



An academy of the
Penrose Learning Trust

School Information 2024-2025

'Be the best you can be'

We know how important it is to choose the right school to work in and this information pack is designed to give you some details about our school.

Our school is committed to providing an education of the very highest quality. Our aim is to enable every child to achieve their very best academically, culturally and socially, so they have the widest possible choices and opportunities when they leave Claydon High School.

We believe that all students can achieve success with support and challenge and it is through working as a partnership with each other that we achieve this. We have high expectations of our students and we ask that they are committed to their own learning and show respect for others.

We are all aware of the unprecedented nature of GCSE results over the last few years but we are proud of having upheld our high standards. As a school 63% of our students achieved a Grade 4 or above in English and Maths with 34% achieving a 5 or above. Across most subjects, results were very strong.

We hope this information gives you an insight into our school and we would be delighted for you to visit us to have a tour and meet our staff and students; visitors and prospective colleagues often comment on the warm welcome they receive here and we invite you to experience this for yourself. We hope this information captures the things you need to know before making an application; more information is also available via our school website. If, however, you have further questions please do not hesitate to contact us on 01473 836110.

Good luck.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Ismay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Ismay
Headteacher

Join the team at Claydon High School

At Claydon High School we pride ourselves on the welcoming, friendly and collegiate working atmosphere.

We offer:

- ✓ new staff training and induction with ongoing support;
- ✓ continuous professional development opportunities;
- ✓ bespoke support for career development.

"I couldn't have started my teaching journey at a better school. I was fortunate enough to train in such a supportive and warm environment and I am overjoyed to be able to continue my professional development surrounded by an excellent team. The whole staff culture is so well-established and welcoming, it made my acceptance of the job the easiest decision I have made. Within the ever-evolving world of teaching, having a solid foundation that is there to support and guide you at any given moment eases what can feel like a daunting and scary period. Claydon captures the sense of community perfectly and I am thrilled to be a part of it."

English ECT Teacher, September 2024

On a practical level we can provide:

- ✓ free on-site parking;
- ✓ cycle to work provision;
- ✓ use of the gym and other keep fit opportunities.

"The support of staff has been great and everyone has been both helpful and friendly. The size of the school has meant that I have started to know my way around, the systems and the students, quickly; I already feel like part of the school community."

Assistant Headteacher, September 2024

We are incredibly social and you find us:

- ✓ offering free tea and coffee in the staffroom;
- ✓ providing breakfast and lunch on PD days;
- ✓ celebrating the onset of holidays with staff draws for Christmas and summer hampers or Easter confectionery;
- ✓ enjoying regular wellbeing activities.

"The induction programme gave me the opportunity to become familiar with staff, school procedures and the layout of the school before I began teaching. This, and the complimentary cups of tea! really helped me to settle in. I feel well supported by my team and my line manager. Staff and students have made me feel very welcome at Claydon".

Cover Supervisor, April 2024

We enjoy working here; why not come and join us?

Information about the school

Claydon High School is an 11-16 school with 771 students on roll. The school serves a predominantly rural area to the north and west of Ipswich.

Claydon High School has a long history within the community. The school has been on the site since 1937 and has grown enormously to respond to the demands of each new generation. We constantly work to refurbish and maintain our facilities.

Claydon is a small high school on the outskirts of Ipswich, well served by the A12 and A14. As part of the Penrose Learning Trust we are working closely with other academies, including our closest feeder primary school, to share best practice, supporting colleagues in professional development and maximising opportunities for our students. We enjoy excellent liaison with our primary pyramid and other local high schools.

The school has six primary feeder schools, Claydon, Bramford, Witnesham, Somersham, Henley and Sroughton though we draw regularly from over 20 different primary schools. We have very strong links with our pyramid of schools and we have all worked hard together to establish effective liaison and transition, sharing of events, planning and Continuing Professional Development.

We are a designated Lead Training School for SCITT and are committed to supporting teachers in training and their first few years of teaching alike.

