



HERSCHEL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

School Information

For entry to Year 7



Welcome to Herschel Grammar School



Headteacher's Welcome

Herschel is a selective, co-educational secondary school serving Slough and its surrounding areas. In our last inspection the school was deemed outstanding in all categories by Ofsted.

Herschel has a warm and vibrant atmosphere built on an ethos of mutual trust, high academic standards and a commitment to nurturing and developing every individual pupil. We provide the very best opportunities to ensure every child achieves their potential.

'Pupils thrive in the school's academic, yet very caring and secure environment' (Ofsted)

Our pupils don't just achieve very good examination results. Their progress between Year 7 and Year 11 places the school in the top 5% of schools nationally.

The school's success is built on genuine collaboration and partnership between governors, staff, pupils and parents; a partnership which has great aspirations for every child. Teachers have high expectations and work very hard to provide challenge and support. As Ofsted said in their verbal feedback, the teachers are 'enthusiastic, passionate and inspirational'.

Pupils themselves have positive attitudes to learning and work well together. They take responsibility for their own behaviour and have strong emotional intelligence and empathy. As a result our young people leave us as responsible, active citizens ready to contribute confidently to university, the workplace and their communities.

There is a wealth of information on the website that I hope will help you to increase your understanding of the school and to serve as a first point of information.

Jo Rockall
Headteacher

"Pupils' behaviour and attitude to learning are real strengths."
OfSTED

"The curriculum is broad and provides excellent opportunities for pupils to develop personal qualities and skills."
OfSTED

Responsibility Success Care

Herschel Grammar School is committed to:

- Being a caring, inclusive and respectful community in which everyone makes a contribution, is valued and has pride in the school.
- A curriculum that is characterised by a depth of knowledge and understanding, to equip young people with an enjoyment and fascination in learning and the skills to progress independently.
- Being a centre of excellence where learners achieve their full potential in academic, personal, social, physical, moral and spiritual development.
- Being a working partnership of learners, parents, staff, governors and the community.
- Preparing learners for the demands and opportunities in a rapidly changing world.

The social and emotional skills, knowledge and behaviours that young people will learn in the school will help them build resilience and set the pattern for how they will manage their emotional wellbeing throughout their lives.

Learners will leave Herschel as self-confident, tolerant and fulfilled individuals, equipped to make a valuable contribution to the diverse communities in which they will live.

Our Ethos

A happy and calm school is the best environment in which to support pupils to succeed. We work hard to create a positive and supportive ethos, placing great emphasis on the successful transition between primary and secondary school. Our dedicated Head of Learning for Year 7 is key in ensuring our new Year 7s develop into the self-confident and happy pupils we see further up the school.

Form tutors and Heads of Learning closely follow the development and academic progress of pupils providing timely support when required. We believe in working in partnership with parents and maintain regular contact through parents' evenings and our reporting system. We work quickly to involve parents where there are issues or concerns.

Herschel is a true community and we are proud of that community spirit. Our ethos is founded on mutual respect and understanding in which the contribution of each individual is valued. The PSHCE, Careers, and Student Voice programmes are important vehicles for creating and reinforcing this ethos.

Behaviour

It is important for all members of the school community to work together in a climate of mutual respect and understanding.

Respect underpins our expectations of behaviour:

Self-respect

To take responsibility for our actions, think for ourselves and take pride in all we do.

Respect for others

To show understanding, tolerance and courtesy towards other people.

Respect for learning

To be prepared to learn and help to create a positive learning environment.

Respect for the environment

To respect other people's possessions, use equipment and resources with care, and endeavour to make the school a safe and pleasant place in which to work.



Teaching and Learning

Herschel Grammar School is above all a learning community where pupils are stretched and inspired, ready to face the challenges of an ever-changing world. They encounter fascinating variety in their learning, with topics ranging from the workings of photosynthesis to strategies for attacking a medieval castle, and from the brushstrokes of Vincent Van Gogh to the mindset of Macbeth.

