

# Pitsford School

## SENIOR SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



It is a really good  
all-round school with a  
superb balance between  
academics and pastoral

Senior School parent



An independent coeducational school for  
children aged from 4 to 18 years old



## *Pitsford Senior School is a special place*

- A strong academic reputation.
- Excellent pastoral care.
- An extremely wide range of sport and extra curricular activities.
- Small class sizes ensure the best personal tuition.
- Excellent and regular two-way communication with parents.
- Set in 30 beautiful acres of parkland, gardens and woodland.
- Multi-million pound, state-of-the-art Sport Centre, extensive playing fields and tennis courts.
- Easily accessible open spaces inspiring a relaxed and positive attitude to study.
- Pupils develop a love of learning and play in a family atmosphere.

# Welcome to Pitsford Senior School

Pitsford School is Northamptonshire's leading independent coeducational day school.

Entry for 11 year olds is selective and our curriculum is designed to engage interest and stretch our students. Our pupils sit nine or ten GCSEs.

The curriculum draws on the best grammar school traditions of the past, made relevant to today's needs and applicable to the demands of the future. We offer a broad range of academic subjects through to GCSE and we achieve some of the best results in the country.

We prioritise the development of personal qualities: integrity, resilience and commitment. Healthy competition in work and sport is encouraged and emphasis is placed on developing the highest moral qualities.

Successful education is a partnership where teachers and parents work together for the benefit of the pupils. Our well qualified and enthusiastic specialist teachers create a stimulating environment, care for each individual and work with pupils to ensure they excel.

We hope you enjoy reading this prospectus, which gives you a taste of what Pitsford can offer your child. However, there is no substitute for a visit to the School, and we would be delighted to meet you.

**Dr Craig Walker**  
Headmaster

# Setting the Scene

## – the defining years

Pitsford School provides an inspirational and supportive environment designed to:

- Develop our pupils into self-confident learners who embrace challenge and change.
- Stretch our pupils with a rich and varied curriculum, both in and outside class.
- Prepare our pupils for success at university, their careers and life.



### Pastoral care

At Pitsford School the well-being of each child is paramount and pastoral care is the bedrock of our school. Delivered through our dedicated tutorial staff, we navigate our pupils' teenage years and pride ourselves on how much we help our children grow into confident, optimistic young men and women.

Everyone joins a House when they enter the school. The House system encourages friendship, support, structure, community and fun and is the forum for whole school competitions and fundraising.



### Communicating with parents

Reporting to parents is key and every half term grades are issued. Every year parents receive a full report, an interim report and a Parents' Evening which provides meaningful and impactful feedback.

Our fortnightly online newsletter – The Pitsford Post – contains event information and very importantly, the latest lunch menu! All parents receive a copy of The Pitsfordian, our annual magazine.

Parents are encouraged to contact us in person, by phone, email or letter. In addition, our parent portal allows parents to track homework, behaviour and the school calendar.



### Meals – an essential part of school life

We know that a well fed school is a happy and successful one. Every day our own catering team freshly prepares a hot lunchtime meal on site for every pupil and teas are provided after every home sports fixture.

### Bus services

We have several bus services running across the county. Buses arrive at 8.40am and leave at 5.30pm after extra curricular activities.

### School uniform

Pitsford pupils wear their uniform with pride. School uniform is compulsory and must be worn at all times including travelling to and from the School. School uniforms are purchased from [www.schoolblazer.com](http://www.schoolblazer.com).



# Teaching individuals

Our pupils learn the skills and acquire the knowledge necessary to excel in demanding public examinations. We add value to all our pupils according to their needs, be it support when it is required or stretching them when necessary.

Excellence in Mathematics and English are at the core of the curriculum and our teachers are all subject specialists.

We offer three separate sciences as well as combined Science to ensure that our curriculum reflects our pupils' needs. We also offer Computer Science and PE from Year 7 up to and including GCSE. Modern Foreign Languages are integral to life at Pitsford and we offer French, Spanish and German. In Humanities, vibrant History, Geography, RS, Music and Art departments are taught in years 7-9 and are available as GCSEs.

“  
Fabulous  
teachers and  
support staff  
”



# The Arts

## Drama

We stage a number of productions every year including an ambitious whole school musical. Previous performances have included *Grease*, *Les Miserables* and *The Sound of Music*. Many of our pupils stretch their talents even further by joining external drama groups.

English Speaking Board (ESB) lessons encourage pupils to develop communication and presentation skills through sharing interests and hobbies within a relaxed and friendly group. Pupils regularly take school assemblies, addressing the whole school community.

