

Prospectus



MEDEN
SCHOOL



WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in Meden School.

At Meden School we like to think of our community of students, staff, parents, governors and local business leaders as a family. We seek to provide a setting where students can grow academically and thrive as individuals.

Our staff are warm and caring and committed to helping every child reach their potential. Put simply we believe that every child can succeed and it is our job to ensure this.

Our priorities are excellent examination outcomes, impeccable behaviour, great teaching and the widest possible range of extra-curricular experiences for all students. Together these things deliver what I think most parents want—happy children who leave school well-equipped to cope with the world outside and with a range of options open to them.

Our pastoral care system provides every child with a support network that will be there to encourage and nurture their talents every step of the way. We know that to succeed children need to feel happy and well-supported.

A prospectus can only offer a flavour of life at our school. We would be delighted to welcome you to experience our busy working community first hand.

Emma Sims
Head of School

“The ‘achievement culture’ engendered by the Head Teacher and senior leaders supports teachers in setting aspirational targets for the students’ progress. Students say they appreciate what their teachers do to help them.”

Ofsted (May 2014)



ETHOS

Meden School has a very clear and distinctive ethos. Our work revolves around our core values of commitment, independence and courtesy.

These values underpin the work of students and staff in everything they do, each and every day.

- We have high expectations of students and staff
- We believe every student can succeed
- We will ensure barriers to learning are challenged and overcome
- We expect teaching to be well-planned, varied and stimulating
- We believe learning should be active, focussed and engaging
- We insist on high standards of behaviour at all times
- We will support staff and students to engage in effective teaching and learning

“Students of all ages are ambitious for themselves and they work hard to improve their standards. Sixth form students, for example, study at school until late into the evening. They say, ‘It’s a good place to work’.”

Ofsted (May 2014)

ACHIEVEMENT

At Meden School we believe that examination success allows our students to make the very most of their lives and student achievement is at the very heart of everything we do.

We have developed a curriculum designed to challenge and engage students, offering them the very best preparation for examination success and the skills and confidence required to make full use of those qualifications.

Exciting, engaging and inspiring lessons lie at the centre of our curriculum and as a school, we constantly strive to provide your child with the very best educational experience.

Extra curricular activities offer a further opportunity for your child to develop the skills and understanding needed to succeed throughout their lives. A broad range of sporting, artistic and academic courses are on offer, allowing students to fully explore and develop their potential.

We have a range of support services that will ensure your child's success, whatever their individual educational needs.

Examination results provide a good indication of how well a school is serving its students. Meden School has a sustained track record of continuous improvement, but to fully serve our community we will continue to strive for outstanding achievement for all.



“Students’ achievement is at its best when expectations are high and well-structured activities are supported by sufficient time for them to think deeply.”

Ofsted (May 2014)

PASTORAL

Meden is justifiably proud of its excellent pastoral reputation. The year group system provides your child with the support, guidance and care they need whilst nurturing friendships and developing a strong sense of community.

Form Tutors play an active role in ensuring that students are happy, well-supported and fully engaged in school life. Tutors also serve as the first point of contact between school and home.

As your child develops through Meden School, their progress and well-being will be closely monitored, ensuring that students are recognised and rewarded when they succeed and supported when things are more challenging.

Meden is a very caring community and the health, happiness and well-being of students underpins our overall ethos and philosophy.

“It was really helpful having older students in my tutorial group when I joined Meden; they looked out for me from day one and gave me support and advice.”

Year 7 student



HOUSE SYSTEM

Every student at Meden School belongs to a house.

We are aware that moving to a large secondary school from a small primary school can sometimes feel like very big step. Belonging to a house helps our students feel part of a smaller community within the larger whole school community, providing a place of security, support and friendship.

Sharing a house with fellow pupils gives an ideal opportunity to learn about the values of tolerance, support, courtesy and friendship. It is no coincidence that some of the strongest life-long friendships are made within houses.

To emphasise the feeling of belonging to a team, our school uniform identifies students as belonging to the school community, but each house has its own tie with stripes to match the house colours. This ensures that every student is instantly recognisable as belonging to a particular house.

Each house logo is made up of a different element of the Meden School badge. A variety of designs were presented to the Student Council so that they could choose their favourite design.



Challenger
House



Endeavour
House



Discovery
House



CURRICULUM

Our curriculum follows National Curriculum guidelines and aims to provide a broad, balanced learning experience for all.

At Key Stage 3, our two-year programme covers all the National Curriculum subjects. Students are taught in ability groups in the majority of subjects, ensuring that every child is taught at a level that matches their ability.

