



Heathcote School & Science College

**ENCOURAGE
CHALLENGE
SUCCEED**



WELCOME

Dear Prospective Parents and Pupils

We are delighted that you are interested in our school and are so sad that you cannot experience the normal Open Evening and other events that show off our amazing resources and enable you to meet some of our fabulous staff and pupils. As I am sure you are aware, the school has been on a transformational journey of improvement and I am delighted to be the person leading that change and watching our pupils grow into amazing human-beings, as well as seeing the now excellent learning and teaching leading to increasingly strong outcomes and our best Year 11 results in 2022.

Many people comment on the outstanding relationships at Heathcote between pupils and staff, pupils themselves, and this is at the heart of the learning experience here. My staff are a team of high-level subject specialists and all committed to being the best teachers they can be. Lessons are exciting and engaging, using Rosenshine's learning principles, and provide challenge for our young people.

We are now committed to ensuring we narrow the gaps for all pupils as education and positive relationships will be the key to successfully surviving the challenge of the years ahead..

Heathcote is proud to have a broad and balanced curriculum ensuring pupils have exposure to a wide range of experiences, including a highly innovative and forward looking Design and Technology department providing significant real-life experiences for pupils preparing them for the 21st century and beyond.

We retain the title of Science College to reflect the unparalleled STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) opportunities for our young people from Year 7-13. Pupils have a huge number of enrichment opportunities, including clubs and activities before and after school, as well as opportunities to perform in school productions and performances both in and out of school.

Sport is a key strength of the school and pupils have opportunities to access a wide range of sports, playing for fun or in teams. We have amazing grounds and also use Bluehouse Field, where we hold our annual Sports Day.

We are looking to extend these opportunities to implement a pupil passport to entitle pupils to certain experiences over Key Stage 3.

Inclusion is a major strength of this school and we encourage real diversity in our population and thinking. This is evident in the integration of pupils with SEND needs including complex physical needs, as well as our successful Hearing Impaired provision.

Parents are very positive about the opportunities and experiences of their children and how committed we are to removing barriers to learning. We have an active and committed School Ambassador teams who support the leadership of the school and post 16 pupils support in all areas of school life.

Whatever you may have heard about Heathcote in the past, this is a new era. Come and share in our success and happiness and consider joining this safe and reflective community. This has been validated by our 'Good' Ofsted report in September 2018 with recognition of so many of the features we are proud of.

Please make sure you contact the school if you are unable to book a visit through the advertised channels (<https://www.heathcoteschool.com/> or @heathcotee4 on Facebook or Twitter for information) or you would like to meet specifically with a staff member such as the SENDCO.



Sonia Close

Headteacher



VISION & VALUES

Encourage

We encourage our pupils to take pride in their learning and community, to work hard, be kind, display good manners and achieve to the best of their abilities. Pupils are expected to seek and embrace feedback and show good manners, understanding and mutual respect for each other and demonstrate excellent behaviour at all times.



Challenge

We challenge our pupils to push themselves, take responsibility for their learning, to be resilient to failure and to self-regulate their behaviour. All our staff and governors are determined that all pupils confidently strive for success, with an inspired drive for the most vulnerable to achieve their goals, and expect them to be present and punctual.

Succeed

We succeed when all pupils enjoy their learning and reach their academic potential in all areas; leaving Heathcote as thoughtful, caring and honest citizens fully prepared for the next stage of their life – whether that be in education, training or employment. We succeed by letting them do so in a comfortable and safe environment and culture where they take a proactive role and develop socially.



WHAT DO OTHERS SAY?

Ofsted September 2018

'The headteacher and other senior leaders are ambitious for their pupils and provide strong strategic leadership.'

'The sixth form is good. Sixth-form students attend regularly.'

'Pupils of all abilities have opportunities to develop their personal and social skills through a wide range of extra-curricular activities.'

'Leaders have a good understanding of the strengths of the school and areas that still need to improve further.'

