



REDBORNE UPPER SCHOOL  
& COMMUNITY COLLEGE



# Redborne Upper School

2020-21

Academic Excellence • Outstanding Education • Shared Values



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# Welcome

## to Redborne Upper School and Community College

Redborne is a highly successful and popular school of approximately 1,650 students. Our Sixth Form is large with over 400 students, of whom around 80% annually go on to university including Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group universities.

In our most recent Ofsted inspection we were judged outstanding in the following areas: Effectiveness of leadership and management; personal development, behaviour and welfare; 16-19 study programmes. As a result of our high performance over the years, we have been awarded Leading Edge Status and have also been designated as a teaching school.

We have maintained the breadth of our curriculum with a wide range of GCSE and vocational courses on offer for students in years 10 and 11 with a maximum level of choice and flexibility.

We hope you will find this prospectus informative and helpful; a lot more information is also available on our website.

*OFSTED SAYS: The highly principled leadership and governance team supports all pupils to achieve their best. This is an inclusive school where everyone is valued and diversity is celebrated.*



Headteacher, Mr Olly Button

- a large and successful Sixth Form with over 400 students
- first rate facilities and equipment including a newly built café specifically for sixth form use
- a curriculum for the future - broad, balanced and flexible
- a variety of vocational qualifications
- strong links with local employers
- an inclusive approach
- a strong partnership with parents and careers
- a wide range of enrichment and extra-curricular provision including sports, music and drama
- a vibrant Duke of Edinburgh award programme, with students each year completing their gold award
- opportunities for work experience
- links with colleges and universities
- employment programmes



## Our Campus

Redborne, a 13-18 Upper School since the early 1970s, is ideally placed to provide community education in the area. As an Upper School and Community College, Redborne serves Ampthill, Flitwick, Maulden and neighbouring villages.

The school is spread over 40 acres of attractive grounds, with a wide variety of trees, shrubs, flower beds and rock gardens. There are rugby, football, rounders and cricket pitches, netball and tennis courts, as well as an athletics track in the summer.

In addition there is a floodlit all weather sports area with an adjoining pavilion, as well as a new all weather floodlit 3G football pitch. The school also has its own farm, used for both livestock and horticulture and is an invaluable learning resource for students.

We cannot describe all aspects of such a large and active school and we therefore offer an invitation for parents and prospective students to visit us and find out more.

Please contact us for an appointment:

Telephone: **(01525) 404462**

Website: **[www.redborne.com](http://www.redborne.com)**

Email: **[admin@redborne.beds.sch.uk](mailto:admin@redborne.beds.sch.uk)**



*OFSTED SAYS: Pupils' behaviour and conduct are exemplary. Alongside being polite, inquisitive and supportive of one another, they want to learn.*







## Facilities

Redborne benefits from a range of first-rate facilities that are available to students from the whole community during the day and in evening classes:

- laptops or PCs together with ceiling-mounted projectors available in every department area
- a new purpose built school hall with seating for over 500
- e-learning centre with classroom observation and video- conferencing facilities
- music centre including music technology facilities, a suite of practice rooms and a recording studio
- 13 science laboratories
- 3 acre farm with livestock, greenhouses and classrooms
- business studies and IT centre
- a new purpose-built art and design block
- drama studio • dance studio • film studio
- large sports hall
- gymnasium
- spacious, well stocked library, and resource centre
- a new technology block containing a range of multi- design studios
- 4 food and textiles technology rooms
- suites of rooms for humanities, English, maths and modern foreign languages.

*OFSTED SAYS: Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is a focal point of the curriculum. Pupils develop into well-rounded young people.*





## Our Aims

### Our aims are:

Academic excellence by providing a broad, balanced, stimulating and flexible curriculum that centres on the needs and engagement of the individual student, placing teaching and learning at the heart of our professional development programme, recruiting and retaining high- quality staff and maintaining a sharp focus on monitoring progress;

Shared values such as tolerance, caring for others, democracy, self-discipline, independence and mutual respect to foster the spiritual, emotional, moral, social and cultural development of students both as individuals and as citizens in society;

Outstanding education in its broadest sense, through a vibrant programme of curricular, pastoral and extra- curricular activities, to prepare students for a positive and confident approach to the next stage of their education, training or employment and for adult life.

*OFSTED SAYS: Leaders pursue academic excellence. Refreshingly, not by exploiting the system but by providing a stimulating and flexible curriculum that centres on what pupils need.*



# Our Curriculum

Whilst Redborne receives and welcomes students from schools beyond the local community, the majority join us from Woodland and Alameda Middle Schools, where they will have continued the education begun in the six lower schools in the locality.

There is close liaison with Woodland and Alameda in all subject areas, and particularly regarding the transfer from Year 8 to Year 9 to ensure that students have a smooth transition to upper school life.

In this way, we at Redborne continue the high standards of support and learning our students would expect.

