

## 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 cohort of Year 7 students arrived in September 2015 and by September 2019 there will be almost 800 students in Years 7-11. 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 have been granted permission to open from the Department for Education (DfE), which came with a commitment to long-term funding and accommodation, the school and the academy trust had to successfully meet 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 trust, 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 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.

In February 2019, The Wren School became part of the Excalibur Academies Trust\*, which offers us greater opportunities for students and staff to collaborate with other schools, strengthen our financial outlook, and further improve the education we provide, all whilst still retaining our unique Wren identity. Our trust board carried out a very robust process of due diligence to ensure that Excalibur is the right custodian for our long-term future, and we are excited that we are now 'An International Academy'\* in-keeping with our ethos of diversity and global outlook.

If you would like to find out more about our school, please view our videos on the website ([www.wrenschoo.org](http://www.wrenschoo.org)); alternatively, do not hesitate to contact us to arrange a visit when you can see for yourself what makes The Wren School unique.

Best wishes



Mrs Jo Broadhead  
Headteacher



\* For further information, see <http://excalibur.org.uk/>



**Nurture**  
**Challenge**  
**Inspire**

## 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 with reflection time, a unique feature of our school where students are encouraged to make connections in their learning (as well as a weekly PSHE focus);
- 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.

*“ I've made lots of new friends, and they all respect me and they take me for who I am. I am enjoying the time at The Wren because it's just a brilliant school.*

*” – 'C', student*



*“ The Wren's logo is Nurture, Challenge and Inspire. I love the slogan because it inspires you, which will help you in your future jobs; you get challenge which will help you then in later life; and nurture – not just the teachers nurturing you, but you nurturing yourself. They challenge you and they get you to do everything. You grow up, become more mature and ready for life. ”*

*– 'R', student*

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

*“ The teachers are very supportive and kind. I trust them, to go up and talk to them if I have any problems.*

*” – 'L', student*

## Innovative curriculum and teaching

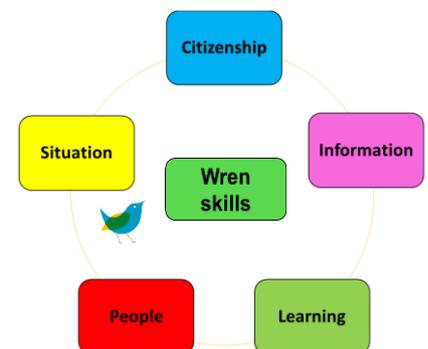
We provide a broad and relevant curriculum that promotes each individual's journey to becoming an active and involved citizen. We want our students to be challenged by our engaging and exciting curriculum and to make exceptional progress. Consequently, our students will be equipped to make career choices 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 the termly topic. Year 9 is a year of choice and decision-making about GCSE subjects; all students select a personalised combination of subjects, with the assurance that, for those for whom it is appropriate, these will lead to the achievement of the English Baccalaureate qualification at the end of key stage 4 (Year 11), whilst offering creative and practical options too. Our sixth form will be an open access one, providing a range of qualifications to meet the needs of our students.

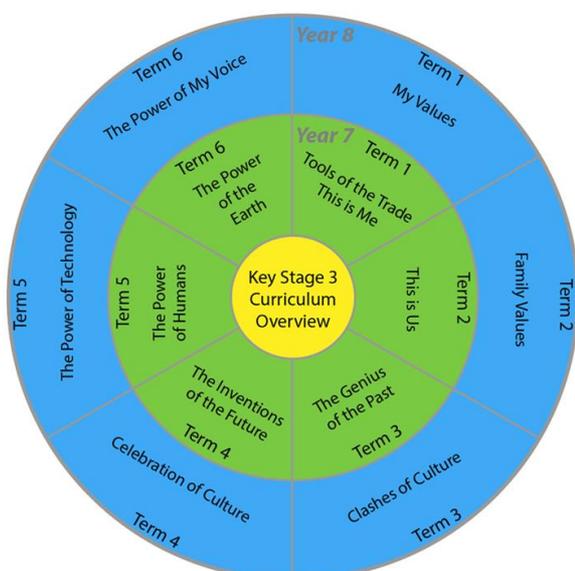
In order to achieve the rapid student progress and challenging levels of achievement to meet our 'aim high' target setting process, we employ innovative and effective teaching strategies that derive from best practice in research. There is a strong emphasis on enquiry-based learning that develops skills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

*“ We have interesting and interactive lessons. We've already been on two school trips: the first one was to Marwell Zoo, where we learnt the difference between animal and human behaviour; the second was to Kidzania where we started to think about what career we'd like to have in the future. ”* - 'O', student



For one day every term, we put the usual timetable to one side and hold a special event called a Dynamic Day. These days are aimed at broadening the students' aspirations and will often involve external visitors such as poets, writers and Olympic athletes. Each day has a specific theme, such as British Values or Empathy. These cross-curricular days are also used to develop our careers education, which we invest in strongly, right from the start of Year 7.

