



HORNCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE FOR ALL

School Prospectus

Broadstone Road, Hornchurch,
RM12 4AJ

**Aim High at
Hornchurch High**

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME



Serena Madhvani

HEADTEACHER

We are a school that's proud to be serving our local community. Our vision is 'Excellence for all'. This is seen across the school in everything we do:

- 1. Excellent behaviour underpinned by high expectations and mutual respect between staff and students*
- 2. Excellent teaching and learning that challenges our students and makes them think hard*
- 3. Excellent personal development. Developing responsible, respectful, active citizens that can compete with their peers nationally and internationally*

We expect all members of our learning community, from students to staff, parents to governors to: aspire, believe and achieve.


Ms. S. Madhvani

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VISION & VALUES

Vision

Our vision is *Excellence for All*. Hornchurch High School cultivates a dynamic learning environment that fosters academic excellence, embraces diversity, and empowers students to become resilient, collaborative thinkers, irrespective of their background or starting point, who are prepared to thrive in an ever-evolving global society.

Values

Our core values drive our pursuit of Excellence for All:

- We **aspire** to be the best that we can be;
- We **believe** in ourselves and others;
- We **achieve** our goals and strive for the next.

LEARNING BEHAVIOURS



We want our students to be resilient, collaborative thinkers. We have shared definitions for each of our learning behaviours, co-constructed by our learning community:

Thinking

Thinking is reasoning, making connections and asking questions to make the learning stick.

Resilience

Resilience is grappling to get unstuck.

Collaboration

Collaboration is listening, problem-solving together and taking individual responsibility towards a collective aim.



HIGH EXPECTATIONS

At Hornchurch High School, high expectations underpin every aspect of school life. We firmly believe that all students can achieve excellence when provided with the right systems, support, and structure. From the moment students arrive, they are immersed in a culture that promotes both high academic aspirations and high standards of conduct.



We set aspirational academic targets for all students. These are based on prior attainment data—such as KS2 scaled scores in English and Maths—and are designed to be challenging but achievable. Our expectation is that students will not just meet these targets, but exceed them. Alongside academic goals, we encourage students to aim high in every aspect of their school life, from their behaviour and attendance to their timekeeping, uniform and attitude to learning.

These expectations are clearly communicated to students, staff and families. We know that students are more likely to succeed when everyone shares a common vision.

That's why we work closely with parents and carers to promote a partnership built on trust, ambition and mutual respect. Together, we foster a school community where excellence is the norm—and every student is supported to become the very best version of themselves.

These expectations are matched by our care. We know that high standards must be balanced with high levels of support. That is why our approach is one of “warm strict”—firm boundaries delivered with compassion. Students know what is expected of them and receive the encouragement and guidance needed to meet those expectations every day. As Ofsted recognised in 2025, our students “behave well in lessons and listen attentively to their teachers and each other”.







QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Our curriculum is ambitious and designed to provide every student with the knowledge and skills to succeed in the modern world. We teach a carefully sequenced programme that builds learning progressively from Year 7 through to GCSE. Each lesson includes clear objectives, a do now to activate prior knowledge, a new learning phase, time to practise, or consolidate, and regular assessment to measure impact.



Our teachers have deep subject knowledge and deliver content with clarity and confidence. The school has embedded evidence-informed strategies—such as retrieval practice, wait time, and random selection—to ensure every student participates and engages deeply. We also use Knowledge Organisers and online platforms across all year groups to support learning beyond the classroom and help students retain key information.

We place a strong emphasis on teacher development. Every member of staff takes part in regular coaching, observations, and feedback, driven by our own evidence-informed Teaching and Learning Framework. This commitment to professional learning ensures that our teaching is consistently excellent – you do not stay good by standing still!



ACHIEVEMENTS

At Hornchurch High School, we are proud of our students' achievements—both in the classroom and beyond. Our commitment to high standards, excellent teaching and a strong climate for learning has resulted in exceptional progress for our students.

We are currently performing above the national average for Progress 8, a key measure of student achievement, reflecting the strong academic growth our students make from the end of primary school to their GCSEs. This is confirmed in the Department for Education's Performance Tables, where Hornchurch High stands out as one of the top-performing schools locally.

Success extends far beyond exam results. Our students have also excelled in a wide range of extracurricular pursuits, particularly in sport. We have been borough champions in basketball and other team sports in recent years, demonstrating our students' commitment, teamwork and competitive spirit. These achievements reflect the strength of our enrichment programme and our belief that every child should have the opportunity to discover their talents and celebrate their success.

