Believing in Excellence

The Cavendish School, Eastbourne
Welcome

I am delighted you are considering The Cavendish School for your child. I truly believe the unique opportunities at Cavendish make it an exciting place to learn. We promote the ethos “Believing in Excellence” and believe every student has the right to the highest standard of education to enable them to accomplish their aspirations. Our aim is to give every student an educational experience that is enjoyable and holistic so that they develop into responsible, articulate and successful young people.

We combine the traditional values of positive attitudes to learning, good manners, respect and pride in appearance with contemporary best practice in teaching and technology. With these core values embedded, we develop our students into confident and capable individuals that have a desire to excel, academically and personally, now and in the future.

Our curriculum is unique and individualised to everyone’s needs and potential. We ensure student and parent voices take ownership of the direction they want their education to develop. We also provide students with every opportunity to experience a whole and broad range of events in school.

The school is very student-centred, with all members of our community respectful of each other. All staff receive extensive training to ensure students are given the very best support and guidance. In summary, we totally understand our responsibility and are committed to developing all students so their ambitions are fulfilled.

This prospectus will only give you a brief overview of life at The Cavendish School. Therefore, you are warmly invited to visit us to experience our school for yourself, during one of our open events or by prior appointment on any school day. We are very proud of all our students and staff and really want to positively contribute to our local community.

Best wishes

Peter Marchant – Headteacher
Our Heritage

The Cavendish School has a complex and intriguing history, which dates as far back as 1843, making it one of the longest established schools in the area. It was in this year that actor Douglas Moleheimer established the first incarnation of The Cavendish School, in order to pass down his love of acting. Cavendish became an intrinsic part of Eastbourne life, and the name quickly grew within the town as a centre for excellence.

The Cavendish School was established on this site in 1979, but the building was first opened as a Girls’ High School in 1939. An extension was built in 1982 and further programmes of building and refurbishment have been completed in the intervening years. The school is well resourced.

Today Cavendish is a popular co-educational academy catering for young people from pre-school age to 16 year olds, with our Primary Phase extension opening in September 2016. We have a planned admission number of 60 in each year group in the Primary Phase and 180 in each year in the Secondary Phase group with an academic staff of approximately 60. Our support staff is first class, with highly trained teaching assistants, excellent administrative, technical and site teams, working alongside specialist agencies from outside of the school to provide the best opportunities for our students.

We want all our students to believe in excellence and strive to achieve it. The realisation of academic potential is aided by a strong system of pastoral care. The majority of our students continue their studies at a Further Education College, with others entering the world of work.
Believing in Excellence: Our Values

The Cavendish School is an excellent community school, which is fully inclusive and has the highest educational standards built around a high performing core.

We offer the highest quality learning and teaching expertise, with excellent examination results. All students are challenged to exceed their expected progress and meet ambitious and attainable targets.

We believe all our students should have the best possible life chances. Therefore, it is important for our learners to be:

• Respectful of themselves, others and their environment
• Aspirational about their future
• Ambitious for their future and the future of others
• Functionally literate and numerate
• Technologically intelligent
• Independent, creative and enterprising learners
• Responsible citizens able to take their place in society by the time they leave our school.
We offer the highest quality learning and teaching expertise, with excellent examination results.
A Supportive and Caring Environment

From Reception age, students are linked to a form tutor/teacher and are “buddied” with an older student to ease their way into school life. From Year 7, students at The Cavendish School are part of a mixed ability tutor group which meets daily.

Students remain in this group for the duration of their time with us, providing them with a familiar and stable foundation for their school life. Older students are encouraged to care for the youngest members of the school, fostering a sense of respect for each other at all times.

Form tutors are the first point of contact for parents. They in turn work with our Progress Leaders, Teaching Staff and our Guidance and Welfare teams to assist and support students individually; providing students with a constant and reliable structure where they feel supported and cared for throughout their school career.
Our Curriculum

The Early Years (EYFS) curriculum follows a creative pathway, focused around play-based learning in which children have freedom to choose their own learning and take it forward themselves within the curriculum provision. At Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 students follow Chris Quigley’s “Essentials” curriculum plan: a creative, hands-on experiential and immersive learning style.

In the Secondary Phase, The Cavendish School offers a broad and balanced curriculum, designed to enable all students to realise their full potential. Subjects include Art, Computer Science, Design Technology, Drama, English, French, Spanish, Geography, History, Computer Technology, Mathematics, Music, PE, PSHE, RE and Science.

Our students consistently exceed national average standards for the key performance measures.

To ensure your child receives the very best education possible, our dedicated team of teaching staff are highly qualified, skilled and experienced. Their endless enthusiasm, expertise and knowledge is further developed through regular teaching standards appraisals and training.

Our exciting and diverse approach providing students with a variety of teaching methods and sources means that students feel valued, inspired and their interest in all subjects is retained.

We pride ourselves in offering students a ‘bespoke’ education and each student embarks on a pathway which is personalised to them. As students progress through the school flexibility supports choice; enabling some students to focus on a more vocational route or on particular elements of a subject area where appropriate, in addition to their core curriculum lessons – retaining a particular emphasis on English and Maths.

In years 10 and 11 students follow a pathway to GCSE subjects within school.

