



Educating and Empowering
Citizens of the Future



Dartford
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL AND CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

01

We are delighted to welcome you to Dartford Science and Technology College. DSTC is a 'Good School' (Ofsted March 2022). It is a nurturing, engaging place where students achieve well and flourish.

DSTC is unique in Dartford as the only non-selective school for girls. In addition, we are a small College and pride ourselves on the excellent relationships between staff, students and parents. Teachers know their students well; they identify and plan for their strengths and weaknesses so that they challenge girls to be the best they can. There is a positive climate for learning with a culture of high aspiration throughout the College and plenty of opportunities for girls to enjoy and excel in extra-curricular activities.

Teaching supports good and often strong progress, as evidenced by our results in Year 11 and Year 13 where we offer both academic and applied courses. We are proud that our Year 13 leavers go on to a variety of destinations, including university and apprenticeships.

DSTC has a strong and supportive pastoral system with dedicated Pastoral Leaders. Students feel safe and are happy here. The behaviour of our girls is at least good and often exceptional. Our College Council is active and effective in allowing students' views to be heard. Student Ambassadors have an active role in school and are involved in a variety of activities from showing visitors a the school to participating in a student panel interviewing a potential new teacher.

In 2014, DSTC became a Co-operative Trust School and we embrace the Trust's aims of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, solidarity and equity. We are committed to increasing the number of girls moving into Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) careers and have a strong STEM support programme alongside our Careers Guidance and Work Experience programmes.


The College's vision "Educating and Empowering Citizens of the Future" is evident in all aspects of College life. Staff and students are proud to work here and enjoy the positive and supportive atmosphere. We will continue to work hard to become outstanding by putting students' needs first and ensuring that they make exceptional progress.



Anne Davis G Prout

Anne Davis, Principal and Geoffrey Prout, Chair of Governors





“THERE IS A STRONG SENSE
OF COMMUNITY, BASED
ON EXCELLENT
RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN
STAFF, PUPILS AND
PARENTS

OFSTED, 2022”

EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING CITIZENS OF THE FUTURE

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Dartford Science and Technology College is a happy, high quality learning community. There is an ethos which values learning and, moreover, we have an outstanding school environment which provides students with a place conducive to study.

Although schools can look and sound similar to the ones we attended as children, education has changed significantly in a number of ways. A careful balance of innovation and personalisation in lessons ensures that all students at DSTC develop a love for learning and make excellent progress.

At DSTC we have embraced the recent technological developments in education, our use of G-Suite for Education makes it easier for students to access their work, complete independent work and map their progress and feedback. Parents are also able to view their daughter's work and keep a track of their homework and progress. However, we believe there is a balance to be struck between great teaching and the use of new technologies so we are careful not to forget the difference that an outstanding teacher can make. We also encourage parents and potential students to come and visit during the school day when they can see the learning environment first hand.

Our highly acclaimed and well established Summer School is an integral part of our transition process and enables our new Year 7 students to make the move from primary to secondary smoothly and confidently. All new Year 7 students are invited. A full transition programme is planned for incoming Year 7 students involving a "transition day" in DSTC. Our staff also visit primary schools, with the aim of supporting students through this key transition point in their life.

We work closely with primary feeder schools and promote positive learning partnerships with other schools and colleges. It is important to us that students quickly become part of our whole school community and feel confident. DSTC values diversity and culture, ensures that equal opportunities are embedded and that our students participate fully in all school activities in order to reach their potential.

AN INSPIRING CURRICULUM IN AN OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENT



We know how important it is that the College builds on the enthusiasm and motivation of students moving up from one Key Stage to another.

DSTC offers an ambitious curriculum which prepares students well for adult life. This includes traditional academic subjects and a range of relevant applied courses which establish learning as a lifelong activity.

Year 7 and 8 students follow a broad and engaging range of subjects, in line with the National Curriculum, which balances the core subjects of English, Maths, Science, Languages, Geography, History and RE with the creative subjects of Design Technology, Textiles, Food Technology, Dance, PE, Art and Music.

In Year 9 students pick their Options. They are able to continue their subjects at GCSE as well as being able to choose from a wider range of specialised subjects such as Business Studies, Health and Social Care, Film Studies, and Media Studies.

