



Sir Frederic Osborn School

Achieving Success Together

T: 01707 351350
F: 01707 351357
E: admin@sfosborn.herts.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr J C Whelan BA, NPQH

Herns Lane, Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire AL7 2AF

Open Evening Thursday 21st September 2017 Headteacher's welcome

Welcome to Sir Frederic Osborn School, I hope you enjoy your visit to the school. We are an improving and ambitious school where all students are encouraged to achieve their full potential. We hope the following information gives you a clear insight into our school community and helps you make the important decision about the choice of Secondary School for your child. Students are available to take you on tours of the school and answer any questions you may have. Staff and Governors are also available where necessary.

This is an exciting time for the school, as we are on the verge of the next chapter in our schools history as we aim to become a new academy school, opening in September 2018. The academy will remain to be a place driven by values; aiming to provide the best teaching and learning, placing students at the heart of all we do. We will set high standards and expectations and offer a relevant and challenging curriculum. All our students will be expected to work hard but recognise that the very best learning takes place when it is cultivated by interesting and enjoyable lessons.

We offer a positive learning environment where staff and students enjoy working and learning together. We are very proud of the excellent relationships that exist between staff, students and parents and firmly believe that this provides a safe and secure learning environment. These relationships are based on respect and consideration for others.

We are immensely proud of the achievement of all our students and celebrate their successes at every opportunity. These successes are built on a genuine partnership between students, the school, parents and the community.

We encourage you to see the school in action; you are welcome to visit us on the following Open Mornings: Monday 25th September to Friday 29th September 2017. Appointments are not necessary, but please do arrive by 9.00am.

We look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely

Jed Whelan
Headteacher

'I now believe in myself because the school believes in me' Year 12 student, 2017

Achieving Success Together

www.sfosborn.herts.sch.uk

New Year 7 Student letter to Springmead Primary School

Headteacher
Springmead Primary School,
Hilly Fields,
Welwyn Garden City,
AL2 2HB

Dear Springmead,

I am writing to you to thank you for such a wonderful time at school. My experience at Springmead was amazing, I learnt so much. I had really nice teachers and everyone was kind. I would also like to tell you about my time at Secondary School:

My time here at Secondary School so far has been fabulous. I've made lot of new friends, their names are Callum, Lewis, Oliver, Louis, Oscar and many more. They have always been there for me whenever I needed them. Yes they can be cheeky at times and take it too far but they're all still awesome. Most of them are in my form, which I'm really happy about. My form tutor is called Mr Boyd (he's a Maths teacher and super nice to everyone), he's new to the school too.

My favourite lessons so far have to be Maths and Art because the teachers are really nice and funny. Some activities we do can be really fun. In Maths we've been learning about negative and positive numbers. One task we've done is looking on a number line and finding out what number is missing then shading that number that is on a grid. This should make a picture of a duck. In Art we were graded on a piece that we drew which was of our pencil case.

I would like to give advice to the new Year 6 at Springmead:

Don't worry about Secondary School, enjoy Year 6 and think about working hard and have fun with it. SATS are pretty easy as long as you do your best, it won't matter what your results are.

Secondary School so far has been fantastic. Thank you for being a great school, I will miss coming to Springmead every day.

Yours Sincerely

Matthew Osborn, 7E

New Year 7 Student letter to Welwyn St Marys School

Headteacher,
Welwyn St Marys Primary School,
15 London Road,
Welwyn,
Herts,
AL6 9DJ

Dear Mrs Platt and Mrs Philips,

As you know I am now going to Sir Frederic Osborn School. In my new Form I have made many friends. Everyone here is very welcoming to me and I have settled in to the school well but I have got lost many times!

During lunch there are many different choices of food to buy in the canteen. My favourite food so far is the jelly. On my first day I was very worried and nervous but I didn't need to be because I had made many friends by the end of the day.

There are lots of different clubs to do after school. I am going to try many sports clubs; so far I have tried netball and I want to try trampolining club.

If you get worried about starting Secondary School, there is no need to be. Once you're there and you have tried your best in lessons you would have hopefully made many friends.

I am having lots of fun here at Sir Frederic Osborn School. I hope you have a wonderful time in Year 6.

Yours Sincerely,

Sophie Mason, 7E

What's going on at Sir Frederic Osborn School?

