



The Minster School

A Church of England Academy



Welcome

I am delighted to introduce you to The Minster School prospectus. The Minster School is a special place; a Church of England Academy dedicated to providing the highest quality of education for your child. We are consistently one of the highest-performing schools in the area providing an opportunity for your child to both learn and flourish under the guidance of our passionate and committed staff. We are driven by our moral purpose of ensuring that all students exceed their potential to secure fulfilling and rewarding futures.

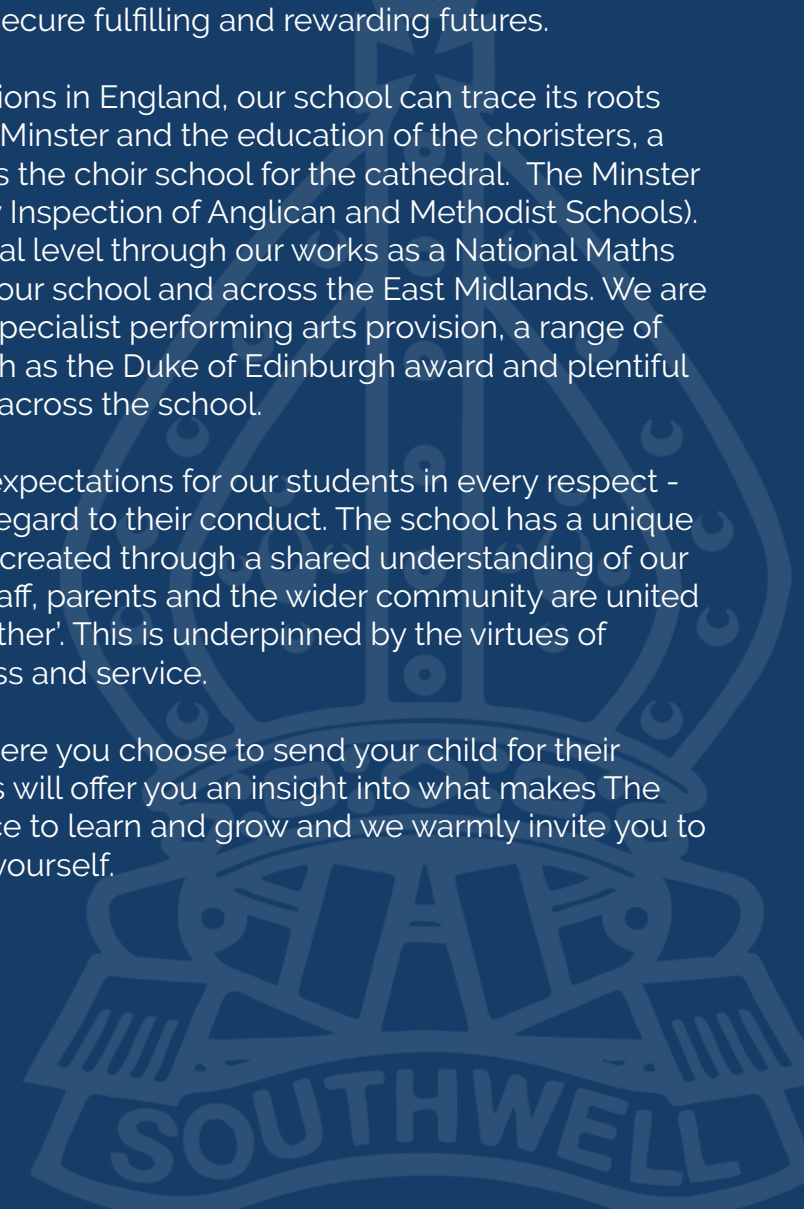
Recognised as one of the oldest continuous education foundations in England, our school can trace its roots back over hundreds of years to the establishment of Southwell Minster and the education of the choristers, a tradition continued to this day with The Minster School acting as the choir school for the cathedral. The Minster School is rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). We are at the forefront of educational development on a national level through our works as a National Maths Hub where we work collaboratively to develop teachers within our school and across the East Midlands. We are also proud to offer a wealth of enrichment activities, including specialist performing arts provision, a range of sporting clubs and teams, personal development schemes such as the Duke of Edinburgh award and plentiful opportunities to develop leadership through a number of roles across the school.



