



# Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School



## Sixth Form 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 and their families through our human scale approach to education, our staff and their well-being and the world around us, 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 because we are greater than the sum of our parts. We foster an enterprising culture through global collaboration with partners in business and education.

We keep getting better -

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

For admission enquiries telephone: 01634 844008  
or email: [sixthform@sjwms.org.uk](mailto:sixthform@sjwms.org.uk)

'Pupils and Students are thoughtful, polite, courteous and respectful. The school's culture helps them to feel safe and happy. Their behaviour is exceptional.'

Ofsted



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# Welcome



‘The curriculum is unashamedly academic but appropriately enriched with a complementary personal development programme covering aspects such as British values, citizenship, mental health and well-being.’

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Welcome to our Sixth Form prospectus, I am very pleased that you are considering Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School for your Sixth Form education. When you embark upon Sixth Form study, you begin an exciting but demanding journey, a journey on which we would be honoured to join you. In order to succeed in an increasingly complex and competitive world, young people need academic qualifications of the highest order, as well as a strongly developed sense of resilience, resourcefulness, and flexibility. However, although your academic progress is of the utmost importance, we at the Math believe that education is about more than gaining qualifications: it's about building a better future for yourself and your community. We want our Sixth Formers to go on to become confident, successful and happy members of society as well as leaders in their chosen fields. I hope that after reading this prospectus, you will have a better idea as to why we take such enormous pride in our establishment.

Eliot Hodges,  
Principal





# History

# Academic Excellence/ Standards

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.

The school has a track record of superb academic performance at A Level. Whilst we never lose sight of the fact that we are here to educate the whole child, the school is rightly proud of its success in public examinations and it regularly features in lists of the most successful schools in the country at A Level. These outcomes are achieved through consistently excellent teaching and feedback provided by a team of highly trained subject specialists. The school also prides itself on interventions and support that are provided to ensure that all students are able to succeed. There is an extensive array of mentoring opportunities as well as additional classes and personalised support.

‘The culture in the sixth form is positive, inclusive and aspirational. Students are mature and articulate. They talk with remarkable confidence and insight about their learning.’

Ofsted



# Welcome from the Head of Sixth Form

Thank you for considering The Math for your A Level study. When applying to us you are making a commitment, not just to complete your classwork and homework, but to fully embrace an approach to the study of A Levels as your full-time job. We promote and require an 'academic working week', because students exceeding their target grades are statistically proven to engage in 15 - 22 hours of study outside of lessons per week as a minimum. Like any 'job' some weeks will require more or less of your time, but the principle remains, with the use of deliberate focussed practice being a key to success for those who excel.

You can expect engaging lessons taught by some of the very best teachers in Kent within a calm, productive, and caring environment. Our facilities are second-to-none with a study centre that comfortably accommodates over 100 post-16 students with the cafe-style servery; a popular feature. Our students recognise their responsibility to make appropriate decisions about how they maximise the time afforded to them outside of lessons.

Alongside their A Level study, students engage in a multitude of bespoke enrichment activities and support programmes. For example, students applying to Medical courses, Oxford or Cambridge University, or the USA access extensive personalised tutoring. We are one of Kent's largest Duke of Edinburgh centres with many students completing the prestigious Gold Award each year. In addition, students can apply to undertake one of our many leadership opportunities with the School Prefect body or House system.

Life in our Sixth Form is as close as you will get to being on campus at a university, with many study locations and a vast array of extra-curricular activities such as Rugby, Hockey, Netball, Cricket, Drama, and Music Academy. In our Academies, students are provided coaching and guidance from internationally recognised staff whilst accessing superb resources such as the astroturf pitch, swimming pool, fully equipped gym, and modern music and drama facilities.

Applying to us is not just an academic decision; it is a life decision, and we recognise our role within your journey. We are proud to support all our students towards their dreams and aspirations whilst ensuring they leave The Math equally well-rounded, academically qualified, and highly employable.

Mr K J Bailey  
Head of Sixth Form  
Assistant Principal





## 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 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.

- 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.





