



DENBIGH SCHOOL

Aspire, Innovate, Achieve, Belong

Think Denbigh

2027 Prospectus

Think Denbigh

Denbigh School is a successful forward thinking, 11 – 19 Academy offering an exceptional educational experience to approximately 1800 students on the western flank of Milton Keynes.

Our mission is to provide excellent education, care and opportunity to all our students and staff, and we achieve this through our core values of 'Be Engaged, Be Kind and Respectful and Do No Harm.'

We are a member of the Alliance Schools Trust. We are recognised nationally for our commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. We embrace the opportunity to challenge ourselves to move forward as a School, while always remaining true to our aim, which is to offer our students the very best life chances.

Be Engaged 

**Be Kind &
Respectful** 

Do No Harm 



**Denbigh has
inspired me to
dream BIG**

Year 11 Student



Welcome from Headteacher



Mr Anthony Steed

At Denbigh our vision statement is 'Aspire, Innovate, Achieve, Belong'. We provide a dynamic learning environment where innovation flourishes, achievement is celebrated, and high expectations drive students and staff to reach their full potential. We are committed to fostering a culture where every student and member of staff feels valued, inspired, and empowered to pursue their ambitions and contribute meaningfully to society. We want all students and staff to feel a genuine sense of belonging to the school and this is underpinned by a culture of aspiration and achievement. We have the highest expectations around student conduct, and we believe that, as a result, they will leave us as kind and respectful individuals ready for the next stage of their lives.

Our core values are 'be engaged, be kind and respectful and do no harm' and we expect all the Denbigh School Community to embody these values so that they can be successful, enjoy everything they do, and when the time is right, take their next steps with confidence. We are an inclusive, diverse school where respect for each other is essential. We are a popular, heavily oversubscribed school, which has been expanded to cope with increasing local demand for additional places.

We are, however, 'a big school with a small school feel' where every student can feel supported, safe and happy. We are very proud of our learning community, and we are sure that if you come and visit us you will see why.

Mr Anthony Steed
Headteacher



The school has a soul; we are seen, just like the pupils, we feel part of the denbigh family.

Staff member's comment to Ofsted Inspectors, 2024

- ① **Aspire**
- ② **Innovate**
- ③ **Achieve**
- ④ **Belong**

Leading The Way

Denbigh School is proud to be the founding school of the Alliance Schools Trust, a growing family of schools united by a shared commitment to delivering exceptional Education, Care and Opportunity for every child and young person.

Being part of the Trust provides our students with access to a rich network of experiences, specialist expertise and collaborative opportunities beyond those available within a single school. At the same time, our staff benefit from extensive professional development, research-led practice and clear pathways for career progression within a supportive and ambitious organisation. These opportunities reflect the Trust's commitment to collaboration, innovation and continual improvement.

The Trust leads the Enigma Maths Hub, one of only 40 Maths Hubs designated by the Department for Education. Supporting schools across Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire, the Hub provides high-quality professional development and promotes excellence in mathematics education, helping to improve outcomes for young people across the region.



Denbigh has innovation at its core and the drive to continually develop teaching and learning for the benefit of the whole community.

Dominic Wood, Chair of Denbigh Local School Board of Governors

We are also a strategic partner in MK-ECF, through the Chiltern Teaching School Hub, supporting early career teachers across primary and secondary education. This nationally recognised and outstanding programme reflects our belief in investing in people, developing future leaders and ensuring that every classroom is led by highly skilled and well-supported professionals.

Through our Trust partnership, Denbigh remains a school with its own proud identity while benefiting from the collective strength of a wider community. Together, we are committed to creating ambitious, inclusive and inspiring learning environments where every child can achieve, belong and succeed.



Building Partnerships

We are a learning community and the partnerships we forge with parents; the local community and businesses are vital to the success of our School. We want parents to be able to support their child in meeting the high expectations we have of them. To help them we will keep them regularly informed about their child's academic progress, their engagement with learning and their homework record, via progress reports, parents' evenings, information events, drop-in sessions, the Class Charts Parent App and ParentMail.

We are committed to building partnerships across the school, and our pastoral system underpins our community. We encourage collaborative working within our community wherever possible.

We are innovative in how we work with the community and businesses for the benefit of our students and engage with both local and national employers. We have a thriving alumni network with many of our former students returning to the school to talk about their experiences and provide guidance and inspiration for the next generation of students.



