Welcome

Our Principal, Jacqueline Hughes-Williams, her Leadership Team and the Governing Body are passionate about leading Heart of England School. The bedrock of our shared vision is ‘Creating Futures’ for each and every one of our students.

To make this vision a reality, students, parents, teachers and governors, need to work together in partnership sharing the same values. Our school values are:

- **Honesty**: trust is about being candid with one another; relationships work best in this climate
- **Determination**: success is built on hard work; facing challenges and conquering them, creating opportunities to achieve more than we thought we could
- **Courage**: taking risks, aspiring to be adventurous; being brave enough to try new things without fear of making mistakes en route to excellence
- **Humour**: an essential ingredient; discovering the joy of learning to move forward through collaboration, listening and laughter
- **Kindness**: to experience the generosity of others; understanding that we are all part of the learning community, striving towards being our best

Putting these values at the heart of everything we do makes our school a great place to learn and for students to thrive.

By choosing Heart of England School you are entrusting your child’s future to us. You have our absolute commitment to do everything we can to successfully deliver on that investment.
Creating Futures

Your child’s future and happiness are central to our vision. Our school has a clear sense of educational direction and believes everyone has the potential to excel. We strive for one standard – the best imaginable.

The educational landscape is ever shifting. We hold true to the educational principle of a broad and balanced curriculum. We believe in informed academic choice and are well equipped to respond honestly to change whilst maintaining a sharp awareness of educational tradition and practice informed by research. Our Key Stage 3 program of study is rigorous and lays deeper foundations upon which to build success at GCSE, post sixteen and beyond. Our pastoral support system ensures that our children are in the best possible frame of mind for learning and reflects our deep commitment to ensure that no child is invisible at Heart of England.

We offer a rich range of extra-curricular experiences. Our excellent sports, art, drama, music, dance, library and media facilities add depth and diversity to our curriculum and community, helping to enrich our students’ cultural knowledge. Our goal is to enhance their capacity to contribute and participate broadly in the workplace and society long after they have left our school.

Our mission is to educate with intent in an authentic values driven culture. Our staff are dedicated and share the belief that education should be sustainably exceptional every day.

Welcome to Heart of England – the design room of futures.

Jacqueline Hughes-Williams
Principal
Learning by Design

Our philosophy of Learning by Design is quite simple: we educate with purpose. Design is synonymous with creativity of thought and the courage to forge success out of facing challenges without fear of failure. Our design is to equip students with the skills and attributes that will help secure good lives.

We value determination and aim to inspire by igniting passionate curiosity and creativity. Self-motivation and drive are qualities prized by employers, as are skills such as: excellent communication, numeracy, planning and organising, problem solving, decision making and the ability to be both analytical and evaluative. We encourage our students to stick at what is difficult rather than settling for what is easy. By focusing upon personal accountability and individual choice the future is not just a place we all get to go, it is a place we can create together.

“With many friendly teachers who were genuinely happy to go the extra mile for their students, Heart of England was a fantastic place to grow up in, and it set me up incredibly well for the academic and social challenges faced at university.”

Jacob Pratt
First in Chemistry, St Catherine’s College, Oxford
Curriculum

Many schools talk about having a ‘broad and balanced curriculum’ but what does that mean at Heart of England?

For us it means that students should have every opportunity to build on their learning from primary school and develop further knowledge and understanding of core subjects. It is also a time to discover new interests, skills and talents which they have time to develop and refine. As such we want our curriculum offer to be a greenhouse rather than a hot-house so that our students can flourish, feel successful and achieve highly.

In the wake of the removal of levels we made the most of our academy freedoms and completely re-designed our Key Stage 3 curriculum. Starting from Year 7 we have a programme of study that is designed to furnish our students with the knowledge and skills they will need to have mastered by the end of Year 9 in order to be successful in their GCSE studies.

We are fully committed to a three year Key Stage 3 that aims to develop skilful learners who are ready to take on the challenge of a new era of GCSEs and paves the way for success at GCSE rather than covering repetitive content.

When it comes to GCSE our students have a balance of compulsory study and choice. Students do not follow pathways but are free to choose within the parameters of the timetable and Department for Education expectations those subjects which best suit their aspirations and their areas of skill.

Similarly at Sixth Form students have a wide choice of A Level subjects and are encouraged to research which options will best enable them to fulfil their ambitions and to keep doors open to their futures.

“I am again blessed and feeling very humble... Heart of England never fails our child or us as parents.”

Mrs Bridgeman
Year 8 Parent
Curriculum

Key Stage 3

Students study the following subjects:

- English*
- Mathematics*
- Science**
- Art
- Drama
- Music
- Physical Education*
- Geography
- History
- Religious Studies
- Computer Science
- French, German or Spanish* (some students may study two of these in Year 9)
- Technology: Product Design and Food

* these subjects are usually taught in sets from Year 7
** taught in sets from Year 8

Key Stage 4

In Year 10 and 11 students all study the core subjects below:

- English Language & English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Religious Studies
- Core Physical Education

Students can then choose further courses of study from the following selection:

- Art/Art Photography
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Economics
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- French, German, Spanish
- Geography
- Health & Social Care
- History
- Media Studies
- Music
- Physical Education
- Product Design
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
Progress is at the very heart of our school and our commitment to create futures. Assessment of student progress happens regularly, through both formal and informal assessments. Our commitment is to use the work your child produces to celebrate their success whilst also identifying any gaps and addressing these through responsive teaching.

