



# Heathcote School & Science College

PROSPECTUS

**ENCOURAGE**  
**CHALLENGE**  
**SUCCEED**



# WELCOME

Dear Prospective Parents and Pupils

I am delighted that you are interested in our school. As I am sure you are aware, the school has been on a transformational journey of improvement. I am proud to be the person leading that change and watching our pupils grow into amazing human beings. Year on year, we have seen our outcomes improve. And this has been a result of our firm commitment to deliver high quality teaching and learning across our school.

- Our priority is school improvement and making sure that your child receives the best education both in the classroom and outside. Ensuring nobody is left behind socially or academically and that we develop well-rounded individuals who are challenged and stretched whatever their starting point and who succeed in realising their ambitions.
- Many people comment on the outstanding relationships at Heathcote between pupils and staff, and amongst the pupils themselves. This is at the heart of the learning experience here.
- My staff are a team of high-level subject specialists and are all committed to being the best teachers they can be. Lessons are exciting and engaging. Rosenshine's principles have been carefully adapted here at Heathcote and have acted as a structure for our teaching and learning practice. These principles ensure challenge and support for our young people.
- As a school we are committed to ensuring we narrow the gaps for all pupils as we know education and positive relationships will be the key to successfully thrive in the challenge of the years ahead.
- Heathcote is proud to have a broad and balanced curriculum which ensures that pupils have exposure to a wide range of experiences. Our options process is tailored to the needs of the year group so that pupils can achieve in the areas they love.
- 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 GCSE and A-Level options in the STEM subjects, as well as enrichment opportunities, including clubs and activities before and after school. Not only this, they also have opportunities to perform in school productions and performances both inside and outside of school. Our Design and Technology department provides significant real-life experiences for pupils preparing them for the 21st century and beyond.
- Sport is a key strength of the school, winning multiple fixtures, tournaments and events over the years. Pupils have opportunities to access a wide range of sports, playing both for fun or in competitive teams. We have incredible grounds and are privileged to have access to Bluehouse Field where we hold our annual Sports Day.
- We offer every pupil at least 3 curriculum trips a year, the aim of these is to enrich the learning of all pupils. Furthermore we have a number of rewards and overseas trips. Last year alone our pupils had the opportunity to attend residential at Gilwell Park, travel abroad to Spain, Normandy and participate in a fully funded bowling trip for outstanding attendance. This year pupils will have the opportunity to go to Berlin, London Zoo and the Bank of England Museum to name a few.
- 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 positive about the opportunities and experiences of their children and our commitment to removing barriers to learning.
- We have an active and committed School Ambassador team who support the leadership of the school. In our Post 16 provision pupils support in all areas of school life.
- Our school has invested in our pastoral structure. We are proud to have pastoral support teams, counsellors and therapists who work tirelessly to ensure a pupil is cared for in every sense.
- We invite you to 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.
- I have two sons, who are 15 and 10 years old, and I always ask 'Is it good enough for my child?' and, if it is, it is good enough for your children. As a school we will not rest until Heathcote is the best it can be and our community has the greatest life chances in the future and our pupils are able to achieve their ambitions.

Thank you for considering Heathcote School.



**Sonia Close**  
Headteacher

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.

# VISION & VALUES

## *Vision Statement*

We aim to create a school that provides young people with a safe and happy learning environment that challenges and supports all learners to achieve their best outcomes through a creative, inspiring and enriched curriculum.

## *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.



# ENCOURAGE

## *Diversity is our strength*

We welcome everyone to our 11-18 school which provides 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 looks after each other and follows common British values, whilst also celebrating our differences. Where else could be more inspiring to spend the next 7 years?

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 SEMH needs (Social Emotional Mental Health) who are referred by schools across the borough to engage in our SEMH programme at our OAK provision.

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***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

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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 Cambridge, Oxford, Russell Group Universities, or to secure a prestigious apprenticeship placement, then this is the place to do it. In the last 3 years alone we have had 6 of our pupils going to Oxbridge.





## 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 for Key stage 3 ensures a communal start to the day and a chance to be together and address any concerns.

Assemblies are wide and varied and pupils follow the personal development programme in our assembly and pastoral structure. We have a full PIE (Philosophy, Identity and Ethics) curriculum supplemented by Drop Down Days which enables in-depth learning in topics that matter to our pupils.

As a school we have a zero tolerance approach to bullying and discrimination. Our pupils are educated on the effects of this harmful behaviour and what to do if ever a victim.

At Heathcote we do not tolerate disruption to learning and have a clear reward and sanction system that pupils understand. There is a focus on positive behaviour with a target of 4 to 1 positives to negatives points logged by staff. Rewards range from postcards and certificates to vouchers to trips and tea with the Headteacher.

As part of the behaviour system there is an Internal Exclusion Room for serious behaviour incidents. However the process is solution focused and includes a restorative conversation between the pupil and the referring member of staff.

Pupil behaviour is supported by our pupil leadership team. Heathcote is proud to have a Head Pupil team in the main school and Sixth Form. There is a team of Ambassadors who set the highest standards and undertake regular duties, as well as help shaping school policy.

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.

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*Typically, pupils behave well in lessons and around the school. They are courteous and respectful.*

Ofsted September 2018

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# 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 a pastoral Manager and 4 pastoral assistants, a 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.

We conduct regular surveys and check ins to support our pupils and ensure they have an opportunity to raise concerns.



