



THEIR DISCOVERY STARTS HERE



# PRINCIPAL'S INTRODUCTION

There are few decisions as important as where you choose for your child to attend secondary school. We want to help ensure that you have all of the information you need to make the right choice for you and your child.

We believe in the traditional values of education; that students do best when they are happy, behave well and are engaged in purposeful activity. Our approach blends high expectations with innovative practice to ensure that all students are able to achieve their potential. The College is about much more than just academic success, our ethos is one that embraces the whole person, not just what they accomplish in lessons, but everything else that ensures they are ready for the challenges of the adult world. For example, students partake weekly in the ever-popular electives programme, where lessons finish early to allow time for students to participate in a vast array of over 90 activities and learning, from Caribbean Cooking to Cricket, and Pottery Throw Down to Trampolining.

Students also benefit from an extremely wide range of trips and visits; in previous years these have included a performing arts trip to Amsterdam, a photography trip to Iceland, cultural visits to Italy and Spain, a German exchange, a visit to the WWI battlefields and many, many more.

We pride ourselves on offering a bespoke approach to students' needs, whether they are more able, or need some extra support. Music, Sport and Academic Scholarships are awarded annually to students who can demonstrate excellent ability in their chosen area. The scholarships are designed to recognise exceptional talent and to provide the facilities, resources and staffing to allow high-ability students to achieve their potential.

When making decisions at the College, our guiding principle is simple, 'Would it be good enough for our own children?' By ensuring that the standards of everything we do meets this benchmark, we ensure that the quality of services we offer are exceptional.

If you decide that Catmose College is right for your child, we will do our best to ensure that they are successful, and that the experiences we offer will challenge and encourage them to do their best.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me at the College.



Stuart Williams  
PRINCIPAL

*My teachers over the past year have been incredible at helping me make sure I am prepared for exams.*

*Student Survey*





# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Our academic programme aims to instil in all students a lifelong love of learning which is achieved by encouraging each student not only to strive for the highest possible academic standard, but also to engage with and enjoy their learning. In the first three years at Catmose College, students follow a core curriculum including mathematics, English, the sciences, a modern foreign language, history and geography. For the last two years at the College, students can personalise the course they study, recognising their strengths and interests, and pursue traditional academic subjects which also include philosophy and ethics and computer science, or they are able to choose from a full range of applied courses including sport, business studies, food technology and product design. To complement these, we offer a range of expressive and performing arts courses, including painting and drawing, photography, drama and music. We have found that these skills and competencies make our students particularly attractive to sixth form providers, universities and employers.

Our curriculum offers both breadth and depth, challenging our students to succeed while creating a framework of support so that they learn from their mistakes and go on to experience the exhilaration of success.

This philosophy and provision has led to the College being recognised nationally for the academic success of our students and the accolade of being graded as Outstanding in all categories by Ofsted.



## SCHOLARSHIPS

Music and Academic Scholarships are awarded annually to students who can demonstrate excellent ability in their chosen area.

The scholarships are designed to recognise exceptional talent and to provide the facilities, resources and staffing to allow high-ability students to achieve their potential.

Our Academic Scholars have enjoyed a programme of cultural and intellectual enrichment, having visited exhibitions, theatres, universities and much more.

Our Music Scholars benefit from heavily subsidised instrumental lessons and exciting workshops throughout the year.



# INSPIRATIONAL LEARNING

We aim to ensure that all students leaving the College are ready to tackle any of life's challenges, therefore developing skills such as good decision making and resilience. These skills are not acquired by accident. Students need to be given choices and allowed to make mistakes, they are encouraged to learn from the errors they have made.

Consequently long lists of rules are absent and replaced by high expectations that students will work hard and contribute positively to learning. We believe that students need to take responsibility for their own behaviour and, to encourage this, there are no locked doors at the College, with students being trusted to make appropriate use of the College's facilities throughout the day.

In order to make new challenges available to students, the College offers an extensive range of extra-curricular activities, including a performing arts tour, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, public speaking competitions and educational visits which include, amongst many others, trips to France and Spain, skiing trips, and expeditions to Africa.

At Catmose College, students are encouraged to develop skills of initiative and leadership; so, throughout a student's time at College we offer a range of opportunities, including; sports and dance leaders, community volunteers, student councillors, prefects, subject ambassadors and house captains.





# CALM, PURPOSEFUL AND HAPPY

'Calm', 'purposeful', 'happy' are three words that visitors to the College often use. We believe that students should work in an environment where each student is committed to learning and where mutual respect is the norm. We want students to enjoy their time at the College because lessons are engaging and the curriculum is interesting. The College building was designed around these principles.