You will receive regular updates on your child’s progress and achievement in all of their subjects as well as annual Parents’ Evenings. All parents have access to INSIGHT, our online system that enables you to see your child’s timetable, progress reviews and any homework that has been set as well as the facility to contact subject teachers directly.

Your child will have their own House Tutor who they will see each morning for registration. The House Tutor is your first point of contact for any questions or queries you or your child might have and they, along with the Pastoral Manager, will help to track and monitor your child’s progress in school.

For those students who may require additional help at school, our Inclusion Department can help support students in and out of the classroom. We also offer Study Support on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, supervised by staff.

“At Heart of England, we express our five core values in our everyday school life. Our relationships are built on the strong foundations of truth, trust and respect. We are determined to do ourselves and our teachers proud through hard work. We have the courage to give it our all, knowing that we learn as much from the mistakes we make as from our successes.”

Joe O’Farrell
Head Boy
Our aim is to ensure that every child feels valued, recognised and supported.

Every student is part of one of our four Houses, each with a dedicated Pastoral Manager who ensures effective care, guidance and support is afforded to all. As non-teaching members of staff, our Pastoral Managers are able to respond to needs as they arise. Your child’s Pastoral Manager will work closely alongside class teachers and you to help ensure that your child achieves their best.

Our Pastoral Managers will build a strong relationship with both you and your child during their time with us. Their experience in working with young people can be invaluable in supporting students in some of life’s challenges:

- Friendship Issues
- Stress/Anxiety
- Bullying
- Social Media
- Divorce/Separation
- Bereavement

“I love this school for a number of reasons. One of those reasons has to be that it places teaching and learning at the centre of what it does and promotes this in a bias-free, research-rich culture which aims to give the students the very best possible education. Another of those reasons is its support and care for staff and students alike.”

Jake Hunton
Staff Member
ENRICHMENT

We recognise that challenging our students academically is only one part of our role. As such, we aim to offer a variety of opportunities to broaden our students' range across the key stages.

Heart of England has a proud and successful sporting heritage with plenty of teams for students to join. We offer sports such as football, cricket, hockey, netball, basketball, athletics, rugby and tennis.

Debate is central to development and our debating clubs have secured much success at competition level. Students with an interest in the Performing Arts are well catered for, with opportunities to join or start their own band, learn an instrument through County Music Services or taking an active part (performing or otherwise) in the annual school production. Music is flourishing at our school and our bands, choirs, chamber orchestra and school orchestra provide brilliant opportunities for participation. The Sixth Form also have their own Greenpower race car team called ‘Pit Lizards’. Well established foreign exchanges also provide invaluable opportunities to experience other cultures through the lens of language.

Our school librarian also runs book clubs for different key stages, as well as arranging for diverse authors such as Patrick Ness, Joe Craig, Marcus Sedgwick, Holly Smale, Ros Barber and Helen Hiorns (a former student) to come in and work with students. Our DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) strategy encourages our students to sample a broader range of texts and participate in groups that shadow key literary awards.
We demand the highest possible standards of behaviour from our students to ensure that teaching and learning produces the best possible progress and achievement. Our school environment, be this the social environment or the classroom, is purposeful and calm; with these principles in mind we have developed our CALM policy.

Our CALM approach underpins our drive to ensure exceptional futures for all our students, encouraging students to make the correct choice; first time every time.

Students are rewarded and recognised in a variety of different ways. *House Points* are awarded to students for achievements such as their academic efforts, embodiment of the school’s core values or school representation. Achievement is also recognised by letters, certificates, phone calls home, House assemblies and a range of awards ceremonies and meetings.

“*Heart of England has provided me with the academic support I’ve needed over the years. The teachers are always prepared to go above and beyond, especially during examinations. There are so many academic and enrichment opportunities to take on within the school making Heart of England an inspiring place to learn.*”

Annabel Rowley
*Head Girl*
House Identity

Our House system inspires a sense of community, belonging, competition and pride within the school. Comprising of students across Years 7-11, students have the opportunity to socialise and learn from one another as they create their future.

Each House, whilst embodying the school’s core values has its own distinct character, shaped by the staff and students in it. House Captains and Prefects lead assemblies, orchestrate fundraising activities and organise events for their House.

Our four Houses are:
- Apollo
- Phoenix
- Pioneer
- Voyager

These names, associated as they are with space, embody our focus on exploration, imagination and discovery.

“The school has a house system which actively encourages cohesion, competition and involvement in making the school a better place for all. From the House Music event to the exciting fundraising days, the message is clear: this school is about working hard, being part of a team and enjoying the opportunities on offer.”

Anna Rush
Parent
INVITATION TO VISIT

We warmly welcome all prospective students and parents to visit our school and see us in action. We would be delighted to meet you and talk to you about any questions you may have and to tour our school during lesson time to see if the vision and the ethos we have presented to you here matches with the everyday reality of our school experience.

You can visit our website for further information about all aspects of Heart of England School.

Contact us directly by phone or email:

- Telephone: 01676 535222
- Email: office@heart-england.co.uk
- Twitter: @HoE_School

“As I have been a pupil, parent of two students and employee for the last 21 years I have been in a privileged position to see the school grow to the inspiring place I now work in.

The dedication of the staff allowed both my children to reach beyond their expectations and I see on a daily basis the hard work of all staff who encourage the students to reach for their future goals.

It is an absolute joy to be part of this education family.”

Shirley Davis
Staff Member and Parent
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