



CORNELIUS
VERMUYDEN
SCHOOL

Specialising in Arts, Mathematics and Computing

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 17/18







Cornelius Vermuyden School is a vibrant and distinctive learning community in which all students receive the support, challenge and encouragement that they need to become successful, confident and mature young people who are well-prepared for life beyond school. Located on a beautiful site on Canvey Island and easily accessible to all parts of Essex, Southend and London, the school provides a secure and happy environment for positive and exciting learning experiences.

*We're delighted
to welcome you to
Cornelius Vermuyden School...*

Respect. Resilience. Responsibility...

Our small school ethos has allowed us to focus on high attainment and progress and become a centre for educational excellence. We believe in working closely with parents to ensure that each student is happy and strives to achieve their personal best. Our strong system of individual support and challenge for each child is reflected in our year on year improvement in examination performance. Our curriculum is carefully designed to accelerate students' progress.

The school is newly built and opened in February 2012. The design achieved a coveted 'Excellent' grade at CABE review and was shortlisted for a RIBA award. Approximately £28m has been spent on the new school and facilities; providing state-of-the-art classrooms with breakout spaces, sports hall with climbing wall, spacious hall/auditorium, a fully equipped dance studio, library facilities, amphitheatre, immersive room for creative work and terraces which enjoy views across our 38 acres of playing fields, ecology areas and landscaped gardens.

Our students benefit from a team of highly qualified, committed teachers who are passionate about their subjects and about education. Lessons are engaging and challenging, designed to develop students' learning skills alongside their knowledge and provide many opportunities for sophisticated thinking and creativity. Alongside the wide range of academic and vocational courses, there is a strong system of support which helps students to manage their learning and develop positive relationships.

We are a school that has learning and excellence at the heart of all we do. We seek to provide an education where achievement is celebrated and all children have every chance of success; an education that stretches and supports students of all abilities and values each child as an individual. We aim to equip our students with the skills and knowledge to progress in their education to further and higher education. We also work hard to give our students the skills and confidence necessary for success in business and industry.

It is very important to us that our students are secure and happy and that their school life is a memorable and positive experience which will form the basis of a rich and rewarding later life. We promote full participation in extra-curricular activities and enjoyment in all aspects of school life. We encourage our students to be caring, thoughtful and responsible and proud of their school.

I very much hope that you will visit us and discover for yourself the unique qualities of Cornelius Vermuyden School.



Mrs CP Skewes B.Ed. (Hons), M.A., NPQH
Headteacher



In memory of
AMANDA CLARKE
a very special girl
died March 1996





"They arrive at lessons on time, ready to learn and often exhibit a confident curiosity and creativity in their learning"

Historical origins to educational transformation

The school is named after the Dutch engineer Cornelius Vermuyden, who in the 17th Century masterminded the construction of the sea wall together with a system of dykes to drain the land, leading to the creation of the modern Canvey Island.

The school, which dates from the early 1970s, was afforded the opportunity to be rebuilt under the Government's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, resulting in our new school opening in February 2012. The central aim of the rebuild project has always been to create environments which will bring about transformational experiences in young people's learning, achievement and well-being. We now have state-of-the-art facilities that incorporate world-class technology.

The design vision for our new school has engendered a sense of pride in both the school and the local community. We now have a learning environment that has five learning clusters (English & MFL, Maths & Science, Humanities, Visual & Performing Arts, and Technology) which consist of areas for both quiet study and active learning.

Situated outside our Main Reception area, there is a stone tribute to Cornelius Vermuyden with the words:

*When mists shroud blue the Kentish shore,
When sapphire cloaks the leas,
Low Canvey, like a pool of lights
Floats on ethereal seas.*





A place to learn & flourish!

Education at Cornelius Vermuyden School provides for all students, of all abilities, to achieve their best. The school is committed to providing a sufficiently challenging curriculum for all its students, as well as providing opportunities to identify and in turn nurture each student as an individual.

We recognise that every student entering the school has equal worth and potential and so our academic programme has been designed to meet the needs of every child, by teaching them in an environment where they feel both secure and happy.

Close links with the junior schools in the area mean that key staff have already met many of the students through work with primary liaison and student visits to Cornelius Vermuyden School.

New students and their parents/carers have the opportunity to meet their Tutor and Head of Year before they start in September.