Whether it is academic progress, sporting victories or personal milestones, we are proud to celebrate excellence in all its forms.







BEHAVIOUR & ATTITUDES

Behaviour at Hornchurch High is calm, respectful, and focused on learning. We hold exceptionally high expectations for student behaviour and conduct. These expectations are rooted in the belief that a calm, orderly and respectful environment is essential for learning to flourish. Our approach is centred on consistent routines, firm boundaries, and a culture of mutual respect that allows every student to thrive - every child has a right to an education that is free from low level disruption.

From the moment students arrive at school, they are guided by clear behavioural expectations. Students line up calmly at the start of the day, transition silently between lessons to ensure purposeful movement (not a moment of learning is missed), and are welcomed warmly at classroom doors.

These routines are about creating a safe, predictable, and respectful environment. They give our students confidence, reduce anxiety, and promote strong relationships between staff and students.

We take pride in our “warm strict” approach: the highest standards, paired with the highest levels of support. All are delivered with care, clarity and compassion, establishing a positive climate for learning where students flourish.

As Ofsted (2025) highlighted, our approach has had a measurable impact. Students behave well in lessons, show respect for one another, and are engaged in their learning. Student voice shows that students feel safe and supported across the school.





ATTENDANCE

At Hornchurch High School, we firmly believe that every day counts. Quite simply, if a student is not in school, they are not learning. Strong attendance is one of the biggest factors in a student's success, not just in the classroom, but in their overall happiness and confidence too.

Our target is 97% attendance for every student, and we work closely with families to help make that a reality. The strong correlation between strong attendance and good academic outcomes is well known—students who attend school consistently are more likely to do well in their exams and feel part of the school community.









PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT & WELL-BEING

The holistic development of our students' is extremely important to us; we are committed to developing the whole child—not just academically, but socially, emotionally, and personally. Our personal development programme is designed to build character so students grow into confident, resilient, and well-rounded individuals, fully equipped to thrive both in and out of school.

Our curriculum includes dedicated time for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), positive mental health, online safety, the teaching of mindfulness and key learning behaviours such as thinking, collaboration, and resilience. These themes are reinforced through assemblies, our structured form time programme, and tutor-led discussions.

We offer a rich and varied enrichment programme, with over 45 clubs running each week, covering everything from sport and music to coding, chess and debate—all free of charge. We also run a daily breakfast club from 8am, helping students start the day focused, energised and ready to learn.

A wide range of educational trips and cultural experiences support classroom learning and broaden horizons. For example, all Key Stage 3 students visit the Globe Theatre, bringing literature to life and deepening their understanding of Shakespeare and the arts.

Students have a range of opportunities to develop their leadership from form and year group representatives to anti-bullying ambassadors, and well-being ambassadors. Visits to universities, careers fairs, and external workshops help broaden their horizons and raise aspirations. Our pastoral framework ensures that all staff know their students and can offer personalised support to further aid their development both inside and outside of school.

Student voice plays a key role in shaping our learning community. We want our students to be successful not only academically, but also personally—able to thrive in life beyond school.



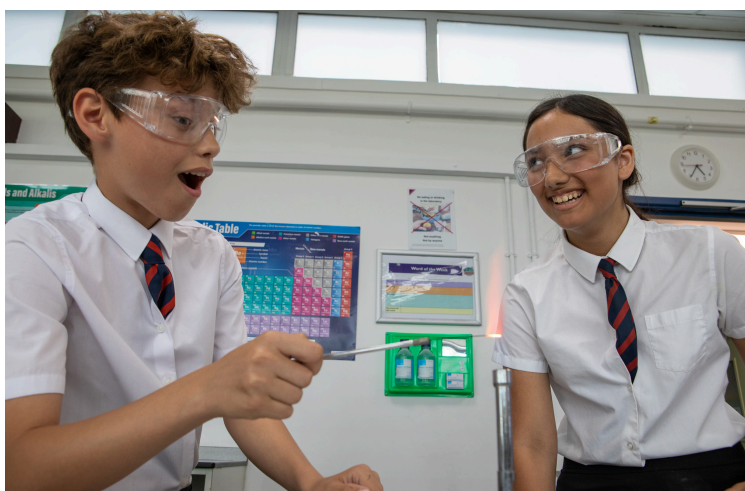
INCLUSION

Hornchurch High is an inclusive school where every student is valued. Students with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are supported to access the same ambitious curriculum as their peers. Quality first teaching is paramount to supporting students with SEND. Our SEND team ensures that teachers have clear information about individual needs and are supported to meet the needs of every child in the classroom.

