



“EVERYONE EXCELS
IN ALL ENDEAVOURS”
OFSTED MARCH 2017



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 2017). 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 around the school to participating in a student panel interviewing a potential new teacher.

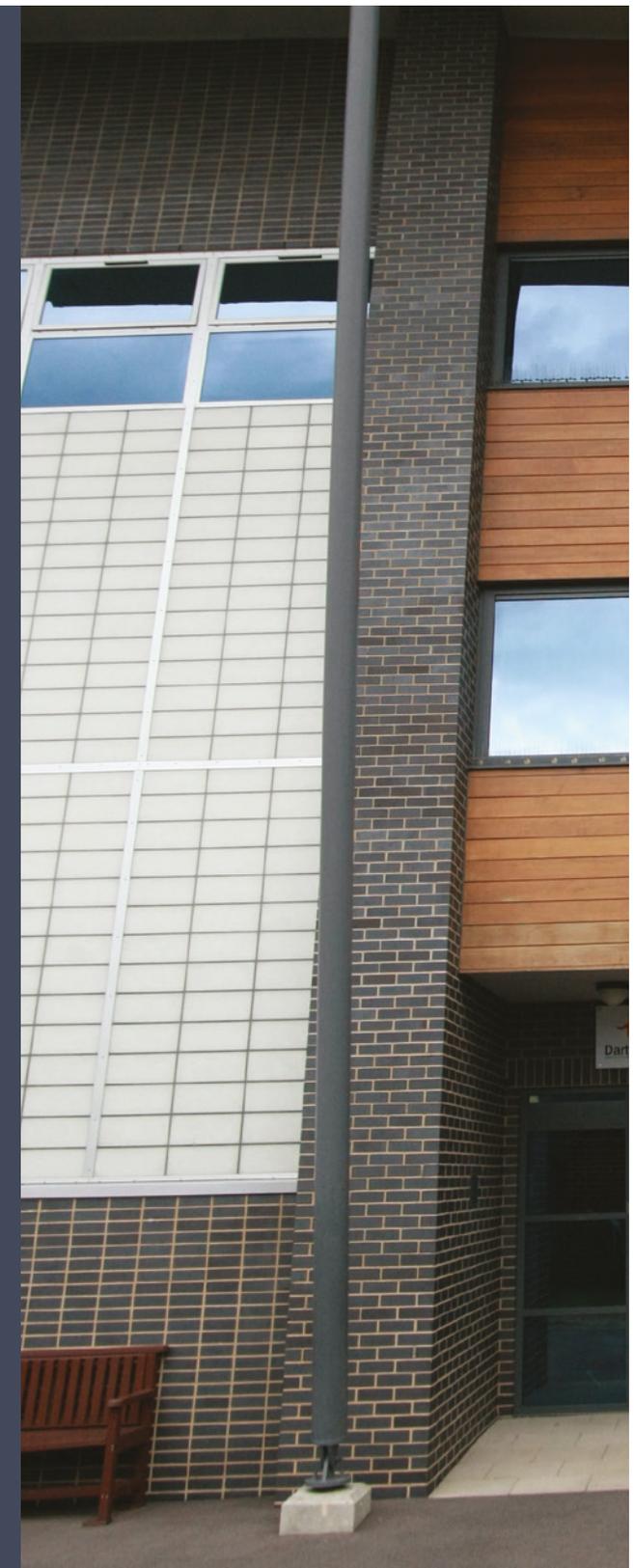
In 2014, DSTC became a Co-operative Trust School and we embrace the Trust's aims of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, solidarity and equity. We are committed to increasing the number of girls moving into Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) careers and have a strong STEM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

The College's vision "Everyone Excels in all Endeavours" 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



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THE MAIN THING I LIKE ABOUT THE COLLEGE IS THAT THE TEACHERS HELP AND ENCOURAGE US TO DO THE BEST WE CAN AT ALL TIMES.

YEAR 8 STUDENT

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EVERYONE EXCELS IN ALL ENDEAVOURS

02

A happy, high quality learning community is our aspiration at Dartford Science and Technology College. 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. The most obvious of these is the advent of new technology. An online homework system makes it easier for students to access work and for parents to keep track of homework. 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.

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.

DARTFORD
SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY
COLLEGE

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 from one Key Stage to another.

DSTC offers a broad and balanced curriculum which includes traditional academic subjects and a range of relevant applied learning courses which establish learning as a lifelong activity.

Year 7 students follow a curriculum which stretches and supports their learning and includes the creative subjects of Design Engineering, Physical Education, Dance, Art and Music. We continue to work with other educational establishments, both local and national, to ensure that our most able students follow a challenging 'grammar' style curriculum in English, Maths, Science and Languages.

