

# Castle View School **Prospectus**



**Castle View  
School**

Pursue Excellence | Be The Best

Ofsted Rated  
**Good**



# Welcome to Castle View School

I am delighted to be the Headteacher of Castle View School – a place where students are put first in everything we do. Our aims are to pursue excellence, to be the best we can be and we achieve this by working together with parents and the wider community to bring out the very best in our young people.

A good education inspires, opens doors and makes the difference to the lives of individuals, their families and the wider community. Therefore, we take our responsibilities as educators very seriously, doing all we can to help our students achieve anything and everything they set their minds to. We also take great pride in providing a happy and harmonious learning environment – one where every student is known as an individual.

As well as valuing academic success, we strive for every child to become a well-rounded, caring and confident individual who plays a part in their community, and has the skills and mindset to contribute positively to our wider society. Therefore, all our students have opportunities to develop not only their academic potential, but also their artistic, sporting and leadership talents.

We understand that choosing the right school for your child is an important decision, and have tried to answer as many questions as possible in the pages that follow. However, a prospectus alone cannot tell the full story, so I would warmly welcome you to visit us and discover what it is that makes Castle View School the right choice for you and your child.

**Mr Steve Durkin BA (Hons), MTL, NPQH**  
Headteacher

***"I had a visit with the Headteacher before I chose and I was impressed... What stuck with me is how many children's names he knew... he believes that every child has the ability to succeed."*** Year 7 Parent

*As well as valuing academic success, we strive for every child to become a well-rounded, caring and confident individual who plays a part in their community.*

# Working together

## for the best possible start

Supporting your child's learning and wellbeing during this crucial stage.

Partnerships and positive working relationships lay at the heart of our work, easing a child's transition into Year 7. We work closely with our parents and carers, primary school colleagues and local and national organisations to ensure every child has the same chance to succeed.

As a school at the heart of our local community, many new students are already familiar with us before they start. Primary students often visit to watch our performances, or may have worked with us in local initiatives such as the Christmas Choir, interschool competitions, Students' University or our Student Leadership Team activities. This helps remove the mystique and fear of moving to secondary school.

We also help new students create early connections with our staff and develop friendships with older students. Your child can look forward to learning in a safe, calm and happy environment, where success is possible for everyone.

*"The staff promote a collaborative ethos that welcomes and includes students from all backgrounds, both through the curriculum and around the school." Ofsted*



# A curriculum for future success

Our curriculum is designed to develop students' interests and ambitions in a purposeful learning environment.

All students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, with five one-hour lessons per day. Alongside the core subjects of English, Maths and Science, students in Years 7 and 8 also study Art, Music, Drama, History, Geography, French, Business Enterprise, Computing, Design Technology and PE.

At the end of Year 8, students choose the subjects they wish to study at GCSE level, selecting from an extensive range of courses to study from Year 9 onwards.

Our curriculum is designed to develop students' interests and ambitions in a purposeful learning environment. We offer a range of academic and vocational-based subjects, all of which lead to valued qualifications.

Your child will also learn aspects of Citizenship, Life in Modern Britain, and Personal, Social and Health Education through our tutor time programme, assemblies and visits from guest speakers. This gives them the decision-making skills and self-confidence to make positive life choices both now and in the future.

# Teaching and learning for every child

Our teaching strives to engage learners. We encourage curiosity. We want our young people to think and to question.

Our dedicated staff craft lessons that inspire students to take control of their own learning. We do all we can to create a climate of collaboration between learners, while promoting challenge and high aspirations. We also emphasise perseverance and have developed a learning environment where making mistakes is both acceptable and seen as a valuable learning experience.

Teachers adopt a range of teaching styles so all students can access and engage in activities. In addition, as students move through Key Stage 3 and into Key Stage 4, they will be set in some subjects to ensure they are challenged appropriately. We have high expectations of all our students, and our dedicated staff work hard to ensure everyone reaches their potential.

## Homework

Homework is an important part of the learning journey, encouraging reflection, investigation and independence. Students will receive either regular homework each lesson or an extended project to be completed over a longer period of time. Parents can also access the set homework, enabling a purposeful home-school dialogue that is centred on learning and progress.



Our dedicated staff  
work hard to ensure  
everyone reaches  
their potential.

*"95% of parents agree that their child  
is taught well." Ofsted, Parent View*



## Success

### beyond the classroom

Success at Castle View School is not just about passing exams and gaining qualifications on paper. Our talented staff provide wider opportunities for everyone, whether your child's interests are in sport, drama, science, debating, music, dance or contributing to our newsletter – all of which have their place in a good, all-round education.

We believe every young person should have equal access to develop their potential or explore an interest they have. As such, our local and national partnerships give students unrivalled access to industry professionals, higher education academics and ambassadors from the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), inspiring the next generation.

Our school also actively participates in a variety of local, regional and national competitions for a wide range of activities. From sport to public speaking, our young people often inspire, wow and win!

From sport to public speaking, our young people often inspire, wow and win!

*"Students enjoy school and speak very positively about their experiences and the wide range of opportunities that they are given." Ofsted*



## Exceptional Facilities

### for Learning, Sport and Creativity

At Castle View School your child will learn in an exceptional learning environment that is bright, modern and open. All classrooms and corridors are well cared for and have displays that encourage aspiration or demonstrate imagination. In turn, learners are inspired to be creative, free thinking and ambitious.

