



Knightsfield School

Prospectus

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Specialist Provision

We provide a specialist auditory-oral approach to learning for students in Years 6 to 13 with hearing impairments. Knightsfield is a happy and successful school with a supportive environment.



Ofsted - Outstanding

We are delighted to announce that Knightsfield continues to be rated 'Outstanding' following the recent inspection in December 2018.

WELCOME

Message from Headteacher

I would like to welcome you to Knightsfield School. We provide a specialist auditory-oral approach to learning for students in Years 6 to 13 with hearing impairments; some of our students also have additional needs. Knightsfield is a happy and successful school with a supportive environment and a high regard to safeguarding our students throughout their education. We set high expectations for students, encouraging each child to achieve academically and to develop independence in preparation for their future. To achieve this, individual needs are identified and well supported. We are proud of our students, knowing that they make considerable progress in both their personal and academic development during their time here. Our students' learning is enriched with opportunities of both mainstream and special education, due to the superb links with Monks Walk School and with extended opportunities in their Post 16 education.



Suzanne Thrower
*MA Inclusive
Education (SEN)*



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All parents seek the best for their children and this is especially prevalent when they reach secondary education, a catalyst in their future. In 2012 we were awarded Academy Status by the Department of Education as an outstanding school meaning that our successes have been officially recognised and we are proud to be graded as 'outstanding' once again by Ofsted in December 2018. We work closely with our parents and families, who often travel a considerable distance to gain the benefits of our school. This prospectus gives a 'snippet view' of our whole school community. We would encourage you to visit us, to have a look round and meet with staff and students to give you a bigger picture of life at Knightsfield, where you can see our students 'Listening To Learn'.

Organisation and Specialisation

"From their first year at Knightsfield School, pupils have many opportunities to develop their self-esteem, resilience and independence in order to transition well to the Key Stage 5 curriculum and beyond."

The curriculum consists of activities planned by the school to promote the intellectual, personal, social and physical development of its pupils and to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Our emphasis is on the individual needs of each pupil. Learning activities are differentiated to ensure that our deaf pupils can access the full range of subjects. Many resources are available during lessons, such as use of the library, visualisers, touch-screen monitors, computers with a full range of up to date software, iPads and the Internet. In addition, theatre trips, fieldwork and visits to museums, art galleries and places of

historical, scientific and technological interest are a key part of the curriculum for all pupils. All pupils take part in daily language sessions for 30 minutes. These are taught in mixed year groups to facilitate integration and social inclusion. Sessions are designed to support pupils in their broad areas of need (BANs) including cognition and learning, social emotional and mental health, communication and language, physical and sensory, deaf awareness, and independence. Pupils either attend a whole-school assembly, work together on topics to present in form assemblies or work on self-evaluating individual progress towards their learning targets.

Specialisation of the Curriculum

Speech and Language Therapists (SaLTs) work with individual pupils and small groups to optimise the pupils' language development in collaboration with Teachers of the Deaf. Specialist teaching assistants work closely with pupils and teachers to support pupils' individual needs and foster independence. Ongoing staff training is provided to understand the needs of our pupils. Additional funding (Pupil Premium and Catch-up Funding) is used to support selected groups to develop their literacy and numeracy skills through targeted interventions. Opportunities are made, as part of the day-to-day curriculum, for pupils to undertake a variety of educational trips during school time. British values form an intrinsic part of lesson content, PSHE sessions and whole-school assemblies contributing to the promotion of a multi-cultural outlook. Lunchtime clubs instill a love for learning as well as an opportunity to develop social communication and allow for purposeful relaxation. Through the Education Health Care Plan process, pupils are provided with targets on their Broad Areas of Need (BANs) to focus on their holistic development. These targets are arrived at through pupil and parent discussions during EHCP panel meetings. Progress towards targets is tracked fortnightly by pupils and monitored by staff. This serves as a cohesive approach to monitoring individual progress across the curriculum as skills are often transferable across subjects.

A year 10 student utilising our state-of-the-art ICT facilities to complete research







SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Outside Agencies

The school works alongside external agencies to support pupils, help and advise families and train staff. These include:

- Speech and language therapist
- Educational psychologist
- Occupational therapist
- Educational audiologist



Audiology

Knightsfield was built for deaf pupils, with all classrooms designed to provide the optimum listening conditions. Trained staff perform daily checks on hearing aids and processors and any issues are resolved or communicated to the audiology clinics. Pupils use devices such as FM or Soundfield systems in lessons to enhance their listening and are encouraged to take responsibility for their own equipment. Many of our older pupils support their peers with problem solving and fault finding and take part in deaf awareness presentations for the wider community.



Language & Listening Lessons

Daily 'Language and Listening' lessons takes place for 30 minutes every morning. These develop strengths in the five broad areas of need from the SEN Code of Practice:

- Communication and Language
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health
- Sensory and Physical Needs
- Independence

Our aim is to promote independence, self-advocacy and self-awareness in preparation for life beyond Knightsfield School.