As a school we place great emphasis with our teachers on sharing best practice and on delivering engaging learning activities that ensure pupils make rapid progress. Teaching staff are also committed to developing in our young people a range of wider qualities that will equip them for success in the future. Pupils are encouraged to be creative and independent, providing a range of extension tasks that develop the enquiring minds so valued by higher education institutions.

We provide a safe, nurturing learning environment where pupils are encouraged not to fear mistakes but to learn from them, and we are proud of the way our pupils develop into resilient, determined individuals who take responsibility for their own learning and that of their peers.

On-Line Learning

Like it or not, your son or daughter is growing up in a digital world and at Herschel we equip our pupils with the skills not only to cope, but to thrive within this complex and fast changing landscape. Embracing new technologies to further learning has been one of our core principles for many years. Being a designated leading edge and a specialist computing school means innovation, collaboration and online learning is part of our DNA.

We have always been a pioneer when it comes to adopting new technology, both in terms of hardware and software, and have assisted many Slough schools over the years. We are not afraid to invest when required, currently running over 500 computers and 100 iPads in school which are available to all pupils both in and out of lessons.

At Herschel Grammar School, all pupils are expected to continue to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of ICT and computing and, crucially, how to stay safe online. This is achieved by providing all pupils with a range of opportunities to use technology and to solve problems within each of their core subjects at Key Stage 3 and compulsory Computing Technology lessons, as well as in their chosen optional subjects at Key Stage 4.

We have re-written the computing technology curriculum so it allows for coding, problem solving, creativity and digital literacy. We also believe that pupils need to know how to use the latest computer software, and fundamentally know all the principles of online safety and be safe, smart and sensible when using all forms of technology. We provide a wealth of help, advice and support for our pupils and parents in this regard, with groups of designated Digital Leader pupils

and staff, and safe and effective channels for reporting concerns, such as our widely acclaimed online anonymous 'Whisper' tool.

A wide range of tools are available to pupils at Herschel including standard Microsoft Office 2016 software, creative media applications, web-based tools, computer aided design, computer aided manufacturing, data-logging and control applications as well as interactive and revision tools to enhance their learning. Pupils will also use iPads across a range of subjects, thus developing their iOS skills and using a variety of iPad apps to support their learning e.g. Pages, Popplet, Book Creator and Explain Everything. All pupils have access to learning resources placed on Office 365 OneDrive, which can be accessed 24 hours a day through the link at the top of the school website.

All classrooms are fitted with top of the range projectors offering dynamic interactive lessons.

Pupils also have the opportunity to download the Microsoft Office suite to five home devices, free of charge, to allow a seamless workflow between home and school.

The Curriculum

Key Stage 3 – Years 7-9

When your child arrives at Herschel, we build on their previous experience of the National Curriculum.

The subjects studied are: English, Mathematics, Science, Computing, History, Geography, Art, Music, Drama, Design Technology, Physical Education, Religious Studies, French or Spanish and PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education)

Progress is monitored throughout the Key Stage in the form of teacher assessment.

Currently, setting is introduced in Year 8 in English, Mathematics and Science.

Key Stage 4 – Years 10-11

All Year 10 and Year 11 pupils study a core curriculum of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science (the majority of pupils take three Science GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, a small minority take Combined Science which leads to two Science GCSEs), a Modern Foreign Language and either Geography or History. In addition pupils choose 2 further GCSE subjects. Currently the selection is from Art, Business Studies, Computing Technology, Drama, Geography, History, Media, Music, GCSE Physical Education, Religious Studies and Technology. Note pupils can choose both Geography and History.

Key Stage 5 – Years 12-13

We currently have a Sixth Form of around 300 students. We offer a wide range of A Level subjects and enrichment activities.

University destinations can be found on our website.