'Middle leaders clearly understand the school's priorities. They are confident and have the necessary skills to drive forward improvements in their areas of responsibility.'

'The curriculum provides a wide range of courses, including work-related subjects.'

'Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is evident throughout the school. Pupils participate in a wide range of artistic, musical and sporting activities. An assembly and tutorial programme helps prepare pupils for life in modern Britain.'

External reviews 2018-19

'The Sixth Form is well led and managed and relationships between the Assistant Head and staff and pupils are good.'

School Improvement Partner – Sixth Form Review April 2019

'The SEND department is very well led and managed by an inspiring leader. There is a strong team ethos across the twenty or so staff where everyone yearns for the students to achieve their full potential.'

School Improvement Partner – SEND Review May 2019

'The school is very inclusive and tackles performance issues for all vulnerable groups, notably higher attainers and boys. The leadership by the headteacher is very effective.'

School Improvement Partner – Pupil Premium Review May 2019

'Students in Year 7-9 explained how there was a sense of belonging and that the school is like a family'. One student in Year 8 explained how the school is very diverse and students feel comfortable to 'come out of their shell'. They used the example of students being able to discuss their sexuality and for there to be 'no comments'.

Leadership Review Walthamstow Challenge June 2021

'When asked about challenge in lessons, a Year 9 pupil described a science lesson where her teacher gave them a small amount of information at a time, with questions throughout the lesson, and said 'my teacher pushes me to think for myself by using my prior knowledge, instead of just giving me the answers'.

Leadership Review Walthamstow Challenge June 2021

Auditors found that overall students felt safe within the school and were confident they knew who to approach if they had any worries or concerns. There is a cohort of DSL trained staff including Heads of Year therein ensuring students have access to several members of staff available to them if they have any worries or concerns.

Waltham Forest Safeguarding Audit July 2021

There are significant strengths' in safeguarding.

Waltham Forest Safeguarding Audit July 2021

Parents and Carers

'I am delighted with my daughter's GCSE results. Although she didn't take the exams, we were super confident about the specialist teaching she got especially in the last 2 years and know she would have performed as well had she sat them properly. Thank you.'

'I would say that beyond maintaining the academic achievement of my daughter it is probably the times of challenge that stand out for me when I have felt most supported by Heathcote.'

'M had the most fantastic time at Gilwell Park!'

'I am really glad that I sent her here!'

'I am just sending a quick note to let you know how much my child M thoroughly enjoyed her recent trip to Barcelona. The days were filled, accommodation was good and the students had a great taste of Spanish culture and good practice of speaking the language.'

'He is a boy of few words but I know he is becoming increasingly comfortable in school and appreciate all the support school has put in place behind the scenes to make this happen. It is great to see clubs, trips and visits up and running again, as a parent I see Heathcote's commitment to enriching the curriculum as a real strength'

During Lockdown

'The postcard arrived today. Such a lovely gesture, thank you. It's the little things that mean so much.'

'I hope this finds you safe and well. I just wanted you guys at Heathcote to know how we appreciate all that you guys are doing in lockdown. A has taken on her learning independently and is motivated to do her work. This is down to her brilliant start in Heathcote.'

'I cannot speak highly enough of all the hard work teachers have put in putting work online, commenting on children's work and lifting spirits with funny videos and competitions.'

Pupil Feedback

'There is no bullying amongst pupils and teachers make the lessons interesting.'

'I love the food – it has improved so much.'

'It feels good to be a pupil at this school.'

'I love the work experience opportunities and Drop Down Days.'

'One thing I love about the school is the community as almost everyone is friends and welcomes new pupils. This makes the classrooms more positive.'

'I was stretched and challenged in all subjects in Year 10 and 11.'

'Physics can take me anywhere; so, let's see where it takes me! I was really worried about the final outcomes but trusted my teachers totally and fortunately my centre assessed grades did not change.'