Claydon Campus

This academic year we have joined with Claydon Primary School in order to work towards an all-through school. This is an incredibly exciting time in both schools' history as we embark on some ground breaking work.

Penrose Learning Trust

This is a partnership of four high and five primary schools based in South Suffolk and North Essex who aspire to offer the best possible education for our young people; excellence in collaboration is our shared motto.

The vision for the Trust is to inspire and enable all our young people, regardless of background or need, to be the best they can be.

Achievement for all

Our aim at Claydon High School is to provide a high quality education which helps students to grow and develop as self confident individuals in an environment which is supportive and caring.

We treat students as individuals and help them to achieve the highest standards they are capable of. We have high expectations of students and develop and encourage team work, respect and co-operation; all of these factors help students to grow into self confident individuals, able to take a full and active part in their community. Success and achievement are celebrated and we seek a positive partnership with parents/carers and those in the wider community.

Our core values are that students CHALLENGE themselves, and demonstrate a COMPASSIONATE and CONSCIENTIOUS approach to their learning so that they are CONFIDENT lifelong learners.

Staffing

The Senior Leadership Team consists of the following:

Mark Ismay	Headteacher
Ian Harris	Deputy Headteacher
Ali Legg	Assistant Headteacher
Drew Nash	Assistant Headteacher
Beth Wheatley	Assistant Headteacher

They are supported by the following Middle Leaders:

Alison Bateman, Joint Head of Science Faculty
Jo Bexley, Head of MFL Faculty
Paul Bradley, Head of Year 10
Alex Buxton, Head of Year 9
Laura Byam, Head of Art and Music
Gareth Cox, Head of Humanities Faculty
Abbi Driver, Joint Head of Science Faculty
Shaun Ewing, Head of Mathematics Faculty
Jo Fisk, Head of DT Faculty
Josh Knights, Head of Year 11
Richard Pope, SENDCo
Nathan Rawlings, Head of LIFE Faculty
Hannah Sim, Head of Year 7
Julia Simpson, Head of English Faculty
Andy Wilshaw, Head of PE and Drama
Kirsty Wilson, Head of Year 8

Student Management

At Claydon High School we promote an atmosphere of achievement and success. We want students to see the benefits of working hard to achieve great things. We recognise and celebrate achievement in all areas of school life. Students collect plus points for such things as: academic achievement; effort; progress; attendance; punctuality; uniform and equipment; good behaviour; help around the school and commitment to extra-curricular activities. When a student gains 25 plus points their name is entered into a termly prize draw. Student success is celebrated in the school newsletter and regular letters home are sent for student contribution to school life. There is also public recognition at end of term presentation assemblies.

We constantly remind students that they should be behaving in a positive way and we work on choices and consequences to help students make the right decisions about their behaviour and attitudes. We ask staff to be consistent in their approaches and follow the behaviour policy.

Premises and Facilities

We are proud to be able to offer our students:

- Purpose built subject classrooms
- Biology, Chemistry and Physics laboratories
- Fully equipped rooms for Art and Technology
- Five ICT suites with additional laptops and tablets
- Careers Centre
- Student Services area
- Fully equipped studios for Music and Drama
- Community use Sports Hall
- A well-equipped fitness suite
- Multi sports surface
- A Learning Resource Centre

Curriculum

Transition Support

We are fully committed to ensuring that Year 6 students enjoy a smooth transition into secondary education. Students will have the opportunity to visit us and participate in subject events. All parents/carers and students are welcome to visit us on Open Mornings and on our Open Evening in October. Our staff visit all the feeder primary schools and work with our new intake in the summer term of Year 6. Prior to their admission each student and their parent/carer will have an interview in June to share information. When they begin in September all students take part in our wonderful Legacy Project.

