

## **Ethos**

**St John's School is a Voluntary Controlled Church of England School that provides a comprehensive education to around 800 students aged 11 to 16 years.**

We are a welcoming school, geared to respond positively to the needs of our students. Staff at St John's School expect to see every student fully involved in their own personal development. To maximise success, it is essential that there is a strong partnership between home and school.

Staff and Governors of St John's School aim to provide a caring and considerate community in which all students develop spiritually, morally, intellectually, creatively and physically. At St John's, we are committed to equal opportunities for all students. All are encouraged to accept responsibility for achievement of their academic and personal goals and to see this as part of the process of life-long learning which goes beyond school.

All staff work hard to ensure that every student is encouraged to become individual thinkers, to show care and consideration for others and to reach the highest academic standards of which they are capable. Expectations are high at all levels and we are an inclusive community with the motto "*where every individual matters*".

## **The School Aims**

- To provide for all school members an experience of the school and its curriculum that is rich, broad, equitable and balanced and that encourages a lifelong commitment to learning.
- To develop a learning culture across the school by providing opportunities for all members of the school to take responsibility for their own learning.
- To create and maintain a learning environment which is safe, welcoming and encourages mutual respect for all.

- To have high expectations of student achievement and behaviour which will enable students to perform to the best of their ability.
- To value the contributions made to school life by all members of the school community, celebrating success and achievement at all levels.
- To work closely with the wider community to provide opportunities for members of the school to gain skills and experiences which will help develop good citizenship and promote life-long learning.
- To develop a strong partnership with parents to enable students to benefit from support from both home and school to help maximise student well-being and performance.
- To provide equal access to the school and its experiences to all members of the school community, irrespective of gender, race, ability or disability.
- To develop a strong engineering ethos which reflects the school's efforts to secure Specialist College Status in Engineering.

## **The Christian Dimension Of St John's School**

St John's is a Christian School with a commitment to the Church of England. You won't be surprised therefore to see the symbol of the cross at school.

This means that you can expect us to base a lot of what we do on the teachings of Jesus Christ. We welcome non-Christians at St John's but we hope that all members will respect our code.

You will find that there is an opportunity to join Christian groups in school. All Assemblies have a broadly Christian theme and, as a school, we reflect together on weekly themes.

The school has many connections with our local churches and especially St John's Church. The Epping Forest branch of Youth for Christ works with us at St John's too. A Chaplaincy Team has been established in the last twelve months, and is beginning to develop its work, supporting the School to move towards a more broadly Christian ethos.

Parental contributions to the Christian life of the School are welcome. Please contact the Headteacher at the School.

### **Facilities**

St John's enjoys a wide range of facilities. Subjects are taught in specialist suites of rooms, arranged in low level, closely related blocks around the school site. The School is set in 64 acres and continues to engage in a programme of environmental development and has an on-going refurbishment programme. Plans are well advanced for a brand new state-of-the-art school to be built on the site within the next two years.

Many areas have undergone extensive refurbishment and a number of classrooms boast the latest interactive whiteboard technology.

### **School Meals**

St John's is keen to promote the Government's Healthy Schools Initiative and the Cafeteria offers a wide variety of choice to students, to encourage them to think about a nutritionally balanced diet. The Cafeteria is open before School at 8 am, at morning break and at lunchtime. Students who bring a packed lunch are able to eat this in the Cafeteria.

The School has also recently acquired a range of picnic tables and benches, to enable students to eat in pleasant, outdoor surroundings.

Students are issued with a "Smart Card" for use in the School. Cards can be "topped up" by putting money onto "validator" machines or by bringing a cheque to the Cafeteria Manager. Students therefore do not need to carry significant amounts of cash during the day.