



**QUEENS' SCHOOL**

*Dare to be Great*

**Prospectus**

## Welcome to Queens' School

Queens' is a thriving and oversubscribed school with a well-established reputation for high standards. Today we are the largest co-educational state school in Hertfordshire with almost 1700 students on roll. The school benefits from extensive facilities including 12 all-weather sports pitches set in 52 acres of playing fields.

We provide each student with the best educational opportunities that transform potential into the highest academic and social achievement. As one of the top performing schools in the country, students at Queens' consistently achieve excellent examination results.

At Queens' we care passionately about the development of your child's character, their personality and social skills, the way they treat others and the contribution they make to society.

Our school is a place where staff are proud to work, parents want to send their children and students share a strong sense of belonging and community.



## History

Queens' School was formed in 1969 as a result of the amalgamation of Alexandra School, founded in 1901 and Bushey Grammar School, founded in 1950. Bushey Grammar school, originally called Watford Central School, was established in 1912. Both schools vacated sites in Watford, Judge Street and Derby Road respectively. In 1985, Grange Park School became part of Queens'.

The original Bushey Grammar School occupied the northwest side of the Aldenham Road and Alexandra School occupied the southeast side. A pedestrian underpass connected the two schools.

Queens' derives its name from three Queens. Bushey Grammar School had a strong connection with The Queen's College, Oxford. Alexandra School was named after Queen Alexandra, the consort of King Edward VII. Queen Elizabeth II was on the throne at the time of the amalgamation.

A house based pastoral system was inherited from Bushey Grammar School with Auden and Sutherland located on the South Side and Newton and Drake, on the North Side. In 2018, the school moved to a year based pastoral system. The Houses remain important and students wear their House colours with pride. In 2019, to mark our 50th Birthday, the Houses were renamed by students to be more representative of our school community. The new Houses are Attenborough, Franklin, Seacole and Turing.

Our school was successfully awarded grant-maintained status in 1993 and became a foundation school in 1999. In 2003, Queens' became a Specialist Sports College and in 2007 recognised as a High Performing School. In 2008, Queens' achieved Science College status. Desiring greater freedom and autonomy, Queens' converted to an academy in 2011.



## Our Vision and Values

Queens' provides a safe, caring and challenging environment for learning, committed to the development of every student as an individual. We understand that while students have different gifts and talents we have a strong belief that everyone can be Great.

*"Daring to be Great by pursuing our values of Scholarship, Tenacity, Altruism and Respect"*

We aim to offer the best academic, cultural and sporting opportunities and instil a sense of moral and social responsibility in our students to live their lives as respectful, caring and responsible citizens.

**Scholarship** 'Ambitious pursuit of knowledge'

**Tenacity** 'Determination and Perseverance'

**Altruism** 'Working collaboratively and selflessly'

**Respect** 'Having due regard for self, community and environment'



## Inspirational Learning

At Queens' we provide a broad and balanced curriculum experience with the aim to develop well-rounded individuals. Learning is at the heart of Queens' and all students are expected to work hard and perform to their very best ability.

Teachers provide challenging, inspirational and engaging lessons that foster a love of learning. Students are encouraged to be reflective, creative in their thinking and to become increasingly independent learners as they progress through the school.

Queens' works closely with feeder schools to ensure a smooth transition, comprehensively assessing the needs of our students so that they continue to be supported, stretched and challenged, effectively bridging the gap between primary and secondary school.

Progress is monitored frequently and parents/carers are kept up to date with useful information which enables them to support their child's learning.

In addition to academic subjects, all students follow a course of Life Long Learning (PSHE). By exploring topics such as Relationships, Healthy Lifestyles and Careers, students develop important life skills, helping them to deal confidently with a variety of issues.



## Beyond the Classroom

Extra-curricular activities are an essential part of the educational experience at Queens'. Students are encouraged to develop their individual interests and pursue their gifts and talents.

Sport is enjoyed by a large number of students achieving an outstanding level of success at House, County and National level. Students excel in Music and Drama, participating in a variety of musical concerts and theatrical performances. The annual Art exhibition displays a wealth of talent.

Expeditions, excursions, field trips and foreign exchanges are very popular.

Queens' offers the internationally recognised Duke of Edinburgh Award, a once in a lifetime opportunity to 'do something different.'

Our Combined Cadet Force is regularly praised for providing our cadets with a wide range of challenging activities which test students' practical skills, promoting resilience, responsibility and leadership.

Queens' benefits from an increasing number of international links with our partner school in Taiwan. Exchanges allow students to broaden their horizons, learn about different cultures and create global links

Students at Queens' have a voice and are keen to be heard, playing an active role in the development of our school and learning environment through our 'Dare to Lead' programme.



## Pastoral Care

Safeguarding the welfare of our students is of the utmost importance to us. We provide a safe and secure learning environment for all the young people in our care and it is the shared responsibility of staff to monitor the wellbeing of students.

The social growth of the individual is an important part of education and the school aims to produce well-rounded citizens who are ready to take their place in society. Students are encouraged to develop their personal and social skills through team building exercises and opportunities exist for leadership.

Every student is allocated a form tutor who has prime responsibility for their guidance and welfare. Time spent with the form tutor allows students to regularly evaluate their progress and set academic targets but is also when they can socialise with other students to make new friends and discuss important issues of the day, ensuring that they are well rounded and fully functioning members of society.

There is a strong network to support any student who might be experiencing difficulty with their wellbeing with a team of specialist staff, including Student Support Managers, a Mental Health Lead, Medical Officer (Matron) and School Counsellors.



## Sixth Form

Queens' has a vibrant and thriving Sixth Form which offers our students and those who seek to join our school community, an outstanding opportunity.

We provide a challenging yet supportive learning environment offering a broad range of curricular choices with the chance to study new subjects. The Sixth Form curriculum is enhanced through our enrichment programme and we also provide a wealth of extra-curricular opportunities.

Sixth Form students are taught in small groups fostering collaborative and independent learning. As critical thinkers, they are encouraged to read and study beyond examination specifications. Students enjoy the benefits of a well-equipped Library and a dedicated Sixth Form Study Centre.

Students are well prepared for university, further education and the world of work. The majority of our Sixth Formers go on to higher education, including the most prestigious universities within the Russell Group.

Our Sixth Form students are great ambassadors for Queens' and make a very positive and active contribution to our community with roles such as House Captains, prefects, mentors and leaders within the school. We are immensely proud that they leave us as confident, knowledgeable well-rounded and independent young adults who go on to achieve great things.







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Scholarship, Tenacity, Altruism and Respect'***

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