Osborn Hall

Student Guides and Headteacher speeches

Refreshments will be available in **Attimore Hall**

L Block

Science

In KS3 students follow the National Curriculum through the Science Works programme of study. This is a very engaging, contemporary and practical course that enables students to develop the scientific knowledge, skills, techniques and understanding to succeed as scientists. Content is studied in discrete topics from all three strands, Biology, Chemistry and Physics and regular assessments inform both students and teachers of the progress being made.

The course also enables students to build up the range of qualities needed for progression onto GCSE Science. In Year 9 all students follow an in-house programme of study designed to allow all students to develop the vital knowledge, understanding and skills needed to fulfil their potential, as well as provide them with the necessary stepping stone to studying Science in KS4.

KS4 is an important two year period; students will study science through one of three pathways:

- GCSE Combined Science – AQA - Trilogy
- GCSE Separate Science – Biology, Chemistry and Physics - AQA

Students are expected to work hard and achieve a deep understanding of key scientific principles as well as an appreciation of how science works. There is an exam and coursework element to each of the three courses and students will be set based on prior achievement, teacher assessment and according to their demonstrated attitude to learning.

The subjects are taught by topic so that students have the opportunity to develop their understanding in all three science disciplines.

For students who want to take their understanding even further, studying Science at A level provides fantastic opportunities to push students' skills and knowledge to higher levels. Courses in Biology and Physics are taught at Sir Frederic Osborn, with Chemistry available through the Welwyn & Hatfield Consortium

Sports Centre

Sir Frederic Osborn Sports Centre is a state of the art, multi-use facility for both the school and the community, situated within the school. The students are fortunate enough to use these facilities all day, every day, for PE lessons, lunchtime and afterschool clubs, training and fixtures.

We are extremely lucky to have an All Weather Pitch, Dance Studio and Sports Hall. The Sir Frederic Osborn Sports Centre Team utilises the facilities during the evening, weekends and school holidays to hire the facilities to many local clubs. We also manage the community facility usage within the school, with over 50 clubs/groups using the school throughout the week.

We are proud to host many local clubs including; Panshanger FC, Lindsey Fitness, Welwyn & Hatfield Volleyball Club, Garden City Runners and Stars Rhythmic Gymnastics clubs, to name but a few.

We run our multiple award winning Pay and Play Programme for children during the school holidays. Sir Frederic Osborn students can also use the facilities throughout the week during the community time as part of the Pay and Play programme, all for only £1 per hour.

We have successfully launched and delivered birthday parties since opening in 2015, and host the most successful Back to Netball session in the County, in association with England Netball. We have also recently launched Allstars Cricket; a programme run in conjunction and partnership with the England Cricket Board.(ECB).

For any more information, please email our Sports Centre Manager, Sam Harte on sam.harte@sfosborn.herts.sch.uk.

Physical Education

Sport is a vital and exciting part of life at Sir Frederic Osborn School. We believe it is essential in nurturing skills, confidence and a life-long love of sporting activities.

KS3:- students follow courses in various activities such as athletics, football, dance, gymnastics, trampolining, basketball, rugby, hockey, netball, tennis, cricket, rounders, badminton, volleyball and health related fitness.

KS4:- students extend their learning in the above activities and follow a programme, which allows them to gain more specialised knowledge and experience of these sports with the emphasis on lifelong participation.

The exam based Physical Education & Dance curriculum is an exciting opportunity for students to follow. Both the A level and GCSE courses can lead to careers in Sports Management, Teaching, Sports Massage, Sports Physiotherapy, Sports Psychology, Sports Coaching, Personal Trainer and many more.

The Department has many extra-curricular clubs. During the week there is a regular programme of well supported clubs and activities, which include basketball, football, badminton, gymnastics, netball, trampolining and dance. The school also takes part in many trips out of school, examples being Wimbledon, basketball finals and football trips abroad, the most recent going to Madrid in 2017.

There is also an annual gym and dance display and sports presentation evening. Regular competitive fixtures take place during the week against both state and independent schools.

M Block

Modern Foreign Languages

All students study French for 4 hours over 2 weeks. At KS3 they study familiar topics which allow them to talk about themselves and their family, what they like to do and where they like to go. They also study the topics of healthy eating, the world of work and holidays and have the opportunity to learn the language through looking at French literature and poetry.

Learning a language is made up of small incremental steps, each step building on what has been learnt previously. Gradually developing their use of grammar and building their confidence in their ability to write in French independently, under timed conditions and completely from memory. This is essential for those who may want to study this subject to GCSE level. .

Students are regularly assessed and given focussed targets to support their learning and development.

