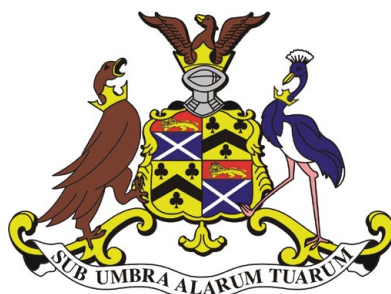




Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School



Prospectus



Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School is part of Leigh Academies Trust



Leigh Academies Trust is one of the country's largest and most-established multi-academy trusts operating across Kent, Medway and South East London. It contains primary, secondary and special academies and is highly inclusive and successful. Our mission is to deliver "education for a better world" by ensuring that young people in our academies have an excellent start in life regardless of their background or ability.

Our Values

We care -

about our pupils through our human scale approach to education, our staff and their well-being and the communities that we serve, driven by our high ideals and strong moral values.

We have boundless ambition -

to achieve excellence for all and create confident young adults with high levels of resilience and integrity.

We work together -

as one team in the belief that we are greater than the sum of our parts. We foster an enterprising culture through collaboration and in close partnership with industry and other educators.

We keep getting better -

using our 'can-do' attitude towards continuous improvement and innovation.

For admission enquiries telephone: 01634 844008
or email: office@sjwms.org.uk

'Character development is embedded Pupils are taught explicitly about developing qualities which they will need to flourish in society.'

Ofsted 2023



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Welcome



‘Behaviour is exceptional’ and
‘Relationships reflect the school’s respectful culture.’

Ofsted 2023



Welcome to our prospectus. We hope it will introduce you to some elements of our school, which is characterised by high aspirations, excellent achievement and consistently striving for excellence in all aspects of our work.

The Math is an exceptional community where we combine centuries of history with cutting edge practices, both in the classroom and beyond. We place significant store in the traditional values of courtesy, respect and self-discipline but at the same time have built a nurturing environment in which all can excel.

Whilst academic outcomes are a key part of who we are, and we have a proud record in this area, we never lose sight of the fact that we are here to educate the whole child and therefore academic performance goes hand in hand with a broad offer of co-curricular involvement and personal development.

Eliot Hodges,
Principal



History

The Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School was founded in 1701 in accordance with the last will and testament of Sir Joseph Williamson who bequeathed five thousand pounds *"towards the building and carrying on and perpetual maintaining of a free school at Rochester for the instructing and educating of such youth there who were or should be the sons of freemen, these towards the Mathematics and all other things which fit and encourage them for the sea service and arts and callings leading and relating thereto"*.

We are very proud of our traditions and customs that serve to remind us of this great heritage. In particular, we celebrate the founding of the school on the first Saturday of July, in which a service of celebration is held in Rochester Cathedral for the whole school in the morning followed by Sports Day in the afternoon.

Academic Excellence/ Standards

Academic excellence is a key part of who we are. Whilst we never lose sight of the fact we are here to educate the whole child, we recognise that examination outcomes are a vital part of enabling pupils to fulfil their aspirations. Outcomes at the school are consistently outstanding in all age groups. Academic achievement is recognised through the use of merits and through regular contact with parents. At the same time, effort and progress are regularly rewarded through assemblies and the presentation of certificates.



Our VISION

Our aim is to support young people in becoming happy, confident and active citizens, ready to play a leading role in whatever walk of life they choose. We do this by ensuring our students do achieve the best possible academic outcomes, while at the same time encouraging them to play a full role in the wider life of the school.

Our Values

- We ensure the highest standards of achievement;
- We provide all students with an exciting, challenging and enjoyable curriculum that will prepare them for a rapidly changing, technology dominated world;
- We promote courtesy, acceptance and respect for others;
- We place great emphasis on personal development and well-being;
- We work in partnership with parents and the wider community.

A phrase we have sometimes used to exemplify what we do is 'traditional values with cutting edge practices'. This summarises our ethos. In many respects we are unashamedly traditional, believing strongly in notions of respect, politeness and determination. This is shown through a number of traditional events in the school calendar such as Foundation Day and Prize Giving. However, it is also shown on a daily basis through the way our students are expected to interact with each other and their teachers.

