

The Wren School

Prospectus 2015/16



“ *I’m supporting Wren because West Reading desperately needs school places and The Wren proposal is outstanding.* ”

- Alok Sharma MP (Conservative), West Reading; Wren School patron.

Welcome from the headteacher

Thank you for the interest that you have shown in The Wren School, which is a new secondary free school based in West Reading – a local school for the local community but with a global context. Our first intake of Year 7 students arrived in September 2015 and we are now looking forward to growing each year; at full capacity we will have 1176 students across years 7 to 13 (168 in each year group).

In order for The Wren School to be granted permission to open from the Department for Education (DfE), which comes with a commitment to long-term funding and accommodation, the proposer group (called The Wren Single Academy Trust or SAT), recently joined by the initial Governing Body and I, have successfully met a series of strict and high DfE expectations that we hope you will find reassuring. Free schools are told that their registration relies on the presumption that the initial Ofsted inspection will judge the school to be at least ‘Good’.

The Wren School’s vision is that

*“Each child, regardless of background,
will receive a world-class education
and be nurtured, challenged and inspired to aim high.”*

We take this commitment very seriously and our ethos pervades everything that we do. The five prospectus sections are designed to explain what this statement looks like in practice.

Since joining the school in January 2015, I swiftly realised that it is the people who make The Wren School such a special place. The unswerving commitment of so many volunteers, be they members of the SAT, governors or a ‘Friend of The Wren’ to ensure this school’s success is humbling. Add to that an amazing and experienced team of teachers and support staff who share huge enthusiasm, energy and passion for their roles, not to mention our first student cohort and their parents/carers who are keen, creative and full of ambition and you will see why I truly believe that this school is aiming high.

If you would like to find out more about our school, please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange a visit when you can see for yourself what makes The Wren School unique.



Best wishes

Jo Broadhead, Headteacher



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Each child an individual

Children only get one chance at education – and it should be an outstanding one, tailored to their needs. We are committed to providing an inclusive ethos where each student is enabled to thrive and achieve.

The Wren School's aim is to nurture, challenge and inspire each of its students. As such, we want to be recognised for our personalisation of learning, ensuring that students feel safe and confident. This commitment can be seen throughout the school, for example:

- in the structure of the school day, which starts and ends with time with the form tutor to allow for reflection time;
- in the development of learning skills alongside subject knowledge and understanding;
- in the importance that the school attaches to student support and guidance;
- through the embedded evidence of the value of student voice to the development of an outstanding school.



This process will commence before your child takes up a place at The Wren School as part of a comprehensive transition programme and collaboration with our feeder primary schools.



“ *I'm supporting Wren because they are totally committed and passionate in providing an inclusive high quality secondary school in West Reading.* ”

- Cllr John Ennis (Labour), Lead Councillor for Education.

“ *I'm supporting Wren because our children only go through school once – I believe this school will help them achieve their goals.* ”

- Cllr Meri McConnell (Liberal Democrat),
Lead Councillor for Adult & Children's Social Care & Education.



