



CHESSINGTON

SCHOOL

Prospectus

Everyone valued • **Every day** an opportunity • **Every moment** focused on success

expect...



learning to be enjoyable and engaging



teamwork

friendship



challenge and care



...more

expect...



... to reach great heights

Welcome to Chessington School

I am proud to have led this amazing school for nearly a decade and even prouder to keep being part of it moving forward. Ms. Wilson and I have big plans for this school and this community. We cannot wait to share them with you and to have you be part of continuing our exciting journey together. We are restless for even more success building in the successes we have been so proud of every year. We know that Chessington is the best place for your child.

This prospectus and this time is about choosing a school. A school that you trust, a school that you feel part of and a school that will realise the potential of your child. We don't take these duties lightly. We know that choosing a secondary school for your child is an important decision for you and your family. We are proud to present you with this opportunity to see what we offer at our oversubscribed, thriving school and exciting school – where your child will be at the heart of everything we do at Chessington. We are confident that when you see our school you will see why we love it, why our community chooses it and why your child will thrive here.

As Executive Head of Chessington School I say to you that you cannot make a better choice for your child. Our school is community centred, aspirational and inclusive. It is a school that is unique. The relationships are outstanding, the learning engaging and the culture is simply 'vibrant'. Come and look for yourself. I promise you will thoroughly enjoy it and see that we are the right place for your child.



Mr. A. Ali
Executive Headteacher



At Chessington we believe that every child deserves every opportunity in life. We will not and do not let any ambition be curtailed no matter how aspirational. I have had the privilege to lead this school, with Mr. Ali, for eight years. We have been able to do this successfully by combining engaging learning opportunities with high expectations and traditional values. As Head of School I continue this, always 'enhancing' the opportunities for our young people, so that they may flourish – in every opportunity, every day.

Chessington is a school that expects each lesson and each moment to ensure academic progress while always lighting the fire of life-long learning for each of our students. When you come in for open evenings and mornings you will see this for yourself. Excellent learning environments, engaged students and expert teachers – but moreover, you can expect all of this in a calm and purposeful learning environment where students are happy.

Excitement and engagement are vital but respect and traditional values of positive behaviour, good manners and high standards of uniform are the essential blend to create a community that we are truly proud of. You will see these everywhere at Chessington. Simply put, we believe that 'Happy Students Learn Best'.

We value our partnerships with parents. Working in the interests of your children we can ensure that together we guide and support them so that they develop into well rounded young people. In choosing Chessington you are choosing to work together with us over the years to deliver the very best for your child. These next years are so, so important and I feel privileged to work with the great team here at Chessington to ensure excellence every day for your child.



Ms. S. Wilson
Head of School



This prospectus will give you an insight into what you can expect, but we invite you to find out for yourselves by coming along to one of our open events. Visits can be arranged at any time; just telephone the school office and we will arrange a tour with some of the school ambassadors. Check the website for all of our open events. Please attend open evenings, but it is also important to see the school in action on a 'normal' day. We look forward to welcoming your family to our school and welcoming your family into ours.

We promise to you that Chessington will be a great choice for you and your child. As one parent commented in our recent inspection, "The school was our daughter's first choice and has very much lived up to all of our expectations." We aim to live up to and exceed your expectations over the coming years.

Mr. A. Ali and Ms. S. Wilson

Our 21st Century environment and beautiful atrium ensure we can have an agile approach to learning. Such facilities give students and teachers the resources they need to be creative and to learn in a variety of ways that suit their needs. Remember, while we have the very best facilities, it's our teachers and our relations that are truly remarkable. Cutting-edge facilities enable our students to engage with the most up to date developments in learning technology. We actively embrace online learning, Artificial Intelligence, app-based investigation and digital resource creation. As well as this our sports and other facilities ensure students can be prepared in every element of their learning ensuring that students have a very wide range of clubs, sports and extracurricular activities. If your child joins us, please make sure they take advantage of this by joining one of these many clubs.

