



Part of



High Expectation. High Achievement.

School prospectus 2023-2024

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/ Welcome

Welcome to Cheslyn Hay, an excellent school striving for all of our community to unlock their academic and personal potential. We pride ourselves in being one of the very best schools in our area whilst remaining very much at the heart of our community.

An exceptional place for young people to learn, grow and develop

Since joining [Windsor Academy Trust](#) in 2019, our school has gone from strength to strength and received a 'Good' grading from Ofsted in October 2022. We have strong and improving results year on year, the range of extracurricular activities has grown significantly and our site and facilities are being revamped, developed and expanded.

We are rightly proud of the incredible work of our students, staff and whole community in making this a truly exceptional place for young people to learn, grow and develop.

At Cheslyn Hay, we believe that all students in our community deserve the very best start in life. Our excellent team of staff strive daily to make sure that they have the very best opportunity to do just that. For many years we have had a strong reputation for enabling the young people in our care to flourish, believing in unconditional positive regard and high expectations for all members of our school family. We care deeply about our students and ensure they can be happy and safe whilst achieving academic success.

A broad curriculum with outstanding extracurricular opportunities

Cheslyn Hay Academy offers an academically broad education supported by an incredibly rich extracurricular programme based around our student pledge. This pledge is a set of twelve challenging experiences for students to achieve and excel at before they leave school. This combination of focus on both academic and personal potential prepares our students for the next step in their education and on into their future careers.

Cheslyn Hay Academy is an 11 to 18 comprehensive school of approximately 1300 students, including 180 in the Sixth Form. Our large catchment area includes the villages of Cheslyn Hay, Essington and Featherstone and we have a long tradition of taking students from further afield.

Windsor Academy Trust is one of the country's most innovative and progressive trusts, deliberately putting teaching and student experience at the very centre of all of our development work.

The success of this approach is clear and ensures that we have the capacity to grow and improve long into the future. Our collaboration with the Trust makes us an employer of choice in the region and ensures we give our students the best experience possible.



Tom Macdonald
Headteacher

/ About our school

Cheslyn Hay is proud to be a member of Windsor Academy Trust (WAT), a family of primary and secondary schools that share a uniting philosophy.

Windsor Academy Trust was formed to improve the quality of education provision through the sharing of ideas and best practice amongst its schools. The Trust is clear that young people achieve their best in a climate of high expectations where teachers are motivated and empowered by a clear focus upon teaching and learning.

At WAT we combine, a shared experience of primary and secondary schools and promote student and staff collaboration across all our schools, in our search for excellence. This raises aspirations across a small family of schools united in their ethos and operation to achieve the very best for all our students. Teaching and learning is at the core of all our work and this is underpinned by an extensive programme of professional learning for our staff.

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‘WAT is committed to achieving the highest quality of learning experience for all of its students and to achieving the best possible outcomes for them’.



Our ethos

High expectation and high achievement rely upon a positive working environment based on respect.

At Cheslyn Hay we strive to ensure that every lesson counts, for every child, every day, both in and outside the classroom. Lessons are engaging so that students make good progress.

We expect students to meet the highest standards of behaviour, come ready each day to challenge themselves to be the best they can be. We believe in a strong moral purpose and ensuring that the whole child is developed so they can realise their aspirations and ambitions.

Our aims

- ✔ **Safe, happy and cared for** in a secure and supportive high school environment
- ✔ **Supported and challenged** to do their best through excellent teaching, a wide and varied curriculum and a wide variety of experiences
- ✔ **Recognised, celebrated and rewarded** for all their achievements so that they develop confidence and independence
- ✔ **Developed emotionally, intellectually and morally** so that they are able to be successful in the rapidly changing, multicultural society in which we live
- ✔ **Successful, whether through academic qualifications or a more vocational route**, so that they can move on to the next stage in their life



'Pupils enjoy coming to school. They attend well. Relationships between teachers and pupils are positive' - **Ofsted 2022**



/ ASPIRE

We want all of our students to aspire to achieve their personal and academic potential. Through the curriculum, we equip students with key learner skills which are at the heart of academic success.

