



THE  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR  
SCHOOL







*'Pupils say that the school values of 'courage and courtesy' are a part of their everyday school life.'*

OFSTED 2023



# A warm welcome

Welcome to the caring, supportive and challenging learning environment of The Knights Templar School. We hope the information in this prospectus will help you gain an insight into our school. However, no booklet is a substitute for a visit, so please do come and have a look for yourselves as well as visiting the school website.

This is a vibrant and successful school at the heart of the community with high expectations and a reputation for academic excellence.

Central to everything we do is the school's motto 'Courage and Courtesy'. We recognise the importance of developing and providing all our students with the courage, confidence and communication skills they require to flourish and succeed, but also to promote traditional values of courtesy, respect and good discipline.

We pride ourselves on giving our students a well-rounded education that prepares them for their future. We know students flourish if they lead rich and varied lives and are immensely proud of our exciting and wide ranging curricular and extra-curricular provision.

The school is open to children of all abilities and backgrounds and our outstanding pastoral care ensures that every student receives the nurturing, support and guidance they need. As a central part of our community, we are proud of our excellent relationships with primary schools, local residents, businesses and other organisations. These links provide students with a sense of cohesion within this community and enables them to be active citizens.

We are fully committed to preparing our young people to be thoughtful, capable, responsible citizens of the future. This is a great school, staffed with passionate, inspirational teachers, and is a special place for children to learn and grow. I'm sure you will sense the energy and enthusiasm when you visit us.

**Edward Hutchings**  
Headteacher



## Vision:

Our vision is to be a vibrant, successful and inclusive school at the heart of the community, where everyone achieves their best, developing the courage and courtesy to own their futures and live fulfilled lives.

## Mission and Aims:

To ensure students achieve their best through academic and vocational excellence:

- Providing a broad curriculum that is ambitious for all students and supports their next steps.
- Delivering consistently good teaching and learning, to ensure progress over time.
- Identifying, recognising and adapting for a variety of students' individual needs, closing gaps in outcomes.
- Promoting confident and effective communication and literacy.

To encourage students to take responsibility for their learning by:

- Ensuring a safe and supportive learning environment for all.
- Ensuring excellent attendance for all through support and challenge.
- Developing courage and courtesy; through building student independence, resilience and self-discipline.
- Celebrating achievement and success.

To encourage students to shape their role in our modern diverse society by:

- Developing courage and courtesy; through promoting acceptance, understanding and respect for others.
- Supporting all students to be self-aware, confident and take ownership of their choices and future.
- Developing student leadership within and across all key stages.
- Promoting participation in enrichment and extra-curricular activities.





*'Pupils want to succeed,  
they work hard in lessons  
and enjoy their subjects,  
they learn and achieve well.'*

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# Academic success

Knights Templar is a school with a strong academic focus. We are committed to providing an excellent education and we encourage and support all of our students to do the very best they can in all their studies. Students of all abilities are successful and achieve high standards here, in all aspects of their school life. Our students' GCSE results are consistently well above national averages and each year the majority of our students get 9 good GCSEs or better and many achieve the top grades 7, 8 and 9. We are equally proud of the academic achievements of our Sixth Form students; every year many go on to study a wide range of degrees at the most prestigious universities in the country, or undertake apprenticeships with renown organisations.

## A high quality and motivated teaching team

Ultimately, the success of our students is underpinned by the high quality of teaching and the range of challenging learning experiences students encounter every lesson. Our school is fortunate to have a highly skilled and experienced team of dedicated teachers who are committed to providing the highest quality education to all students, informed by methods that we know to be effective, coupled with evidence-informed new approaches. In addition to their ability to engage students in the classroom, staff also give freely of their time to develop and support our rich programme of extra-curricular activities.

Staff at our school – both teaching and support staff – invest heavily in the progress of our students. They create a school that is welcoming yet structured. It is the combination of strong discipline, clear expectations and a wide range of academic and extra-curricular activities within the context of a warm and respectful environment that enables Knights Templar students to be so successful.

## Opportunities for all abilities

Whilst the majority of students thrive in the Knights Templar family, some will find study and other aspects of school life difficult. Our teachers, Learning Development department and Student Services team provide support and advice to students and their families to help each and every student fulfil their potential.

