

Orley Farm School



Prospectus





Haec Cogitate
Think about these things



welcome to our school...



Welcome to our school



Orley Farm School inspires young people to achieve in every aspect of their educational experience. Our focus is on the individual and their passions and this is at the heart of all that we do.

Our pupils are encouraged to go beyond their academic successes to develop as whole people. We offer opportunities and experiences that liberate their creativity and talents, opening doors to future happiness and success, whilst developing deep and lasting friendships.

Orley Farm's broad and balanced academic curriculum as well as our range of cultural, aesthetic, intellectual and sporting activities outside the classroom ensure that bright fires are lit in every pupil that will burn for a lifetime. Most importantly, these enriching experiences are open to everyone and not just an elite few.



freedom

Prep School education, if it is to be truly effective, should encourage every young person to participate and ensure that, as the whole person develops, the efforts of each individual are recognised and celebrated. We are looking to lay deep foundations allowing our pupils to lead meaningful, happy and purposeful lives, well beyond their time with us!

We place the development of values at the heart of school life. Young people need the opportunity to experiment, embrace responsibility, lead, succeed and, because we learn more from adversity, venture beyond where they are comfortable.

LIFETIME OF LEARNING

The thinking skills at the heart of school life

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Curiosity | Initiative |
| Focus | Good judgement |
| Risk-taking | Empathy |
| Creativity | Resilience |
| Flexibility of mind | Ambition |

Pupils, teachers and parents all have roles to play in the Orley Farm community, and we encourage everyone to set their sights high.

Our aim is for each child to make an outstanding contribution in all aspects of their lives: in school, in the local community and in the wider world.

We will do everything we can to make that happen.

Tim Calvey, Headmaster.

Curiosity is the moment when being taught is not enough; you want and need to know beyond the here and now...

History, heritage & an eye on the future...

I do wonder what Mr Hastings, founder and first Headmaster would make of Orley Farm over 165 years on from its birth.

Two World Wars, boom years as well as bust, new found freedoms and the internet might well have changed the landscape, and as a school it has faced its fair share of challenge, but Orley Farm has exceptional DNA. It has grown from a boarding school of fourteen boys back in 1850 to a modern, forward looking coeducational day school of 500 pupils today.

So what of the next 165 years?

The world of tomorrow will hold a million more unknowns but resilience, risk-taking, empathy and curiosity are four of the ten Thinking Skills which we have identified that will define both the happiness and success of today's pupils. Mr Hastings might not know how to turn on an iPad but he would recognise a current Orleyan for their strong moral compass, their ability to always give of their best, their desire to connect with others and their ability to make the world a brighter and better place!

explore



Excellence in teaching & learning

Since 1850, academic excellence has been a cornerstone in the philosophy and outlook of our school, a vibrant strand that weaves its way through all that we are and all that we do.

Our outstanding Mathematics and Science facilities, housed in the recently refurbished Gardner Building, are second to none and in many lessons we are touching on GCSE work simply due to the appetite of our pupils!

Whilst most schools are closing their libraries, we decided to invest over a million pounds in doubling ours to create a haven in the busy and bustling day to take time out for selfish indulgence. I am delighted that pupils are making the very most of it, so much so that we are drawing up plans for a further extension as a love of reading is the bedrock of academic learning.

Humanities unlock the future through awareness, understanding and empathy with our past. In modern times it could be said that we are ignoring these subjects at our peril - Mr Trump would have done well to have paid more attention in Religious Studies, History and Geography lessons!

Good Judgement is the moment when you are able to draw upon your experiences, whether successful or not, to make the best decision at that time...



The East Wing is home to our Languages department, although currently, Years 6, 7 and 8 all spend time in France making their classroom a rather interactive and engaging one!

We teach Classics from Year 5 and even offer Greek helping to lay firm building blocks in language acquisition.

Flexibility of Mind is the moment when we take time to listen to others, reflect upon those thoughts and are confident enough to alter our own initial thoughts and are able to think outside the box...

Flexibility of mind

confident

Good judgement

Ambition is that moment when we strive to be the very best that we can be, achieving both personal and collective excellence...

