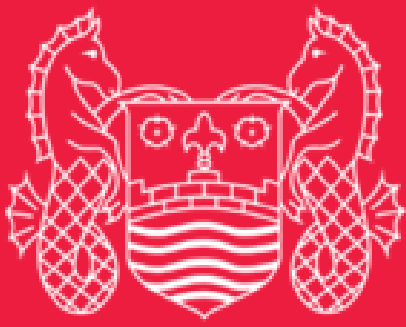




The
Netherhall
School



**BRIGHT FUTURES
TOGETHER**

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Bright Futures start here

Welcome to The Netherhall School

I am proud to welcome you to The Netherhall School and The Oakes College, Cambridge. Together we really do offer more than just a great education.

From the moment our students arrive in Year 7 to the moment they leave us in Year 13, they are exposed to a broad and varied range of opportunities, offered by a body of staff who are absolutely committed to inspiring the next generation of young adults.

Our students matter to us. The well-being, academic success and personal happiness of each and every individual at Netherhall is what drives the day-to-day activity of the school. We work very hard to provide an inclusive experience that ensures every student, regardless of ability or background, has access to every possible opportunity as they grow and develop in our care.

We work hard to foster positive working relationships with the parents and carers of our students so that together, we can be confidently committed to a common vision: a rich educational experience combining excellence of academic achievement with a focus on building students' confidence, teamwork, resilience and creativity.

It may be that you have seen our students perform in one of our dramatic, musical or dance productions, or that you have read about our critically acclaimed art exhibitions in the local press, read our recent OFSTED report (<https://netherhall.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/10318631-The-Netherhall-School-142035-final.pdf>), or maybe even compared our above-national-average results online. Whatever your exposure to Netherhall has been to-date, you cannot fail to be impressed by our achievements as a school.

As you get to know Netherhall through visiting our extensive facilities and reading the literature, you will come to realise that the excellent academic results we boast, the wealth of extra-curricular activities provided here and our dedication to personal and social well-being are second-to-none.

We hope that this publication gives you a small taste of our school and that it leaves you eager to discover more through our Open Evening and school events.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

Chris Tooley
Principal
The Netherhall School



**Chris Tooley
Principal**

"We encourage and nurture every student, supporting them throughout their time with us, to become the person they want to be."

Our Values



Inspiring

We believe that students learn best in an environment which inspires them, with high-quality facilities in purpose-built spaces. Students deserve the most inspiring teachers and support staff delivering a world-class curriculum. In this environment, students thrive and, in turn, inspire us.



Individual

We believe that each student brings their own unique potential and talents to the school. We tailor our curriculum and support to meet the needs of each individual rather than using a 'best fit' methodology. Extra-curricular activities are not seen as an optional extra but as an expected part of a student's discovery of themselves.



Inclusive

Netherhall is a school where all students and staff are valued, and enjoy an atmosphere of tolerance and respect, growing together as a school family. We believe that the synergy of these three factors makes a successful school and we continue to work with all stakeholders to produce students with excellent academic outcomes; empathy and tolerance of each other, their faiths, and backgrounds; excellent skills of communication; teamwork; and who have the self-motivation and resilience needed to be successful in the outside world



Friendly, thriving and vibrant

Why choose Netherhall?

The Netherhall community embraces everyone. We are **proud** of our diversity.

We offer an education centred around respect, tolerance and understanding. At Netherhall, differences are celebrated with all religions, ethnicities, social and cultural backgrounds and academic abilities welcomed and, perhaps more importantly, nurtured.

Not only are our expectations of all students high, we also work very hard to ensure that their own private aspirations live up to this. At Netherhall, students are taught to be whoever they want to be, but, crucially, to respect each other.

How do we do this? The simple answer is by knowing our students. A more elaborate answer to the question is to be found by reading on to discover the various opportunities that we offer our students both inside and outside the classroom.



The
Netherhall
School

Strong communities don't
tolerate diversity...

...they celebrate it!

When combined, the unique
gifts and talents of each
student, parent and staff
member, allow us to
overcome challenges and
grasp future opportunities.

As we play our individual
part, we release our full
potential, we grow in
inclusivity and we inspire
others.

We are the Netherhall and
Oakes family.