## YEAR 9 (Ages 13-14)

Students follow a broad curriculum covering all the main areas of experience. The curriculum is carefully co-ordinated with the work of Years 7 and 8 in middle school and consists of:

- English
- mathematics
- science
- languages
- information technology and computing
- expressive and performing arts
- Independent study
- religious education
- humanities
- Personal Wellbeing
- design technology

## YEARS 10 AND 11 (Ages 14-16)

The National Curriculum provides the basis for the curriculum in Years 10 and 11. All students will study the core subjects – English, mathematics, science, ethical thinking, Personal Wellbeing, ICT and P.E. which are supplemented by a number of other subjects to provide a broad and balanced, coherent programme.

Students select their optional subjects after a term in Year 9 and start a new GCSE timetable in June of Year 9.

## SIXTH FORM (Ages 16-18)

The sixth form naturally follows all the learning that has gone on before. Our sixth form numbers over 400, and about 70% of Year 11 students choose to take a course at Redborne.

Students will usually choose up to four Level 3 courses from an extensive list. These will lead to employment or further study at university or higher education at 18 years of age. Curriculum provision is constantly under review. The Culcheth Centre provides a common room for our sixth form students, containing a large recreation area, a computer room and a private study area. There is a designated private study area in the new Connolly Hall. Additionally, there is a brand new purpose built cafeteria for Sixth Form use.

*OFSTED SAYS: 'Leaders act quickly to ensure that appropriate provision or support is in place. Where gaps exist they take innovative and effective action.'*





## Our Record

### Examination Results:

Exam results continue to be impressive at GCSE, A Level and the equivalent vocational subjects offered. In 2020, 75% were awarded GCSEs in English and Maths at a grade 4 or higher and 51% at grade 5 or higher.

Full details of results are available on the school website at [www.redborne.com](http://www.redborne.com)

### Extended Learning and Independent Study

Extended learning enables students to develop the ability to work independently and show initiative. It will include traditional homework and other extra-curricular opportunities.

Homework can take many forms – preparation for or completion of classwork, projects, coursework, collecting data, reading, personal research and written assignments in preparation for examinations.

Students may have a relatively short piece of work set for a particular evening or a longer piece of work to be completed over a period of weeks.

GCSE courses demand a high degree of self-discipline and organisation, both in school and at home. These habits of individual study are developed further in the sixth form.

The school provides the student with access to an on line homework programme, which records all homework set for the students called 'Show My Homework.' There are a number of remote applications, such as Edulink, which can be used by the students and parents via the VLG (Virtual Learning Gateway) or the school website. These remote applications allow student access to all software that is used in school and may not be available at home. All of these resources can be accessed via computers, tablets and smart phones.

In addition to homework, we encourage students to develop the skill of independent study. Specific timetabled lessons teach them the techniques to improve concentration, revise smarter rather than harder and make the most of their private study time. We believe this is a vital life skill that will prepare them higher education and the world of work beyond.

**OFSTED SAYS: Highly effective systems allow staff to maintain a sharp focus on monitoring standards and progress across the curriculum.**





## Our Pastoral Care

### Tutor Groups

On arrival at Redborne, students will join a tutor group, in which they will remain for three years. Tutor groups meet for up to 20 minutes each day and follow a tutor programme of activities and assemblies designed to build character, promote a sense of community spirit and develop students' understanding of the wider world. The form tutor will be parents' primary contact with the school and will be a key member of staff in the day to day life of the students in their care. Form tutors are supported by pastoral teams, led by the Heads of Year, who work closely with all staff to keep students safe, happy and able to achieve their full potential.

### Special Needs

Some students arrive at Redborne with Special Educational Needs (SEN), find some aspects of learning difficult or have particular barriers to overcome. Our SEN programme offers support for such students within lessons, or tuition on an individual or small group basis, and we review such provision regularly to ensure those who require help, receive it. We employ a large team of learning support assistants to help individuals and groups of students.

### Culture

Behaviour in the school is excellent and the atmosphere is pleasant and harmonious both in classes and during social times. Redborne has an orderly, well-disciplined and civilised atmosphere, immediately recognised by newcomers to the school. It is one that combines well-ordered routines of work and movement with friendly, sympathetic and understanding attitudes. We emphasise the solid and traditional virtues of hard work, good behaviour and politeness.

Reasonable sanctions are used, when necessary, to support our students. We prefer not to use long lists of rules and instead believe that our mantra of **'Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe'** is an all-encompassing yet easy to digest set of standards that students can follow without ambiguity.