Home Learning

Homework is set to help establish good study habits and to promote independent learning. Time expected will range from approximately 7 hours a week in Year 7 to 15 hours in Year 11.

"Both our boys were very happy and have received an excellent education at Herschel."
PARENT

"Pupils regularly engage in high level challenging philosophical and theoretical discussions."
OfSTED



Extra Curricular and Enrichment

Herschel believes that education is not confined to the classroom and that young people learn a great deal from taking part in other activities within and beyond the school. These foster teamwork, leadership and the development of individual responsibility.

The fantastic outside sporting facilities include a floodlit astroturf, tennis courts and school field, whilst inside the sports centre we have six badminton courts, indoor cricket nets and a dance studio. These allow for an impressive range of extra-curricular clubs and sports teams, and pupils of all age and sporting ability are encouraged to become involved in regular inter-form competition and in the school's sports day held at Thames Valley Athletics track.

"Your support and encouragement towards your students is second to none, and is greatly appreciated!"

Parent

Pupils can also participate in drama productions, choir, orchestra and instrumental tuition. There are opportunities for public speaking, participation in STEM challenges, mock trial and a wide range of other national competitions.

There are a range of leadership opportunities, including an extensive Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and Year 11 pupils are encouraged to participate in National Citizen Service.

There are a range of residential visits both in the UK and abroad, including World Challenge.

In addition, there are reward trips, theatre visits, field trips, art exhibitions, competitions and much, much more.

"Teachers are enthusiastic and have excellent relationships with their students." OfSTED

"I have formed great friendships at Herschel, but most of all, I am proud to say I have developed into a mature young woman who I am proud to be, and I have to thank Herschel for giving me countless opportunities, continuous support and shaping me."

PUPIL

Additional Educational Needs

Herschel Grammar School believes:

- All pupils irrespective of ability are of equal worth and are valued for the contribution that they can make. We encourage all pupils to develop their abilities to the fullest extent and recognise the achievements of others.
- All pupils are entitled to a balanced and differentiated curriculum.
- We aim to develop the caring attitudes of pupils and staff concerning personal and social responsibility and promote sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others, believing that ignorance breeds fear and prejudice.

- Parents play an integral part, their co-operation is essential and they have the right to know when their child is experiencing difficulty and be informed at all stages of support.

Pupils with specific learning difficulties are supported by the ANCO together with appropriate staff from within and outside the school. Pupils who are identified as high performing have appropriate curriculum extension activities.

General Information

Uniform

Uniform is intended to help pupils present a smart “office” image and we believe it is one of the aspects which helps promote positive attitudes, high standards, corporate pride and a positive self-image in the community.

Uniform must be worn correctly at all times.

Pupils wear a black blazer and a school tie, with grey trousers or a grey skirt.

Timing of the School Day

The School has five teaching periods a day. Pupils are expected to be on site by 8:20am with registration at 8.30am. Lessons finish at 2.50pm.

Private study facilities are available after school. The Library is open until 4pm daily, and computer rooms are open Mondays – Thursdays until 5pm, and until 4pm on Fridays.

British Values

We recognise not only the importance of allowing pupils to thrive academically but we also embrace our wider role in preparing them for adult life. Part of our role in that preparation is ensuring that we promote and reinforce British Values to our pupils.

As a diverse school, we recognise the multi-cultural, multi-faith and ever-changing nature of the United Kingdom. We follow equal opportunities guidance which guarantees that there will be no discrimination against any individual or group, regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, political or financial status, or similar. We also understand and recognise our vital role in ensuring that groups or individuals within the school are not subjected to intimidation or radicalisation by those wishing to unduly, or illegally, influence them.

Our curriculum prepares children for life in British Society. The Government emphasises that schools are required to ensure that British Values are taught in all UK schools.

The five British Values are

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect
- Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

School Results

A full set of our A Level and GCSE results are available on our website.

“Pupils make outstanding progress and achieve excellent results.”

OfSTED

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Schelwood Trust

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