



Prospectus



Learning through
Challenge & Achievement
Dedicated to
Developing Enquiring Minds





*OFSTED 2013 –
“The headteacher provides
excellent leadership and
works closely with other
leaders and governors to
drive up standards.”*

Dear Parents and Prospective Students

I am extremely proud to be Headteacher of John Willmott School. As a resident of Sutton Coldfield and former student of the school, I believe there is tremendous potential here.

For all children to maximise their potential there must be a real partnership between parent, student and the school. We aim to offer a challenging but very supportive environment for all our students; one in which students can succeed academically whilst involving themselves fully in school life by taking advantage of all the opportunities on offer, ultimately leaving us as well-rounded young adults, ready to confidently take their place in the forever changing world of work.

I am pleased that by reading this prospectus you may be considering John Willmott School for your child. If you share our vision for the school we look forward to welcoming you at one of our Open Sessions in September.

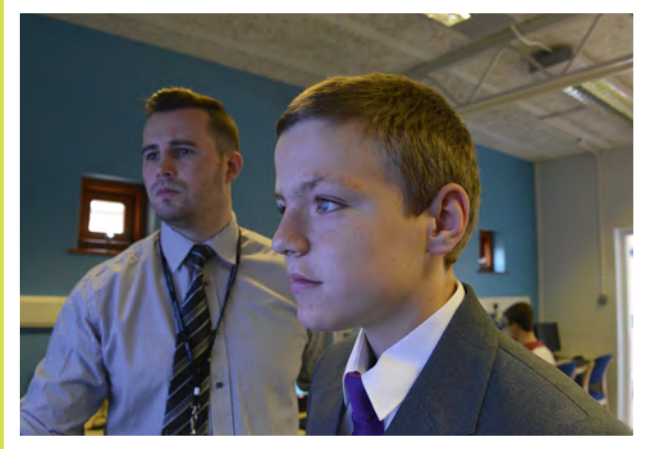
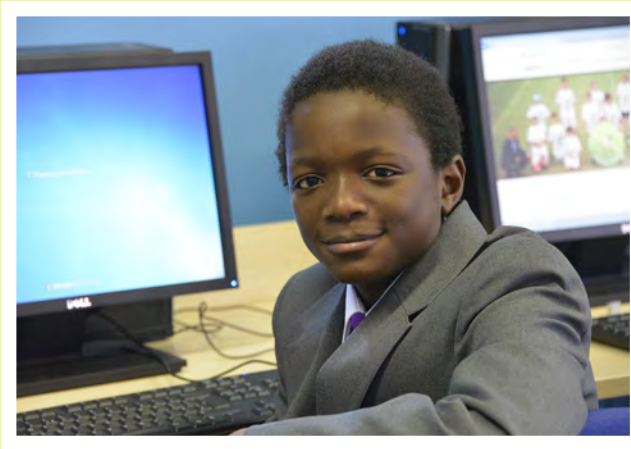
Yours sincerely

Mandy McCrohon
Headteacher



Embracing
Technology & Communication

OFSTED 2013 - *“Teaching has some strong features that promote effective learning. Most lessons are fast paced, with a wide range of activities that catch students’ interest.”*



We have extensive ICT facilities; all teaching staff have laptops which link to our wireless network and every teaching space is fitted with a data projector and white screen. We have developed the use of CAD/CAM in Design Technology and video conferencing is regularly used to enhance student learning.

Huge improvements have taken place in our buildings and facilities in recent years to support learning and teaching. We have created a six classroom Maths block, refurbished our science laboratories and our Design Technology rooms, including developments in the latest CAD/CAM technology. Our ICT facilities and resources continue to be excellent with regular upgrades of computer suites.

We were delighted to open our new £750,000 Dance Studio along with a complete refurbishment of our PE changing rooms.

To ensure a safe environment for all we have installed state of the art CCTV systems in all parts of the school. In 2009 we created a Conference Centre at school, re-designed our reception area and re-housed our Learning Support Team into a suite of rooms to better support learning needs of students with special educational needs. The social area at the rear of the school has been partly roofed to improve the school environment and this was largely due to a grant from Sutton Municipal Charities. In 2012 we also utilised a grant from this charity to remodel the facilities we have on offer to students in the Sixth Form. Students now have access to a suite of laptops, a supervised private study room, a wide range of reference materials and an additional work room housing a full set of PCs.

In 2014 the quad area of the school was remodelled to provide covered seating areas for students to use at break and lunchtime. The Main School Hall and Reception area were also refurbished and redecorated as part of our rebranding process.

