



Harlington Upper School

Prospectus

2017



Goswell End Road
Harlington
Bedfordshire
LU5 6NX



Harlington Uppers School: Values

Know Thyself

High Expectations

Respect for all

Responsibility

Harlington Upper School: know thyself

We are caring, friendly and encouraging with the highest expectations about which we are clear, consistent and firm.

Teachers are determined that all students will be taught consistently well, be self-disciplined and behave impeccably.

Students develop into independent and responsible adults who make a valuable contribution to the local and wider community.

The Harlington Curriculum

Harlington has moved away from a “one size fits all” approach to the curriculum. We offer all students a balanced, but flexible programme which also gives students the opportunity to concentrate on their interests and strengths. Building on the two-year Key Stage 3 in our main partner middle schools, our students receive three years’ tuition to ensure the highest possible GCSE grades.

Each school day has five one hour periods with a further 25 minutes of form time. All students are members of a House which has ten form groups. Students meet their form tutor twice a day for registration, assemblies, academic monitoring and general discussion. Each form group consists of students from Years 9, 10, 11 and the Sixth Form.

Year 9

All students study English, Mathematics and Science and the full range of National Curriculum subjects: Art, Drama, Geography, History, Information and Communication Technology, Design Technology, Music and Physical Education. In addition, students follow a programme of Personal Development and Religious Studies.

We work very closely with middle schools to ensure that the progress made in years 7 and 8 is maintained and all students at Harlington begin GCSE courses in the core subjects in Year 9. There is considerable flexibility in the routes taken to GCSE qualifications. During the Spring Term students and parents receive detailed information about the courses for Years 10 and 11. A full programme of guidance and consultation is then available to support the choices made.

Years 10 & 11

In Science we offer most students the option of studying for three separate GCSEs in Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Students also have the opportunity to follow accredited courses in Religious Studies, ICT and PE. In Mathematics the most able students will study Additional Mathematics alongside GCSE.

There is a wide range of optional subjects available to all students. These include familiar subjects such as Languages, Design Technology, Geography and History. There are also several subjects that may be new to students such as Business Studies and Textiles.

The Sixth Form

There is a natural progression from Year 11 into the Sixth Form and each year the majority of students choose to stay on and follow a one or two year programme leading to AS and A level. A separate Sixth Form Prospectus is prepared each year giving more details of the courses available. An induction course is held, once the Year 11 students have completed their GCSE examinations, to prepare students for the Sixth Form.



Homework

Homework forms a very important part of the learning programme. We have introduced 'Show My Homework' which is an on-line facility for teachers to set homework and provide appropriate resources. Students can use this to access their homework and parents can better monitor the work that has been set.

We continue to provide and encourage the use of a planner/diary to complement the online system.

Beyond the Classroom

Harlington offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities, trips and visits. Students are strongly encouraged to become involved in one or more of the many opportunities on offer. Clubs, societies and activities take place in the lunch-break, after school, at weekends and during the holidays. New groups develop as staff introduce ideas, or students express an interest in a particular pursuit.

There are so many activities for students to get involved in; the following are a representative sample of recent activities:

- Regular sports and athletics training sessions and matches
- The "Young Enterprise" programme
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Harlington older residents' party
- Music tour to Europe
- Art tour to Paris
- Field courses in the Peak District, Dorset and Iceland.
- Visit to the European particle accelerator at CERN in Geneva
- Science masterclass at Cambridge University
- Houses of Parliament trip
- Individual instrumental and vocal music lessons
- Numerous theatre and concert visits
- Drama club
- Study Skills seminar
- Foreign Language film club
- Peer mentor training
- Cheerleading
- Rock Challenge
- Various charity events and non-uniform days

Music and Drama are very strong at Harlington. Each year the Music department promotes a comprehensive concert programme including recital evenings, windband, jazz band, brass group, voicebox, Harlington Jams, string groups ukulele ensemble, guitar groups, keyboard orchestra, percussion group, concerts, Band nights, Year 8 into 9 transition music days and concert visits.