Whichever path our students take, when they leave they are well prepared for the next phase of their education – whether a student is part of the high proportion of Year 11 who choose to stay on to our Sixth Form or whether they progress to full-time courses in Further Education or apprenticeships.



*'Staff have good subject knowledge and are appropriately trained to deliver the curriculum effectively.'*

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*'Many pupils enjoy the activities available during the school day, at lunchtime and after school. Such opportunities are a strong feature of the school.'*

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# Participation beyond the classroom

Education is not simply about academic success. It is about participation and achievement that goes beyond the classroom. In its broadest sense, it is about preparing our students for life after school, helping them to be successful, valuable and valued citizens.

## **Extensive extra-curricular opportunities**

All students are encouraged to take part in sport, dance, drama, music, outdoor and community activities – the wide range of lunchtime and after-school clubs available, from dodgeball to debating, mindfulness to running, table tennis to film club provide something for everyone. Musical excellence is supported by lunchtime and evening groups, choirs and ensembles and concerts of the highest quality are a regular feature of school life. Drama is also strong within the school, with a wide range of opportunities for all ages to gain experience both on stage and on the technical side, with school productions that in recent years have included

Beauty and the Beast, Fame, Animal Farm and An Inspector Calls. Our extensive playing fields, sports centre and floodlit artificial pitch enable us to offer a broad spectrum of sports and games. All years are encouraged to participate in sport and our students are very successful in district and county competitions, with many achieving representative honours.

All students are allocated to one of our Houses on joining the school and the Inter-house activities along with Sports Day encourage a healthy atmosphere of competition across the year groups.

## **The value of teamwork**

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme aims to develop young people through adventure, challenge, service, learning new skills and teamwork, completing expeditions locally and further afield – including to the Norfolk coast, Yorkshire Dales, Peak District and Snowdonia. We have actively promoted the scheme for over thirty years at Knights Templar, during which time 2,500 of our students have received Bronze, Silver and Gold awards, making Knights Templar one of the largest centres for Duke of Edinburgh activities in the county.

## **Strong local community links**

We are proud to serve our local community, with students' learning greatly enhanced by the strong ties we share. These include links with the primary schools within our priority area, which are particularly important to us. Primary school students visit us several times before they join Year 7 and we pride ourselves on the quality and effectiveness of the transition that takes place at age 11.

## **Outdoor and overseas experiences**

Our students have many opportunities to take part in a variety of field trips, outdoor pursuits and visits, some of which are overseas. In recent years these have included educational trips to Iceland, Belgium and France, skiing and outward bounds activities at Anglesey. We believe in the importance of all these opportunities for life experiences that develop students' resilience, confidence and independence as they head out into the world.



*'Our son has developed leadership skills and responsibility, but moreover a huge pride and affection for his school which will stay with him for probably the rest of his life.'*

Parent



*'Pupils are happy, feel safe and are safe. They are kind to one another.'*

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# An environment where children thrive

Children matter to us at The Knights Templar School. Every child is valued and nurtured here. Our students thrive in an environment that couples opportunities and expectations with clear boundaries.

## Support and guidance throughout their school life

Our pastoral system is designed to ensure that all students are known as individuals, are cared for, supported and succeed. This provides them with guidance throughout their time at school.

Every student in Year 7 to 13 is placed in a form group supervised by a tutor who gets to know them personally – providing advice and support to help them succeed. There are regular target-setting and monitoring meetings with tutors to agree priorities for improvement. Year Leaders and the Head of Sixth Form take responsibility for the academic progress, welfare and behaviour of their group of students as they undertake their secondary school journey. Students are also given access to specialist help in areas such as careers advice and counselling should they need it.

## Children's opinions matter to us

We don't simply talk about mutual respect; it is a value we live by. We listen to what our students have to say about the school and our active school council with representatives from every form is an important voice. In recent years, the school council has taken a lead in making the school more environmentally aware and it takes a role in the interview process for the appointment of many new teaching staff. This engagement is vital in engendering the sense of belonging, pride and commitment to the school that is so common amongst our students and often remarked upon by visitors.