## Support

## and care

All students at the school are treated with care and respect. They are expected to take greater ownership of their own learning and greater responsibility for their actions and the interactions around the school. There is a dedicated Sixth Form Team to look after the students' pastoral welfare, as well as support their academic progress and assist students in progressing towards the next steps in their lives and education. Students receive regular interventions and support where it is needed.

Across Years 12 and 13, Form Tutors will cover a vast array of topics designed to help students prepare for the challenges they may face now and in the future. Some topics focus on employment, such as interview techniques while others include what life is like at a university or apprenticeship. Tutorials are delivered on budgeting, mortgages, tax and managing credit.

Sixth Formers also have the opportunity to support others, either in Sixth Form, or lower down the school. Sixth Formers are a vital part of the whole school community and are expected to act as such.

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

Ofsted





# Our Post 16 CURRICULUM

Our curriculum at The Math is centred around A Levels, the long proclaimed 'Gold Standard' of English education. All Year 12 students may choose either 3 A Levels or 4 A Levels across 2 years of study from our range of 21 subjects. All Year 12 students have the opportunity to take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

'Character development is embedded into the behaviour policy. Pupils are taught explicitly about developing qualities which they will need to flourish in society. Positive personal traits and virtues are highlighted. This guides pupils' conduct so that they learn eagerly and cooperate consistently.'

Ofsted

## Co-curriculum

In addition to their A Level subject choices we expect all students to choose at least one option from either the Performance Academy or Recreational enrichment options. These ensure all Sixth Form students can confidently pursue their interest(s) outside of academic study.

The Performance Academy options allow students to excel, working towards musical grading, dramatic performances or 1st team school sport representation. The Recreational options allow students a period of exercise and introspection to act as a healthy balance alongside the rigours of A Level study.

Where space is available, students may opt into more than one Performance option, Recreation option or a mixture of both Performance and Recreational options. This means that a 1st XV Rugby player can also continue to learn the piano, or work towards a school dramatic production, within normal school hours, allowing them additional time outside of school to work towards their academic success.

## 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, Football, Cricket, Tennis, Badminton and Athletics. There are also House competitions in Music, Art, Computing, Chess, STEM, Debating and Creative Writing.

Whilst in the Sixth Form, students can apply for the role of House Official. Officials are responsible for organising teams for all the events alongside one member of staff who presides as the Head of House.

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, teamwork 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 awards in school with upwards of 20 Sixth Form students gaining the Gold award each year. Any student (whether or not they have completed Bronze or Silver) is able to participate.

## General Prefects

Here at the Math, we offer a range of leadership opportunities. At the start of Year 12, Sixth Formers can apply to be a part of the General Prefect team. Their main purpose is to help with the smooth running of the school by reinforcing our traditions, values and ethos. In recognition of this appointment, they are given a specially commissioned tie. Students who excel in this role as a General Prefect will subsequently have the opportunity to become a part of the Senior Prefect Team. These senior students assist the Deputy Principal in the selection and supervision of the General Prefect Process and will hold their posts late into Year 13. Being a part of the General Prefect team is not only rewarding in itself, but provides a fantastic opportunity for students to experience working in a team environment and testing their leadership skills whilst still at school.

## Subject Prefects

Alongside General Prefects, students have the opportunity to apply to be a Subject Prefect at the start of Year 12. Throughout the year they will assist their respective Head of Department with the academic support of students across the school. The skills learned throughout this role are hugely beneficial. The ability to teach and mentor a range of students will not only help increase your knowledge of the chosen subject, but will allow you to talk about this opportunity on your curriculum vitae or UCAS application.

## 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 America and a Camps International trip to Malawi and many other opportunities. Most years upwards of 50 different trips / visits are offered across the school.





## Preparing for the future

The vast majority of students go on to further study at university with an increasing percentage attending Russell Group universities. In almost all previous years, all students progress on to further education, employment or training due to the excellent careers advice that all students receive, both in selecting their courses, but also through the execution of their studies. In addition to consultation evenings where subject teachers meet with students and parents to discuss progress, two Next Steps evening events are held informing parents of; what life is like Post 16 for their son or daughter at The Math, how to support their academic and personal development and how to plan for Post 18 options. In addition, guest speakers regularly visit the school to discuss current careers and life after A Levels. The highlight of this process is two Next Steps workshop days held at the end of Year 12 when over 50 former students return to the school to lead seminars regarding their decision making and career options.