The School Day

Time	
8.30 am	Period 1
8.50 am	Period 2
10.05 am	Break
10.25 am	Period 3
11.40 am	Period 4
12.55 pm	Lunch
1.35 pm	Period 5
2.50 pm	End of day

- Every day begins with a 20 minute lesson with the form tutor, followed by four 75 minute lessons
- We have a two week timetable

SUBJECT	Key Stage 3			Key Stage 4	
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
English	7	7	7	7	7
Mathematics	6	6	6	6	6
Science	6	6	6	8	8
Physical Education	3	3	3	2	2
LIFE	2	2	2	1	1
Modern Foreign Languages	4	4	3	4 x option subjects 4 lessons per fortnight	
Design Technology & Computer Science	3	3	3		
Art & Design	2	2	2		
Drama	1	1	1		
Music	1	1	1		
History	2	3	3		
Geography	3	2	3		

Currently the optional subjects offered at KS4 are: Art and Design, Business Studies, Computing Science, Design Technology, Drama, Engineering, French, GCSE PE, Geography, Health and Social Care, History, Hospitality and Catering, Music, Sociology and Spanish.

At Key Stage 3

- Students study French or Spanish initially in Year 7 and this continues through Years 8 and 9

At Key Stage 4

- All students study a core curriculum of English, Maths, Science, PE, LIFE (PSHEE/ Citizenship and RE)
- Students will also select up to an additional four subjects

Arts Faculty

The Arts Faculty has been split this year into Art and Music and PE and Drama. It consists of an experienced, dedicated and friendly group of Art and Design, Drama, Music and Physical Education teachers working together in order to provide the highest quality of experience for our students across the different disciplines. Each subject area offers a range of exciting learning opportunities for students as well as a range of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities. Furthermore, all teachers within the faculty work with colleagues across the school to share good practice and to offer cross-curricular learning opportunities for students. Some excellent GCSE results in all subjects last year shows how committed this team of teachers are in securing the best outcomes for our students.

Design Technology Faculty

The DT Faculty includes specialists in Graphics, Food, Computing and Resistant Materials, all ably supported by the technician team. Engineering is being offered at GCSE this year. Cross faculty and cross curricular learning skills are developed and a lead role is taken with STEM opportunities for students.

English Faculty

The English Faculty at Claydon High School consists of an experienced, dedicated and friendly group of English teachers responsible for the delivery of English Language, and English Literature across Key Stages 3 and 4. The Head of Faculty and Second in Faculty have responsibility for curriculum development, data analysis, monitoring and intervention. They value a supportive and collaborative approach and encourage all staff to participate in the sharing of good practice, curriculum planning and intervention.

Humanities Faculty

The Humanities Faculty consists of an experienced, dedicated and friendly team of teachers responsible for the delivery of Geography and History at Key Stages 3 and 4 as well as Business Studies and Sociology at GCSE. We value a supportive and collaborative approach and encourage all staff to participate in the sharing of good practice, curriculum planning and intervention. As a curriculum area we are committed to delivering a high quality of teaching which results in all learners leaving school with the skills necessary to communicate confidently and effectively in a range of contexts. It is our aim that all students will fulfil their potential and that many will be inspired to develop their enthusiasm and appreciation of the world around them.

LIFE Faculty

Delivering knowledge and skills for Lifelong Learning, Identity, Faith and Employment, this newly created faculty delivers the foundations for students including the syllabi for PSHE, RE and CEIAG.

Mathematics Faculty

The Mathematics Faculty at Claydon High School consists of an experienced, forward thinking team. We are focused on improving the learning experience for our students by using new ideas and innovative approaches. We make learning and understanding Maths an enjoyable experience and students appreciate this. The faculty support cross curricular days where we have worked with Science and DT to develop learning opportunities for

students across the school. We have found working with other faculties has allowed for greater cooperation and understanding within the STEM group.

Modern Foreign Languages Faculty

The MFL Faculty are a small team who deliver both French and Spanish across KS3 and KS4. Take up of a language at GCSE is higher than in many schools and this reflects the way students are engaged and enthused by the subject.

Science Faculty

The aim of Science teaching at Claydon High School is to provide an education programme focussed on supporting students to gain a solid foundation of core science knowledge and skills while at the same time inspiring the students with a wonder and excitement of this key curriculum area.