My son is progressing in both academic and social skills. We are pleased with his overall development at the School and appreciate all communications provided.

Parent of Year 11 student

A Place to Learn and Achieve



We are so proud that our 2026 GCSE and A Level examination results were the strongest recorded in the history of the School.

Mr Steed, Headteacher

The provision of outstanding teaching and learning is at the core of all we do, and we provide a positive, challenging and supportive environment which offers students the best chance to achieve. Our students are enthusiastic, motivated and determined to succeed, and we encourage them to be creative in their thinking and become increasingly independent learners, as they move through the school. Our curriculum consists of a strong core of subjects with the majority of our students following the English Baccalaureate, studying English, English Literature, Maths, Science, Humanities and Languages at GCSE.

Students at Denbigh follow a five-year curriculum from Years 7 to 11. All programmes of study are arranged to ensure students who are able to progress more quickly can do so, whilst those who may need more support in certain areas receive that support to ensure that by the end of Year 11, they make the progress we expect. An advanced target setting and continual assessment programme is used throughout the School to ensure that each student reaches their potential. We have intervention strategies in place to help students who would benefit from additional support. These may be students with learning difficulties or those who have higher prior attainment and require additional challenge.

Our students excelled in the 2026 summer examinations recording the strongest results in the history of the School at both GCSE and A Level. These outstanding results mean that our GCSE results continue to be some of the strongest recorded in Milton Keynes and our A Level results saw students take up university places and secure apprenticeships with prestigious companies.

We strive to recruit the best teachers and provide them with the ongoing professional development they need to inspire the students they teach. Specialist facilities in Science, Art, Design and Technology, Music and Drama, ensure that we are equipped to provide high quality lessons in all academic disciplines. IT underpins the whole curriculum and allows students to access their work from home, communicate with their teachers and keep a track of homework set.

We were delighted to receive the prestigious Secondary School of the Year Award for the second time in three years at the MK Education Awards as this recognises the strength of our whole school community.

Mr Steed, Headteacher

Success at 2026 MK Education Awards

Our talented and hardworking staff and students were recognised at the MK Education Awards this year. We were named **Secondary School of the Year** for the second time in three years, recognising that we go beyond academic achievement to foster creativity, personal growth and make a positive, lasting impact on our students and community.

We also won the **Wellbeing Award** for promoting a healthy, supportive environment, nurturing physical, mental and emotional wellbeing across the whole school community.

Two of our dedicated teachers also received nominations for the individual awards. Mrs Rowe from our Humanities Faculty was nominated for the **Lifetime Achievement Award** for being an inspirational History teacher and the leader of our Holocaust Education Programme. Mr Stott from our DT Faculty was nominated for the **Unsung Hero Award** and we were delighted that he won the award on the evening. The Award recognises his dedication and commitment which has provided so many opportunities for the young people of Denbigh School over many years, including through the Duke of Edinburgh and World Challenge programmes.





Growing in a Supportive Environment

We combine high expectations for our students with a personalised approach to the needs of each child. We are an inclusive school and believe that all students have the right to learn and reach their potential. We know that the first year of secondary school is an important time for students and our close links with our local primary schools provide an extensive, individualised transition programme, which allows students to settle in quickly and be ready to learn. We hold events for children in our primary schools to give them as many opportunities as possible to familiarise themselves with the School. On arrival, students are placed in a tutor group in one of our five houses under the care of a personal tutor. Heads of Year in each year group oversee the academic and pastoral progress of students.

We believe that every student has a right to feel safe and secure, and our students are expected to take responsibility for their own behaviour and to recognise that no-one has the right to disrupt the learning of others, or to make them feel unsafe. This philosophy is underpinned by our core values of 'Be Engaged, Be Kind and Respectful and Do No Harm'. We have a clear and robust Behaviour Policy, and our learning and peer mentors are here to support students.

We aim to provide a healthy school environment, and we encourage our students to choose a healthy lifestyle. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and require all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All staff are required to have an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Certificate. Staff in our outstanding Student Support Centre are skilled at identifying students' individual needs and providing bespoke support to ensure that they can access the curriculum and fulfil their potential.

We have a co-ordinated careers programme that students follow from Year 7 to 11, to allow them to explore the world of work and start thinking about future careers. Planning for university, employment or apprenticeships continues in the Sixth Form.



