Queens Walk, South Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 OLS

Head Teacher: Miss R Johnston

Telephone: (020) 8845 6266
Fax: (020) 8845 8331
Email: office@queensmeadschool.org.uk
Website: www.queensmeadschool.org.uk
A WARM WELCOME

In this prospectus and through our website we try to give you a glimpse of life at Queensmead, an 11-19 co-educational academy that is forward looking and dynamic.

At Queensmead, we have a tradition of combining both high expectations for all our students and a curriculum that is appropriate to the needs of the 21st Century.

Our dedicated staff, extensive facilities and commitment to providing equal access to a wide range of educational and cultural experiences creates an environment in which all students are able to discover and develop their full potential.

Our students are here to learn, but education at Queensmead is not limited to academic studies. It includes a wide range of extra-curricular activities which incorporates a busy sports and performing arts programme.

Fundamentally we are an ambitious school, that is committed to seeking the best for all our students.

We hope you share our values and that you will be keen to join us.

Rhona Johnston
Head Teacher

“Queensmead is an outstanding school that helps students to achieve well and develop into confident and mature learners. What makes the school outstanding are its exemplary leadership and management, rich curriculum and highly effective care, guidance and support”

Ofsted

Excellence Through Learning
OUR VISION

To create a learning community where all students can achieve their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

Excellence Through Learning
TEACHING AND LEARNING

Queensmead is committed to maximising students’ academic achievement whilst recognising and celebrating their success in other areas. We want students to demonstrate a thirst for knowledge and be excited by learning. We work to ensure that every individual is positive and enjoys their lessons. Through rigorous assessment students are given regular feedback and guidance so they understand how they can improve their work.

Lessons at Queensmead are engaging, lively and interesting. Students are taught by highly motivated and skilled teachers who aim to challenge every student and provide the opportunity to experience success.

We provide for the diversity of learning styles, needs and interests of our students through a rich diet of teaching strategies. There is an emphasis on the use of technology throughout the school with an impressive ratio of computers to students. iPads and Chromebooks, amongst other devices, are used widely to enhance learning. We use Google Apps for Education which allows teachers and students to collaborate and develop independent learning both within and beyond the classroom.

The more able students are challenged through extension work and students with Special Educational Needs are provided with additional support in a nurturing environment.

Excellence Through Learning
Our curriculum has been designed to give all students the opportunity to achieve the best possible outcomes. We offer a blend of academic and vocational courses across all key stages.

Each year new courses are introduced in response to national developments and student requirements giving them the combination they require to pursue their chosen career paths. Our innovative curriculum is personalised to meet the needs of students. This has underpinned a progressive improvement in engagement in lessons.

"Excellent assessment systems mean that staff have a secure knowledge of all their students and their potential. They use this well to plan lessons, set challenging targets and monitor progress" 

Ofsted

Excellence Through Learning
PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

We believe that strong parental support is a key factor in the success of Queensmead. We aim to work in close partnership with parents as we value and appreciate the encouragement and support received.

Our home-school agreement sets out how students, parents and school staff should work together. Regular contact is made with home via the student diary, the school website, e-mail, text messages, phone calls and our monthly newsletter. Through the use of Show My Homework, parents can monitor and track homework details.

Assessment information is shared with parents frequently by means of a schedule of reports and meetings. Parents receive regular updates on progress in relation to their child’s academic targets as well as an end of year report. Parents’ Consultation Evenings allow you to discuss your child’s progress with individual subject teachers.

Other support and guidance is provided at key times in your child’s school career. For example, when they choose their GCSE options.

“We have always been very impressed with the standard achieved by our children which was reached by the dedication, support and encouragement of all their teachers”

Parent of a Year 11 student

Excellence Through Learning
Queensmead has a ‘Behaviour for Learning’ policy that focuses on promoting self-management in an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance. We place strong emphasis on encouraging and recognising good conduct and student achievement is recognised through our reward system.

“Behaviour is exemplary” Ofsted

Excellence Through Learning
CARE AND GUIDANCE

Queensmead places a high priority on maintaining and sustaining our deserved reputation for being a caring school.

All students are placed in a form group where their Tutor is able to get to know them. The role of the tutor is extremely important as they will have the greatest knowledge of each student’s overall academic progress and wellbeing. Each year group is led by a Head of Year who co-ordinates their pastoral care.

We expect our students to have excellent attendance and punctuality. These are fundamental to the learning process and crucial to academic success. Attendance and punctuality are closely monitored by the pastoral team along with behaviour and overall academic progress.

The School Council gives students a formal and constructive way to air their views and contribute to the development and ongoing success of our school. It also demonstrates democracy in action as part of promoting British Values.

"The school encourages the students to have a strong voice and responds well to their suggestions”

Ofsted

Excellence Through Learning
ENRICHING THE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is enriched by activities that make Queensmead a dynamic and exciting place to learn. There is an extensive programme of educational enrichment visits offered to students from Year 7 to Year 13. These include:

- Language development in France, Germany and Spain
- Skiing in Italy and Austria
- The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award
- Trekking in Morocco and the Atlas mountains

There is a wide range of activities offered on site which allows students the opportunity to develop further. There are opportunities to represent the school in a range of sports. Queensmead is successful in a number of Borough, County and other inter-school competitions. Students have access to Goals five-a-side pitches, table-tennis facilities and a basketball court at lunchtime and after school, with older students having access to the Fitness Zone, which contains state-of-the-art cardiovascular and resistance machines.

Musical instrument tuition is available alongside opportunities to perform in assemblies, end of term concerts and the school production. This is usually a musical and involves a large cast supported by students helping behind the scenes with technical stage management aspects such as lighting and front of house.

“One of the reasons Queensmead is so good is that it provides students with a very wide range of curriculum options, including many after-school and lunchtime activities” Ofsted

Excellence Through Learning
POST 16 OPPORTUNITIES

Queensmead has a thriving Post 16 community that prepares students for higher education, training and employment. The Post 16 experience gives young people the chance to develop as independent, responsible and self-managing young adults.

Post 16 students volunteer to support younger students in a range of ways including paired reading, numeracy development, sports coaching and in some practical lessons.

There is specialist study accommodation for students in the Post 16 Centre with dedicated ICT resources and every Post 16 student is also issued with a Chromebook to aid with their studies. A separate Post 16 prospectus is available upon request.

Queensmead has an excellent record of enabling students to progress to Oxford, Cambridge and The Russell Group of universities.

“Provision for students in the very comprehensive sixth form is good. Students get on very well with staff and enjoy their education. This is reflected in high retention rates” Ofsted
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