

Stratford upon Avon School & Sixth Form




**ENGAGE
ENTHUSE
INSPIRE**

A photograph of two young men in school uniforms (white shirts and dark ties) leaning over a wooden workbench. They are looking down at something on the surface. The student on the right is wearing a lanyard that says "SIXTH FORM".

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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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. We pride ourselves on having efficient, effective structures that are implemented in the right way, with a human touch.

"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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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.

School days are a time of formative experiences. Our size also brings an impressive range of extra - curricular opportunities including the Year 7 Bushcraft residential, Year 8 Battlefields trip, Year 9 French Exchange, Year 10 New York Trip, Year 11 Work Experience in Paris or other opportunities like skiing.

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 and even trampolining.



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“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

A photograph of three young women in a dance studio. They are wearing dark, sleeveless, knee-length dresses. The woman on the left is in a white dress. They are all in dynamic, expressive poses, with arms extended and legs lifted. The background is a dark curtain. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows. The overall mood is artistic and energetic.

"We've been very impressed with the high standard of organisation, teaching, care and moral guidance that the school has provided"

MRS K, YEAR 8 PARENT



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 **split vertical tutoring system**, whereby every afternoon students meet in mixed age groups which helps break down barriers and enable younger students to make older friends easily

We have Lower School tutor groups of Year 7-9 and Upper School ones with Years 10-13. This ensures we have a 'family feel' that is a feature of the school, but also allows activities to be more focussed and age appropriate in tutor groups.

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 and Assistant Progress Leader who are responsible for overseeing the curriculum and academic achievement of students across a year group.

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IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT MATTER

Our students look smart and behave well. Visitors are always impressed at the focus and behaviour of classes, the positive relationships evident between staff & students, and the lovely atmosphere.

This doesn't happen by accident, but by the attention to detail. We take a register every lesson, but giving a 1-5 attitude to learning grade. Any student falling below expectations (<4), whether completing insufficient work or for behavioural reasons, is kept behind that day by their form tutor at the end of school. It has certainly enhanced the focus of students during lessons as going through the motions really isn't good enough. At the other end of the scale, parents are notified daily if your child has a grade 1/ excellent or 2/good lesson. This gives you immediate feedback and an ice-breaker at the dinner table helping ensure that school, students and parents are all working together, pulling in the same direction.

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 which is why we have received the Gold Standard Quality in Careers Award. We provide opportunities for youngsters to meet industry professionals – in lessons, through careers talks and in after-school master-classes. 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 as the world of work over the next 50 years will change far more rapidly than we've known up to now.

“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

"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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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 they have chosen to reject the 11+ and come here, narrowly missed out, or whether they find the academic side of school challenging. 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.

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