Our students – the best part of our school.

Every student at Chessington is known and valued. Students' potential is stretched through a broad and innovative curriculum provision, high quality teaching and setting our aspirational targets against the top 20% of schools nationally. Student voice is hugely important. The School Council is run by the student body, and is closely involved in the school's development, including our future planning so that leadership is dispersed across the student body. We believe that every big decision needs to have student voice as part of it. It's their school.

Our community

Our community is what drives us. All students and members of staff contribute to a thriving and caring community within and beyond the school. We are a vibrant school offering a wide range of extra-curricular activities and opportunities before, during and after school, as well as in the holidays. Many of these are linked to our locality, where we work in partnership with primary schools, sports clubs and community groups. For example, the establishment of Piglets Nursery on our site, has enabled our students to work with children from this excellent nursery and get a really broad education as a result from 11 to 18. At the other end of the scale, we work with local old people and dementia homes. We believe that it takes a village to bring up a child and so want all to be involved as much as possible. Our diversity, tolerance and celebration of all makes us a great community. We commit to developing students' potential as healthy, well-balanced, informed

citizens who respect one another. Most importantly, we want our students to contribute each day to make our school and local community a better place.

Our parents

We believe that teachers and parents need to work closely together and take equal responsibility for the young people in our school. We encourage and expect a partnership between home and school so that every student feels supported both academically and in their personal development. Parents are closely involved in the school's development through our active Parents' Association and Parent Evenings. We value the contribution that parents and carers make to the life of the school and welcome opportunities to develop this further. We expect parents to act as critical friends as well as ensuring their child is suitably prepared each day for the learning journey and the opportunities ahead of them that day.

The wider world

Every child leaves Chessington with a suitable next opportunity on their educational journey. The important thing is that they are prepared. Our sixth form provision is exceptional and expanding. In this rapidly changing world, we aim to equip our students with the skills necessary to adapt and develop as individuals: social, flexible, creative and co-operative. We have links across the world, including South East Asia, Africa and Europe. At Chessington, we maximise the opportunities that are on offer to students and the community as a whole. We believe travel breaks down barriers and



changes lives and so are committed to ensuring our students get the opportunity to see the world.

Reaching great heights

Chessington School is proud to have a curriculum that enables students to reach the very highest heights in terms of academic grades and progress. Over the last few years we have had students who have performed in the top 2% of all students nationally hitting the highest Grades, be it 9s, Distinctions or A*s across the board. We do this by boosting their learning with inspirational and challenging teaching but also by teaching them to be agile of mind and creative of thought. This means extra boosters for high-level analysis combined with facilitating their extra independent study to ensure they are able to compete with the very best students nationally. If your child has

aspirations for the very best universities our challenging curriculum, extra guidance and enhanced extracurricular programmes Thinking will accelerate their journey. However, not all students join with the highest academic outcomes from primary school and many join with a challenge to their learning. For these students, we do incredibly well both academically and ensuring they are ready for the wider world. We are so very proud of how well these students do and we take this as our greatest success. Our progress outcomes for those students who have previously struggled or have some unique needs are in the top 10% nationally over the last two years. How do we do that? We put them on the right path, with the right teachers, the right curriculum and the right level of support. We never ever give up on these students and go above and beyond for every child every day to do their very best.

expect...

Year 7 Parent "From the moment we walked in to the school we felt that we knew it was the right place. The transition process made G feel welcome, supported and excited to join the school in September. It really is second to none".



... concentration

Our curriculum ensures real choice and challenge that prepares all students for the wider world.

During their first year at the school, students are taught in both mixed attainment and set groups, depending on the subject. We concentrate on developing competency skills, alongside encouraging social groupings within the tutor group. By the end of Year 7 we want students to have made significant academic progress while having a real understanding of how to truly learn.

