



Welcome from the Executive Principal

Our aim is simple: to enable all our students to realise their potential.

2020 marked the start of a new and exciting chapter in the history of Witchford Village College as we became part of The Learning Alliance, a new trust formed through the merger of two of Cambridgeshire's most successful academy trusts – Morris Education Trust and Cambridge Education Trust. For Witchford Village College, being part of The Learning Alliance will connect us with a strong coalition of schools in the local community, opening up a great resource and enabling our College to thrive through improvements and future successes.

I join Witchford Village College having spent most of my teaching career first at Chesterton Community College, originally part of Cambridge Education Trust and now a leading school in the country, and then at Downham Market Academy, having joined as headteacher when the school became part of Cambridge Education Trust.

During my time at Downham Market Academy, the Trust invested significant time in supporting staff and students, resulting in substantial improvements across all areas of the school. Last year, students at Downham Market Academy achieved grades in line with the national average and student numbers are increasing rapidly. This is a success story which we plan to replicate at Witchford Village College.

We have a network of teachers and staff across the Trust who we will collaborate with and learn from about best practice, schemes of learning and more – the old adage 'two heads are better than one' could not ring truer here. By improving teaching and learning standards throughout the College we will enthuse students, engage them in their learning and encourage intellectual challenge.

Importantly, we are committed to ensuring that each student is known, recognised and supported as an individual throughout the school, in both their academic and pastoral requirements. We cater

for individual needs at Witchford Village College – whether it is a specific academic interest, a passion for a musical instrument or sport, special educational needs or positive progress for our pupil premium students.

We have an uncompromised ambition for high standards of teaching with a clear career strategy laid out for our staff. By exposing our students to great role models in our teachers, we will build their confidence in their own abilities and knowledge, propelling them to a future that they deserve. We want students to be intellectually curious and demonstrate a thirst for knowledge.

Having an arts background, I know how important it is to have a well-rounded education and it is for this reason that we have increased Key Stage 3 to three years allowing more variety of subjects, including plans to introduce Latin and Ancient History in the future. Extra-curricular provision is also a key focus at Witchford Village College in our mission to develop

students with a love for learning and life. We are pleased to have introduced rowing to interested students through the local rowing club, and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has been re-launched at the College, offering students the opportunity to develop essential skills for life and work.

I would welcome the opportunity to show you around our College and to discuss your child's options further. Please get in touch.

Rolf Purvis
Executive Headteacher

Our vision

**“We are passionate, we trust and treat others with honesty and respect.
We work hard, striving for the very best.
We stand for creativity and innovation, debate and discussion.
We believe in community; we are dedicated and love what we do.
We are inspired by each other.
We are not afraid to be great.”**

The Learning Alliance

The Learning Alliance is a purposeful family of schools, each with its own distinct identity.

Each school within the Trust offers academic rigour, excellent extra-curricular opportunities and values the arts and performing arts.

The Learning Alliance and its schools are proudly international and internationally minded, serving a diverse community with a broad, specialist and inclusive provision.

Our curriculum

Our learning approach offers a personal, quality first, broad and challenging curriculum where students realise their potential in outcomes of outstanding quality and quantity. But the curriculum is much more than the courses offered and, coupled with a strong pastoral and extra-curricular programme, it supports students in being versed in British Values, ready for their next stage of education, employment or training; ready for life in the modern world.

Our aim is simple; to enable all our students to realise their potential.

We believe that a well-rounded education is crucial for young people. Driven by our ethos and values, our curriculum enables students to study the subjects important to them, develop the skills they will need, and shapes them as citizens ready for a fulfilling future. In support of this ethos, we have increased our Key Stage 3 offering to three years, allowing more variety of subjects. In Key Stage 4, students can

diversify their studies with a range of academic and vocational options.

We are an inclusive school and our approach to learning means recognising that all students come with different starting points and needs. Students study the same broad range of subjects through lessons and structures tailored to their needs, which encourage learners to help shape their own learning at every point.