THE **AKES**
COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

"It's lovely to look around my class and see so many different cultures represented." "One of the best things about Netherhall is the diversity of both students and teachers. We all come from different backgrounds, yet we find ways to relate to each other and work together as a community."

Opportunities open to all

Life as a Netherhall student

As a student at Netherhall, you will be part of a vertical tutor group that will meet each morning. The reason for vertical grouping (each form comprises of 5 students from each year group) is to create a family ethos within our active house system. Tutor time allows our tutors to guide you through your time with us and support you at times when you might need it. Our aim is to look after you, without stifling you.

You will have opportunities to shape your own experiences at this school. Whether that be through involvement in one of the many student forums, getting your voice heard by the leaders of the school, attending an extra-curricular activity or by starting your own society, sports team or music group, you will find that expert help and advice is always on-hand and the teachers are willing to support whatever interests you might like to pursue during your time here.

The Netherhall student is our priority and whatever challenges may be faced on your road to success there will always be someone available and willing to help lend a hand.



“The vertical tutor groups allow you to meet people in other years and ensure there is always a friendly face around the school.”

“The school is very diverse and accepting. No matter who you are or where you’re from, you’ll always have a voice.”



Be inspired to learn

Our curriculum, a broad and balanced education

Across the Key Stage 3 curriculum, schemes of work are driven by academic rigour and creativity, whilst at all times maintaining the long-term aim of preparing all students for GCSEs and their post-16 education.

Netherhall is committed to a broad curriculum that encourages and celebrates creativity alongside more traditional academic pursuits. As well as Art, Music and Drama lessons, taught by specialist teachers, we actively promote involvement in our annual acclaimed whole school events, showcasing the Arts in all their glory - school musical productions, the Evening of Dance, the Arts Festival.

Netherhall embraces opportunities to inspire learning outside the classroom. In Mathematics, our students compete in Maths challenges at a regional and national level against other schools in the UK; in English, our Year 7 students have successfully created and performed stories in the local Metamorphosis competition; in PE, it's not just the school's sports clubs which thrive, but the students are enthusiastically engaged both inside and outside the classroom throughout the year in the school's inter-house competitions.

These examples of our subject-specific commitment to inspiring participation and learning really do exemplify much of the practice that takes place across all subjects and departments at the school.



"The teachers are inspiring and strive for us to do our best."



Igniting young minds

Our approach to teaching

Our exam results, which are consistently higher than the national average, speak for themselves. But we are not just an exam factory. Whilst academic prowess is important to us, so too are creativity, the ability to express an opinion and the capacity to love learning.

In all subjects, classes are grouped in a way to allow students to flourish at a level that is right for them. Teachers adapt tasks appropriately, ensuring all students can access the curriculum. Groups are regularly reviewed and carefully considered changes made, as necessary, to ensure students make the best progress possible.



All subjects are taught by qualified teachers with a background of expertise in their subject. They teach at Netherhall because they are committed to developing young people as happy and successful learners. They will work hard to get to know you as the person you are and unlock your potential in their subject.

Classrooms in the school are equipped with interactive smart screens. This allows teachers to explore a range of multi-modal learning activities which engages students whilst preparing them for their futures in a world saturated in technology.