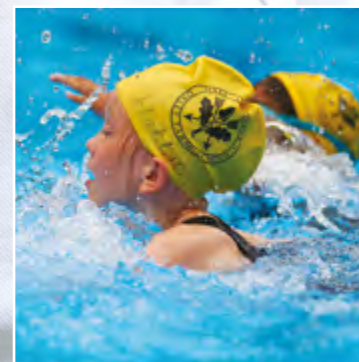
achieve

Sport is an essential part of every pupil's development as it enhances well-being helping strengthen essential team skills and provides opportunities for an active and healthy life. Our philosophy focuses on inclusion and mass participation, helping develop the whole person – whether in the pool, playing hockey or getting muddy in rugby, everyone finds their place in a team!

The creative subjects – Art, Drama, Design Technology and Music – are not an afterthought, but rather are integral parts of the school curriculum. We believe passionately in enabling and encouraging all of our pupils to express themselves creatively. This can take a huge variety of forms from stepping out onto the stage to capturing an emotion in a brushstroke,

singing in a choir to creating tomorrow's must have gadget.

Every pupil will have numerous opportunities to develop this essential aspect of their lives. Academic potential cannot be unlocked without this vital ingredient that forms just one of our ten inspiring 'Thinking Skills'.



Resilience is that moment when we go the extra mile, beyond expectation, seeking nothing but the personal knowledge that we couldn't have given more despite inevitable setbacks or challenges; it's about grit and determination...



care

Health, happiness & wellbeing

The world appears to be spinning ever faster as technology races ahead, unlocking exciting new doors every day. However, we are also addressing a dangerous trend which we have become aware of, regarding the possible effects of screen time combined with a range of other forces on mental health.



Through parent and pupil forums, we are developing an exciting community approach to these issues rather than

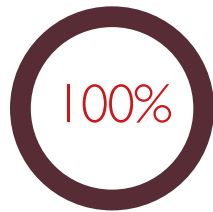
simply ignoring them in the vain hope that they will resolve themselves. Developing emotional intelligence, social skills and the whole person must have just as high a priority as developing the academic child if we are aiming to unlock and fulfil their true potential. Our outstanding pastoral focus ensures that pupils are constantly adding to their toolbox of life-skills allowing them a range of options and avenues when facing inevitable challenge.

I am very proud that here at Orley Farm School we focus on the whole person, placing genuine emphasis on developing the mind, body and spirit of everyone in our community. From the outset, pupils are encouraged to connect with staff not only in order to foster strong relationships on a mentoring level, but also to ensure that the net catches everyone when they have a challenging day.

Whilst we are a Christian school, we enjoy a wonderful breadth of faiths and at the core is a common message of love, respect and desire to understand and know more about everyone in our lives.

Empathy is that moment when we are truly able to put ourselves into the shoes of another person, sharing their success, their joy and even their sorrow...

Focus is that moment when we beat distractions and single-mindedly follow through with our goals and plans, focusing on the detail as well as the bigger picture...



In a recent questionnaire former parents stated that they were 100% happy that their child had moved on to the best future school for them.



Academic stretch, challenge and ambition

Well before the invention of Google Analytics, the educational world was obsessed with league tables, big data, target-setting and benchmarking. The world has become a little over-obsessed with this need to graph, chart and plot everything at the expense of making every hour in the classroom meaningful for everyone.

Our lessons aim to stretch and challenge pupils in a way that makes learning an empowering, inspiring and living experience that is accessible to all.

The academic performance of a child should not be defined or limited by statistical information because teaching is an art! Whilst many schools would describe teaching as a profession, we still believe and value the vocational aspect. Teachers have a passion and desire to see pupils growing into the confident young adult that they can be and therefore, we look well beyond short term gains.

We are proud that returning pupils invariably talk about their time here as being full of challenge and curiosity, questions not just answers and, above all, that love and desire to learn more. Our results speak for themselves as pupils exit to an extraordinary array of senior schools.

teaching is an art

Initiative is that moment when we take the lead, listening to and trusting our instincts rather than simply following the crowd...

Creativity is that moment when you see a hippo in a cloud, a face in a scribble or hear a tune in the wind and these moments inspire you...

gaining an
edge

Developing talent

We are very proud of a unique programme that Orley Farm teachers created and launched in 2014 simply entitled 'Edge'. It came out of a desire that every Orleyan should leave this school feeling significant and proud of themselves beyond their academic lives. Teachers run a five week programme on an area of life - from photography to gardening, personal finance to ironing, and pupils have opportunities to explore the broader curriculum learning life skills along the way.