Some students will arrive at Witchford Village College having made outstanding progress at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2; some may have made average progress; some may not have made as much progress as they hoped. Our approach is designed so that each student has access to a broad curriculum which will enable them to make the most possible progress during their time with us.

Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)

Our Key Stage 3 offering provides learners with a rich curriculum experience, knowing that it may be the last time some students study these subjects.

Key Stage 3 is designed to enable every student to arrive at Key Stage 4 having had the breadth and quality of curriculum to enable them to be Key Stage 4 ready, and have access to the greatest choice of courses available. All students develop a range of skills from the linguistic and mathematical to social and artistic.

The curriculum differs from student to student and is designed in collaboration with each individual and their parents. There is also, always, opportunity for refinement and no student is ever stuck in their curriculum choices.

In Key Stage 3, most students follow a curriculum of:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Computer Science
- Geography
- History

- Religious Education
- Art
- Drama
- French or Spanish
- Physical Education
- Design Technology

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

In Key Stage 4 students study a core curriculum, but also have the opportunity to study a range of additional subjects at different levels.

At Witchford Village College, Key Stage 4 offers a range of subjects with study time designed to maximise student opportunities - students can choose from GCSEs, BTECs, WJEC Vocational and Cambridge Nationals.

Within the core Key Stage 4 curriculum, students will study:

- English Language and Literature
- Maths
- Physical Education
- Religious Education: Ethics
- Science – either as separate Biology, Physics or Chemistry courses; or a combined Trilogy Double Award Science

“Our growing performing arts department is united in our mission to collaborate across our core disciplines of dance, drama and music to develop inter-connected skills in our students, which also transcend into other subject areas. We focus on the four Cs in all that we do: building confidence, nurturing a culture of being included, challenging students to move forward and celebrating success.”

Naomi D’Cunha
Lead Teacher Performing Arts

Results and destinations

We're extremely proud of the GCSE results achieved by students graduating from Witchford Village College in 2020. Here are just a few of them:

Ben S. achieved an outstanding ten Level 9 GCSE grades and will be moving on to Hills Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge to study History, Classical Civilisation and Biology. He hopes to study archaeology or anthropology at university and is considering a future career in journalism. Ben said: **“During my time at WVC I enjoyed visiting other countries: Switzerland with the science department and Germany with the history department. It was great to have these experiences. I am also grateful to the teachers for all the extra time they gave to help me get the best GCSE results I could.”**

Millie S. plans to combine her love of performance with helping people in her future career. She will be moving on to Hills Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge to study

Maths, Music and Drama at A Level. Millie said: **“WVC has given me lots of different opportunities and experiences that I will never forget; I have made the most amazing friends. I had some incredible teachers who genuinely really cared about every aspect, wanting the best for me and helped me to achieve it. Even when times were tough there was always someone to talk to and who would help me get back on my feet and make the impossible happen.”**

Will H. hopes to study History at university before moving on to a career as a historical researcher. Will also plans to spend a year in a French speaking country, maybe volunteering or helping out in the community. He will be studying History, Philosophy and French A Levels at Hills Road Sixth Form College and said: **“My time and experiences at Witchford has definitely equipped me with the skills I need for life. I've met so many great and inspiring people, students and teachers alike, and left having had a satisfying education.”**

Oscar S. and will be joining Hills Road Sixth Form college to study Biology, Chemistry and Psychology A Levels. Oscar hopes to study medicine at university.

Rosie M-Y. is moving on to Hills Road Sixth Form College to study Psychology, English and Media Studies at A Level. She hopes to study Psychology at university and progress to a career in the NHS.

