

LICHFIELD
Cathedral
School





Welcome

It is a genuine privilege to lead this remarkable school and to be part of a community rooted in both resonant tradition and forward-looking ambition. Each day, I have the pleasure of seeing our pupils and students learn, grow, and become themselves, in their own time and in their own way.

We are a community of individuals, each glorious in their own right. Every child is a highly valued member of our school, and the time they spend with us is precious. Our mission is to help each child identify their particular strengths and passions, their own superpowers, and enable their development. It is our responsibility to leave no opportunity missed and no spark of potential undeveloped.

We seek to attract children and young people with a rich diversity of character, interests, talents, and perspectives, who are willing and able to learn and grow together. We are not here to iron out differences; rather, we aim to celebrate them. Through shared endeavour, challenge, and encouragement, our pupils learn not only who they are, but how they can contribute meaningfully to the lives of others.

Choosing a school for your son or daughter is a significant and sometimes daunting decision. What matters most to me is that each child finds the school that is right for them. I hope, of course, that Lichfield Cathedral School is that place for your family, but we do not claim to be right for everyone. It is important to us that we get to know one another properly, so that your decision is made with confidence and clarity.

What follows is not simply a list of what we do at Lichfield Cathedral School; it is a glimpse into what makes us proud of who we are. Details of our curriculum, the breadth of our co-curricular opportunities, and the wider life of the School are best discovered by visiting us and seeing the community in action. Instead, these pages speak to why we do what we do, and that, for me, matters most.

Our ambition is to ensure your son or daughter leaves us as a confident and articulate young person, with the capacity for ethical leadership, equipped not only for future success but for a life of purpose and integrity.

I very much look forward to meeting you soon.

Inservi Deo et Laetare – Serve God and be Joyful

Susan Hannam BA (Hons) MA PGCE
Headteacher

Ethos

The dramatic pace of technological change we are experiencing impacts every part of our lives, from how we work to how we communicate and learn.



Looking ahead, it is clear that the jobs and skills needed will change in ways that we cannot even imagine. This uncertainty calls for a different approach to education – one that helps our pupils learn constantly and adapt as they grow.

The current education system was designed for the industrial age, focusing on uniformity and preparing students for predictable careers in stable industries. However, a report by the World Economic Forum states that 65% of children entering primary school today will work in jobs that do not yet exist.

As educators, we need to balance learning facts with the development of the right competencies and skills to enable our young people to adapt to rapid change and embrace challenges. Complex problem-solving, critical thinking, empathy, cooperation, leadership, collaboration, and creativity, combined with global citizenship skills and a life-long love of learning are essential.

Our role is to help our pupils become the people that the future needs. Good people guided by empathy and ethics, creative and curious, respectful and resilient, ready and willing to make a positive impact on the world.



Heritage

There is a richness and depth to Lichfield Cathedral School which comes from its role educating choristers for centuries.

Teaching content and methods have evolved, yet the core values of kindness, discipline, determination, service, and joyfulness have had a profound and lasting impact on every aspect of school life.

In essence, we offer a commitment to educational excellence within the context of moral guidance: a combined intellectual and spiritual development.

There is a deep history to this place – the current Bishop is the 99th person to hold that office in an unbroken line back to St Chad in 669AD. The Cathedral has weathered the English Civil War, the Reformation and two World Wars. It houses the 8th century illuminated Lichfield Gospels and a relic of St Chad. Our children have sung on this ground and uplifted hearts and souls since the beginning of that time.

This cultivates both a deep-rooted sense of belonging and a responsibility for cultural stewardship.





Caring

By design, ours is not a large school.

Class sizes are intentionally small. It is important that we know each other properly.

Teachers and support staff work hard to develop a strong rapport with pupils. As they progress through the school from Nursery, to Primary, Secondary and then Sixth Form, each child is passed from hand to hand.

We understand what motivates them, what distracts them, what they love and what they find challenging.

This continuity of care ensures happy children can flourish.

Growing up can be difficult at times, so we create a culture that scaffolds young people as they inevitably make mistakes and learn from setbacks.

Our pupils experience the reassurance that we are here for them, ready to listen and provide whatever is needed to help them achieve.






DREAMER

Music

We provide a well-rounded, balanced education, yet our heritage as a choir school means that music and the performing arts are our specialty.

Cathedral music is one of the UK's greatest and most distinctive cultural assets. The choristers and choral scholars of the Lichfield Cathedral Choir are educated by us, and enrich the lives of all pupils through a unique blend of musical artistry, spiritual connection, historical resonance, and communal experience.

Over the centuries, this foundation has grown into expertise in instrumental music, composition, and music technology and production, alongside drama and musical theatre.

These performance skills teach pupils how to manage anxiety and take risks, how to be self-assured and persuasive, how to adapt and persevere, and how to stay ahead of the curve.



Success

We are a proudly successful school.

Our success goes beyond examination results. We value attainment across the spectrum of experience, both in the classroom and beyond.

We champion achievements in service to the local community, in using time and talent to enrich the lives of others, and in taking care of others in small ways. This quiet, unassuming excellence demonstrating true character is a by-product of the culture and ethos of the School.

We focus on delivering individual success for each young person in our community. As a non-selective school, children come to us with a range of abilities, from gifted students to those facing learning challenges.

Yet our academic results consistently place us in the top 10% of schools nationally for value-added.

Rather than focus on league table results, we prefer to measure the difference between the expected grade from a student's baseline assessment at the beginning of their course, and the grade they actually achieved.

