



DR CHALLONER'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Founded in 1624, Dr Challoner's is an academy grammar school with 1356 students (of whom over 400 are in the co-educational Sixth Form). It has around 130 teaching and support staff and draws its intake of 180 boys who join the school in Year 7 from the Chiltern area of Buckinghamshire. Boys take the Buckinghamshire Transfer Test.



Challoner's students benefit from an exceptional range of learning activities which are pursued to a very high standard. As well as featuring consistently high up in national league tables for GCSE and A Level, the school adds significant value to its students, with consistently extremely strong Progress 8 scores.

Challoner's was the third secondary school in the country to be judged Outstanding under Ofsted's new Education Inspection Framework, when inspected in November 2019. The inspectors' report comments very favourably on the ethos, values and academic standards of the school. The school became a National Teaching School in 2013 and is now the Teaching School Hub for Buckinghamshire. The Astra SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training), which was classed as Outstanding by Ofsted in 2018, recruited its first cohort of trainees in September 2016 and trains around 75 teachers a year. As the Teaching School Hub for Buckinghamshire we are at the forefront of teacher training and development, and Challoner's staff have many opportunities to be involved in this work. We work with a network of over 200 schools in Buckinghamshire and are part of the national network of 87 Teaching School Hubs.



Underpinning everything that we do is a belief that the education of our students is about developing their aspiration, their kindness and their resilience, and about equipping them to flourish in the future, whatever that may hold.

We believe that the learning habits developed by students are just as important as the knowledge and understanding they acquire during their time at school. Teachers, students and governors take part in Learning Reviews and a common language of learning permeates the school. DCGS is an active member of the International Boys Schools Coalition and hosts national conferences on learning as well as supporting many

local schools. Professional development is given a high priority and the school runs its own programme of leadership development for staff. The excellence of this programme was positively recognised by Ofsted. In April 2021, for the third consecutive year, the school won a Gold Award in the Mind Workplace Wellbeing Index. This recognises the way in which the school looks after its employees, in terms of both policy and culture.

The curriculum broadly mirrors the National Curriculum at Key Stage 3 while students in Key Stage 4 follow a core curriculum of English (Language and Literature), Mathematics, three Sciences, a Modern Language and a Humanities subject, as well as PE, Religious Studies and Citizenship/PSHEE. Boys make two further choices from a wide range of courses and also undertake an enrichment programme which includes climbing, cookery, 'app' development and the opportunity to undertake the HPQ (Higher Project Qualification). In the Sixth Form students follow the innovative Challoner's Baccalaureate, which combines the best of rigorous academic learning with a wide range of other activities. Students complete three or four A Levels selected from a list of over 20 and participate in volunteering, higher level study and team projects as well as completing either an EPQ or AS Level General Studies. Around 20 students each year win offers of places at Oxford and Cambridge



The school has very strong cultural and sporting traditions. There are choirs, an orchestra, a swing band, a jazz band, and at least two major drama productions each year. The main sports are soccer, hockey, rugby, cricket, tennis, cross-country, athletics and basketball. DCGS enjoys a very strong sporting reputation and teams compete strongly at regional and national level. Many clubs and societies flourish while the number and range of educational visits are exceptional. A wide range of international links is maintained, including work experience language exchanges and regular visits to overseas destinations. Close ties exist with Dr Challoner's High School for Girls, through music and drama as well as through social events for students.



Student support, guidance and involvement are key aspects of the school. Great emphasis is placed on developing the school's ethos of 'excellence with integrity' and students are encouraged to accept responsibility for themselves, others and the environment. A system of mentors and prefects supports younger students and provides outstanding opportunities for leadership development. The flourishing competition between the six houses – Foxell, Holman, Newman, Pearson, Rayner and Thorne – is led entirely by senior students.

Significant infrastructure improvements have taken place over recent years. IT provision is extensive and all students from Years 8-11 use their own iPads as a central tool to support their learning across every subject. Sixth Form students routinely use laptops or tablets. The Sports Centre was extended in 2010 to include a cookery room and additional sports facilities, while a large performing arts studio was commissioned in 2011. A new Sixth Form Centre and Library, which provide a genuinely world class facility to help students to bridge the gap between school and university, were opened by HRH The Earl of Wessex in 2013 while a new state of the art music building opened in April 2019. Our current project is the construction of two new Chemistry laboratories and the refurbishment of our existing trio of labs. The School has an extremely strong Governing Body with a wide range of high level experience in the fields of education, finance and business management. It is highly supportive of the School and students participate in most of its committees and sit as observers on the Full Governing Body.

You'll find a lot more information about the school on our website www.challoners.com (which we hope encapsulates that intangible 'feel' of the school) and about the Astra Teaching School Hub at www.astrahub.org. If you would like further clarification or just an informal chat with someone, please feel free to contact us by phone or email.