At the same time as this we take a progressive approach to teaching and learning. We make best use of modern equipment from laser cutters in DT to the projectors that are present in almost all classrooms. We also make use of Google workspace and Chromebooks to support learning inside and outside the classroom. In class lessons are fun and interactive, but at the same time challenging and demanding.



Students

Our school is a place where each student will enjoy their learning, succeed academically, feel safe, be cared for, make friends and be able to make a contribution to the world around them.

We take transition between Year 6/Year 7 very seriously, visiting all feeder primary schools in the summer term to reassure new entrants about the year to come. Equally we recognise that each pupil is joining us on a long journey, with more transition points along the way – at GCSE, A level and post A level. We involve parents fully at each point.

We take our role as educators very seriously. It is a great responsibility to be entrusted with the task of teaching and caring for young people with the aim of developing courteous, self-confident individuals who are considerate of the needs of others.


We have an extensive and highly effective system of pastoral care.

Partnership

We are committed to working in partnership with parents. Education is, after all, a team game. Parents will receive a Termly Report three times a year, and are invited to attend an annual parents' consultation evening. The 'Information' section of our website is a valuable source of information in all aspects of school life. We are fortunate to have an excellent Parents' Association, the Rochester Math School Association which supports the school in a wide range of areas.

'The curriculum is coherently planned, sensitively sequenced and meticulously implemented. It is boldly ambitious.'

Ofsted 2023



'Teachers' subject knowledge is exceptionally strong and pupils appreciate their qualifications, expertise and enthusiasm.'

Ofsted 2023

Our CURRICULUM

Particular attention is paid to ensuring that the curriculum studied through every school year is broad and balanced. Traditional elements are matched against the latest technologies and the school is proud of its outstanding facilities which were augmented once more in September 2019 with a brand new Mathematics Block.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum builds on that studied at primary school as well as introducing many new and exciting opportunities. A full range of subjects is studied throughout Key Stage 3, up to and including Year 9. All pupils in Years 7-9 study two languages from French, Spanish and Latin and will take at least one of these subjects to GCSE. English, Mathematics and Science form the core of the curriculum and all students study Life Skills which includes Religious Education. Students also study Computing and a full range of artistic subjects, as well as History and Geography. Regular PE is also a key element of our curriculum.

We place great emphasis on homework to support our in-school curriculum and ensure it is regular, purposeful and appropriate. Pupils' work is assessed regularly and reports are sent home three times a year. Parents are invited to discuss progress with subject teachers at least once a year.

Co-curriculum

The school provides outstanding opportunities beyond the classroom. There is an extremely active Drama department which supports two exciting productions each year. We also offer superb facilities for Art as well as a huge range of musical opportunities and concerts, including public performances in Rochester Cathedral for both the annual Carol Service and Foundation Day. More than 300 instrumental lessons are delivered each week and the school now offers the LAMDA qualification as well.

The school's sporting facilities are second to none. They comprise an indoor swimming pool, a full size Astroturf pitch, a modern well equipped Gym as well as a sports hall and extensive playing fields. A range of teams operate in all year groups with many competitive matches being played on Saturday mornings. As well as rugby, cricket and hockey the school also provides opportunities to take part in a wide range of sporting activities at all levels. The school also holds the prestigious International Schools Award at the Gold level and participates in a number of international projects and exchanges. We are accredited as a UNICEF Rights Respecting School.

The House System

From September 2019 the school is divided vertically into seven 'houses'. The new House, called Tower, was added to the current Houses of Bridge, Castle, Gordon, Pitt, River and Thetford. Tower House had existed up until World War II but was disbanded as a result of fewer school places being needed due to the war.

All pupils are allocated a House and compete to secure points for the House in the annual competition.

There are House sports including rugby, cricket, tennis, badminton, athletics and chess. There are also House competitions in music, art, computing, STEM, debating and creative writing.

The House system fosters a sense of identity and pride and gives all pupils a chance to get involved in school life.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Another example of pupil achievement outside the academic field is through the Duke of Edinburgh programme. Extremely high numbers of pupils across the school participate, gaining skills of independence, team work and self-sufficiency, whilst at the same time having a great time with both their peers and the staff who support the scheme. The school offers Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award in school.

Trips

Trips and visits play a huge part in the development of the students at the Math. Curricular trips are offered in school time and provide an opportunity to undertake fieldwork or develop knowledge of aspects of the programmes of study. Extra-curricular trips take place in holidays and include cricket tours to Barbados, a rugby tour to Canada and a Camps International trip and many other opportunities. Most years upwards of 50 different trips / visits are offered across the school.