Year 13 pupil who received 4 A* grades in August 2020

Visitors

'What a lovely school and amazing pupils.'
Senior Leader from another school May 2019

'I visit many schools and this was the most pleasant experience I have had.'
Hearing Impaired Teacher September 2019

'Loved watching your brilliant musicians tonight.'
Local Music Teacher July 2019

'A lively, engaged and conscientious student body.'
Senior Programme Manager Community Safety Waltham Forest October 2019

'Your pupils were so polite and welcoming.'
Teacher from a local secondary school December 2019

'This is a different school. I so wish it had been like this when I was here. You push everyone so hard.'
Ex pupil who came back to give Careers Advice

'This school is so welcoming. Thank you for a great afternoon.'
Local Teacher September 2021

ENCOURAGE

Diversity is our strength

We welcome everyone to our 11-18 school providing the best pastoral care and impressively strong relationships between pupils themselves and pupils and staff. This works because the community is caring and ambitious; everyone looking after each other and following common British values, whilst also celebrating differences. Where else could be more inspiring to spend the next 7 years?

“**‘British values are strongly promoted through assemblies and tutor-time activities. Pupils learn about other faiths, cultures and equal opportunities. Pupils spoke about the inclusive nature of the school and how diversity is welcomed.’** Ofsted September 2018”



We are a gender-balanced school with pupils from all parts of the borough from many different backgrounds and this leads to high levels of understanding and shared knowledge. If you want to follow in the footsteps of pupils gaining higher than national successful entry to Russell Group Universities – or maybe aiming for Cambridge or Oxford - or to secure an architectural assistant apprenticeship after a highly rated course in Construction and the Built Environment, this is the place to do this. In 2021, 4 of our pupils will be going to Oxford or Cambridge.

Whether our young people are aiming for a set of 9s at GCSE, or a more practical arts based curriculum in Year 10 and 11, we ensure there are wide choices and enjoyable learning opportunities allowing them the freedom to open doors in the future. This includes the chance to take Community Languages GCSEs and A levels. Post 16 pupils have a wide variety of A Levels and BTECS to support the pathway of their choice.

Pupils with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) are well supported and we have a successful Hearing Impaired Provision. We have a number of pupils with EHC Plans and physical disabilities. These pupils are hugely positive forces in our community. We also run an alternative provision for pupils with high levels of anxiety who come from other schools for a 12 week programme in our OAK provision.



ENCOURAGE

Behaviour and Personal Development

Exemplary behaviour is our key daily expectation and we have clear routines that mean pupils feel safe and corridors are calm. Line-up ensures a communal start to the day and a chance to be together as a school. Assemblies are wide and varied and pupils follow the Big Question Programme here and in tutor time. We have a full PIE (Philosophy, Identity and Ethics) programme supplemented by Drop Down Days for in-depth learning in this area. Bullying and discrimination are not tolerated in the school.

We also do not tolerate disruption to learning and have a clear reward and sanction system that pupils understand, with a focus on 4 to 1 positives to negatives. Rewards range from postcards and certificates to vouchers to trips and tea with the Headteacher. We do run an Internal Exclusion Room but the process is highly solution-focused and includes restorative conversation.

Pupil behaviour is supported by a Head Boy and Head Girl in the main school and Sixth Form, a

team of Ambassadors and a School Council who set the highest standards and undertake daily duties, as well as help shaping school policy. Pupils regularly take part in community events, such as the laying of the wreath and carol singing in Chingford Mount.

The school run a First Give Charity project and celebrate all sorts of events such as World Book Day, Black History Month and LGBTQT month where pupils plan special events and wear rainbow shoe laces and lanyards to show their understanding.

Pupils take pride in their uniform and PE kit and the coloured ties create a sense of year group identity. Lockers are available on a priority basis and rented for the year for a low cost. This supports pupils to be organised and independent.

All pupils have a tutor and Head of Year who encourage, support and challenge them to be the best, overseeing their welfare and academic progress and achievement.

