Saint George's Church of England School

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PRINTFACE
Welcome to Saint George's Church of England School

The choice of secondary school is one of the most difficult and significant decisions that discerning parents or guardians have to make. I am delighted that you are considering Saint George's Church of England School for your child's education.

Our school was founded in 1580 and has a long tradition of working within the Gravesham community. Our motto 'All Different, All Equal' emphasises our Christian belief that the skills and interests of all students should be developed, recognising and valuing their unique worth and God-given talents. Our goal is to ensure each student realises their potential and leaves Saint George's as a responsible, confident and articulate young person, fully prepared for adult life. Saint George's is a Church of England school but that does not mean you have to attend church to come here.

Distinctive

We are distinctively Christian, whilst valuing and welcoming those of other faiths. Christian worship and RE are important to us and we seek to encourage respect for the beliefs of others. Our Christian ethos permeates everything we do; we welcome students of all faiths and no faith. We encourage our students to develop an understanding of people who are different from themselves and we offer opportunities to all students to succeed with our broad curriculum.

"Leadership is outstanding" Ofsted 2013

Inclusive

As a comprehensive school, we reflect 'real life' by allowing our students to mix with boys and girls of all abilities and from a wide range of backgrounds. We believe this is the best way to equip them for adult life. We do not, however, tolerate anti-social behaviour, and expect our parents to support us in this.

What does it mean to be a Church school?

Saint George’s is a school with a Church Foundation. This reflects our school's history and the involvement of the Church of England in the education of young people in their communities. It does not mean that only those with a Christian faith can attend Saint George’s, but everyone is expected to respect the teachings of the Christian faith and adhere to our mission statement of 'All Different, All Equal'. Christian values underpin this statement, and place emphasis on service and compassion; thankfulness and hope, and respect for the earth as God's creation. Above all, we believe in the potential of each student to succeed, recognising that Jesus cared equally for all people, regardless of race, gender or social background.

Anne Southgate BD AKC
Headteacher

open-minded
Student Well-being

Joining Year 7

We want to ensure that every student who comes to Saint George’s achieves high standards, enjoys their learning, and is well cared for. This starts with the transition from primary school, where our approach is one of support and challenge. Our staff visit students at their primary school and we hold taster days for students and information evenings for parents. In addition, we offer support for those who need extra help, and extra challenge for those who are identified as more able. Experience shows that students settle quickly and soon make new friends. This is helped by vertical Tutor Groups; where students from Years 7-11 are together in form groups, creating a family atmosphere.

Students are taught in sets for core subjects and considerable attention is given to ensuring each student makes good progress. Class sizes are traditional with no very large groups. We run a grammar stream in Year 7 to ensure our more able students are challenged to their full potential.

“Students’ attitudes to learning are good. They behave well in lessons and support each other well.”

“Teachers have high expectations of students and the school actively promotes skills in collaborative work and independence from Year 7 onwards”

Student Well-being

At Saint George’s, our belief that all are different, yet equal is at the core of our support to students. This embraces keeping students safe, promoting an awareness of and commitment to a healthy lifestyle, enjoying all the opportunities offered at school and having high expectations for academic achievement which is the key to acquiring skills and qualifications for future employment and adult life.

Each student is well known by at least one adult within the school, and we have a system in place to facilitate ease of communication with parents. Happy, positive students are motivated independent learners who can meet the high expectations staff have for their academic achievement and personal well being.

“Students show respect for staff, visitors and each other” Ofsted 2013
The Curriculum

In Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) students follow the National Curriculum and RE. Towards the end of year 8, students choose the subjects they will study at Key Stage 4 (GCSE equivalent). Starting Key Stage 4 courses in year 9 means that most students have three years to ensure they achieve challenging targets, as well as time for enrichment and enjoyment. In 2011 and 2012 we were the highest performing non-selective school in the area topping the league table for Gravesend in the Government's 5A*-C (including English and Maths) percentages. This outstanding performance allowed us the status of Academy (November 2011) under the National Criteria for Good Schools.

We teach in traditional classroom spaces and in traditionally sized groups.

As a Church School, we expect that all parents will accept our ethos. If, however any parent wishes to exercise their statutory right to withdraw from RE and worship they should contact the Headteacher.

“The curriculum provides outstanding opportunities for students”

“Teachers plan interesting and enjoyable lessons and support individuals well so they make good progress”
Sixth Form

We offer a wide range of courses at all levels to students in the Sixth Form. These include traditional A levels, BTECs, GCSEs and vocational courses. Every year, most of our students go on to university, including Oxbridge colleges. Sixth form students play an important role in the school and develop their leadership abilities by working alongside younger students and by using their initiative to plan a variety of activities including charity fundraising days; concerts; talent shows, sporting events and enterprise projects.

“Achievement in the Sixth Form is good”

“The level of personal care and guidance provided by teachers makes a strong contribution to the students good progress” Ofsted 2013

Student Voice

Listening to and engaging with students is the key to motivation and success. The opinions of our young people shape the way our school works. A group of Student Researchers work with staff to feedback to teachers on how to make lessons more effective.

“Students are proud of their school. They describe it as a ‘really friendly’ place and praise the hard work of their teachers in providing individual support” Ofsted 2013

Attendance and Uniform

Attendance is essential to success at school. Our expectation is that students will attend school unless prevented by illness. We strongly discourage taking holidays during term time and expect parents to support this. Parents who do not ensure their child attends regularly will be issued with Fixed Penalty Notices. We insist on high standards of uniform and ask parents to support us with this. A full list of uniform is included in this prospectus.
Partnership with Parents

Good communication and an effective partnership between school and home enable students to achieve. Parents and carers are kept informed about their child’s progress, attendance and behaviour. Reports are sent home three times a year and parents are invited to Academic Reviews to discuss progress with subject teachers. There is also the option to meet with senior leaders, Learning Mentors and Community Leaders to discuss concerns.

All parents and carers are invited to join Saint George’s Association which organises very successful events, such as ‘Saint George’s has Talent’.

“Parents are highly supportive of the school”

“A large majority of parents confirmed their child was happy, safe and well looked after” Ofsted 2013

“Students’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is extremely strong” Ofsted 2013

Extra-curricular activities

A very wide range of clubs and activities is offered. The school participates in many community celebrations, such as the Gravesham Festival of Light and the Saint George’s Day Parade. Performing Arts are popular, with well attended Dance, Drama and Music clubs, performances and talent shows. Art is strong and students’ work is displayed at an annual Art show as well as a fashion show. Students have good access to ICT and many enjoy clubs based on computing, film making and gaming.

The school is proud of its sporting record which is celebrated at our annual Sports Presentation Evening. A variety of sports clubs take place throughout the year and our beautiful and extensive fields support success in competitions.

How to apply

Saint George’s Church of England School admits 180 boys and girls to year 7. A Supplementary Information Form must be completed and returned to the school and is enclosed with this prospectus. This will only be used in the case of oversubscription of secondary applications. This will only be used in the case of oversubscription of secondary applications.
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