I am delighted to welcome you to Chigwell School, and I encourage you to come to see us for yourself.

If you do, you will find that we are a busy school where pupils of all ages work closely with each other and their teachers. In Chigwell pupils we look for academic ambition and a genuine eagerness to be involved in all that the School has to offer.

Ours is a happy, mutually-supportive, family-orientated community in which parents and staff work in partnership to help pupils reach their full potential and where friendships formed often last a lifetime.

Chigwell School was founded in 1629 and for nearly four centuries we have been preparing pupils to go out into the world. Clearly that world has evolved a great deal since then and, whilst we are conscious of our long heritage, we are always looking to innovate so that Chigwellians are well prepared to contribute positively, to inspire change for the better and to continue learning throughout their lives.

We are very proud of our pupils and strive to ensure that, through the curriculum and the wide range of opportunities available to them beyond the classroom, each becomes the very best they can be: independent in spirit, adventurous in approach and empathetic in how they treat others.

Ultimately, we aim that each and every pupil will forge their own path to success, true to our motto: Find a way or make a way.

There is a special warmth about the nurturing Chigwell community, with excellent facilities set in a beautiful open site of 100-acres (40-hectares), within view of the City of London.

Time spent at school should be happy, with the right level of support to allow all to achieve. However, do come to meet us and see Chigwell School in action for yourself. We would be delighted to show you around.

Mr Damian King
Head
Chigwell School was founded in 1629 by Samuel Harsnett, the son of a Colchester baker. He was educated in Colchester but went on to study at Cambridge University where he became Master of Pembroke College. He was subsequently Vicar of Chigwell, Archbishop of York and Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University. Using his savings, Harsnett founded Chigwell’s original Latin and English School, which began with just 16 ‘poor, clever’ scholars.

Over nearly four hundred years, Chigwellians have gone on to make their mark across the world in a whole variety of different ways. William Penn, founder of the State of Pennsylvania, attended school in the 1650s and was said to have had his ‘first sense of God when he was 11 years old at Chigwell, being retired in a chamber alone’, in a room believed to be above what is now the main school reception.

The School has seen many changes since its foundation, including becoming fully co-educational in 1997 and more recent developments such as the Pre Prep, established in 2013, and the Sixth Form Centre in 2016. Grounded in tradition but preparing students for the future, the School is now a medium-sized school of around 970 boys and girls, which allows pupils to be known really well as individuals. Just like all the Chigwellians who have gone before them, we aim to prepare pupils to contribute to the world, now and in the future.

1629
The School was formally founded by Samuel Harsnett, Archbishop of York and Vice Chancellor of Cambridge University. The original school building, known as ‘Big School’, is now the Swallow Library.

1795
William Cotton was a student at the School - he later became Governor of the Bank of England. In 1801, he infamously set the Headmaster’s garden on fire, possibly during hay-making.

1914-18
79 Chigwellians were killed in action in the First World War. The School then had a total of only 80 pupils, but remained open.

1981
The Practical Arts Centre (now the Art, Design and Technology Department) was opened by the Queen Mother and ‘Queen Mother Quad’ was created.

1997
The School started admitting girls at all ages, beginning co-education at Chigwell.

2013
Chigwell Pre Prep was opened for boys and girls aged 4 – 7.

2016
The Risham Sarao Sixth Form Centre was opened by Old Chigwellian and TV presenter, Ben Shepherd.

2020
The School digitally delivered more than 10,000 live lessons during the Covid-19 global pandemic, as well as producing 1,000 items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the NHS, local surgeries, care homes and pharmacies.
aut viam inveniam aut faciam
“Find a way or make a way”
OUR VISION

To inspire our pupils to fulfil their potential and forge their own path to success.

OUR MISSION

Our school is a nurturing community. We strive to ensure that everyone is the very best they can be: independent in spirit, adventurous in approach and empathetic in how they treat others.

Since 1629, we have empowered our pupils with a deep respect for lifelong learning, ensuring they are ready to make their positive mark around the world.
“My child’s confidence has soared since joining Chigwell.

Children are happy to be at the school and feel part of the community that Chigwell offers.”

Our values guide our moral compass, behaviours and decision making.

They represent what makes our School distinct, as well as driving our vision, as we cultivate young people who we hope will become inspiring role models for others.
HAPPINESS FIRST

We create a nurturing space where happiness underpins our achievements and drives us forward.

“My two daughters are so happy and literally bounce into school every day. For me, this is the most important thing as I believe when a child is happy you can teach them so much more.”

