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Sir
William
Ramsay
School

Prospectus

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“We believe in being respectful, ambitious, responsible and resilient at all times.”



Welcome to Sir William Ramsay School

It is an absolute privilege to welcome you to our School and to be a part of our success story. At Sir William Ramsay School we 'Empower Everyone to Achieve', this means we have a shared commitment to enable the academic success and personal development of all members of our school community.

We are developing a culture that is rooted in our values of being Respectful, Ambitious, Responsible and Resilient. These are the expected characteristics of an SWR student and form the foundations for future success.

We aim to provide an educational experience that enables our students to develop into flourishing young adults that excel in a wide variety of occupations and positively contribute to society.

We celebrate diversity, talent and creativity. We are committed to developing strong minded, independent individuals that are proud to be part of the SWR family.

Our School is a safe space that prioritises wellbeing and character development. We strive to make our students learning experience unique, memorable and fun.

I am excited to lead the School through its transition into the Insignis Academy Trust and to empower our staff to develop an innovative curriculum that is delivered with consistency, creativity and passion. I truly believe that the School will quickly re-establish itself to being at the heart of the local community and the first-choice School in a selective county.

We look forward to welcoming you and being part of our exciting future.

Neil Stocking

Head of School



Vision

A community where every voice counts, where talent and creativity are brought to life, where students grow in confidence, build resilience and are prepared for the rest of their lives.

Mission

We aim to achieve our vision by:

- Raising students above the ordinary by developing and delivering lifelong learning which transforms lives
- Ensuring every person feels valued, safe and happy
- Enabling students to feel proud of themselves, and to take pride in the success of others
- Promoting a culture of mutual respect where everyone is treated as a valued member of the school community
- Encouraging positive communication so that words and actions are thoughtful, supportive and motivational
- Placing parents and carers at the heart of the life of the school
- Having highly dedicated and well-qualified staff who are committed to continuous professional development
- Adopting an ethos of continuous improvement within all aspects of school life



Values

We underpin our approach through our values:



We always treat people, property and the environment with kindness and consideration.



We ask for help when we need it and strive to be the best we can be.



We help others, present ourselves with pride and positively contribute to school and the wider community.



We prepare for the future and adapt and grow from challenges.

The Curriculum

Key Stage 3

The transition programme ensures that Year 7 students are familiar to us when they arrive. This enables them to progress more smoothly from Key Stage 2 into Key Stage 3. A personalised approach begins the moment a student arrives. We proactively work with the primary schools to make sure the transition is as smooth as possible.

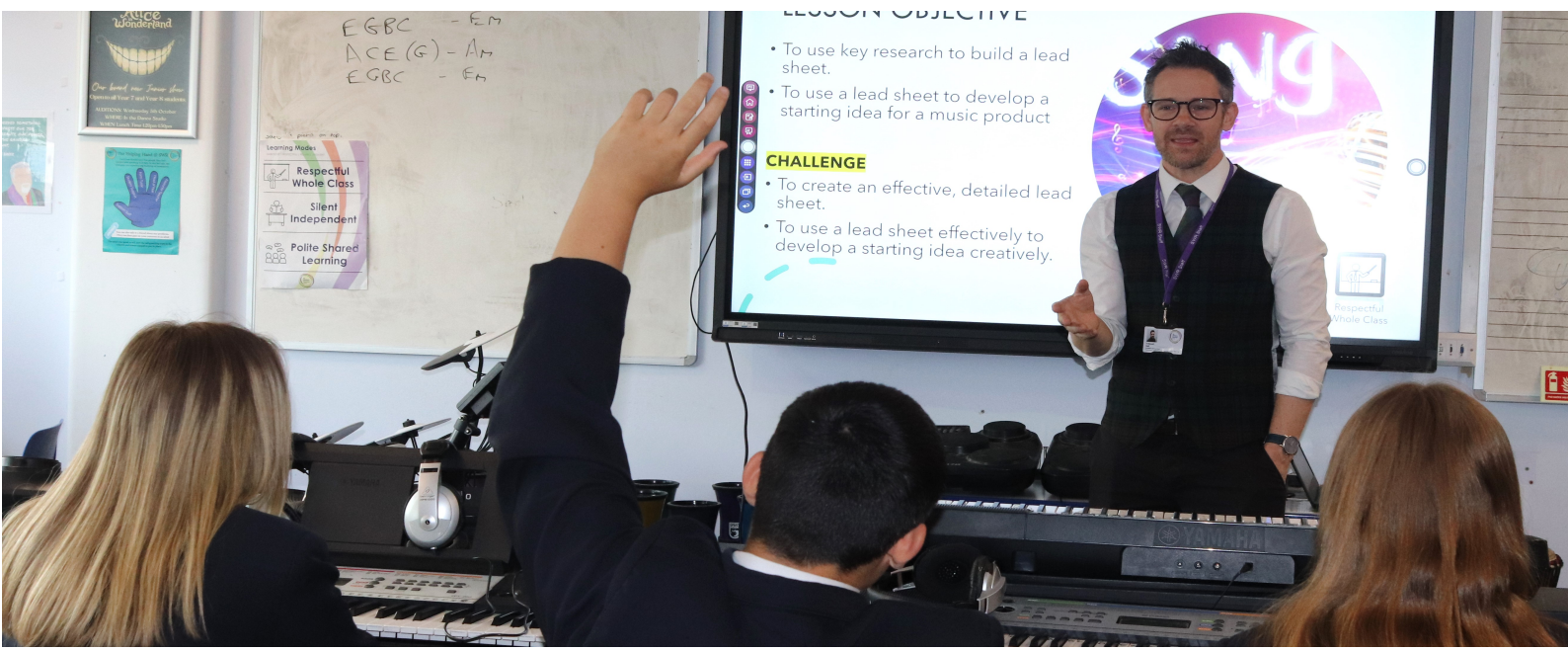
The focus in Key Stage 3 is to ensure that the core skills of literacy and numeracy, which act as the foundation for all learning, are secure. Some students are allocated additional time to ensure that any gaps in their literacy and numeracy understanding are closed. Some students are offered additional support with literacy and numeracy interventions.

