



# Knightsfield School

Achieve - Believe - Communicate



We provide a specialist auditory-oral approach to learning for deaf children from Years 5 to 13. Knightsfield is a happy and successful school with a supportive environment.



We are delighted to announce that Knightsfield continues to be rated 'Outstanding' following inspection in November 2024



# Welcome

## Message from the Headteacher



Headteacher:  
Mrs Linda Farenden  
BA JOINT HONORS QTOD

On behalf of everyone, I would like to warmly welcome you to Knightsfield School, a truly special place to learn and grow together. I have had the pleasure of teaching at Knightsfield for six years and I now have the privilege of leading the school as Headteacher and working with the wonderful team of dedicated staff and students. It is empowering to watch our delightful students Achieve in their academic and social successes, Believe in themselves and be proud of their deafness and Communicate with each other and the wider community with confidence and joy.

Our school is a specialist provision offering an auditory oral approach to learning for deaf students in Years 5 to 13; some of our students also have additional needs. We are proud of our school and students knowing that they make considerable progress in both their personal and academic development during their time here.

We have some excellent facilities which have been further enhanced this year with the addition of our Forest School and a large outside canopy to allow our students to still be outside during wet weather should they wish to do so at breaktimes. Knightsfield is a happy and successful school with a supportive environment and a high regard to safeguarding our students throughout their education. We build learning environments that support the needs of our students offering trips and experiences to enhance their learning and their lives and supporting them to become independent young people throughout their journey with us.

Thank you for reading our prospectus, I hope you will find it interesting and informative. We are always pleased to welcome visitors to show you all our wonderful students and our delightful school.







# The Curriculum

## 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 student. Learning activities are adapted to ensure that our deaf students 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, dedicated student laptops 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 students. All pupils take part in daily ABC (Achieve, Believe, Communicate) 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. Students 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.

Onsite Speech and Language Therapists (SaLTs) work with individual students and small groups to optimise the students' language development in collaboration with Teachers of the Deaf. Specialist teaching assistants work closely with students and teachers to support their individual needs and foster independence. Ongoing staff training is provided to understand the needs of our pupils. Pupil Premium 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, PSHCE 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.









# Facilities

## to Support Deafness



Knightsfield School is well equipped with audio visual and ICT equipment including a modern ICT suite and a dedicated laptop per student in Key Stages 3 & 4. 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 deafness. Lessons are delivered using a multi-sensory approach with a visualiser and laptop linked to an interactive display board to support pupils' access to the curriculum. There are specialist teaching rooms for art and design technology, food technology, ICT, music and science.

Onsite Speech and Language Therapists (SaLT) are commissioned by Hertfordshire and other Local Authorities to work at Knightsfield School. They assess and work with our students to develop speech, language and functional communication skills as well as supporting our staff in developing strategies to maintain progress. Students may be seen on an individual or small group basis. Our vision is a world where all students have the communication skills they need to fulfil their potential.

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







# THE ABC CURRICULUM

Achieve - Believe - Communicate

At Knightsfield, we believe in a holistic approach to education which teaches the whole child. With strong links to the Expanded Core Curriculum, our ABC Curriculum is delivered daily for 30 minutes and addresses educational needs that are above and beyond the general curriculum. This includes a genuine commitment to a meaningful Reading Strategy, enriching activities and the following 6 pillars to prepare our students for adulthood:



**1.**

**PHYSICAL & SENSORY AWARENESS**

**2.**

**COGNITION & LEARNING**

**3.**

**COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE**

**4.**

**SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, MENTAL HEALTH**

**5.**

**CAREERS & INDEPENDENCE**

**6.**

**BEHAVIOUR**



# Mainstream

## Liaison and Integration



All individual and groups of students attending lessons at Monk's Walk School are supported by Knightsfield staff. In addition, 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 students 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.

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 lessons at Monk's Walk and there are also opportunities for students to attend other lessons. In KS4 students opt for a wide variety of subjects at Knightsfield but may also choose subjects that are taught at Monk's Walk. This gives our students even more choice. 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.