Rote learning is particularly important in languages and students will be asked to learn things thoroughly, this is essential for developing their skills to listen, speak, read and write in a foreign language unaided, key skills for success in this subject.

Home based learning in KS3 is set once a week in KS4 at least one hour of home based learning will be set each week.

Mathematics

All students will study Mathematics to a level appropriate to their ability in Years 7 and 8. Students will be following a learning journey dependent on their KS2 results. All learning journeys are designed to support, stretch and challenge each and every student.

In Years 9, 10 and 11 all students study a 3 year GCSE Edexcel Linear course, taking the exam at the end of Year 11.

Students who go on and study Mathematics at KS5 have the option to study AS or A level Mathematics. The consortium also offers an option of a second AS or A level in Further Mathematics.

Students decide whether to study AS or A level at the start of the course.

Students are taught in forms for the first term in Year 7 to allow them to settle and access all learning journeys. After this period they are grouped in bands for the rest of Year 7 and Year 8. In Year 9, 10 and 11 students are set as a whole year group and will work towards their target GCSE Grade. Students in all years are assessed regularly to ensure they are achieving their potential and to identify any areas for development.

Homework in KS3 is set once per week for at least 30-60 minutes. In KS4 the time increases to 60 – 90 minutes per week. These may take the form of a written exercise, some research or data collection or an online activity. The advantage of the online tasks is that students get instant feedback and can use the links provided to get additional help before attempting the task again.

A Block

Sixth Form

Sir Frederic Osborn Sixth Form, as an integral partner in the Welwyn & Hatfield Sixth Form Consortium, prides itself in providing a well supported and academically challenging environment for our students, one in which they are given every opportunity to achieve their full potential, both academically and personally. Sir Frederic Osborn Sixth Form offers post-16 students broad curriculum choices and a successful tradition of excellent advice and guidance for the next step beyond school.

We are very proud of our post-16 students: it is their dedication and mature approach, together with the excellent quality of teaching that has allowed our students to pursue their chosen post-Sixth Form paths be it to University or the taking up of an apprenticeship. This year, for example, the number of students wanting to go to University, who successfully met their offer criteria, is 100% this includes Universities within the Russell Group.

The students have vibrancy, a willingness to give and a capacity for imagination that makes our Sixth Form a unique place to learn and grow as a young person into adulthood. The school's culture of high expectation leads to a clear sense of purpose and self-esteem, creating an environment where ambition and achievement are supported, encouraged and celebrated.

B Block

English

In Year 7 the English Department aims to inspire and engage all our students in the art of reading, writing and spoken word. Our goal is to equip them with the skills of communication which are essential if they are to succeed academically and if they are to fully develop their potential in the wider world. We aim to make learning fun and to use literature to enrich our students' understanding of their world.

The transition to Secondary School can be difficult for students. To ease this move students attend a 'taster day' towards the end of Year 6 when they are introduced to a typical English lesson. They are set a related task to complete over the summer, which should be brought into school at the beginning of their first term. After sharing their work with others, they build on their success through further activities including writing a letter to their Primary School teacher to share their first weeks. This assessment, acting as a baseline test, will inform setting for the remainder of the year.

Students in Year 8 will experience a wide range of experiences including plays, poetry, creative writing, novels and Shakespeare. The focus throughout KS3 is on building skills necessary for successful completion of GCSEs.

In Year 9 students begin to study content for their GCSE examinations in both English Language and English Literature. They will also prepare for their English Language Spoken Word examination which will be assessed in the Autumn Term of Year 10.

GCSE Students will study both English Language, the focus is on reading comprehension of both fiction and non-fiction texts. English Literature allows the study of modern texts, 19 Century novels, poetry and also Shakespeare.

We have an enthusiastic and expanding Sixth Form studying English Literature at A-Level. We also offer a qualification in Film Studies at A-Level.

Geography

KS3 students will explore a variety of physical and human geography as well as developing the necessary functional skills to cope with GCSE Geography.

GCSE Geography students currently study the AQA A course. At A-Level the department follows the AQA specification and studies a range of topics including the carbon and water cycle, coasts, hazards, global systems and governance, urban environments and changing places.

History

In Years 7, 8 and 9 students develop their skills and knowledge of History. The key skills addressed include the ability to infer from and comment on sources, to explain how events and changes are caused and to describe how different interpretations arise. Students are encouraged to support their ideas with relevant evidence and to use their knowledge effectively. Students also take part in active learning, from model making to role play. Content areas range from the medieval period to the era of the Second World War.

