



Engage
Enthuse



Inspire

“Everyone at Stratford Upon Avon School is committed to ensuring that pupils feel safe, happy and successful. This is achieved very well. All staff have high expectations of pupils’ behaviour... This means that pupils learn successfully in a calm and positive environment.”

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Engage Enthuse Inspire

We are passionate about ensuring that students are supported, challenged and inspired throughout their time with us. Our mission is summed up by three words: **Engage, Enthuse & Inspire**, which underpin what we are all about. This is reflected in a genuine feel-good factor throughout the school. Visitors are invariably struck by **the energy and enthusiasm of our staff**, and the excellent relationships with and between students.

**“The school’s aim is to ‘engage, enthuse and inspire pupils’.
Staff have high expectations for what pupils can achieve.
Pupils are challenged in their work.”**

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The advantages of a big school

One of the real benefits of attending a large secondary school is that we can do the things other schools can't. **Our specialist staff offer an array of courses, trips and extra-curricular opportunities that few other places can match.**

As such, we are able to cater for a wide range of interests and aptitudes to ensure that students make the most of their potential.

Getting the right people to do the right courses for the right reason is important to us and helps youngsters succeed.

Schooldays are a time of formative experiences. Our size also brings an

impressive range of extra-curricular opportunities including the Year 7 Bushcraft residential, Year 9 Battlefields trip, Year 11 Work Experience in Paris or Sixth Formers spending three weeks in far-flung corners of the globe on expedition.

There are a myriad of sports and performance opportunities in our impressive facilities. Our teams regularly progress to the final stages of regional and national competitions in a range of sports, including girls' and boys' football, dance, trampolining and go-carting.

“Pupils study a wide variety of subjects. They benefit from a carefully planned and organised curriculum...Pupils are proud of their school and enjoy the wide range of activities and clubs on offer”

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The feel of a small school

We have a pastoral system to ensure that a large school **feels like a small school**. New students quickly settle in. Whilst it seems big from the outside, it doesn't once you're part of it. We are proud of our **vertical tutoring** system, whereby every afternoon students meet in mixed age groups. These groups help break down barriers and enable younger students to make older friends easily, thus creating a family atmosphere.

As well as specialist subject teachers, key staff will monitor the progress of students. The Form Tutor will meet students daily and get to know them really well as individuals. College Leaders oversee the personal development and welfare of students as part of our College System which develops a competitive spirit through various competitions and events as well as promoting the celebration of achievement. Meanwhile, the academic ethos and progress of each year group is overseen by a Progress Leader to ensure high levels of performance.

**“There is a very inclusive culture across the school.
Pupils are valued and cared for.”**

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The little things that matter

We have a clear focus on **raising standards** both within and outside the classroom. We expect high standards of uniform which reflect our expectations as a school, as well as reflecting the mindset of our students. Another essential aspect of raising standards is **rewarding the behaviours that you wish to see** and to this end we have our own Stratford Blueprint to acknowledge learning, contributing and leading. Behaviour is very good at the school and you are welcome to come and see for yourself just how good it is by attending one of our Open Mornings. Those who need additional support have bespoke packages, both on and off-site, delivered by specialist staff to enable them to learn, but also to ensure that they do not hinder the learning of others.

Learning matters and we expect students to work hard. More than that though, we expect students to actually **learn and remember things**. Learning is defined as an alteration in long term memory, so we expect them to **acquire more knowledge as they go through the school**. As such, every lesson instead of simply taking a register of who is present or absent, staff enter an attitude to learning grade. Parents are notified daily when students produce outstanding work or when insufficient work is completed. In this way no student is overlooked or able to 'hide' amongst the group. Simply going through the motions is not enough. We have a growth mindset and believe that everyone can get better at what they do!"

"Leaders' actions to improve pupils' behaviour have been highly successful. Pupils understand and follow the rules and rarely need reminding of what to do."

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Preparing for the next stage of life

We strive to ensure that youngsters keep their options open and develop the skills, attributes and qualifications to flourish in the future.

The quality of careers guidance given to students marks us out from other schools.

We provide opportunities for youngsters to meet industry professionals – in lessons, through careers talks and in after-school masterclasses. These sessions broaden their understanding of the variety of modern work opportunities and the employability skills that are essential to them making the right GCSE, A level and career choices. This means that our support is bespoke rather than the traditional one-size-fits-all approach.

