

Netherhall

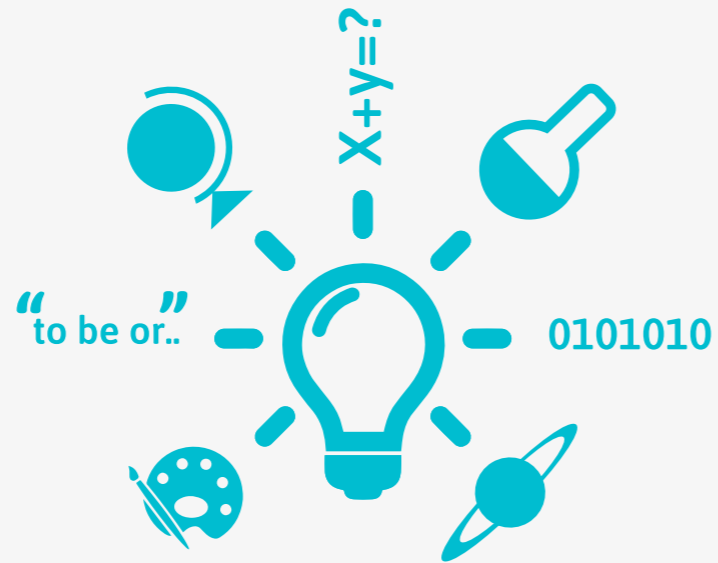


Inspiring

Individual

Inclusive

Bright futures start here



I am proud to welcome you to The Netherhall School and The Oakes College, Cambridge. Together we really do offer more than just a great education.

From the moment our students arrive in Year 7 to the moment they leave us in Year 13, they are exposed to a broad and varied range of opportunities, offered by a body of staff who are absolutely committed to inspiring the next generation of young adults.

Our students matter to us. The well-being, academic success and personal happiness of each and every individual at Netherhall is what drives the day-to-day activity of the school. We work very hard to provide an inclusive experience that ensures every student, regardless of ability or background, has access to every possible opportunity as they grow and develop in our care.

We work hard to foster positive working relationships with the parents and carers of our students so that together, we can be confidently committed to a common vision: a rich educational experience combining excellence of academic achievement with a focus on building students' confidence, teamwork, resilience and creativity.

It may be that you have seen our students perform in one of our dramatic, musical or dance productions, or that you have read about our critically acclaimed art exhibitions in the local press or maybe even compared our above-national-average results online, but whatever your exposure to Netherhall has been to-date, you cannot fail to be impressed by our achievements as a school.

As you get to know Netherhall through visiting our extensive facilities and reading the literature, you will come to realise that the excellent academic results we boast, the wealth of extra-curricular activities provided here and our dedication to personal and social well-being are second-to-none.

We hope that this publication gives you a small taste of our school and that it leaves you eager to discover more through our open evening and school events.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

*Chris Tooley, Principal,
Netherhall School*

“From the moment our students arrive to moment they leave us, they are exposed to a broad and varied range of opportunities”



“We encourage and nurture every student, supporting them throughout their time with us, to become the person they want to be.”



Friendly, thriving and vibrant

Netherhall is a diverse and integrated community with over 50 different languages spoken by our students



The Netherhall community embraces everyone. We are proud of our diversity.

We offer an education centred around respect, tolerance and understanding. At Netherhall, differences are celebrated with all religions, ethnicities, social and cultural backgrounds and academic abilities welcomed and, perhaps more importantly, nurtured.

Not only are our expectations of all students high, we also work very hard to ensure that their own private aspirations live up to this. At Netherhall, students are taught to be whoever they want to be, but, crucially, to respect each other.

How do we do this? The simple answer is by knowing our students. Our pastoral care of all students ensures that no one gets left out and our vertical tutoring system means that form groups have only 22 students and two members of staff to offer care and support. A more elaborate answer to the question is to be found by reading on to discover the various opportunities that we offer our students both inside and outside the classroom.

Netherhall is an amazing school which has so many different nationalities from all over the world... I myself speak French. From this, we learn about so many different cultures and it makes the journey through secondary school a lot more fun."



As a student at Netherhall, you will be part of a form group that will meet each morning. This allows our tutors and mentors to guide you through your time with us and support you at times when you might need it. Our aim is to look after you, without stifling you.