Our students have access to a state of the art information technology network which includes a wireless connection for laptops and iPads which are encouraged in the College. Our facilities, including the library and IT, are available for students to use from 8.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday, with an earlier close of 4.30pm on Friday; this is to enable all students to fully engage with everything on offer.

Students in Year 7 are assigned to a form tutor who will take responsibility for them, look after their interests and be the first point of contact between the College and parents throughout their five years with us.

We also have a dedicated Client Services Team who support and develop the partnership between College, student and parents. With such close links, every student is supported and cared for, ensuring they are able to benefit both from their experience at Catmose College and the excellent progress they make.



*The College is fantastic at building confidence in students. Supporting students to progress and fulfil their potential. Praising students when they are doing well, which in turn builds their confidence. The emails and letters regarding progress are always wonderful to receive.*

*Parent Survey*

# INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

The individual is at the heart of our College. We adopt a highly personalised approach when considering the learning, pastoral and extra-curricular needs of each student. All staff treat every member of the College as an individual, whether supporting a young person who encounters difficulties with certain aspects of learning or challenging a student who is academically gifted or talented. Additionally, the College's elective programme provides an excellent opportunity for students to develop their skills in a range of non-academic activities.

We are proud to be an inclusive College, in which the progress, achievement and well being of all students is fundamental to everything that we do and our success has resulted in an 'Outstanding' judgement from Ofsted.



*Learning is also aided by the students' outstanding behaviour and the maturity students show in terms of staying safe and helping one another in their work. The College values all individuals and nurtures their unique talents. As a result, students develop into mature and thoughtful citizens, able to cope effectively with challenges.*  
OFSTED



# EQUAL VALUE

We value every member of the College equally and strive to treat all with respect and the highest standard of service, whether parent, student, member of staff or visitor. 'Equal Value' however does not mean that we treat everyone the same. We recognise that no two of us are the same, so our approaches are tailored to reflect individual strengths and needs.

We have the same high expectations of students as of our staff - to dress smartly, to aspire to do well, to embody the highest standards of respect and civility and to positively contribute to the College community.

It is the principle of 'equal value' that underpins the calm, purposeful and happy atmosphere that we all enjoy.





# ENGAGE, EXPLORE AND ACHIEVE

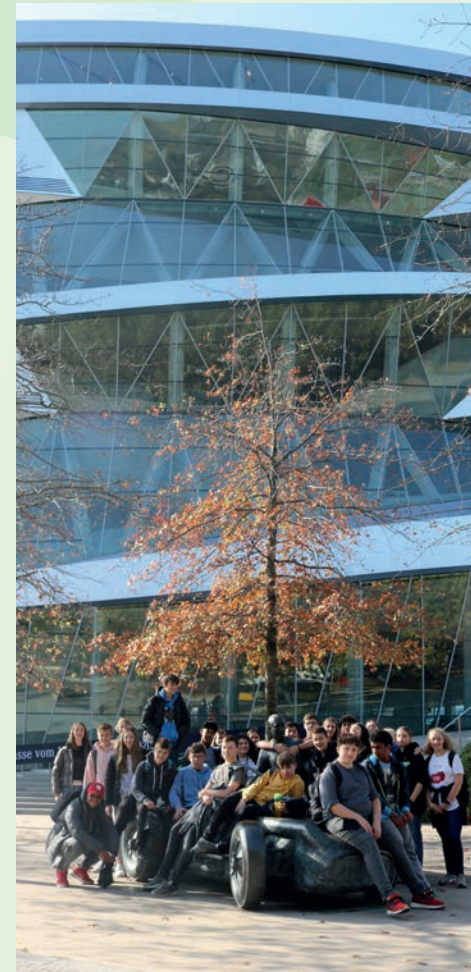
Trips, visits and extra-curricular activities are our forte and we want all students to participate in some of these enriching activities.

Some trips are linked to the academic curriculum, such as the John Clare trip to Helpston that runs alongside the study of his poetry in Year 7 English; some develop cultural understanding, tolerance and enlightenment such as the Year 8 trip to a cathedral, mosque and gurdwara to complement the religious studies curriculum. Others offer a once-in-a-lifetime chance to visit and explore far flung parts of the world that combine volunteering projects with cultural tourism such as previous trips to Sumatra and Nepal.

From Oakham to Canada, free trips, day trips and tours of exotic locations, Catmose invests heavily in seeking out as many opportunities as we can.