This runs alongside Expeditions Week that sees five year groups leaving London, heading to destinations such as Southern France, the Lake District and Dorset to seek adventure and to challenge comfort zones – tales from these trips become the stuff of legend and I suspect represent the largest part of the fond memories that belong to a true 'childhood'. These are a handful of the million intangibles that mark Orleyans out from the crowd; they have an Edge in life...



At Orley, we make the world our classroom! Whether climbing mountains in Kenya and Tanzania or visiting the West End in London, there are powerful 'learning for life' moments that enrich our lives.



Community and a sense of place

In such a unique setting with 28 acres of woodland, meadow, sports pitches and state of the art facilities, we are truly blessed and fortunate to teach and learn with space to breathe and grow. However, this must never be taken for granted as independent schools can foster an arrogance that we will not tolerate because it does not fit into the values that we recognise.

Being an Orleyan means that we value what we have, we are thankful for this privilege and we endeavour to make a difference beyond our immediate community. We are currently developing a very exciting project with partner primary schools, the local church and wider community to sponsor and build facilities that will benefit more than just our pupils. This outlook brings our pupils into the real world where ultimately they will have to find their place. When you meet an Orleyan, you will recognise this trait as do the myriads of senior schools who enjoy taking our pupils. Once an Orleyan, always an Orleyan!



thankful

Mindfulness is that moment when we can hear a whisper in a busy and loud world...



Every year our pupils host tea for members of local churches at our Harvest Festival.



We sing songs, tell poems and share stories that can only be told face to face!

Risk taking is the moment when we have weighed up the risks, understood our fears and decided to believe in ourselves to attempt something new, regardless of the outcome...

meet the risk takers

Getting the best from each other...

If there is an age when girls and boys should be together to learn from one another, it is during these all-important foundation years. The workplace is rarely a single sex environment and therefore children must learn to work together with respect and empathy for each other, regardless of gender, faith, culture or background.

Never is this more obvious or apparent than in a Science lesson – boys tend fearlessly to charge into practical work in their desire to take risks and explore, whilst girls focus more on recording the results neatly! In a mixed environment girls are more likely to follow the risk-taking example of boys, who in turn can learn from girls the value of reflective and analytical skills. This is just one example of why girls and boys learn better together.



Getting the best out of ourselves

Our pupils are helped to set targets and goals whilst also being given the strategies to meet them. Self regulation is more challenging than ever in today's world and therefore our aim is to build confidence and self-reliance into our young learners.

Life beyond Orley Farm School

Over the past five years pupils leaving Orley Farm School have been awarded places at 57 of Britain's best senior schools. We believe in supporting parents to find the right next step where their son or daughter will continue to thrive.

Our 11+ and 13+ preparation is tailored to supporting them through this transition. Life will be full of change, reinvention and evolution, and the sooner that this generation can be comfortable with this, the more adept they will be going forwards. Former pupils often talk about how this early preparation helped them to plan and deal with GCSEs and A-Levels as they were comfortable with exams - and let's be honest - this generation will face assessments throughout their lives, so the sooner they embrace it the better!

A parting thought...



Orley Farm School lights fires in the imaginations of 500 sparky and inquisitive girls and boys aged 4 to 13. I am often asked why we don't go beyond 13 and the answer is simple: modern life is about evolution, the ability to change and adapt.

Children need to be allowed to reinvent themselves through growing and developing over their time with us. I understand the appeal of convenient education, dropping my son or daughter off at the age of 4 and picking them up at 18 has a certain appeal but the easy path is rarely the right one and besides, I believe in taking the path less trodden, as developing a sense of adventure unlocks all sorts of future opportunities.

Orley Farm is truly a unique school and I hope that through the pages of this prospectus, your curiosity will be piqued as you have a glimpse into the extraordinary learning opportunities that pupils, staff and parents are part of, minute by minute, day by day. However, to see and feel the 'Orley Farm Way', do come and visit.



Treat others as they would like to be treated

Do our best to be our best

Forgive

Share

Listen

Be honest with ourselves and others

Be kind and helpful

Our motto, Haec Cogitate, can be found in St. Paul's letter to the Philippians: "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things."

Philippians 4:8



Orley Farm School

South Hill Avenue, Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex, HA1 3NU
Tel: +44 (0)208 869 7600 | orleyfarm.harrow.sch.uk