“*Typically, pupils behave well in lessons and around the school. They are courteous and respectful.*” Ofsted September 2018



ENCOURAGE

Safety and Welfare

The school has outstanding safeguarding practice and supports pupils through the sometimes challenging maze of being a pupil at secondary school. We have a pastoral team including an Inclusion Manager, Lead Therapist and counsellor, as well as drop-in sessions for an important space to listen to and support pupils. We recognise that many young people, however outwardly successful or confident, may have mental health issues that need additional care and support as well as constant boundaries when in the main school environment.



The Learning Environment

Breakfast is available in the morning and we currently offer all pupils a free bagel or cereal as part of the National School Breakfast Programme. Our grounds are stunning and we are situated near the forest. We benefit from huge grassy areas and a our new Humanities block with a second canteen and covered play area. Our hard pitch areas are popular and well-equipped and pupils can opt for organised sport or table tennis at lunchtime. Classrooms are equipped with Soundfield systems meaning better opportunities for learning and are light and airy. The newly decorated canteen has a lovely communal feel and pupils of all ages mix with each other and enjoy the food. Breakfast is available from 7.45 am to 8.25 am very morning and pupils can come to school and relax quietly before school starts, whether they wish to eat or not.

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'Heathcote is just what I want in a school. Strong teaching and management, fantastic facilities, clear behaviour policy and a nurturing environment. Very happy indeed.'
Ofsted Parent View September 2018

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The site is extremely secure. Office staff are knowledgeable and caring and we welcome all visitors to our school as long as they remain courteous and open-minded.

Medical plans are kept for some children so we can ensure their safety at all times in a busy secondary school. Please contact the school if you have questions about your child's medical needs.

The school works with many outside agencies and can signpost areas of help and support, and pupils and parents benefit from workshops on issues such as FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) and Prevent.

There is currently a private childcare provision on site which cares for pupils from local primary schools but also offer holiday care and after school care for Year 7s who may not quite be ready to travel home alone in the winter months.

The Sixth Form block is a well-designed, attractive building with ICT suites, labs, a drama studio and a gym.

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'Pupils report that they feel safe in school, bullying is rare and they have confidence that staff will deal with any concerns they may have.' Ofsted September 2018

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CHALLENGE

Curriculum

Pupils are grouped in tutor groups in Year 7 based on visits to primary schools and in-depth discussions with teachers. Staff and pupils also visit local schools as well as opening our doors for workshops, sessions and play performances to younger pupils to help them feel comfortable with the challenging, but exciting, demands of secondary school well before they even begin their journey.

Pupils follow a 25 period week with 5 x 60 minute lessons a day and 20 minute of tutor time or Assembly at the end of the day, with activities ranging from Accelerated Reader to the Big Question to Careers Information and Guidance. Some subjects have double lessons and pupils benefit from the fast paced, but well-planned and structured variety of lessons in a typical day. Pupils may be making apple crumble in the morning and speaking Spanish after break; following it up with a debate about climate change in the afternoon. In Year 7 and 8, pupils follow the



Accelerated Reader Programme in tutor time and have 8 lessons of all core subjects per fortnight and we follow a 2 week timetable to support the variety of lessons we offer. Maths is setted from the start to support, both those aiming for higher Maths. and those who need to consolidate more basic Maths with a real-life slant. Nearly all other lessons are mixed ability in Years 7-9 and classes are often taught in tutor groups ensuring good bonds are formed both in and out of the classroom.



All National Curriculum subjects are taught in Key Stage 3 including a wide range of sports, DT and even dance. This is supplemented by PIE (Philosophy, Identity and Ethics), assemblies and the tutor programme. Sex and Relationship Education is taught in all years and the school is carefully and sensitively planning for the new Government guidance keeping parents well-informed.

Pupils study French or Spanish and we encourage all pupils to challenge themselves to take a modern foreign language in Year 10 and 11 and beyond.

GCSE and BTEC subjects are chosen in Year 9 for a 2 year programme of study aiming for the best possible grades in the best fit set of subjects from Triple Science to Sociology to Music.