Libby B. is moving to The Oakes to study Law, Psychology, Geography and Core Maths and plans to take a law degree and eventually join the Mounted Police Force in London. Libby said: **“Self-confidence is a super power. Once you start to believe in yourself, magic starts happening.”**

Megan H. will be studying Biology, Chemistry and Maths at Hills Road Sixth Form College and hopes to go on to do a PhD and become a research scientist. She said: **“Comparison is the thief of virtue, be yourself.”**

Matthew L. will be studying Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry and Computer Science at Hills Road Sixth Form College and hopes to go on to take a STEM related degree. He said: **“I loved taking part in the wide variety of extra-curricular activities and trips that were available.”**

Jessica L. will be studying English Literature, History and Government and Politics at Hills Road Sixth Form College and hopes to go on to become a human rights lawyer.

Alex L. will be taking English Language and Literature combined, History and Politics A Levels at Hills Road Sixth Form College and hopes to pursue a career as a writer and comedian. Alex said: **“My time at WVC, it's been brilliant. The school has changed over the years but it's always been a really fun ride and one I'll definitely remember for the rest of my life.”**

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

Our comprehensive and progressive Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programme aims to raise student aspirations and widen their perspectives on the world of work, enabling them to make informed, realistic decisions at key transition points throughout their lives.

We are proud to be seeking accreditation in “Quality in Careers Standard”, the nationally recognised award for CEIAG in schools.

What we offer

Effective careers education and guidance has the capacity to make a positive contribution to the wellbeing of individuals, their families and their communities; aiding social and economic growth. By engaging students, teachers, parents and the local community we aim to enable our students to fulfil their potential and to achieve a successful future.

As part of our CEIAG programme we offer a range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for our students, including:

Year 7

- Careers education units in PSHE
- Attendance at The Big Bang STEM event at University of Hertfordshire

Year 8

- Guided Pathways Day
- Challenge Day with the Engineering Development Trust

Year 9

- PSHE sessions delivered by Future First
- Eyes on the Prize event at Anglia Ruskin University

Year 10

- Mock interview skills day

- University visits and taster days at Further Education colleges
- Five-day work experience placement

Year 11

- 121 guidance meetings
- Attendance at East Cambridgeshire Careers Fair
- KS4 pathways and progress evening
- Pre-apprenticeship workshops

We also endeavour to ensure that all students have at least one meaningful encounter with an employer per year; historically, this has always been exceeded. In addition, we have the expertise of an Enterprise Advisor who is a business volunteer and able to engage with the business community to align experiences offered by employers to our needs at Witchford Village College.

We have a thriving alumni network which gives us access to role models from a wide range of backgrounds, careers and experiences. Our alumni have engaged students in workshops such as The World of Work during PSHE lessons.

Enrichment opportunities

Witchford Village College offers everyone a fulfilling and well-rounded experience so that each student can imagine, believe and achieve.

Our wide and varied extra-curricular clubs programme ensures that there is something for everyone from different sports, to music and drama clubs, science, design and mathematics. To guarantee that no one misses out, we run a free after-school bus service on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Clubs on offer at Witchford Village College include (but are not limited to):

- Archery
- Equestrian
- Gymnastics
- Pitch Perfect
- Robot Club
- School Newspaper
- Board Games
- Film
- Dance

- Orchestra
- Animé
- The Female Lead

In addition to our extra-curricular programme, each year our performing arts department and students put on one major production. Past productions have included Bugsy Malone, Oliver and School of Rock, as well as concerts throughout the year. There are also opportunities for students to further their passions and skills in dance, music and drama by engaging with the local community – for example, with The Junction in Cambridge or joint drama projects with Ely College.

Year 7 students have the opportunity to take part in the Arts Award Silver, which they start in Year 6 at their primary school and complete when they join Witchford Village College. The Arts Award inspires young people to grow their arts and leadership talents by building and sharing skills and collecting evidence in an individual arts portfolio.

Trips and visits

By providing students with the opportunity to participate in trips and visits, we not only reinforce work within the curriculum, but also encourage students to take a wider view of the world, often challenging them by placing them into unfamiliar environments and situations.