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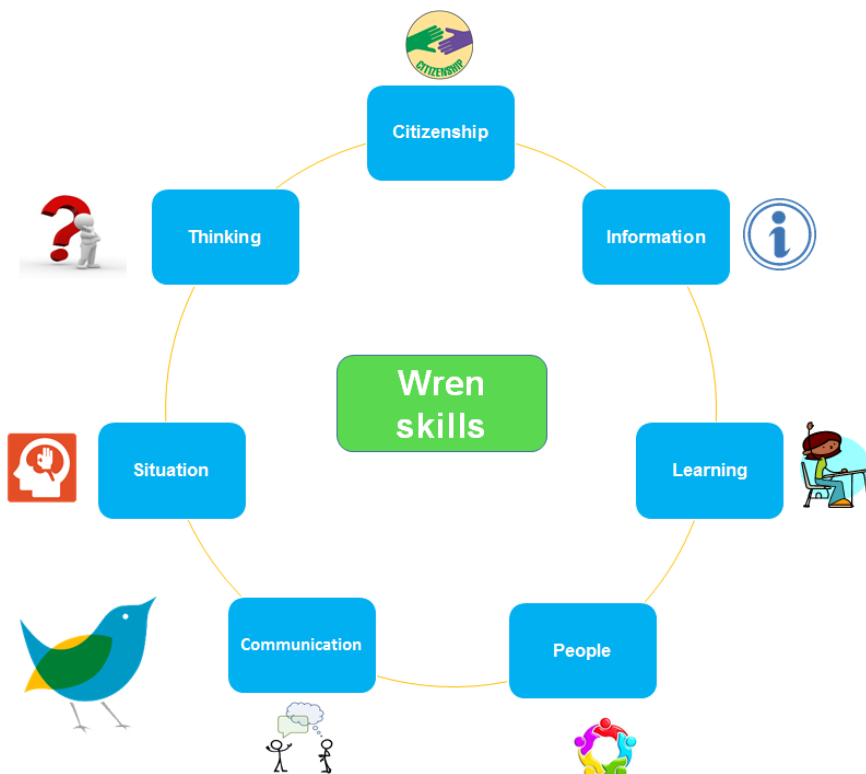
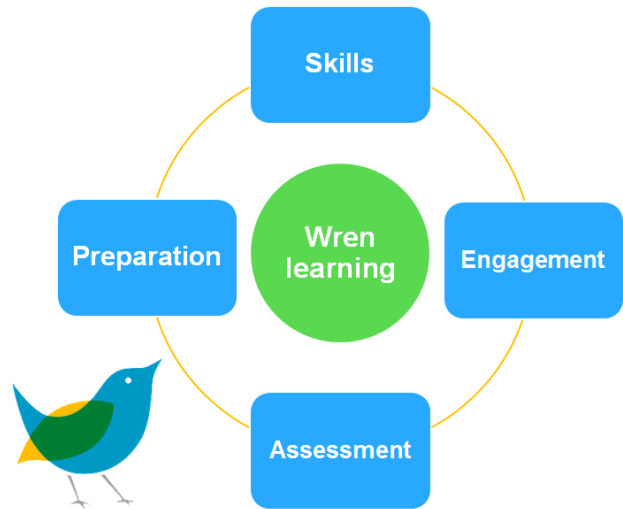
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Innovative curriculum and teaching

We provide a broad and relevant curriculum that promotes each individual's passage to becoming an active and involved citizen. We want our students to be challenged by our engaging and exciting curriculum and to make exceptional progress. Consequently, our students will be equipped to make career choices that enable them to realise their ambitions and achieve economic wellbeing.

At key stage 3, students follow a thematic curriculum, where each subject area contributes to the overall understanding of key questions.

Year 9 will be a year of choice and decision-making about GCSE subjects; all students will have the opportunity to select a personalised combination of subjects that will lead the achievement of the English Baccalaureate qualification at the end of key stage 4 (Year 11). Our sixth form will be an open access one, providing a range of qualifications to meet the needs of our students.



In order to achieve the rapid student progress and high levels of achievement that match our 'aim high' target setting process, we will employ innovative and effective teaching strategies that derive from best practice in research. There will be a strong emphasis on enquiry-based learning that develops skills within a real context, teaching students how to think, not what to think.

See separate 'Curriculum statement' for further details of the curriculum at The Wren

School, including our approach to student support.



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Working together with students and parents

We recognise that parents who choose The Wren School for their children's education believe in the school's approach to developing future citizens. As such, we want to work with you to ensure that your child aims high.

The Wren school day starts at 8:50am and finishes at 3:20pm, but children may arrive from 8am in the morning and leave at 6pm. Wrap around care, which is, child care before and after school that allows busy, working parents to get on with their lives, happy that their children are being safely looked after at school is a core tenet of The Wren School's philosophy. Students will be able to select from a wide variety of different clubs and activities, including homework support each day.



The Wren School day	
8.00	Students are welcome to arrive. No charge is levied for this.
8.50	Tutor time
9.00	Period 1
9.50	Period 2
10.40	Break
11.00	Period 3
11.50	Period 4
12.40	Lunch
13.25	Period 5
14.15	Period 6
15.05	Registration and reflection time. Assemblies.
15.20	End of day.
15.30 - 17.00	Extended learning club/Enrichment followed by social time. This facility is offered at a flat rate of £2 per student per day in 2015/16.
18.00	School closes (17:30 – Friday)



We aim to make a place at The Wren School accessible to every family in our community, so it's important to keep costs to a minimum. This has been borne in mind when selecting the school uniform, which aims to be both smart and reasonably priced.