PRE PREP PARENT
"The high quality provision and opportunities afforded to pupils at Chigwell School is unrivalled. The School has provided something unique for each of my three children in order for them to thrive and excel in what they do."

YEAR 6 AND YEAR 10 PARENT

COURAGEOUS & RESILIENT

We seize opportunities all around us and have the confidence to embrace them wholeheartedly
INNOVATIVE APPROACH

We adapt and evolve, influencing our changing world

“Remote learning has been a total success so far. The School should be really proud of how quickly and well they have managed to organise this.”

YEAR 8 PARENT
“We believe it is important that we are good neighbours to those around us.

Preparation for their contribution to the world begins when pupils are at school.”

COMMUNITY OF KINDNESS

We support and collaborate with each other, making a positive contribution to the community.
LIFELONG LEARNING

We cultivate curiosity, keeping the passion for learning alive beyond the school gates.

“I’m very grateful to Chigwell for the opportunity it gave me and the confidence it instilled in me. It gave me a brilliant life, enabling me to do what I love for my career.”

OLD CHIGWELLIAN, CLASS OF 1983
An unrivalled 100-acre (40-hectare) site, just a stone’s throw from the City of London

A unique blend of listed, historic buildings, modern facilities and spacious grounds.

All sections of the School, from the Pre-Prep through to the Sixth Form, share a single site, enabling us to offer an exceptionally cohesive and stable environment.
Our Pre Prep is many things. It is a place of learning with high academic expectations and achievement, a place where pupils work incredibly hard, a place of variety and security, and very importantly, a place of happiness and fun.

Sitting at the very heart of the School site, it is a place where our youngest Chigwellians begin their educational journey in a safe and nurturing community, and where they can experience all the joys of childhood. Inspired by highly-skilled and passionate teachers, they begin to learn and apply the Chigwell values.

The Pre Prep is unique in that it stands alone in a beautiful environment but has the advantage of being closely joined to the Junior and Senior Schools. We offer children all the benefits of a small infant school, whilst at the same time providing exceptional resources which are only available because we are also part of an all-through school.

**SEAMLESS TRANSITION**

When it is time for children to move on to the Junior School, the transition is planned seamlessly to ensure that children’s needs are known and that they continue to be met in the best way possible.

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Mrs Evelyn Gibbs B.A. N.P.Q.H. P.G.C.E.
Head of Pre Prep
egibbs@chigwell-school.org
“An outstanding school in all aspects. The Junior School is extremely well run. Our child has flourished since joining Chigwell.”

Joining the Junior School at the age of 7 is an exciting step for children as they progress from the Pre Prep or arrive to Chigwell as newcomers. We provide our children with the space to grow, not only as learners but also as people who will thrive in the modern world. As a school we give them the confidence to be themselves and to follow and develop their interests.

Our teaching is excellent and our teachers are skilled not only in the classroom but also in providing the care and individual attention that the children need. Class sizes are small, which allows us to get to know the children as individuals and to adapt their education accordingly.

CONTINUITY OF THE LEARNING JOURNEY
The Junior and Senior Schools share the same educational philosophy, as well as many facilities and teaching staff. Friendships and joint activities also link Juniors and Seniors, giving pupils a sense of continuity as they progress through the School.

Mr Andrew Stubbs B.A, P.G.C.E.
Head of the Junior School
astubbs@chigwell-school.org
Pupils enter the Senior School in Year 9, although they will have been following a Senior School curriculum since the start of Year 7. This is both an exciting and increasingly serious phase of pupils’ development, emotionally and academically, accelerates quickly towards maturity. This phase incorporates the development of skills successfully to pass public exams, embrace university life and make career choices.

BUSY BUT BALANCED

Typically, Chigwell pupils are very busy. They learn to balance their extra-curricular commitments, and they work hard to achieve the best results they can in their various subjects. Through this rich combination, the young men and women develop as people, learning to overcome difficulties and challenges together, but most importantly of all, we hope, enjoying their time at school.

“We believe that by working together, parents and teachers provide boys and girls with the most effective support and direction.”

Mr Damian King
Head
The Sixth Form at Chigwell is a special place. Like our impressive modern building, just around the corner from our historic Chapel Quad, we are at the centre of the School’s traditions, but prepare our students for the future.

MORE THAN QUALIFICATIONS

Equipping our students with more than qualifications, we encourage and enable our Sixth Formers to develop independence, maturity and character to be happy and successful in their chosen careers and in their lives. We value high academic standards and emphasise that, at A Level, these come not from regurgitation of facts, but from the deeper understanding developed over time through application, self-discipline and working closely with teachers and each other.