We believe in early identification and tailored support. Students who require additional help with reading or literacy receive targeted intervention, and our pastoral systems help remove barriers to learning for those with social, emotional, or mental health needs.

Students with English as an Additional Language (EAL) are welcomed and supported from the moment they join Hornchurch High. We provide tailored language support to help them access the full curriculum whilst celebrating the rich linguistic and cultural diversity they bring to our school community.

Inclusion is more than support – it is about belonging. At Hornchurch High, we actively teach respect and celebrate diversity. Students are encouraged to appreciate different cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives, creating a truly inclusive community.









SAFEGUARDING

The safety of our students is our highest priority. We have strong systems in place to ensure that safeguarding is effective, and all staff are well trained to identify and respond to concerns. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead and pastoral team work closely with external agencies and families to provide timely and appropriate support.

Safeguarding is built into every aspect of school life—from our curriculum to our routines, from the culture of staff vigilance to the confidence students have in speaking to trusted adults. Students are taught about online safety, consent, and healthy relationships, and they know how to keep themselves and others safe.





LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

Hornchurch High is a school driven by strong leadership and clear vision. Our headteacher, senior leadership team, and middle leaders work cohesively to maintain the highest standards and drive continual improvement. Leaders are highly visible, deeply involved in the life of the school, and passionate about “*Excellence for All.*”

We are proud to be part of the Partnership Learning Trust, which provides additional capacity, challenge, and support. Our local governing body and trust board hold us to account rigorously while sharing in our values and ambitions. Together, we maintain focus on what matters most: improving the life chances of every child.

Leaders invest in staff development through a culture of instructional coaching and subject specific professional learning. By embedding consistent systems and sharing evidence-informed practices, we have created a school culture that is cohesive, professional, and relentlessly focused on learning. We are proud of what we have achieved—and even more excited to welcome new students and families to be part of what comes next.





HORNCHURCH HIGH MYTHS

Hornchurch High School Is Too Strict For Me

As educators, we are privileged to work with young people day-in, day-out. Teaching isn't just about delivering lessons, it's about guiding, encouraging, and forming meaningful connections that help students grow.

We are proud of our calm, purposeful learning environment, where expectations are clear and consistent. But structure alone doesn't define our school culture. What matters just as much is the kindness and warmth that underpin everything we do.

Our staff go the extra mile to ensure students feel known, supported, and inspired. Whether it's through thoughtful conversations, or small everyday moments, we show our students that we care. We believe that school should be a place where young people enjoy learning, feel safe, and are excited to be part of a community.

"Because of the clear structures in place, students know they are getting the same deal whether it's a music lesson or an English lesson. This then creates space for relationships to flourish."

Hornchurch High Has Too Many Routines

Children like consistency. Young people thrive when they understand what's expected of them and can trust the adults around them to be fair and dependable. Clear and consistent routines create a sense of security and allow students to focus fully on their learning.

Our expectations are well understood by both staff and students, and that shared understanding supports the calm, focused environment in our classrooms. From the moment students join us, we guide them through the daily routines – whether it's how to enter a lesson, turn take with a partner, or move between classrooms.

Hornchurch High Students Transition In Absolute Silence

Silent transitions are often misunderstood as overly strict or joyless, but in reality, they are a powerful tool for creating calm, focused, and respectful learning environments.

Silent transitions ensure students are safe, brings a moment of calm and is purposeful, ensuring not a moment of learning is missed. They give students a clear sense of purpose as they move between lessons, allowing them to settle quickly and concentrate more effectively in lessons.

Importantly, silent transitions at Hornchurch High does not mean silence between staff and students – students greet their teachers as they enter the classroom, and teachers warmly greet every student in return. These moments of connection help build trust, strengthen relationships, and reinforce a positive, welcoming atmosphere. Far from being cold or impersonal, silent transitions create space for warmth, respect, and meaningful interactions that support every child's success.

"Silent transitions make me feel safe. The corridors and stairs are not noisy or congested. And the lesson starts really quickly and positively."





TOURS

We warmly invite parents and carers to visit Hornchurch High School and see us in action. It's a great opportunity to experience our welcoming atmosphere, dedicated staff, and the excellent learning taking place every day. We look forward to welcoming you!







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01708691441



hornchurch@hornchurchhigh.com



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