At the start of Year 8 further setting by attainment and target grade is introduced. At the end of Year 8, students choose some of their option subjects from a wide and varied offer, thereby enabling them to follow a personalised curriculum aimed at meeting their learning and academic needs and developing their interests. They can then choose new ones and drop one or two at the end of Year 9. Our students love this choice and it is really ensuring deep as well as broad knowledge.

Lower School – Years 7, 8 and 9

In Year 7 all our students study:

Art & Design, Computing, Dance, Design & Technology/STEM, Drama, English, Spanish or French, Mathematics, Music, Performing Arts, Physical Education, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Geography, History, Religious Studies and Citizenship.

Some students may have access to extra literacy/ numeracy support if required. All students will have access to Sound Training which boosts reading ages for all students irrespective of where they start. Some students may have access to Latin or Mandarin based on performance.

All students participate in our Graduation program which rewards community participation, extra-curricular and much more. Personal, Social and Health Education is delivered by our tutors on a weekly basis and follows our PDW curriculum.

In Year 8 all students study:

Art & Design, Computing, Dance, Design & Technology/STEM, Drama, English, Spanish or French, Mathematics, Music, Performing Arts, Physical Education, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Geography, History, Religious Studies and Citizenship.

Some students may have access to extra literacy/ numeracy support if required. All students will have access to Sound Training which boosts reading ages for all students irrespective of where they start. Some students may have access to Latin or Mandarin based on performance.

All students participate in our GRADUATION program which rewards community participation, extracurricular and much more.

Upper School – Years 10 and 11

In Years 9, 10 and 11 all students cover a core curriculum of:

English, Mathematics, Physical Education, Science, Dance.

All students take separate GCSE examinations in English and English Literature and most students follow the three separate Sciences course. In Mathematics the more able students are offered the opportunity to take GCSE alongside an AS equivalent course in Further Mathematics.

At the end of Year 9 students will drop one or two subjects.

In addition to the core subjects, we emphasise the importance of a balanced curriculum and the expectation is that the majority of students will take a Modern Foreign language and all will take a Humanities subject alongside option subjects.

The current options offer choice includes:

Art, Computing, Design and Technology, Citizenship, Drama, French, Catering or Food preparation, Geography, History, Health and Social Care, Health and Fitness, Media Studies, Music, Music Technology, Personal Finance, AS Politics, GCSE Physical Education, Religious Studies, Spanish, Statistics.

The school is committed to continuing to offer a range of choice at Key Stage 4, including accredited, applied and vocational courses. Personal Development and Wellbeing and core religious studies are delivered through as a series of drop down periods.

Everyone valued

Students, parents, staff, governors, and the community; at Chessington these people and their voices are hugely valued. Our pastoral support and excellent care begin before your child arrives. From primary school, we tailor their learning journey based on the knowledge we have of each and every student. For us, the opportunities outside of the curriculum are as important in the development of the whole person. Our exciting character programme and house system, particularly within our specialist areas of sports and the creative arts, make Chessington a school at which children can nurture all of their potential and ambition.

At Chessington we offer care, guidance and support that really is second to none. Our nurturing challenge philosophy ensures that every child feels that they get the individual attention and support they deserve to enable them to flourish, while always being appropriately challenged to achieve beyond their own expectations. As a smaller school your child will be known and cared for in a unique way that cannot be offered in a larger school.

From primary school we have worked to ensure we know your child very well. Our students have cherished this relationship and it continues all through transition in Year 7 right through beyond A Level. From a misplaced set of keys to attendance calls, our team is here for you and your child and we will work personally with you to ensure nothing gets in the way of a great day's learning.

We will always allow your child's personality to flourish and we take pride in the celebration of their individual characters. For us, every child has the opportunity to be great at something; we give them the tools to discover and develop what it is that they are great at. Our traditional values permeate our culture. We expect good manners, excellent presentation and mutual respect. This is how we show we are proud of ourselves.