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum which includes the arts and the expressive arts, technology, IT, sport, RE, PSHCE and languages, as well as the academic core. We believe that all students should experience the full range of subjects to make sure they are best equipped to make informed choices at GCSE and beyond and to mould them into well-rounded citizens of the world.

We support all students to succeed and achieve their very best in everything they do.

Key Stage 4

All students study a core curriculum which includes English, Maths, Science (double or triple), PSHCE and PE. In addition, they have up to 4 subject choices from a wide range of GCSE and vocational subjects. They are encouraged to choose a broad and balanced programme which serves as a strong foundation for further progression into academic study in the Sixth Form and beyond. All students are guided and supported through each transition point in their educational career.



Key Stage 5

The Sixth Form attracts students from Year 11 as well as students from other local schools and offers a range of A-Levels and Level 3 vocational courses within an inclusive environment. Partnerships with local businesses ensure that students are presented with opportunities to enrich their learning and develop themselves as active citizens. Weekly work experience helps students to gain essential employability skills and insight into the workplace. Each year our students progress to high quality destinations, with the majority going to university or into an apprenticeship.

The Sixth Form plays an important role in setting high standards of work and attitude, and students provide an excellent example to younger students in the school. Sixth Form students lead the School Council, are Heads of House and take part in a range of community activities. Students are involved in many opportunities for their own spiritual, sporting and academic development together with their own specific course study. Our focus as a Sixth Form is to develop our students into confident and effective young leaders.

Every student who joins our Sixth Form is given the opportunity to gain a qualification in leadership. They are expected to lead their peers and younger students throughout the year and take an active role in our community.



Supporting Learning

Enrichment

It is well understood that a strong and creative curriculum extends beyond the classroom and all students benefit from a wide range of enrichment activities in addition to their classroom learning. These range from trips and visits, home learning clubs, catch-up sessions and revision workshops, to opportunities to develop skills in areas such as Sport and the Performing Arts.

Sir William Ramsay School is committed to offering a wide range of activities across all year groups. All Year 7 do an outward-bound trip in their first month to build bonds of friendship and resilience and we also offer a wide range of overseas and UK-based trips for all year groups.

Student Progress

Sir William Ramsay School is ambitious in the targets set for their students, aiming the target grades to be in the top 20% of students nationwide. Data reports are sent after each assessment point to inform parents/carers of their child's progress. These are in addition to Parents' Evenings and Parental Information Evenings, to which we expect all parents/carers to attend.

At regular times, one-to-one learning conversations enable students, parents, carers and tutors to be fully aware of the progress being made. If a student falls behind with their studies, they receive support to help them get back on track.



**Sir William Ramsay
School is ambitious
in the targets set for
their students**

(Top 20%)


Careers Support

At Sir William Ramsay School we aim to prepare our students to make informed decisions about their future options so that they go on to meaningful placements in education, apprenticeships or skilled employment. Preparing them for the world of work is an integral part of the work that we do.

While qualifications are very important, they are not the only consideration. We know that employability, work-readiness and professional communication are some of the skills that are becoming more important to employers across a number of job sectors.

We aim to support students to ensure they are informed and able to develop these skills and attributes to help and support them in readiness for the workplace or place of study through a variety of interventions and by:

- hosting an annual careers fair
- providing independent and individual careers advice and guidance for students
- offering guidance regarding different career pathways, including information on Apprenticeships and the new T-Levels
- arranging talks from organisations and business professionals
- helping students to write effective curriculum vitae and personal statements



Preparing our students for the world of work is an integral part of the work we do.

Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)

Sir William Ramsay school is an inclusive school. We work alongside external agencies and families to support students with special educational needs and disabilities. We have particular expertise in working with children who have Physical Disabilities and those in need of Hearing Support in our Additionally Resourced Provisions (ARPs).

We have high expectations for all students regardless of their additional needs. We work to promote equality, diversity and independence. We also understand that equity is a particularly important consideration when dealing with students with SEND. We ensure that all students are given the opportunity to progress and are fully prepared for life after Sir William Ramsay School by ensuring teachers are equipped to cater for the needs of all students with SEND and recognising that some students will need bespoke and tailored interventions to ensure they meet their full potential.

