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"Students wear their
uniform with pride"
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Ellis Guilford



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Welcome to the Ellis Guilford Prospectus

Ellis Guilford is a successful school with a rich history. There has been a school on the site in Bar Lane since the 1920s and many generations of the local community have attended here.

Today, Ellis Guilford is a thriving and dynamic 11-16 school which has a diverse range of students. Our students are encouraged to aim high and set challenging personal and academic goals; our staff provide an inspiring curriculum which promotes achievement and fosters curiosity, creativity and ambition; our parents support their child's aspirations by committing to the school ethos and providing a home environment conducive to independent study; the wider community support the school through positive engagement with our students and staff.

Our role is to prepare the students of Ellis Guilford to be successful citizens able to make informed choices and to positively contribute to their communities, both local and global. We want our students to be receptive to new ideas and responsive to an ever changing world; enabling them to embrace a future of possibilities.

Sally Coulton



Dr Sally Coulton
Headteacher



Our Vision

Our aim is to create an outstanding learning environment which meets the needs of all learners and promotes the best possible outcomes for everyone.

Our motto is 'Be Your Best' and whilst we are proud of our recent achievements we recognise that Ellis Guilford can be even better.

We want everyone to:

- Embrace the school motto of 'Be Your Best' in all aspects of their work;
- Establish the highest aspirations and expectations;
- Promote an ethos of tolerance, acceptance and respect for all;
- Celebrate and reward success regularly and in a variety of ways;
- Create a culture of self-reflection and self-improvement throughout the organisation; staff, students and parents;
- Become an outward looking school; sharing and developing best practice, locally and nationally.

Our Ethos

We believe it is vitally important that students gain the best academic qualifications and develop the right personal skills and qualities to enable them to succeed both at school and in life.

We expect our students to be in school 'everyday, on time'. We want them to take responsibility for their learning by bringing the correct equipment and being well presented.

The behaviour of pupils is good. Students behave in a mature, polite and friendly manner. Many show consideration through their words and deeds.

Transition

When students arrive at Ellis Guilford in year 7 they have an excellent transition experience where we try to bridge the gap between primary and secondary school. In year 7 and 8 students follow our Discovery Curriculum which is designed to develop the skills needed to be successful in KS4. The Discovery Curriculum focuses on a 'big question' each term which links the learning from a number of subject areas, enabling students to make connections between topics.

