



THE NORTH SCHOOL

# PROSPECTUS

2018-2019



Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to introduce you to The North School where we value both the pastoral care of our students and the pursuit of academic success. Our aim is to ensure that every single member of the school community is putting achievement first, fostering resilient, independent, happy and confident learners who leave school with the right skills and qualifications for the world into which they are growing.

We are proud that The North School is a happy and improving school where students and teachers enjoy learning together. An experienced team of colleagues provide all students with the best possible opportunities, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Our students are expected to treat each other and staff with care, courtesy and consideration. They are taught to always try their very best at whatever they do and to value the progress they make as individuals. We value a community approach to education to ensure that there is a broad range of expertise within the school. This enables our students to be supported in all areas, so that they may strive to reach their full potential in school and in their future lives.

The North School has entered an exciting stage of its development. After achieving a 'Good' Ofsted rating in 2017 and strong exam results in summer 2018, in partnership with the Swale Academies Trust we continue to be focused on school improvement and continuous learning for both our students and staff. We are particularly proud of the recent advances in oracy and students' leadership.

At The North School we recognise that the students are at the centre of the learning experience and that they all come with different needs and abilities, not to mention interests and strengths. Therefore we continually review the curriculum available; to ensure that it best reflects the national picture and the needs of the students. This enables us to make the learning experience as skills based as possible with a broad range of subjects and an emphasis on personal achievement.

Working in partnership with parents and the local community is important to us. Collaboration with parents to ensure that every student in our care reaches their full potential is highly valued. We encourage all parents to get involved in the life of the school. The well-established Parents' Forum offers an excellent opportunity to influence the developments at The North School.

Our classroom practice and academic achievement are supported by a wide range of facilities that include a Basketball Academy, excellent sports facilities and clubs, a climbing wall and even a full working farm that has achieved great success at the Kent Show. All these elements contribute towards our safe, positive and varied learning environment that will enable your child to achieve their full potential and enjoy their time with us.

We look forward to meeting you.

Anna Lawrence  
Head of School





# CURRICULUM

The North School curriculum is designed so that students can enjoy their learning and thrive during their time at the school. The curriculum we deliver puts achievement first.

Students at Key Stage 3 are grouped, for the majority of subjects, according to ability and past performance at Key Stage 2 and there are opportunities for progression through the teaching groups. All students are set very clear and challenging performance targets, based on their prior attainment at Key Stage 2 to help them make good progress during their time here. At The North School we have a number of high ability students who want to be challenged in a co-educational setting so we have in place a Grammar stream to ensure that these students are able to meet their potential within a high school setting.

All students have access to a team of Learning Leaders whose key role is to make sure that every child in their care is able to make good progress in their learning. A Subject Leader is responsible for every department; their role is to ensure that all students make the best possible progress. Subject Leaders monitor progress and check that all students are on track to achieve their targets. In years 7 and 8, students follow the national curriculum with most of their time dedicated to the core subjects of English, mathematics and science. In years 9–11 students will undertake a three year 'Key Stage 4' in line with government expectations. All students will study English, mathematics, science and at least one 'EBACC' subject (history, geography, a language and/or computer science). In addition, they are able to choose from a range of other courses including more EBACC and vocational subjects. All GCSE/BTEC courses studied at Key Stage 4 offer progression opportunities at Key Stage 5, irrespective of where that study may be.



# PASTORAL CARE

As we are larger than a primary school the school is divided into two communities – Essella and Mabledon. The communities are two smaller schools and have their own leadership structure both in terms of school senior leadership and also student leadership. Dividing the school into communities allows the staff to get to know the students and also develops a real sense of belonging and pride and enables the fostering of healthy competition between the two communities.

Each student is placed in a learning community; there are four tutor groups for each year group in each of the Essella and Mabledon communities. Each community has a pastoral leader and pastoral assistant who guide and advise students on pastoral issues and two Learning Leaders who track the students academic progress and intervene where necessary.