There is a three-year programme for Key Stage 4. All students study a core consisting of English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education and Religious/Personal/Social/Health Education. All students must study at least one subject from; a language, History, Geography or Computer Science. This is supplemented by a wide range of optional subjects, including Media, Technology and Health and Social Care.

We expect most of our students to achieve at least eight passes at grades 9–1 (with some subjects still grading at A*–G for another year), including English and Mathematics. Every student is actively encouraged to work towards the new English Baccalaureate standard, invaluable for university applications.

Meden College offers a range of pathways for students to continue learning with us during Key Stage 5. We pride ourselves on our A Level provision and promote the highest aspirations for all our students. This approach has seen students from Meden College regularly secure places at top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.



ENRICHMENT

Meden School offers a comprehensive programme of enrichment activities enabling students to extend their learning beyond the classroom.

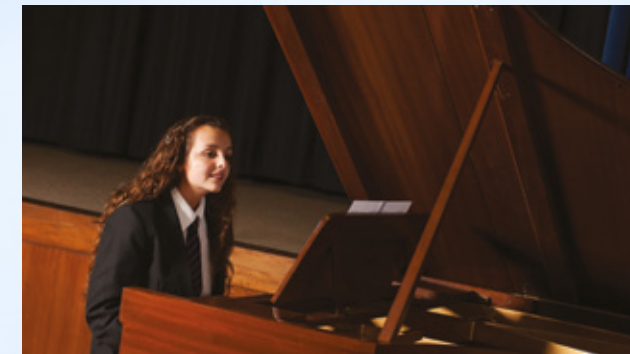
We have access to excellent sports facilities and students enjoy activities including football, hockey, netball, rugby, cross-country, tennis and athletics. Meden students regularly compete at county level and our sports teams have a strong tradition of success.

The Performing Arts take a leading role in school life with regular dance and drama productions, allowing all students to fully explore their creativity.

In addition, we run a wide range of trips and visits, which include residential and international opportunities. In recent years, Meden students have travelled as far afield as France and Taiwan.

“I had the opportunity to take part in the school production. I really enjoyed working with pupils from different year groups, and being involved in the show really helped to build my confidence.”

Year 8 student



TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

We understand that the transition from primary to secondary education can be both an exciting and a challenging process for both pupils and parents.

Our transition arrangements are carefully planned to ensure that students are ready for a successful and enjoyable Year 7. Arrangements start in Year 5 and build up to a full school visit in the summer term of Year 6. A full programme of activities are offered to all primary schools throughout Year 6.

If you have any questions regarding transition, at any stage of the process, please do not hesitate to ask. Staff are always available to answer questions at the various events or you can e-mail the school at any time.

Meden School is increasingly popular and has become the school of first choice for students from a wide range of primary schools. As well as visiting our linked primary schools, we regularly run information evenings for out-of-catchment parents. Details can be found on our school website. We welcome visits to the school from prospective parents and students. If you would like to arrange a visit or if you have any questions, please contact the school by phone or email.

We very much look forward to welcoming you and your child to Meden School.

Step One: Summer Term, Year 5

The Head of School and a member of the Leadership Team meet prospective parents at their child's current primary school. A short talk will be followed by a question and answer session.

Step Two: Autumn Term, Year 6

Pupils and parents are invited to an open evening to look around Meden School and meet members of staff in all the teaching departments.

Step Three: Spring Term, Year 6

Data will be collected from the primary feeder schools to help arrange admissions.

Step Four: Summer Term, Year 6

A member of the Pastoral Team and the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator will visit primary schools to talk to students and staff.

Step Five: Summer Term, Year 6

Year 6 pupils will visit Meden School with their classmates for a 'Taster Week' to allow them to familiarise themselves with the school. Pupils with Special Educational Needs may well have additional visits.



“I started at Meden in Year 8 so I was worried about making friends and fitting in. Everyone was really friendly and encouraging, and with the support of the staff and pupils I soon settled in.”

Year 10 student

SUMMARY

We are immensely proud of Meden School. At the heart of our learning community is the belief that every child matters and that every child will succeed.

We promote ambition, commitment and independence. High standards are set in the knowledge that hard work and discipline secure lifelong achievement.

Meden School will support your child with care, consideration and understanding and we promise to always challenge, motivate and engage.

We encourage any prospective parents and students to come and visit our school to find out first hand why Meden is the right choice.

“The majority of people believe school is the most important part of a person’s life. You have to make sure you choose the right school for you and your future. Meden has helped me to achieve a lot and put me on course for a great future.”

Year 9 student





MEDEN
SCHOOL

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