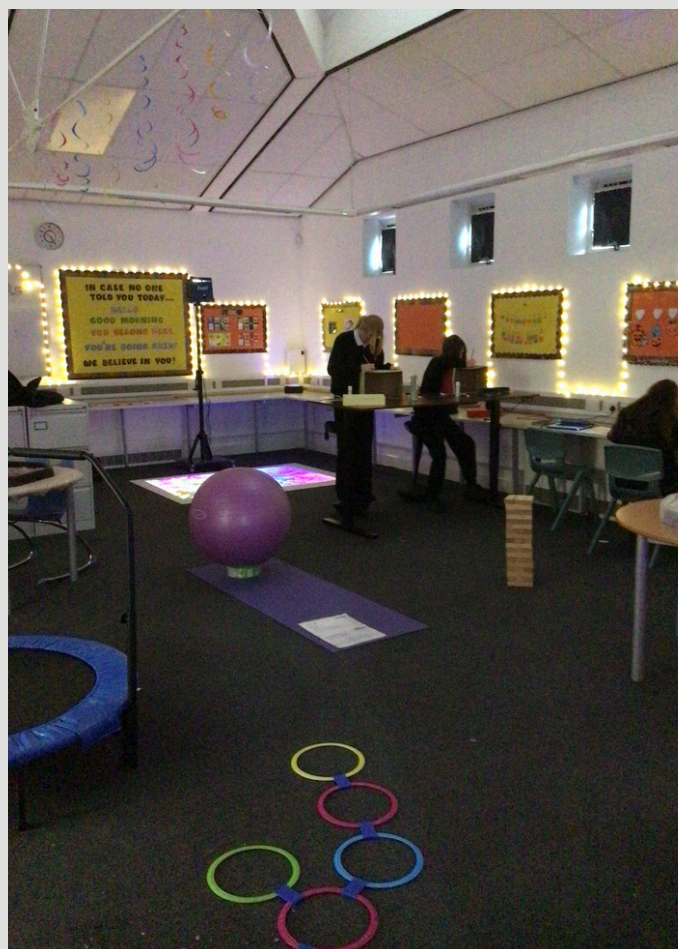
“Lessons are structured in a way that is easy to follow, and teachers often adapt activities based on the class.”

Supported all the way

A well-developed pastoral care system

Recognising the breadth of individuals at a school is one thing. Having the staffing infrastructure to support it is quite another. At Netherhall we have both. With a starting point of care and compassion, our commitment to supporting all students permeates every aspect of our teaching practice.

As a student travels through their day at the school, not only will they encounter their form tutor each morning and at least five different subject specialists throughout the day, they may also come into contact with teaching assistants, Heads of House, pastoral support workers, or our dedicated IT, science and art technicians – all of whom come to work each day with the sole aim of supporting and assisting young people.



At Netherhall, we work hard for all educational abilities: whether that be to challenge our most gifted and able, to provide a supporting boost to those who encounter difficulties or to provide extra specialist English teaching to those for whom English is an additional language (EAL), our support structure is rigorous and robust, to ensure that no child is left behind.



“Netherhall has very supportive staff members and different support systems, such as ‘Young Carers’.”

Keeping Families Informed

Parents are the primary educators of their children, from learning to walk, to talk, to read, to count, to everything that follows. Netherhall is set up to work in a full partnership with parents and carers to give the maximum support to our students. We regularly communicate with parents and carers through:

- Our parental intranet (ALIS), an online, mobile friendly, platform giving instant access to information about progress, attendance and behaviour.
- Our weekly digital newsletter, easily read on a smartphone, containing information about activities, events and successes in that week
- Our parents' evenings and information evenings, which take place at key points throughout a student's life at school.

At the same time, we actively encourage parents to communicate with us and to join in with the life of the school. This may be through volunteering on our Parents and Friends of Netherhall School group (PAFNS – or Puffins!), or by attending our sporting, arts and celebration events.

Additionally, our website is regularly updated and full of useful information about subjects, exams, school admin and extra-curricular opportunities. Teachers, Form Tutors and pastoral staff are always open to correspondence can be contacted at any time via email.



Growth through experience

Opportunities and activities to enrich your life experience

Our extensive enrichment programme runs through the school from Year 7 to Year 13. During every stage of their development at Netherhall, students are offered opportunities to challenge themselves outside the school or classroom environment. Along with departmental collaboration with external organisations, inter-school competitions and whole-school performances, there really is something for everyone to get involved with.

Award winning authors visit, engaging and entertaining whole year groups. From Year 9, students get to follow the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme. In the Arts, students have performed and exhibited their work not just in school, but across the city. Our sports teams take part in local, regional and national tournaments.

The very successful Key Stage 4 ski trip allows students to learn or develop skills on the Austrian mountains. Field work has taken our sixth formers to work on projects in South Africa and Iceland, and our Business Studies A-Level students have put their business acumen to the test in New York.

There is also a well-established careers programme that runs through the school – from the Year 8 Enterprise Day, enabling students to develop business and marketing skills with the support of local business leaders, to the Year 10 week of work experience, giving students a direct taste of life in the working world. These, along with many other events and activities, ensure our students are well-prepared for their future career pathways.