Pupils feel happy and safe at this school. The vision of 'aspire, innovate, achieve and belong' is highly evident.

Ofsted 2024





Learning through new opportunities

Our wealth of Creative Arts activities gives students the opportunity to develop as performers, artists and individuals. Our students benefit from bespoke Creative Arts accommodation, including a theatre space and dance, drama and art studios. Students can showcase their talents in productions and exhibitions throughout the year.

Denbigh has a reputation for sporting excellence and participation across Milton Keynes and beyond. We have won 'Secondary School of the Year' at the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Sports Awards Ceremony, for being the best secondary school in Buckinghamshire and encouraging our students, particularly girls, to participate in school sport. SportMK has also awarded us the 'MK Secondary School Sports Achiever of the Year Award' four times. We run an innovative Sports Performance Programme, which provides our cohort of elite sports students with support and advice on how to balance their academic studies with training demands.

Our Enrichment Day Programme allows students to come off timetable for three days throughout the year to learn beyond the curriculum, develop life skills, plan for their future and experience local and national visitor attractions. Our students benefit from an extensive range of curriculum related trips in this country and abroad. Our students have visited France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland and the USA.

We are a licensing centre for the Duke of Edinburgh Programme and commit to support students who wish to participate in this popular national award scheme. We believe students' knowledge and confidence can be enhanced greatly by competing against their peers and therefore our students enter a large range of regional, national and international competitions with much success. Our students can also choose from a wide range of lunchtime and after school extra-curricular clubs.



The support for my child has been fantastic, staff have shown care and understanding and joining clubs has helped make her feel that she belongs.

Parent of Year 8 student



House Ethos and Student Voice

We have a strong House ethos with all students and staff becoming a member of one of our five Houses: Brunel, Curie, Darwin, Newton and Stephenson. Our staff House Champions work closely with the House Councils and Student House President Leadership Teams to provide opportunities for inter-house events and competitions when students and staff represent their House with pride. The House system also drives our charity fundraising activities and they agree on a school charity each year. Last year we raised money for Solving Kids' Cancer UK.

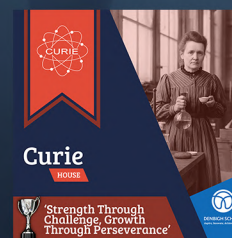
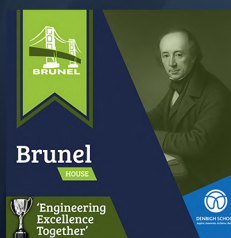
We want our students to be active members of our school community and become responsible, considerate members of society. We value the contribution and insight students can offer into how we develop as a learning community.

Our School Council has been recognised locally and nationally for its excellence and council members have spoken to a variety of organisations about how the Student Voice has created a dialogue between students, staff and governors, which continues to improve the school year-on-year. Our students also serve on the UK Youth Parliament and the MK Youth Cabinet.



I like Denbigh because it has an extremely diverse community. Due to Denbigh's encouragement I aspire to be kind and help the school and the local community.

Year 8 student



Moving into the Sixth Form



My daughter joined the Denbigh Sixth Form from another school and has made excellent progress. We are really pleased she made the move.

Parent of Year 12 student

The majority of our students choose to continue their studies in our Sixth Form where they are joined by many other students from across Milton Keynes. With over 480 students, we have one of the largest Sixth Forms in Milton Keynes. Over 75% of our Sixth Form students gain university places each year, including at Oxbridge and the Russell Group Institutions.

Our students also take up apprenticeship placements at prestigious companies. We offer students a wide variety of courses at A Level, which allows them to select a programme offering them the best chance of success. They are supported in their learning by a Sixth Form Mentor. Students have access to our dedicated Sixth Form Study Centre and Café.

Students also benefit from a wide range of enrichment options to supplement their academic study including the Extended Project Qualification, the Young Enterprise Scheme, Engineering Development Trust Scheme, Beginners Cookery and Sports Participation to name but a few. We also support them in gaining work placements relevant to their Higher Education and employment futures. Although they have their own Centre, Sixth Form students are encouraged to take a key leadership role in the wider life of the School and to support the School's younger students through peer mentoring, classroom support and becoming a member of the House President Leadership Teams.



DENBIGH SCHOOL

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