



de Stafford School

PROSPECTUS



'An inclusive community school where high academic achievement, creative participation and collective enjoyment are at the heart of all we do'



'The Headteacher and senior leaders have effectively developed a climate of success by communicating high expectations of learning and achievement to both students and staff'

OFSTED MARCH 2011

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Welcome to de Stafford School

de Stafford is a vibrant, smaller than average secondary school for students aged 11-16 years old where all members of the community are highly valued and respected as individuals.

Educating children is a great responsibility and privilege. We are committed to ensuring de Stafford provides all students with an outstanding learning experience so that they are fully prepared for the challenges of the modern world; where excellent examination results are achieved within a structure that supports the development of highly aspirational and confident young adults.

As Headteacher, I am privileged to work with incredibly dedicated and talented staff who are highly driven in delivering the best possible quality of provision for our students. Our relentless focus on learning and achievement ensures lessons are taught within a framework of creativity, innovation and challenge. Without doubt, good exam results are essential; they open doors, shape lives and empower children to achieve their dreams. However, at de Stafford we also believe in a well-rounded education where a strong focus on examination outcomes is allied with an extensive and diverse programme of enrichment opportunities.

Our prospectus aims to provide you with an insight into the character and ethos of de Stafford. However, to fully appreciate what the school has to offer, we warmly encourage you to come and see us in action. Every day is Open Day at de Stafford and we welcome visitors into our community throughout the year.

Jeremy Garner, Headteacher



Pride, encouragement & positive relationships

At de Stafford we aim to meet the needs of all our students whom we welcome into our community, if they are committed to working with us to realise their true potential. We want each student to develop their confidence, self esteem and a determination to succeed. We encourage our students to be proud of their work and achievements and intend for them to have a personal belief which puts no ceiling on their possible progress.

de Stafford provides all students with a broad and balanced education. Our curriculum is designed to enable each learning experience to include a variety of activities and a clear focus on regular assessment and feedback from teacher to student. It also gives every student the time to both enjoy and achieve in all that they do.

Through our strong commitment to the continued professional development of our staff, we are able to match our teaching to the individual learning styles of our students.

During the year all parents/carers will receive regular information about their child's achievements, and will be able to see how successful they are being in meeting their targets. There is also an opportunity to discuss progress at our Parents' Evenings.



'Very positive relationships among students and between staff and students contribute to a purposeful atmosphere'

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Personalised learning programmes ensure students are challenged & motivated

Our supportive and friendly environment encourages both personal growth and an enjoyment of learning. de Stafford is a truly comprehensive school in which we cater for every level of aptitude. In English, Maths and Science students are placed in groups according to their individual ability, allowing us to appropriately challenge every child.

Students who have a special skill or ability in a particular area are encouraged to perform to the highest level. Our ambition at de Stafford is to develop these talents through excellent classroom teaching, mentoring and additional opportunities such as workshops and special events.

Provision for Gifted and Talented students is made in all subject areas where individuals are inspired to excel in their respective subjects.

Students with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities are assisted by the Inclusion Team. Support is provided by skilled Teaching Assistants in lessons or in small groups with specialist teachers. There are identified groups in Years 7 and 8 for students requiring a focus on basic literacy and numeracy skills.

Our Intervention Team works with students and their families in a proactive and sensitive manner to resolve issues which may be preventing the young person from engaging fully in the life of the school.

We recognise the importance of individual challenge and personalised learning programmes. At Key Stage 4 we offer a wide range of academic and vocational courses and construct our curriculum around the student choices, meeting the needs of all learners.



'The curriculum is regularly reviewed to ensure it meets the needs of all learners. There is appropriate provision for a wide range of needs and interests'

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Students receive all round care from the staff

On joining the school students are allocated a Social and Academic Mentor (SAM) whose role it is to monitor the academic progress and social development of the student throughout the year. The SAM will see their group on a daily basis and be the first point of contact between the school and home. We consider the relationship between parents/carers, the student and the school to be paramount in ensuring that all students engage with their education and gain the most they can from it.