The purpose of education is to prepare youngsters for adult life and we believe that the best place to do that is in a non-selective, co-educational environment. Students need to develop the skills to thrive alongside different people in different environments.



“Teachers help pupils become confident, well-informed young adults who can express ideas and opinions. This means pupils are well prepared for their next steps in education, employment and training.”

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Great student outcomes

Over the last few years we have made tremendous progress as a school and this is now reflected in **strong examination results** for our students at both GCSE and A Level. We are proud to add value to the achievements of our students by ensuring that they make **excellent progress from their individual starting points**.

We are here to cater for the needs of our local community, whether individuals are quiet or outgoing, whether students are truly gifted or of average ability, whether they aspire to become an architect or a nurse. As a comprehensive school, we are proud of the achievements of all of our students.

Examination certificates are important keys which open doors of opportunities. However, schools also provide the knowledge, skills and cultural capital they need to succeed in life, as well as positive experiences and memories that last a lifetime. We simply ask that students get actively involved and give their best.

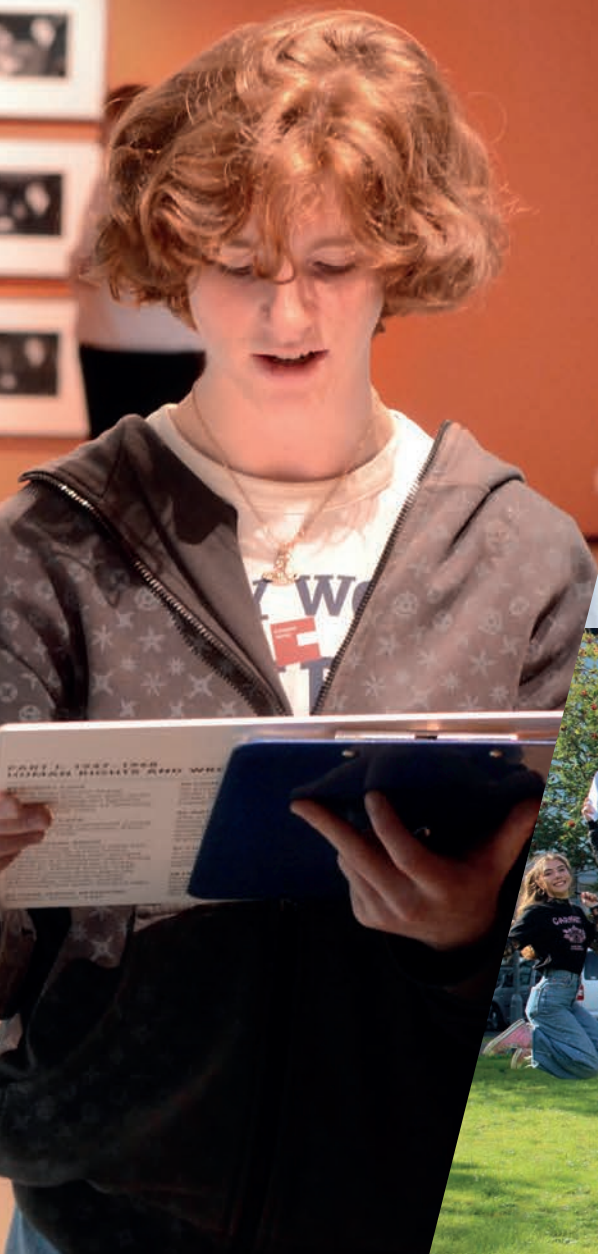
“We’ve been very impressed with the high standards of organisation, teaching, care and moral guidance that the school has provided”

Mrs K, Year 8 Parent



“Sixth-form students are confident, articulate and proud of their school. Subject plans in the sixth form build on students’ prior knowledge and deepen and extend their learning. Students in the sixth form say that teachers make the lessons interesting because of their strong subject knowledge.”

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Learn

Contribute

Lead

"The pastoral support for pupils is really strong. College leaders work closely with form tutors, teachers, families and specialist support services to ensure that all pupils receive the right help and support they need to be happy, successful and settled in school. Pupils know that there is always someone they can trust to share any concerns with."

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Stratford
upon Avon
School
& Sixth Form



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