This clearly demonstrates the impact the school has had on that specific student. How we have helped them exceed their expectations and achieve their ambitions, whatever their starting point.

We send the sharpest minds to leading universities and degree apprenticeships.

We guide prodigious talents into the start of their musical, sporting, or vocational careers.

We train the technical and creative skills of the artists of the future.



Values

Our core values of learning, faith, leadership, and service are the cornerstones of our success and our constant guide through the ever-changing educational landscape.

There is something special about Lichfield Cathedral School. A particular energy or spirit that is difficult to define, yet permeates everything.

It is a sense of individuality, where everyone is encouraged to be unique, be themselves, carve their own path and be comfortable in their own skin. It is a sense of family, an environment of mutual respect and empathy where there are no cliques, just students who love nothing better than supporting each other.

The combination of excellent pastoral care and the generosity of spirit throughout the School ensures that new pupils joining us, whether at the start or during the academic year, are warmly welcomed and looked after.





All faiths

We welcome pupils from all religious backgrounds and none and make provision for their spiritual welfare.

The Christian tradition of the School is central to its life. Whatever their faith or denomination, we believe pupils should be familiar with the liturgy and traditions of Christian worship.

This provides them with both a spiritual vocabulary to address important ethical and spiritual questions, and a secure foundation from which they can explore their own journey into faith.

Even for those who do not profess a faith, the space and opportunity created by worship is an invaluable opportunity to reflect, ponder and engage with wider concerns amidst the busyness of modern life.

Culture

Friendship, belonging and ambition - the cultural advantage of Lichfield Cathedral School.

When parents choose to invest in a private education for their child, academic results, teaching quality, and facilities are often at the top of the checklist.

But one of the most powerful, and sometimes overlooked, advantages of independent schooling is the social and cultural environment it provides.

In a world where character, confidence and connections matter just as much as qualifications, it's vital to consider who your child is learning alongside, and what kind of community is shaping them every day.

At Lichfield Cathedral School, surrounded by children who are similarly driven, curious and well-supported, pupils naturally begin to set their sights higher. It's not about privilege - it's about proximity to potential.

The friendships made here often go beyond the classroom. They become part of a lifelong network built on shared experiences, mutual respect, and common values. We have seen these school relationships form the basis of social and professional connections in later life.

Friendships and school culture are not a footnote to education, they are at the heart of it. In Lichfield Cathedral School, your child is not only taught well, they are socialised into a culture of aspiration, decency and lifelong opportunity.

It's not just what they learn. It's who they are becoming - and the friends they make along the way.



Opportunity

We don't wait for extraordinary opportunities. We seize common occasions and make them great.

At Lichfield Cathedral School, we believe that every child deserves opportunities that help them grow not just academically, but personally - developing the skills, confidence and resilience they will carry into adulthood. When we talk with parents about the breadth of opportunities we offer, we often hear the same hope: that their child will become someone who is not afraid to try new things. That is exactly what our approach is designed to nurture.

Children flourish when they are encouraged to step just a little outside their comfort zone. When pupils learn to navigate a demanding fixture list, prepare a speech, or work through the natural nerves of performing or presenting, they begin to understand that effort leads to growth. That lesson - "I can do difficult things" - stays with them for life.

Independence grows naturally from these experiences too. Through clubs, activities and responsibilities, pupils learn to manage their time, work as part of a team, make decisions and persevere when things don't go perfectly the first time. These are the very skills employers value: adaptability, problem-solving, teamwork, and the confidence to take initiative. We see children develop these qualities step by step, often without realising it themselves, simply because they are given the chance to try.

Sport plays a key role in this. Every child has the opportunity to represent the school, and we know how powerful that sense of belonging and pride can be. Whether your child is highly competitive or trying a sport for the first time, they benefit from being part of something bigger than themselves - celebrating success together, supporting each other, and learning how to handle setbacks constructively.

Equally important are the co-curricular activities that stretch pupils in different ways. Debating, public speaking, performing arts, music ensembles, outdoor education - these all open doors to passions a child may never have discovered otherwise. A wide curriculum keeps learning exciting, varied and joyful. When children see that school is a place of opportunities rather than limits, they become more inquisitive, more confident, and more willing to try again after a challenge.

Our message to parents is simple: by offering breadth, we unlock potential. Your child will be supported, encouraged and inspired to discover what makes them shine.





Joining us

You can learn a lot about a school by how it selects children to become members of its community.

During the Admissions process, we look at academic attainment and other achievements, but we are equally interested in character and potential.

We invite pupils and parents to visit, and we offer taster days so that children can experience normal lessons and breaktimes, and start to make new friends before they join us.

We interview children to learn about their interests, their passions in life, their aspirations for the future. Some children will take part in group activities so we can see how they handle themselves in a team.

Admissions is customised to the individual and handled with care and attention throughout.





We are acutely aware that our families are not so much choosing an education as they are investing in one. More often than not, that investment comes with significant sacrifices for families, not least in financial terms.

Parents often think only the super-rich can afford independent education, but the reality is quite different. The majority of independent school parents are both working, are in mid-level professional or management roles, or own small or medium-sized businesses, and work hard to ensure their child or children can benefit from all that private school offers.

It is our responsibility, therefore, to make every pound and penny of your investment in your child work as hard as possible for them. Their best interests will forever be our highest priority.

To truly understand the distinctive culture and ethos of our school, you are warmly invited to visit us at an open event, or simply book an individual tour at a time convenient for you.

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