



TIFFIN

BOYS' GRAMMAR
SCHOOL



SPECIALIST PERFORMING
ARTS COLLEGE



Headteacher:
Sean Heslop
MA(Cantab) MA(Lond)

Welcome to Tiffin School

Our vision statement is, ***A leading creative community; an enduring love of learning.***

This reflects the outstanding commitment of all our staff, the individual success stories of our students and our belief that our whole community should strive towards a love of learning. The following pages illustrate the five school aims that underpin this vision:

- Social and Moral Development;
- High Academic Achievement;
- Wider Opportunities to Succeed;
- Commitment to a Lifetime of Learning;
- and, Innovation in Learning.

While we are proud of our past traditions and achievements, we also recognise the fact that we are all learners and will never be satisfied with simply accepting things as they are. We constantly ask, "How can this be improved?" or "How can we do this in a better way?" Our Ofsted inspection in 2002 described Tiffin as "an outstanding school" but we are not complacent and relish the challenge of preparing our whole community for the demands of the future.

I hope that, through these pages and by attending an Open Evening in the Autumn Term, you will see the character and ethos of Tiffin School and the wonderful opportunities we could give to your son.



arts college



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



The original foundation of Tiffin School dates from the endowment of John and Thomas Tiffin, merchants of Kingston, in 1638.

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Social and Moral Development

At the heart of all that we do is a commitment to our whole community's social and moral development. We want our students to make a positive, informed contribution to both the school and, after leaving Tiffin, to the wider communities beyond the school. Combined with high expectations for students with regard to their behaviour, we aim to ensure that all members have the right to live, work and study in a supportive, tolerant and vibrant environment.

Students have many opportunities to contribute to their school. Our School Council has representation from every form, meets regularly and has played a major part in developing Tiffin. As well as co-ordinating all fundraising activities the council makes recommendations to the school leadership team and governors. Recently, they were responsible for changing the sixth form dress code from uniform to suits. The Duke of Edinburgh scheme, through its contribution to the Year 10 curriculum and beyond, plays a major part in its community involvement programme. In addition we are all working together to improve our environment. Although we enjoy some wonderful facilities,

the older parts of our site need constant maintenance and repair and so we highlight the importance of cleanliness, tidiness and recycling.

Students are grouped in forms under the supervision of a Form Tutor whose core role is to develop the social and moral dimension of their tutees. This relationship is key, ensuring that your son reaches his full potential as a citizen, an academic student, a leader and as a team player. Directors of Learning oversee the development of each year group in line with whole school expectations and individual targets. Our working partnership with parents is crucial to this success. Our Code of Conduct is an agreement between school and home in which Tiffin outlines its expectations of behaviour, attitude and responsibility and indicates how home can support these. Tiffin promotes these expectations in all activities and will take action when these are not met.



"For the pupils, excellent personal development is synonymous with school life" - Ofsted

High Academic Achievement

As academic ability is the basis of selection into Tiffin, we aim to ensure that the aim of all students is the highest possible academic achievement. In terms of outcome the school has an enviable reputation. All of our students proceed to higher education with about 20 going on to Oxbridge, 15-20 to medical school and about a third to the Russell Group universities. In order to achieve this we have created a curriculum that is challenging, personal and exciting while retaining the twin components of breadth and balance.

This achievement does not simply arise because the boys are able. As a learning community we ensure that learning and teaching are at the forefront of our activities. All curriculum areas have their work monitored, reviewed and evaluated through the Tiffin Observation process: staff are involved in peer observation and detailed feedback is given; the student council is then consulted on the quality of

learning and assessment; we have a regular professional development period for all staff and spend time and money ensuring that we can provide the best possible learning opportunities.

Your son's academic progress will be closely tracked. In Years 7 and 8 an Academic Review day with his Form Tutor will enable both you and your son to review the term, set targets and raise any issues of concern. In Year 9 and after, Parents' Consultation evenings build upon this process and enable individual discussion with subject specialists. Advice and guidance and clear communication between school and home are crucial to your son's success. This advice, organized by our Careers Centre Manager and Director of Learning, may concern option choices, work experience and higher education courses. We will also report on your son's progress on a termly basis for all year groups.