You will have opportunities to shape your own experiences at this school. Whether that be through involvement in one of the many student forums, getting your voice heard by the leaders of the school, attending an extra-curricular activity or by starting your own society,

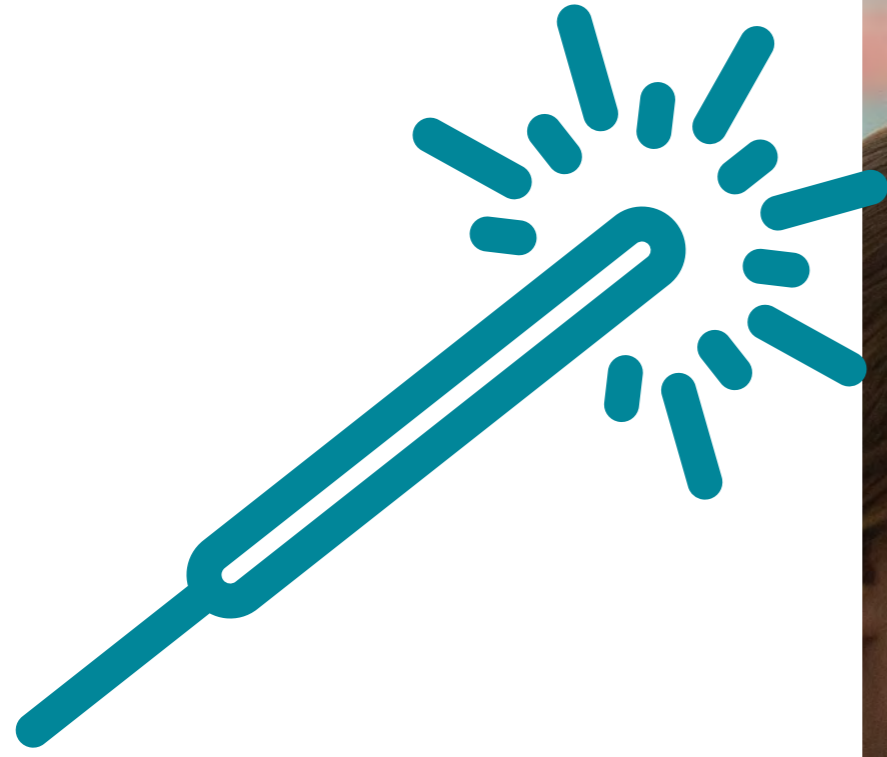
sports team or rock band, you will find that expert help and advice is always on-hand and the teachers are willing to support whatever interests you might like to pursue during your time here.

The Netherhall student is our priority and whatever challenges may be faced on your road to success there will always be someone available and willing to help lend a hand.

Netherhall students are always so enthusiastic about their learning. There are many opportunities for us at Netherhall."

Opportunities open to all





Igniting young minds

Our exam results, which are consistently higher than the national average, speak for themselves. But we are not just an exam factory. Whilst academic prowess is important to us, so too are creativity, the ability to express an opinion and the capacity to love learning.

All subjects are taught by qualified teachers with a background of expertise in their subject. They teach at Netherhall because they are committed to developing young people as happy and successful learners. They will work hard to get to know you as the person you are and unlock your potential in their subject.

Classrooms in the school are equipped with interactive whiteboard technology, projectors and speakers. This allows teachers to explore a range of multi-modal learning activities which engages students whilst preparing them for their futures in a world saturated in technology.

Netherhall students are always so enthusiastic about their learning. There are many opportunities for us at Netherhall."



Supported all the way



Recognising the breadth of individuals at a school is one thing. Having the staffing infrastructure to support it is quite another. At Netherhall we have both.

With a starting point of care and compassion, our commitment to supporting all students permeates every aspect of our teaching practice.

As a student travels through their day at the school, not only will they encounter their form tutor and mentor

each morning and at least five different subject specialists throughout the day, they may also come into contact with teaching assistants, Heads of House, pastoral support workers, literacy or numeracy coordinators or our dedicated IT, science, technology and art technicians – all of whom come to work each day with the sole aim of supporting and assisting young people.

At Netherhall, we work hard for all educational abilities: whether that be to challenge our most gifted and able, to

provide a supporting boost to those who encounter difficulties or to provide extra specialist English teaching to those for whom English is an additional language (EAL), our support structure is rigorous and robust in order to ensure that no child is left behind.

“EAL helped me a lot with my English punctuation, grammar and vocabulary. It has been a great privilege to be a part of the EAL classes.”

Keeping families informed

Parents are the primary educators of their children. From learning to walk, to talk, to read, to count, to everything that follows. Netherhall is set up to work in a full partnership with parents and carers to give the maximum support to our students. We regularly communicate with parents and carers through:

- Our parental intranet, an online, mobile friendly, platform giving instant access to information about progress, attendance and behaviour.
- Our weekly digital newsletter, easily read on a smartphone, containing

information about activities, events and successes in that week

- Our parents' evenings and information evenings, which take place at key points throughout a student's life at school.