A DIVERSE MIX OF STUDENTS

Our students are a unique combination of young people. Those who have been at Chigwell for many years are joined by new local day students and our international boarders, who we welcome from around the world. We greatly value the diversity this gives us.
“A mature community where independence and personal responsibility are valued and encouraged in all students.”

Mrs Amanda Goddard B.Sc. P.G.C.E.
Director of Boarding
agoddard@chigwell-school.org

“Mature, family-style boarding

Our small, friendly international boarding houses provide a secure base for students from across the world. Here, we create a friendly and supportive home-from-home for 28 international Sixth Form students living on site. The students live in four extended family-style houses (two for girls and two for boys). In each house, students of different nationalities live together with their house parents who are experienced teachers and senior academic staff.

Whether your child is a boarding student or not, they will benefit from the cultural diversity in the Sixth Form. Having staff and students living on site really adds to the community feel of the School.”

Mrs Amanda Goddard B.Sc, P.G.C.E.
Director of Boarding
agoddard@chigwell-school.org
Life beyond Chigwell

Our dedicated Head of Careers offers advice and guidance, supporting our students every step of the way for the next part of their journey.

CONNECTIONS WITH THE SCHOOL CONTINUE THROUGH OUR STRONG OLD CHIGWELLIAN ASSOCIATION

Our ever-expanding alumni network scattered worldwide keeps Old Chigwellians (OCs) in touch with one another to support the School and each other.

The School and all Old Chigwellians are represented by the Old Chigwellians’ Association (OCA), which work in partnership to organise social, cultural and sporting events throughout the year. Many friendships made at Chigwell last a lifetime, and our OC community also facilitates professional opportunities and a lasting network of connections. The OC Alumni are integral in supporting the School with career talks, professional days and the sharing of expertise and time, particularly as part of the popular ‘Meet the Future’ sessions held at the School.
“We are driving the OC agenda through a number of new initiatives to ensure we keep the Old Chigwellian network meaningful for generations to come.”

MRS AEGEAN SIMPSON
PRESIDENT OF THE OCA
We aim to bring out the very best in each and every pupil

The strong relationship forged between teachers and pupils is key to driving this success. We have first-class teaching and inspirational teachers who are passionate about their subjects, and we are very proud of the achievements of all our pupils. Most go on to study a wide variety of courses at highly selective universities and degree-level apprenticeships are increasingly popular.

Chigwell pupils take a core set of GCSEs and then have a free choice of additional subjects. These prepare them for the broad range of academic A Levels which are offered in the Sixth Form. Over 50% of A Level grades are A* or A and around 70% of leavers go on to attend either Oxbridge or Russell Group universities. A small but growing number secure places each year at international universities including Ivy League institutions such as Harvard and Yale.

Beyond the curriculum, there is a broad range of subject enrichment to stretch and challenge those with particular interests and talents. Some students opt for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which is highly regarded by universities and there is a wide range of clubs and competitions. Leadership opportunities include becoming a praefect, leading assemblies or actively participating in pupil-led committees and community initiatives.

Ultimately, we aim to equip young people with the curiosity and skills which they will need in the future. We also seek to inspire them with a love of learning to last a lifetime.
“Being Head of Learning Support allows me to embrace pupils’ differences and harness their personal strengths.”

“Being Head of Learning Support allows me to embrace pupils’ differences and harness their personal strengths.”

Every pupil has a different learning style and pace

We are committed to helping pupils with a range of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), in order for them to reach their full potential in a safe environment.

Although Chigwell is a selective school, we recognise that, on occasions, individual pupils might need learning support for some or all of their school work. We have a dedicated Learning Support Department which offers support and guidance to pupils throughout their time at the School.

We treat each child as an individual and tailor a programme of support to meet specific needs. It is important to ensure that we are informed of your child’s particular needs before their entry to the School, so that we can discuss and determine the right type of support.

Teachers regularly monitor the progress and attainment of all pupils and, in cases where children do not make the expected progress, the Learning Support Department works with colleagues to devise additional support to best meet their needs.

Our one-to-one and group sessions enable our pupils to identify solutions to become effective independent learners. The department has an open-door policy for pupils and parents with any concerns. We also maintain close links with a wide variety of outside specialist practitioners and use their guidance to inform teaching.
Mental health and wellbeing are very important to us. Our extensive programme includes pupil training, dedicated tutor time and visiting speakers.

