



Welcome to George Spencer Academy

George Spencer has a national reputation for providing high quality education for students of all abilities which has been recognised in Ofsted inspections, culminating in the most recent outstanding inspection where we achieved grade 1s in all categories.

In 2011, because of our excellent track record of achievement and high quality teaching, George Spencer Academy became one of the first Teaching Schools in the country. Subsequent designations as a Centre for Initial Teacher Training and a training provider for Leadership Development, entrust us to provide extensive training and development for teachers and leaders, sharing our best practice and engaging with others in learning and research developments.

In 2012 George Spencer Academy became the lead school and education sponsor of The Spencer Academies Trust. The Chief Executive and Executive Principal of the Trust is Mrs Susan Jowett, a National Leader of Education, who led the school to Academy status and throughout one of the most successful periods in George Spencer's history. Current Principal, Fraser Mitchell, is a Local Leader of Education. The Academy also became a National Mathematics Hub in 2014.

We are a small Trust committed to raising standards. Our mission is: "To improve the life chances of children and young people by challenging and supporting all the schools within the Trust on their journey to and beyond outstanding". It enables all of the schools involved to share resources, ideas and best practice.

A message from the Principal

"We are part of something special here".
(Ofsted, 2010)

"We are extremely lucky to come to this school. We feel like we've won the golden ticket!"
(Ofsted, 2015)

We think these sentiments sum up everything about George Spencer. We are proud of our very special school.

We believe that parents value the same things as us - we want children to achieve the very best of which they are capable; children who work hard; children who behave well; children who are happy, known and

valued; and children who get involved with wider school life - whether in sports, the arts, the outdoors, the community or the world of work.

Why choose George Spencer Academy?

- consistently outstanding results
- exceptional teachers with excellent subject knowledge
- traditional values of respect, courtesy and discipline
- high expectations of behaviour, uniform, attendance and punctuality
- an 'innovative and distinctive' curriculum that allows every child to enjoy learning and succeed, regardless of their ability
- excellent pastoral care
- strong relationships with parents, carers and the wider community
- an extensive range of extra-curricular activities, trips and clubs
- methodical preparation for future careers and higher education - whether work experience, training, apprenticeships or university (including Oxford and Cambridge)
- regular opportunities for student leadership
- wide ranging access to ICT and high quality facilities
- a commitment to preparing our students to be global citizens of the future

We take great pride in our standing within the local community, but also from the recognition we have achieved across the globe. Not only have we recently enjoyed visits from the Prime Minister and Secretary of State, but, as a Teaching School, we regularly host guests from other schools and as far and wide as Australia and the United Arab Emirates; all of whom are keen to discover the formula of that 'something special' that defines George Spencer.

A big part of our work is, of course, ensuring that high quality learning is experienced every day within school: by every student, in every subject and in every lesson. However, what truly makes us distinctive is the warmth of feeling and sense of belonging that George Spencer Academy engenders in the students, staff, parents and friends of the school.

We hope that this prospectus gives you a flavour of what makes us unique. Should you choose to join George Spencer, we will have the opportunity to work in partnership together to ensure that your son or daughter has the best possible chance of success for their future. We look forward to welcoming you.



S Jowett

Susan Jowett
Executive Principal
CEO The Spencer Academies Trust



Fraser Mitchell

Fraser Mitchell
Principal





“Leaders and teachers are excellent role models for young people, because they value students as individuals and treat them with courtesy and respect.....relationships are typically warm and trusting.”





Every Child Matters

We pride ourselves on knowing each student as an individual. In addition to having a dedicated Learning Manager with responsibility for academic progress, personal development and well-being, each student enjoys at least two, one-to-one, hourly discussions every year.

Children's safety is our number one priority. Ofsted note that we 'exceed' safeguarding requirements. We have two designated Child Protection Officers. We cover extensive work on anti bullying, student health and economic well-being in the curriculum.

We have a wide range of opportunities for students to be heard. Not only are there a range of Student Councils, but online message forums allow students to air their views. We also expect students to get involved in school life through our student leader programmes. We expect parents to be actively involved in school life and all parents can join our FrOGS and also give us feedback through our Parents' forum and Parents' blog.

