



THE  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR  
SCHOOL







*“Courage and Courtesy”  
is evident in the excellent  
relationships between all  
students and with adults.’*

Ofsted





# A warm welcome

Welcome to the caring, supportive and challenging learning environment of The Knights Templar School. We hope the information in this prospectus will help you gain an insight into our School. However, no booklet is a substitute for a visit, so please do come and have a look for yourselves as well as visiting the school website.

As the Headteacher it is my goal to make sure that your son or daughter is fully prepared for the many challenges of the 21st Century. Central to achieving this is the school's motto 'Courage and Courtesy'. We recognise the importance of helping all our students develop the courage, confidence and communication skills they require to flourish and succeed, but also to promote traditional values of courtesy, respect and good discipline.

We pride ourselves on being an academic school which maintains high standards and expectations, within a broadly Christian ethos. Academic achievement, underpinned by the highest quality teaching, means we are consistently among the top 10 per cent of schools in the country, with OFSTED judging us to be 'a good school' and outstanding in the area of behaviour and safety. We do, however, see our role as more than simply academic educators. Learning is at the very heart of everything we do, so having the students focused and engaged in lessons means we can get the very best from them.

Our reputation for excellence is recognised at local, national and international levels, and our commitment extends to ensuring that all our students benefit from what the school has to offer. We believe students flourish if they lead rich and varied lives. We are immensely proud of our exciting and wide-ranging curricular and extra-curricular provision, and all students are encouraged to take full advantage of the opportunities available to them. Knights Templar is a place where young people are able to learn and enjoy school, developing their talents to the full.

It is vital that the school, students and parents work in partnership to achieve positive outcomes, so we encourage an open flow of communication between school and home. This will ensure that as parents you will feel in touch with your child's development and are able to play an active and supportive role in it. We firmly believe that taking time to build positive relationships is crucial and will mean that all students are given the care and support they need to enjoy school life.

The school is open to children of all abilities and our outstanding pastoral care provides every student with the nurturing, support and guidance they need. As an integral part of our community, we accommodate students from all backgrounds.

Being a central part of the community, we have exceptional links with all the primary schools both in Baldock and the surrounding villages. We are very proud of our excellent relationships with business and industry in Baldock. We believe this gives students a sense of cohesion within the town and enables them to actively participate in the local and wider community.

We are fully committed to preparing our young people to be thoughtful, capable, responsible citizens of the future. This is a great school, staffed with passionate, inspirational teachers, and is a special place for children to learn and grow. I'm sure you will sense the energy and enthusiasm when you visit us.

**Tim Litchfield**  
Headteacher









# Academic success

Knights Templar is a school with a strong academic focus. We are committed to providing an excellent education and we encourage and support our students to do the very best they can in all their studies. Students of all abilities are successful and achieve high standards here, in all aspects of their school life. Our students' GCSE results are consistently well above national averages and each year the majority of our students get 9 good GCSEs or better and many achieve at least 3 A\*/A grades. We are equally proud of the academic achievements of our Sixth Form students; every year many go on to study a wide range of degrees at the most prestigious universities in the country.