All years follow a Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) programme designed for each particular year group, which contains a wide range of topics that will set your child in good stead for an educated and well informed life outside of school.
Your Child’s Progress

From Reception classes through to Year 11, your child’s academic progress is monitored by continuous and regular teacher assessment in all subjects, as well as through modular and unit tests throughout the year.

This allows teachers to track your child’s learning and plan to meet their needs as well as making sure that work is set at the right level for your child to succeed.

Reports on your child’s progress are produced regularly throughout the year. These include written reports, progress profiles as well as subject evenings where parents are invited to meet with their child’s teachers and the relevant information and feedback can be shared.

Monitoring and reporting progress is placed high on the agenda. Our staff and governors are keen to ensure that all students make the progress they should and, where possible, exceed their targets.

Our rewards system is designed to inspire and motivate students to achieve and progress and, in doing so, gain credits that they can then use to purchase educational themed goods from our school shop or offer access to a range of activities, including our Dinner Dance for Year 11 leavers.

In addition to this we host a range of activities and events to recognise and reward students’ personal and academic achievements and to inspire all students to aim for the very highest level of personal achievement.
Foundations for the Future

We believe that it is vital for all young people to be knowledgeable and well informed about future career options and training opportunities. Students should be able to make informed choices and have a clear direction to follow, which enables them to reach their full potential and embark on their chosen career path.

Our Career Education Programme is highly praised by staff, students, local industry and Universities. It is led by tutors, curriculum staff and external agencies and designed to encourage the development of a personal, aspirational plan. It serves to highlight the key areas of academic focus required to enable students to embark on their chosen career path upon leaving school and also to identify specific personal strengths as well as opportunities for further development.

Activities such as our annual careers fair, coupled with visits from external speakers and agencies as well as engagement with local employers, ensure that our students are given up to date advice and information, work experience and training opportunities. All students complete work experience in a range of venues and settings.
Your Child’s Transition

As an all-through school, we believe that transition issues are eased. Students from Reception Class onwards have lessons with our staff and access to a range of rooms throughout the school. They are “buddied” with older students who take time to work with them and support them throughout their early years.

However, if your child is joining us from another school, we strive to ensure that your child’s transition from one phase to another is smooth and stress free.

We have dedicated members of staff who, through outreach activities, work with our local primary feeder schools on a range of workshops, activities and productions.

Each year, a number of children from our feeder schools participate in joint activities or events such as Sports Day, Maths, Science and Computer Science activities.

Once you and your child have made the decision to come to The Cavendish School, the Year 7 Progress Leader will visit their primary school to give the children an opportunity to ask any questions they have about secondary school and life at Cavendish. The Progress Leader also meets with primary school staff to gain a personal profile of students, to ensure that their transition is successful.

We encourage parents and children to attend our Year 6 ‘Open Evening’ and ‘Welcome Evening’, where they can tour the school, meet with current students and have a chat to their child’s form teacher to discuss any needs or questions they have prior to their start in September.

All Year 6 pupils experience a full day at our school, where they meet their new class, engage in team building activities and get to know their environment. We also plan bespoke transition days for any students who might benefit from extra support in starting their new school.
Opportunities

The Cavendish School prides itself on providing a packed diary of events and activities throughout the year, including during school holidays, after school and at weekends. The range of clubs and activities from all areas of the curriculum is extensive and very well supported.

We offer a Breakfast Club for all students and an After School Club for primary students, which are very popular! All subjects offer a number of workshop and support activities as well as extension opportunities at lunch times and after school. There are revision sessions for older students as well as trips and specialist-led sessions to enhance students’ enjoyment and learning.

The Arts Faculty offer a wide range of event and activities; providing a programme of productions, student performances, visits to professional theatre venues, dance and musical events. Working with East Sussex Music Service, students have the opportunity to follow a range of instrumental lessons. Our Art clubs regularly exhibitions both in and out of school, including our hugely successful Art Exhibition and The School’s exhibition at The Towner art Gallery.

Sports staff provide a range of activities from Athletics, Gymnastics and Trampolining to traditional sports such as Netball, Rounders, Badminton, Rugby, Cricket and Tennis to name a few. There are also many curriculum based clubs in Languages, Science, Design Technology, Computer Technology and STEMNET.

Other recent events include a bi-annual ski trip and even a tour of New York!
Student Voice

The Student Management Team is led by a Head Girl and Boy, and made up of one representative from each year group with the purpose of supporting each other and working together to achieve our individual and collective goals.

Having a representative from each year ensures clear, open and easy communication between students of all year groups. Students feel their voices and opinions are heard; creating a sense of community and union throughout the school.

One of The Student Management Team’s biggest achievements to date has been the creation of our ‘Working Parties’, whereby volunteers from all year groups create forums and meet regularly to discuss issues surrounding the community and their school environment. They work closely with staff, Year Councils, the School Council and Subject Captains to address any issues and implement the necessary changes.

There are currently three working parties:

- Partners In Learning promotes our shared belief that students and staff should work together as one.
- School Life is responsible for discussing a wide range of issues including extended school activities, the school environment, uniform, rewards and other general changes to everyday life at The Cavendish School, whilst our
- Charity group is responsible for bringing staff, students, friends and families together to form a broader community in which fund raising and charitable activities can be planned and implemented.

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