Our excellent facilities include:

- fully equipped IT rooms
- recording studio
- radio station
- fully equipped gym
- dance studio
- well-resourced science and design technology suites
- community science lab
- students rewards room
- 250 seat performance space
- mac suite
- music performance space
- 17.5 acre site set in the town centre

Students can access the school and its resources before and after the formal day and are often found in our Learning Resource Centre (open 8am-5pm), our gym or using our extensive sporting facilities.

We take great pride in our school, providing facilities that meet the academic, sporting and creative needs of all our students.

*"The school is calm and the atmosphere uplifting."* Year 11 Student



## Our community at Castle View School

Everyone at our school plays a role in making our community what it is.

Our pastoral support system identifies and overcomes any barriers to learning, while encouraging students to be the best they can be. All students have a personal tutor whom they meet each day, while each year group is led by a Head of Year who is supported by a Student Support Officer (a vital home-school link).

Our students also have a key role in the leadership of the school. The dynamic and well-respected Student Leadership Team act as role models and decision makers on aspects such as Learning and Teaching, Behaviour and Rewards and Community and Ethos.

### **Giving something back**

Our students are passionate individuals who care about each other and their local community. Together they have raised thousands of pounds for local and national charities. We also include our wider community in our performances and educational events - most recently hearing the experience of a Holocaust Survivor. Together, we welcome everyone to be an active part of the Castle View Community.

**Our students are passionate individuals who care about each other and their local community.**

*"The school is a happy and harmonious community where students feel safe and valued." Ofsted*

**"Castle View is a positive, calm and purposeful environment with strong interaction between students and teachers."** Education Adviser from the Department for Education

# Playing our part in the local community

We enjoy positive relationships with our neighbours, local businesses and residents.

Our relationship with the local community is central to our work. We enjoy positive relationships with our neighbours, local businesses and residents, often receiving encouraging praise about our young people, their smart appearance and good conduct.

Every student has the opportunity to 'give something back' through our Community Day. This may be visiting a home for the elderly, tidying the local beach, working with younger students in our primary schools or linking up with other local community initiatives.

We also showcase the talents and abilities of our young people through our performances and shows, regularly entertaining packed audiences of local people and families of our students.

## Our Partnerships

Castle View School is committed to developing partnerships with others for the benefit of our whole school community. Through the Canvey Schools Partnership, we work collaboratively with all our local primary schools, helping provide a seamless transition to secondary school.

Since 2016, Castle View School has led the way collaborating with Canvey Infant and Canvey Junior Schools, as well as William Reed, to raise the profile and importance of good attendance. This joint work has impacted attendance, punctuality and therefore, progress, through our Attendance Ambassadors' work with families and students from Year 1 to Year 11.

We also have a formal arrangement with the King John School, working together to share expertise and provide support.

*"90% of parents agree the school is well led and managed."* Ofsted, Parent View



Random Act of Kindness Day - students distributed balloons to staff and members of local community.



Canvey Reads Together - marketplace event for the Canvey Schools Partnership where books were given away to the general public.



John Townsend - author visit.



#80's show - two sold out nights of an event that celebrated all things 1980s involving art, dance, music, drama and media.



Holocaust Reflection Evening - with survivor Leslie Kleinman.



Macmillan Cancer fundraiser event.



# Keeping you informed

Encouraging  
a strong  
home-school  
relationship.

We have many ways we communicate with parents and carers, encouraging a strong home-school relationship:

#### **Website**

[www.castleview.essex.sch.uk](http://www.castleview.essex.sch.uk)

Find forthcoming events, examination dates and our latest news.

#### **Newsletters**

Highlights from the half-term at Castle View School.

#### **View More**

Our termly Parent and Carer Newsletter covers our most recent events, achievements and community updates.

#### **Student Planners**

As well as helping students organise their learning and study, student planners allow for a home-school dialogue.

#### **Progress Achievement Consultation Evenings (PACE)**

A chance to discuss your child's progress with staff.

#### **Progress Letters and Termly Reports**

Stay updated with your child's progress. Our tracking and monitoring also keeps students constantly aware of their 'next step targets'.

*"95% of parents agree their child is well  
looked after." Ofsted, Parent View*



# Castle View School:

## Pursue excellence, be the best

Students, parents and staff working in partnership to pursue academic excellence.

We are passionate about everyone pursuing excellence, to be the best that they can be.

**Our vision:** Students, parents and staff working in partnership to pursue academic excellence, nurturing students' personal and social development, and fostering a culture of high aspirations.

**Our mission:** To develop every child into well-rounded, caring and confident individuals who contribute positively to their community and are well equipped to contribute to our wider society.

### **This will be achieved through:**

- The development of productive, positive working relationships, so every student is valued as an individual who is known and respected within an ordered and purposeful community that prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in modern Britain.
- Inspiring the next generation, encouraging ambition and aspiration by fostering excellence in learning through first class teaching.
- An engaging, broad and balanced curriculum that develops the skills of creativity, problem solving and investigation whilst promoting a healthy and active lifestyle.
- The development of effective partnerships and collaboration for the benefit and well-being of our community.

*"I was really impressed with the headteacher and the positivity around the school."* Year 7 Parent



# Castle View School

Pursue Excellence | Be The Best

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