Every day an opportunity

A core principle underlies all we deliver. That is 'that each child only gets this day once', so at Chessington we aim to make each the very best it can be.

At Chessington that means getting the best they can out of each day not just in terms of learning progress but also in terms of enriching themselves to develop the whole person. As a parent of a Chessington student you and your child will receive extra curricular programmes and subject offer that does just that. Please ensure that your child is encouraged to take advantage of each club, support session, fixture or trip. We always remember these things as adults, make sure your child gets these memories too. For us, the opportunities outside of the curriculum are as important in the development of the whole person. Our exciting enrichment and house programmes, particularly within our specialist areas of sports and the creative arts, make Chessington a school at which children can nurture all of their potential and ambition.

Our curriculum ensures swift and sustained progress for each student. We value the traditional subjects, celebrate the creative disciplines and embrace modern technology. Every child is different and so at Chessington your child is entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum that meets their needs. On top of core traditional curriculum your child will experience a variety of diverse subject options from catering and computing to drama and STEM. We are committed to developing creativity and deep learning.

At Chessington every student has the same opportunity. Our personalised approach through mentoring intervention and coaching will mean that your child has access to a range of adults to whom they can turn that will support them in their learning and more. We have an excellent SEN department with highly trained specialist staff who support our students with other need. If a child joins with a unique quality we celebrate this and make sure that our approach is adapted to enable them to feel confident in their learning and happy in the progress they make. Equally, we have teachers with in-depth and current subject knowledge that will stretch students to the very highest educational level in their subjects and in many of our academic enrichment opportunities.



expect...



Every moment focused on success

For us, lessons, teaching and learning are the keys to success. Every lesson is an opportunity to get ever closer to success.

For all students lessons should be an opportunity for tremendous personal growth and development. At Chessington we do not waste such opportunities and ensure that our children have great experiences in each lesson, each day. Learning is our purpose. We aim to develop a life-long love of learning and believe enjoyment is fundamental to ensuring every student achieves their best every lesson. Each lesson includes opportunities for students to be active learners, to quietly work and to discuss the key topic at hand. We believe in this variety and know that children need time to think and to reflect, as well as time to engage in deep questioning and interactive learning. In each lesson we develop our core achievement values of ambition, endeavour and resilience.

Everything at Chessington revolves around excellence in the classroom and this is a principle we are proud of. We have the very highest of expectations with Ofsted commenting that we have established a 'culture where expectations are high and where actions are taken to meet these expectations'.

Our teachers are committed to lighting the fire of learning in each child and each is an expert in their field. We ensure that we recruit high calibre teachers who go the extra mile and are relentless in their drive to ensure great achievement for all children. Students at Chessington value the relationships they develop with their teachers highly. Our teachers and support staff know that children's learning is the most important thing and so do everything they can, every day to ensure this.

Ofsted highlighted our 'outstanding record in outcomes for option subjects' as well recognising that over that we continue to perform better than local and national schools.

What we stand for

Year 7 Parent

"My son has had a very apparent dislike of school since day 1 of nursery. This is a totally new boy coming home to me every day, that is now genuinely engaging in school for the first time ever. He is very very happy, so thank you!"



Starting Secondary School

To help in the transition process from primary to secondary school, there are a number of key events that take place at Chessington. New parents and students are then invited to meet, one to one, with senior teachers to discuss their interests and needs. On the Summer Primary Induction Day, new Year 7s from all the local primary schools come to Chessington for a day of lessons and fun activities. This provides them with an ideal opportunity to get to know their new environment and an insight into the busy life of a secondary school. Over the summer we have a summer school where students are able to really get to know each other, the school and their tutors. Then at the start of Year 7, there is an induction programme during which activities are organised to enable the new students to get to know each other and their new school even more. They also learn the core principles of education at Chessington School. At the end of their first week we invite all students and parents to a BBQ where we can celebrate a great first week, where parents can get to know each other and where any questions or queries can be addressed.