At GCSE, students follow the Edexcel GCSE (9-1) programme of study. This is broken down into three exams. Paper 1 is the British thematic study with historic environments, which is worth 53 marks (30% of the overall exam). The focus of this unit is medicine in Britain c1250-present and the British sector of the Western Front, injuries, treatments and the trenches. This will include a visit to the battlefields of Ypres, Belgium in year 10. Paper 2 is the period study and British depth study, which is worth 64 marks (40% of the overall exam). The focus of this paper is on superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91 and early Elizabethan England, 1558-88. Paper 3 is the modern depth study unit, which is worth 52 marks (30% of the overall exam). The topic for this paper is on Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39.

History is crucially important if we are to understand the world in which we live. As important are the valuable skills that the historian acquires – to construct an argument, to weigh up evidence and to explain ideas. History encourages young people to think for themselves and to reach their own conclusions.

Philosophy & Ethics

All KS3 students study Philosophy & Ethics for 2 x 1 hour lessons per fortnight. At KS4, students follow the new AQA specification. The subject is optional at KS4. Students explore wider philosophical, moral questions, religious and secular views on the issues in our world today.

The department promotes an enquiring, empathetic and critical awareness towards the study of religion. Students will be challenged with ultimate questions about beliefs, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own ideas about spiritual and moral issues. Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All of these skills will help them prepare for further study and the cultivation of wider life aptitudes.

C Block

Design & Technology

There are three Technology lessons per fortnight for Years 7, 8 and 9. Students are taught in mixed ability groups.

In Years 7, 8 and 9 students will study Food Preparation and Nutrition, Graphics and Design Technology throughout the year. In each subject area students have the opportunity to become effective and independent learners through the development of a number of specific skills. For example in Food Preparation and Nutrition, Year 7 will produce a range of good quality food products, safely and hygienically. There is a strong focus on healthy eating and making students aware of the importance of planning healthy meals.

In Year 9, students have the opportunity to opt for Food Preparation and Nutrition or for Design and Technology.

Once students reach KS4 they will be introduced to the design process through a series of 'design and make' activities. Students carry out research, generate and develop design ideas, plan their making, manufacture prototypes as well as their final products and test and evaluate these.

Assessment sheets are used at each key stage to record current level of achievement and to monitor progress for each student. Improvement targets can then be set to ensure progression throughout the year.

Extended Learning tasks are set in each subject area.

KS4 Food Preparation and Nutrition

The GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition equips students with the knowledge, understanding and skills to be able to prepare and cook a wide variety of foods. The course includes a significant element of food science, nutrition and healthy eating and the recipes the students cook reflect this.

Through a combination of practical and theory lessons and scientific investigations, students are encouraged to understand the journey of food from the field to the fork and also to make informed decisions about food and nutrition. This will enable them to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

KS4 Product Design/Design and Technology

Product Design/Design and Technology encourages students to design and make products with creativity and originality in a variety of practical activities, using a range of materials and techniques. Packaging, labelling and instructions are also encouraged as part of the complete design proposal.

Students will also study a selection of marketing tools, such as advertising and points of sale, to help create products which can be evaluated for their commercial viability.

E Block

Music

Throughout KS3, students are given the chance to hone three key music skills; Performing, Composing and Listening & Appraising. Students are given the opportunity to work in groups across a wide range of topics, incorporating the many and varied pieces of music equipment at their disposal in the department. Confidence in performing music will be developed through frequent opportunities. Lessons are designed to allow access at all entry levels.

Topics include: The Elements of Music; Music and Space; Minimalism; Film Music; Melody/Jingle Writing; Instruments of the Orchestra; Samba; African Drumming; Taiko and Musical Futures 'Band' Project to name but a few. Students who are already learning a specific instrument are encouraged to use their instruments as much as possible during these lessons, as well as develop skills on new instruments.

The AQA Music GCSE course is followed in KS4 where students will develop further musicianship and other key skills. Students will have to complete four units, comprised of two compositions, two performances (one individual and one group performance) and a listening paper. All GCSE students are expected to take part in department ensembles and school concerts throughout the year.

Drama

Students are introduced to Drama conventions that are used to create effective performances. They will work in groups using their creative talents to organise and develop a number of different performance pieces. Students are given the opportunity to develop a number of specific Drama skills, for example improvisation, freeze frames and character work. Students work individually and as part of a group and begin to learn how to evaluate their own work and the work of others. Students are assessed every half term.

