





“In Harmony – Achieving Excellence”

# Valentines High School

Prospectus 2011



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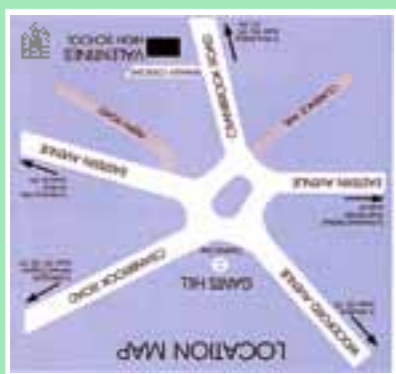
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A Training School & Specialist Science & Technology College  
 “AN OUTSTANDING SCHOOL” Ofsted Inspection 2006

Designed & Produced by Cleverton Education Tel: 0208 466 7222 www.cleverton.co.uk



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“There is a strong student voice. Students here are very well prepared for life beyond school, through an excellent citizenship curriculum, programmes of work-related learning, and by acquiring high levels of competence in key skills.”

OFSTED OCTOBER 2006

## Business Education

The Business Education department offers two subjects for 14 –16 year olds and a range of subjects in the sixth form.

In Year 10 students can choose GCSEs in Business Studies or Business and Communication Systems. The former examines marketing, production, people and finance in business as well as the types of business organisations and the external factors that influence business activity such as the economy and government legislation. The Business and Communication Systems course covers some similar ground but the emphasis is more on the use of ICT in a business environment and students will have experience of word processing, spreadsheets, databases and graphics and how businesses use these.

Business courses are very popular in the sixth form with both academic and vocational courses offered. We offer the traditional AS and A2 level Business Studies which continue the themes taught at GCSE and we also have BTEC First in Business from which pupils can progress on to the BTEC National in Business. These last two courses are full time and give students the opportunity for a more practical experience of the main Business topics.

## Information & Communication Technology

Learning how to use the latest technology is very important at Valentines. Students learn a wide range of ICT skills including researching, handling and presenting data using Networked PCs with one machine per student. Students have opportunities to use ICT in every subject, also to take taught exam courses in the subject.

## Art

The Arts provide great opportunities for students to develop their own creativity and talents, building up a whole range of personal skills and achievements.

In Art, students are encouraged to be individually creative and to develop physical and perceptual skills in drawing, painting, printing, textiles and ceramics and to be able to plan and complete design assignments. There are gallery visits and displays in school of students' work.

Art can be studied at GCSE level and in the sixth form. Courses are offered at 'A' level and BTEC. Standards achieved are high.





## Modern Languages

### Why learn a Modern Foreign Language?

In a world where people travel more and more and the UK plays a vital part in the European Union, speaking a foreign language can be a real advantage. All students study either Spanish or French from Years 7 to 9. The courses are taught in topics ranging from being able to talk about home, family and friends to talking about work experience and making future plans. From Year 10, students are able to take GCSE courses in French and Spanish.

As well as teaching the three main languages, we do encourage native speakers or students fluent in any other modern foreign language to take their GCSE or A Level exams in those languages. In past years, we have had candidates for Panjabi, Bengali, Gujarati, Russian, Italian, Portuguese, Modern Greek and Turkish.

## Drama

Drama is taught throughout the school, up to advanced level by two specialist teachers, experienced in professional theatre. Students flourish in the highly focused environment, where they are encouraged to realise their creative potential, and are taught the skills to express it. Rehearsals for examinations, assemblies and school shows keep the studio and students busy throughout the year.

## Physical Education

Students are given the opportunity to develop a wide range of physical and social skills. We have excellent facilities and offer many different activities including Athletics, Gymnastics, Football, Netball, Basketball, Cricket, Rounders, Orienteering and Badminton. There are many popular clubs for students of all abilities and successful teams that compete regularly in

local and regional competitions. The PE department won the SportsMark Award in 2003, and had this renewed in 2006, to signify the high standards achieved in PE.

## Music

The Music Room is equipped with digital keyboards which gives each student the "hands on" opportunity to listen, compose and perform. Key Stage 3 Music concentrates on different aspects of World Music whilst Key Stage 4 Music follows the Edexcel syllabus. Instrumentalists are very welcome to participate in our school orchestra or Steel Pan group and singers have a choice between the non-specialist Valentines choir and the Gospel choir (or both if preferred). We also offer a range of instrumental tuition on most instruments, the teaching of this being provided by Redbridge Music Service.

## Media Studies

A specialist area well equipped with the latest audio, video and computer technology gives students opting for this subject at Key Stage 4 an excellent base from which to investigate TV, radio, films, comics, magazines, newspapers, advertising and the mass media in general. Students will have the opportunity to make their own print productions.