*“ The dynamic days that we have are all based on a different theme that the children can express themselves and talk about how I'm feeling, what's been going on in the past, what I'm aiming for in the future. ”* - 'S', student



See our separate 'Curriculum Statement' for further details of the curriculum at The Wren School, including our approach to student support.

## Working together with students and parents

We recognise that parents and carers 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, allows busy, working parents to get on with their professional lives, happy that their children are being safely looked after at school. This 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 extended learning support each day.

“ *The teachers are here after school every day: my son does his homework at school - I don't have any worries. The Wren has the opportunities for my son to excel in himself. It is more like a family school. I feel my child is a person, and not just a number, and that is fantastic.* ” - ‘Y’, parent

The Wren School day	
8:00	Students are welcome to arrive (no charge)
8:50	Reflection time
9:20	Period 1
10:10	Period 2
11:00	Break
11:20	Period 3
12:10	Period 4
13:00	Lunch
13:40	Period 5
14:30	Period 6
15:20	End of day
15:30	Extended learning club/Enrichment
16:30	Social time <i>A small charge may be made</i>
18:00	School closes (17:30 - Friday)

Examples of clubs and trips
Brain Junction club (maths)
Football
Interact club (charitable fund-raising)
Kidzania trip (careers theme park)
French club
Whole-school musical production
Photography club
Battlefields trip
Rugby
Coding club
Battlefields trip (Belgium)
Spanish club
Berzerk Productions (external drama coaching)
Netball

“ *The Interact Club is a group of students that meet up, and the Rotary Club come in and they help us raise money for the different charities across Reading.* ”

- ‘C’, student





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 was 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's development and all students are expected to develop leadership skills and take responsibility. Our house system is intended to promote this, and our students' sense of ownership of their school.

Working together, we will ensure your child fulfils their academic aspirations and develops a good character.

## State of the art buildings and resources

The Wren School spent its first three years in temporary accommodation. We made the move into our unique purpose-built school in August 2018. In December 2018, the building project was completed with the handover of our multi-use games area (MUGA) and 4G pitch. The site provides a beautiful backdrop of established trees and parkland for the permanent school buildings and facilities. The sunken garden forms an open-air learning stage with amphitheatre style seating surrounded by a woodland trail and outdoor learning pods



The permanent buildings provide state of the art facilities, including a bright ground floor with dining areas, a learning resource centre, hall and drama studio as well as The Wren's Nest (our Inclusion facility).



Our exceptional secondary school, was designed to create a modern, attractive environment that encourages and facilitates learning. It is equipped with high quality resources – in particular ICT – that enhance learning.

The standalone sports facility includes a large sports hall, dance studio, fitness suite, multi-use games area and floodlit football/rugby pitch, and all are available for community hire.

*The images provided here are prepared by ECE architecture, and are for illustrative purposes only.*



View of school site looking from Bath Road towards Southcote Lane



View of main entrance, accessible from the new Elvian Way, off Southcote Lane



Artist's impression of the whole school site. The entrance to Elvian Way is at the bottom right hand corner of the image.

## 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.



“ *Creating Better Futures helped put children from Zimbabwe through school and get them a better education.* ” “ *We have been writing to pen pals at their school in Zimbabwe. It's so interesting to see the different cultures and what their school's like compared to ours.* ”

– ‘K’ and ‘D’, students

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? Why not become a 'Friend of The Wren' which is an opportunity to receive regular updates about what's happening as well as to help

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@wrenschool.org](mailto:admin@wrenschool.org) and we will make sure that you are invited to the next Friends of The Wren gathering.

“ *When you're looking at the setting-up of a school, you have certain hopes and aspirations, but as a parent, looking back, I can say that when my son comes home from school, those expectations are exceeded all the time, and that's a lovely thing.* ” – ‘N’, parent and member of the school's proposer group