## Opportunities for all abilities

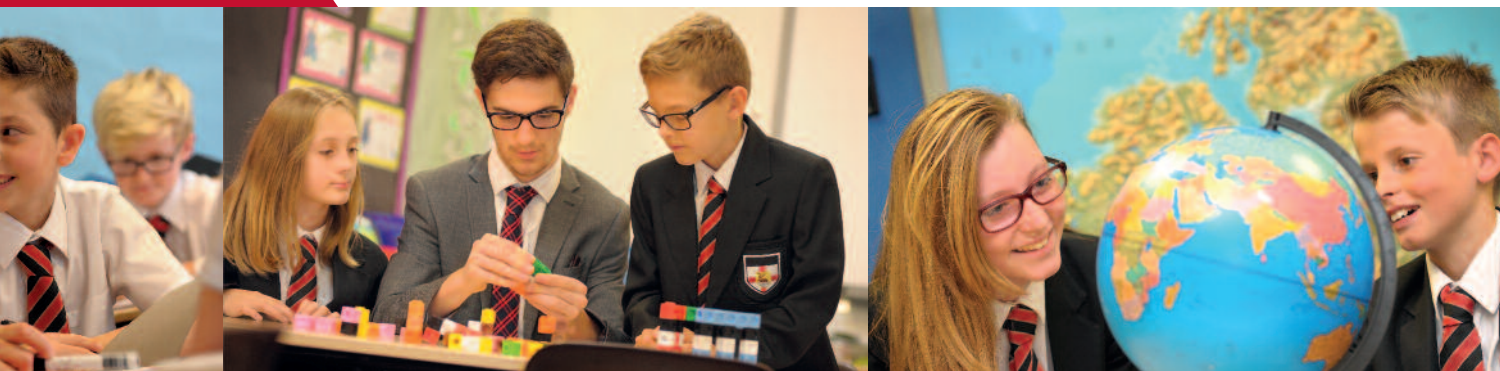
Whilst the majority of students thrive in the Knights Templar family, some will find study and other aspects of school life difficult. Our teachers, Pastoral Care team and Learning Development department provide support and advice to students and their families to help each and every student fulfil their potential.

Whichever path our students take, when they leave they are well prepared for the next phase of their education – whether a student is part of the high proportion of Year 11 who choose to stay on to Sixth Form or whether they progress to full-time courses in Further Education or apprenticeships.

## A high quality and motivated teaching team

Ultimately, the success of our students is underpinned by the quality of teaching and the involvement of staff in the broader life of the school. Our school is fortunate to have a highly skilled team of committed teachers who, in addition to their ability to engage students in the classroom, give freely of their time to develop and support our rich programme of extra-curricular activities.

Our teachers invest heavily in the progress of our students. They create a school that is welcoming yet structured. It is the combination of strong discipline, clear expectations, a wide range of academic and extra-curricular activities and a warm and respectful environment that enables Knights Templar students to be so successful.



*'I have had an amazing time at Knights Templar School as a result of some inspirational teachers.'*

Student





*'Staff are highly committed to students' welfare, academic development and to a wide range of additional activities.'*

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# Participation beyond the classroom

Education is not simply about academic success. It is about participation and achievement that goes beyond the classroom. In its broadest sense, it is about preparing our students for life after school: about helping them to be successful, valuable and valued citizens.

We want our young people to be engaged and challenged and to achieve their full potential. We recognise the value that extra-curricular activities play in this development. Our school has a deserved reputation for the quality and range of extra-curricular activities that we offer.

## Outdoor and overseas experiences

Our students have many opportunities to take part in a variety of field trips, outdoor pursuits and visits, some of which are overseas. In recent years these have included trips to the Himalayas, the Three Peaks, America, Germany and France.

## Extensive extra-curricular opportunities

All students are encouraged in sport, dance, drama, music, outdoor and community activities, as well as lunchtime and after-school clubs such as computing, film, fishing, gardening and many others. Musical excellence is supported by lunchtime and evening groups, choirs and ensembles, whilst concerts with professional musicians and biannual overseas music tours are a regular feature of school life. Drama is also strong within the school, with a wide range of opportunities for all ages, including school productions that in recent years have included *Sweet Charity*, *Nicholas Nickleby* and, most recently, *The Sound of Music*. Our extensive playing fields, sports centre and floodlit artificial turf pitch enable us to offer a broad spectrum of sports and games. Inter-house matches and sports days encourage an atmosphere of healthy competition and our students are very successful in district and county competitions, with many achieving representative honours.

## The value of teamwork

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme aims to develop young people through adventure, challenge, service, learning new skills and teamwork. We have actively promoted the scheme for over thirty years at Knights Templar and during this period, in excess of 2,000 of our students have received Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. Currently, over 50 per cent of our Year 9 students take part in the Bronze award and many of these will continue to their Gold award in Sixth Form; making Knights Templar the largest Duke of Edinburgh centre in the county.