Not only do we aspire for our students to have outstanding academic results, but we firmly believe in character development. We want our students to have a positive impact on their communities, and our character virtues underpin everything we do as a school.



A 'strong focus on academic and social development prepares pupils well for their next steps' - Ofsted 2022

/ Digital Learning - Providing free iPads to students



Our 1:1 digital learning approach provides students with their own iPad to use in school and at home.

Taking place across all schools in the Windsor Academy Trust family, The initiative is part of our shared commitment to unlocking academic and personal potential.

1:1 digital learning is fully embedded into our curriculum to provide inspiring learning experiences that maximise learning and progress in and outside the classroom.

1:1 digital learning plays a critical role in increasing engagement in learning and encouraging creativity, collaboration and critical thinking. This provides students with essential digital skills and maximises their achievement and future success.

/ What does Cheslyn Hay have to offer?

The curriculum

The school curriculum is designed to provide the students with a broad and balanced range of subjects whilst offering them increasing opportunity to specialise according to their personal strengths, interests and ambitions as they get older.

Key stage 3

In their first three years our students study art, computer science, design & technology, English, drama, geography, history, mathematics, music, modern foreign languages, physical education, religious education and science.

They also cover aspects of personal wellbeing, citizenship, economic wellbeing, social, moral, spiritual and cultural education and relationship and sex education during our alternative curriculum sessions throughout the academic year.



We believe that the learning environment is important to helping students to be successful.

Key stage 4

In Years 10 and 11 all students study a core curriculum including English language & English literature, mathematics, science and physical education. All students also continue to cover personal wellbeing, citizenship, RE and economic wellbeing during alternative curriculum sessions.

In addition to this core curriculum, students select a number of option subjects. Currently the range includes art & design, business studies, computer science, dance, construction, hospitality & catering, drama, French, geography, health and social care, history, information & communication technology, music, physical education, religious education and Spanish. We also run alternative vocational programmes, including work experience and college.



Teaching & Learning

At the heart of good teaching and learning is knowing the students as individuals and when they need support or to be challenged to push themselves further.

For some subjects the students are taught in sets appropriate to their ability whilst at other times the students have the opportunity to learn within mixed ability groups. The staff use a variety of teaching and learning strategies suited to the age, ability and preferred learning styles of the students.

Work undertaken outside school is essential to successful learning as it develops the independent study skills needed to be successful in the future and embeds the classroom learning.

All students are expected to complete homework in all their subjects on a regular basis. Remote Learning is set electronically on Google Classroom.



Homework



Facilities

At Cheslyn Hay we have excellent facilities including:

- / **A large site with playing fields, floodlit all-weather pitches and tennis courts**
- / **A refurbished library**
- / **Lecture Theatre**
- / **Purpose built Sixth Form Centre**
- / **On-site leisure centre with swimming pool, fitness suite, sports hall and multi-function room**
- / **An Independent Learning Centre (ILC)**
- / **An Achievement Centre**
- / **A refurbished Café and snack bar**



/ How will Cheslyn Hay support my child's development?



Special educational needs

We believe that all students are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum and should be involved in the full life of the school, including children who have special educational needs.

Our provision matches needs, takes account of the wishes and feelings of the individual student and is delivered in partnership with parents. Provision for the vast majority of students with special educational needs simply means ensuring staff know that a little extra attention may be necessary. A small number of students may need to be taught by specialist learning support staff in small withdrawal groups for some lessons or they may be helped in their normal lessons when a second member of staff is present.



'Pupils with SEND learn the same curriculum as their peers. Adults have high expectations for these pupils and care for them well.' - **Ofsted 2022**



Wellbeing & careers

We run alternative curriculum sessions which cover: personal wellbeing programme, economic wellbeing and citizenship.

