



MILLAIS

there are no limits



MILLAIS SCHOOL

In pursuit of excellence

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Millais and I hope this prospectus goes some way towards answering your questions and informing your choice.

As one of the leading schools in the country, Millais has an enviable reputation for academic success which was further enhanced by the national designation as a Language College in September 1996.

Our involvement in such initiatives is indicative of the ethos here at Millais and reinforces the message we constantly give to the students – namely to set their sights high.

Our aim is to enable your daughter to leave us as a happy, confident, well-integrated young person who has achieved her academic potential, with the enthusiasm to go on to further study or training, able to understand and fulfil her role in society and to use her leisure time to the full.

The governors, staff, pupils, parents and I are very proud of this school and its achievements. We make exceptional claims but if you take the opportunity to come and see for yourselves, then I think you will share our enthusiasm. I look forward to meeting you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leon Nettley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'L' and 'N'.

Leon Nettley
Headteacher

Introduction

Millais is a girls' comprehensive school for students aged 11 – 16. The school's catchment area serves Horsham and the villages bordering the town.

Situated on a single site, each department has its own well resourced suite of rooms. Good specialist accommodation abounds including workshops, science laboratories, music rooms, a drama studio, and resource and research centres. Our excellent ICT network provides our students and staff with access to the Internet, video

conferencing facilities, interactive whiteboards and personal e-mail accounts. The Sports Hall, Gym and all weather pitch offers the highest standard of sports facilities to our students and the local community.

Millais has a well established tradition of caring, high standards and academic excellence. As a Language College Millais recognises the important of being able to communicate effectively with others throughout our increasingly international community.



Aims

Millais School aims to create a stimulating and happy environment of trust and support in which all girls and staff are encouraged and enabled to develop their skills, talents and potential to the full regardless of nationality, ethnicity, ability – both intellectual and physical – social circumstances, age gender or religion.

In pursuit of this we offer a broad and balanced curriculum which seeks to equip girls for life in Further Education and the world of work. The individual needs of our students are identified and relevant tasks set to aid their progress.

Recognising that the personal growth of each individual goes beyond the school curriculum, we aim to offer a rich programme of extra-curricular opportunities and experiences.

At Millais the love of learning and the development of the skills essential to learning are at the heart of all we aim to engender in our students.

We promote a warm and caring community where all members show commitment, courtesy, co-operation,

tolerance and compassion, in an attractive and stimulating environment. All members of the school are encouraged to see themselves as members of a wider international community.

We always aim to raise parents' awareness of their girls' educational needs and progress; encouraging their involvement and support.

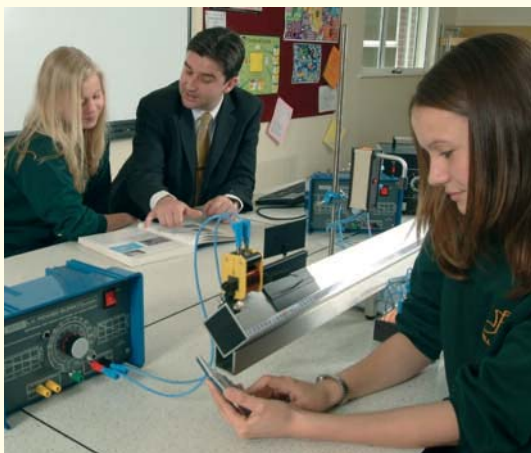
In all we do at Millais we strive for quality, excellence and the highest standards for all.

*... This is an
exceptionally good
school ...*

(Ofsted, 2004)



Curriculum



... Pupils do very well regardless of their background or ability ...

(Ofsted, 2004)



On arrival all pupils are placed in mixed ability tutor groups and these usually remain constant throughout the school. Initially in Year 7 the same groups are used for teaching purposes but setting for each subject is gradually introduced. Every effort is made to enable and encourage all girls to reach a level in every subject commensurate with their ability by providing a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum which meets the requirements of the National Curriculum and which seeks to extend it by the provision of a range of activities which challenge individuals to explore the limits of their talents.

Unique courses such as 'Business Studies in Spanish' have earned us a national reputation for curriculum

innovation, but all subjects support pupils' learning with activities designed to enrich the learning process. Field trips, educational visits, musical and dramatic performances, entry for local/national competitions and a variety of international links and exchanges are but some of the opportunities on offer.

To ensure that pupils make the most of these, their academic and personal development is monitored closely. With your help we try to ensure that progress matches expectations and where not, then appropriate targets for improvement are set. Our expectations are high but we take great pride in providing for students of all abilities and in enabling them to succeed.

Information and Communications Technology

At Millais we believe the future of education is now firmly linked to Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Research has shown that ICT can improve standards in schools; both in terms of increased motivation, and tangible improvements such as better grades. ICT also expands the horizons of education. The emergence of the Internet provides access to a whole range of new and exciting resources.

To support this Millais uses an advanced network as a means of distributing our ICT resources around the school, making them available to all pupils. This enables us to utilise exciting information sources and learning tools, including:

- Internet information
- Intranet
- E-mail services
- Multimedia resources
- Video conferencing services
- Curriculum materials
- Software applications for word processing, spreadsheet, database, graphic and desk top publishing use.



ICT is delivered at Millais both across the curriculum and through discrete lessons. This allows the pupils to gain confidence and knowledge in the use of ICT; as well as giving them the experience of being able to apply their understanding in a range of subjects.

... The pupils are encouraged to work hard, aim high and take the initiative to find things out for themselves...