"Pupils benefit from many, often inspirational learning experiences in lessons" - Ofsted

Wider Opportunities to Succeed

We believe that good examination results are not enough. Our wider opportunities are every bit as important in contributing to, and shaping, your son's learning through teamwork and leadership. And they also provide great fun!

The range and quality of these opportunities is immense and a Director of Learning is responsible for ensuring that they are accessible and consistent. The school has an excellent record for sport. We run twelve Rugby and eleven Cricket teams that play matches most weeks during the season. We are one of only eight state schools to offer Rowing and compete at the highest level, frequently gaining medals in national competitions. We produce excellent Badminton, Table Tennis, Cross-Country Running, Athletics and Tennis teams while most other sports are catered for during curriculum PE and an extensive inter-house sports programme. Every student has a games afternoon each week and, from Years 7 to 11, PE lessons take place in our Sports Hall. During the course of their school careers over 80% of the students will represent the school in a competitive sporting activity.

Our status as a specialist Performing Arts College has built upon the outstanding reputation of music at Tiffin. The Tiffin Boys' Choir sings regularly at the Royal Opera House and with the professional London orchestras. In addition, nearly half of all students learn a musical instrument. Individual tuition is given by a teaching staff of over twenty musicians and is available during the school day. Rehearsals

are held every week for the Brass Band, Swing Band, Concert Band, Junior and Intermediate String groups and many other choirs, bands and ensembles. Both Drama and Dance are also key contributors to the arts at Tiffin and, as well as providing rich opportunities for our students, have built outstanding links beyond the school, including the Royal School of Ballet and the Edinburgh Festival.

Tiffin attempts to cater for all talents and interests. Other activities include: Chess; the Tiffin Website Team; the Birdwatching Club; Christian Union; Islamic Society; Film Club; Photography Club and Young Enterprise. Two other elements are key to the success and relevance of this aim. Firstly, the House system runs seventeen competitions each year and enables Year 7 students to work collaboratively with Sixth-Formers. Secondly, the school believes that educational trips and visits are essential to good learning. There are a number of week-long field trips, European visits and exchanges, day trips and sports and activity-based trips and tours. There are usually over 100 trips per year catering for every age group and activity.



*"Hard work and play
pervade school life"-
Ofsted*



Commitment to a Lifetime of Learning

In a world that is proving increasingly uncertain and unpredictable, a student's time at school can offer the chance to develop transferable skills, link the curriculum and prepare for learning for the rest of their lives. Through our commitment to developing a love of learning in our students, we believe that learning should continue after leaving Tiffin, university and employment. Consequently we aim to create opportunities for students through our curriculum, facilities and ethos.

Our curriculum is subject to constant review and any changes attempt to ensure that there is clear and consistent progress in guidance, skills and opportunities from Year 7 to the Sixth Form. This is overseen by a Director of Learning. The new Dempsey Centre

and Judge Lecture Theatre support this commitment. As well as offering new and exciting opportunities, these facilities encourage independent, sustainable learning. And the school further builds upon this commitment through assemblies, lessons, tutorials and wider opportunities.

But this learning is not just for our students. Our staff is also involved in learning for life. Indeed a reflective teacher is a good teacher, constantly reviewing and questioning teaching and learning approaches. The school is committed to developing all its staff, through professional development time, part-time courses, various accreditations and sabbaticals. We believe that we are all learners at Tiffin.



"The enrichment activities and the breadth of learning experiences are outstanding" - Ofsted

Innovation in Learning

We are constantly looking to innovate in our approaches to ensuring that learning is exciting, sustained and enjoyable. Such introductions follow a measured process.

Once an innovation has been identified as having potential for development at Tiffin, the ideas are presented to a number of groups, including the Curriculum Group, Senior Leadership Team and Governors. If it is adopted we then identify whole school learning opportunities for induction, training and planning. A Director of Learning has specific responsibility for implementing and reviewing the approach.

