



Expect, Believe, Achieve



The
Charles Dickens
School



Welcome to The Charles Dickens School

We are very proud of our school community. Parents, staff and governors work tirelessly to support our pupils to excel so that when they leave us they are confident, successful and fulfilled young people ready to meet the challenges of a world that is rapidly changing.

Our pupils acquire, not only an excellent foundation of learning, but also the acquisition of habits of flexible thinking and learning, resilience and confidence in solving problems both as individuals and within a team.

To be a pupil of The Charles Dickens School is to be special; we have some of the best facilities and teaching resources in the local area and we are part of the Barton Court Academy Trust. The Trust's lead school, Barton Court Grammar School, has a long-standing track record of educational excellence. The Trust will open a third secondary school, Barton Manor School, in Canterbury in 2022.

There has never been a better time for your son or daughter to join The Charles Dickens School and we look forward to working together to ensure your child enjoys their education and leaves us as a confident, successful and happy young adult.



Ms K Cardus
Executive Headteacher



Mr W Smith
Headteacher



Character and Aspiration

Our school seeks to retain the wonderful tradition and heritage of Charles Dickens whilst embracing the modern technological world today.

Dickens himself was forward-thinking and entrepreneurial. He also inspires us by his dedication to his craft. He knew the importance of hard work and endeavour as the key to success and developing talents. This can inspire our pupils today; everyone can work hard and be their very best.

We believe in traditional values such as hard work, integrity and respect, along with tolerance, diversity and inclusion. We want our pupils to have rich experiences that make them aspire to the very best careers and access to Higher Education and training.

“Teachers are very supportive towards our learning. The extra interventions and one on one support you get at lunch times has supported all of us.” Y11 Pupil



Partnership

Parents and carers are the primary educators in every child's life and we believe successful schools work in strong partnership with them. That is why we believe in regular and informative communication between school and home.

Curriculum: Challenging and Ambitious

A young man in a white lab coat and safety goggles is focused on a chemistry experiment. He is holding a test tube over a Bunsen burner, which is producing a bright orange flame. Sparks are visible as he manipulates the test tube. In the background, another student is blurred, also working in the lab. The scene is set in a laboratory with various glassware and equipment visible.

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum which is challenging and ambitious.

All pupils in Years 7 and 8 follow the National Curriculum with a strong academic core and high-quality provision in the arts, humanities, languages and sport. In Years 9 to 11 pupils have the opportunity to study a wide range of GCSE and Technical qualifications designed to meet the needs and interests of all learners. We offer clear pathways to success and future opportunities in training, Further Education and ultimately in achieving fulfilling careers.

For any pupil who has additional and/or special educational needs we have an outstanding team to support them. Staff work tirelessly to accelerate their progress in English and Mathematics. The Secondary Ready Pathway provides additional literacy support for those below the expected level moving from primary school.

Our most able are challenged through their teachers' high expectations in lessons, and also through our excellent Gifted and Talented Programme which provides regular links with, and visits to, universities and employers.

Academically and through the arts and sport, we will ensure any pupil who exhibits exceptional talents will be nurtured to excel.



“My time at CDS has changed me in many ways; I have grown in confidence and belief.” Y7 Pupil

Individual Care and Support

Our pupils are placed in a tutor group with a Form Tutor who will get to know your child and be a familiar point of contact when needed.

Heads of Year have the accountability for the overall pastoral care and achievement of their year group and play an important role in ensuring each pupil achieves academically since they monitor attendance, punctuality, behaviour and ensure intervention strategies are in place when appropriate and necessary.

“This school has an excellent VI unit. I find it easy to work and all the staff are really nice. I feel safe in there and get all the help I need.” Y7 VI Pupil



Safe and Friendly Community

Our pupils relate well to one another and are courteous and helpful to visitors. They show a strong understanding of right and wrong, tolerance and respect for others.

We want our pupils to develop as responsible citizens who will make a contribution to their school and the wider community. We ensure our pupils appreciate British values such as democracy and freedom. We also inspire learning beyond the classroom, building pupils' cultural capital through theatrical performances, museum and gallery visits and sporting events. Our programme for the most academically gifted is exceptional.



Life-long Learning: A Thinking Schools Approach



At Charles Dickens we believe that education is more than the sum of subjects. It is also about what you learn and how you learn.

Research by the Sutton Trust (an education advisory group who champion social mobility) has shown that when pupils understand how they think and learn they make greater progress and become more resilient and adaptable. We believe, along with mastery of Mathematics and English, these will be the key skills to future success in an ever-changing and technological world. Our pupils will be given opportunities to discover more about how they learn and will be given real “thinking tools” to support them in their learning, particularly with more complex problem-solving and creativity. They will be encouraged to work together in teams and enjoy new friendships, take on roles of responsibility and develop a mature sense of values.

“My time at CDS has definitely changed me as a person. I arrived in Year 7 quiet and shy. However I believe I have really found my identity, and I am much more confident.”

Y11 Pupil

Partnership and the Trust

The Charles Dickens School is part of
The Barton Court Academy Trust.

This is an exciting opportunity which will bring additional capacity to The Charles Dickens School in order to become an Outstanding school for all its pupils. We believe schools are stronger when they work together and have a common purpose to provide the highest standards in teaching and pupil outcomes. We promote an individual identity for each of our schools so that they continue to respond to the needs of their pupils, their families and the wider community they serve.





The Charles Dickens School

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