## GREAT Learning

is a new subject for Year 7. In it, students develop their skills as learners. The course focuses on developing students' abilities or competences in five main areas under the heading of "GREAT". They will develop the following skills: G- group work, R- resilience, E- evaluation, A- active learning and T- thinking skills. These will be developed through project tasks, involving students working in groups and independently, carrying out research, using the library and ICT, doing presentations and reflecting upon and evaluating their own learning and skills.



# When Students Learn

## Key Stages of Learning

In 2011 students entering Valentines start their first year (Year 7) of Key Stage 3.

### Years 7-9 Enter Valentines

Year 7	September 2011 – July 2012
Year 8	September 2012 – July 2013
Year 9	September 2013 – July 2014

Students follow a broad and balanced programme learning PSHE and CITIZENSHIP – ENGLISH – MATHEMATICS – SCIENCE – PHYSICAL EDUCATION – INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY (Design & Technology, Textiles, Food Technology)

HUMANITIES (Geography, History, Religious Education)

ARTS (Art, Music and Drama)

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE (French or Spanish)

In Year 7 setting or banding by ability occurs in English, Mathematics and Modern Languages. Other subjects are taught in mixed ability groups.

From Year 8 students are taught in sets by ability in English, Mathematics and Modern Foreign Languages.

From Year 9 students are taught in sets by ability in English, Mathematics, Science and Modern Foreign Languages.

### Years 10 & 11 Start GCSE courses

Year 10	September 2014 – July 2015
Year 11	September 2015 – July 2016

All students continue to study PSHE and seven subjects...

ENGLISH – MATHEMATICS – SCIENCE – PHYSICAL EDUCATION – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – ICT – TECHNOLOGY

PLUS: a CHOICE from a range of other subjects eg from Arts subjects, Humanities, Languages, Learning Support as well as Vocational GCSEs.

This allows specialisation or preparation for a future career or entry to the Sixth Form.

### Years 12 & 13 Enter the Sixth Form

Year 12	September 2016 – July 2017
Year 13	September 2017 – July 2018

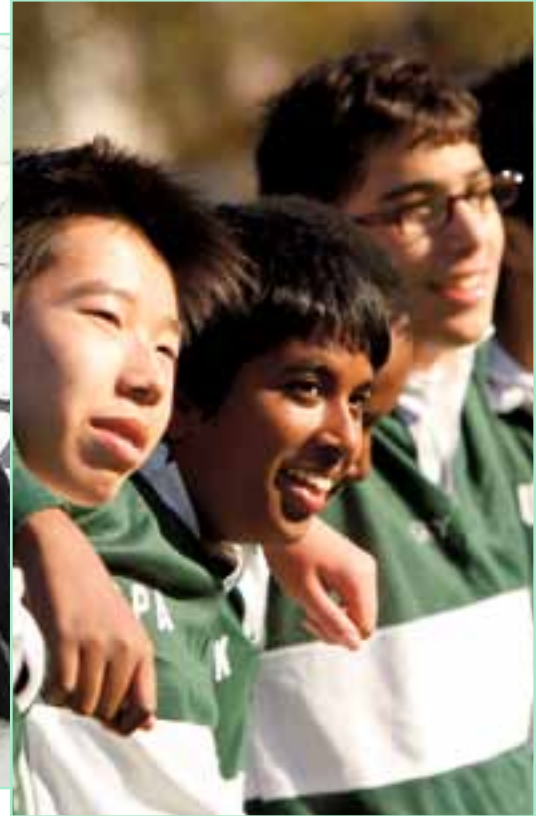
Valentines has always had a strong, successful and forward-looking Sixth Form. We offer a wide range of courses to cater for all interests and abilities.

At present, students can choose from:-

A levels 2 year courses in a wide range of subjects – both vocational and academic (eg English, Physics, Psychology, Sociology and many more).

Vocational Courses

For up-to-date details please see the new Sixth Form Brochure in 2016!



## More Than Just Lessons

Lessons are crucial, but at Valentines we believe that our students' experience of school should be more than just lessons. Many teachers build day trips out of school into their studies and from time to time holidays or visits abroad may be organised. Our Ofsted inspection described the range of additional activities at Valentines in the following terms:

*"The school is a hive of enjoyable activities outside lesson time. Day conferences, numerous visits and trips, locally and overseas, raise interest and enthusiasm for learning. A 'Lord of the Rings' day, an 'Olympic' programme in Years 7 and 8, and a 'Young Engineers' programme are but a few of the recent activities."*

Also all students get the chance of spending a week doing exciting outdoor activities such as climbing, canoeing, caving and pony-trekking at Glasbury.

Inside school there is a wide range of clubs and activities going on at lunch time or after school throughout the week. Clubs include Breakfast Club, after school Study Club, Homework Club, Computer Club, Keyboard Club and Chess Club.

Everybody has the option of attending a supervised homework club after school, with full access to high speed internet linked computers.