“What I have enjoyed most is the sheer amount of new opportunities available. I have been involved in sports fixtures, various clubs and the Junior Mathematical Challenge. My proudest moment so far is performing in the school musical.”



Netherhall Experiential Week



The jewel in the crown of our enrichment offer is the Netherhall Experiential Week. Towards the end of the summer term, while the Year 10 students are off on work experience, the whole of Key Stage 3 (Years 7 to 9) engages in a range of exciting trips and activities organised by the faculties. Recent highlights have included code breaking with Maths, creating a murder mystery with English, conducting a crime scene investigation with Science, putting on a musical production (including a visit to a West End theatre) with the Performing Arts, exploring the history and geography of East Anglia with Humanities, building a sustainable city with Art and 3D Design, and visiting Paris and Normandy with Languages.



“The Netherhall Experiential Week allows you to meet other people and dive deeper into subjects you enjoy.”

Realising your potential

Wide range of extra-curricular opportunities

If you can think it, if you can want it, then you can do it. At Netherhall, our extra-curricular activities are limited by imagination only. Our staff go above and beyond classroom expectations to ensure that school does not just happen during school time.

Before school starts, during breaktimes, lunch and after the bell rings at the end of the day, the building bustles with an enormous range of activities coming to life.

Amongst our most successful clubs are: athletics, badminton, basketball, book club, Christian Union, cricket, crochet club, doodle club, drama club, football, netball, orchestra, pop choir, rugby, science club...to name just a few!

As well as the various clubs and activities that are on offer after school or at lunchtimes, we also pride ourselves on the value given to student voice. There are numerous opportunities for students to represent their views to school leaders through forums such as the Netherhall Eco Club, the Sports Council, House Forums and the Student Leadership Council. Students are able to contribute to these groups by volunteering their time, or through elections during form time.

Our commitment to a broad extra-curricular timetable allows students to pursue their personal potential with the same vigour as they do their studies.



“There is a lot more to Netherhall Than just lessons. The extra-curricular clubs at this school are brilliant! There’s a wide range of activities ranging from crochet and chess to football and badminton. Associations such as the Feminist Society help our school to work together and learn about each other.”

Leading learning environment

Spacious facilities, all on one 40-acre site

You don't need to be in the school for very long to realise just how lucky we are with the facilities that we have. Our students are exposed to some of the best educational tools and equipment there is.

On top of the teaching spaces, all of which are resourced with interactive smart screens, the school boasts: five ICT suites; a library; a flood-lit all weather sports pitch; two dance studios; cricket nets; tennis courts; a fitness suite; fully resourced catering rooms, science labs; a media studio with video and audio recording facilities; a dark room; a kiln; a 3D laser cutter; a generous performance stage with professional standard lighting and sound equipment.

In all subjects, students have access to iPads, laptops and other technologies whilst the generous field space that makes up the school grounds allows plenty of space for physical activity.

This abundance of new and contemporary learning spaces and equipment contributes well to the high value placed on education at Netherhall.



Please scan QR code for
a virtual tour of the
school



“Netherhall has amazing facilities which make learning much easier and more enjoyable... we are very lucky to belong to a school such as Netherhall.”



