

THE SYDNEY RUSSELL SCHOOL

OPEN EVENING

CHARACTER
CURRENCY
CULTURE

WHERE THE WORLD COMES TO SCHOOL



**National Nurturing
School Award
2025**



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



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 from EYFS to Year 13. We are very ambitious for our students and it is our aim that every child leaves our school as a confident and successful young adult with examination results of which they can be proud. Whilst the majority of our children will go on to continue their studies at university, we ensure every child has a clear pathway for the next steps beyond Sydney Russell School.

My aspirations for students can only be realised through high expectations both in and out of the classroom. All staff at Sydney Russell School share in our school vision therefore our students are expected to show dedication and commitment in their work and aim to be the best they can be in all areas of their learning. 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, proud to have been a Sydney Russell School student.

Clare Cross
Principal



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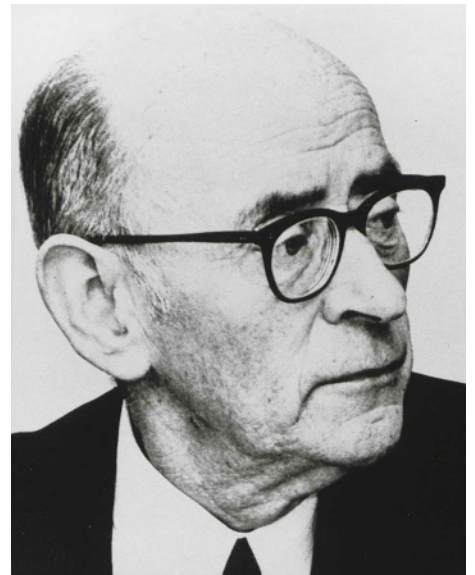




OUR SCHOOL'S PROUD HISTORY

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. 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 Queen Elizabeth II 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 also unveiled the plaque marking the completion of the redevelopment of the school which you can still see in our Atrium. A visit by the Queen was a fitting way to celebrate all we have achieved so far!



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:

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.

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.



A photograph of a school orchestra. Several students, both male and female, are shown from the chest up, wearing green blazers over dark clothing. They are all focused on playing their violins. The violins are a warm, orange-brown color. The background is slightly blurred, showing an indoor setting with warm lighting. The text 'MISST PROGRAMME' is overlaid vertically in the center of the image.

MISST PROGRAMME

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



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. There is a large number of classrooms across the school which are equipped with 32 computers for students to use and overhead projectors

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
- Three purpose built kitchens for Food Technology
- Two technology workshops

Sports Facilities

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

- A spacious Sports Hall
- A state-of-the-art fitness suite
- Grass pitches for team sports and athletics
- 5G Football Pitch
- Two hard-courts

Science Laboratories

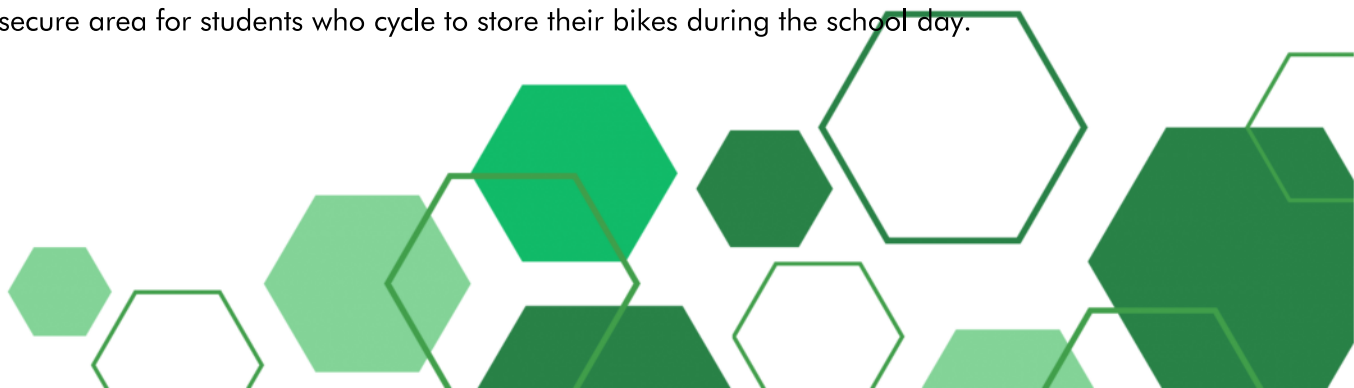
Our Science faculty has 12 purpose-built laboratories with state of the art facilities.

Library

We are very proud of our library, with 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 18:00, 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.





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 7. Students are placed in a form on the basis of their KS2 results. Year 7 students are taught in form groups within their band. Students sit formal assessments twice a year, the results of which are used to review the forms and bands in which students are placed. We offer bespoke programmes of enhancement activities for all students in addition to their lessons.

A Broad Curriculum

Our broad and challenging curriculum promotes the highest academic standards without compromising the opportunities students have to learn music, art, drama and dance. As part of our commitment to the arts, we joined the MISST programme in 2020 enabling all students from Year 7 to be taught a musical instrument in their music lessons.

Students study a broad range of subjects including:

- English Language & Literature
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- French
- Spanish
- History
- Geography
- Computer Science
- Religious Education
- Music
- Art
- Personal Development
- Drama
- Dance
- Technology
- P.E.
- Sociology
- Government & Politics
- Economics
- Media Studies
- Business Studies
- Photography
- Psychology
- Food Technology
- Statistics

High-Quality Teaching

Lessons are taught by subject specialists who are experts in their field. Our teachers have dedicated professional learning time to ensure the highest standards of practice. We invest in supporting training teachers and as such we are proud of our leading role in PLS (Partnership London SCITT) teachers training provision. In 2019, we also became an **OLEVI** Designated Centre of Excellence in teaching and learning, the only school designated in London.