## Music Tuition

A team of dedicated specialist visiting teachers provide vocal and instrumental tuition including all orchestral instruments, together with guitar, piano, organ and percussion. A number of practice and ensemble rooms are available for use by pupils.

Ensembles rehearse every week and perform a wide range of music. Our large and superb school choir performs at most school events in a variety of styles including sacred, gospel and jazz.

All pupils have a wide range of performance opportunities including a weekly lunchtime concert programme, regular evening concerts and competitions, Charity Christmas Concert, whole-school assemblies, Open Days, chapel services, Kettering Eisteddfod and the Northamptonshire Festival of Performing Arts.

In recent years, our musicians have toured to Tuscany, Paris and Venice.

Music Scholarships are available to pupils who have achieved highly on their principle instrument.

## Art

We are a creative school and at the heart of this is our vibrant Art department where students' technical competencies in drawing and sculpture are developed and their ambitions and imaginations are given free rein.



Incredible range  
of subjects and  
activities



## Sport

Everyone takes part in sport and we aim to encourage each individual to find enjoyment in physical activity and to develop his or her potential. Some will achieve excellence and everyone will have fun and stay healthy.

Team sports encourage a range of skills that can be taken on into later life: self-discipline, teamwork and resilience.

Many of our past pupils have gone on to compete at county and even national level, many play in teams at their universities and a large proportion of our current pupils play for local, district or county clubs.

Dedicated games afternoons focus on our main team sports: Rugby, Football and Cricket for boys and Netball and Rounders for girls. Fixtures are played in all sports against local independent and state schools.

Other sports include Cross-Country Running, Basketball, Badminton, Tennis and Table Tennis, Sailing, Horse Riding and even adventurous activities such as Climbing or Kayaking.



# Outside the classroom

## Extra curricular programme

Our pupils broaden their education by taking up at least three activities from our exciting programme.

Activities include Fishing, Computer Programming, Film Club, Gardening, Sailing, Cross Country, Basketball, Knitting, Superheroes, Sculpture Club and much more.

We also offer additional lessons to consolidate and stretch knowledge in all disciplines as part of our after-school curriculum.

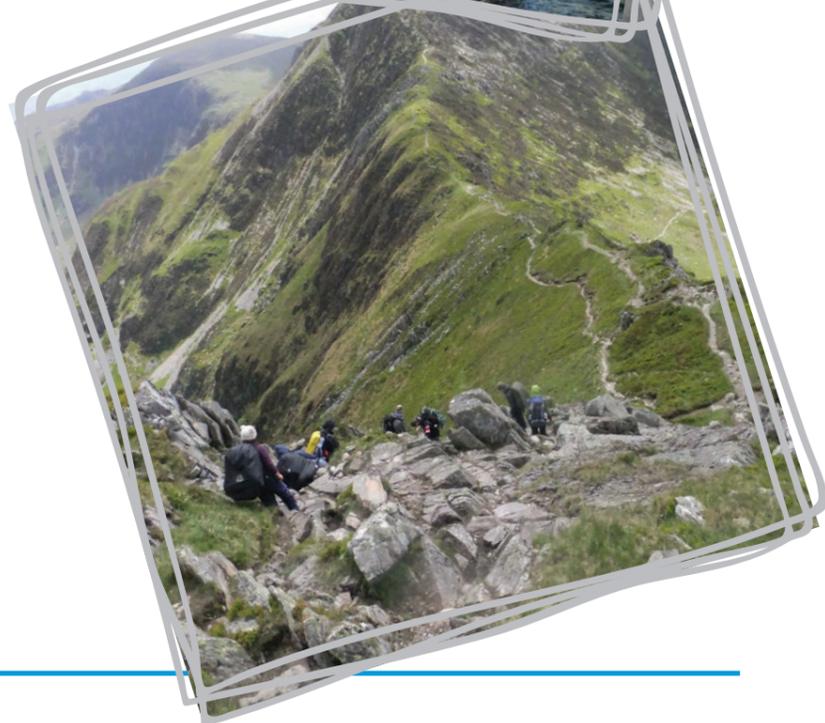
## Charities and the Community

Our pupils are active members of their communities. Supporting charities and developing community links are an intrinsic part of life at the School. Pupils develop empathy for others through planning, good organisation, hard work and raising funds for their chosen charity.

Each year group chooses a charity, such as NSPCC Childline, Lepra and Crisis at Christmas, for which they work together to raise money across the course of a year.

The pupils themselves decide which activities to run and then they are responsible for organising the events.