The Drama department provides a diverse programme of extra-curricular productions. Recent highlights have included *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Macbeth* and *The Crucible*. The programme usually includes a collaborative project with the Music department in the form of a musical. Recent productions have included *Les Miserables*, *We Will Rock You*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Our House*. This year's Christmas production is going to be *Footloose*. Students from all year groups are involved in the projects and students are also encouraged to develop their skills in directing, design and stage management as well as performance.

Care for Students

With our clear focus on maximising potential, all staff at Harlington Upper School aim to help young people to enjoy school, achieve their best and remain healthy and safe. We work hard to support students as they become young adults and encourage them to make a positive contribution to our community. Strong House Support teams work with a variety of outside agencies to ensure students reach their full potential.

All students join one of six Houses and become part of a tutor group of approximately 25 students from all year groups. The Form Tutor is an important daily point of contact for students and is also the principal contact between school and home. Where possible we place students in tutor groups with a chosen friend from their current school which helps them to settle into Harlington. However, older students also act as mentors, building on a great tradition of peer support at the school.

We believe in rewarding students for producing good work and for good effort in any activity. We therefore have a system of Commendations which lead to Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Awards. These are complemented by a range of individual awards, which include HTT Certificates of Excellence and Achievement Postcards. These awards are held in high esteem by our students and parents.

As a school, we set the highest standards for work, behaviour and dress and students are expected to show consideration for others at all times. The school aims to make discipline fair but firm and emphasis is given to respect for others and responsibility for one's own conduct. If a student's work or behaviour gives cause for concern we may decide to provide counselling, pastoral support, to place the student on daily report or to detain them after school.

Special Educational Needs

Students with Special Educational Needs are very well supported and achieve well at Harlington. Our Special Educational Needs Policy ensures that students with special educational needs are identified and their needs assessed. Provision is made for all identified students to have the fullest possible access to the curriculum by means of in-class support. Further assistance is provided by withdrawal for individual or small group teaching. Parents are fully informed at all stages and progress is regularly reviewed.

Relationship and Sex Education

All students in Year 9 follow a Relationship and Sex Education Programme which is delivered in Personal Development lessons. In Year 10 students study a unit of work concerning relationships as part of their Personal Development/RS courses. Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from these lessons and if they so wish they should notify the Headteacher in writing.

School Uniform

Every student is expected to wear school uniform. We believe that uniform and appearance are important to help create an ethos of high achievement and to encourage students to develop a sense of identity with the school.

Our uniform for boys is: Plain black blazer and badge with the house colour; plain black formal trousers; plain white shirt with top button done up; school tie worn correctly, plain black formal shoes. A black V-necked jumper with school badge is optional.

Our uniform for girls is: Plain black blazer and badge with the house colour; plain black tailored trousers or plain black knee length tailored skirt; plain white shirt with top button done up; school tie worn correctly, plain black shoes. A black V-necked jumper with school badge is optional.

Please note that school shoes should be leather/leather type **formal** shoes. Any trainer brand, such as Vans or Converse are not allowed, even if made from leather.

We recommend that uniform items are brought from Prestige Workwear as they stock items that are compliant with our policy. Not all retailers' 'school wear' is compliant.

Hair should be of a natural colour and worn in a style which is inoffensive and suitable for a professional establishment. Extremely short hair, shaved heads or very obvious highlights are not acceptable. Students are permitted to wear the following jewellery only: one plain ring, a watch, one pair of earrings of the stud variety in their ear-lobes, (no other visible piercing is allowed).

Working with Parents

We always aim to make parents and carers feel welcome. We encourage an active partnership with parents to support the progress and development of their children. There are regular consultation evenings organised to fit the important stages of each student's Upper School career. Progress is monitored by a series of termly Progress Checks which assess students' effort, conduct and attainment. These are reinforced by a detailed Progress Check once a year. The Progress Checks complement and support the information from consultation evenings.

We have a well-established Parents' Forum, an informal group, created to improve communication, consultation and feedback. The forum meets at least once each term and all parents are invited to attend.



