

## About St Helena School

The team at St Helena School is united in its belief that education matters and that we can make a difference to the lives of all our young people. We work in very close partnership with our students, families, our primary schools and a wide range of other partners, including Colchester Sixth Form College and Colchester Institute. We consider it our duty to help young people fulfil their academic potential but it's equally important they leave us ready to take their place in the world.

During the last Ofsted Inspection in December 2017, St Helena received a Good judgment across all four key areas highlighting:

- Staff know the pupils well and plan for their needs. The curriculum, pastoral care and ethos support pupil welfare and progress.
- Pupils behave well in lessons and around the school. They understand the school's values such as respect and responsibility. The school is a harmonious community.
- The school is well led. Senior leaders and governors are ambitious for the pupils and provide a good quality of education for them.

The school's ethos of 'Aspire. Believe. Achieve.' underpins the daily work undertaken by all staff.

As a school, we don't just focus on what students should learn: we are continually questioning how learning takes place as well. In doing so, we seek to create a sense of wonder and engagement, inspiring our students to develop a thirst for knowledge which will persist long after they have left us.

We actively promote a growth mindset across our community, recognising that many small steps can soon add up to giant leaps forward. We expect and promote resilience at every turn; failure is to be learned from, not feared. And we don't set targets for the future which are determined by a student's past performance. Instead, we support every child in striving to beat their 'personal best' in all aspects of their learning, however well they are already doing.

Our curriculum is designed to offer pathways to success for each individual, regardless of their starting point. Our pathways process for selecting subjects at Key Stage 4 is built around a principle of guided, informed choice.

Staff at St Helena are proud to be part of a teaching and learning community. Growth and development of our young people cannot take place in isolation; it has to be a partnership between our school and the families who place their trust in us. Only then will students truly aspire, believe and achieve.

St Helena School provides a diverse range of teaching spaces and sports facilities, yet we continually strive to offer more. We believe in constantly looking to enhance our facilities, seeking opportunities to ensure the school expands its facilities to meet demand for places and delivers the quality and range of educational experiences that will ensure everyone leaves with the skills and qualifications to take the next steps in life.