The DSTC Integrated Curriculum balances academic study with Personal Development. Our Individual Character Education (ICE) programme is a unique and bespoke offer for students in all years, including Post 16. It encompasses Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE), Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), Online Safety, Citizenship Education and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural skills (SMSC), Fundamental British Values, Safeguarding and Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG). ICE allows all students to personally develop as well rounded citizens of the future.

At DSTC, our expectation is that students are inspired, curious and independent learners. Staff are enthusiastic and keen to ensure that all students make good progress in all subjects supported by our outstanding facilities.



“

I HAVE FOUND THAT
TEACHERS ARE VERY
HELPFUL, NOT JUST
WITH THE STUDENTS,
BUT WITH PARENTS
AND I APPRECIATE THAT
VERY MUCH.

”

DSTC PARENT

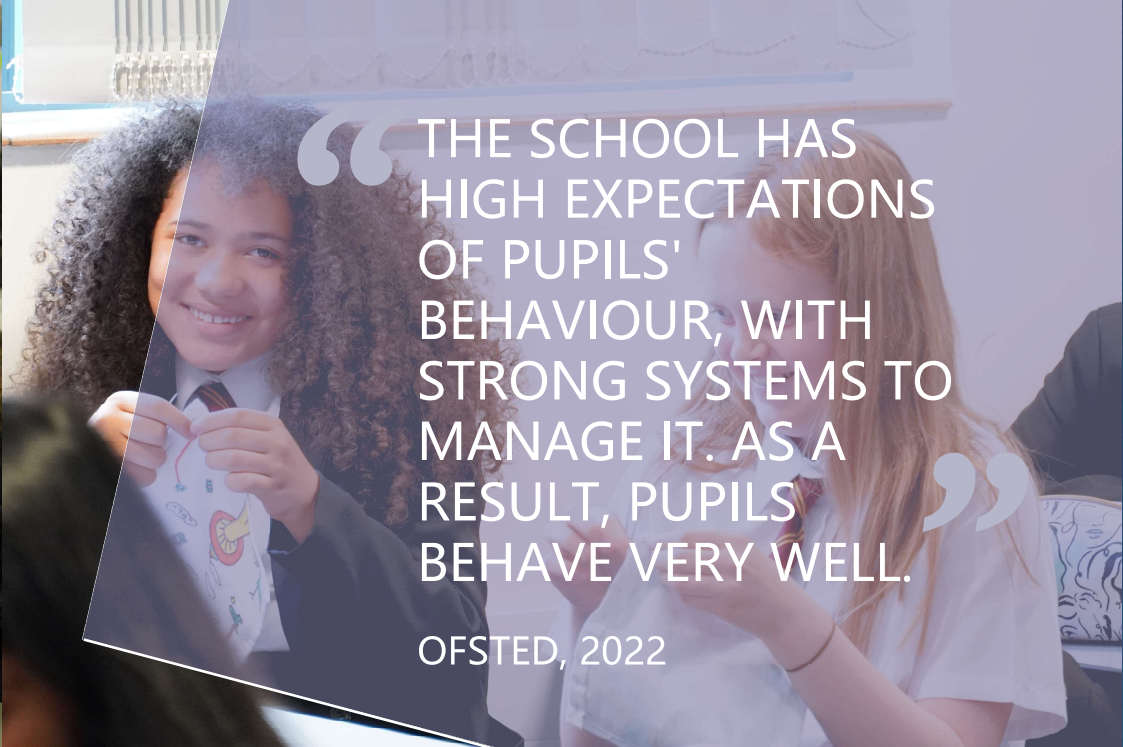
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“THE SCHOOL HAS HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF PUPILS' BEHAVIOUR, WITH STRONG SYSTEMS TO MANAGE IT. AS A RESULT, PUPILS BEHAVE VERY WELL.”

OFSTED, 2022



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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT BEYOND THE FORMAL CLASSROOM

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DSTC students are encouraged to participate in enhancement opportunities that occur beyond the formal school curriculum.