(Ofsted, 2004)



Languages



Our designation as a Language College recognises the quality of our language teaching and has enabled us to extend the range of facilities and subjects we offer. French, German, Spanish and Italian are well established and new courses in Japanese have strengthened the provision. All pupils follow a minimum of two languages until Year 9 and a high proportion pursue both through to GCSE level.

Students are encouraged to realise the importance of language skills in furthering their career prospects in an increasingly competitive international working environment.

... a school

with style ...

*(Daily Telegraph Good
Schools guide)*

Many of our business sponsors, including British Airways support us in reinforcing this message and our extensive global links ensure that a wider international perspective permeates all aspects of the curriculum and the life of the school.



Drama Facilities



The Drama Department is based in two fully equipped studios in which students are encouraged to broaden their skills and knowledge of all aspects of drama and the theatre. Moveable lighting and portable rostra provide the flexibility for girls to experiment with a wide variety of staging whilst exploring their performance arts and the technical skills which underpin the dramatic experience. The Drama Studios provide an excellent space for the performance of small scale productions.

Support

Great importance is placed on caring for the individual in personal, social and intellectual terms. This is the primary responsibility of Form Tutors. Their work is co-ordinated and supported by five Heads of Year.

The Head of Year 7 visits all the contributory primary schools and Year 6 pupils visit Millais. Thus we ensure academic continuity and a smooth and happy transition to their secondary

phase of education.

Assemblies play an important role in the life of the school. They take place regularly and are carefully planned to promote the ethos of the school, encouraging pride and a sense of identity which serves to enhance the schools' community spirit. Emphasis is placed on the Christian religion and its moral and spiritual implications.

Special Educational Needs

Students whose needs extend beyond the formal curriculum are offered additional help through in-class support or withdrawal, on an individual or small group basis, and carefully prepared work within subjects which is appropriate to their needs. The

provision of a range of teaching and assessment styles and materials is the responsibility of all teachers and they are assisted in this by the staff of our Special Educational Needs Department who offer advice, expertise and training.

... The school's

provision for the

care, well-being

and personal

development of its

pupils is

exceptional ...

(Ofsted, 2004)

Tutorial Sessions

All teachers are available for one hour on one afternoon per week to provide support to any pupils who need additional assistance or who wish to raise issues connected with their school work. Individuals or groups of girls may book weekly tutorial time with any member of the teaching staff.

Mentoring

Students who are identified as working below their potential are allocated a member of staff whose role it is to act as a mentor; meeting with them on a regular basis to discuss their progress and any difficulties they may be experiencing. Mentors assist girls in formulating plans for improvement and in implementing those plans. The progress of pupils is then carefully monitored by the mentor in collaboration with subject teachers to ensure that girls realise their full potential in each subject.



Extra-Curricular and Off Site Activities

... Pupils respond enthusiastically to the many opportunities provided by the school...

(Ofsted, 2004)



All Millais we seek to enhance the curriculum through a wide variety of extra-curricular activities. These include the school orchestra, choirs, wind band and other musical groups, drama, sports, engineering and science clubs.

Annual exchanges are run to our partner schools in France, Italy, Germany and Spain. And we are able to offer other residential trips which take place either during the school holidays or in Activities Week.

In Year 9 many girls enter the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, taking part in and initiating activities and events which lead them through the Bronze, Silver and Gold stages of the Award.

All students are offered opportunities to involve themselves in trips abroad, the local countryside for field work and to places of historical, cultural and scientific interest. Many exciting activities are organised within school, providing the chance for girls to engage in activities which draw upon the knowledge and skills which they have acquired through the curriculum throughout the year.

Physical Education

The philosophy for Physical Education at Millais is to offer a broad and balanced programme of games, dance, gymnastics and athletic activities, which allows each child equal access to the curriculum. The emphasis is on participation and enjoyment, concentrating on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding at Key Stage 3, whilst encouraging in-depth knowledge and the improvement of overall performance at Key Stage 4. High standards of participation are achieved through extra-curricular clubs, practices, inter-form and inter-school matches in gymnastics, dance, athletics, cross-country, hockey, netball, rounders, tennis, football, badminton, basketball and volleyball.



*... This is not a
school that
stands still ...*

(Ofsted, 2004)

Education & Business Partnership



The school has developed strong links with local businesses. They have provided gifts, sponsorship, work experience placements, talks to our senior students and help with specific educational projects. We value these links which we believe are mutually beneficial and every effort will be made to enhance these in the future.

Local businesses actively encourage girls in Year 10 to take part in the Young Enterprise programme, setting up their own company.

In addition Work Experience for all girls in Year 10 takes place in the summer term. Students derive great benefit from this contact with the world of work. It increases their motivation, develops their maturity and enhances their awareness of the relevance of their academic studies. They are thus encouraged to make the most of all the opportunities open to them in their final year at school.

Community Links

The school has a thriving parents' association known as The Millais Home School Association, which was set up to advance the education of pupils. To this end it supports the work of the school in numerous ways in addition to fundraising.

We aim to provide parents with the information they need to keep them informed about their daughter's progress and important developments in education, both nationally and at Millais.

The school runs a Day Nursery on its campus which is open all year round. This not only enables the school to attract and retain high calibre staff but offers a very valuable facility for the local community.

This access is further extended by the use of our facilities outside school hours. We play host to many thriving sports clubs and adult education classes.

*... Pupils flourish in
the school's secure
and caring
environment...*

(Ofsted, 2004)





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