In Year 7 students have two hours of Drama a fortnight. They will experience a range of topics with the emphasis based on skill acquisition. They will learn the basics of stagecraft, developing and performing their own work and work in groups on scripted pieces of theatre.

In Year 8 students have two hours of Drama a fortnight, studying a range of topics, such as Melodrama, Nonfiction, Jack the Ripper and Bentley and Craig. We focus on creating empathy when performing.

In Year 9 they follow the GCSE Drama program and are taught Theatre Studies; students explore the History of Theatre, Practitioners, Genres and Styles that have influenced theatre through to the present.

Year 10 and 11 students follow the AQA GCSE which consists of 30% practical work and 70% written element. The set text students study is Blood Brothers. Students will see live theatre productions and will perform throughout the course to an audience.

F Block

Art

In Art much of a student's learning is enabled through actual art practice. Therefore we ensure that throughout each key stage students are given chances to paint, sculpt and print.

In Years 7, 8, and 9 students enjoy a wide range of Art activities. These are designed to ensure each student is given the same creative opportunities, enabling them to discover their individual

artistic potential. Throughout KS3 students follow a wide curriculum, through which they are able to try new and exciting Art activities whilst at the same time revisiting, building upon and improving the skills they have already experienced. The spiral curriculum allows students to develop confidence in their skills, whilst the individual creative freedom we encourage gives students a feeling of ownership with regards to their artwork.

The KS3 Art programme creates a foundation for the aspiring artist that is reflected in the popularity of Art as an option choice at KS4.

At KS4 students complete a GCSE in Art & Design. This course is wide and varied, with students encouraged to become independent learners and creative thinkers. In each unit of work students have the chance to produce sophisticated drawing, painting, sculpture and printing as well as opportunities to work digitally.

A-Level Art students follow a mixed-media, multi-disciplinary course that gives them the space both physically, and metaphorically, to truly develop as an artist.

G Block

Computer Science

A high-quality Computing education equips students to use computational thinking and creativity to understand and change the world. Computing has deep links with Mathematics, Science, and Design and Technology, and provides insights into both natural and artificial systems. The core of Computing is Computer Science, in which students are taught the principles of information and computation, how digital systems work, and how to put this knowledge to use through programming. Building on this knowledge and understanding, students are equipped to use information technology to create programs, systems and a range of content. Computing also ensures that students become digitally literate – able to use, and express themselves and develop their ideas through, information and communication technology – at A-Level suitable for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world.

GCSE Computer Science begins in Year 10 as an option and continues through Year 11.

Home based learning for all Key Stages is set using Show My Homework. KS3 students are set home based learning on a weekly basis and should take no longer than 30 minutes to complete. KS4 students are set home based learning each week; these will be more challenging and should take no more than one hour. Homework tasks will be a mixture of practical tasks that will sometimes require a PC and sometimes written tasks which will be recorded in exercise books.

H Block

Learning Support & Student Services

H block contains Learning Support for all students with additional needs. This is where the Teaching Assistants are based. H block is split into four main areas: the office where much of our one to one teaching takes place; the 'Cosy Corner' which is a 'safe space' for our students who are vulnerable and or on the autistic spectrum to visit; the group space, where some group work and mentoring sessions are held, and, finally the Nurture classroom where transition groups, circles of support and skill building lessons take place.

Students can attend H Block to see the Attendance Officer or Student Liaison Officer who deals with First Aid, attendance queries and any general information that students will need.

Quotations about Sir Frederic Osborn School from our New Year 7 Students

'I've had a good start to Sir Frederic Osborn School making some good friends in the first few weeks. I really love the sporting facilities, the field is big and there is so much to choose from! One of my favourite subjects is Maths, the teachers make it really enjoyable!'

By Kristian - Year 7

'Sir Frederic Osborn School is the best Secondary School. There's a lot to do such as Science, Maths and History. I'm having a great time.'

By Travis – Year 7

'Everyone at the school has been really welcoming and helped me to find my way around,'

By Ben – Year 7

'Sir Frederic Osborn School is a really nice school. It's welcoming, the teachers are nice and friendly and so are the students.'

By Destiny – Year 7

'This is one of the best schools as there are just so many different sports to choose from and the facilities are brilliant.'

By Rhys – Year 7

NOTES



A-Level work produced by Harry Hall

"Your future is in your hands"
President Obama September 2010