DSTC is proud of the extensive range of extra-curricular activities and, in particular, Physical Education is seen as a vital part of the healthy development of each of our students. There are a number of successful sports teams and individual students who have represented the College at county and national level. There are opportunities for students who wish to travel abroad, we have already visited many different countries including France, Italy, Spain, the USA, Kenya and Iceland. There are clubs that offer wider experiences such as dance, Eco-Club and the school choir. All clubs are aimed to widen student experience and increase opportunities to participate in school life.

Many departments organise trips which support and extend the learning that takes place in the classroom. In addition, our students are very generous in their support of the varied charity events which happen during the year. Students attend Summer Schools run by universities across the country and older students can take part in the National Citizen Service programme and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

All students gain work experience through approved providers and with the support of specially trained staff. Positive links are well established with the world of commerce and industry with many varied companies taking part in our Careers Days. Drop-down sessions support our ICE curriculum with visiting specialists in their fields, providing an array of knowledge and skills for our students.

All students participate in a community volunteering project along with our staff. The DSTC Community Day widens our students' experiences and their understanding of the world, and our staff are fully committed to providing them with a wide range of possibilities. DSTC offers students in Year 9 upwards the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and older students the Silver Award.



We take care to identify those students with special educational needs or a disability and put in place individual programmes of support which really make a difference.

These might include small group withdrawal, Accelerated Reader Programmes, Maths Watch and classroom support. Our established after-school enrichment and intervention programme provides targeted support, stretch and challenge sessions wherever appropriate.

We provide an array of clubs which students can choose to attend, as well as using after-school sessions for older students as additional exam preparation and support.

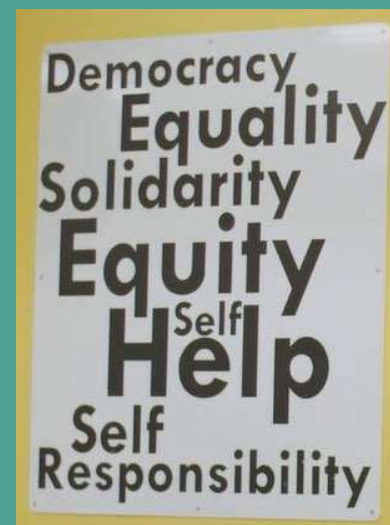
A STRONG PASTORAL SYSTEM

Students at Dartford Science & Technology College are encouraged to have a strong sense of identity. We know that their emotional mental health and well-being are key to their success.

We want DSTC students to feel safe and happy, valuing themselves but also caring for others around them in the wider community. We encourage students to value diversity and culture, enabling them to become confident individuals and responsible citizens.

Individual Character Education (ICE) is taught in Years 7-13 and is one tool for the development of wider skills and attributes. It is one of our responsibilities to develop each and every one of our students' resilience, bounceback ability, self-esteem and confidence. The College Council, House Leaders and Student Ambassadors are strong advocates for their peers and provide all students with a voice which is taken seriously by the Senior Leadership Team.

Safeguarding is excellent at DSTC. All students and staff know how to recognise and refer potential concerns to the Safeguarding team. We have a strong pastoral system which provides a caring and supportive framework for learning and helps to establish a safe and secure environment in which students can thrive and mature. Students have a Form Tutor, Pastoral Leader and Raising Standards Leader who work together to provide students with academic, social and personal support. Pupils learn how to keep themselves safe in the modern world, including when online.



“

I HAVE SEEN AN IMPROVEMENT
IN MY DAUGHTER'S
EDUCATION AND FEEL THAT
THE STAFF HAVE SUPPORTED
HER IN EVERY
WAY THEY CAN.”

DSTC PARENT

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MOVING FORWARD

Our aim is for all DSTC students to have high expectations, ambition and determination. We encourage them to set their own goals and personal challenges and then support and facilitate the achievement of these. This is formalised in the Partnership Agreement and Student Code of Conduct.

We pride ourselves on knowing our students well and, therefore, being able to advise them appropriately when making decisions about their options, both for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5.



POST SIXTEEN...

There are many opportunities for students who choose Post 16 at DSTC as their place to study. Students are able to select from a wide range of traditional A-Level courses as well as Level 3 Applied Vocational courses. We also offer a bespoke 1 year Level 2 pathway for students who haven't quite met the entry requirements for Level 3. Students on this pathway study two Level 2 courses as well as GCSE resits in English and/or Maths. Successful completion of the year offers students the opportunity to apply for Level 3 courses and continue their studies at DSTC.