At The Minster School we have high expectations for our students in every respect - whether it be in their studies or with regard to their conduct. The school has a unique and welcoming atmosphere which is created through a shared understanding of our school vision and values. Students, staff, parents and the wider community are united by our commitment to 'succeed together'. This is underpinned by the virtues of wisdom, optimism, resilience, kindness and service.

Few decisions are as important as where you choose to send your child for their education. I hope that this prospectus will offer you an insight into what makes The Minster School such a wonderful place to learn and grow and we warmly invite you to visit us to sample the experience for yourself.

Ben Chaloner - Head Teacher





Vision & Values

Our school motto is "Succeeding Together" and this is underpinned by five key virtues drawn from Christian teachings:

WISDOM - OPTIMISM - RESILIENCE - KINDNESS - SERVICE

We believe in providing opportunities for all to explore and develop their own beliefs and values whilst reflecting on the relevance of Christian beliefs to their lives.

- We work together to create a culture in which students are proud of their achievements, are happy with who they are and feel supported by those around them.
- We engender a sense of belonging for every student; to feel part of our community and to achieve their potential; to develop their character and to grow and learn together.
- We create a culture where students can meet together and overcome the challenges presented by a desire to succeed and everyday life.
- We encourage all members of our community to be positive role models, leading by example and inspiring others through their words and actions.

“ Whatever you do, work at it with all your hearts,
as though you were working for the Lord.
COLOSSIANS 3:23

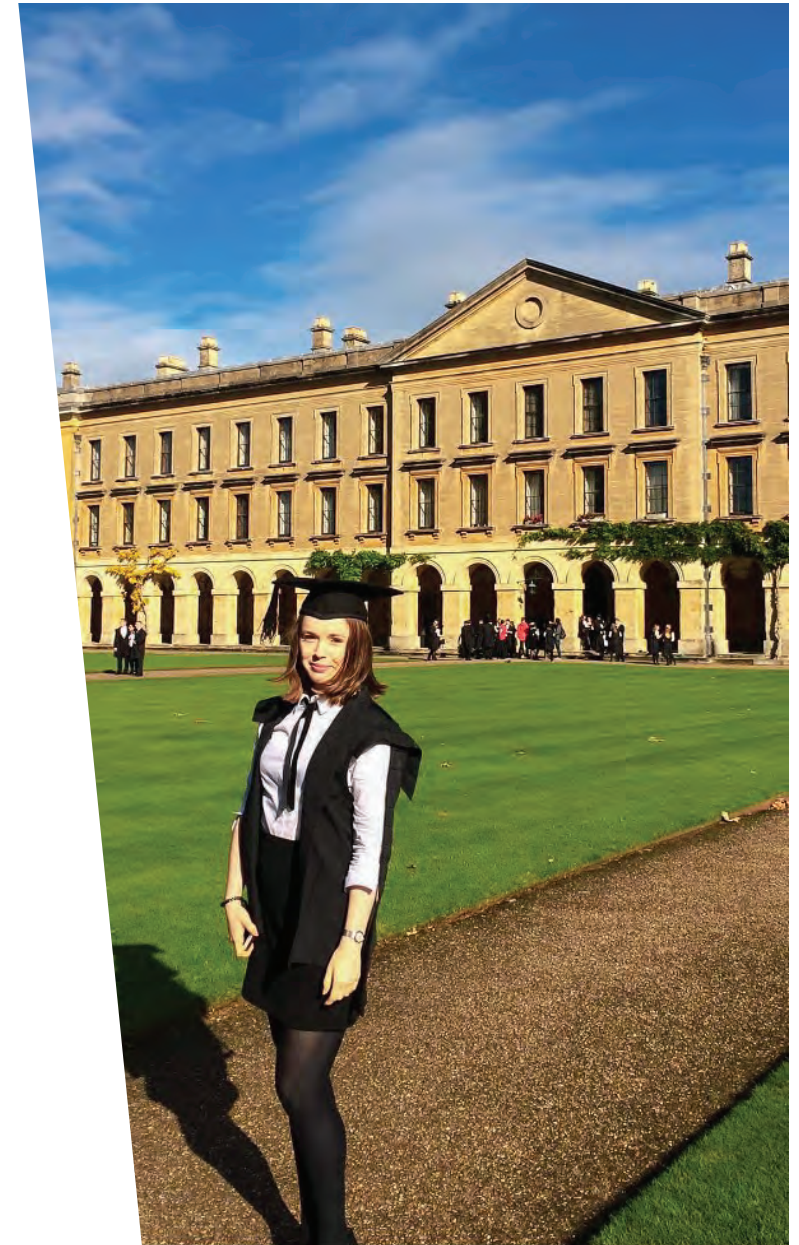
Eve - My Experience at The Minster School