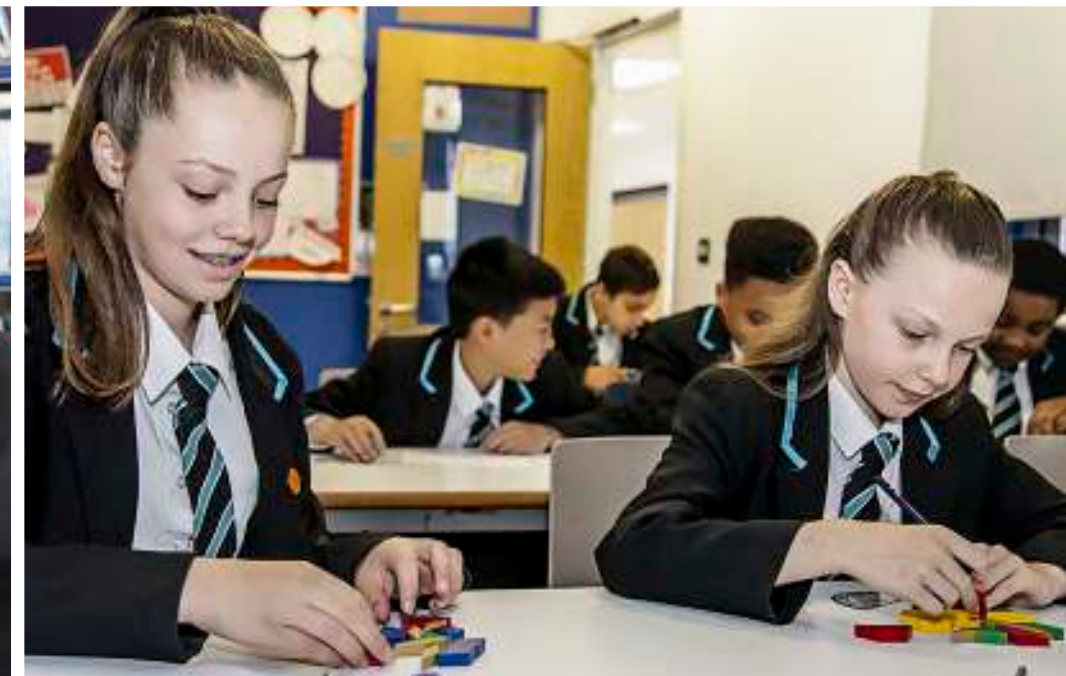
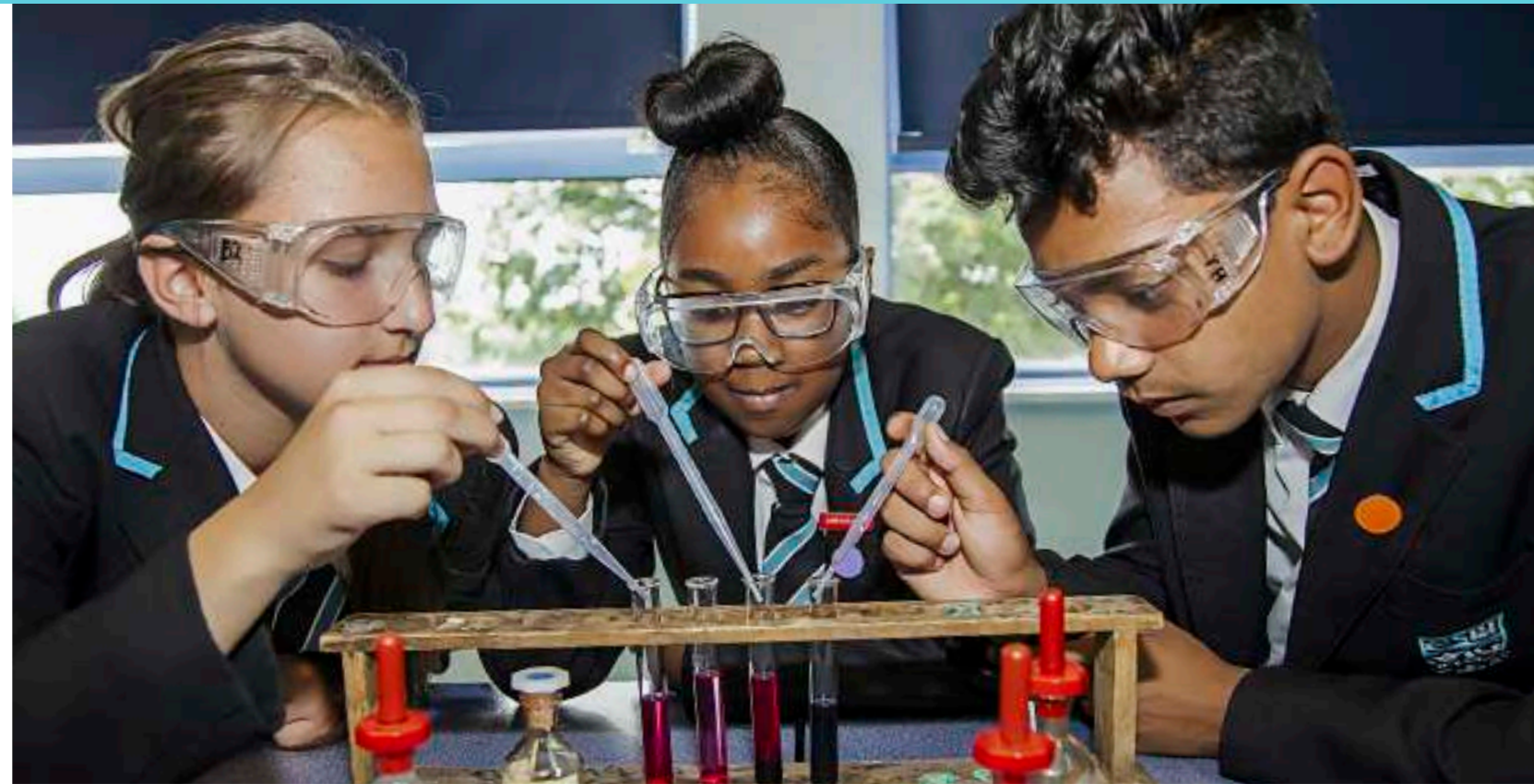
The aim of the curriculum is to provide opportunities for students to explore, create, communicate and lead their learning; building independence and resilience. Students are challenged to produce their best work by our Beautiful Books and Inspiring Classrooms programme.