The aim of this transition period is to make sure all students are happy and ready to learn. We believe happy students learn best and we know your child will be happy after this transition period.



Support to succeed

Every student needs the chance to flourish and sometimes support is needed, be it to access the curriculum or move from a grade 8 to a grade 9 in Mathematics. One of the school's main objectives in offering a study support programme is to drive forward a rich and diverse curriculum for the 21st Century. This programme encourages independent study across the curriculum and is offered in a variety of ways; homework clubs, extra support during lunchtimes, before and after school, and during school holidays, access to ICT facilities, visits by specialists, bespoke workshops and training in post-16 education centres. We actively request that all parents encourage their children to take advantage of these opportunities. They will result in success for each student.

Special Educational Needs Support

We are incredibly proud of what we provide for our students with unique needs, personalities and characteristics. We are a highly inclusive school and this shows in our outcomes. Students with SEN needs do better here than they do in most schools across the country. More importantly, they feel included, are incredibly happy and go on to the right next step after school. How do we do this? Our SEN support team go above and beyond each day. They ensure all teachers tailor their lessons for these students to include and challenge. They support small groups, one to one, after school, in some group sessions, through reading boosters and much, much more. Nothing is too much to ensure that these students thrive. We regularly work with parents, stay in constant contact and consult to ensure we are doing the right thing by their child.

Our team provide a first class support package for our SEN student. One parent commented on her child leaving in Year 11: "When my son started at Chessington we never thought he could make it through school. Now not only did he get all his qualifications but he is a happy and confident young man. I cry sometimes thinking about what they did at that school. Thank you, thank you, thank you"

Homework

Homework is one of the most important factors to accelerated progress. Homework is set throughout the school. We expect Homework to be completed regularly. Parents can help their children by providing support in the completion of homework. We expect all parents to get involved with their child's homework be it checking it's completed or even just asking questions once its completed. We use Class Charts for all of our Homework. You will be talked through how to use this and all the benefits that this provides.

Physical Education

The aims of our Physical Education curriculum and sports scholarships, are to include all students and to promote positive attitudes to healthy living. Our core sports are football, basketball, netball and athletics. We are developing our participation in Rugby, American Football, Hockey and Cricket. There are numerous club activities before school, at lunch and after school which offer different sports such as tennis, cricket, badminton, volleyball, basketball, and gym/circuit training. Chessington's sporting achievements will be recognised annually at a celebration awards dinner. Each year we will invite high achieving sports personalities as guest speakers.

We want the sport here to teach lessons of resilience, determination and healthy competition. We also want our students to fully participate as we firmly believe that sport changes lives.

Trips and visits

"Crucial to science education is hands-on involvement, showing not just telling, real experiments and field trips and not just virtual reality. Trips are what makes education truly great"

Martin Rees, Royal Society.

Chessington is proud of its tradition of offering students a full programme of educational visits and trips. In Year 7 our students regularly go on trips into London, abroad and many study based trips. All Year 7s have access to our ski trips and sports trips. These trips enable students to get to know, not only members of their tutor group, but the year as a whole. We also have a rich week of trips in our Alternative Learning Week that really provide a cultural experience to all students.

expect...



Year 8 Parent

"I am the mother of a Year 8 pupil and I am pleased to say that she seems to be happy and secure at this lovely school; and I wanted to acknowledge this as it seems that you have all created a great learning environment."



... discovery

Preparing students for the 21st century

Chessington recognises the importance of career education individual advice and guidance. Ofsted remarked that “Students are prepared very well for the wider world and every student that leaves Chessington goes on to the right next step” Students throughout the school receive careers education and guidance through Personal Development and Wellbeing days and the Citizenship curriculum. In addition, there are a number of networking events, workshops and visits which are organised during the year using employers, colleges and universities to help provide independent and impartial advice to all the students. Work related and enterprise learning is an important part of the school’s curriculum. Year 10 take part in a series of enterprise activities during the summer and this includes Work Experience for many.

