

Overview

Leventhorpe School is an outstanding mixed, 11-19 secondary school and sixth form in the historic market town of Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire. The school became a Business and Enterprise Academy in August 2011. The intake at age 11 is drawn mainly from the pleasant and prosperous towns of Sawbridgeworth and Bishop's Stortford and from the surrounding villages. Demand for places in the school is very high with over four applications for each place. A good number of students travel significant distances to attend. In order to better meet the demand for places the governing body have exciting plans to expand the roll from 6FE to 8FE. An extensive capital works plan has been developed to provide additional accommodation and top rated facilities for all of our students.

In recent years, Leventhorpe has experienced an intensive capital build programme including sports facilities (sports hall, fitness suite, dance studio, all weather pitch and floodlit tennis courts) and Learning Resource Centre. Our new Head will be joining at a very exciting time in the further development of our facilities with our expansion plans including a new, state of the art, performing arts block alongside a brand new science and sixth form block. These facilities will represent a further £7M investment in the school and will commence in September 2018.

The school places a high priority on academic achievement as demonstrated at the last full OFSTED inspection when the school was graded "Outstanding" in each of the five categories. All staff are expected to play their role in ensuring the best possible outcomes for each and every student. Pass rates are 100% in nearly all subjects and percentages in the highest grades are well above the national average. Teachers, students and parents place a very high value on behaviour and care which helps to promote a highly cohesive and effective learning community.

Leventhorpe is currently a partner in the Alban Teaching School Alliance. Teaching School Alliances are groups of outstanding schools that take a leading role in the training and professional development of Teachers, Support Staff and Headteachers, as well as contributing to raising educational standards through school to school support.

Leventhorpe is also the lead school for School Centred Initial Teacher Training within the Bishop's Stortford Educational Trust (BSET) and has strong links with universities. The school hosts placements for trainees in a wide choice of subjects and is a long-standing partner school with Cambridge University for PGCE.

Significant investment has been made in staff training to develop approaches to teaching and learning. There is a strong focus on developing high performing teams at different levels in the organisation. This has helped to form a culture with shared visions and values and a constant drive to improve learning opportunities for students. Leventhorpe has been awarded National Support School Status in recognition of the school to school support it provides and the current Headteacher is a National Leader of Education.

Subject departments are organised on a Faculty basis. The responsibility for the preparation of schemes of work and for monitoring their delivery lies with the Head of Faculty, overseen by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The school places a high value on assessment for learning and each student undergoes a termly assessment in each subject.

The School upholds traditional values of uniform, discipline, homework, punctuality and polite behaviour. Each of Years 7 – 11 is organised into mixed ability tutor groups and overseen by a Head of Year who oversees the academic and social development of students as they progress through the School. Form Tutors monitor their form members' progress and liaise closely with pastoral heads.

In addition, each tutor group is assigned to one of eight Houses: Rivers, Cutforth, Newsom, Fawbert, Lawrence, Moore, Wilkins and Barnard. House Leaders organise a host of lively house events throughout the year such as talent competitions, quizzes and sporting events.

An extensive extra-curricular menu is available to all students. A comprehensive timetable of clubs offers something for everyone, from Rock Band to Film Club. A strong emphasis is placed on supporting students not just in lessons but also outside the curriculum. Staff and students' interest and enthusiasm in these groups is high. Music and drama productions are staged frequently and there is a particularly strong tradition of excellence in Music. 10% of students are admitted on the basis of musical aptitude. Students are also encouraged to represent the school in a variety of sports.