



Pitsford School

A co-educational day school, for pupils aged 3-18



'Excellent'

*ISI Inspection
2022*

www.pitsfordschool.com



Welcome

Pitsford School is a rare environment: deliberately small, we are dedicated to providing every child with the individual support they need to succeed. At Pitsford every child is known and cared for, and their talents and interests are identified, developed and cherished.

Set in 30 beautiful acres in the Northamptonshire village of Pitsford, our state-of-the-art buildings are surrounded by green, open spaces.

Our philosophy of education is relational, personal and bespoke. We offer a wide range of subjects, including three separate sciences. Our exam results are amongst the best in the country.

I look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Dr Craig Walker
Headmaster





“The school is highly successful in meeting its aim to recognise each pupil as an individual.”

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Why Pitsford?



30

Acres of beautiful
parkland

80%

Of Sixth Formers
go on to Russell
Group universities

40+

Extra-curricular
activities

Nursery

The Pre-School at Pitsford (Kits) welcomes children into a warm and inclusive environment. We believe that happy children learn more and there's a real emphasis on learning through play. By offering a stimulating and varied environment, we provide experiences to interest and challenge every child who attends our setting.

Our small class sizes enable us to get to know our children incredibly well and provide a tailored learning journey. This personalised, child-led approach to education provides children the space in which to thrive and nurture their unique personalities and abilities.

As Pitsford School is located in 30 acres of beautiful parkland, our children spend plenty of time enjoying the great outdoors. We believe that forest school learning inspires curiosity and creates happy, healthy children.

Admissions

Our pre-school class is able to accept children aged three years old. All three and four year-old children are entitled to 15 hours of funded childcare.

This is a term-time provision with a minimum of three sessions per week. We provide wrap-around care, including a nutritious, home-cooked lunch and snacks.

To find out more, please contact our Registrar, Mrs Jackman, on registrar@pitsfordschool.com or call 01604 880306.



Junior School

The Junior School offers a safe, friendly and caring environment, where children flourish. The modern Junior School building is surrounded by accessible green open spaces, which inspire a healthy and positive attitude to study.

Our enthusiastic and dedicated team provide a holistic education, and all staff understand the importance of delivering the best learning opportunities to the pupils in our care.

Our classes are deliberately small to ensure that everyone receives maximum attention. We have high expectations of every pupil and extend learning by taking account of each individual's interests and needs.

An All-Through School

The availability of subject-specialist teachers in the Senior School - who are eager to engage with the juniors, ignite their enthusiasm and develop their skills - is a great strength of the Junior School.

Half-termly workshops are delivered to Junior School children by senior staff, be it an introduction to weapons and war of the Middle Ages with the Headmaster (with actual swords and armour), practical chemistry and physics experiments, or hands-on geology.





“Staff genuinely
care.”

Junior School parent

Sports

Our aim is to encourage and develop a sense of well-being and enjoyment, in children of all abilities, in both individual activities and team games.

We offer a range of sporting activities including netball, rugby, football, rounders, cricket, athletics, cross-country running, gymnastics and dance. From J1 onwards children also have weekly swimming lessons.

Many older children have the opportunity to represent the school in a range of tournaments, such as the ISA rugby and football tournaments, regional cross-country events and the ISA athletics and cross-country championships.

Music and Drama

The Junior School has a purpose-built music room where pupils can choose to have instrumental lessons from specialist music teachers. Instruments offered include violin, cello, guitar, clarinet, trumpet and kit percussion.

Pupils may also choose to take Speech and Drama lessons, which lead to English Speaking Board examinations.

Our Junior and Chamber Choirs are both extremely popular. There are regular opportunities for children to perform in front of parents, including our annual Christmas Show (usually a pantomime).

Senior School

Pitsford School is one of Northamptonshire's leading independent coeducational day schools. Our curriculum is designed to engage interest and stretch our students. Our pupils can choose from 11 optional GCSE subjects, alongside the core curriculum. Teaching 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.





*“Pitsford has brought out the best in our daughter;
it has given her confidence and self-belief.”*

Senior School parent

Pastoral Care

Happy children learn best, and at Pitsford School the wellbeing and personal development of each child is our priority. Pastoral care is delivered through our dedicated tutorial staff.

Each pupil joins a house on their arrival to the school and remains with that house through the duration of their time with us. The three houses (Robinson, Hesketh and Wake) form the basis of the tutor groups in the senior school and pupils are mentored and nurtured in small year groups with other members of their house.

In addition to tutor support we have a trained school listener, Sixth Form peer mentors and drop-in sessions from our school nurses.

PSHE and Study Skills are taught in tutor groups and time is devoted twice a week to covering a wide range of personal, social, and health issues that affect young people throughout their time in school, and aims to prepare them better for the world beyond Pitsford. This is in addition to daily registration periods. These small groups underpin the strong relationship that exists between teachers and pupils.

Sixth Form

The Pitsford School Sixth Form is exciting, diverse and full of leadership opportunities. The small size of the Sixth Form enables all students to take an active role, developing skills that will prepare them for their future careers.

We offer a choice of 21 subjects at A-Level and BTEC, alongside the EPQ. Sixth Form study is more self-directed than GCSE. To support this independent learning, we provide Years 12 and 13 with dedicated study areas, a Sixth Form Centre and (in Year 13) their own studies.