These sessions cover the personal, social and health education of our young people such as sex and relationships education and drugs education. Economic wellbeing looks at enterprise, financial capability, work-related learning and the vital matter of careers education. Within citizenship a wide variety of topics are covered looking at politics, what it means to be British in a multicultural society as well as contributing to the social, moral, spiritual, cultural development of the student.

Our careers provision is founded on the broad principles of self-discovery, career exploration and career management. Independent Careers Advice and Guidance is available in the school.





Rewards

We believe that it is important that all children are recognised and celebrated for their successes whilst at our school.

We award Cheslyn Hay Incentive Points (CHIPs) to all areas of academic and personal development, including: academic progress, outstanding attendance and contribution to our school. Each half term all year groups and houses, including Sixth Form, have a rewards assembly where prizes and certificates are given out. In addition there are Celebration Evenings, held annually, to which parents are invited. Students will also be able to earn house points throughout the year by completing activities, entering competitions and representing their house to see who will be the eventual winner of our annual house cup.



Aspire Sixth Form

The majority of our Year 11 students join our Aspire Sixth Form. The many courses available either lead to university, a higher level apprenticeship or employment with training. As well as serving those students who have been at the school for a number of years, we also cater for young people who wish to transfer from other secondary schools at 16+.

Currently, there are over 180 students in our Aspire Sixth Form. We are able to offer an extensive range of advanced level academic and applied courses delivered by well qualified subject specialists across two sites. The present range of Level Three courses include: art & design, biology, business studies, chemistry, computer science, economics, engineering, English literature, geography, government and politics, graphics, health and social care, history, ICT, mathematics, media studies, music, philosophy and ethics, physics, psychology, sociology, sport and science.

/ What is a typical day like at Cheslyn Hay?

The school is open from 8.00am. Students can work in the Independent Learning Centre (ILC) or Library.

All students should be on the campus by 8.30am. Tutor period starts at 8.35am with registration and numerous tutor activities, with subject lessons commencing from 9.00am. Students have six, fifty minute lessons with a 20 minute break at 10.40am and lunch at 12.40pm until 1.20pm. School finishes at 3.00pm. There are numerous enrichment and progress sessions running most evenings until 4.15pm.

Cashless catering

The school is committed to promoting healthy eating habits. We have a cafe and snack bar that offers a breakfast service before school to all students and a range of hot and cold dishes at lunchtime. The school uses Parentpay for all catering purchases and no money is accepted at the canteen. Students are also allowed to bring in appropriate refreshments from home but energy drinks or nuts are not allowed in school.

- 1** Students are not allowed to leave the campus during break or lunchtime except under very strict conditions.
- 2** Students are only allowed to leave the school during the day when they have good reason and when they have the written permission from their parents.
- 3** Members of staff are on duty before and after school to supervise the arrival and departures of the students.
- 4** Many of our students travel some distance to us daily. When students travel to us in the morning we expect them to come straight onto the campus and stay until they leave at the end of the day.

What are the school's expectations?



Our uniform

We believe that a uniform not only helps to emphasise the individuality of the school but to prepare student for the world of work.

We also believe that it helps to reduce issues around designer clothing and it is cheaper and more convenient for parents. We ask that you support your child and the school in ensuring that your child has full uniform; does not have piercings other than a maximum of one in each ear; has hair colouring within the normal range of hair colour; and that hair is kept smart. Sports footwear or canvas pumps are not part of the school uniform.



Attendance

Attendance and punctuality are crucial to students being successful.

Our expectations are that students' attendance will be at least 96% and that parents will support the school by not arranging holidays, events or, where possible, appointments during school time. The school is unable to sanction any leave from school except in exceptional circumstances.



Code of conduct & prepared for excellence

The school has a very good reputation for behaviour but if students fail to follow the Code of Conduct there is a simple but effective sanction scheme including after-school detention and confiscation of certain items.