SAM groups are horizontal in year groups, each with a head of year to support the pastoral and academic achievement and well-being of their year group. This system supports high academic achievement and excellent tracking to ensure students achieve their best and get the support of a leader who knows and understands their needs.

Each SAM group belongs to one of our four houses: Andrew, David, Patrick or George. This system engenders a sense of identity within a smaller family unit and is used to promote healthy competition between students for calendared events across the curriculum including an annual Talent Show and Sports' Day.



Contribution to school life is encouraged & highly valued

Students at de Stafford are expected to try their best and to flourish. Contributions and achievements are recognised and celebrated in a number of ways. Our Praise and Reward policy encourages students to earn VIVO points which, in turn, are transferred into certificates and rewards. Departments and teams within the school operate a personalised approach to rewarding and praising students on an ongoing basis.

At the end of each term we hold celebration assemblies to acknowledge positive participation and outstanding or improved effort. This includes an emphasis on attendance which is clearly linked to progress rates. The Prize Giving Ceremony on the last day of the summer term is a formal occasion to mark the excellence achieved by students within lessons and through enrichment activities.

Student voice is an integral part of our school. The de Stafford Democracy is a driving force in seeking pupil opinion and implementing changes within the school. Each House has captains who inspire the students in signing up for the various activities and competitions and support the Heads of House with organisation and coordination of events.

Students in year 11 have the option of applying to be a member of the Prefect Team whose structure mirrors that of the Senior Leadership Team. As well as acting as role models for other students, the Prefects support staff in the day to day running of the school and represent de Stafford at various functions and at formal occasions both in school and within the local community.





Enrichment provision encourages students to develop their skills and talents

All of our students are offered a wide choice of enrichment and extension activities to broaden their minds and develop self confidence. We encourage students to join in and take full advantage of every opportunity made available to them.

We run a wide variety of educational trips and visits both home and abroad which enhance students' understanding of areas related to the curriculum and raises their cultural awareness. There are clubs and extra classes in all subjects and a study support group where students receive help with homework and extended



learning projects. We also offer a full range of provision in Drama, Music and Sport.

There are numerous occasions throughout the year where our students work with the local community to foster positive links which centre around charity work through fund raising and volunteering.

Our goal is for every student to engage in an activity that will expand their learning and enrich their educational experience.

Opportunities for our students to progress to further education and training is paramount to the work we do every day

POST 16 PATHWAYS

The Sixth Form provision for de Stafford is at Reigate College. Through a formal partnership all students who want to progress to the College, and achieve the necessary grades, are guaranteed a place. Reigate College is one of the highest performing Sixth Form Colleges in the country. It offers a diverse range of courses and has excellent facilities and resources to support their delivery.

Throughout the year there are a variety of opportunities for our students to engage with the college including a mentoring programme where our past students come back to de Stafford to carry out voluntary work at the school.

For our students who want to follow a more vocational programme of study at the age of 16, our partnership with East Surrey College will provide them with an appropriate range of courses to choose from.

Our aim is to see every student progress onto a programme of learning that meets their individual needs and enables them to achieve their future goals.

TANDRIDGE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP: 'CREATING ASPIRATIONS, DRIVING AMBITION, ENABLING ACHIEVEMENT.'

de Stafford is delighted to be the host school for the Tandridge Education Partnership (TEP) which is based on our school site. The TEP brings together the 31 Infant, Junior, Primary, Secondary and Special Schools within the borough and includes links with Tandridge Children's Centres.

The TEP promotes effective collaboration and genuine partnership working across all schools and with other agencies to facilitate and enable innovative and exciting training opportunities and accommodates extended services within our community.

'The fact that de Stafford takes so seriously its role in community engagement should be applauded – it is a school that spreads the 'feel good' factor throughout the area'

SALLY MARKS – COUNTY COUNCILLOR CATERHAM VALLEY





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Capacity for Sustained Improvement = Good

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