up the school, stand in 40 acres of attractive grounds, with a wide variety of trees, shrubs, flower beds and rock gardens. There are rugby, football, rounders and cricket pitches, netball and tennis courts, as well as an athletics track in the summer.

In addition there is a floodlit all weather sports area with an adjoining pavilion, as well as a new all weather floodlit 3G football pitch. The school also has its own farm, used for both livestock and horticulture.
Redborne benefits from a range of first-rate facilities that are available to students from the whole community during the day and in evening classes:

- **laptops** or **PCs** together with ceiling-mounted projectors available in every department area
- a new purpose-built **school hall** with seating for over 500
- **e-learning** centre with classroom observation and video-conferencing facilities
- **music** centre including music technology facilities, a suite of practice rooms and a recording studio
- **13 science** laboratories
- **3 acre farm** with livestock, greenhouses and classrooms
- **business studies** and **IT centre**
- **art and design** block
- **drama** studio
- **dance** studio
- **film** studio
- large **sports hall**
- **gymnasium**
- spacious, well stocked **library**, and **resource centre**
- **technology block** containing a range of multi-design studios
- **food** and **textiles** technology rooms
- suites of rooms for **humanities**, **English**, **maths** and modern foreign languages.
Learning at Redborne

Our aims are:

- **Academic excellence** by providing a broad, balanced, stimulating and flexible curriculum that centres on the needs and engagement of the individual student, placing teaching and learning at the heart of our professional development programme, recruiting and retaining high-quality staff and maintaining a sharp focus on monitoring progress;

- **Shared values** such as tolerance, caring for others, democracy, self-discipline, independence and mutual respect to foster the spiritual, emotional, moral, social and cultural development of students both as individuals and as citizens in society;

- **Outstanding education** in its broadest sense, through a vibrant programme of curricular, pastoral and extra-curricular activities, to prepare students for a positive and confident approach to the next stage of their education, training or employment and for adult life.

The Sixth Form

- The Culcheth Centre provides a common room for our sixth form students, containing a large recreation area, a computer room and a private study area.

- There is a designated private study area in the new Connolly Hall, where the head of sixth form is also based.
Whilst Redborne receives and welcomes students from schools beyond the local community, the majority join us from Woodland and Alameda Middle Schools, where they will have continued the education begun in the six lower schools in the locality.

There is close liaison with Woodland and Alameda in all subject areas, and particularly regarding the transfer from Year 8 to Year 9 to ensure that students have a smooth transition to upper school life.

In this way, we at Redborne continue the high standards of support and learning our students would expect.

YEARS 10 AND 11 (Ages 14-16)

The National Curriculum provides the basis for the curriculum in Years 10 and 11. All students will study the core subjects – English, mathematics, science, ethical thinking.

PSHE/citizenship, ICT and P.E. which are supplemented by a number of other subjects to provide a broad and balanced, coherent programme.

Students select their optional subjects after a term in Year 9 and start a new GCSE timetable in June of Year 9.

SIXTH FORM (Ages 16-18)

The sixth form naturally follows all the learning that has gone on before. Our sixth form numbers over 400, and about 70% of Year 11 students choose to take a course at Redborne.

Students will choose three, four or five A Level, OCR nationals or BTEC courses from well over 20 available. These will lead to employment or further study at university or higher education at 18 years of age. Curriculum provision is constantly under review.

YEAR 9 (Ages 13-14)

Students follow a broad curriculum covering all the main areas of experience. The curriculum is carefully co-ordinated with the work of Years 7 and 8 in middle school and consists of:

- English
- mathematics
- science
- expressive and performing arts
- design technology
- religious education
- humanities
- PSHE/citizenship
- languages
- information technology and computing.
EXAMINATION RESULTS
Examination results are impressive at GCSE, A Level and the equivalent vocational subjects offered.

- GCSE: On average, each student gains passes in over 9 subjects.
  - 90% of students gain 5A* - C grades at GCSE (typically over 65% including maths and English).

- A Level: A Level results are also very good with typically over 50% of passes at A*, A or B grades and an overall pass rate of 99%. About 80% of the sixth form go on to university.
  - The high grades obtained by our students makes Redborne one of the leading academic schools in the county, beating many fee-paying and selective schools.

Full details of results are available on the school website at www.redborne.com.