We take very seriously any example of discrimination, disruption to teaching and learning, bullying, violence, or damage to the school. Such behaviour is not tolerated and is dealt with swiftly. We look to the support of parents when such situations arise.

Prepared for Excellence, is our classroom behaviour policy which prevents lesson disruption to enable effective teaching and learning across the school and encourages all students to be caring, courteous and cooperative. This is a no tolerance approach to low level disruption with the use of our Refocus room for students who are stopping the learning of others.

/ How do we promote the welfare of students?

We are proud of our open and inclusive ethos as a school. Students have a tutor who will be the first point of contact for the student and the parent if there are any concerns. In addition, we have a team of mentors who are committed to tackling any barriers to learning that students may face and we have a successful tradition of work closely with outside agencies to support our students and their families.

We hope that the students and their parents will talk about any concerns they may have and that they come to see school as a safe place if there are any difficulties at home. Children's worries and fears will be taken seriously if they seek help from a member of staff. Parents will normally be consulted and their consent obtained before any referral is made to an agency outside the school under local 'child in need' procedures. However, staff cannot guarantee to consult parents first, or to keep a student's concerns confidential, if referral must be made to the appropriate agencies in order to safeguard the student's welfare.



What extra opportunities are there at Cheslyn Hay?



Arts

Opportunities to get involved in art, dance and drama activities feature regularly and individual music tuition is available for a range of instruments. Many students reach high grades in examinations and some play in various school and county orchestras and bands.

Annually, there are a number of evening performances, shows, exhibitions and concerts to which parents are invited.



Clubs

A number of other clubs run at various times during the year such as the ICT Club, the Reading Group, Film Club and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Clubs. As with all extra opportunities, these are advertised termly so that students know what is on offer.



Student leadership

We have introduced a School Senate which has representatives from all year groups. These students are selected by their peers after a rigorous application process. They make key decisions on behalf of the student body and run projects throughout the year.

We also have a huge range of other leadership opportunities for students to get involved in to develop their personal potential. These include enrichment leaders, eco leaders, lead learners and house leaders.



'There is an impressive range of opportunities for pupils to develop their interests and talents.' - **Ofsted 2022**





Sports

Our outstanding physical education and sport facilities include a five badminton court sports hall, a twenty five metre swimming pool, a health and fitness suite, a dance and aerobics studio, state of the art all-weather football and hockey pitches, tennis and netball courts.

We offer an extensive out of school hours learning programme and the school has a proud record of producing successful individuals and teams at district, county, regional and national standard. We are particularly pleased with our Sports Leadership Programmes. These include:

- / **Working as a performer or coach at a local sports club**
- / **Fulfilling the role of an official such as an umpire or referee**
- / **A volunteer or leader with community groups**



Trips

The school has an outstanding reputation for the number and variety of trips it runs each year. To support their studies, students are given the opportunity to take part in day visits to such places as art galleries, exhibitions, museums and theatres as well as other locations such as airports and factories.

Highlights include:

- / **Sports Tour**
- / **Ski Trip**
- / **Year 9 Venice Trip**
- / **Year 10 Battlefield Trip**

Other annual trips abroad include modern foreign languages visits to France and Spain.



/ How do we work with parents?

We value highly the very strong links that we enjoy with our parents. Good communication is central to this and regular contact is maintained through each student's Learning Journal. In addition parents receive:

- ✓ Social media updates including; Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
- ✓ Monthly, the nominations for student of the month
- ✓ Annually, parents receive a Parents' Handbook
- ✓ Termly Progress Checks
- ✓ Letters, texts and emails
- ✓ Weekly Parent Bulletin

Parents are also invited to:





- / **Curriculum Evenings**
- / **Open Evenings**
- / **School Events**
- / **Representation on the Local Advisory Board**
- / **Parent Engagement Evenings**
- / **PTFA**



Whilst parents are encouraged to arrange in advance appointments to see individual staff, we will do our best to see parents at short notice when the matter is urgent.



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