## Communication

We see communication with home as central to the effective support for and progress of our students. So we ensure that regular and frequent contact is maintained with parents and carers – through our weekly bulletin, regularly updated website and EdulinkOne parental communication app. Progress reports are sent home termly and face-to-face parent / carer evenings all provide opportunities to learn about your child's progress at school and how they can build on this even further.



*'Staff have high expectations of pupils' behaviour and manage behaviour well. As a result, the school is a calm and orderly environment.'*

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# Preparing our Sixth Formers for life after school

Our Sixth Form is one of the largest and most successful in Hertfordshire and is an integral part of the school. The majority of our students stay on after Year 11 and are joined by others from both state and independent schools, keen to learn at The Knights Templar School.

We recognise that our Sixth Form students are no longer children, but rather young adults, and so we offer them a range of responsibilities, privileges and support to help continue their development in preparation for leaving us. They benefit from being included in the life of the wider school, taking on significant roles in leading sport, music, drama, and also acting as mentors and role models to our younger students.

## A broad and varied curriculum

The Sixth Form offers a very wide range of A-Level, applied and vocational courses with most combinations being possible. We deliver this programme through a variety of lesson formats and study approaches, making the learning experience at Knights Templar hugely rewarding.

We also have an excellent track record of supporting students to move on to Higher Education, apprenticeships and employment. Our tutorial system assists and prepares students to make the right choices for their future and over 100 students per year progress on to university degree courses or degree level apprenticeships, some in the most sought after subjects and at the most highly regarded universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

## Developing leadership qualities

Leadership is an important quality in young people and there are many opportunities for our Sixth Form students to gain and develop experience and skills in this area. From our mentoring and support programme, to student leadership of our house system, to work in the youth wing of Rotary 'Interact' and to supporting Year 7 forms, our Sixth Form students are vital in facilitating and promoting a variety of enrichment initiatives right across the school.

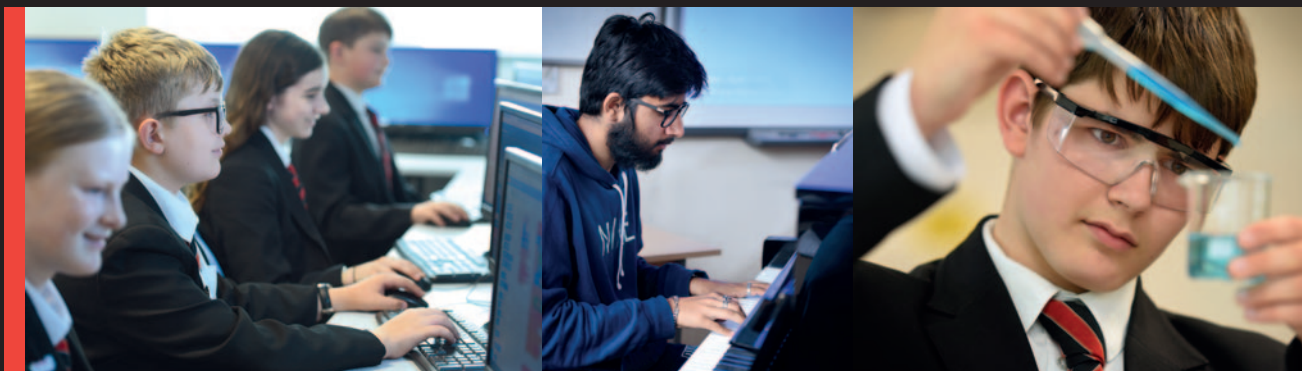
We also have a well-established prefect programme in the Sixth Form, including Head and Senior Prefects appointed by a combination of election by fellow students and a formal interview. Our prefects represent the school on many public occasions throughout the year and co-ordinate their own part of the school improvement plan. We take great pride in knowing that by the time they leave us, our Sixth Form students have developed self-confidence in an atmosphere that gives them the broadest opportunities academically, culturally and socially.



*'Being immersed in such a friendly atmosphere makes me feel eager to learn and get involved in all the fantastic activities Knights Templar has to offer.'*

Year 13 student





*'Every teacher is enthusiastic and knowledgeable about their subject. The history department made my husband and I both want to join the class!'*

Parent





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