



DENBIGH SCHOOL

# Think Denbigh

SIXTH FORM 2024 Prospectus

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# Think Denbigh

At Denbigh we offer students an excellent Post 16 educational experience. With 470 students, we are one of the largest sixth forms in the local area and we consistently record A Level results above both Milton Keynes and national averages. We draw students from schools across Milton Keynes and beyond, attracted by our academic success, curriculum offer, exceptional facilities and enrichment opportunities. We offer a Sixth Form experience which gives our students the tools to succeed in today's competitive university,

apprenticeship and employment markets. We are part of the Denbigh Alliance Multi Academy Trust and are recognised nationally for our commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.



*More than 75% of our Sixth Form students secure places at university each year including Oxford, Cambridge and the Russell Group Institutions.*

**Paul Gannaway,  
Director of Post 16**





# Achieve



*Denbigh provides students with the solid academic grounding they will need to achieve highly at A Level and meet the entry requirements of the top universities.*

**Ofsted, 2019**

## WELCOME

If you decide to join our Sixth Form, we will help you to prepare for the next stage of your life. We will offer you a personalised study path chosen from a wide range of academic courses matched to your strengths and plans for the future. You will be supported by a learning mentor and will receive comprehensive guidance on higher education and career choices. We want you to succeed and help our Sixth Form to be the best it can be.

Academic excellence is at the core of all we do. Over 75% of our students go on to university each year and nearly half of them apply to the prestigious 'Russell Group' universities. Our students increasingly access the growing competitive apprenticeship market, securing placements with well-respected companies.

We want you to build on your academic success and develop your skills and confidence by taking advantage of the many exciting and fulfilling enrichment opportunities we offer. You will be joining a Sixth Form where our students are mature, successful, and excellent role models for younger students and where the contribution they make to school life is highly valued. We are very proud of our Sixth Form and we are sure if you come and visit us you will see why.

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**Dr Andrea Frame**  
**Headteacher**



# LEADING THE WAY

We play a leading role in the development of education nationally, regionally and locally. We were the founding member of the Denbigh Alliance Multi Academy Trust which also runs Watling Academy and Watling Primary, a newly opened eco-friendly primary school. Being part of this dynamic, growing Trust has created opportunities for Sixth Form students and staff, helping them to thrive.

We lead the Enigma Maths Hub under a government initiative to improve the teaching of Mathematics and student outcomes across the country. Our Hub is one of only 40 nationally and provides training for Maths professionals across Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire. We are also one of only 38 designated National Computing Hubs, actively promoting the teaching of computing in primary and secondary schools in the region.

Our Tommy Flowers' SCITT (School Centred Initial Teacher Training) allows us, with our partners, to train the teachers of tomorrow here in Milton Keynes and is held in high regard by local stakeholders. The SCITT has been consistently rated as Outstanding by Ofsted, most recently in 2023, and our graduates are teaching across Milton Keynes and beyond. We are also a key strategic partner in MK-ECF, the partnership of schools that provides professional training for primary and secondary school staff at the beginning of their careers and this has recently been inspected and graded as Outstanding by Ofsted.

Involvement in these national programmes brings with it the recognition that we are one of the best schools in the country for teaching and learning and that innovation is at our core.



*Trainees benefit from an excellent curriculum, which is taught by experts. This exceptional training programme weaves together theory and practice seamlessly to provide trainees with an experience that is second to none.*

**Observations from SCITT  
Outstanding Ofsted  
Inspection, 2023**

A young person with dark hair, wearing a red long-sleeved shirt and a white apron, is focused on a task in a workshop. They are using a tool to work on a piece of wood on a workbench. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and workshop equipment.

# Innovation



*I love the independence the Denbigh Sixth Form offers me in terms of planning my work and life and the trust the teachers have in me to get my work done.*

**Year 12 student**

## LIFE IN THE SIXTH FORM

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Our Sixth Form students have their own dedicated Learning Centre, which includes a common room and social working space. The Centre is the community hub for the Sixth Form and includes the offices of the Director of Sixth Form and the Heads of Year 12 and 13 who are on hand to support students.

Our Sixth Form students also benefit from the other outstanding accommodation around the School including a bespoke Creative Arts Theatre, an Activities Studio, open plan Art classrooms which allow for collaborative working, music recital and practice rooms, an outside Amphitheatre, Science labs and Design Technology rooms. All Sixth Formers have access to the School's Careers Advisor, who can run one-to-one meetings to support students preparing for life after the Sixth Form. Sixth Formers also have their own facilities within the School's Independent Learning Centre.