Staff Development

We know that continuing professional development is highly important for all staff. We have an in-house CPD programme as well as the opportunity to attend courses run by external providers. We pride ourselves on our induction programme and further training can be requested as part of our performance management process. An annual theme for CPD encompasses PD Days and whole school teaching and learning.

Extra-curricular Activities

We have a fantastic staff at Claydon High School who offer a wide range of extra-curricular clubs and activities. Our students benefit from so many opportunities they would be impossible to list!! We also have a huge number of trips from different subject areas, many in holidays and over weekends. Staff support of any extra-curricular activity is always very welcome!

Things we are proud of:

- Peer student monitoring
- In house staff CPD programme
- Year 7 Legacy Project
- Visiting speakers and authors
- Readathon
- Music performances
- Drama productions
- Our sports teams
- Year 10 work experience
- The curriculum being enhanced by many varied trips and visits
- Charity fundraising
- Christmas hampers
- Community tea party
- Our results
- Our staff
- Our students!

School development priorities for 2024-2025:

1. Attendance improves at the school and PA is reduced especially for vulnerable groups and PPG
2. Develop independent practice so that we promote healthy learning habits within all students
3. Securely create habits and routines, which reduce the cognitive load on students and staff, to ensure increased student engagement

In conclusion

We look for quality in everything we do and strive to be the very best we can whilst seeking to provide opportunities for our students to experience success, growth and happiness.

Joining us as an Early Career Teacher?

Read about how we will support you in this first year of your new career.

Judged “good” by Ofsted, Claydon High School students have pride in their school, excellent relationships with staff and there is a “positive climate for learning”.

Claydon is a small high school on the outskirts of Ipswich, well served by the A12 and A14. As part of the Penrose Learning Trust we are working closely with other academies to share best practice; supporting colleagues in professional development and maximising opportunities for our students. We enjoy excellent liaison with our primary pyramid and other local high schools.

We work with both NESTT and EAST and are committed to supporting teachers in training and their first few years of teaching alike.

“The move from a primary school into a high school was a daunting one, but Claydon has made me feel welcome, and everyone has been willing to offer guidance and support. I feel like I fit within the Maths team, and the school as a whole. That has made the transition an easy one. The responsibilities of my new job have given me a lot of opportunities to expand and reflect on my own practice, and even in the few months I've been here I've grown a lot, personally and professionally, thanks to those around me.”
(Maths TA, September 2022)

As a small community high school (NOR: 771) we are a very friendly staff where new colleagues at any level soon get to know many people across faculties and subjects. All new colleagues are invited to new staff training prior to their start date and follow a whole school induction programme in their first term as well as being supported by faculties and other staff. ECTs are helped to access training, support and CPD in school and from our network of neighbouring schools.

“The warm welcome I received during my visit to the school really made me want to apply for the position of MFL teacher. I have not regretted my decision as Claydon is a fantastic school to work in! Staff and SLT are always here to listen and willing to help when needed and that makes a teacher's life easier.” (MFL Teacher, September 2021)

Many of our ECTs from the past few years continue to work at the school following their first year and a number have taken on TLR posts and taken a role in leading curricular developments in school and many have followed programmes for developing their teaching and leadership skills.

“I couldn't have started my teaching journey at a better school. I was fortunate enough to train in such a supportive and warm environment and I am overjoyed to be able to continue my professional development surrounded by an excellent team. The whole staff culture is so well-established and welcoming, it made my acceptance of the job the easiest decision I have made. Within the ever-evolving world of teaching, having a solid foundation that is there to support and guide you at any given moment eases what can feel like a daunting and scary period. Claydon captures the sense of community perfectly and I am thrilled to be a part of it.”
English ECT Teacher, September 2024

Why not come and see for yourself?

See our website www.claydonhigh.com or contact Mark Ismay (Headteacher) if you would like to know more about our school or to visit.