



Oxford House School



An exclusive and intimate
Montessori School
in the heart of Colchester



We are a traditional Nursery and Preparatory School for girls and boys aged 2 ½ to 11 years. Founded in 1959, this intimate and exclusive school offers every child a complete education that puts a high emphasis on traditional values and the child centred learning of the Montessori Method.



Welcome To Oxford House School

The school aims to understand and to develop the potential which all children possess and to send them on to senior schools as literate, numerate, well mannered and happy individuals. The success rate for pupils gaining places in selective state and independent schools is unrivalled in the area.

The broad curriculum is enriched by encouraging a love for literature, languages, music, dance and drama. Oxford House teachers pride themselves on producing highly confident and articulate children.

Pupils benefit from being educated in a beautiful Victorian mansion close to the town centre. High quality, freshly cooked vegetarian meals are served daily to ensure our pupils enjoy a healthy diet.



Our Aims and Ethos

The standards we expect Oxford House pupils to achieve are very high. We encourage and nurture every child to promote an excellent all round education.

Our Nursery pupils are given a sound knowledge of literacy and numeracy using the Montessori teaching methods. This gives pupils a sound base which continues throughout the school.

Once pupils have been given a firm understanding of number and language, they are able to access an academic programme of study covering a variety of subjects.

Although the curriculum is wide there is still an emphasis on English, Mathematics and Reasoning. Within the upper school pupils are adequately challenged and prepared for external scholarship and 11+ level examinations.

The high standards we achieve from our pupils extend to their behaviour, dress and manners. We expect our pupils to respect the quiet working environment within the school building and to demonstrate excellent social skills towards their fellow pupils and all others. There is mutual respect between teachers and pupils and this is clearly demonstrated in the kind and polite way we treat each other at Oxford House.

The School's Mission Statement

The school aims to understand and to develop the potential which all children possess and to send them on to senior schools as literate, numerate, well-mannered and happy individuals, taking pride in work, and 'joy in achievement'.





Early Years

Pupils enter our Nursery I in the school year in which they are 3, according to their age and places available. They proceed into Nursery II which is full time.

Activities in the Nursery are Montessori based and aim to develop sensory skills and dexterity as well as a firm knowledge of number and language.

All children are given one-to-one help every day to become confident readers and quickly gain mathematical skills using the Montessori thousands, hundreds, tens and units equipment. Using the 'sandpaper letter' system enables very young children to develop advanced reading and writing skills.

The breadth of the curriculum is enhanced by a wide variety of activities. Pupils are introduced to computer technology and science at an early age and are encouraged to develop a keen interest in nature and the world around them.





Whole School

After acquiring a solid foundation in the early years, pupils enjoy a wide curriculum designed to develop a love for learning.

The school's approach becomes more 'formal' in the traditional sense, and the curriculum then becomes subject based. The use of subject specialist teachers enables all the pupils to benefit from expert tuition in all subjects.

To complement the learning programme, pupils are offered 'after-school' support to prepare for external examinations in Form VI. Every effort is made to prepare pupils for entry into a senior school that will suit their needs. Oxford House prides itself in achieving a high success rate in both independent and state selective schools.

Homework is set for pupils every night and plays a key role in cementing the links between home and school, as well as helping pupils to adopt a disciplined approach to learning. There is a long tradition at Oxford House of giving our pupils the opportunity to be involved in a professional production at a renowned local theatre. Music, Dance and Drama form a key area of education designed to develop high self esteem in every pupil. Sport plays a vital part in keeping our pupils fit and healthy. All pupils benefit from physical education. Pupils are given coaching in an extensive range of games including swimming and outdoor sports.

Oxford House pupils take part in local sporting competitions and all pupils are involved on our annual sports day.





Extra-Curricular activities

To complement and coincide with our curriculum, all classes from Reception age upwards enjoy various off site trips and visits throughout the year.

These include role participation and artefact handling, as just a small part of the educational activities that are organised for us to enjoy in museums, nature reserves and places of interest. Our upper school travel slightly further afield, to participate in a fantastic residential trip every summer.

After school clubs are a part of our everyday life at school. Our 'Club Night' which offers a range of sport and craft activities, runs during term time, along with Ballet, French and other seasonal clubs. Extra tuition for our Form V pupils wishing to take senior school selection tests is also offered after school.

Oxford House offers a 'Breakfast Club' starting at 7.45am.

Instrumental music lessons are available.



Relationship with Parents

It is vital that there is a strong partnership between the school and parents. Without this close contact it would not be possible for the school to educate the pupils properly.

Parents benefit from consultation evenings and pupil reports, along with a regular school newsletter. Staff are available to speak with parents at any mutually convenient time.





Contact

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How to find us...



COGNITA
TEACHING EXCELLENCE

The school is well resourced and enjoys the benefits of belonging to the Cognita Schools Group, the largest provider of independent co-educational education in the country. The group owns over 50 schools across the UK, Europe, Latin America and South-East Asia, covering the age range 2- 18 years. Cognita, 5 & 7 Diamond Court, Opal Drive, Eastlake Park, Fox Milne, Milton Keynes, MK15 0DU. Tel: 01908 396 250 www.cognitaschools.co.uk
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