“Students facing a range of challenges, including those who learn English as an additional language and those who are looked after, receive excellent support and make exceptional progress.”

Ofsted





“An innovative and exciting curriculum ensures that students are exceptionally well prepared for their further lives.”



Curriculum

Our curriculum reflects an understanding of our community and provides what parents and students want. It meets the needs of a truly comprehensive intake, realising the dreams of highly academic Oxbridge students whilst supporting others with life and learning skills. Students take appropriate qualifications matched to their ability to ensure success and to increase opportunities for future employability. Excellent links with primary schools enable us to have a good understanding of the students' knowledge and skill levels which helps effective transition.

The school provides memorable experiences for learning across a broad and balanced range of subjects. All students in Years 7 and 8 have dedicated Learning to Learn and ICT sessions to enable them to acquire and practise core skills which are essential throughout the curriculum and for effective life-long learning.

Students move into the next phase of their learning in Year 9 with four different pathways and a diverse range of subjects for personalised learning. Selecting the right courses with appropriate accreditation, means that students can experience success and make significant progress. The curriculum allows students to take qualifications over one or two years which helps to reduce pressure on students at examination times.

All students take part in Active Citizenship with their Learning Manager. This programme equips them with the knowledge and skills to deal safely and responsibly with outside influences which impact on their adolescent lives.



“Students’ behaviour around school and in lessons is exemplary. They attend well and work hard, and show their pride in their academy by their smart appearance and their courteous and welcoming attitudes.” 





“An emphasis on courtesy and respect, coupled with opportunities to learn about the wider world prepares students to become responsible citizens.”



“Many students take on leadership positions, helping other students with reading and mathematics, becoming sports leaders, prefects and representing the academy at local, national and even international events.”





Global Citizens

Students develop a wide range of skills which are highly relevant to the next phase of their life in education, training or employment. All students complete a work experience placement and feedback from employers is highly complimentary of our students' attitude to work and work skills. Students are very proud of, and are committed to, their school and local community. They contribute to the ethos and culture of the school by earning House Points for their participation and involvement in school and community activities.

Students are given many opportunities to develop their understanding of global culture. Our "Challenge Days" allow students to experience a range of innovative, exciting and real-world scenarios. These days are often led by external professionals from different career areas who bring different perspectives and experiences to student learning. The achievement of the International Award and our international links with Africa, India and China have increased all students' understanding of the lives, cultures, traditions and religions of people in other countries. The use of New Technologies has greatly improved communication with our partner schools across the globe.

As a result of our New Technologies policy, formulated by students, and our E-safety initiatives, students use the internet and other new technologies sensitively and intelligently. Because of the importance of new technologies in the world of work, students are adept at using a variety of devices and equipment which provide greater choice and independence for them to demonstrate their learning.



“Appreciation of art and culture, a vast array of sporting clubs, and an impressive range of trips in Britain and abroad, promote their social, moral, spiritual and cultural development exceptionally well, and ensure that life at George Spencer Academy is a memorable experience.”

Ofsted



Pathways

Students are set aspirational targets so they know precisely what they need to do and are determined to succeed. We promote high career aspiration for all our students who begin their careers education and guidance in Years 7 and 8. Through assemblies and during tutor time with their Learning Manager, students are made aware of the importance of qualifications and personal development as the keys to future doors.

The highly effective Guided Pathways process begins in Year 9. Students are guided into the most appropriate route to ensure the greatest chance of success pre and post 16. All students have a careers interview and a 'Pathways Post 16 interview' to ensure appropriate course and career choices.

George Spencer Sixth Form is the correct route for some of our students, whilst others benefit from our links with other colleges. Successful partnerships with local colleges offering vocational courses, such as plumbing, hair dressing and motor vehicle maintenance, provide valuable alternative pathways for students. These different routes ensure that everyone leaves George Spencer with their feet firmly on the next steps of their career pathway.



“A comprehensive programme of information, advice and guidance begins in Year 7, and ensures that students are equipped to make informed choices about their further education, employment and training.”

Ofsted