OFSTED 2013 - *“The range of residential trips and other activities and visits is wide. The level of involvement is high and this promotes students’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development well.”*



In 2013 Ofsted recognised that students at John Willmott School enjoy a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities that support their personal development.

We also offer a full sporting programme for students through representative teams in a number of sports. We have a wide range of before and after school activities for students ranging from computer clubs, homework clubs, lunchtime chess club and achievement groups, through to a number of subject clubs and societies.

Our staff and peripatetic music service staff teach all major musical instruments and we hold concerts, shows and drama productions each year. Our drama department regularly takes part in the National Schools’ Shakespeare Festival.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is very popular at the school and involves students in bronze, silver and gold awards.

Educational visits play a huge part in school life and help to build students’ knowledge, skills and understanding of areas and culture different from

their own. The following overseas visits have been a regular feature of school calendars in recent years:

- ~ Geography field-work
- ~ Visits to Iceland and Sicily
- ~ RE study visit to China
- ~ Art Sixth Form study visits to Barcelona
- ~ Modern Language study visits to France
- ~ Sixth Form History visits to Paris
- ~ Ski Trips to the French Alps and USA





Providing
Diverse & Exciting Experiences

OFSTED 2013 - "Students have positive attitudes to learning and their behaviour is good."



Learning through
Challenge & Achievement

In 2013 Ofsted commented very favourably on the care, guidance and support offered to students at John Willmott.

Each student is placed in a form group when they start the school and are looked after by a form tutor who becomes the first point of contact. Form tutors stay with the groups as they go through school and each year has an Achievement Co-ordinator who has overall responsibility for students in the year group.

As a comprehensive school, we aim to ensure that all students ranging from potential Oxford and Cambridge graduates through to those with learning difficulties are able to succeed. All students follow a broad and balanced curriculum and at key times during their school career will have the opportunity to make choices to ensure their curriculum fits their particular needs.

In Year 7 we hold a progress evening in the Autumn Term to inform parents as to how well their sons / daughters have settled in. This is followed with a full Parents' Evening later in the year. After Year 7 there is a full report once a year and a full Parents' Evening, although there are more regular progress checks.

We have a team of staff who look particularly at the needs of our Gifted and Talented students and we have a large number of teaching assistants who work with students who need additional support in lessons.



Working in Partnership Listening to Students & Parents



OFSTED 2013 – “Students enjoy being at school. Effective group work promotes students’ social, cultural and moral development well.”

We have over eighty teachers and a rapidly growing number of support staff who work with our students to ensure they are able to make the progress they are capable of. These include assistant learning mentors, academic mentors, librarians, teaching assistants, academic support assistants and cover supervisors. We invest a large sum of money each year on training and the continuous professional development of all our staff. Ofsted commented positively about the motivation, enthusiasm and care provided by all our staff.

Teachers are never appointed to the staff at John Willmott unless we have seen them teach. Senior staff regularly carry out reviews of all departments in order to support development and to ensure a high quality of teaching and learning is provided.



Creating Opportunities & Developing Skills

OFSTED 2013 – *“Students are well supported and guided, and the courses taught are suited to their future aspirations.”*



We look on our thriving Sixth Form as our ‘jewel in the crown’. Our Sixth Form has increased considerably in recent years and the majority of our students stay with us after Year 11 and we attract new students who join us for their post-16 studies. Sixth Form students take on various roles of responsibility which include organising charity events, working with younger students and assisting staff in lessons.

Over the last few years results have been improving and the number of students moving on to university has increased each year. We offer a wide range of courses ranging from traditional A Levels to BTECs at Level 2 and 3.

A separate Sixth Form prospectus is available on request.



Connecting with the Community

OFSTED 2013 – *“Students feel safe thanks to very good support and care.”*

John Willmott School has some very strong links with local primary schools, often hosting groups of primary students who come to experience master-classes in our specialist subjects or sending teachers to work with groups of students in their primary school.

John Willmott continues to be a popular school and is oversubscribed each year. Many students use public transport before and after school and, in conjunction with National Express, we arrange for a number of school bus services to and from school each day.

We have worked hard to ensure that we strengthen links to other secondary schools and strive to continually share good practice in the networks in which we operate.

In 2007 we set up a Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) and this has been a thriving group who support the school in many ways. It organises many social events and the funds raised go back into school to support student activities. A good example was the PTFA donating significant sums of money to our school improvement fund.



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