Additional Needs

To supplement the curriculum, a number of interventions are in place such as:

- Daily physiotherapy group sessions
- The Penn Resiliency Programme
- English and maths intervention
- EAL sessions
- Drawing and talking therapy



HEARING IMPAIRMENT



Students' desks are arranged in a horseshoe facing the teacher's desk to facilitate listening and lipreading.

Facilities to Support Hearing Impairment

Knightsfield School is well equipped with audio visual and ICT equipment including Apple Macs and iPads. There is a dedicated audiology room. All rooms are acoustically treated, meeting and exceeding BB93 requirements and students use radio hearing aid systems to enable them to hear teachers and/or teaching assistants at a constant level of amplification matched to their individual hearing loss.

Lessons are delivered using a multi-sensory approach with a visualiser and laptop linked to a projector to support pupils' access to the curriculum. There are specialist teaching rooms for art and design technology, food technology, ICT, music and science.

Speech & Language Therapy
NHS Speech and Language Therapist are commissioned by Hertfordshire Local Authority to work at Knightsfield School.

The Speech and Language Therapists assess and work with our pupils to develop speech, language and functional communication skills as well as supporting our staff in developing strategies to maintain progress. Pupils may be seen on an individual or small group basis and supported to generalise skills into the classroom. Our vision is a world where all pupils have the communication skills they need to fulfil their potential.

MONK'S WALK LIAISON



Knightsfield School was built within the grounds of Monk's Walk in 1997 and facilitates a strong relationship with our mainstream partners.

Our location has allowed for further development of the strong relationship between both establishments, which began when Knightsfield School, then known as Tewin Water School, was based in Digswell. The link was formalised in 1998. This arrangement means that whilst Knightsfield pupils have all the advantages of being part of a specialist small school environment, we can also offer inclusive educational and social opportunities at Monk's Walk. The students of both schools benefit from the interactions they have, both in lessons and at other times. In KS3 Knightsfield students attend art, drama and PE lessons at Monk's Walk and there are also opportunities for students to attend other lessons. In KS4 students potentially have the option to continue these subjects at GCSE at

Monk's Walk. They may also continue with PE as a core subject. More academically able students attend Monk's Walk for a tailored package of subjects and in KS4, several GCSE options are available - adding to our curriculum offer. All individual and groups of students attending lessons at Monk's Walk School are supported by Knightsfield staff. Just as importantly, our students have the opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities with Monk's Walk students. This includes lunchtime and after-school clubs. Our students participate in Monk's walk School subject-related and extra-curricular trips. Each year a number of our students enjoy attending Monk's Walk trips to the battlefields, art galleries and museums. Having use of the Monk's Walk canteen offers another opportunity for our pupils to mix with their peers.

To ensure that the co-sited secondary school has a full awareness of our students' needs, staff and pupils attend deaf awareness training. All teachers of Knightsfield students attend regular refresher sessions.

Ofsted - 2018

"Preparation for adulthood is enhanced with a seamless programme of integration with the co-located mainstream school."



Physical Education



Students join their Monk's Walk peers for physical education lessons

Physical Education at Knightsfield

Students in Key Stage 3 attend physical education lessons at Monk's Walk School. This provides our students with the opportunity to learn alongside their mainstream peers and ensures that they are able to access a wide range of sports. Knightsfield students have even gone on to represent Monk's Walk teams in extra-curricular activities. In years 10 and 11 students are enrolled on the Sports Leaders programme where they have the opportunity to coach younger students whilst attaining an additional qualification.

Kit Requirements:

Girls:

- Monk's Walk Games Jersey and Polo Shirt
- Plain navy shorts or plain navy skirt
- Plain navy sports socks
- Trainers
- Black or navy one-piece swimming costume

Boys:

- Monk's Walk Games Jersey and Polo Shirt
- Plain navy shorts
- Plain navy sports socks
- Trainers
- Black or navy swimming trunks / shorts

Optional items for boys and girls:

- Navy tracksuit bottoms
- Rain jacket
- Shin pads
- Moulded boots/astro boots for use on the artificial pitch. Ordinary trainers are a suitable alternative.
- Long sleeve, navy blue 'skin' under their normal PE kit during cold weather.







"In the sixth form, students have the opportunity to follow a wide range of courses at the co-located mainstream school and at a local further education provider. Individuals are supported by Knightsfield staff going with them to these courses and acting as notetakers so that the students do not miss any aspect of the learning due to their hearing impairment."

Ofsted - December 2018

Sixth Form Education Established Links Enrich Experience

A significant number of our KS4 pupils choose to continue into our sixth form and we also welcome enquiries from students who wish to join us, from other schools.

