



# PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

At the College we are very fortunate to benefit from a purpose-built and fully equipped award-winning building. However, I believe that great schools are not made by the buildings they occupy, but by the people who work within them. We are proud at Catmose College to have committed staff and talented, hardworking students whose contributions make our College truly exceptional.

Our primary aim is to encourage each student to become a mature, independently minded individual who has the necessary skills and knowledge to be of value to themselves and society. We know that every student is talented, so our role as educators is to ensure these talents are fully realised. To achieve this, we have high expectations of every student, emphasising the importance of hard work and doing one's best in every circumstance.

We offer an extensive curriculum both inside and outside the classroom to ensure that every student can develop their existing strengths as well as discover new ones. Our academic courses are complemented and enhanced by an 'electives' programme which encompasses the creative arts, sports, music and drama, with many further opportunities also available in our flourishing extra-curricular programme. These experiences offer a sound preparation for our students who go on to higher education, including Oxford and Cambridge.

Academy status gives the College the same freedom that public schools have always enjoyed, predominantly a single-minded focus on the best interest of each and every student - but of course, without the fees.

A visit to experience our outstanding facilities and to meet the staff and our students will leave you in no doubt that this is the right place for your child.

I look forward to welcoming you to our College soon.



Stuart Williams  
Principal

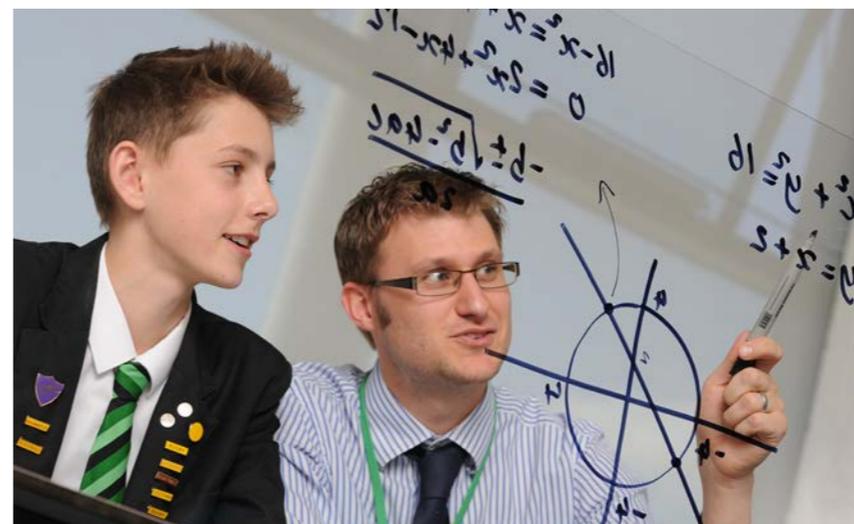


# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Our academic programme aims to instil in all students a lifelong love of learning which is achieved by encouraging each student not only to strive for the highest possible academic standard, but also to engage with and enjoy their learning. In the first three years at Catmose College, students follow a core curriculum including Mathematics, English, the Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language, History and Geography. For the last two years students can personalise the course they study, recognising their strengths and interests, and pursuing traditional academic subjects which also include Philosophy and Ethics and Computer Science or choosing from a full range of applied courses including Sport, Business Studies, Food Technology and Product Design. To complement these, we offer a range of expressive and performing arts courses, including Painting and Drawing, Photography, Drama and Music. We have found that these skills and competencies make our students particularly attractive to sixth form providers, universities and employers.

Our curriculum offers both breadth and depth, challenging our students to succeed while creating a framework of support so that they learn from their mistakes and go on to experience the exhilaration of success.

This philosophy and provision has led to the College being recognised nationally for the academic success of our students and the accolade of being graded as Outstanding in all categories by Ofsted.



*Achievement has risen steadily so that results at the end of Key Stage 4 are well above average.*

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Music and Academic Scholarships are awarded annually to students who can demonstrate excellent ability in their chosen area.

The scholarships are designed to recognise exceptional talent and to provide the facilities, resources and staffing to allow high-ability students to achieve their potential.

Recently our Academic Scholars have enjoyed a programme of cultural and intellectual enrichment, having visited exhibitions, theatres, universities and much more.

Our Music Scholars benefit from heavily subsidised instrumental lessons and exciting workshops throughout the year.

# LEARNING TO BE INDEPENDENT

We aim to ensure that all students leaving the College can become adults capable of thriving on life's challenges, so developing skills such as good decision making and taking responsibility are important to us. These skills are not acquired by accident. Students need to be given choices and allowed to make mistakes, then encouraged to learn from the errors they have made.

Long lists of rules are therefore absent and replaced by high expectations that students will work hard and contribute positively to learning. We believe that students need to take responsibility for their own behaviour and, to encourage this, there are no locked doors at the College, with students being trusted to make appropriate use of the College's facilities throughout the day.

In order to make new challenges available to students, the College offers an extensive range of extra-curricular activities, including a performing arts tour, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, public speaking competitions and educational visits which include, amongst many others, trips to France and Spain, skiing trips, and expeditions to Africa.

At Catmose College, students are encouraged to develop skills of initiative and leadership; so, throughout a student's time at College we offer a range of opportunities, including; sports and dance leaders, community volunteers, student councillors and governors, prefects, subject ambassadors and house captains.

*Staff have developed a positive sense of community where all students feel valued, encouraged to do their best and know they can ask for help when needed.*

PARENTAL SURVEY



# CALM, PURPOSEFUL AND HAPPY

'Calm', 'purposeful', 'happy' are three words that visitors to the College often use. We believe that students should work in an environment where each student is committed to learning and where mutual respect is the norm. We want students to enjoy their time at the College because lessons are engaging and the curriculum interesting. The College building was designed around these principles.

Our students have access to a state of the art information technology network which includes a wireless connection for laptops and iPads which are encouraged in the College. Our facilities, including the library and IT, are available for students to use from 8.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday, with an earlier close of 4.30pm on Friday; this is to enable all students to fully engage with everything on offer.

Students in Year 7 are assigned to a form tutor who will take responsibility for them, look after their interests and be the first point of contact between the College and parents throughout their five years with us.

We also have a dedicated Client Support Team whose role is to support and develop the partnership between College, student and parents. With such close links, every student is supported and cared for, ensuring they are able to benefit both from their experience at Catmose College and the excellent progress they make.



*Teaching is outstanding. Teachers consistently expect all students to be challenged and give their best. Because of excellent relationships, students show confidence in responding to this challenge.*

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*The range of qualifications, options and enrichment opportunities on offer respond very well to the needs and interests of students. These contribute to the positive attitudes of the students, and to their engagement in lessons.*

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# INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

The individual is at the heart of our College. We adopt a highly personalised approach when considering the learning, pastoral and extra-curricular needs of each student. All staff treat every member of the College as an individual, whether supporting a young person who encounters difficulties with certain aspects of learning or challenging a student who is academically gifted or talented. Additionally, the College's elective programme provides an excellent opportunity for students to develop their skills in a range of non-academic activities.

We are proud to be an inclusive College, in which the progress, achievement and well-being of all students is fundamental to everything that we do and our success has resulted in an 'Outstanding' judgement from Ofsted.

*Provision for students in the specialist provision is highly effective in supporting students' progress through a fully inclusive and integrated approach to its work.*  
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# EQUAL VALUE

We value every member of the College equally and strive to treat all with respect and the highest standard of service, whether parent, student, member of staff or visitor. 'Equal Value' however does not mean that we treat everyone the same. We recognise that no two of us are the same, so our approaches are tailored to reflect individual strengths and needs.

We have the same high expectations of students as of our staff – to dress smartly, to aspire to do well, to embody the highest standards of respect and civility and to positively contribute to the College community.

It is the principle of 'equal value' that underpins the calm, purposeful and happy atmosphere that we all enjoy.



# ENGAGE, EXPLORE AND ACHIEVE

The experiences offered by Catmose College are not limited to those we can offer within the confines of the building, or indeed, even locally. Every year students take part in expeditions and educational visits across the world. Recent trips have included an art trip to Venice, a performing arts trip to New York, a visit to Berlin, a historical tour of the battlefields of the First World War and an expedition to Ghana in Africa.