Students will meet with their tutor daily which gives opportunities for their tutor to gain a good overall picture of their development both academically and pastorally. During tutor time students will participate in many structured activities focusing on health, finance, enterprise and British values. There are also opportunities for competition and community points are issued and collated for achievement, attendance, sport and other competitions.

Students play a significant role in the schools development through the proactive student parliament, ambassador programme, student leadership groups and their relationship with the school senior leadership team. Other groups of students are also selected to meet with the Head of School and Deputy Headteachers to discuss important school issues.

Attendance at school is most important as it directly impacts student achievement. There is a student attendance target of 97% and we have a dedicated attendance team that will liaise with parents over attendance issues. For students that arrive at school early there is a breakfast club that serves hot and cold food and drink from 8:15 each morning.



**PUTTING ACHIEVEMENT FIRST**

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Here at The North School we have a whole school approach to student leadership and responsibility. We implicitly believe in finding opportunities to develop leadership skills and qualities in all our students. We use this whole school approach as a vehicle to develop the following:

Honesty and Integrity

Good Oracy and Communication

Self-belief and Self-confidence

Resilience and Independence



# TRANSITION

Transition to secondary school can often seem daunting to many students, regardless of primary school experience. At The North School we have, in partnership with the local primary schools, developed a comprehensive transition programme that has the student at its heart and is reassuringly thorough to ensure that a smooth transition takes place.

Parents and students are invited to attend the Open evening in October, prior to this we have a series of open mornings where the school can be visited on a normal working day. Primary liaison staff meet with the Year 6 teachers to discuss any individual support required for students coming to the school. They also meet with the students to discuss any potential concerns and a comprehensive information pack is issued.

In the summer term all new students are invited to spend a week at The North School. They receive a comprehensive induction and predominately follow their timetable, studying most subjects and meeting most of their teachers. After the transition week we hold a transition evening where the Head of School explains how parents can best prepare and support their child for secondary school. Finally, in September, we hold a settling-in evening which gives parents the opportunity to meet with form tutors and view some of the work students have completed since starting in Year 7. We have found that this system provides excellent support for both students and parents, but should you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school.

## *Year 7 student quotes*

“As I met my teachers and friends it felt like I was already part of the school and soon got used to having different teachers for various subjects.”

“Transition week was very enjoyable as I settled into a group of friends more or less straight away.”



# SPORTS

The North School is committed to ensuring that all students lead a healthy, active lifestyle and students are all encouraged to attend the vast array of clubs which we offer. Both individual and team successes are celebrated, with a number of students going on to represent county, regional and national teams in a range of sporting areas.

The North School Lions Basketball Academy is a great success of the school, with a programme which allows students to follow an intense training programme similar to that of a professional athlete alongside their studying.

The school's facilities are some of the best in the area currently boasting both a gym and a sports hall, fitness room, climbing wall and a large all-weather pitch as well as extensive playing fields.

Across the year there are a number of inter-community sports events for students in every form to get involved in, culminating in Sports Day at The Julie Rose Stadium. The sports calendar ends with the prestigious Sports Awards Evening where students are rewarded for their dedication, hard work and successes.

## *Year 9 student quote*

“We enjoy PE because it allows us to be outside, get exercise and have fun with our friends. We do a wide range of activities to suit all people and we get to play matches against other schools.”



# STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Teaching staff at The North School have a wealth of knowledge and experience of teaching students with a range of educational needs. Teachers adapt their teaching to ensure that all students in their classes make good progress academically, socially and emotionally.

Some students will need more specialist support in addition to that provided by their class teacher. Sometimes the reasons why a student is not making progress require further investigation. This work is carried out by The North School's Learning Support Centre, in consultation with parents and carers. If a learning need is identified, the student will be placed on The North School's SEN Register and parents and carers will be kept informed of how we are supporting their child.

If your child already has a Statement of SEN or Education and/or a Health and Care Plan you will be invited to meet with the SENCO prior to your son or daughter's admission to the school to ensure a smooth transition from primary to secondary school.