Current approaches that we believe will make a difference include: a new curriculum at Key Stage Three based upon the Royal Society's Opening Minds programme; Thinking Hats; Philosophy for Children and Independent Learning. After an initial pilot we are now looking to develop and embed these innovations throughout the school.



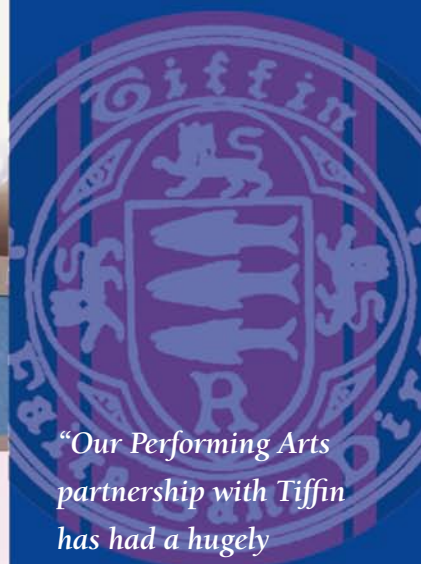
"At Tiffin we are encouraged to question, challenge and find our own way of understanding" - Year 12 student

Tiffin Partners and the Wider Community

The school's most important partnership is with parents. Once your son joins the school, his parent(s) become members of the Tiffin Community. As well as being involved in your son's progress and achievements and being invited to regular school events, there are many other ways to contribute to the community's success, including:

- Tiffin Parents' Association (TPA): putting on numerous functions, fund-raising activities and helping with refreshments
- Tiffin Parents' Rugby Association (TiPRA): organises events to support rugby in the school and, in particular, kit for each team
- Friends of Tiffin Music (FoTM): is an organization of parents, old boys and other supporters of musical activities at Tiffin who wish to be informed of musical events and assist the music department in many ways
- Boat Club Associates: provides functions, funds and considerable support to the Boat Club

Tiffin School has a long history of involvement in Kingston's community and it continues in many ways today: we work with primary schools and a special school as part of our Performing Arts status; International Week, in early Spring Term, draws upon the skills and knowledge of ethnic groups within the locality; our Director of Music holds a post of the same title at Kingston Parish Church and many of our boys sing in its choir; and, a summer event, Tiffin in the Garden, hosts plays and performances from surrounding primary schools. At a national level the school has received recognition through participation and performance in music, sport, dance and drama.



"Our Performing Arts partnership with Tiffin has had a hugely beneficial impact on our students and staff" - Primary School Head



Facilities

The Tiffin School site is made up of several buildings. The Main Building (1929) and the South Building (1986) contain most of the school's teaching spaces, administrative areas and the School Hall. The Chester Performing Arts Centre (1991) acts as a focal point for Music, Drama, Art and Technology. Classroom spaces are complemented by multi-media areas, workshops, a purpose-built music suite, practice rooms, drama studio and art studio. The Sports Centre (1995) comprises a main hall, large sports room, dance studio and changing space.

Our most recent build is our most exciting. The Dempsey Centre (2004) comprises a huge downstairs learning resource centre with a first floor open plan IT suite. Adjacent to this is the Judge Lecture Theatre with full audio-visual facilities. Our Careers Centre is also located within the complex. This new building

is, both symbolically and in reality, the focus of our new approach to learning.

The school has excellent playing fields at Hampton Court, named 'Grist's' after a previous headmaster. There are three rugby pitches, two cricket pitches, athletics facilities and a pavilion. The school's boat house is in Canbury Gardens, beside the Thames in Kingston.

Gradually, we are building up the facilities to support a genuine creative community.



"... the new LRC not only provides an inspirational library but links two existing buildings with contrasting styles" - DfES publication







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INFORMATION
ENCLOSED IN
POCKET

ADMISSION POLICY
AND PROCEDURE

THE CURRICULUM

SCHOOL CALENDAR
& TIMINGS

EXAMINATION RESULTS