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 continue to our Sixth Form when they complete their GCSEs due to its continued success. Students within the Sixth Form take part in a curriculum that balances academic rigour with the opportunity to develop transferable skills through enrichment opportunities. This allows our students to progress to a number of different pathways including university and degree apprenticeships.

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
- Harvard University
- Princeton University
- The University of Edinburgh
- The London School of Economics
- Imperial College, London
- University College London (UCL)
- University of Warwick
- King's College London
- Queen Mary University

"129 Grade 9s in 2025. To receive a Grade 9 students must be in the top 2.5% of the country"

*On average, in 2025, our A level students achieved over 1/3 grade higher than students with the same starting point nationally.
99.5% A level Pass Rate*

"Above national average for students achieving English, Maths & Science at Grades 4+, 5+ and 7+"

2/3 of 2025 Post-18 leavers are attending a Russell Group or Top Third University

"Over 680 Grades 9 to 7 awarded to SRS students in 2025."

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.

“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, former student at Eton College Sixth Form & current student at Princeton University

“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 The University of Cambridge Alumni

“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 & University of Cambridge Alumni.



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

In our school, Student Personal Development is envisioned as a grand temple. The curriculum acts as the strong foundation, grounding students in essential knowledge. Rising from this base are eight pillars, each representing key characteristics such as Arts & Culture, Performing Arts, Global Citizenship, Careers, Enrichment, Adventures & Expeditions, Sport, and Wellbeing. This provides students with wider opportunities to grow holistically. Crowning these pillars are our leadership opportunities, where students integrate their learning and character development, showcasing their readiness to lead and contribute meaningfully to society. This temple analogy emphasizes our commitment to nurturing well-rounded, confident individuals prepared for the challenges of the future.

At Personal Development, we take the curriculum seriously as it is the cornerstone of our educational approach, we recognise its paramount importance. We deliver it in the most creative and engaging manner, utilising a 3D (3-Dimensional) curriculum that ensures our students receive the best possible experience. This is achieved through an integrated approach that includes world calendar events, dynamic lessons, engaging assemblies, form time activities, and extensive extra curricular programme. As a whole we provide a comprehensive educational experience.

Awards _____

Leadership _____

Wider Opportunities _____

Meaningful Encounters _____

Curriculum _____



WIDER OPPORTUNITIES - 8 PILLARS

Accessing our 8 pillars of personal development you will be able to explore the following opportunities:

Arts & Culture

Arts Awards
Crafts Club
Crochet Club
Photography Club
Art Club
Museum & Gallery Visits
Heritage Group (Leadership)

Performing Arts

MiSST Programme (Music in Secondary Schools Trust)
MiSST (National/International Tours)
Orchestras
Choirs
Bands
Technical Theatre Society
Keyboard Club
Ensembles
Beginner Strings
Whole School Musical
Drama Club
Comedy Club
K-Pop Club
Scholar Scheme (Leadership)
Theatre & Opera visits and more...

Global Citizenship

Debating
Magistrates Court Club
Formula 24 e-Racing Club
Student Principal (Leadership)
Student Council (Leadership)
Environment Group (Leadership)
Equalities Working Group (Leadership)
Visits to Parliament & Magistrates Courts

Careers

Young Enterprise
Visits to Universities & Colleges
Work Experience
Workshops
Careers Fair

Enrichment

House Cup Competitions & Leadership
STEM Robotics
Chess Club
Manga Society
SYD TV / SYD Talks Podcasting
Cooking Club
Gaming Club
Film Makers Club
Science Club
16+ Character Building
Creative Literacy

Adventures & Expeditions

Duke of Edinburgh (Bronze, Silver, Gold)
Bikeability
Experience Days
Residentials (Trewern, Ski)
Rock Climbing

Sport

Football
Netball
Basketball
Rugby
Dance Club LXD (Leadership)
Cheerleader Squad
Gym
Cricket
Futsal
Athletics
Sports Leaders (Leadership)
Panathlon Boccia
Olympic Games and many more

Health & Wellbeing

Art Therapy
Mentoring
Lego Therapy Club
Workshops & Visits

EXTENSIVE OPPORTUNITIES

MiSST Programme

We are proud to be part of the MiSST Programme. As part of the Music in Secondary School's Trust program (MiSST), every Year 7 will be learning an orchestral instrument over the course of this year with opportunities for further continuation thereafter. This is a fantastic opportunity and one which our school is very lucky to be able to offer as it is usually only afforded to Private Schools. We are, in fact, the only state school in the borough to be part of this. Students will be loaned an instrument and initial accessories to join 22 MiSST schools across the country, all offering bespoke music tuition to young people, free of charge. There are trips, workshops and national events. At the end of Year 7 students are given the chance to opt into the programme, continuing their education in orchestral music, into Year 8 and further.

An wide network of organisations which we work with

We are delighted to be working alongside some of the most creative and high profile organisations both locally and nationally. As a school we take the opportunity of every funding provision and we invest it in our students.

Greenshoes Arts

Art Matters

Valence House

Barbican

British Council

MiSST

Shakespeare School

Musical Theatre

Debate Mate

Careers Hub East

Microsoft

BDSIP

Young Enterprise

Young Citizens

Pen to Print

Jack Petchey

Young Writers

Lego STEM Robotics

Greenpower

Duke of Edinburgh

RDF Basketball

Oppidan

Coventry University

UCL

West Ham United

Foyle Young Poets



OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



**FOR NEWS, UPDATES, PHOTOS
AND EVERYTHING ELSE AT SRS:**



SYDTV



SydneyRussellSchool_Official



SydneyR_School



The Sydney Russell School





WWW.SYDNEYRUSSELLSCHOOL.COM