Our strong and well-established partnerships with Monk's Walk School and Oaklands College enable us to be flexible and set up options appropriate to individuals in terms of the optimal level of support required, subject content and level. We offer the opportunity to study one or more A levels at Monk's Walk School, alongside, if appropriate, GCSE subjects at Knightsfield. Those attending college will be expected to spend a certain number of hours in school. This enables students to be supported with both course work and functional skills or GCSE English and maths, as required.

All Post-16 students also follow a programme for careers and PSHE. In addition, there is the opportunity for individuals to participate in various enrichment programmes and have time for supervised and independent study. There is also the possibility of being involved in supporting and mentoring younger pupils. Dedicated facilities include a common room, a study area and teaching room. Individual targets for Post-16 studies are set, based on GCSE grades. Progress towards these targets is reported and monitored by tutors and teachers at Oaklands or Monk's Walk.

Student progress is regularly reviewed by staff at Knightsfield, who support students in meeting their targets and help address any areas in need of development. Teaching and support in GCSE studies is provided by specialist teaching staff at Knightsfield. When carrying out studies at either Oaklands or Monk's Walk, students have the support of Knightsfield teaching assistants or notetakers. They support students as required, which may involve just notetaking, but also closer one to one support, in the teaching sessions. The aim is to ensure students have the support they need whilst helping and encouraging the development of independence. On completion of their time with us, our Post-16 students choose to enter employment directly, take up apprenticeships, continue to university courses or, in some cases, continue at college.

National Champions!

In January 2019 we were crowned champions at the National Swimming Gala for deaf students. We were delighted to leap from the bronze medal position in 2018 to gold this year.

In February (2019), our senior boys team were runners-up in the National 5-a-Side football championships staged in Derby. The boys were unfortunate not to be crowned National Champions - narrowly losing the final after a nerve-racking penalty shoot-out.

In March 2019, we picked up a bronze medal at the National Boccia competition held at the Copper Box Arena in London.

Extra Curricular Opportunities

Extra-curricular activities are a thriving part of school life at Knightsfield. As well as entering national competitions in football, swimming, boccia, ten-pin bowling and athletics, we also compete locally against other special and mainstream schools. In addition, our students have also represented our partner school, Monk's Walk, in county competitions.

We also provide a full extra curricular programme for our students during the school day. Our lunchtime clubs timetable is extensive and includes activities such as; football, touch rugby, volleyball, yoga, fitness, mindfulness, craft club, homework club, cards club, rounders, table-tennis to name but a few!



Knightsfield students are thrilled with their bronze medals for Boccia

Enrichment at Knightsfield

At Knightsfield, we value the holistic approach to education and include many 'drop-down' days that enrich the experience of our students. Such days have included: poetry workshops (by award-winning deaf poet, Raymond Antrobus), Aim High day with International deaf footballer, Fil Kamps, a visit from the 'Punk Chef', deaf boxer Reece Cattermole, ELSA organised careers days, Crucial Crew days and many more.

School trips also feature heavily in providing a truly well-rounded experience for students. Recent trips have included: the Roald Dahl museum, the National Science Museum, Hertford Theatre, Paradise Wildlife Park and The Globe Theatre. Knightsfield also offers residential trips such as Outdoor Adventures at Hudnall Park and The Battlefields in Belgium.



Year 11 Knightsfield student narrowly grabs victory to help Knightsfield become National Swimming Champions

What our Parents Say



Cathy with son, Sean, in year 7



Nikki with son, Mitchell, in year 7

Nikki:

It was important that Mitchell had the correct environment for language development, small class sizes and a purpose-built school with good acoustic facilities. Knightsfield has provided all of this and a whole lot more. All of the excellent teaching staff and headteacher have made a positive impact on Mitchell in a very short space of time. His confidence has grown and his communication has progressed rapidly. Mitchell loves going to school and loves having deaf peers.



Christina with daughter, Sophia

"The dedication and support of the staff at Knightsfield has made it feel like we are part of an extended family. The personal attention to individual requirements has enabled my son to finally find a school environment in which he feels safe and normal and allows him to be himself. The confidence that is being instilled in both his learning and personal development is invaluable and we are so grateful for the opportunities the school has given Sean that will inspire him to build a successful future."

Cathy

Our daughter has flourished at Knightsfield. Her confidence has grown enormously and academically she is being pushed to fulfil her potential. We are very proud of her and appreciate the opportunity she has been given to attend Knightsfield. This progress wouldn't have been possible in a mainstream school. Knightsfield has tailored their curriculum and teaching to the needs of the individuals, which has allowed her to blossom. Now, she is in an environment where she can achieve and be a success. Knightsfield places a great emphasis on preparing the students socially and emotionally for young adult life. They are encouraged to be independent and resilient. Staff have a real commitment and passion to make the Knightsfield experience the very best it can be for hearing impaired students.

Christina

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF

