



## **DR CHALLONER'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

Founded in 1624, Dr Challoner's is an academy grammar school for boys with 1280 students (of whom over 380 are in the Sixth Form). It has around 130 teaching and support staff and draws its intake of 180 boys from the Chiltern area of Buckinghamshire. Boys take the Local Authority's 11+ selection test.

Standards are exceptionally high and boys are encouraged to develop their talents to the full through an exceptional range of learning activities. Having developed since 2002 as a centre of excellence in Science and Mathematics, the school took on a second specialism in Languages in 2007. Challoner's was inspected for the fourth time in 2007 and graded as 'outstanding' in every category and sub-category by OFSTED. In 2009 Headmaster Dr Mark Fenton was appointed a National Leader of Education and Challoner's became a National Support School. The school is the Lead Education Partner in a National Challenge Co-operative Trust set up to run Cressex Community School in High Wycombe and in 2010 became one of only nine schools nationally to be announced as an 'Accredited Schools Provider'. In January 2011, the school became an academy, the first 'outstanding' school in Buckinghamshire to convert.

Over recent years the school has been championing the ideas of 'Building Learning Power' developed by Prof Guy Claxton. We believe that the learning habits developed by students are just as important as the knowledge and understanding they acquire during their time at school. Most teachers have taken part in a Learning Review and a common 'language of learning' has been developed. DCGS hosts national conferences on learning and our Leading Edge status has enabled us to develop this work further. Professional development is given a high priority and the Investors in People Bronze standard was achieved in 2009. The school runs its own programme of leadership development for staff in association with Ashridge, one of the world's leading business schools.

At Key Stage 3 students follow the National Curriculum, together with Citizenship/PSHE. Students in Key Stage 4 follow a core curriculum of English (Language and Literature), Mathematics, three Sciences, a Modern Language and a Humanities subject, as well as PE, Religious Studies and Citizenship/PSHE. All boys also take a GCSE course in Information Technology. Students make two further choices from a wide range of courses. At A Level, over 25 subjects are offered and most students take four AS subjects with many continuing all four at A2. Around 20 boys each year win offers of places at Oxford and Cambridge universities with a record 27 offers being received by students in 2009/10.

The school has very strong cultural and sporting traditions and holds both the Sportsmark and Artsmark awards. There are choirs, an orchestra, a swing band, a jazz band, and at least two major drama productions each year. The main sports are soccer, hockey, rugby, cricket, tennis, cross-country, athletics and basketball. The school enjoys a very strong sporting reputation competes strongly at regional and national level. Many clubs and societies flourish while the number and range of educational visits is exceptional. A wide range of international links including with schools in Ethiopia and Trinidad led to the British Council granting Challoner's the International Schools Award in 2009. Close ties are maintained with Dr Challoner's High School for Girls, through music and drama as well as through social events for students.

Student support, guidance and involvement are key aspects of the school. Great emphasis is placed on developing the school's values of 'excellence with integrity' and students are encouraged to accept responsibility for themselves, others and the environment. A system of mentors, prefects and Head Boys supports younger students and provides outstanding opportunities for leadership development. The flourishing competition between the six houses – Foxell, Holman, Newman, Pearson, Rayner and Thorne – is led by senior students. The Student Council and the Student Research Group – a team of students of all ages trained in research methods – both play an important role in school life. Led by the group Challoner's 4 Charity, students raise considerable sums for charity each year, while DCGS is also involved in a pilot programme for UNICEF's 'Rights Respecting Schools' Award.

Significant improvements in facilities have taken place over recent years. IT provision is extensive and a scheme enables the majority of sixth form students to use laptops. A new entrance building was completed in 2007 and the Sports Hall block has recently been extended to include a cookery room and further sports facilities while a performing arts studio will be commissioned in 2011. The school has ambitious plans for further developments including a new sixth form centre.