There are clubs in Drama, Photography, Art, Trampolining, Football, Basketball and Netball to name just a few! Each student is placed in a 'House' (Cranbrook, Eastern or Woodford). They can gain House points for good work and contribution to the school and extra curricular events. Each year the winning 'House' is awarded the House Cup. The House system generates a sense of social responsibility through the many charity events organised by students. It also provides a focus for friendly rivalry and is a highly popular feature of the school. Each year students star at Sports Day and prize giving evenings and play a major part in organising and running our many House events such as 'House Come Dancing' or 'House Idol'.

Throughout the year all sorts of activities and events can take place such as Myths and Legends Day, Multicultural Evening, Mini-pops, fashion shows and discos. We enter and do well at all sorts of competitions eg Creda Challenge, Young Enterprise, Panathlon, Chess, Rotary and Mock Trial competitions.

The cafeteria provides high quality food with a healthy range of options both at break and lunchtimes. Service is fast, so that pupils have time to attend the wide variety of lunchtime clubs available.



**“Excellence in the planning and organisation of teachers’ professional development has had a substantial impact on the classroom experience of students since the last inspection. Because teachers and students work enthusiastically together, students learn very well.”**

OFSTED OCTOBER 2006



## The Valentines Community Working in Harmony

The wide range of popular clubs and activities at Valentines gives some idea of the good relations which exist here. Good relations are essential to us because we are a community of people working and living together during the school day. According to Ofsted *“Students make outstanding progress in their personal development and well-being. They say they feel safe, secure and valued. The racial harmony in the school is striking. ‘Integration is really important at Valentines,’ said one of the students. Being part of a multi-ethnic community contributes significantly to their outstanding spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.”*

Mutual respect and tolerance is central to the positive atmosphere at Valentines. Students are expected to abide by the Valentines Code of Conduct, to behave themselves and treat each other with respect. We have clear policies and statements on issues that can cause problems in schools. One such policy concerns bullying; bullying is not acceptable at Valentines.

Students who offend against these policies or the Code of Conduct or in any way misbehave are punished. Serious misbehaviour would result in fixed-term or permanent exclusion from school.

Behaviour is very good at Valentines. This is one reason why we are a Leading Edge School. We also pride ourselves on attendance, punctuality and the standard of uniform. We are grateful for the help that parents and students themselves give us with maintaining these high standards.

Learning in Valentines is very much a co-operative process with students being actively involved in lessons. ‘Student Voice’ is an important feature of Valentines. There are numerous opportunities for student leadership at Valentines.

Students are encouraged to contribute ideas via the Year Councils and School Council. They are also consulted about the learning opportunities they receive and what helps them to make the best progress.

Each form group elects two representatives to the Year Council. These representatives meet with the Head of Year to raise ideas and suggestions from students linked to any aspect of school life. Suggestions from all of the meetings go directly to the Headteacher for discussion with senior staff.

Student Voice and Student Leadership are important features of school life, which enable young people to become confident and active citizens.





## Support Systems

Some students have more difficulties at school than others. These students may need extra help. This can be given by the Learning Support Department or Pastoral System.

The work and progress of each student is monitored by Subject Teachers, Learning Support staff and the Form Tutors. Students with significant learning or language problems are given additional help by Special Educational Needs staff or Language Support staff. These teachers work individually with students, work with small groups or share teaching in the classroom with Subject Teachers. Extra help is also given by Subject Teachers and Form Tutors.

For 14–16 year olds, a special Learning Support option exists for those who need it, replacing one GCSE subject. This gives the teacher more opportunity to help students increase their performance in essential core skills and enhance performance in other subjects.

The Pastoral System can provide support for other types of difficulty. The Form Tutor takes a close interest in the welfare of students in the form group and can help with problems of a social or personal nature. The Head of Year can also provide help with such matters and can, if it is felt to be appropriate, arrange specialist support.

## Keeping in Touch

At Valentines, we believe regular contact between parents and teachers is very important. Each year you will be invited to a Parents' Evening where you can meet the Form Tutor, Head of Year and Subject Teachers to discuss your child's work, behaviour and progress.

You will also be invited to a mentoring and target setting session, where your child's needs will be individually discussed and you and your child will agree appropriate goals for the year with a teacher.

During the year we will contact you if we have any concerns about your son's or daughter's education.

We encourage parents to log on to our Portal where you may view letters, reports etc on-line thus saving paper and preventing letters getting lost in transit.

During the year you will receive two reports on your child's achievements. With the parents' evening, this means that you will receive a progress update in each of the three terms in the academic year. If you have any concerns, please contact us.

Throughout the year there are many occasions when teachers, parents and students come together informally, such as concerts, drama productions, and any other events. There are also more formal occasions when we celebrate the achievements of our students. The Upper and Lower School Presentation Evenings are held at Ilford Town Hall, which is packed with proud families on these evenings.

We are interested in parental views and will consult you regularly through surveys and meetings to ensure that you feel that the needs of your children are being met.

We hope this brochure has answered many of your questions about Valentines High School.

Please contact us by telephone or letter if you need any more information or if you have a query of any sort.

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