Our Artisan School Food Company, Cucina, run 'Café Pronto' as a dining and social area for Sixth Formers offering food and drinks in an Italian coffee house style.

# Community

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# ACADEMIC SUCCESS

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Our Sixth Form has a proven track record of delivering examination success, recording results consistently above the Milton Keynes and national averages. It is one of the largest Sixth Forms in the local area and attracts students from across Milton Keynes and beyond. Over 75% of our students go onto university each year and nearly half of them apply to 'Russell Group' universities. Our students are increasingly accessing the growing degree apprenticeship market, securing placements with well-respected companies through very competitive application processes.

Our examination success is driven by our commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. Our flexible and varied curriculum allows students to select a tailor-made programme that meets their individual needs. Students are supported in their learning by an academic mentor to help them meet or exceed the challenging targets we set for them.

We use technology to enhance student learning. All our students can access their work from home and MS Teams is used to access external teaching resources. Students are given access to the School's wi-fi network to use the internet to support their learning. Students can work towards an Extended Project qualification, which is equivalent to an AS Level and highly sought after by universities.

Our students take part in a wide range of curriculum enhancements including Geography and Biology fieldtrips. They also participate in theatre visits, school productions and attend music recitals.



# Excellence

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*If it wasn't for the Denbigh Football Academy, I wouldn't be where I am now, working at the MK Dons Academy, working in America and working in the game I love, which is football.*

**A graduate of the Football Academy**

# DENBIGH FOOTBALL ACADEMY

If you have a passion for football and want to see where it can take you in life, join the Denbigh School Football Academy. Founded in 1999 our Academy is the most established Post-16 provider of football education within Milton Keynes. We offer male and female Sixth Form students a two-year challenging, but flexible, Level 3 course, the chance to develop their footballing skills and to learn how to coach young people.

Our Academy works in partnership with the Milton Keynes Dons Sport & Education Trust (SET) which allows Academy students the opportunity to train and compete in a high-performance environment at the MK Dons and gives boys from the MK Dons Talent Pathway access to Denbigh's first class education offer.

Our Academy graduates leave with skills and qualifications which set them on a path to successful careers in the sporting world and Higher Education. A large proportion of our graduates complete UCAS applications and regularly receive offers from their first-choice universities.



# Opportunity

# ENRICHING EXPERIENCES

To enhance their academic learning our students can choose from a wide range of enrichment courses, many of them leading to a qualification. Our students compete in local and national challenges and competitions, as we believe competing against their peers in this way improves their subject knowledge and self-confidence.

They perform superbly and regularly reach regional and national finals. Our students also successfully compete in National Olympiads in subjects such as Science, Maths, Geography, Business and Modern Languages.

We help and support students who wish to gain work placements to support their Higher Education applications or future career plans. Our students have gained valuable experience in scientific research establishments through the Nuffield Bursary Scheme; have taken part in the Sutton Trust Summer School Programme to prepare for university life and undertaken MedLink courses. Students have also undertaken work placements with MK City Council's Town Planning Department through the Royal Town Planning Institute's 'Explore Programme'. Our students have sampled life at Oxford and Cambridge through shadowing schemes such as the 'Inspiring Excellence Programme'.

We value the development of social skills and offer a wide variety of enrichment opportunities. Students can experience the trip of a lifetime through our World Challenge Programme, which over the years, has allowed students to visit Malaysia, Tanzania, India, Peru, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and China. Our most recent expedition was to Ecuador, where our students trekked in the Andes Mountains and worked on a marine conservation project. We are a Licensing Centre for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and support every student who wishes to take part in this popular national award scheme.

There is a strong sporting ethos in our Sixth Form and students represent the School in local, regional and national competitions. We also support those students who are regionally or nationally ranked in their sporting fields in combining their studies with their training schedules.

Sixth Form students take a leading role in many of the School's Creative Arts activities and productions, and they can join our popular Debating Society that discusses current ethical issues and enters local and national debating competitions.

There are a number of exciting opportunities for Sixth Formers to mentor and read with younger students, both at Denbigh and in our partner middle schools.







