



THE SYDNEY RUSSELL SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

WHERE THE WORLD COMES TO SCHOOL



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to see some of what The Sydney Russell School has to offer. I think that you will be impressed. I am very proud to be the Principal of a school which combines the highest levels of academic achievement and behaviour, a great emphasis on student wellbeing and provides a broad programme of enrichment activities. This is a school which OFSTED designates Outstanding.

We are very ambitious for our students and it is our aim that every child leaves our school a confident and successful young adult with examination results of which they can be proud. We expect that our children will go on to continue their studies at university.



My aspirations for students can only be realised through high expectations both in and out of the classroom. All staff at Sydney Russell share my high expectations and therefore our students are expected to show dedication and commitment in their work. We are very proud of the school we have built and the opportunities it offers our students. Our staff are generous with their time and consequently opportunities are vast and varied both within and beyond the classroom. We strive to provide a wealth of academic, creative, sporting and personal experiences to support and develop our students as they grow into valuable members of our community.

While students, parents and teachers will be focused on the examinations students will take in Years 11 and 13, we understand that their results are the beginning not the end and we look forward to learning about the many ways in which our alumni make their mark in the world.

Ms Janis Davies

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Davies', written on a light grey rectangular background.

Principal

EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

THE SYDNEY RUSSELL SCHOOL

OUR SCHOOL'S PROUD HISTORY

The first school on this site was Dagenham County High School which was finished in 1935. This was the building we call Shaftesbury. In those days, it was known as a grammar school. In 1970 comprehensive schools were introduced to Barking and Dagenham and several schools, including Dagenham County High, joined together to become Parsloes Manor Comprehensive School.

In 1990 Parsloes Manor was joined by two other schools to become The Sydney Russell School. The school was named in honour of Sydney Russell who did lots of good work in the local community. The names of our buildings recognise the work of others in the community.



Picture of Sydney Russell

As the school became even more successful and popular, we had to expand and, in 2013 a multi-million pound building programme was completed. This was also the year in which OFSTED designated us as Outstanding, a status we have retained. In 2014, Sydney Russell became an "all through" school with a primary department and in 2015 we became the first academy in Barking and Dagenham.

In July 2015, we marked our Silver Jubilee with a visit from Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Phillip. The Queen and His Royal Highness visited some lessons, saw a display of cycle polo and enjoyed a concert of classical music. The Queen's final but most important duty was to unveil the plaque marking the completion of the redevelopment of the school. A visit by the Queen was a fitting way to celebrate all we have achieved so far!



Heritage



EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

THE SYDNEY RUSSELL SCHOOL

OUR VISION

“Where the world comes to school”

Unlocking the potential of every child, challenging expectations and levelling the playing field is at the heart of what we do and who we are at The Sydney Russell School.

Our curriculum delivers continuous progression and successful learning experiences for all our young people. Our aims are:

- Currency** To deliver a rich, ambitious, exciting and carefully crafted curriculum which leads to high academic performance and provides all our pupils with the currency they need to succeed in later life.
- Culture** To build the cultural capital of our young people by providing diverse experiences. We provide a wide range of cultural opportunities to inspire our students to be the best they can be and to remove barriers so they gain confidence to achieve their aspirations.
- Character** To develop the character of our young people by creating opportunities to ensure our pupils flourish as lifelong learners. We create an atmosphere that hums with excitement, vibrancy and purpose, which fosters a love of learning and intellectual curiosity and promotes dignity, integrity, self-discipline and self-esteem.

“One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world” Malala Yousafzai



barbican



EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

THE SYDNEY RUSSELL SCHOOL

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

The Sydney Russell School is outstanding because of our high expectations. The ethos of our school is that students are **Setup, Respectful** and **Safe**. We expect parents and guardians to work with us to instil this ethos.

Setup:

- attend school each day
- arrive at school and for lessons promptly
- bring the correct equipment to school every day
- wear correct school uniform
- demonstrate the right attitude to work

Respectful:

- be polite and respectful to all adults and students in the school
- be a good ambassador in the local community

Safe:

- behave well in class, in the corridors and around the school
- report any worries to staff so we can solve the problem promptly

Aim High



EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

THE SYDNEY RUSSELL SCHOOL

WORLD-CLASS FACILITIES

The Sydney Russell School has some of the best facilities in the country.

Classrooms

Our light and airy classrooms are the largest in the country. They are all equipped with 32 computers for students to use and overhead projectors with cinema-sized screens.

We also have a range of specialist classrooms including:

- A suite of music classrooms and practice rooms
- A dance studio with barre
- Two drama studios, one of which has tiered seating for performances
- Two floors of dedicated computing classrooms

Sports Facilities

We have some of the best sports facilities in the country including:

- A Sports Hall with Olympic grade flooring
- A state-of-the-art fitness suite
- Grass pitches for team sports and athletics
- Three AstroTurf courts
- Two hard-courts

Science Laboratories

Our Science faculty has 12 purpose-built laboratories with state of the art facilities.