Easy accessible location

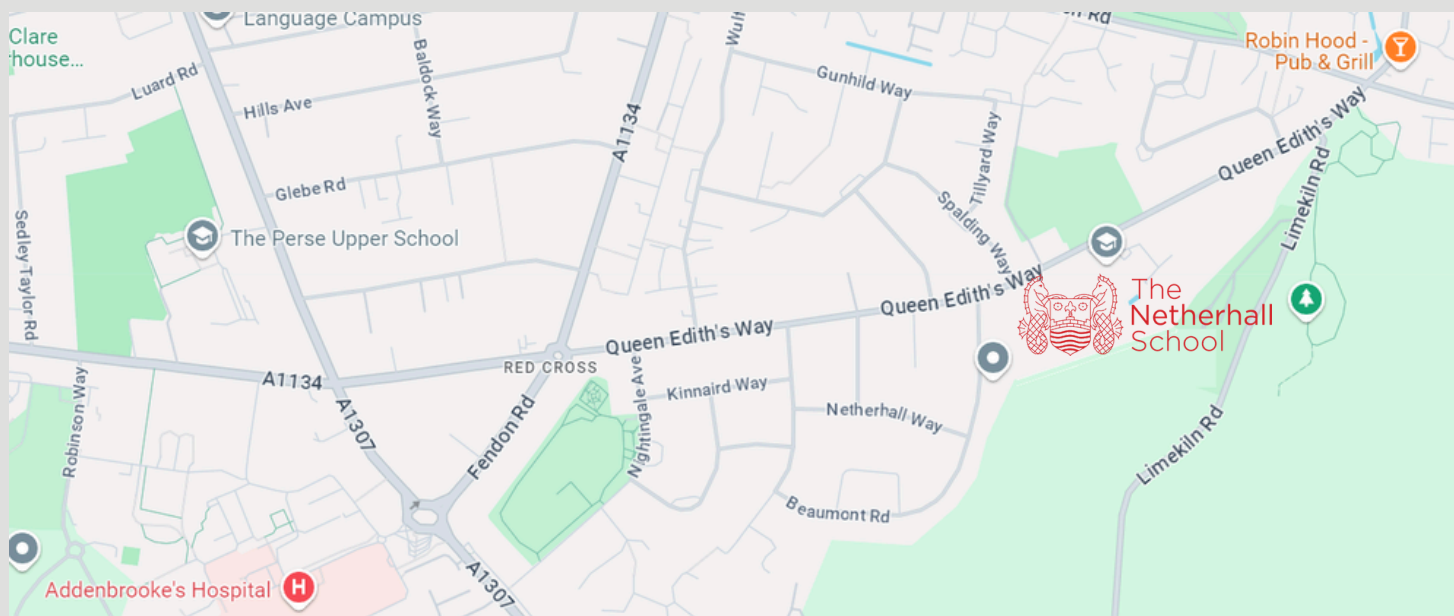
Getting to Netherhall

For those students who cycle to school, we provide secure bike sheds which are locked during the day. Each year group has their own allocated bike shed in order to facilitate an organised approach to arriving and leaving the site.

There is a bus stop outside the front entrance which is served by the Number 1 bus and provides easy access to the centre of town, Addenbrooke's bus connections or the train station. Students travelling from further afield by train will be able to apply for student rail cards to receive discounted rail travel.

Information about eligibility for free or reduced bus travel can be found via our website.

For those students who arrive by car, the turning circle at the front of the school allows for safe and easy access away from the main road.



“Everyday there is something new to be excited about.”

How to apply

Joining the Netherhall Community

Netherhall has an equal opportunities admissions policy. The two main age entry points of admission to the school are at 11+ and at 16+.

To apply for a place in **Years 7 to 11**, you will need to apply online at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/secondary-school>

To apply for a place at **The Oakes College**, you will need to apply via the online Cambridge Area Partnership application process if you live locally. This process will be conducted by your child's school. If you live out of area, you will need to apply directly to The Oakes College (office@oakescc.org).

At age 11

180 students are admitted in each year 7 intake (although in four of the last five years we have been invited to take 210 to meet local demand).

Parents living within the City of Cambridge receive a preference form in the autumn term before admission and return the form to the central admissions office. Parents living in other areas need to request a preference form.

Alternatively, applications can be sent online. All details are given in the preference form pack supplied by the central admissions team.

Please note: Students who join midway through KS4 may be required to move back a year to give them the best opportunity of success in the terminal examinations. This may still be the case if GCSE courses have already been started at other institutions but whose choices do not match our curriculum or timetable.

Please find detailed information regarding the admissions procedure and criteria for selection of students in the case of oversubscription on our website.



At age 16+

Students apply to The Oakes College using the Cambridge Area Partnership online application.

A separate Oakes College prospectus is available for post-16 students. Please contact The Oakes College office on 01223 242931 ext 216 or at office@oakescc.org.

I hope you've enjoyed this publication and that it's whetted your appetite for more. Don't just take our word for it though; come and meet us in person at our Open Evening this autumn.

A warm welcome awaits you."

*Chris Tooley
Principal*



The
Netherhall
School

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 www.netherhall.org

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