



PROSPECTUS



WELCOME TO THE SWAN

Our vision is to work with the local community and exceptional establishments in Oxford and around the world to build a truly outstanding school where every single child can achieve her or his potential.

We believe that students should leave The Swan School having achieved more than they ever believed possible, and with the qualifications, skills, and confidence to achieve even more in the future. We also believe they should leave with happy memories, plenty of friends and a sense of responsibility for their community. We plan to send every student out into the world with an understanding of the way it works and the empathy and drive to make it better, in whatever way they can.

To achieve this ambitious vision, day-to-day life at The Swan is a little bit different to other schools. Some of the key features that make our school special are: our **knowledge-rich academic curriculum**, the **highest expectations of behaviour**, our **extended day**, and **family dining**. You can read about these here and on our website. We strongly recommend that you come and visit us to get a sense of what our school is really like – we hope that you will love it as much as we do!

We plan to send every student out into the world with the empathy and drive to make it better



KAY WOOD, HEADTEACHER



OUR VALUES

At The Swan, we focus on four key values that are at the heart of everything we do:



Ambition

– we strive to be the best we possibly can be and have the highest expectations of what we and others can achieve.

Dedication

– we recognise the importance of hard work. We work hard to achieve our ambitious goals and keep going when things are difficult.

Kindness

– we look after ourselves, others, and our community and treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves.

Integrity

– we do the right thing because it is the right thing to do, not because we are worried about being caught or because we are motivated by reward.



A BROAD, KNOWLEDGE-RICH, ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

The curriculum at The Swan School is tailored to provide a rigorous academic education. We have the highest expectations of what students will learn and encourage them to learn quickly and securely, while being sympathetic to all abilities.

The subjects taught are broadly traditional, but all students will be motivated to stretch themselves beyond what is normally expected in subjects such as English, mathematics, sciences, French, history, geography and religious education. Alongside this, and seen as of equal value, is their learning in art, design and technology and music, in which they are taught to both appreciate the achievements of others and to develop their own creative abilities. In all subjects, the emphasis is on expertly-designed learning, with high levels of structure. There should be absolute clarity for all on what students are expected to know and do at each point. No time is spent on tasks that don't move students on.

THE HIGHEST EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOUR

We place a great deal of importance on developing the personal and social skills young people need in order to function well as positive citizens. The school therefore expects the kind of standards of behaviour that would be expected in any professional workplace.

The Swan is a calm, purposeful environment to work and learn; we do not tolerate any behaviour that disrupts learning or makes any member of our community feel unsafe. All of our school rules are related to our values of ambition, dedication, kindness, and integrity – and we take the time to clearly explain our expectations to our students.

We believe that clear recognitions and consequences work well to help children behave well and interact positively with others. We therefore have a clear set of sanctions that are applied calmly and consistently by staff. We aim to treat all students the same and do not accept excuses for rule-breaking.

It is important to remember that our clear rules are a means to an end, not an end in themselves. By insisting on the absolute highest standards of conduct, our students are free to learn without disruption and achieve more than they ever believed possible.

We strive to be the best we can be and have the highest expectations of what we and others can achieve.

EXTENDED DAY

We have a longer school day on three days per week (Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday), so that students can be taught a wider range of content and have more contact with teachers.

ELECTIVES:

At The Swan we believe our students' personal and social development is just as important as their academic success. Enrichment activities play a vital role in this, as well as building students' cultural capital – the knowledge, skills, and behaviours needed to thrive in society. Given the value that we place on enrichment, we therefore believe that these activities should be an entitlement for all our students, rather than a privilege for some. Our electives are timetabled parts of the school day when all our students take part in enrichment activities, including academic, physical, creative, and community.

SUPERVISED STUDY:


On some days, students have supervised study at the end of the day. This is time to get homework done in school to get the balance right between work at school and family time in the home.

FAMILY DINING


Family dining is one of the most special features of life at The Swan. All of our students and teachers share a delicious, nutritious hot lunch together every day. Our lunches are vegetarian.

We recreate a 'family' atmosphere where everyone is encouraged to engage in conversation and take responsibility for different aspects of the service, for example laying the table, serving food, or tidying the table at the end of the meal. Each lunch service is guided by a senior member of staff who leads a daily 'reflection' and weekly 'gratitudes' where students express thanks for what others have done for them during the week.

Breakfast club, with free porridge for all students, is available every day from 8.15am.



The Swan is a calm, purposeful environment to work and learn





OUR DAY



Breakfast Club and supervised play from 8.30am



Break



8.15am



8.40am



9.35am



10.30am



10.50am



11.30pm

School opens

Lesson One

Lesson Two

Tutor time/
Assembly

Lesson Three



PASTORAL CARE

The personal and social well-being of students and staff is an important priority at The Swan School. We encourage all of our students to act with integrity and show kindness to themselves, others, and our community.

All Swan students are part of a tutor group and house. A student's form tutor and co-tutor are their first point of contact for any pastoral issues. Houses are a vertical community within a school. They allow students to collaborate and lead across year groups, as well as providing opportunities for healthy inter-house competition!

Students spend 40 minutes per day in tutor time taking part in a pastoral curriculum designed to enhance their personal development. The pastoral curriculum is different from, but just as valuable as, the academic curriculum. It includes daily guided reading, Thought for the Week, Personal Development (PSHE), and values-based activities.

Pastoral Support Champions are non-teaching members of staff who are employed to provide additional support for students with any social, emotional, and mental health issues.



Family dining/
lunch break



12.25pm

1.20pm

2.15pm

3.10pm

4.05pm



Lesson Four

Lesson Five

Lesson Six
(Typically
Elective or
Supervised
Study)

End of Day
School ends at 2.50pm on
Wednesdays and Fridays
with a programme of clubs
on offer for students.



SUSTAINABILITY

We are committed to having a positive impact on our local and global community. A large part of this is doing our bit to protect the environment. We do this in a number of ways, for example vegetarian lunches, and our environmental awareness elective.

Students will be inspired and nurtured, and will acquire the knowledge and skills to think deeply.

The Swan School is committed to safe, healthy and environmentally sustainable travel. We will expect the vast majority of our students to arrive by bicycle, on foot or by public transport. Travelling to school by car is strongly discouraged; vehicle access to the school site is not permitted except for students with disabilities who are issued with a permit. We actively promote car-free alternatives including recommended safe cycle routes to and from the site and the excellent public bus links in the city. As the majority of our students will cycle to school, we have extensive covered bike parking on site and we offer cycle training for students who are less confident cyclists. We also have discount arrangements with local cycle shops for Swan students and staff.

MUTUAL COMMITMENT

We make a commitment that any student choosing The Swan School will have a truly outstanding experience.

In order for this to happen, mutual commitment is needed from three sources: the staff, the student and their parents or carers. If you are a student or parent or carer considering The Swan School, it is important to understand three things. The first is that the school will provide a uniquely challenging and structured experience in a caring and disciplined environment. The second is that we expect all students to work to the best of their abilities all the time and have excellent attendance and behaviour. The third is that we expect parents and carers to fully support the school in its unique approach, vision and mission.

This is a school for families who want their child to be safe and happy in a school with exemplary behaviour standards. They will want their child to be challenged and to follow a largely traditional and academic curriculum. They will agree that this will require sustained hard work, self-discipline and commitment from the students and full support from the students' families.





theswanschool.org.uk

If you have any further queries please contact us at:
office@theswanschool.org.uk