Library

We are very proud of our library which is the showpiece of the borough. Over 15,000 books, fiction and non-fiction, are arranged over two floors. Two librarians are available, throughout the school day and after it, to help students to find books they will enjoy and to facilitate research. It is available as a supervised study space, between 16:00 and 19:00, for students preparing for their G.C.S.E. and A-Level examinations.

Bike Sheds

There is a secure area for students who cycle to store their bikes during the school day.

THE NEVILLE FOX FITNESS SUITE



EXCELLENCE FOR ALL
THE SYDNEY RUSSELL SCHOOL

AN EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION

At The Sydney Russell School, the combination of traditional values, high quality teaching based on the latest research and modern facilities will ensure that your child will be successful and happy.

Grouping of Students

At Sydney Russell, students are grouped by ability from the start of Year Seven. Students are placed in a form on the basis of their KS2 results. Year Seven students are taught most subjects in their form, but in Maths and Science are taught in groups based on their ability in that subject, within their band. Students sit formal tests three times a year, the results of which are used to review the forms and bands students are in. For students who have been identified as High Achievers, we offer a bespoke programme of enhancement activities in addition to their lessons.

A Broad Curriculum

Our broad and challenging curriculum promotes the highest academic standards.

Students study a broad range of subjects including:

- English Language & Literature
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- French
- German
- History
- Geography
- Computing
- Religious Education
- Music
- Art
- Civics
- Drama
- Dance
- Technology
- P.E.
- Sociology
- Economics
- Media Studies
- Business Studies
- Photography
- Food Technology
- Statistics

High-Quality Teaching

Lessons are taught by subject specialists who are experts in their field. As a result of the quality of our teaching practices, we have been designated as a specialist Teaching School, which means we are licensed to train new teachers. In 2019, we also became an **OLEVI** Designated Centre of Excellence in teaching and learning, the only school designated in London.

Ever to excel



EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

THE SYDNEY RUSSELL SCHOOL

AN OUTSTANDING RECORD OF SUCCESS

Our curriculum is designed to prepare students for their next steps, whether that be Higher Education, vocational training or employment.

Sixth Form

Most of our students go in to our sixth form after they complete their G.C.S.E.s because of its record of success. We were particularly proud that one of our former students, Afzal Hussain, won a scholarship to attend Eton College, another of the most prestigious schools in the country, in Autumn 2019.

World Class Universities

Many of our students go on to study at world class universities after their time here. At the moment, Sydney Russell alumni are studying at universities including:

- The University of Oxford
- The University of Cambridge
- The University of Edinburgh
- The London School of Economics
- Imperial College, London

Successful Careers

Studying at Sydney Russell will help your child develop impressive skill-sets that are highly sought after by employers. Former students have followed careers in law, medicine, business, the civil service, sport and acting.

"96 Grade 9s in 2019. To receive a Grade 9 students must be in the top 2.5% of the country"

"Top 30% of schools in the country for progress made by students"

"Above national average for students achieving English and Maths at Grades 5+ and 7+"

“Sydney Russell helped me develop as a learner and a person. The excellent teaching staff create a positive learning environment, which challenges you to always better yourself. I always felt supported and am extremely appreciative of all the guidance given to me throughout the process of applying to Eton. As a result of everything I learned at Sydney Russell, I was ready to face my next challenge.”

Afzal Hussain, Sydney Russell Alumni & Student at Eton College Sixth Form

“After successfully completing my GCSEs and A-Levels at the Sydney Russell, I am about to start a Degree Apprenticeship in Applied Finance with J.P. Morgan and The University of Exeter. The 16+ team at Sydney Russell helped me make the decision about what was right for me and that university isn't the only option.”

Kieron Bell, Sydney Russell Alumni and Degree Apprentice

“I started writing songs at eleven and was given many opportunities to perform at Sydney Russell. The careers advice was very good and I was told about the BRIT School of Performing Arts. I studied a course in Musical Theatre and am now a professional jazz singer. I would never have known about the school if it hadn't been for Sydney Russell.”

Zara McFarlane - Jazz Singer

“Being at Sydney Russell, I benefited from the continuous support the teachers gave me, encouraging me to believe in myself and to aim high. This gave me the confidence to apply to Cambridge where I am studying Human, Social and Political Sciences. Sydney Russell has provided me with many opportunities and help beyond academia, and I am very grateful for this.”

Amanda Daud, Sydney Russell Alumni and Undergraduate at The University of Cambridge

“After leaving Sydney Russell in 2019, I am now reading Law at Cambridge. The subject knowledge and expertise of my teachers and the school's enrichment programme gave me invaluable skills which enabled me to gain a place at an internationally renowned university, for which I am most grateful.”

Michael Tucker, Sydney Russell Alumni & Undergraduate at The University of Cambridge.

EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

THE SYDNEY RUSSELL SCHOOL

AN EXTENSIVE ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

Our extensive and ever-expanding enrichment programme is designed to provide a wide range of opportunities to develop the character of our students, widen their horizons and ensure they enjoy coming to school.

Music

All K.S.3 students have music lessons and older students can opt to study G.C.S.E. and 'A' Level Music. Students have the opportunity to have individual tuition for a range of instruments including the piano, violin, guitar, saxophone and drums. These are taught by specialist teachers and are free of charge.

Music is an important aspect of the wider life of the school. There are two choirs; an orchestra; a jazz band; a barbershop group; ukulele band and a drumming troupe. Three times a year there are concerts of classical music; week-long Festivals of Music at Christmas and Easter and a Festival of Jazz. In addition, there are musical performances at all major school events.

Sport Clubs

There is a full-timetable of after school sports clubs for every year group, including football, netball, basketball, cricket and rugby. School teams participate in competitive matches and a number of our teams have become champions at local and national level.

Elite Sports Squad

Students who demonstrate an exceptional talent in sport could be selected for our Elite Sports Squad. Once selected, students are given a bespoke training programme by our expert coaches.

The programme is also designed to develop character and resilience. As an example, in 2020 our Elite Sport Squad will be volunteering in Ghana building a school, coaching local children and undertaking conservation work.

Drama and Dance

All K.S.3 students have lessons in Drama and Dance and older students can opt to study these subjects for G.C.S.E. and 'A' Level. Once a year there is a musical production; previous year's shows include Little Shop of Horrors, The Wiz, Guys and Dolls, Joseph's Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, and Sister Act. Students are currently in rehearsal for Made In Dagenham which will premiere in December 2019. In addition, there are two performances of serious plays. Previous plays have included a K.S.3 production of Alice In Wonderland and a K.S.4 production of Medea. The school participates in the School Shakespeare Project; last year's production was The Tempest, performed at the Broadway Theatre in Barking.



AN EXTENSIVE ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

Debating

Our school debating teams have an impressive record of success in local, national and international competitions. Recently our K.S.5 team came second to the home team in Japan at the World Debating Championships.

House Cup Competition

All students and members of staff, belong to one of five houses, Centaur, Dragon, Griffin, Pegasus and Phoenix. The Head of each House is a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Early in the academic year, students will vote for a House Captain, Vice-Captain and Sports Captain.

Throughout the academic year there are competitions and challenges for which students and staff can win points for their house. We have a full-time Enrichment Coordinator who organises and runs the competitions. Some examples of House events are a University Challenge quiz; an essay writing competition; a Bikathon; a Basketball Tournament, a Bake-Off and a special edition of Sydney Russell's Got Talent!

The competition culminates with the Sydney Russell Olympics in the Summer Term. At the end of the year, there is a party for all members of the winning house.

The Barbican

The school has a partnership with the world renowned Barbican Theatre and students have the opportunity to work variety of projects led by range of artistes.

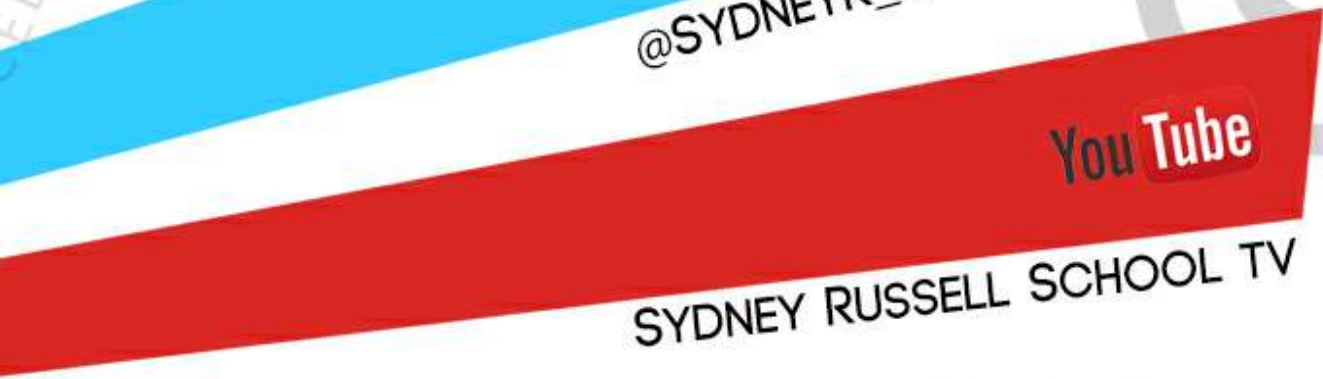
Educational Visits

There is a wide and varied programme of education visits. Recent visits have included trips to the World War One trenches in Belgium; languages trip to France; a performance of The Tina Turner Musical in the West End and a concert of classical music at the Barbican.





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EXCELLENCE