# Challenge



*We want our Sixth Formers to extend their personal horizons and grow in self-confidence by challenging themselves outside of the classroom through our extensive and innovative enrichment programme.*

**Dr Andrea Frame,  
Headteacher**

# GUIDANCE AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Students are fully supported in the choices they make in the transition from Year 11 to the Sixth Form. Year 11 students at Denbigh have a discussion with a senior member of staff about their future choices and external students and their parents have an opportunity to meet with a member of the Sixth Form Team before joining the School. Internal and external students attend a comprehensive Sixth Form induction programme.

Once in the Sixth Form they are assigned a learning mentor with whom they meet regularly to discuss targets, progress and their future. Students and parents receive formal feedback throughout the year on their progress. Students also have timetabled supervised study sessions every week to support their learning and can access their work both in school and at home via the School's website.

There is extensive support for those students applying to Higher Education, including a UCAS Preparation Day, university visits, guest speakers, support for summer schools and practice university interviews.

Students entering the world of employment receive our full support. They attend apprenticeship and employment fairs, receive guidance on writing CVs and interview preparation and undertake guided work experience. We have strong and established links with apprenticeship providers across many employment sectors. We have a regular drop-in session in our Sixth Form Centre when providers meet and discuss these opportunities with our students.



*Students in the Sixth Form are positive about their experiences, especially the additional support they receive. They are well prepared for their next stages, because of the effective mentoring and study skills programmes.*

**Ofsted, 2019**

A photograph of two young women sitting at a table, looking down at a document or book. They appear to be in a study or work environment. The woman on the left has long brown hair and is wearing a dark green hoodie. The woman on the right has blonde hair and is wearing a dark blue sweater. They are both looking intently at the document in front of them.

# Support



*Settling into the Denbigh Sixth Form as an external applicant has been easy as so many other students from across MK have made the same choice as me so I can share my experiences with them.*

**Year 12 student**

## DEVELOP YOUR VOICE

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We value the contribution that our students can make to improve the teaching and learning they receive. Students have the opportunity to express their views and to assist in the development of new teaching and learning methods.

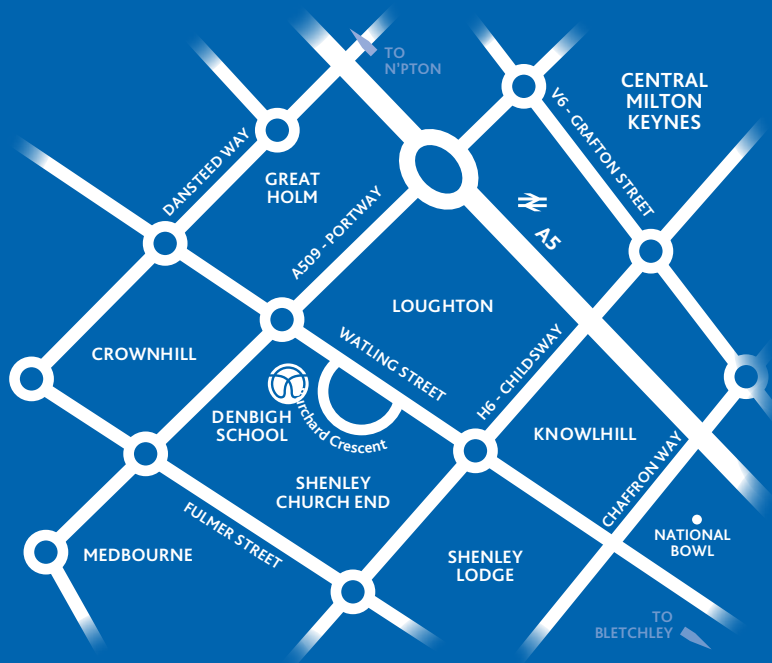
Sixth Form students can apply for a role on the House President Leadership Teams of our five Houses: Brunel, Curie, Darwin, Newton and Stephenson. The successful candidates organise the House Councils and work with the Staff House Champions to promote the House ethos of the School, which is so important to us.

The Sixth Form Council has contributed to many school decisions, including the development of the Sixth Form Centre. There are also regular opportunities for students to provide feedback about their Sixth Form experience through on-line questionnaires, focus and discussion groups and in working with staff as 'learning partners'.

There is a thriving Sixth Form Student Union, which meets on a regular basis to organise social events and the annual prom.

# Contribute

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## DENBIGH SCHOOL

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