I joined Minster aged 11 and stayed with the school through sixth form like most of my friends. It's only really since coming to university that I've realised how well the school set me up.

During my time there I had every opportunity to participate in what the school, and its wider community, had to offer. From year 7 this always included music, with my role as a cathedral chorister tying me to an incredibly enthusiastic, incredibly talented music department. From that I had the opportunity to perform as part of full choir, chamber choir, brass group and- most memorably- alongside Gary Barlow! I was also encouraged to take part in charity work throughout my time at the school, something I was able to take more of a leadership role in through the students' own organisation Ugive Uganda, in sixth form.

Although extra-curricular was a huge part of my school experience, it really is the academic community that I remember most. Not only did I go through school with my closest friends but I also had the privilege of being taught by staff I still can't wait to come back and visit. When I decided to apply for Oxford, like lots of kids here, I really wasn't sure if it was for people like me. However, in the course of my application I had maths teachers giving up their lunchtimes to help me learn the statistics for Politics, I had a tutor advising me and a whole history faculty putting up with our endless panics over A-level revision.

Now that I am here, studying History and Politics at Magdalen College, and able to compare my experiences with people from the most elite schools in the country, I really am glad that I ended up at Minster. Ultimately we have all come out with the same school qualifications here, but the experience I was given of mixing with people from all kinds of backgrounds and of being given the skills to organise my own learning and development are invaluable to me now.



Teaching

At The Minster School we believe that every child deserves the chance to achieve their potential, the chance to develop their character and the chance to excel in all they do.

We aim to inspire young people to a love of learning and to create lifelong learners who will leave the school with a passion and desire to discover more about the world around them and in doing so shape the future of that same world.

Ultimately, each of the four strands in our teaching and learning model aims to support sustained and rapid progress for all groups of learners in school.

Challenge:

Extending learning through questioning and the highest aspiration.

Engagement:

Creating a desire to learn through active involvement in lessons.

Feedback:

Equipping students with the information they need to refine, improve and perfect.

Climate:

Creating a safe learning climate to take risks, reward participation and explore beliefs and ideas.





Curriculum

Our curriculum offers a wide range of subjects and, when subject choices are made in older years, as much free choice to suit the preferences of learners.

In years 7 to 9 we ensure that all students study as broad a curriculum as possible. We do not believe in specialising too early but have a belief in widening knowledge for as long as possible – allowing our young people to develop their understanding of the world, honing their skills to succeed in life. Students will have the opportunity to ensure they are developing their knowledge in English, mathematics and science hand in hand with the exploration of their creativity in music, drama and art. They will foster an understanding of the world beyond the school through humanities, religious education and modern foreign languages and develop their innovation through design technology and computing.