‘Careers are well supported with strong impartial careers advice. Additional support is offered for students who are applying for Oxbridge, medicine, dentistry and law. The school uses alumni well to support careers advice and guidance.’

Ofsted





## Enrichment

The Math is proud of its bespoke enrichment offer which ensures all Sixth Form students gain some introspection from their A Level studies. Students can choose from two Enrichment Pathways. The first is the Performance Pathway whereby students may opt into one or more academies where elite performance is the main aim. These options include Music, Drama, Rugby, Netball, Hockey and Cricket. Alternatively, students may opt for one of our many fitness or sporting options in the Recreation Pathway, including Basketball, Swimming, Football, Fitness, Tennis, Volleyball, Ultimate Frisbee, Table Tennis and Softball.





## 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 over £30,000 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.

For more information, please visit [1701society.co.uk](http://1701society.co.uk).



# Our subject offer

Our subjects offered at Post 16 and their requirements

Subject	English	Mathematics	Relevant GCSE Subject
Art & Design: Fine Art OR Photography Lens-Based Media	5	5	Grade 6 or higher in a suitable art based discipline
Biology	5	6	Grade 7 in GCSE Biology or Grades 7 and 7 in GCSE Combined Science.
Chemistry	5	6	Grade 7 in GCSE Chemistry or Grades 7 and 7 in GCSE Combined Science, though Grade 8+ is recommended
Classical Civilisation	6	5	Grade 6 or higher in English plus a Grade 6 in a related discipline (such as History or a language)
Computer Science	5	7	Grade 7 GCSE Computing and Mathematics
Design & Technology	5	5	Grade 6 or higher in GCSE Design Technology or equivalent qualification
Drama and Theatre	6	5	Grade 6 or higher in GCSE Drama. Students who have not studied Drama at GCSE can gain entry via a Grade 6 in English and experience in performing arts/ design will be considered subject to audition/interview.
Economics	6	6	Grade 6 or higher in GCSE Economics. Students who have not studied Economics at GCSE can gain entry with a grade 6 in both GCSE English and Maths
English Literature	6	5	Grade 6 or higher in GCSE English Literature
The Extended Project Qualification	5	5	It is worth the same UCAS points as half an A level and is graded from A* to E



Subject	English	Mathematics	Relevant GCSE Subject
French	5	5	Grade 6 or higher in GCSE French
Geography	6	5	Grade 6 or higher in GCSE Geography
Government and Politics	6	5	Grade 6 or higher in GCSE English and a related humanity subject
History	5	5	Grade 6 or higher in GCSE History
Mathematics	5	7 (8 for Further Mathematics)	Grade 7 or higher in GCSE Mathematics for A-Level Mathematics. Grade 8 or higher in GCSE Mathematics for A-Level Further Mathematics
Music	5	5	Grade 6 or higher in GCSE Music, a Grade 5/6 on an instrument or voice and fluency at reading both the treble and bass clefs. You may be required to perform to Music Department Staff
Physical Education	6	5	Grade 6 or higher in GCSE PE in addition to representing either a school or club consistently in one sport. Students who have not studied GCSE PE can gain entry via a Grade 6 in English and a Grade 6 in a Science
Physics	5	6	Grade 7 in GCSE Physics or Grades 7 and 7 in GCSE Combined Science
Psychology	6	6	Grade 6 or higher in GCSE English and Maths and a Grade 6 in GCSE Science – double or triple
Sociology	5	5	Grade 6 in a humanity or related subject (Geography, History, Citizenship, RE, Economics)
Spanish	5	5	Grade 6 or higher in GCSE Spanish



Sir Joseph Williamson's  
Mathematical School

# Further INFORMATION

For more information please visit our website:

[Admissions to Sixth Form](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Courses on offer](#)

[Uniform](#)

[1701 Society](#)





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**LEIGH**  
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