The list of day visits and trips is extensive, and is offered in all areas of study. We aim to provide at least one significant residential trip opportunity in every year group. Previous residential trips have included:

- **Year 7** - Bushcraft residential
- **Year 8** - Languages residential in France or Spain
- **Year 9** - PGL, France
- **Year 10** - Geography field skills residential
- **Years 10 and 11** - Science residential - Cern, Switzerland
- **Year 11** - Outlook expedition, Greece

Leadership opportunities

Our Student Council, which has representatives elected via the student body, is an active and well-

received opportunity that is open to students from Years 7 to 10. Regular meetings with the Assistant Principal responsible for Student Experience and Curriculum, ensure that the opinions of our young people are heard.

The PE department offers an excellent Sports Leaders pathway to give every student the opportunity to develop into confident and enthusiastic sports leaders. This programme is run through Sports Leaders UK.

- All year 7 students undertake a Young Sports Leaders Award in their core PE lessons
- Year 8 and 9 students have the opportunity to complete the Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award
- Year 10 and 11 students have the opportunity to complete the Sports Leaders UK Level 2 Award

Our Sports Leaders help run primary school festivals, extra-curricular clubs and PE lessons, whilst forming part of the Sports Committee that helps to improve PE and sport within the College.

“ We want to ensure that our extra-curricular programme not only offers practical or physical clubs but caters for those who enjoy mental stimulation too. In order to do this, we asked our students directly what clubs they wanted – we value their input and as a result we have a thriving programme of well-attended clubs and activities.

Our aim is for every student to attend a least one club – whether it's to learn a new skill, develop a passion or socialise with others – attending clubs adds another string to their bow. ”

Courtney Pettifor
Lead Teacher of Physical Education
and Extra-Curricular Co-ordinator

“ The Female Lead is an educational charity dedicated to making women's stories more visible and offering alternative role models to those ever-present in popular culture. I started The Female Lead after-school club at Witchford Village College to break down gender expectations and perceptions of women. It has been a real asset to the College with over 30 girls attending the sessions, engaging in the conversation, challenging apathy and discovering the interconnectivity of many aspects of life and career. ”

Charlotte Doswell
Teach First English Teacher

Student wellbeing

Our students, their experience, their wellbeing and their needs are at the centre of everything we do at Witchford Village College. The attention we give to ensuring our students are safe and well cared for is a key priority for the College.

Our experienced and dedicated team supports and encourages all of our students. No matter what the background or needs are of our students, we will ensure that they all have the opportunity to achieve and succeed both academically and personally. We monitor and support student wellbeing and progress within the house system and do our utmost to enable our students to reach their potential.

Special education needs and disability

Students with special educational needs and disability (SEND) are supported by our highly experienced, specialist team of professionals, who offer support, both within and outside of lessons. Students can

access our SEND department, commonly referred to as 'The Zone', before, during and after the school day, making use of the excellent range of facilities it has to offer.

SHARP System

We take the safeguarding and inclusion of our students very seriously and have adopted the SHARP (Student Help Advice Reporting Page) System. This system allows our students to report any incidents which occur within the College and local community, anonymously and without fear. This is to raise awareness about a wide range of subjects including bullying, health and community issues.

The house system

Witchford Village College is divided into four houses - Lancaster, Meteor, Stirling, Wellington - led by a Head of House who provides guidance, support and challenge to the students under their care, right from day one. Through detailed monitoring in conjunction

with subject teachers, they liaise closely with parents and outside agencies to ensure that any barriers, or potential barriers, to learning and progress are addressed. Therefore, every student has the opportunity to succeed beyond their potential.

We aim to respond quickly and sensitively to any students in difficulty, accessing the need for help and guidance from a range of sources both internal and external.

The house system is designed to fully support our students on their learning journey and enable them to realise their potential.



Get in touch

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Tours of the school are encouraged;
please get in touch to arrange your visit.

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