Developing Leadership Skills

Role models to our whole community, Sixth Formers are empowered to actively lead the school. Senior Prefects run the duty systems and the three weekly assemblies, House Captains direct and manage their peers, and the Heads of School input meaningfully into the running of the school.

A unique feature of Pitsford is that all the Sixth Formers – not just the Senior Prefects – are given responsibility and are accountable for their actions. Sixth Formers are trained for their leadership tasks and have a large say in how they are carried out. Many pupils decide to build on this further by joining our Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award programme.





Careers Guidance

At Pitsford School we are proud to have strong support in place to help our Sixth Formers plan for life after school. Every student receives individual advice, tailored towards their personal ambitions.

The Head of Sixth Form, Head of Careers and Headmaster have, between them, experience of over 3,000 successful university applications. In addition, when appropriate, we source external support for our students to afford them a competitive advantage in what is a challenging economic landscape.

Guidance sessions are held in school to help students write CVs and apply for work experience. Preparation for university entrance is started early on, with sessions on choosing the right university, student finance and drafting personal statements. One-to-one support is available for students considering Oxford and Cambridge.

Pitsford School is proud of its record of helping nearly every student secure their first choice university and course. Over 80% of our Sixth Form students go on to a Russell Group university.

One-to-One University Application Support

For all university applications, the Headmaster writes every school reference. He also meets with the applicant one-to-one to support them in their application and to advise on content and strategy.

Music and Drama

Drama

Students at Pitsford put on a number of exciting productions every year, including a large musical. In the past, students have performed Shakespeare at a number of local theatres, including the Royal and Derngate in Northampton.

Music

Instrumental and vocal tuition is provided by a team of dedicated specialist visiting teachers and covers all orchestral instruments, along with guitar, piano, organ and percussion.

There are plenty of opportunities for musicians to perform at the school. We have a number of ensembles lead by specialist teachers, along with a popular choir.



Sports

Sports Lessons

Dedicated games afternoons focus on our main team sports. For boys, rugby and cricket dominate, but football is also well represented. For girls the main team sports are netball and rounders. Fixtures are played in all sports against local independent and state schools. Sixth Formers who are not playing team sports may choose to go to the gym or use our state-of-the-art fitness suite instead.

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

Extracurricular Sports

Our pupils play basketball, badminton, tennis and table tennis for recreation and some have enjoyed distinct success in these areas. At various times throughout the year, pupils can take part in other adventurous activities such as climbing or kayaking.

We have a very successful cross-country team who participate competitively against local schools. All pupils, and many parents and staff, take part in the 'Pitsford Run'; an annual House Competition that also brings the whole school community together.



Admissions



Junior School

Children are welcome to join our nursery classes throughout the year.

Those joining our reception class will be invited into school during the Spring Term before they start. This allows us all to get to know each other and make that first day at school in September a little less daunting.

Any children who join us in Year 1 or 2 will normally spend a day with us. During this time the teachers will assess them informally and within the class setting.

Children who are joining us in Year 3-6 will again spend a day in school with us. During this time we will ask them to complete a more formal literacy and numeracy assessment.

Senior School

All children entering the senior school will need to complete an assessment and the offer of a place is subject to the prospective pupil's performance in the assessment and a satisfactory report from their previous school. Most Year 7 entrants will attend a specific day in November where they can experience the school before going on to complete the assessment, but individual arrangements can be made throughout the year for any age.

Sixth Form

Sixth Form places are offered after an interview with the Headmaster and following a report from the pupil's previous school. Academic requirements will be looked at on a case-by-case basis.

The offer of a place is subject to the prospective pupil's successful interview and achievement of the required GCSE grades.

More Information

For details of admissions, registration fees and deposits, please contact registrar@pitsfordschool.com.

Scholarships

The Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother Scholarship

In recognition of the close relationship of the late Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother to Pitsford School, we offer a Scholarship to in Year 7 to the student who demonstrates the greatest potential for academic excellence. Preference is given to students whose families may struggle to afford full fees, and selection is based on entry examination performance and tests, as well as school references.

Value: most commonly, the QETQM Scholarship is 30% off fees, excluding lunches and extras.

Keith Duckworth Scholarship

In recognition of the generosity of the Duckworth family, we offer a Duckworth Scholarship in the Sixth Form. The scholarship is intended to support students who are interested in engineering as a career, and/or the study of sciences and mathematics. The scholarship is offered on academic merit and potential and will involve scrutiny of GCSE performance and commitment to the wider life of the school.

Value: most commonly 30-50% off school fees, excluding lunches and extras.

Other Scholarships (Sports and Music)

The school has a limited number of further scholarships which can be awarded at any point through the school journey. They are awarded on the basis of excellence in specific fields of Sports or Music. In the case of Sports, applicants should be competing at county or national level. In the case of Music Scholarships, applicants should already have completed instrument exams to a high level and they will be called upon to provide a portfolio and audition.

Value: most commonly 10% off fees, excluding lunches and extras.

Bursaries

There are very limited bursary funds available. For details, please contact our registrar, Mrs Jackman, on registrar@pitsfordschool.com or call 01604 880306.

“Pupils form very positive and productive relationships with each other and their teachers, irrespective of culture or background”

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Our friendly team are always ready to welcome you and your family to Pitsford School. We offer private tours all year round.

To book a visit, please email us on registrare@pitsfordschool.com or call 01604 880306.