Robust safeguarding procedures are implemented by an expert safeguarding team, including excellent support from the School Medical Centre, the Chaplain and deputy designated safeguarding leads in all parts of the School.

PSHE is built around developing emotional intelligence and resilience. Skills for good mental health are covered, as well as supporting pupils to stay calm and focused, particularly during their exam years.

Our school counsellor is available for up to three days a week, for both pupils and staff. Younger pupils may be referred by their parent or teacher while older pupils may arrange an appointment themselves. All appointments are confidential, and take place in the Medical Centre.

Mrs Amanda Goddard B.Sc. P.G.C.E.
Designated Safeguarding Lead
agoddard@chigwell-school.org
Pastoral care and the house system

The focal point of pupils’ lives in the Senior School is their house - Caswells’, Lambourne, Penn’s or Swallow’s, and many pastoral, sporting and cultural activities are organised on a house basis. They are supported pastorally by their housemaster or mistress, along with a team of tutors, and each house has a dedicated common room where pupils of all ages are able to mix.

“Pastoral care is second to none. Staff are caring and committed, freely giving of their time and support.”

YEAR 6 AND YEAR 10 PARENT
Today the Chapel acts as a focus of thought and inspiration for a diverse community representing all the major faiths of the world and those who have no faith. The Chapel provides a quiet place of refuge for thought, challenge, peace and tranquility, where individuals can reflect and make sense of the world.

Although worship is framed by the singing of Christian hymns, very often talks draw on the breadth of spirituality encompassed by the world religions. During the year, pupils will share their own ideas and beliefs in what is a safe and supportive environment.

Pupils are encouraged to grow in their own faith traditions whilst appreciating and respecting the beliefs of others. Thus Chapel has at its heart the philosophy that all people are valuable and precious. Chapel is at the heart of a vibrant community and it is testimony to its importance that those who leave often say how much they miss the quiet and thoughtfulness that the services offer. Many Old Chigwellians return to the Chapel for weddings and the baptism of their children.

Rev. David Wilson
Chaplain
The most successful students are very often those who involve themselves most actively in the co-curricular life of the School

MUSIC

There is a wide range of musical opportunities for pupils of all ages at Chigwell.

Each week twenty-five visiting music teachers deliver one-to-one instrumental and singing lessons to several hundred pupils and there are opportunities to play or sing in a variety of orchestras, band ensembles and choirs. Each of these performs at concerts throughout the year, some of which take place in the local community.

The Choral Society performs annually at prestigious venues in the capital, and parents, staff and Old Chigwellians are welcome to participate. We believe that everyone has some musical talent and participation is warmly encouraged.
“I loved my time as a member of the Chigwell School Chapel Choir. The experiences this group gave me were priceless. Being given the opportunity to perform in places such as St Paul’s Cathedral and Westminster Abbey is something that I will never forget.”

OLD CHIGWELLIAN
CLASS OF 2020
We give all pupils the opportunity to play sport in a positive, enjoyable and safe environment in which their development is the main focus. We want all games to be played in the right manner and spirit, by encouraging all pupils to be comfortable in team situations and, at the same time, developing players and athletes of high technical ability. Sport at Chigwell includes athletics, cricket, football, hockey, netball, swimming and tennis.

We believe that playing sport allows pupils to develop character: to learn to win and lose with others and build self-esteem and a competitive spirit.
Creativity, ingenuity and independent thinking are invaluable skills in today’s world.

We encourage our pupils to draw upon their own thoughts and feelings to produce original and personal work which expresses their individuality.

Our bright and airy gallery hosts exhibitions throughout the year by pupils and other professional artists and designers. The gallery also forms a part of the department’s enrichment programme that is offered to all pupils in both the Senior and Junior Schools. This also includes practical workshops, visits and talks by a variety of individuals, with the aim of providing further inspiration and insight.

Adjoining the Art and Design Department is design and technology, where pupils learn to use a variety of traditional and contemporary tools. They work with a mixture of materials to develop practical and creative solutions to real-life problems.

Art and Design Scholarships are available at 16+ to young people with exceptional creative potential, passion and talent. Chigwell regularly has Arkwright Scholarships for those students who intend to become future engineers.
Drama is key to developing creativity and the inter-personal skills which are so essential in modern life – the ability to speak in public, to communicate with others, to work in teams and to resolve conflict.