## Strong local community links

We are proud to serve our local community, with students' learning greatly enhanced by the strong ties we share. These include links with the primary schools within our priority area, which are particularly important to us. Primary school students visit us several times before they join Year 7 and we pride ourselves on the transition that takes place at age 11.



*'Pupils find their voice and their confidence at Knights Templar School.'*

Parent



*'Students' attitude to learning is outstanding and their behaviour exemplary. They show mutual respect for each other, the school environment and for all adults.'*

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# An environment where children thrive

Children matter at Knights Templar. Every child is valued and nurtured here. Our students thrive in an environment that couples opportunities and expectations with clear boundaries.

## Support and guidance throughout their school life

Our pastoral system is designed to ensure that all students are known as individuals, are cared for, supported and succeed. This provides them with guidance throughout their time at school.

Each student is placed in a form group, based on the school's house system, with a tutor who sees them through Years 7 to 11 and gets to know them personally. There are regular target-setting and monitoring meetings with tutors to agree priorities for improvement, and our Year Leaders take responsibility for the academic progress, welfare and behaviour of their group of students as they undertake their secondary school journey. Students are also given access to specialist help in areas such as careers advice and counselling should they need it.

## Children's opinions matter to us

We don't simply talk about mutual respect; it is a value we live by. We listen to what our students have to say about the school and our active school council with representatives from every form is an important voice. In recent years, the school council has taken a lead in making the school more environmentally aware and it takes a central role in the interview process for the appointment of many new teaching staff. This engagement is vital in engendering the sense of belonging, pride and commitment to the school that is so common amongst our students and often remarked upon by visitors.



*'We have been more than impressed with Knights Templar School for our son.'*

Parent



# Preparing our Sixth Formers for life after school

Our Sixth Form is one of the largest and most successful in Hertfordshire and is an integral part of the school. The majority of our students stay on after GCSE and are joined by others from both state and independent schools, keen to learn at Knights Templar.

We recognise that while our Sixth Formers are no longer children, they are not quite adults either, which is why we offer them a range of responsibilities, privileges and support to help continue their development in preparation for leaving us. They benefit from being included in the life of the wider school, taking on significant roles in leading sport, music, drama, and also acting as mentors and role models to our younger students as ambassadors across many other subjects.

## A broad and varied curriculum

The Sixth Form offers a very wide range of AS and A2 courses with most combinations being possible; these subjects are supplemented further with a number of applied and vocational options. We deliver this programme through a variety of lesson formats and study approaches, making the learning experience at Knights Templar a hugely rewarding experience.

We also have an excellent track record of supporting students to move on to Higher Education and employment. Our tutorial system assists and prepares students to make the right choices for their future and over 100 students per year progress on to university degree courses, some in the most sought-after subjects and at the most highly regarded universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

## Developing leadership qualities

Leadership is an important quality in young people and there are many opportunities for our Sixth Formers to gain and develop experience and skills in this area. From our mentoring and support programme to our involvement in Young Enterprise; from our work in the youth wing of Rotary 'Interact' to our students supporting Year 7 forms, our Sixth Form students are vital in facilitating and promoting a variety of enrichment initiatives right across the school.

We also have a well-established Prefect Programme in the Sixth Form, including a Head Boy and Head Girl appointed by a combination of election by fellow students and a formal interview. Our prefects represent the school on many public occasions throughout the year. We take great pride in knowing that by the time they leave us, our Sixth Formers have developed self-confidence in an atmosphere that gives them the broadest opportunities academically, culturally and socially.



*'Being immersed in such a friendly atmosphere makes me feel eager to learn and get involved in all the fantastic activities Knights Templar has to offer.'*

Year 13 student





*'In a recent survey  
92 per cent of  
parents said they  
would recommend  
our school to others.'*





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