At post 16 level, pupils can study A Levels or BTECs (more technical or vocational courses) or a combination as well as a unique BTEC Level 3 in Sport, currently run in partnership with Leyton Orient. We also run a Level 2 Construction BTEC.



CHALLENGE

Learning and Teaching

The aim of our teaching is to be challenging and inspire pupils to follow their dreams. Surveys show our teachers love working at Heathcote as they recognise it is a unique place to be and they are supported to develop and, like our pupils, be the best they can be. They work hard and share the highs and lows and are what makes the school what it is. Backed up by warm (but firm when they want to be) support staff, all adults are valued by pupils and parents alike.

The curriculum is purposeful and designed to build up the skills and knowledge needed for GCSE, whilst developing confidence in pupils as they face the toughest set of exams for decades. Teachers are subject specialists, many with higher degrees or working as examiners to support pupils to the highest levels. This year, we have adopted Rosenhine's principles to the curriculum and learning and teaching to ensure pupils can acquire knowledge and retain skills in the most effective way. We aim for rigour, but also romance, in our curriculum.

We are committed to developing remote learning to ensure we future proof our school and ensure that we maintain the highest learning opportunities whatever the next few months and years throw at us. We use Google Classroom as the hub for all home and remote learning and all resources from all lessons can be accessed anywhere.

Teachers are used to visiting each other's classrooms to gain ideas and provide feedback and Pupils are encouraged through small groups and surveys to express their views about what type of learning is most effective. Our teachers are supported by the North East London Teaching Alliance and the Seven Kings Teaching Alliance providing challenging course for teachers to keep on improving and bring fresh ideas to the classroom.

'Teachers speak highly of the many opportunities they are given to develop their practice. Staff who are new to the profession feel valued, supported and enjoy their work.'
Ofsted September 2018

'Teachers are well organised and support pupils to make good progress over time. Teachers are aware of disadvantaged pupils who may need extra support or intervention, and this is provided.' Ofsted September 2018

Regular assessment ensures data is accurate and intervention targeted at those who need to gain a greater understanding of an idea or topic. Challenge Week takes place 3 times a year when all pupils undertake formal assessments and then celebrate at the end of the week with enriching activities and trips out.

Data is regularly analysed to ensure groups of pupils are not over represented negatively and intervention planned to support these individuals and groups. Planned schemes of learning are also adapted if gaps are detected to ensure equality of opportunity. We stretch our most able and we ensure that staff know what a grade 9, A* or Distinction answer looks like and have outstanding credibility with, and gratitude from, brighter pupils.

Homework is set regularly and is often designed as preparation for the next lesson and may not be a traditional 'sit down and write' task. Pre-reading is often used as a homework task for example. In Key Stage 3, pupils will often complete projects to support their learning. Please ask if you are not sure what this means or, in true flipped learning style, find out before you need to ask!

The school continues to use the Science College name to champion the ground-breaking STEM opportunities that pupils are able to access and the high level of teaching and specialist knowledge in the Science department.

The curriculum is enriched by trips and Drop Down Days and a strong careers strategy with work experience or university visit experiences available depending on your chosen path in both Year 10 and Year 12.

We have a partnership with Gardiner and Theobald and Barratt Homes who offer unparalleled work experience opportunities for our pupils as well as visits to their sites to support careers in the Construction Industry.

The school has a large library and a number of ICT rooms and laptop trolleys to support learning.

CHALLENGE

Links with Parents and Carers

We hold a number of events such as Information Evening, Parents Evenings, coffee mornings and a new Meet the Tutor event 3 times a year.

We encourage parents and carers to become more involved in the school and have plans this year for a Parent Council and PTA to encourage support, challenge and community cohesion.

Reports are sent home 3 times a year and are clear and concise but accurate.

Communication is currently mainly via the website, Parent Mail and the SIMs app but staff will, of course, talk to you face to face with an update or to guide you with supporting your child. You can email staff or contact them by phone via the School Office.



Governors

We have a very experienced and diverse team of Governors, including parents, who play an active part in school life challenging leaders and supporting the school in being the best we can be while encouraging and celebrating our success.