As part of the Post 16 timetable all students continue the ICE curriculum, with lessons centred around studying topics and issues relevant to Post 16 students. To support their academic study and develop independence, Post 16 students will have supervised study periods in which they are able to complete homework and extension work under the supervision and guidance of a member of staff. Their academic study is also supported by an extensive programme of enrichment events in which students are also offered the opportunity to undertake The Duke of Edinburgh Award, mentor younger students and study for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ); a qualification highly valued by universities, alongside their other A-Levels and Applied Subjects.

Our Post 16 students are supported by a strong and experienced pastoral team who can support them with UCAS applications. Our Careers team offer students advice on apprenticeships and support students in partnership with "CXK" for independent careers advice. Many of our students choose higher education as their next route. DSTC is also a partner school for the University of Kent who offer bursaries to selected students.

Our aim is for students to thoroughly enjoy their chosen paths of study as well as to leave us with a range of robust and relevant qualifications that will give them the confidence to move into the world of work, go into further education or study at university. It is of the utmost importance that our students get the most out of their education and leave with the skills, qualifications and qualities needed for them to succeed in an ever changing world.

“

I CANNOT THANK YOU
ENOUGH FOR THE MEASURES
YOU'VE GONE TO JUST FOR ME
TO BE COMFORTABLE AND SAFE.

YEAR 12 POST 16 STUDENT

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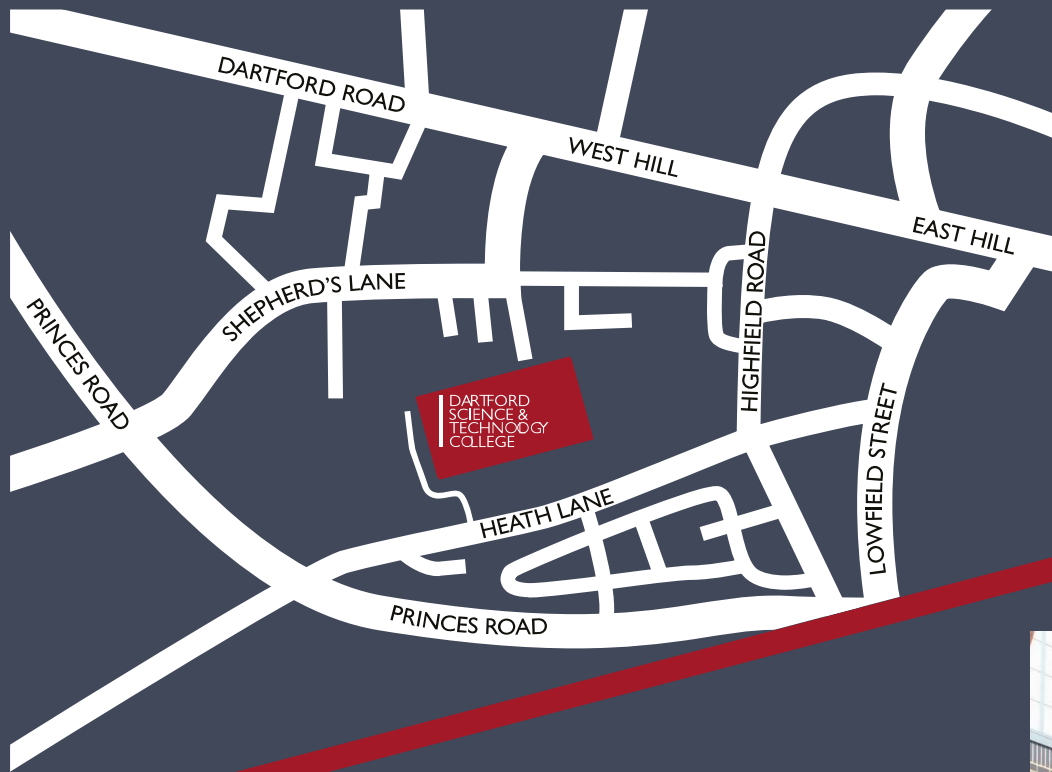


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