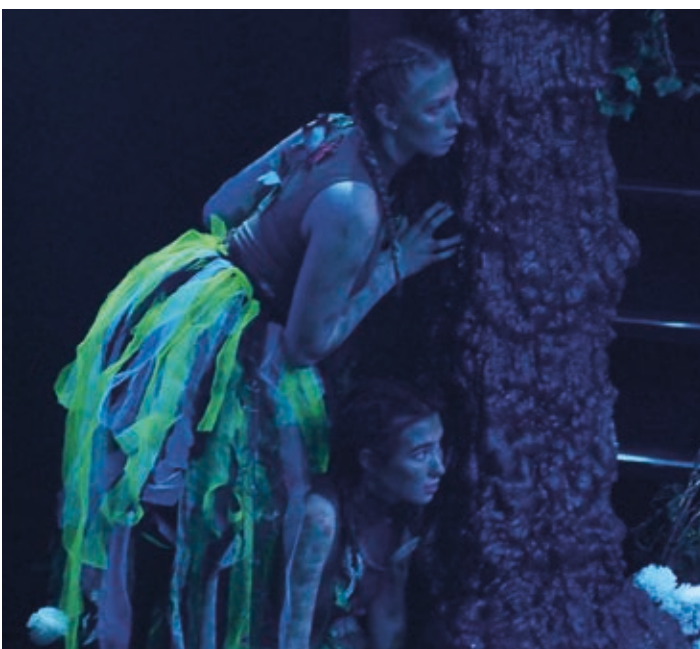
### The Redborne Award

All students are encouraged to strive to achieve the Redborne Award. Students must complete targets in four strands: Achievement Points; Attendance and Punctuality; School Contribution; Community Contribution. We believe that by achieving in these four areas, students will not only be rewarded with academic success, but they will be able to fill their CV with experiences that will make them more employable upon completion of their educational studies.

***OFSTED SAYS: Safeguarding processes are rigorous and effective. Staff are well versed in spotting and reporting potential risks to pupils' safety.***







## Our Enrichment

We encourage students to take part in activities outside the normal school curriculum. A variety of clubs and societies are organised during the lunch hour, after school and on other occasions. These activities are not only enjoyable in themselves, but encourage commitment, self-reliance and co-operation, all qualities valued by employers.

Redborne has maintained strong traditions in sport, dance, drama and music, all of which involve large numbers of students. Some have continued to develop expertise in activities already familiar, whilst others have responded to new challenges.

### Drama

The Connolly Hall is our newly built theatre with state of the art facilities and a capacity of over 500. There is also a drama studio where students can explore different uses and techniques in lighting within a carpeted space, ideally suited for all forms of drama.

These facilities are used by the local operatic and dramatic society and we regularly invite touring groups to perform.

Theatre trips are a regular feature of the department with visits to London, Birmingham and Warwick theatres to see performances as diverse as Equus, Chicago, Faust or The Caucasian Chalk Circle.

The school has a well-deserved reputation for the quality of its productions. Recent productions including We Will Rock You, Les Miserables and Into The Woods

## Sport

We offer students the opportunity to take part in a variety of sports and actively support them, whether they are interested in sport as a recreational activity or wish to pursue their interest at a more competitive level. The school provides players for county teams and regularly has two or three students who reach national level.

The main sports are:

- rugby
- hockey
- cricket
- athletics
- football
- tennis
- basketball
- netball
- volleyball
- badminton
- cross country
- fencing
- archery
- swimming

## Music

Music is an important feature of school life, within and beyond the taught curriculum. Courses up to A Level are offered and, in addition, many students benefit from the county's visiting music staff, who give tuition in a wide range of musical instruments.

There is a school choir, orchestra, concert band, string group, jazz group and various ensembles which are regularly called upon to give public performances. A large number of students are members of county orchestras and bands who have a respected reputation nationally.

A computer suite has enabled the development of music technology up to AS and A Level.

## Dance

Redborne has a fully equipped dance studio including mirrors, a sound system and lighting facilities. The department has a well-deserved reputation for its dance shows, displaying extra curricular activity work which takes place most evenings after school in the Autumn term.

Students get the opportunity to perform at the Bowen West Theatre in Bedford and take part in workshops at the University of Bedfordshire.





## Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

This has long been a successful aspect of our extra-curricular activities and over 100 students regularly take part. Many staff, ex-students and members of the local community help run the scheme at bronze, silver and gold level.

Students have the opportunity to develop hobbies and interests, take part in community service, and meet the challenge of camping and expeditions. They develop initiative, perseverance and powers of organisation.



## Educational Visits

Students at Redborne are able to take part in a number of visits abroad. There are exchanges with schools in France, Spain and Germany and cultural visits to countries as diverse as Morocco, Germany and Iceland. Ski Trips and other activity based excursions are organised annually.

## Charity Work

A major feature of life at Redborne is our commitment to raising money for national and local charities such as Keech Cottage and the Teenage Cancer Trust. Each year several thousand pounds is raised through a huge range of activities including cake sales, sponge the teacher and non-uniform days. The money supports numerous charities decided by year councils or the School Council on a yearly basis. In recent years we have committed to helping students at a school in Kenya. We also support national campaigns including Macmillan Cancer Care, Great Ormond Street Hospital and we assemble Christmas parcels on behalf of the local Rotary Club which are then despatched to Eastern Europe and sub-Saharan Africa.

## Extra-Curricular Opportunities

There are a wide range of clubs, from Sports teams, Music groups and drama productions, to STEM or Book clubs. These are offered during lunchtimes or after school to help students develop skills they can use both in and out of lessons. We encourage all students to take these opportunities to meet and work with others and discover their hidden talents!

**OFSTED SAYS:** *Pupils say that the work is challenging, but they succeed because of the continual support given by teachers and other staff.*





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