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



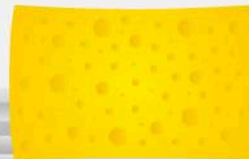




# Forest School



Forest School is a cornerstone of the learning experience for our Key Stage 2 and 3 students, with a dedicated session integrated into their weekly timetable. This long-term, student-centred program transforms the outdoors into a vibrant classroom, providing a powerful platform for holistic growth. It champions a hands-on approach, encouraging exploration, creative problem-solving, and the development of resilience through carefully supported risk-taking. Sessions involve a wide array of engaging activities, including collaborative team challenges, developing ecological awareness, mastering hand tools, and learning the principles of fire-lighting. This immersive experience is proven to demonstrably improve students' mental health, self-esteem, and overall academic attainment.



The pupils are thoroughly enjoying Forest School and some words they have used to describe it are 'fun' and 'calming' and that they feel 'happy', 'relaxed' and 'excited' when they are outside in their sessions. Bobby in Year 9 sums up how he and other pupils benefit from the activities "Forest school is enjoyable for all students because it gives them a time to be outside and enjoy nature. It also gives us a chance to spend time with our friends and favourite teacher. Mrs Nottage is a joy to have as our Forest School leader".





# Post-16 Education

## Well-Established Links Enrich 6th Form Experience

Our strong and well-established partnership with Oaklands College and being part of the Welwyn & Hatfield 6th Form Consortium enable us to offer a broad range of subjects to students in terms of the optimal level of support required and level of study. We offer the opportunity to take 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 coursework 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 in preparation for adulthood, and have time for supervised and independent study.

Also, there is the possibility of being involved in supporting and mentoring younger students. Dedicated facilities include a study area and computer room. Individual targets for Post-16 studies are set, based on GCSE grades.

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.

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 at each campus. They support students as required. For some this might be one to one support, in the teaching sessions. For others, this might be lighter touch support to encourage independence. The aim is to ensure students have the support they need whilst helping and encouraging their development. All students have access to a dedicated notetaking application to help support their learning. 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.

Staff meticulously keep abreast of pupils' progress. The school's support ensures pupils and students in the sixth form are highly successful in their off-site studies. The school prepares pupils very well for life after secondary education.





## LEARNING SCORES

Using a combination of the following results, we create a learning score for every pupil which is used alongside cognitive test results to set realistic and aspirational targets for every student:

- Tests for Resiliency and Vulnerability
- Tests for Reading Levels
- Tests for Listening Skills
- Vocabulary Tests



## MONITORING

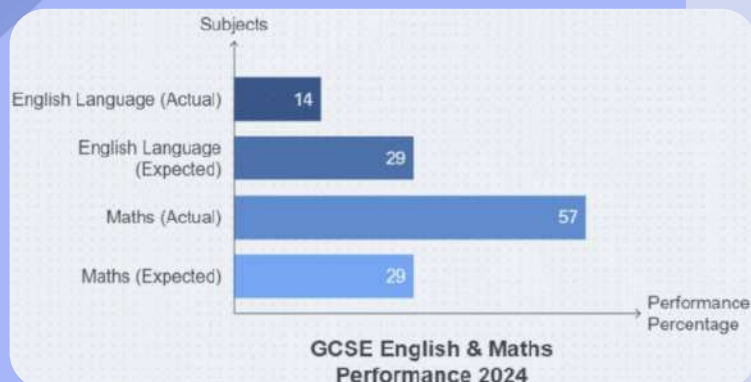
We monitor the progress of students three times a year to identify those who require extra support or targeted intervention to ensure that they meet or surpass their targets.

Targets do not provide a ceiling for students and are discussed and determined for each student in each subject every year, in consultation with teaching staff.

## ADDING VALUE

We use cognitive tests and prior attainment in year 7 to predict most likely outcomes at GCSE. The graph shows how student attainment at GCSE often surpasses those predictions in all subjects and in mathematics and English.

This added value is attributed to the small class sizes, rigorous target setting and monitoring, and the targeted intervention that is implemented to support the learning of our students.









### DEAF AWARENESS ASSEMBLIES:

To encourage confidence, resilience and deaf identity, many of our students accompany the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher to deliver deaf awareness assemblies to Primary Schools in Hertfordshire and beyond. Not only do our students benefit hugely from this experience, the assemblies raise awareness of deafness to younger children and their staff. They have the opportunity to ask our students questions about their deafness and learn how they can communicate effectively should they encounter a deaf person in the classroom or out of school.



### EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

Extra-curricular activities are a thriving part of school life at Knightsfield. As well as entering national competitions in football, swimming and athletics, we also compete locally against other special and mainstream schools.

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; drama, board games, Forest School, choir, multi-sports, arts and crafts, homework and revision, cards club to name but a few!

### ENRICHMENT:

At Knightsfield, we value the holistic approach to education and include many 'drop-down' days that enrich the experience of our students. Highlights of the year include Theatre Week which culminates in a whole school production and Music Awards Evening, where we come together to celebrate student successes alongside a series of musical pieces performed by staff and students.

School trips also feature heavily in providing a truly well-rounded experience for students. Recent trips have included: RAF Hendon, Henry Moore Foundation, Arsenal Football Club, and Food & Farming at Herts County Show. Knightsfield also offers a residential trip to PGL at one of their many locations.





# HOUSE SYSTEM & AMBASSADORS

## Role Models for Our Students

We have a thriving House System at Knightsfield with regular assemblies and competitions in activities such as: creative writing, baking, drama, and a variety of sports. Our Head of Houses are regular visitors to the school, who enjoy working with the students, giving assemblies and passing on words of inspiration.



### CLARKE HOUSE:

'Own your identity and be you....love who you are in the world. Love your deafness, it is part of you" Melanie Clarke is a deaf long distance runner who has represented Great Britain.

### ANTRO(BUS) HOUSE:

"Be fluent in confidence so large it speaks from its own sky" Raymond Antrobus is an award-winning deaf poet.



### HADDOCK HOUSE:

"Let your sight, touch, smell and taste do the listening" Jack plays rugby for the deaf England team.



### LEE HOUSE:

"Find your own rhythm; follow your own beat; make your own music. We are all incredible human beings!" Troi Lee is founder of Deaf Rave.



## KNIGHTSFIELD AMBASSADORS:

### ABC Knightsfield Ambassadors

Each letter represents the values and traits that staff would like to see from their students. Can you collect them all to become a Knightsfield Ambassador?



Kindness  
Neat  
Identity (Deaf)  
Growth  
Honesty  
Tolerance  
Successful  
Forgiveness  
Independence  
Engagement  
Leadership  
Determination



To inspire positive behaviour and create role models, students collect the letters from the Knightsfield Mnemonic. Each letter represents a trait or a value that come together to create a Knightsfield Ambassador. Students can collect badges in bronze, silver and gold





# WHAT NEXT?

## HERE'S WHAT OUR PARENTS SAY:

### Parent 1:

I just wanted to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who played a role in supporting and welcoming our son into your school when no one else would. Because of your efforts, he's now able to communicate fluently in English and has grown into a bright and confident young boy—much of which is thanks to the influence and environment you provided.

Thank you also for your kindness and understanding during his time at your school. I know the work you do isn't easy, and your care and dedication have never gone unnoticed.

You've shown us such kindness, and we will always be grateful. You're an amazing school with an exceptional team.

### Parent 2:

Totally blown away by the theatre performance last night - loved every minute of it - the ambition of the show perfectly reflects the ambition of Knightsfield and the teachers' ambitions for the pupils. Excellent!

### Parent 3:

Thank you for everything you do for my son. He has never liked school because he struggled until he joined Knightsfield. Now he gets extra help that he needs from teachers who know how to explain stuff. He is doing amazingly well at his studies; his commitment and focus has improved. He loves school and his teachers. He always goes to school with a big smile on his face which I didn't think was ever possible! Thank you so much!

### Parent 4:

Our heartfelt thanks to Knightsfield School for being such a strong pillar of support for our daughter throughout her high school years. The dedication of the teachers and the schools' commitment to fostering a positive learning environment truly made a difference to her development. We are so appreciative of everything you've done! Thank you for supporting her to achieve her best.



## NOW COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF:

Don't take our word for it – we are always pleased to welcome visitors. Please book a tour using the contact details below and follow us on social media:

Knightsfield School, Knightsfield, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire. AL8 7LW



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