At the same time, we actively encourage parents to communicate with us and to join in with the life of the school. This may be through volunteering on our Parents and Friends of Netherhall School group (PFNS – or Puffins!), by attending our sporting, arts or celebration events.

Additionally, our website is regularly updated and full of useful information about subjects, exams, school admin and extra-curricular opportunities.

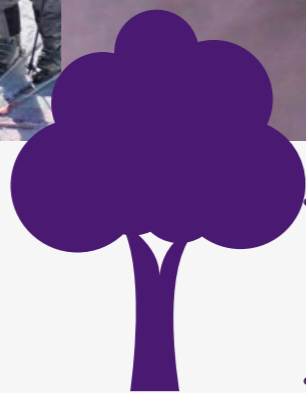
Teachers, Form Tutors and pastoral staff are always open to correspondence and can be contacted at any time via email.

Our English as an additional language (EAL) results are the best in the region.





Growing through experience



Trips, speakers, competitions, work experience; the norm, not the exception

Our extensive enrichment programme runs through the school from Year 7 to Year 13. During every stage of their development at Netherhall, students are offered opportunities to challenge themselves outside the school or classroom environment.

In Year 7, the Enterprise Day enables students to develop business and marketing skills with the support of local business leaders.

Award winning authors visit, engaging and entertaining whole year groups.

Year 8 students enjoy an opportunity for a residential team building trip and activities designed to take them safely out of their comfort zone.

Year 9 students take part in a work-shadowing day to prepare them for the work experience fortnight in Year 10.

The very successful Key Stage 4 ski trip allows students to learn or develop skills on the Austrian mountains. Field work has taken our sixth formers to work on projects in South Africa and Iceland, and our Business Studies A-Level students have put their business acumen to the test in New York.

Along with departmental collaboration with external organisations, inter-school competitions and whole-school performances, there really is something for everyone to get involved with.

What I have enjoyed most is the sheer amount of new opportunities available. I have been involved in sports fixtures, various clubs and the Junior Mathematical Challenge. My proudest moment so far is performing in the school musical."

Be inspired to learn



Across the Key Stage 3 curriculum, schemes of work are driven by academic rigour and creativity, whilst at all times maintaining the long-term aim of preparing all students for GCSEs and their post-16 education.

In the core subjects of English and Maths, class groups are grouped in a way to allow students to flourish at a level that is right for them. In other subjects, mixed-ability setting allows students to make progress alongside their peers using carefully differentiated work set by their teachers.

Netherhall is committed to a broad curriculum that encourages and celebrates creativity alongside more traditional academic pursuits. As well as Art, Music and Drama lessons, taught by specialist teachers, we

actively promote involvement in our annual acclaimed whole school events, showcasing the Arts in all their glory - school musical productions, the Evening of Dance, the Shakespeare Festival, the Arts Festival.

Netherhall embraces opportunities to inspire learning outside the classroom. In Mathematics, our students compete in Maths challenges at a regional and national level against other schools in the UK; in English, our Year 7 students have successfully created and performed stories in the local Metamorphosis competition; in Technology, our students have worked with internationally recognised local businesses such as ARM and Marshall via the Launchpad project; in PE, it's not just the school's sports clubs which thrive, but the students are

enthusiastically engaged both inside and outside the classroom throughout the year in the school's inter-house competitions.

These examples of our subject-specific commitment to inspiring participation and learning really do exemplify much of the practice that takes place across all subjects and departments at the school.



In every single lesson every teacher makes sure you feel happy and comfortable and that you aren't left out in their lesson."

Netherhall is committed to maintaining a broad range of options choices so that students can follow a GCSE curriculum which inspires them.



It's great how many clubs you can go to, no matter what your interests are. It has pushed me to branch out and try new things from hockey to Latin."

Realising your potential

With over 20 clubs running each week, and different clubs happening each term, there is something for everyone at Netherhall.



If you can think it, if you can want it, then you can do it. At Netherhall, our extra-curricular activities are limited by imagination only. Our staff go above and beyond classroom expectations to ensure that school does not just happen during school time.

When the bell rings at the end of the day, the building bustles with an enormous range of activities coming to life.

Amongst our most successful clubs are: cricket, rounders, badminton, football, athletics, rugby, orchestra, pop choir, dance club, Latin class, drama club, Rainbow Kite, Christian Union, video games club, art club, technology club, Young Enterprise, a debating society...to name just a few!

As well as the various clubs and activities that are on offer after school or at lunchtimes, we also pride ourselves on the value given to student voice. There are numerous opportunities for students to represent their views to school leaders through forums such as the Netherhall Green Society, the Sports Council, House Forums and the Student Leadership Council. Students are able to contribute to these groups by volunteering their time, or through elections during form time.

Our commitment to a broad extra-curricular timetable allows students to pursue their personal potential with the same vigour as they do their studies.

Celebrating Success
Our students are grouped in 4 houses, each named after an inspiring individual with links to Cambridge: Emily Davies, Rosalind Franklin, Sir Jack Hobbs, Wole Soyinka. The values and qualities found in these people are those we aim to instil in our own students. At the end of each term, we celebrate the students who have demonstrated these characteristics in house assemblies. At the end of each year, we hold celebration evenings where a wide range of students in each house are rewarded for their effort, progress and commitment in both their academic studies and their contributions to school life.

After these celebration events, you will see students proudly wearing their colours on the sleeves of their school jumpers.



“Netherhall has amazing facilities which make learning much easier and more enjoyable... we are very lucky to belong to a school such as Netherhall”

Spacious facilities, all on one 40-acre site



You don't need to be in the school for very long to realise just how lucky we are with the facilities that we have. Our students are exposed to some of the best educational tools and equipment there is.

On top of the teaching spaces, all of which are resourced with interactive whiteboards, data projectors and sound, the school boasts: five ICT suites; a flood-lit all weather sports pitch; two dance studios; a library stocked with over 12,000 titles; fully resourced catering rooms, science and technology

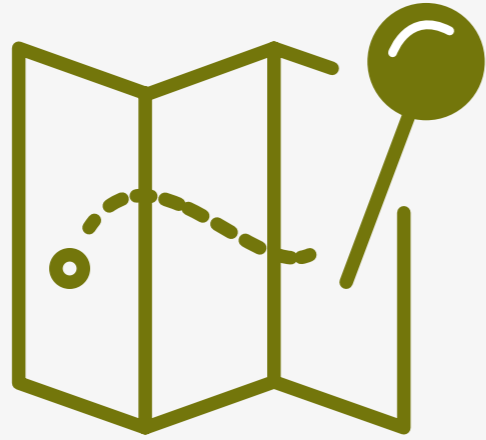
labs; a media studio with video and audio recording facilities; a dark room; tennis courts; cricket nets; a fitness suite; a generous performance stage with a dedicated lighting and sound suite; a kiln.

In some subjects such as English and EAL, students can have access to iPads and Kindles whilst the generous field space that makes up the school grounds allows plenty of space for physical activity.

This abundance of new and contemporary learning spaces and equipment contributes well to the high value placed on education at Netherhall.

Cutting edge facilities for modern learning and full internet access to the school for both students and parents.





Easily accessible location

For those students who cycle to school, we provide secure bike sheds which are locked during the day. Each year group has their own allocated bike shed in order to facilitate an organised approach to arriving and leaving the site.

There is a bus stop outside the front entrance which is served by the Number 1 bus and provides easy access to the centre of town, Addenbrooke's bus connections or the train station. Students travelling from further afield by train will be able to apply for student rail cards to receive discounted rail travel.

Information about eligibility for free or reduced bus travel can be found via our website.

For those students who arrive by car, the turning circle at the front of the school allows for safe and easy access away from the main road.

Regular bus services, secure bike sheds and a safe drop-off / pick-up location set back from the main road.



Joining the Netherhall Community



Netherhall has an equal opportunities admissions policy. The two main age entry points of admission to the school are at 11+ and at 16+.

To apply for a place in Years 7 to 11, you will need to apply online at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/secondary-school>

To apply for a place at The Oakes College, you will need to apply via the online Cambridge Area Partnership application process if you live locally. This process will be conducted by your child's school. If you live out of area, you will need to apply directly to The Oakes College (office@oakescc.org).

At age 11

Up to 180 students are admitted in each year 7 intake.

Parents living within the City of Cambridge receive a preference form in the autumn term before admission and return the form to the central admissions office. Parents living in other areas need to request a preference form.

Alternatively, applications can be sent online. All details are given in the preference form pack supplied by the central admissions team.

Please note: Students who join midway through KS4 may be required to move back a year to give them the best opportunity of success in the terminal

examinations. This may still be the case if GCSE courses have already been started at other institutions but whose choices do not match our curriculum or timetable.

Please find detailed information regarding the admissions procedure and criteria for selection of students in the case of oversubscription on our website.

At age 16+

Students apply to The Oakes College using the Cambridge Area Partnership online application.

A separate Oakes College prospectus is available for post-16 students. Please contact The Oakes College office on 01223 868327 or at office@oakescc.org.



I hope you've enjoyed this publication and that it's whetted your appetite for more. Don't just take our word for it though; come and meet us in person at our Open Evening this autumn. A warm welcome awaits you."

Chris Tooley Principal





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