Year 7 and 8 have a different break time to the rest of the school and this helps them to settle in more quickly. Parents and carers are invited into the school to meet the form tutor during the first half term and information about student progress and achievement is shared with parents on a termly basis.

Skills for Life

It is really important to develop good learning habits which will help students throughout their school life. On entry to the school, students are placed in a tutor group which is part of the House system. They will see their tutor each day and follow a programme of activities designed to support their academic achievement and personal development. Students attend weekly House assemblies covering a range of themes and follow this up during tutorial time. In year 7 and 8 form tutors also deliver the skills for life programme which covers personal, social and health education as well as key topics designed to promote good learning habits.





Our Curriculum

Students follow a broad and balanced curriculum which covers a range of academic and practical subjects and consists of: English, maths and science, art, design technology, dance, drama, geography, history, ICT, MFL (Spanish or French), music, physical education and religious education. A range of information is used to decide how best to group students to maximise learning and progress. For some aspects of the curriculum such as English, mathematics and science, students will be taught in ability groups. For other subjects they may be taught in mixed ability groups.

In year 9 students begin KS4. They study a range of GCSE and vocational qualifications. The compulsory subjects are: English language and literature, maths, double science, and history or geography. Optional subject choices include art, business studies, design technology, food, film studies, health and social care, MFL, music, photography, physical education, psychology, religious education, sociology. Most students study for at least nine GCSEs.

We expect our students to complete work at home or in our study facilities at school. Home learning is set by most subjects from year 7 onwards.

Students benefit from opportunities to study in a variety of settings including in school an off-site. The subjects available appeal to students' abilities and interests and help to generate good engagement and attendance.

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Enrichment

A wealth of enrichment activities take place at the school providing fantastic opportunities for learners to build on their interests and abilities. We believe in a holistic approach to preparing young people for life beyond school by providing them with experiences that they might not have elsewhere. This includes a year 7 camp, biennial ski trip, theatre visits, dance performances and sporting events. We run the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, are members of DebateMate and host a range of fundraising activities each year to support local and national charities.

Opportunities to participate in charitable work, volunteering, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, residential ski trip and after school clubs contribute positively to students' personal and social development and well-being.

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Pastoral Care

We offer excellent pastoral care and each student is assigned to a form group and the form tutor will see them each day during tutorial time. Each form group belongs to one of four houses - Centurions, Corsairs, Knights and Panthers; the House names were chosen by the students and are based on local sports clubs. Siblings are placed in the same House so that the House team establish a positive relationship with each family. Students feel a strong sense of belonging to their House and regular assemblies, competitions and fundraising activities are used to reinforce this.

Student Leadership

Students are given the opportunity to take on additional responsibilities in order to prepare them for life beyond school. Each House has a student captain and vice-captain. Each form group has an elected representative that sits on the House Council and some of these students go forward to represent the House on the School Council. There are a wide range of opportunities for students to become part of our Ambassador programme. This provides students with leadership development whilst undertaking roles both in and out of the classroom. The Ambassadors assist with school events, lead and manage sporting activities and support learning across the curriculum.

Students take their roles as head boy, head girl, student council and house leaders seriously. Success in democratically held elections interviews and a formal presentation are prerequisites for these roles. Experiences like these help students develop leadership skills.



Inclusion

We are fully committed to educational inclusion and have developed excellent provision for students with SEND. This ranges from our nurture provision for students with highly complex needs to our ACCESS programme for students who have emotional and behavioural difficulties.

The school site is wheelchair accessible and students are well integrated into mainstream lessons with the support of a highly skilled team of teaching assistants.

In the inclusion faculty, skilled teaching and learning activities match the abilities of disabled students and those who have special educational needs and are highly effective.

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Our Facilities

Ellis Guilford is set on an 11 acre site and benefits from superb learning facilities. This includes a building completed in 2012 which offers state of the art facilities for drama, dance and music and contemporary classrooms for English, maths and humanities.

We have excellent sports facilities with a large sports hall, two gymnasiums, a floodlit AstroTurf pitch, fitness suite, outdoor courts and grass pitches. There is also an allotment and Motor Vehicle Unit and specialist teaching rooms for ICT, science, technology.

The Learning Resource Centre is available for students during breaks and after school to do independent study.

The facilities are used by community groups during weekends and school holidays.

Life beyond Ellis Guilford

We believe in the importance of preparing our students for post 16 progression throughout their school career. We aim to develop employability skills from year 7 through real world learning activities and work related curriculum.

Students benefit from clear impartial careers guidance to plan their career pathways.

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