Our staff relish the chance to witness and help our students develop in very different ways to those seen in the classroom, and in Year 11 it is these memories that our students recall as some of their most memorable learning.

We believe these experiences offer opportunities to develop young people's cultural awareness and independence, so that skills encouraged within the College can be applied and improved outside their normal environment.





# THE PERFORMING ARTS

The performing arts is a lively and integral part of life at the College. We are very fortunate to have state of the art facilities, including a fully equipped theatre, separate dance and drama studios and a music technology suite which includes a professional recording studio. Students are involved in a variety of drama clubs and have the chance to devise and direct their own plays as well as performing to many different audiences.

There is a proud tradition of music and singing at the College. All new students are encouraged to take up, or continue learning, an instrument, and tuition is provided for around 25% of students who take the opportunity to improve their confidence and enhance their overall musicianship. As well as one-to-one tuition, Catmose College believes strongly in the importance of nurturing a musician through group performance so offers a variety of ensembles which rehearse each week, including Junior and Senior Orchestra and Choir, a Jazz Band, and Flute ensemble.

There are three tiers of Music Scholarship on offer to students, which offer varying levels of financial assistance towards music tuition, and personal mentoring. Our Music Scholars also benefit from unique performance opportunities, which include taking part in a workshop with visiting members of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

We compete successfully at both local and national music drama festivals, while the music ensembles and drama groups perform annually at the popular Christmas concert at All Saints' Church in Oakham. Our students also have the opportunity to go 'on tour' around Europe performing music, dance and drama to audiences across the continent.

Our whole-school performances form one of the highlights of the school year, often involving over 200 students and invariably sell out well in advance. As well as performing on stage, our students are involved in arranging the choreography, constructing the set and organising the backstage and technical functions.





# SPORT

The College boasts a strong sporting heritage, with sport being a highly valued aspect of the Catmose College experience. Over twenty five sports are on offer through the core curriculum of two lessons per week, as well as extra-curricular opportunities and activities within the elective programme. The College is proud of its pursuit of sporting excellence and in preparing students for a lifelong involvement in sport and physical activity.

Within the core curriculum, every student is given the best possible opportunity to achieve a high standard in sport and physical education and to develop a wide range of skills, tactics and strategies over a range of team and individual sports.

Extra-curricular sport is a vibrant part of College life, with teams at all age levels participating in a full range of sports and physical activities in local, regional and national competitions. Enrichment clubs, team practices and competitive fixtures operate during lunchtimes and after school throughout the year, while the wide range of sports and physical activities remain popular choices within the electives programme.

The College offers a Sports Scholarship programme to support, stretch and challenge our most gifted and talented sports performers. There are three levels, with the top offering mentoring, sports science support, training programmes. The programme has continued to go from strength to strength with a number of students now competing at a national level.

The House system also aims to enrich students' lives by promoting friendly competition within the College. All students and staff are placed in one of four houses and events take place throughout the year, with students encouraged to participate and represent their House according to their strengths and abilities. Each House is led by a House Captain, elected by their peers.

In total over forty inter-house competitions take place during the year, including football, basketball and cross country, but also events proposed by the different subject areas, for example, cookery, debating, a performing arts talent show and an art and design competition.





# ADMISSIONS & TRANSITION

Catmose College is the first choice for many parents, with us being oversubscribed for many years in each year group. If you wish to apply for a place for your child please do so via your home local authority.

The College does not have a catchment area; we have in the past accepted applications from Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire and our home county of Rutland with students travelling up to 30 miles to attend Catmose College.

## TRANSITION

We believe that a smooth, positive and exciting transition from Year 6 to Year 7 is crucial to the start of the students' time at Catmose College.

Our Key Aims for Transition:

- To reassure Year 6 pupils about the transfer to College and to prepare them for College life.
- To inform parents of their choices and to enable them to fully support their child through the transition process.
- To give primary school staff the opportunity to pass on key information about their Year 6 cohort.
- To enable the College to gather relevant information about each individual student.
- The period for transition can be difficult for students and parents alike. If handled correctly, students can begin life at their new school confidently and are in a position to develop socially, emotionally and academically. Parents can feel informed and confident that their child will move smoothly onto the next phase of their educational life.

Further information on the transition programme, how to apply and details of our Admissions Policy can be found on our website.



*The school has given my daughter confidence and focus, she adapted to Catmose incredibly quickly. All of her teachers and teaching assistants have been super, the intervention team are impressive and beyond my expectation. I feel very fortunate that my daughter is at Catmose and comfortable that the positive environment will develop her academically and socially.*  
Parent Survey



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Principal: Stuart Williams

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