Individual Character Education (ICE) is a unique and bespoke programme for students in Key Stages 3 and 4. It encompasses Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE), Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), Online Safety, Citizenship Education and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development (SMSC). ICE allows all students to personally develop as well rounded citizens able to find their place in society.

We aim to create an innovative scientific and technological culture across the College and believe that good qualifications in Science, Maths and all technologies will be critical for students facing the challenges of the 21st century.

At DSTC the 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.



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

PARENT

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Inspiring Education, Nurturing Success

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I ALWAYS FEEL THAT THERE IS A HAPPY ATMOSPHERE WHENEVER I VISIT THE COLLEGE.

PARENT

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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT BEYOND THE FORMAL CLASSROOM

DSTC students are encouraged to participate in educational 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.

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.

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.

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 Whizz 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 health and well-being are key to their success.

We want DSTC students to value themselves but also care for others around them and feel part of 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 one tool for the development of these 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 and Student Ambassadors are strong advocates for their peers and provide all students with a voice which is taken seriously by the Leadership 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.



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

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PARENT

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COLLEGE



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 Home/College 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 available for students who choose DSTC as their place of Sixth Form study. These include traditional academic A Level courses as well as Applied Vocational qualifications and a Level 2 pathway. These are supported by an extensive programme of enrichment activities and work experience. Students are offered the opportunity to also study for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ); a qualification highly valued by universities, alongside their other A-Levels.

Our Sixth Form students are supported by a strong and experienced pastoral team who can support them with UCAS applications, as well as other career aspirations. Many of our students choose higher education as their next route. Sixth Form teachers are creative and know just how to ensure students make the best possible progress throughout their course of study. 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.

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I CHOSE DSTC FOR MY
A LEVEL STUDIES BECAUSE
THE SUPPORT IS GREAT AND
STANDARDS ARE HIGH.

RECENT YEAR 13 LEAVER,
NOW AT UNIVERSITY

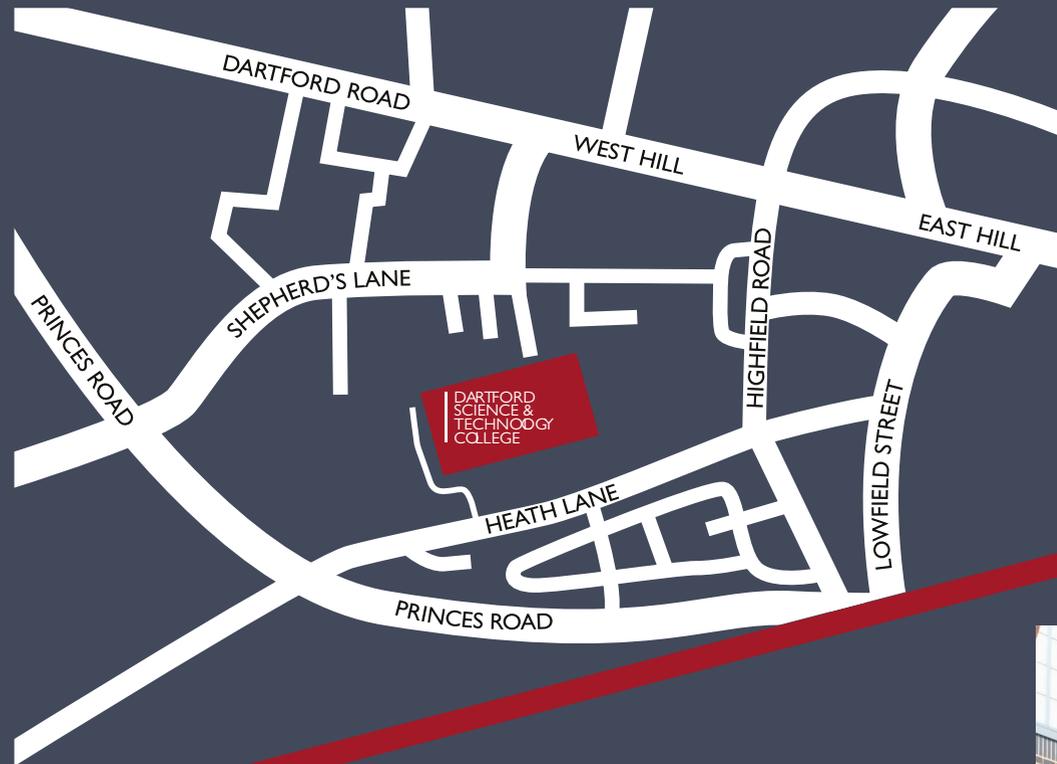
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LEARNING IS AT THE CENTRE
OF EVERYTHING WE DO



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