The progress and well-being of students on The North School SEN Register is monitored by the SENCO.

Some students with SEN benefit from specialist support and interventions delivered by specialised SEN staff.

Interventions may include:

- Targeted Literacy interventions
- Targeted Numeracy intervention
- Specialist support for students with Dyslexia
- Emotional literacy support (group work)
- Social communication support (individual and group interventions)
- Speech and Language Therapy (individual and group interventions)
- Memory boosting groups
- Life Skills groups
- Strategies to manage difficult emotions (individual support)
- Mindfulness
- Sensory Circuits



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YOUTH COUNTY SHOW  
YFC SUPREME CHAMPION

# EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND REWARDS

Being part of the school community is not just about academic study but also about enjoying a well-rounded school experience. At The North School we offer opportunities for creativity, exercise, team building, performance, confidence-building, competition, and leadership. Our aim is to provide experiences outside of the curriculum that will allow students to apply the knowledge that they have learned in other classes and acquire concepts of democratic life.

We recognise that students have different aptitudes, aspirations, interests and needs. Our extra-curricular programme has something for everyone and enables students to learn new skills, make new friends, build confidence and self-esteem.

While activities differ each year there is always a great choice. Dance club, homework clubs, Basketball Academy, Young Farmers' club and sports clubs are just a few.

Whatever kind of interests and passions our students have, they are bound to find something to help them get the most out of their school days at The North School.

## *Year 9 student quote*

"I get up early to get to training for the Basketball Academy every morning and train each evening, I have made so many new friends and this could lead onto a scholarship later."

In addition to the clubs and educational visits there is also a comprehensive reward system in place. These include subject and Community postcards that are sent home or given to students, fortnightly achievement assemblies, prize draws for 100% attendance and positive standards cards. Pizza parties, Head of School's lunches and chocolate cake for tutor group achievement and attendance. Students who make considerable positive contribution to school will receive a place in the book of commendation. We also hold an annual prize giving evening for both student effort and achievement.

## *Year 7 student quote*

"I really like the reward assemblies that we have every two weeks which celebrate how well we have been doing in lessons and after school activities such as the sports clubs run by the PE department."



# SIXTH FORM

When your child is ready to move on to sixth form studies, The North School offers fantastic opportunities for students to study and further their skills with excellent and innovative teaching and facilities. We offer a broad range of academic and applied courses delivered by knowledgeable and experienced staff.

We believe it is important that students study courses which are suited to their ability and we offer a personalised approach to ensure all students fulfil their potential. The sixth form has a uniquely supportive ethos in which students are stretched and challenged yet also supported and cared for. We believe this provides our students with the opportunities and skills to enable them to succeed in higher education and the world of work.

There is much more to our sixth form than just academic achievement. Students have access to excellent facilities and a wide range of enrichment activities. All sixth form students are expected to take on positions of responsibility within the school community and be positive role models for younger students as part of the sixth form leadership team or Head Girl or Head Boy.

We are very proud of the results achieved in the sixth form. In 2017 we were ranked third in the county for progress made by students. Our progress has also been acknowledged as being in the top 25% across the country.

We wish you well in your studies and look forward to welcoming you to our sixth form.

## *Sixth form student quotes*

“Sixth form is great as it has enabled me to focus on the subjects I enjoy and I have private study periods to complete extra work.”

“Sixth form has been good this year as there is always a high level of pastoral and academic support, also the facilities create a really positive environment to work in.”

“I have achieved this year because teachers are supportive and they help in each subject”



The North School  
Essella Road  
Ashford  
Kent TN24 8AL

Tel: 01233 614600  
Fax: 01233 612906

Email: [north-school@north.kent.sch.uk](mailto:north-school@north.kent.sch.uk)  
Web: [www.north.kent.sch.uk](http://www.north.kent.sch.uk)

Head of School : Mrs A Lawrence  
Chair of Governors : Mrs L York