

St Helena School

Aspire Believe Achieve





We strive for all students to develop a passion for lifelong learning, the drive to test the boundaries of their abilities and for them to gain the skills necessary to face the future with confidence.

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My name is Fiona Pierson and I am privileged to be the Headteacher of St Helena School. On behalf of the staff and the Trust I would like to thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus which I hope gives you an insight into our school, and reflects our mission and core values. I am delighted that you are considering St Helena School for your child, as a parent myself I appreciate selecting which school to send your child to is a significant decision. I hope you find the information in this prospectus useful in guiding your decision and provides you the confidence that St Helena School is the right choice for your child. To strengthen the transitional arrangements, we invite all our new students into St Helena School at the end of Year 6 to meet our staff and students, so they are fully prepared to start Year 7 successfully. We aim to ensure that all future and current students are happy, safe and enjoy coming to school, whilst working hard to achieve success in their academic and personal lives.

My team and I are united in our 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 School 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. Whether it is planning a challenging lesson for a GCSE Chemistry, ensuring the site provides students with the learning spaces to feel safe and be creative or working behind the scenes to ensure lunch service is delivered on time. The team at St Helena School will convince you that we are the school of choice in Colchester.

I very much look forward to personally welcoming you and your family to our school and working with you in the future.

Fiona Pierson
Headteacher



Learning for all

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. When it comes to selecting subjects at Key Stage 4, we strongly believe that parents know what is best for their child. Our pathways process is therefore built around a principle of guided, informed choice.

Staff at St Helena School are proud to be part of a teaching and learning community. We want our students and parents to feel the same. 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 be able to aspire, believe and achieve.



Outside of lessons there is an extensive extra-curricular programme to extend and enrich learning.

We have a diverse offering in particular within sport and the arts. Our drama studio, media suite, arts rooms, climbing wall, fitness room, sports hall and grounds are in constant use beyond the end of the school day, both by students and the wider community.

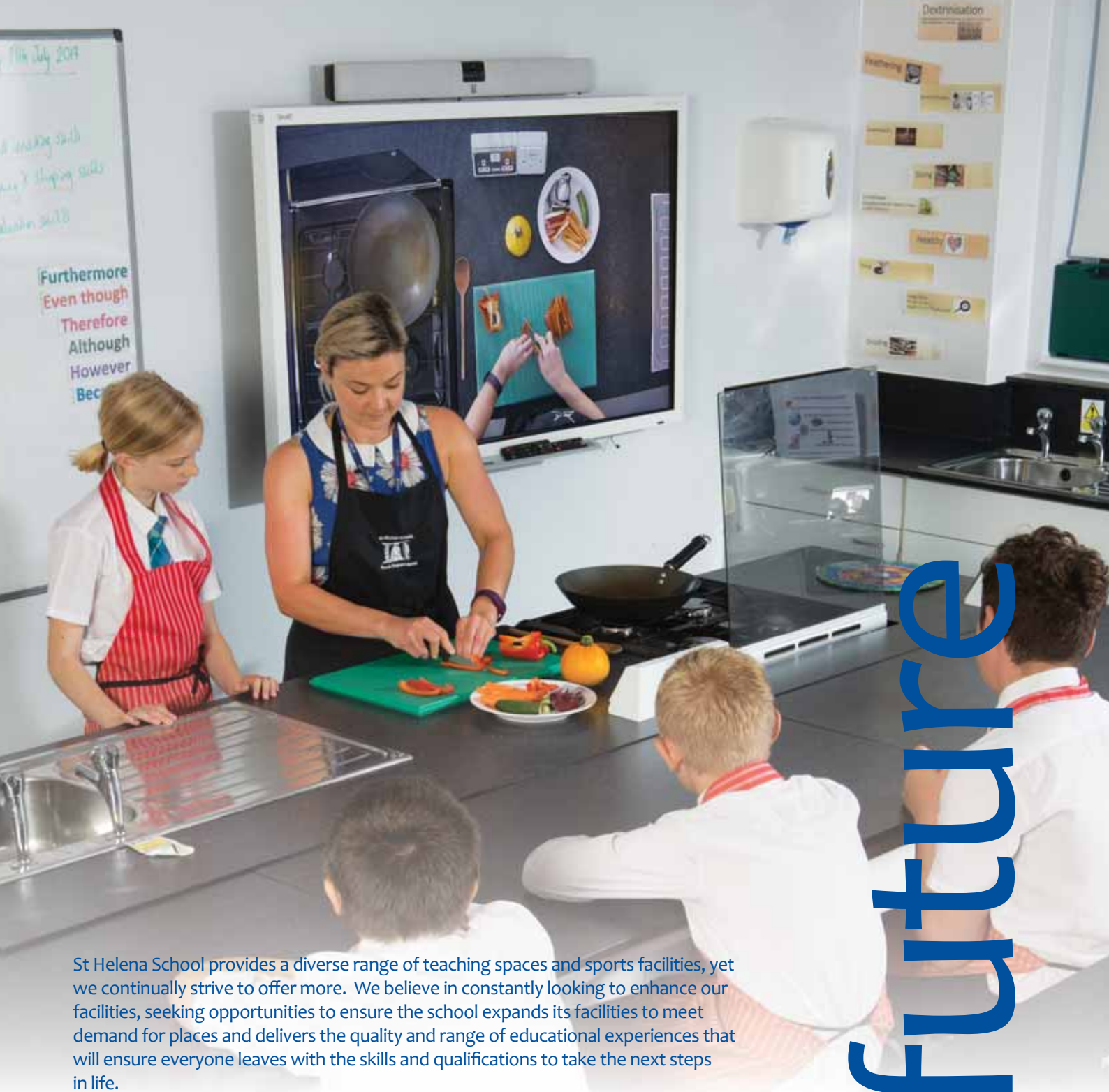
Our annual production and music concerts have showcased the amazing talent amongst our students.

Learning is also enhanced through a wide variety of trips and visits which enable students to experience and put into context key concepts being studied. Trips include the hadron collider at CERN, Harry Potter World, the Big Bang Science Fair at the NEC Birmingham, Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge and VEX Robotics to name but a few.

Our students also have a clear stake in our school. With an active Student Council, a team of Prefects, Youth Health Champions, Sports Leaders and Buddies, and a biennial student visioning day, students are empowered to make a positive contribution to many aspects of our school and its provision. We give our young people a real voice within their school and its community.

Be part of our school





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.

Recent projects have included:

- A £2.5m Science and Food Technology build consisting of 4 science laboratories, 2 specialist food rooms and a computer room (opened September 2015).
- Playfootball, an all-weather sports facility consisting of 8 floodlit football pitches and a pavilion, available for school use during the day (opened March 2016).
- An amphitheatre, as a result of a project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund designed to celebrate of school site's unique Roman history. The amphitheatre provides an exciting and unique outdoor learning and performance space (completed June 2017).

Current plans include an upgrade of the school's ICT system, developing the school's kitchen/serving area and enhancing our outdoor spaces to create much needed all-weather outdoor social space for our students.

We are seeking possible funding streams to enable us to turn our plans into a reality. Our aim is to prepare our students for an exciting future, in an outstanding school.

Our future





St Helena School


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St Helena School is a member of  THE SIGMA TRUST