Clubs and out of school activities

There is a huge range of clubs and extracurricular activities on offer at Chessington. Students are encouraged to take a full part in the life of the

school. We have a club to suit everyone’s needs and aspirations. Most curricular areas offer subject based clubs for students who have a particular interest. Some of the favourites are the App club, Dissection Club and Film Club among many others. There is a wide range of sports clubs such as football, netball, basketball and rugby with the opportunity to take part in competitions throughout the academic year, particularly in our house teams which are Phoenix, Pegasus, Dragon and Griffin House. The House system adds more healthy competition as well as motivation and offers competitions such as Spelling Bees, the Great Chessington Bake Off and more.

We regard competitive sport as an important life opportunity for teenagers and support this fully. We also encourage students to take the bronze and silver level Duke of Edinburgh Award from Year 9. We believe that getting into the countryside and striving against adversity helps our personal development. There are Art and Drama clubs, choir and orchestra during lunchtimes and after school. In addition to the Christmas Concert, our annual LAFTA award evening is a fantastic showcase of talent. Our performance of *Mary Poppins Jr* included students from all year groups and was very popular.

A restorative school

As a school we are committed to restorative approaches. This means we aim to resolve any conflict between members of our community through the use of restorative approaches. While consequences will always be in place, we aim to rebuild relationships once a consequence has been put in place. This is a dialogue between two or more people who sit together with a facilitator to discuss the 5 key restorative questions so that they can move forward in a positive way and prevent future conflict. Students and their parents are often worried about bullying when they join secondary school.

However, students have reported to inspectors that the school takes a “zero tolerance approach” towards bullying and that ‘it is taken extremely seriously’. Ofsted further reported that ‘students feel very happy to tell a teacher if anything unkind has happened’ and that parents reported ‘their children feel very happy and safe at school’. Any unkindness is simply not accepted in our school. We are aware of this and take concerns very seriously indeed.

We educate students about bullying through our personal education programmes and find restorative approaches offer a successful solution in most cases.

| expect ... | > more |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Strong leadership | > Ms. Wilson, Mr. Ali and the Senior Leader Team have 'moved the school tremendously in the last three years, I am very excited to watch this school grow to be the very best'. Achieving for Children Lead Inspector |
| Excellent progress and exam results | > Over the last two years the school has performed better than most local schools in Progress 8 measures. |
| Inspiring Staff | > "The staff at that school are the most dedicated and inspirational I have ever seen in a school". Comment from a BBC producer |
| Fantastic facilities | > Built in 2008 the school is currently the most modern in the local area. The sports centre and creative arts areas are second to none. |
| Motivated students | > "Students are well prepared enjoy their learning ... as a result of thoughtful teaching". OFSTED REPORT 2018 |
| Well-equipped classrooms | > A range of computer suites, Google Chromebooks, iMacs ensure excellent digital access. DT, Drama and Art Suites ensure the creative subjects are delivered very well. |
| A broad and balanced curriculum | > We offer GCSEs, BTECS, Coaching Qualifications, Leadership Qualifications and TECH Baccalaureate subjects. |
| Extra Curricular | > "School is busy 7am to 6pm" Sports Scholarship Student Year 8 |
| Parents | > "I wouldn't want my child to go anywhere else. There is something magic happening" Parent May 2018 |
| OFSTED | > Good with many Outstanding elements. |



"Thank you so much for all the hard work and planning that has gone into settling them in."

Parent, July 2021



Every effort has been made to ensure that this prospectus is up-to-date at the time of going to press (Sept 2022). However, in responding to recent legislation, unforeseen changes may need to be made in organisation and/or curriculum. We will do our best to keep parents and carers informed of any changes. Parents should ask the Headteacher about any points of particular importance to them.

expect...



... to thrive



CHESSINGTON

SCHOOL

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**EVERY CHILD,
EVERY DAY**
ACADEMY
TRUST