

## **BBC slide**

### **What are the 8 things?**

#### **What are we about: Vision, Ethos & Values**

I am delighted to welcome you to Ousedale School, our award winning, vibrant 11-19 academy set across two campuses, Newport Pagnell and Olney. We believe that all children can and will succeed through acquiring the character, experiences, knowledge, skills and qualifications which will enable them to thrive, and lead successful, happy lives.

Our school places at its heart a relentless focus on standards, both pastoral and academic, combined with a strong emphasis on the development of each young person's skills and attributes. We celebrate diversity and work to include everyone whatever their individual needs and circumstances. We want our pupils, and our staff, to be kind, work hard and so succeed and enjoy their time together at Ousedale.

Holistically, we prepare our pupils to progress onto meaningful employment with training, or further and higher education. We support our young people to contribute to and successfully compete in our changing world equipped with a strong set of British values:

- democracy,
- the rule of law,
- individual liberty,
- mutual respect and tolerance.

As custodians of our future, we teach pupils about sustainability and environmentalism.

Excellent pastoral care focuses on building strong, positive and respectful relationships and friendships. Positive discipline is championed whilst supporting pupils who may initially struggle. We celebrate our achievements and successes together through our rewards assemblies and events.

Ousedale continues to be amongst the top 20% of all schools nationally in all it does and aspires to be, recognising that success takes many forms. In doing so we meet the words of our motto: Be Kind, Work Hard, & Succeed Together.

## **Our Curriculum**

Our curriculum delivers the vision, i.e. equipping pupils with and developing their character, experiences, knowledge, skills and qualifications.

The 'Knowledge Skills' curriculum champions literacy, numeracy, and the mastery of knowledge. Pupils access a broad and balanced curriculum, founded on the National Curriculum. We do not limit any pupil's ambitions: holistic curriculum advice and guidance supports pupils on to appropriate curriculum pathways that reflect their interests, ambitions and aspirations.

A common curriculum at Key Stage 3 means pupils study English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, French or Spanish (pupils/parents will express a preference prior to starting in September), PE, RS, Design, IT, Drama, Art, and Music. This enables pupils to opt to study a combination of vocational and academic subjects, dependent on their interests and aspirations, at Key Stage 4. Pupils have a right to experience and gain knowledge across this broad and balanced curriculum. We employ specialist staff to work 1 to 1 with pupils who are struggling with their literacy and numeracy skills. This ensures all pupils have the skills required to be successful in their GCSE exams.

At Key Stage 4 all pupils study core subjects in English, Maths and Science. All pupils access PE each week. The options subjects offer a rich and broad pathway for pupils to choose from, with high quality academic and vocational courses accessible to reflect pupil strengths and interests. The Ebacc pathway is available for all pupils to access as appropriate. Whilst we have an ambition for pupils to access the Ebacc and maintaining a broad curriculum, as a school we will not mandate this as it may not be appropriate in reflecting the strengths or aspirations of the individual pupil i.e. we do not make all pupils study languages to GCSE, it is a choice supported by parents when we consulted them. Breadth is maintained by ensuring pupils study a curriculum of English, Maths and Science, with at least 1 Humanities subject and 3 options available to reflect strengths, interests, and aspirations.

We provide extensive opportunities for our pupils to broaden their horizons through our 'Experiences Curriculum'. They develop their cultural capital by being exposed to the arts, sport, music, science, technology, languages, and numerous trips, visits and exchanges, and through pupil leadership opportunities. In addition to enrichment

activities, an extensive extra-curricular programme is offered to supplement, enhance, and develop the learning that takes place in subject lesson time.

Some of the activities we have traditionally offered include:

For Music & the Arts - Instrument tuition, orchestra, young musician of the year, school productions and a range of choirs, drama clubs, art and illustration clubs.

In Sport - Football, rugby, cricket, basketball, handball, tennis, rounders, cycling, fencing, street dance, athletics and trampolining.

We also have a large and thriving Duke of Edinburgh programme.

Indeed, last year we ran 131 trips and visits creating 3891 pupil experiences from places as far away as Vietnam to those much closer such as MK Theatre. 1639 pupils enjoyed at least one trip or visit last year.

Our 'Character Curriculum' is developed through our character values derived from the school motto. In consultation with our school community these have been identified as important values and characteristics that pupils, and staff, should develop and promote. Our rewards and behaviour systems actively develop and promote these characteristics across all aspects of pupil life and the curriculum in its broadest sense.

We believe the whole curriculum provides opportunities for the development of personal and social skills. All subject areas aim to contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of pupils in an environment that promotes British values.

## **Music Specialism**

Music remains a specialism and passion of the school; it enriches the lives of pupils as well as the school community at large. All pupils are encouraged to participate and this year we are really looking forward to the school production of Les Misérables.