'Governors have a good understanding of the school's strengths and the areas that still need development. They challenge and support leaders effectively to drive the shared vision.'

Ofsted September 2018



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The SEND department is ambitious, vibrant and all staff care about our SEND pupils passionately. Staff support pupils in lessons and also run Lexia and other literacy and numeracy programmes to support those who need a boost. The school has a nurture space for those who find some elements of school tough. The focus is always about challenging pupils within safe boundaries and ensuring exemplary SEND practice in the

classroom and beyond. There is a homework club for SEND pupils and breakfast club every day.

Our SENDCO and Deputy SENDCO are well qualified and would be delighted to host a visit for anyone who wants further details about the provision.

Our Hearing Impaired provision has spaces for 13 pupils and is hugely successful at ensuring deaf pupils have the same chances of success and happiness as anyone else.

The building is equipped with Evac Chairs and lifts to support those with mobility difficulties.



'Pupils who have SEN and/or disabilities make similarly good progress compared with their peers, regardless of their starting points.' Ofsted September 2018



SUCCEED

Outcomes

Improving year on year, pupils make solid, and in many cases, outstanding progress at the school, at 16 and 18 years old. Since July 2017, progress 8 scores have risen significantly and are now in line with national. We will continue this ambitious drive for improvement ensuring pupils at Heathcote consistently exceed these benchmarks. English results are hugely impressive year after year; out-performing national and ensuring pupils exceed expected targets. Literacy is a crucial skill to make sense of the world, regardless of how technical it becomes. What is life, without reading....be it a highly sophisticated computer programming manual, proof reading a dissertation or business plan or just reading a good book or magazine to relax?

“*‘GCSE public examinations indications are that pupils’ attainment remains in line with national averages and that pupil progress has improved from the previous year.’*
Ofsted September 2018”

More and more pupils are opting for the E Bacc (following a set of high value subjects including a language and Humanities subject) at GCSE requirements and challenging themselves to do better and aim higher. Results are successful in Spanish and French.

We offer an extensive range of courses in the Sixth Form that achieve good results and outstanding BTEC results.



Sport

Although we can't take credit for Harry Kane, sport at Heathcote is second to none. Our teams regularly win local and regional competitions in football and basketball and often play at the West Ham Stadium.

We support pupils on day release to clubs as long as learning, behaviour and attendance are good in school. Many pupils play at club level outside school and we have outdoor swimming champions as well as Crufts Dog Show winners.

Girls sport is popular and there are plenty of team and club opportunities. The recent Year 7 Girls' World Cup football tournament in school was a great success.

We run inter-form competitions and a Sports Day which is loved by all, except when the rain comes!



Extra Curricula Activities

From Barcelona for GCSE MFL pupils, Sicily for Geographers, a CERN Geneva trip for the future atomic scientists, prefect training in One Hoe Street and over 300 pupils spending 36 hours at Gilwell Park in an amazing week, we try and offer our pupils a slice of what London, Europe and the world has to offer.

In school, there is a range of clubs and activities from Japanese Club to STEM club, as well as a Choir and Drama Club. Each year, there is an Art exhibition, Winter Showcase

and Summer Musical. The school was awarded a sum of money from the London Borough of Culture and have created a series of huge motivational and inspiring murals planned and painted by pupils and artist, Mik Richardson. A legacy for the next generation!

We are looking to introduce a Pupil Passport, pledging a certain number of experiences to pupils over their first few years at the school such as a trip to a London museum and a live sporting event.

Finally

“*‘Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence’*
Vince Lombardi”

Pupils at this school are brave, ambitious, fun, bright and driven to succeed. We are not perfect but we strive for progress and excellence in all that we do.



Heathcote School & Science College

Normanton Park, Chingford, London E4 6ES

Tel: 020 8498 5110

Fax: 020 8529 3935

E-Mail: heathcote.school@heathcote.waltham.sch.uk

Website: www.heathcoteschool.com

Headteacher: Sonia Close