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'The culture of the sixth form is positive, inclusive and aspirational.'

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Sixth Form

Embarking on sixth form study is an exciting and important step. In order to succeed in an increasingly complex and competitive world, young people will need academic qualifications of the highest order alongside the attributes of resilience, resourcefulness and flexibility. At our school, through a combination of academic rigour and a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities, we hope to ignite in our students a lifelong passion for learning, so that they leave school confident of their future direction. The sixth form enjoy a study centre with a full suite of computers and a supervised silent study room for their use. They also have their own café and outdoor areas. They are supported by a team of highly trained tutors who continue to provide the highest academic and pastoral support.

Careers

Our pupils gain confidence through being well guided and supported through an effective careers programme to enable them to make well informed choices. In the lower school this is delivered through Life Skills lessons and is a dedicated part of the curriculum. All senior students will spend two days off timetable in a series of workshops and seminars focused on particular careers, delivered by members of our alumni association. There is also an extremely valuable week of work experience.

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School



Support

and care

SEN Provision

The School aims to give every student the opportunity to develop his/her potential to the full. It recognises too that all students have their own particular needs and seeks to ensure that each student is able to learn, experience success and feel valued in an environment free from obstacles and prejudice.

The School is committed to ensuring all students receive their full entitlement to a whole-school curriculum regardless of their needs or disabilities and believe that every teacher is a teacher of every child or young person, including those with SEN. The Local Authority has designated the School as capable of accommodating students with physical impairments and school is dedicated to raising the aspirations of, and expectations for, all pupils with SEN. The school reviews the progress of all its pupils on a termly basis and it is our absolute priority to make certain that all pupils are achieving as well as they can at all stages of their schooling. If we are concerned that a pupil's progress could be improved by adding more intervention then we will review all possible options available to us. Our focus is achieving the best possible outcomes for all pupils.

Child Protection

The Math recognises that schools have a crucial role to play in helping to identify welfare concerns and indicators of possible abuse or neglect at an early stage. All staff have a full and active part to play in protecting and safeguarding the children in our care; our pupils' welfare is our paramount concern.

The school follows guidelines provided by the DfE and the Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership. We have a senior member of staff as our Designated Safeguarding Lead, regularly monitoring safeguarding within the school. The DSL is responsible for ensuring all safeguarding procedures within the school are kept up to date.

‘Pupils with SEND make exceptional progress’.

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Sport

Sport is a particular strength of the school. In addition to regular lessons and the use of exceptional facilities, the school employs a number of specialist coaches, in rugby, cricket and netball to further develop our pupils' skills. Our curriculum is matched to a number of similar schools in Kent and Medway which enable us to field multiple teams at each age group. Every ability is catered for, from enthusiastic novice to elite performer. More than half of Year 7 pupils will represent the school against another school in some form of sport. Close to two-thirds will compete in some form of sporting competition within school through the House system.

1701 Society

The 1701 Society was founded in September 2016 with the charitable objects of raising money to support the education of the pupils at the Rochester Math School. Since then it has raised nearly £50,000 which it has put towards improving the facilities at the school. The main projects undertaken so far are the refurbishment of the cricket nets and an update to the stage, including sound and lighting.

It raises money through monthly donations and as such is principally aimed at the alumni of the school, but members include anyone who holds the school in sufficient regard to make a regular donation. This includes several current parents and pupils.

The School Captain

I hope you have found the information within this prospectus helpful and enlightening.

Receiving the honour of being appointed School Captain in April 2023 was the highlight of my time here at the Math. Every day has been full of exciting opportunities and challenges.

I joined the Math School in September 2017 and have had nothing but warm experiences and opportunities of self-development since. I cannot imagine a better place to spend this crucial time of my life and I would encourage any student to immerse themselves in what is offered here. Coming to the Math School is not only signing up to a school but becoming part of a community which encourages you to strive to the best of your abilities.





Sir Joseph Williamson's
Mathematical School

Further INFORMATION

Admissions information & FAQ's

Please visit us to see more information:

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Academic Information

Please visit us to see more information:

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School uniform

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Please visit our website:

[Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School](#)

Please visit us to see more information:

[1701 Society](#)



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