

Your Quick Guide



Oswestry School
Founded 1407





**WE
LEARN**

NOT FOR SCHOOL

**BUT FOR
LIFE**

Dear Pupils and Parents



The poet WB Yeats once said that “education is not the filling of a bucket but the lighting of a fire”. At Oswestry School, we are firmly committed to providing that kindling with a distinctive whole person education that seeks to inspire, enlighten and empower.

Mr Peter Middleton
Headmaster



Founded in 1407, Oswestry sits alongside the oldest schools in England and is one of very few ‘ancient’ schools to have a truly independent foundation. From that first acorn of an idea has grown a mighty oak with deep roots and a wide-reaching canopy spanning six centuries; we remain proud of that rich history and heritage and continue to celebrate it to this day.

Yet this is likewise a school with a modern outlook and a fresh approach. Individualised teaching and learning, dedicated pastoral care, an exciting and wide-ranging co-curriculum, fantastic facilities; all combine powerfully to make for a special place to learn, live and grow. The size of our school community enables each and every pupil to be known and valued, with our teaching and support staff committed to ensuring that all who come to Oswestry School can flourish and thrive. Above all, this is a happy place and one where our young people feel supported, encouraged and enabled.

Embedded in all that we do is the school’s motto ***We learn not for school but for life*** where our pupils are prepared for life beyond the school gates not just with the academic credentials and skillsets they will need for the next stage, but likewise the aptitudes and attitudes to enable them to make a positive impact in the world.

Nestled in a picturesque corner of Shropshire with the playing fields at Maes-y-Llan rolling in to the Welsh hills beyond, Oswestry School is regarded as one of the county’s “hidden secrets” and, whilst we’re keen not to shout it too loudly, we’d be delighted to share the secret with you and welcome you on site or online for a visit to experience our very special school for yourself.

This handbook provides a brief guide to how things work at the School but always feel free to contact your Form Tutor, Head of Section or the Senior Management Team with any queries; we will always be ready to help. The School website also includes a full range of policies for your information.



Our Values and Virtues

Underpinning all aspects of school life, Oswestry School's **Values** and **Virtues** are central to our school's vision and ethos, empowering pupils in their Oswestry journey and enabling all individuals to excel and find their forte.



We learn not for school, but for life.

#FindYourForte

Life at Oswestry School

Oswestry School is a small, independent, co-educational boarding and day school in Shropshire. We strive to educate the whole child with an emphasis on their intellectual, spiritual and physical development. We place a very high emphasis on good manners and personal integrity and we enjoy close relationships between pupils and staff.

Our aim is for our pupils to enjoy their education and to learn in a happy environment. Our School is a very tight-knit community which celebrates the individual and aims to encourage all pupils to reach their potential.

Each year group is overseen by a Head of School, who is responsible, with the form tutors, for overseeing the pastoral and academic well being of the pupils in each of three phases of the School: Lower School (First to Third forms); Upper School (Fourth and Fifth forms); and Sixth Form.

The Lower School gives our pupils a sound basis before studies at GCSE level. The academic programme is well tailored to the aptitude of our pupils, and in these critical years pupils are grouped by ability in some subjects, enabling them to progress at the most appropriate pace.

Before entering Upper School, pupils make the subject choices for their two-year GCSE course. Most pupils choose eight subjects, which lead to nine GCSEs (English literature as well as English language are followed). Mathematics, English and science are compulsory, and one foreign language is expected. This ensures a broad base of study, enabling quality learning of a range of skills and knowledge.

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- Registration at 8.20am is followed at 8.40am by Period 1.
 - Lessons are punctuated by breaks in mid-morning and lunchtime. During mid-morning break pupils can socialise with a drink and a snack purchased from either the Tuck Shop or the OsBiz Hub and get ready for their next classes.
 - Lunch is served in the Refectory and is a selection of main meals with an abundance of choice available; alongside a hot and vegetarian option, there is a pasta bar, a salad bar, soup, baguettes and jacket potatoes. Daily specials can include international themed food or street food. School Lunch is included in the fees.
 - Sixth Form pupils are allowed into town on Tuesdays and Fridays at lunchtime without formal permission. At other times Sixth Form pupils can leave the School site if permission is given.
 - Pupils may leave school at 5.00pm on Monday to Thursday and at 4.00pm on Fridays.
 - A fleet of minibuses serve a number of different routes to Oswestry School. They arrive at school by 8.10am and leave at 5.00pm.
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Academic Life at Oswestry School

As the family school of choice in Shropshire, teaching and learning is at the core of what we do at Oswestry School. Pupils have the benefit of fantastic educational facilities and highly qualified staff. They learn what is needed to prepare fully for public examinations, but, more than that, they develop a love of learning which stays with them long after they have left the school. We set high expectations of pupils, not only in terms of their work ethic, but also in terms of their intellectual ambition. Pupils aim high and our record of university success is proof of this.

Our aim at Oswestry School is to prepare pupils for university life and beyond.

Throughout Senior School, pupils are assessed regularly to ensure that they are working hard and achieving at the highest possible standard. Formative and summative assessments are reported to parents each half term via the review/report cycle. These report pupils effort, achievement and progress from a start point (for Lower School), or towards a target grade (for Upper School and Sixth Form). Credits are awarded for those who achieve well and work hard. Full written reports (three times a year) give teachers the opportunity to comment more fully and suggest strategies to ensure improved academic attainment.



Non scholae, sed vitae: We learn
not for School, but for life.