Listening to and engaging with our students is a vital element of enabling students to develop as well-rounded and confident citizens. Our active school council contributes to the school development plans and all students will be expected to develop leadership skills and take responsibility.

Working together we will ensure your child(ren) fulfil their academic aspirations and develop a good character.



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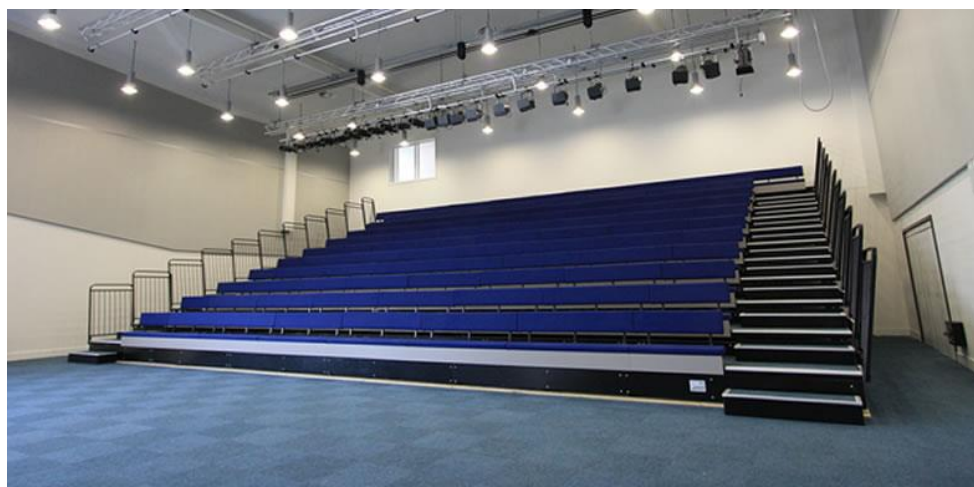
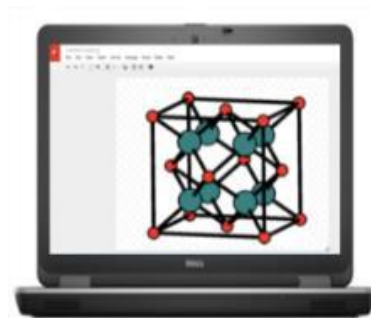
State of the art buildings and resources

The Wren School opened in brand new, temporary accommodation at 61 Bath Road, Reading in September 2015 and a further phase of temporary buildings is envisaged before we move into a purpose-built school in 2017. Whilst in our temporary accommodation, a local company will provide and serve a hot meal daily. And for Games lessons, the use of nearby Prospect Park has been agreed.

The site itself is designated for educational use and will provide a beautiful backdrop of established trees and parkland for the permanent school buildings and facilities that are in the final design stages.



The Wren team envisages an exceptional secondary school, with a modern, attractive environment that encourages and facilitates learning. We want you and your child(ren) to work with us as we design our 21st century school that will be equipped with high quality resources – in particular ICT – that enhance learning.



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A school at the heart of the community

We intend The Wren School to make a positive contribution through its involvement with the local community and society as a whole, establishing a modern, multi-cultural community-based school in a global context.

The Wren School will inspire and challenge students to nurture high expectations and aspirations for themselves and respect for the citizens of our local, national and international communities.



The Wren School is the result of the community's decision to build a new school in the area. We actively encourage parents' and residents' involvement in what we do. Are you interested in finding out more about The Wren School? There are several ways to join our community:

- Like us on Facebook;
- Follow us on Twitter;
- Become a 'Friend of The Wren' which is an opportunity to receive regular updates about what's happening as well as to help to organise events such as parents' evenings and to participate in fund-raising opportunities. Any money raised will be used to purchase additional resources for the school. Simply contact us on admin@wrenschoool.org and we will make sure that you are invited to the next Friends of The Wren gathering.



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