The SEND department regularly reviews the special educational needs of our students. Support is put in place where needs are identified and we are pleased to say that all staff are able to refer to the SEND team if they have a particular concern about the learning of a student. In this way, we work to ensure that all needs are identified quickly. It is our policy that support for students will take place mainly in the classroom, with staff who understand quality first teaching. We also offer support at break and lunch times, a homework club after school and small group interventions.

Please see our SEND Policy and SEN Annual Information Report for more information.



Pastoral & Well-Being

Transition

There are many key transition points in the school life of every student. Transitioning from year 6 to year 7, from key stage 3 to key stage 4, from year 11 into Sixth Form/College and then from Sixth Form onto further education or employment. We have strong processes and support at every level to ensure students are fully equipped with the skills they need to make the best possible decision about the next stage in their education or career.

It is through our transition programme that we aim to make the transition as easy and smooth as possible.

Our pastoral team, alongside our SEND team make sure we get to know every individual student in our school. It is by knowing them well that we are able to ensure we can support them and meet their needs effectively.

Students transitioning from primary to Sir William Ramsay School are very important to us. It is through our transition programme that we aim to make the transition as easy and smooth as possible. This programme includes primary school visits which includes discussions with year 6 teachers, primary school SENDCOs and Headteachers, year 6 transition day in the summer term, Open Evening and other open events. In addition, we offer pre-year 7 activities during Summer School and a special day at the start of the year where year 7 are the only year group in school. This allows them to navigate the school, meet key staff and make friends. The transition follows them into year 7 with a Meet the Tutor Events early in the Autumn term.



Tutor Groups

All students have a tutor and are part of a daily tutor group which takes place every morning. The form tutor is the main point of contact to whom parents can direct any queries or provide positive feedback. They also have a Head of Year who oversees the form tutors. In addition to this, we also have Raising Attainment Officers (RAO) who work with the Heads of Year to ensure the best pastoral care for all students. They will help students who are struggling or students who need a bit more support to get through a hard time. The RAOs also help to mentor and support students throughout the school year.

Tutors know their tutees very well and provide strong support in their academic and social development, having 1-to-1 mentoring during form time, discussing their attendance, rewards, behaviour and punctuality on a regular basis. This provides an opportunity to build a sense of community and reinforces our values of respect and ambition.



Our Facilities

- A Performing Arts block including a 500-seat performance hall, a dance studio, two music classrooms, an ensemble room, two practice rooms, dance space and a media room with editing suite and cameras
- Dedicated department areas for all subjects
- A specialist Art block, with rooms for fine art, photography, screen printing, textiles work and a sculpture area
- A large Sports Hall, Fitness Suite and extensive sports fields with hard courts offer a wide range of sports inside and outside lesson time
- A large Drama Studio
- A Technology department including modern equipment for the study of both Engineering and Food Technology
- A Library equipped with teaching and research areas and an IT suite
- Student Support and SEND Department with dedicated teaching and recreation facilities that include the hearing support resource base and physical disability unit and a brand new sensory room created by one of our students
- A further 6 rooms comprising IT facilities



Caring For Your Child

Safeguarding

At Sir William Ramsay School we are fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, ensuring that the highest priority is given to following guidance and regulations to safeguard all our students. We work together with other agencies to ensure arrangements are in place within our school to identify, assess, and support those children who are suffering harm or are at risk of suffering harm.

Our vision for safeguarding is to create a culture where all staff and students know:

- It could happen here. To be vigilant.
- We are centred around the needs of the individual child.
- We want an environment where all students can flourish at Sir William Ramsay School, safe from fear, exploitation or oppression.
- Problems and issues should be reported and will be taken seriously and dealt with quickly.
- This requires the participation of the whole school community.
- How to report and respond to any safeguarding concern reported by a student.



Equalities

Sir William Ramsay School is an inclusive and diverse community.

Sir William Ramsay School works to eliminate all forms of unlawful discrimination on the grounds of ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability or ability.

This is achieved the following principles:

- Ensure that students have the opportunity to reach their potential in all areas of school life.
- Ensure that parents and students can make choices free from prejudice and stereotyping.
- Oppose any form of racism, sexism, disability discrimination, homophobia or any other form of discrimination.
- Value every student's language and cultural background.
- Promote respect between cultures.



The School Day

The school day starts with line up at 8.25am and ends at 3.00pm with optional extra-curricular activities during break times and after school.

Classroom learning is complemented with a range of day and residential trips, workshops and visiting speakers.

The day begins with morning registration, with an assembly each week.

A range of hot and cold food and drink is sold before school and at both break times. All students are eligible for free porridge each morning before school. The school uses a contactless payment system to charge student accounts to eliminate the need for students to bring in cash.

Time	Event
08.25	Students arrive at School
08.30	Registration & Assembly
09.00	Period 1
10.00	Period 2
11.00	FIRST BREAK
11.30	Period 3
12.30	Period 4
13.30	SECOND BREAK
14.00	Period 5
15.00	End of School Day
15.00 - 16.00	Extra Curricular