Admission Arrangements and Policy

Harlington is a Local Authority maintained Foundation School and provides education for pupils of both sexes and of all abilities, aged 13-18. The number of pupils registered at the school in September 2016 was:

Age Group	Year	No. of Students
13+	9	306
14+	10	301
15+	11	324
16+ (Sixth Form 1 st Year)	12	159
17+ (Sixth Form 2 nd Year)	13	166

The Admission Number for September 2017 is 300.

Children who have reached the age of thirteen by 31st August normally transfer from a Middle School at the beginning of the school year in September.

During the year before transfer:

- at the beginning of October parents will be invited to an “Open Evening” at Harlington to meet the Headteacher, staff and students;
- parents will be invited to apply, by 31 October, for a place at an upper school;
- in March school places are offered by the local authority;
- in April parents and students are invited to an Information Evening
- in May Harlington staff will visit Year 8 children in school and talk to their current teachers;
- in July parents and students who are transferring to Harlington will be invited to a Transition Evening;
- in July pupils who are transferring to Harlington will be invited to spend two days at the school working with their new teachers and becoming familiar with the school.

The Local Authority will apply the following criteria (in the rank order shown) to decide the order in which places will be allocated when there are more requests from parents than the number of places available:

1. All 'looked after' children or children who were previously 'looked after' (see definitions in the Admissions Criteria document on our website: <http://www.harlington.org/admissions>)
2. Students living in the catchment area with siblings at the school (see definition of sibling).
3. Other students living in the catchment area.
4. 'Very exceptional' medical grounds (see definition).
5. Other siblings (see definition).
6. Students attending middle schools (Arnold, Parkfields, Robert Bloomfield).
7. Any other children.

Details of the school's admission policy are available on our website www.harlington.org

- Home
- About
- Admissions
- Admissions Criteria for September 2017 can be found at:
<http://www.harlington.org/admissions>

➤ **Attendance 2015 - 2016**

Group	% Attendance
Year 09	95.5
Year 10	94.0
Year 11	94.3
Total	94.6

As part of our commitment to improving the attainment of our students we monitor attendance on a regular basis and identify any student whose attendance causes concern.

We want every student at Harlington to achieve their potential and have the best possible start in life.

Tutors, House Leaders and our Attendance Officer continue to monitor attendance very carefully on a regular basis. They work in close partnership with parents/carers and the education welfare service. Fixed penalty warnings and notices will be issued when attendance falls below an acceptable level without extreme medical reasons. Any student whose attendance falls below 90% will be classed as a persistent absentee.

Summary Examination Results Summer 2016

Students achieve highly at Harlington. We have an enviable record of sustained high performance. Outcomes for students of all abilities are outstanding. Some key indicators are shown in this prospectus and more detailed subject level information can be found on our website: www.harlington.org

GCSE

	2014	2015	2016
Percentage of students gaining 5+ A* - C	76	74	74
Percentage of students gaining 5+ A* - C including English and Maths results	64	64	64

Percentage of Students gaining A*-C in English and Mathematics	65%
Average Attainment 8	50.73
Percentage of Students Entered for Ebacc	34.5%
Percentage of Students Achieving Ebacc	27%
Percentage of Students Continuing in Education/apprenticeships 2015	98%

These figures are based on new measures

A Level

	2014	2015	2016
Average A Level points score (per entry)	214	210	207
Average A Level total points score	785	732	741

We are proud of our track record and wish to draw your attention to the School Performance tables published by the Department for Education. Please use the following link:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/cgi-bin/schools/performance/school.pl?urn=137941>

This sets out our exam success in full and is offered to allow all prospective parents to make an informed comparison between Harlington and other schools.

Destinations

YEAR 11	Numbers
Harlington Sixth Form	149
Further Education	113
Employment / Training/Apprenticeships	14
Other	39

There were 315 students in Year 11

YEAR 13	Numbers
Higher Education	118
Employment / Training	43
Other	3

There were 164 students in Year 13

At Harlington a key priority is to ensure progression to the best universities, employment or training.



www.harlington.org

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