HIGHER EDUCATION
At least 80% of the sixth form continue their studies into higher education. Redborne students are to be found in most of the universities and colleges in the country. Much time and expertise is devoted to giving up-to-date and relevant advice on courses and entry to higher education.

EXTENDED LEARNING
Extended learning enables students to develop the ability to work independently and show initiative. It will include traditional homework and other extra-curricular opportunities.

Homework can take many forms – preparation for or completion of classwork, projects, coursework, collecting data, reading, personal research and written assignments in preparation for examinations.

Students may have a relatively short piece of work set for a particular evening or a longer piece of work to be completed over a period of weeks.

GCSE courses demand a high degree of self-discipline and organisation, both in school and at home. These habits of individual study are developed further in the sixth form.

The school provides the student with a homework diary to help with organisation and write down homework. They also have access to an on line homework programme, which records all homework set for the students called ‘Show My Homework.’ There are a number of remote applications, which can be used by the student via the VLG (Virtual Learning Gateway) or the school website. These remote applications allow student access to all software that is used in school and may not be available at home. All of these resources can be accessed via computers, tablets and smart phones.

We encourage parents to read the diary and make use of the on line applications to help support students.
Redborne has actively sought to develop and maintain close links with employers, who have offered a range of valuable experiences to all students.

All Year 10 students have the opportunity to spend up to two weeks on work experience. Our sixth form students have worked on Education Engineering schemes with companies that include Lockheed Martin and Glaxo Wellcome, as well as participating in the Young Enterprise Scheme. Redborne also design, build and race an environmentally friendly electric eco racer to compete in Greenpower events across the country.

The design technology department enter many competitions organised by local and national firms, with considerable success.

Partnered with Employers

As a flourishing community college many of Redborne’s excellent facilities are used by both adults and younger students during holidays and at weekends as well as during the day and after school in term time.
PASTORAL CARE

On arrival at Redborne, students join a tutor group, which will be theirs for Years 9, 10 and 11. Each tutor group numbers approximately 28 students (selected initially after liaison with middle school teachers) with a form tutor who remains with the group for three years.

Tutor groups meet for a total of 20 minutes on each of four days, and all groups meet together on the fifth in the year assembly which is taken by the Head of Year, other senior staff or a visiting speaker.

Students joining the sixth form will be in different tutor groups with a new tutor. In this way, they will have the opportunity to meet a number of other people.

We attach a great deal of importance to form tutors.

- They form a close relationship with the student during their time together to become someone whom the student trusts and approaches for advice.
- They oversee academic and social development.
- In addition to regular tutor group activities, they meet each student individually to discuss progress and set targets for the future.
- They meet parents to discuss students’ welfare and progress.
- They oversee progress checks and reports for parents.

Heads of Year work closely with form tutors and supervise the academic progress and general welfare of all students in the year group.

SCHOOL STUDENT/PARENT AGREEMENT

Each student is issued with an agreement that is signed by the school, parents, and students. This agreement states that the school will undertake to provide the highest standards of academic, moral and social education.

Students are asked to strive to produce work on time and achieve the highest standard of which they are capable. Parents are asked to support and encourage students and staff in their efforts to maintain high standards of work and discipline.

SPECIAL NEEDS

We identify students who, on arriving at Redborne, have special educational needs, those who find learning difficult or have particular problems or aptitudes.

DISCIPLINE

Behaviour in the school is excellent, with a harmonious and pleasant atmosphere in class and around the school at break and lunchtimes.

“Excellent student behaviour is an outstanding feature of the school and contributes to excellent progress”. (Ofsted)

Redborne is orderly and well-disciplined. The atmosphere, quickly recognised by newcomers to the school, is one that combines well-ordered routines of work and movement with friendly and sympathetic attitudes. We emphasise the solid and traditional virtues of hard work, good behaviour and politeness.

Reasonable sanctions are used, when required, required, to support our students.

Quotes from John Grevey, OFSTED Inspector

- “Behaviour observed both in lessons and around the school was never less than good and in many cases outstanding. During the 9 days no incidents of poor behaviour were observed. Students were courteous and polite showing mutual respect to both other students and staff.”
- “Students manage their own behaviour well without the need for intervention by adults and as a result the school is calm and orderly.”
- “Students showed a high level of engagement, courtesy and co-operation both within and outside of lessons. They are enthusiastic learners who enjoy working with each other collaboratively.”
Partnership with Parents

We regard a constructive and helpful dialogue between parents and school as very important in contributing to the effectiveness of our students’ education.