Clubs

Co-curricular is beyond the curriculum and gives the opportunity for pupils to experience new, exciting activities that they enjoy and find rewarding. Co-curricular opportunities offer choice and the chance for pupils to take part in something that they find interesting, enjoyable or simply because they are intrigued by what a club may offer.

We want a pupil's experience at Oswestry School to be rich, varied, stimulating and fun - outside the classroom as well as inside. We want pupils to find as many things as possible which motivate, connect strongly with the wider world, and help them to engage and develop a real passion.

There is much more than the statutory academic curriculum on offer for Oswestry School pupils with a programme of events, as well as our extensive co-curricular programme provided through the week.

The co-curricular programme at Oswestry school is constantly developing and we have exciting plans for the future.

Clubs will run after school from **4-5pm Monday to Thursday**. Pupils will need to select a minimum number of clubs per week depending on their year group:

- **Lower School** – 3 clubs per week
- **Upper School** – 2 clubs per week
- **Sixth Form** – 2 clubs per week (L6th-2 clubs, U6th-2 clubs or 1 club and 1 club supporting a club leader)

Pupils are encouraged to select a variety of activities to experience the full range of co-curricular opportunities at Oswestry school. Form tutors will discuss the options available with each pupil to ensure a range of clubs are selected. There is also the option of 'Prep Club', allowing pupils to complete prep work during club time in a quiet environment.

We have over 100 clubs available for our pupils. Here are a selection of them:

AS Level Drama	Parallel Club	Textiles	Hanjie Logic Puzzles
Pre GCSE Music	Model UN	Economics Society	Science Club
Hockey	Minecraft	Youth speaks – Rotary Public Speaking	LAMDA Grade 8 Gold Public Speaking
Football	The Reading Lounge	Art Therapy	Cryptography Club
Rugby	Marksmanship	Craft Club	ESports
Badminton	Music GCSE	LGBT Club	Reading Rangers
Netball	GCSE Dance	GCSE Drama	International Committee
Archery	Dance	GCSE Public Speaking	Tabletop Gaming
Prep Club	Hockey	Media Club	Marksmanship
Opt out	Cross Country	Ballet Club	Choir
Beginner Latin/Greek	Mindfulness	Orchestra	Rock Club
Blues and Boogie	Horse Riding	Skateboarding	Table Tennis
Metal Modelling	Strength & Conditioning	Swimming	Swimming Advanced Training
UKMT Maths Challenge	Animal Club	Doctor Who/Sci Fi Club	Football Goalkeepers
Chess	Maths Club	Sewing Bee	Basketball
Get Involved Awareness Club	Big Questions	Origami	
	Stem Ambassadors		

Sport

Oswestry School has a proud reputation for the high quality of its sporting provision and the dedication and expertise of the School's coaching and teaching staff. There is a strong tradition of sporting excellence at Oswestry with many pupils gaining regional and national representative honours across many sports. Whilst providing fully for the needs of our elite athletes, all abilities are catered for at Oswestry. Commencing in Third Form (Year 9) every pupil is able to choose from a wide sporting offering and is encouraged to enjoy a recreational interest in individual or team games while developing a healthy attitude to fitness and exercise to foster lifelong participation.

Pupils are able to make use of the strength and conditioning facilities onsite alongside there being a dedicated member of staff who can provide pupils with a personalised programme that is designed specifically for their needs.

In Upper School pupils are given the opportunity to participate in a sports leaders programme where they are afforded the chance to 'give back' by assisting, and in some cases leading, coaching sessions for our younger pupils.



Pupils receive expert coaching in our podium sports:

Rugby
Football

Cricket
Athletics

Tennis
Hockey

Netball

During Physical Education and games lessons there are many opportunities for pupils to participate in numerous other sports and/or co-curricular clubs, including:

Cross Country
Swimming
Basketball
Archery

Fencing
Squash
Handball
Volleyball

Golf
Horse Riding
Kayaking
Badminton

Shooting
Table Tennis



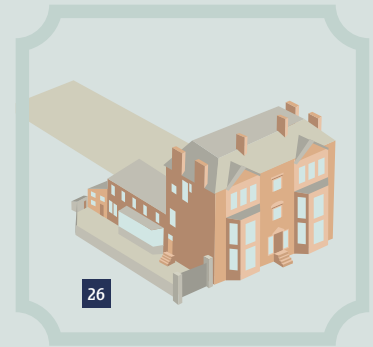


Map of Campus

The Key



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|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Refectory | 11 Powis Building: Science, Art & Technology | 20 Music School |
| 2 Classrooms | 12 Lewis Building | 21 Classrooms |
| 3 Modern Foreign Languages Classrooms | 13 Classrooms | 22 Staff Common Room & C1 Computing |
| 4 Peter Humphreys Centre | 14 Tilley Building | 23 School Shop |
| 5 Holbach House | 15 The Long Room | 24 Indoor Swimming Pool |
| 6 Guinevere House | 16 Reception, Headmaster's Study and Registrar's Office | 25 Headmaster's House |
| 7 Sixth Form Centre | 17 School House | 26 Bellan House Prep Department |
| 8 Spooner Cottage | 18 School Chapel | |
| 9 Momentum Hall | 19 Memorial Hall | |
| 10 C.C.F. Indoor Rifle Range | | |





Oswestry School

Founded 1407

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The prospectus and associated documents are intended to indicate in general principles life at Oswestry School, its aims and ethos. Oswestry School will take all reasonable steps to provide the education and pastoral services described. However, it does not guarantee the provision of such services and the prospectus and associated documents do not form any part of any contract between parents and Oswestry School. Parents wishing to place any reliance on any statement within the prospectus and associated documents should seek written confirmation of that statement before accepting the offer of a place.