Drama also introduces pupils to a range of material from Ancient Greece, to Shakespeare and modern texts. It also assists and supports the teaching of many other subjects and addresses pastoral themes.

Many pupils opt for London Academy of Music and Drama Arts (LAMDA) lessons, which develops their confidence, communication skills, vocal quality and self-awareness.

DRAMA AT GCSE AND A LEVEL
Students taking GCSE and A Level Drama can opt to take light, sound and costume (including make-up) and set design instead of, or as well as, acting. Chigwell is special in offering all the design options available at these levels. We have a fully qualified theatre technician and a professional make-up artist who works with students.

DRAMA FACILITIES
Chigwell has its own state-of-the-art 150-seat theatre. In addition to the main auditorium, it includes a green room, rehearsal and teaching spaces, dressing rooms and a foyer.

Drama scholarships are available at 16+.
“Being given the opportunity to direct Into The Woods for the School was one of the greatest moments of my life. That experience taught me so many things such as dedication, teamwork and patience - skills which I will take with me into the next chapter of my life.”

YEAR 13 STUDENT
An excellent range of extra-curricular activities contributes significantly to the education, intellectual and personal development of pupils.”

**BROADENING HORIZONS**

A particular feature of Chigwell is the breadth of opportunities offered outside of the classroom.

Outdoor learning begins in the Pre Prep, and continues throughout the School. Our thriving Scout Troup meets regularly and is involved in a variety of out-of-school events. In the Senior School and Sixth Form, many pupils participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme through to Gold Award level. A number of older pupils carry out voluntary work, locally or overseas. In addition there are well-established classics visits, foreign language exchange trips, geography field excursions and sports tours.

**PUPIL-LED COMMITTEES**

There are a number of active and supportive pupil-led committees, including the Charities Committee, the Equality Ambassadors, Eco Group, LGBTQ+ and the School Council. We have a relationship with a school and ashram in India, which a group of pupils and staff visits each year.
School Buses

The School offers return bus services to all pupils in Year 3 and above on five bus routes and we are aiming to add more in the near future. Unfortunately, the School does not allow Pre Prep pupils to use the service even if accompanied by an older sibling. School rules apply while travelling on the buses and we expect all pupils to maintain the highest standards of behaviour while travelling to School. Details of the existing bus routes are given below:

Further details may be found on the School’s website www.chigwell-school.org/bus-service

The School is hoping to extend this network of routes in the future, and consideration will be given to the addition of new stops within the above network if there is sufficient demand. There are two bus services home on each route, the first leaving shortly after the end of the Senior School day 4pm, the second at 6pm.

Buses are administered for the School by Kura and the cost for use of the buses will be charged termly in advance on fee invoices. One full term’s notice is required should parents wish to stop using the bus service. Please contact bus@chigwell-school.org for further information.
CHIGWELL SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS

Our entry points are:
- Prep Prep: Age 4+ (Reception)
- Junior School: Age 7+ (Year 3)
- Senior School: Age 11+ (Year 7) and 13+ (Year 9)
- Sixth Form: 16+ (Year 12)
- Boarders: 16+ (Year 12)

Occasionally, we are able to admit children at other ages as well, if spaces are available.

For more information on admissions, including fees, please visit: www.chigwell-school.org/admissions

Since the School’s foundation in 1629, we have always given means-tested financial support to a number of pupils who we know will thrive at Chigwell but whose families cannot afford full fees. This support is known as a bursary, which may be awarded in the form of a discount of up to 100% on tuition fees, depending on the financial circumstances of applicants. Chigwell encourages applications from pupils who, without a bursary, would not be able to access an education of the highest quality, but who would thrive on the academic, extra-curricular and developmental opportunities offered here. We offer bursaries in the belief that a first-class education in the broadest sense can change the lives of the individuals, both while they are at school and for their future.

Scholarships are awarded in recognition of academic merit, irrespective of financial means, and awards are made each year, primarily at 11+ and on entry to the Sixth Form (day place applicants only).

TOURS AND OPEN DAYS

We would be delighted to arrange a tour for you and your family, so you can see the School in action, and we also host Open Days.

Please visit our website for more information, or get in touch with our Admissions team by emailing: admissions@chigwell-school.org

In summary, the scholarships available are:
- Academic scholarships, awarded at 11+, 13+ and on entry to the Sixth Form
- Music scholarships, awarded at 11+, 13+ and on entry to the Sixth Form
- Art and Drama scholarships, awarded on entry to the Sixth Form

Applications for scholarships and bursaries can be made upon registration.