Through monitoring, reports and parents’ evenings, parents are closely involved and well informed of progress or problems.

We regularly ask parents to complete questionnaires so that we can ensure that they are happy with the work of the school and develop practice as required.

We will use every opportunity to share the success and good work of the school with parents and students. Each year we hold a GCSE presentation evening as well as an A level award evening and many of our former students return to these celebration events to be awarded their certificates.

As well as the usual parents’ evenings we also hold regular art and technology exhibitions, drama productions, concerts and jazz cafés as, well as gifted and talented evenings when parents and students are able to see the excellent work of the school.
The Wider Curriculum

We encourage students to take part in activities outside the normal school curriculum. A variety of clubs and societies are organised during the lunch hour, after school and on other occasions. These activities are not only enjoyable in themselves, but encourage commitment, self-reliance and co-operation, all qualities valued by employers and in society generally.

Redborne has maintained strong traditions in sport, dance, drama and music, all of which involve large numbers of students. Some have continued to develop expertise in activities already familiar, whilst others have responded to new challenges.

SPORT

We offer students the opportunity to take part in a variety of sports and actively support them, whether they are interested in sport as a recreational activity or wish to pursue their interest at a more competitive level.

The school provides players for county teams and regularly has two or three students who reach national level. The main sports are:

- rugby
- tennis
- netball
- badminton
- archery
- hockey
- basketball
- athletics
- cross Country
- swimming.
- cricket
- football
- volleyball
- fencing

DRAMA

The Connolly Hall is our newly built theatre with state of the art facilities and a capacity of over 500. There is also a drama studio where students can explore different uses and techniques in lighting within a carpeted space, ideally suited for all forms of drama.

These facilities are used by the local operatic and dramatic society and we regularly invite touring groups to perform.

Theatre trips are a regular feature of the department with visits to London, Birmingham and Warwick theatres to see performances as diverse as Equus, Chicago, Faust or The Caucasian Chalk Circle.

The school has a well-deserved reputation for the quality of its productions. Recent productions including The Shakespeare Show, Grease, Our Country’s Good and We Will Rock You.

DANCE

Redborne has a fully equipped dance studio including mirrors, a sound system and lighting facilities. The department has a well-deserved reputation for its annual dance shows, displaying extra curricular activity work which takes place most evenings after school in the Autumn term.

Students get the opportunity to perform at the Bowen West Theatre in Bedford and take part in workshops at the University of Bedfordshire.
MUSIC

Music is an important feature of school life, within and beyond the taught curriculum. Courses up to AS and A Level are offered and, in addition, many students benefit from the county’s visiting music staff, who give tuition in a wide range of musical instruments.

There is a school choir, orchestra, concert band, string group, jazz group and various ensembles which are regularly called upon to give public performances.

A large number of students are members of county orchestras and bands who have a respected reputation nationally.

A computer suite has enabled the development of music technology up to AS and A Level.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

This has long been a successful aspect of our extra-curricular activities and over 300 students regularly take part. Many staff, ex-students and members of the local community help run the scheme at bronze, silver and gold level.

Students have the opportunity to develop hobbies and interests, take part in community service, and meet the challenge of camping and expeditions. They develop initiative, perseverance and powers of organisation.
Foreign Exchange and Visits

Students at Redborne are able to take part in a number of visits abroad. There are exchanges with schools in France, Spain and Germany and cultural visits to places as diverse as Morocco, Germany and Iceland. Skiing and other activity holidays are organised annually.

The school has developed strong links with a school in South Africa. This link was initiated as part of the South African World Cup 2010 and the London Olympics and has gone from strength to strength with both staff and students taking part in exchanges annually.

Charity Work

A major feature of life at Redborne is our commitment to raising money for national and local charities.

Each year several thousand pounds is raised through a huge range of activities. The money supports numerous charities decided by year councils or the School Council on a yearly basis.

In recent years we have committed to helping students at a school in Kenya, supported national campaigns including MacMillan Cancer Care and Great Ormond Street Hospital and provided Christmas parcels for local care homes for the elderly.
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