We believe these experiences offer opportunities to develop young people's cultural awareness and independence so that skills encouraged within the College can be applied and improved outside their normal environment.

The Sumatra experience exemplifies this approach. Students were required to fund the costs of the expedition, a total of nearly £2000 per person through numerous fundraising activities. In Sumatra the teams spent time at an orangutan sanctuary learning about palm plantations, deforestation and the future of the orangutans. During the trip students also rode elephants, swam in wild rivers, rafted down rivers, climbed through bat caves and assisted with the reforestation project.



*Catmose College is an outstanding school led by an inspirational and visionary Principal, with strong and effective leadership and management at all levels, including the governing body. This is a highly successful school that is relentless in its quest to improve further.*  
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# THE PERFORMING ARTS

The performing arts are a lively and integral part of life at the College. We are very fortunate to have state of the art facilities, including a fully equipped theatre, separate dance and drama studios and a music technology suite which includes a professional recording studio. Students are involved in a variety of drama clubs and have the chance to devise and direct their own plays as well as performing to many different audiences.

There is a proud tradition of music and singing at the College. All new students are encouraged to take up, or continue learning, an instrument, and tuition is provided for around 25% of students who take the opportunity to improve their confidence and enhance their overall musicianship. As well as one-to-one tuition, Catmose College believes strongly in the importance of nurturing a musician through group performance so offers a variety of ensembles which rehearse each week, including Junior and Senior Orchestra and Choir, a Jazz Band, and Flute ensemble.

There are three tiers of Music Scholarship on offer to students, which offer varying levels of financial assistance towards music tuition, and personal mentoring. Our Music Scholars also benefit from unique performance opportunities, which include taking part in a workshop with visiting members of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

We compete successfully at both local and national music drama festivals, while the music ensembles and drama groups perform annually at the popular Christmas concert at All Saints Church in Oakham. Our students also have the opportunity to go 'on tour' around Europe performing music, dance and drama to audiences across the continent.

Our whole-school performances form one of the highlights of the school year, often involving over 200 students and invariably sell out well in advance. As well as performing on stage, our students are involved in arranging the choreography, constructing the set and organising the backstage and technical functions.





This is a highly successful school that is relentless in its quest to improve further.  
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The extra-curricular activities are fantastic, we have been so amazed by the lengths staff go to providing enrichment activities.  
PARENTAL SURVEY

# SPORT

The College boasts a strong sporting heritage, with sport being a highly valued aspect of the Catmose College experience. Over twenty-five sports are on offer through the core curriculum of two lessons per week as well as extra-curricular opportunities and activities within the elective programme. The College is proud of its pursuit of sporting excellence and in preparing students for a lifelong involvement in sport and physical activity.

Within the core curriculum, every student is given the best possible opportunity to achieve a high standard in sport and physical education and to develop a wide range of skills, tactics and strategies over a range of team and individual sports.

Extra-curricular sport is a vibrant part of College life, with teams at all age levels participating in a full range of sports and physical activities in local, regional and national competitions. Enrichment clubs, team practices and competitive fixtures operate during lunchtimes and after school throughout the year, while the wide range of sports and physical activities remain popular choices within the electives programme.

The College offers a Sports Scholarship programme to support, stretch and challenge our most gifted and talented sports performers. There are three levels, with the top offering; mentoring, sports science support, training programmes, and free gym membership. The programme has continued to go from strength to strength with a number of students now competing at a national level.

The House system also aims to enrich students' lives by promoting friendly competition within the College. All students and staff are placed in one of four houses and events take place throughout the year, with students encouraged to participate and represent their House according to their strengths and abilities. Each House is led by a House Captain, elected by their peers.

In total over forty inter-house competitions take place during the year, including football, basketball and cross country, but also events proposed by the different subject areas, for example, cookery, debating, a performing arts talent show and an art and design competition.

*Teachers plan a good range of activities that sustain students' interest and develop higher-order learning skills.*  
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Principal: Stuart Williams

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