In years 10 and 11 we still believe in a wide curriculum but with student choice to allow deeper understanding and a focus on subjects of interest at GCSE. Further details of courses on offer are available on the website.

Many of our students choose to stay at The Minster School beyond year 11 to be a part of our thriving sixth form community.

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A commitment to the worth of every individual means learners, staff and students, are nurtured to be the best they can be.

SIAMS



Pastoral Support

The well-being of students in school is of great importance and at The Minster School we have a team of professionals to support students with their pastoral needs so they can learn and engage well with school life.

The pastoral team works with students in a range of ways to make sure they are well supported and ready for learning :

- Individual conversations and support to resolve issues and address concerns
- Support for specific pastoral needs with students
- Making sure the wider staff are well informed about students' needs and how they can support them
- Liaising with parents and carers and with outside agencies to best meet student needs
- Working with families and students to make sure attendance is good
- Supporting good student behaviour in school through the consequences system
- Recognising achievements and celebrating success
- Safeguarding children and providing first aid

Alongside the pastoral support team, tutors work every day with students to afford them a sense of belonging and to quickly pick up any matters of concern. Tutors are often the best point of contact for parents and carers.

Enrichment Curriculum

Enrichment is a key part of students' learning and personal development. We host a range of opportunities for students to engage further with their academic learning and to develop personal qualities through a range of events, visits and extra-curricular activities.

With more than 70 peripatetic music lessons taking place each week, there is very likely to be something on offer for all musically interested students. The Performing Arts Department has a wide range of extra-curricular ensembles. The Minster School PE department offers a range of clubs, teams and after school groups. Students are proud to represent the school and we have seen recent success in both boys and girls football, athletics and hockey. Alongside sporting and performance opportunities, many other activities and clubs take place every year, often instigated by students based on their interests and supported by members of staff.

Additionally trips and visits are wide-ranging and varied, supporting both the curriculum and also wider individual experiences. Our school trips include theatre visits, sporting fixtures and competitions, careers and progression events and international visits to Spain, France, Germany, the US and Iceland. There is an annual ski trip and every two years a major international expedition, most recently to Costa Rica.

Transition

We realise that the move to secondary school is an exciting time for young people. We have a well-established transition programme which runs in the year leading up to year 7 and beyond to make that move a success.

After places are offered in March we will visit students who come from our main feeder primary schools to talk to them about our school. Where numbers joining from a school are much smaller we will invite them to a special event hosted here with similar information.

All year 6 students joining us in September will be invited to a taster day, where they will experience some secondary school lessons, meet key staff and spend time in their new tutor groups.

Once the new school year has begun students will have a residential, which over the last few years has been held at the Walesby Activity Centre. This residential helps students settle into school and meet new friends across their house.

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All aspects of provision were judged to be of the very highest quality and as a result students make outstanding progress.

OFSTED





Junior School

The Minster Junior School is an unique "school within a school", providing the highest quality education to musically talented junior school pupils and to the choristers of Southwell Minster Cathedral.

We provide something truly out of the ordinary: a primary education (years 3 to 6) augmented by significant additional music learning, designed to support the pupils of the school to develop their musical talents and aspirations.

The Minster School was established more than 1000 years ago to educate the choristers of the cathedral and we are very proud that our junior school continues that tradition to this day, with a number of children fulfilling the role of chorister and supporting the weekly pattern of worship through music-making of world-class standard.

Sixth Form

Every year many students progress from the main school into our sixth form and continue with their studies at The Minster School. With more than 30 subject choices we offer one of the widest ranges of post-16 academic qualifications in the area.

There are 400 places available in the sixth form (approx 200 places in each year) and these are filled both by prior students and by those joining us from elsewhere for their post-16 studies. We welcome applications from students who have not attended The Minster School previously.



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Minster Trust
for education