## *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 also benefit from large outdoor areas with 3 multi use games areas, a meadow and a large field. We are fortunate to have a new Humanities block, with a second canteen, and counselling rooms.

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. Corridors and classrooms are light and airy. Moreover, the school feels calm as a result of having 3 buildings to spread teaching across. This helps to minimise congestion in the corridors.

At lunch we ensure that each year group eats lunch together. This creates a sense of community and ensures that pupils feel safe without any other older pupils in the dining

hall or queue. They also get exclusive use of the toilets without older year groups having access to them.

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 8 am to 8.25 am every morning and pupils can come to school and relax quietly before school starts, whether they wish to eat or not.

**“*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

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 certain 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. Pupils and parents benefit from workshops on issues such as FGM (Female Genital Mutilation), Prevent and online safety.

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.

**“*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

# CHALLENGE

## School Curriculum

Our school curriculum has been designed to enable all learners to achieve their absolute potential. Our unique curriculum meets all the requirements of the National Curriculum and has been designed to provide a broad-based approach which is relevant to life in modern society.

Throughout their time at the school, the curriculum your child will follow is both varied and stimulating, providing depth, breadth, challenge, enjoyment and progression at all levels. At Key Stage 4 and 5 we promote choice and allow pupils to specialise so as to enable all learners to work towards fulfilling their aspirations.

Our aim is to help support your child's progression and provide access to the widest possible range of opportunities. The focus and content of your child's curriculum will change as they move throughout the school. Full details of the programme of study for each year group can be found in our curriculum guides on our website.

## School Assessment and Examinations

Assessments and examinations play a crucial role at Heathcote by providing pupils with opportunities to demonstrate their understanding and knowledge, while also helping teaching staff gauge the effectiveness of their teaching methods and curriculum. They serve as valuable tools for both learning and improvement.

At Heathcote we run 2 Challenge Weeks for every year group over the academic year. These weeks are our assessment windows whereby all pupils undertake exams and in class assessments. Further details of these are sent out via the Arbor App and available on the school website. Key Stage 4 and 5 may complete additional exams outside of this window. In addition to this we send out numerical reports 3 times per year for every pupil. All Challenge weeks occur around the October, February and May half term and what pupils need to revise and prepare will be shared in advance.

## Curriculum Structure

Pupils are grouped in tutor groups in Year 7 based on transition visits to primary schools in the summer term and in-depth discussions with teachers. To support transition our staff and pupils visit local schools and open school doors for workshops, sessions and play performances to younger pupils. This helps new starters 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 25 minutes of tutor time or Assembly, with activities ranging from Accelerated Reader to PIE to Careers Information and Mental Health Awareness sessions

We follow a 2 week timetable to support the broad curriculum on offer. In year 7 the majority of lessons are taught in form classes. As the years progress testing and assessments allow us to allocate the pupils into appropriate sets which ensure that children are both challenged and supported.



Nearly all lessons, except the core offer, are mixed ability in Years 7-9. Classes are often taught in tutor groups which fosters good relationships and supports social opportunities 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 has carefully and sensitively planned for the most recent Government guidance so as to keep 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, 11 and beyond.

# 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 make 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 or A-Level, 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, whose focus is to support pupils to the highest levels. We have adopted Rosenshine's principles to the curriculum and learning and teaching so as 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, Sites and the Pupil Portal 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 in order to gain ideas and provide feedback. 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.

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**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

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**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

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Regular assessment ensures data is accurate and intervention is targeted at those who need to gain a greater understanding of an idea or topic. Challenge Week takes place 2 times a year when all pupils undertake formal assessments.

Data is regularly analysed to ensure groups of pupils are not over represented negatively and intervention planned to support 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. This 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 or Recall tasks to embed knowledge

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 TFL, KPMG 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.



## Links with Parents and Carers

We hold a number of events such as Information Evening, Parents Evenings, coffee mornings and a new Meet the Year Team event. We have a bi-weekly newsletter that gives parents specific information for each year group and ensures parents and carers have all communications in one place.

We encourage parents and carers to become more involved in the school and have an active and engaged PTA - Friends of Heathcote School.

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

Communication is currently mainly via the website, Arbor, email and of course we will 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 an 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 classroom and beyond. There is a homework club for SEND pupils and breakfast club every day.

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

Ofsted September 2018

Our SENDCO 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

# SUCCEED

## Outcomes

Outcomes are continuing to improve year on year. Pupils make solid, and in many cases, outstanding progress at the school. Since July 2017 our Progress 8 scores have risen significantly.

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.

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.

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**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

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

71/94 pupils achieved their first place offer at University and year on year we are securing pupils apprenticeships.

## 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 and footballers.

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!

## Extracurricular Activities

From Barcelona for GCSE MFL to Berlin and Krovok. Pupils have endless opportunities here at Heathcote School. In previous academic years pupils enjoyed a Geneva trip for the future atomic scientists. Our Year 7s got to spend 36 hours at Gilwell Park in what was 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!

## Finally

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**Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence**

Vince Lombardi

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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.



# 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.'*

## Visitors

*'What a lovely school and amazing pupils.'*

## External reviews

*'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

## 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.'*

## 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!'*

*Teachers and staff ready to help, good equipment and good resources during lessons.*

*As I said, I can only say superlatives about school, and I will do so when I talk to parents who are looking for a good school for their children.*

*Neighborhood awareness and duty of care with after-school presence on the High Street. After school clubs and activities. School Pride.*

## During Lockdown

*'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.'*



# Heathcote School & Science College

## PROSPECTUS

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