Community links include events such as hosting an art exhibition showcasing 100 Northamptonshire artists, which attracted over 600 visitors and raised over £3,200 for a local hospital.



# Overseas students

## 'A true English public school experience' for international pupils

We have a few places for overseas pupils, usually only two to three each year for younger age groups and between 10 and 15 in the Sixth Form, leading to our international students receiving a genuine experience of an English public school.

Pupils, for whom English is not their first language, may join the school either into Year 9 for a pre-GCSE course, Year 10 for a 2-year GCSE course or directly into the Sixth Form for A levels.

English language entry requirement depends upon year of entry, for example, Year 9 entry requires IELTS 4.0 or greater and Sixth Form entry requires IELTS 5.5 or greater.



# Bursaries

Two means-tested bursaries are awarded on entry to Year 7 in the Senior School. Each bursary continues until either the completion of Year 11 or the Upper Sixth, assuming there is no change to the financial circumstances of the family and that the pupil is progressing well.



# Choosing Pitsford

## Admissions

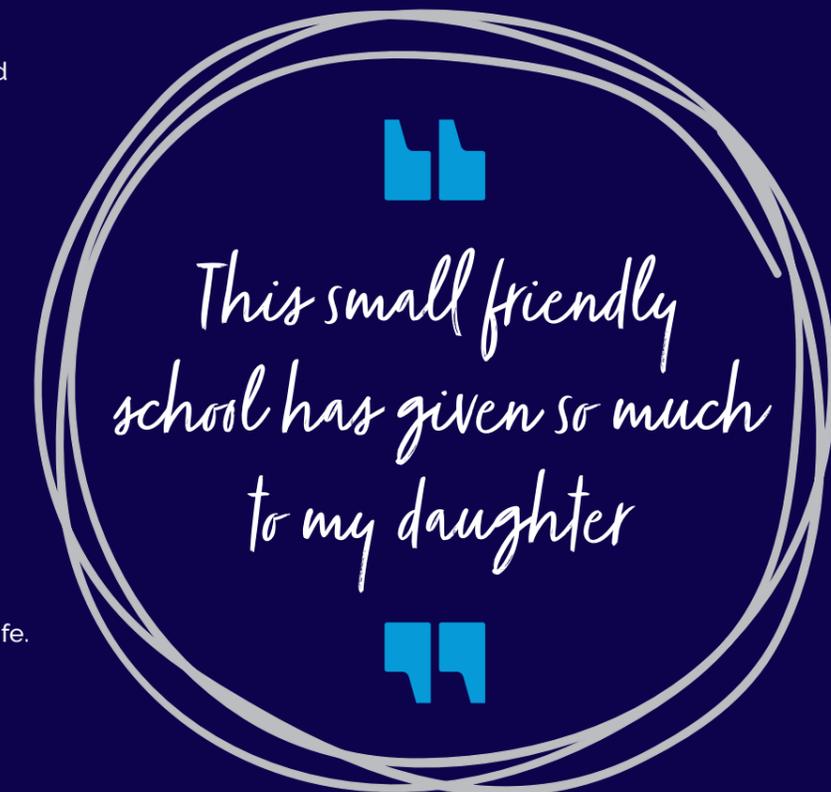
Students entering the school before Sixth Form will sit an entrance test administered in the school. Most year 7 entrants sit this in November but individual arrangements can be made throughout the year.

The offer of a place is subject to the prospective pupil's performance in the entrance examination and a satisfactory report from their previous school.

Once an offer of a place is accepted, parents pay an Acceptance Deposit (reimbursed when the pupil leaves the School). This is however forfeited if the place is not taken up.

## After Pitsford Senior School

The vast majority of our pupils continue into Sixth Form as Pitsford is a school for life. Please look at our Sixth Form prospectus for more details on that exciting part of our community.



This small friendly school has given so much to my daughter

# Making the right choice

Choosing a school for your son or daughter is a very important decision.

Our pupils learn the skills and acquire the knowledge necessary to excel in demanding examination courses that prepare them for our Sixth Form, entrance to the best universities and subsequent career opportunities.

Come and have a look around Pitsford School to meet the team, pupils and see everything we have to offer. As well as private tours, we hold regular mid-week and weekend Open Days.

Call the Registrar on [01604 880306](tel:01604880306) – we will be proud to welcome you to our School.



## Pitsford School

Pitsford Hall, Moulton Lane,  
Northampton NN6 9AX

Telephone: 01604 880306 | Email: [office@pitsfordschool.com](mailto:office@pitsfordschool.com)

[www.pitsfordschool.com](http://www.pitsfordschool.com)