Our admission criteria provide an opportunity for up to 10% of pupils outside our catchment area, with an aptitude for music, to gain a place at Ousedale by sitting a music aptitude test.

Mrs Penny will speak about this a little more later but please see our website for full details.

## **Careers**

Our Careers Information, Advice and Guidance is an important part of a pupil's entitlement. Ousedale School believes in the importance of fostering strong links with Careers Advisory Services, institutes for further and higher education, business and industry in order that all pupils have a broad information base from which to make decisions about career pathways.

We encourage close links with parents, ensuring they share in establishing a partnership in which pupils can make sensible, informed career choices. Careers Information, Advice and Guidance occurs across the whole curriculum and involves all staff.

We believe so strongly in the importance of high-quality careers education that we have had our provision assessed in order to achieve the nationally recognised Career Mark, a mark of our outstanding and effective provision.

## **Assessment & Reporting information to parents**

We monitor pupils' progress closely through regular assessments. This allows us to address underachievement quickly, and provide new challenges to those who are doing well.

This is achieved through:

- Regular literacy testing
- Close monitoring of class work and homework
- Moderation of pupil work against national standards
- Assessments at regular intervals throughout a subject course to identify any gaps in knowledge and address them
- End of year examinations

Progress Review reports are sent home regularly to parents providing information about progress towards targets, attainment, and attendance.

All pupils and parents are given access to an online app called ClassCharts that gives up to the minute data on behaviour points (positive and negative though 96% of all points awarded are positive), homework, attitude to learning and daily attendance.

## **Pupil Support & SEND**

Our aim is to ensure that all our pupils achieve their full potential both academically and socially. The school employs an array of specialist staff to support the needs of all our pupils including specialist teachers, health co-ordinators and a range of teaching assistants, many with Higher Level qualifications. Pupils also receive regular 1 to 1 interviews with their Form Tutor or a senior member of staff.

Pupils may also receive support, as appropriate to their needs, from counsellors and other external agencies. Indeed, in response to the effects of the pandemic on pupil mental health, we employ specialist counsellors at both the Newport Pagnell and Olney campuses and a dedicated Family Liaison Officer.

Both Newport Pagnell and Olney have Special Educational Needs & Disability leaders and specialist staff to ensure that pupils who have SEND are effectively catered for. We are also having a specialist SEND centre constructed to meet the needs of the increasing number of pupils identified with SEND, and autistic spectrum conditions in particular, to ensure no pupil is 'left behind'. The SEND team will be in the library this evening.

## **Safeguarding and Child Protection**

At the core of our belief structure is a profound responsibility for child welfare. Each campus has staff who have designated child protection responsibilities. In addition to this, regular staff training is undertaken so that every single member of Ousedale staff is aware of his or her role to report any concerns they may have about child welfare. We work with pupils, families and outside agencies to support all of our children.

## **Partnership with Home**

Working in close partnership with parents remains at the heart of our work because we believe that mutual support and partnership is the best way to support our pupils.

The work of the form tutor is fundamental to this and form tutors, who see their tutees every day, are the lynch pin of our pastoral system. They are supported in their roles by the Pastoral and Academic Leaders (traditionally thought of as Heads of Year), Learning Mentors and the Senior Leadership Team.

### **Exam results and outcomes**

We have received several national awards not only for our academic success, but also for our success in the field of music education. Honours include 4 national awards for progress and attainment at GCSE and A level, placing our results in the top 20% of schools nationally. Additionally, the school's Sixth Form regularly achieves amongst the highest levels of progress, including the number of A\*/B grades, in the region. We endeavour to remain in the top 20% of school's nationally in everything we do. Indeed, we expect this summer's 2023 results to be amongst our best ever when published in the New Year.

What this means for pupils is that all of them, and for last year's Year 11 this meant 100%, left the year at Ousedale either to carry on in 6th Form, or go to college or employment with training. Nationally the rate is only 95.5%.

However, proud as we are of our academic excellence, Ousedale offers much more to the pupils who join our thriving community; whether it's our excellent pastoral care, our extensive 'experiences curriculum', or the seriousness with which we take our safeguarding responsibilities. We want our pupils to **enjoy** their time at Ousedale, and overwhelmingly parents and pupils tell us they do.

### **What our pupils say**

But don't simply take my word for it, here are 2 of our fantastic Y7 pupils to tell you in their own words about their start at Ousedale.

### **Ofsted quote**

You will no doubt read our latest Ofsted report, but I would draw your attention to one line in particular that I am incredibly proud of: “This is a school where, as one pupil put it, ‘everyone is included’.”

We are an inclusive and community-based school. We provide opportunities both in and out of the classroom for pupils to thrive and enjoy themselves, and we support them in doing it. Perhaps this is why many of our staff choose to educate their children here at Ousedale; I look forward to welcoming you too into the Ousedale family.

I will now hand-over to Mrs Penny who will take you through the admissions process and Transition from Year 6 into Year 7.