

**RICKMANSWORTH SCHOOL**

Dear Applicant

Rickmansworth School is a successful partially selective comprehensive Academy which has achieved significant improvement at all key stages. Our drive is to achieve excellence and our progress on this journey has been evidenced by improving upon our summer 2018 examination results. A level figures consistently show A\*-A in excess of national averages and A\*-B over 50%. The School is within the top 20% of post-16 institutions nationally for value-added (progress) performance. GCSE results are also strong with consistently positive Progress 8 scores. Rickmansworth School prides itself on being a high achieving school.

The safeguarding of children and young people is paramount and we adhere to stringent recruitment procedures and all post holders are subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS disclosure.

Rickmansworth School converted to Academy Status in 2011. We have an excellent reputation in the local community and are consequently heavily oversubscribed, with around 1,200 applications received in 2018 for the 226 Year 7 places. The number of first place preferences is proportionately increasing.

Ofsted inspected the School in October 2017 and reported we were good with outstanding features. They recognised the significant improvements at Rickmansworth and the positive impact this was having on student achievement and progress, and equipping the students for adult life.

Rickmansworth provides a happy, safe and calm learning environment. There is an excellent well-qualified and enthusiastic staff, many of whom are heavily involved in professional development. Operating on a foundation of traditional values, Rickmansworth is an institution that welcomes change and regards itself as being at the forefront of development.

The School occupies a Green Belt site adjoining farmland. Rickmansworth and Croxley Green is a very attractive and affluent area, with a village green, listed buildings, golf courses and a range of shops and amenities. House prices in Rickmansworth and Croxley are relatively high. Watford town centre is only two miles from the School and offers many sports, leisure and arts facilities, a very extensive shopping centre and a good range of affordable accommodation, including flats and houses for rent.

Transport links are good. Buses run to Watford and Bushey, South Oxhey, Oxhey Hall and Batchworth Lane. Trains from Croxley Green and Rickmansworth underground station, near to the School, run directly into Central and North West London.

Due to popular demand Rickmansworth School was expanded in September 2018 to take an additional form of entry each year, going forward. In order to facilitate this the School was supported by a capital grant of £3.5 million. Consequently, the School has undergone a major refurbishment programme including the construction of an outstanding new sports hall, fantastic new Sixth Form centre, a specialist Film Studies suite (including a cinema), a specialist theatre/drama studio, swimming pool and dining hall. We have modernised the Modern Foreign Languages Faculty (including the installation of a new languages laboratory) the Mathematics Faculty, created new Science laboratories, refurbished the English Block, the Music block and the School Hall. We have a strategic improvement plan to refurbish the whole school site and are constantly looking for ways to improve provision for our students.

**Specialism**

Rickmansworth School is a Specialist Science and Arts College. A further extension of our specialism is the School Sports Partnership and Rickmansworth is the hub for many local schools.

**Student Organisation**

Students are taught in ability groups in Key Stage 3 for the majority of their curriculum. All students follow the full National Curriculum at Key Stage 3, which is taught for three years and then follow core subjects at Key Stage 4 with a selection of option choices. The majority of students progress on to Key Stage 5 where they follow Level 3 programmes of study.

**Sixth Form**

A large, vibrant Sixth Form is an important feature of Rickmansworth School. We are very pleased to have seen our numbers grow to nearly 300. Our Sixth Form is very popular, attracting the majority of our own Year 11 students, in addition to students each year from other schools, all of whom settle in remarkably quickly and strike up lasting friendships with our existing students.

An extremely rich variety of sporting and extra-curricular activities are in place which are very popular among students. These include visits locally, regionally, nationally and overseas residential visits.

We have an active student voice which is heard via surveys and meetings with the Student Council. Rickmansworth School has many close partnerships with schools through its partnership arrangements and teaching alliance with two Teaching Schools.

We offer an established well-being programme for our staff including Friday breakfasts, free entry to our excellent fitness suites, a variety of sporting activities, wellbeing sessions during INSET, staff BBQs and trips. Staff have a genuine ‘voice’ at the School and the continuous professional development of all our staff is given a high priority.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr M Fletcher**

**Headteacher**