The vision, aims and values of Cornelius Vermuyden School

Aims

- All students are valued as individuals and where every student is nurtured, empowered and succeeds
- Everyone enjoys learning and is creative, trying new things, finding solutions and embracing their responsibilities
- Relationships are positive, respectful and everyone does their best
- We are a high achieving and happy school

Our Values & Personality

Our school is known for its fantastic building, great facilities and forward thinking and inspirational teaching. These are the things that are important to us:

Values

- Traditional - maintaining the belief in a broad based education founded on mutual respect
- Excellence - continually striving to be the best we can be, both individually and as an organisation
- Progressive - whether it be through technology or trends, always be one step ahead
- Generosity - going the extra mile

Personality

- Inspiring and empowering - being more than teachers
- By really challenging students to make a difference
- Achieving - our students fulfil their potential and will go on to do great things
- Passionate - creating an exciting and challenging school environment, both on and off curriculum
- Approachable - empathetic and nurturing students and reassuring parents

The Vision of Cornelius Vermuyden School

The Growth Mindset



RESPECT → RESILIENCE → RESPONSIBILITY



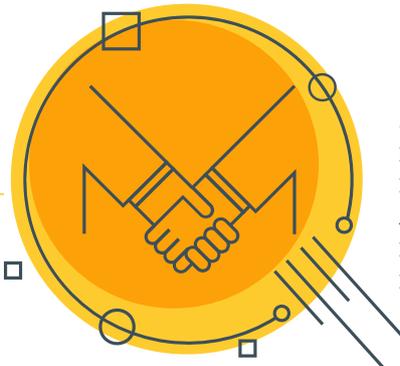
STUDENTS

- Strive for excellence 
- Engage in your learning
- Develop confidence and independence
- Reach aspirational goals
- Celebrate achievement
- Encourage self-discipline and tolerance



SCHOOL

- Challenge and value
- Exploit new technologies 
- Deliver quality teaching and learning
- Give academic and pastoral support
- Engage in staff professional development 



COMMUNITY

- Support the local community
- Promote independence
- Build positive relationships 
- Act as positive role models
- Participate in school life
- Promote confidence 

"Students behave well and are polite and courteous in their interactions with other members of the school community."

Ofsted 2015





Excellence through high quality teaching and learning

Learning is at the heart of everything we do and we offer excellent opportunities for individual self-development that reach far beyond our excellent examination results. Within an ethos of high expectation, our team of well-qualified specialist staff carefully structure activities that meet the needs of all students and develop them as confident and independent learners.

We believe that learning should be an interactive and engaging experience. We are proud of our state-of-the-art facilities that enable students to learn in imaginative and exciting ways. The school's design incorporates versatile learning spaces, which inspire creativity and enrich the learning experience for all. Our Immersive Room provides opportunities for an intensely visual learning experience, whereas specialist facilities such as the Sports Hall with its climbing wall and our purpose built Dance Studio inspire enrichment and excellence across the curriculum.

The school has an ICT network with links to every classroom. Interactive whiteboards are installed in all teaching areas, placing staff and students at the forefront of new teaching and learning technologies. Students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, offering an ideal framework for engaging the interest of our learners and promoting the key skills of literacy and numeracy in addition to developing personal and social skills. All students study the core subjects of English, Maths, Science, Physical Education and PSHRE at both Key Stages 3 and 4. In addition, all students study the following at Key Stage 3: Modern Foreign Languages, Geography, History, Technology, Art, Drama, and Music.

We provide personalised learning programmes at Key Stage 4, designed to stimulate interest and prepare students for post 16 and lifelong education. We offer an excellent variety of courses so that students can choose from an extensive option package, including a wide range of academic courses in addition to more practical and creative subjects such as Photography, Media, Catering and Child Development.



"Students are given the opportunity to not only succeed, but exceed targets in every aspect of the curriculum in and outside of school"

Ofsted 2015



Promoting well being

We recognize that helping our students to blossom into positive, strong, articulate young men and women, confident about taking up their places in a fast changing world, is a complex and specialist job.

Our students face a variety of challenges as they mature and develop. We are committed to providing each individual with the support and intervention they need to cope with difficulties, overcome barriers and grow in health and happiness.

In addition to the core pastoral structures, we also work with a variety of external agencies and partner organisations to provide additional well being programmes for example, counselling, therapeutic workshops and specialist learning support.



Personal Development

We want Cornelius Vermuyden School students to be confident individuals and responsible citizens who have a strong sense of their own place in the world.

Through our strong pastoral system, we support and nurture each individual to strive to achieve their potential. The school's pastoral system, with its Tutor and House based structure, provides identity to both a year group and a house community, which contributes greatly to the caring ethos of the school.

The welfare of each student is monitored carefully by the Tutor who works closely with the Head of Year to maintain an overview of the academic progress and achievement of each and every student.

We want to make the transition from primary to secondary school as easy and enjoyable as possible. That is why we make sure that we get to know your child really well even before they arrive at Cornelius Vermuyden School. We visit their primary schools and invite all future students to attend a meeting in the summer term and begin the process of building relationships on the Year 6 Induction Day.

This helps us to get to know your child's interests, achievements and any concerns that they may have. Staff and older students are particularly adept at helping new students to settle into the school.

"Our school has amazing facilities, everyone is actively involved and we all have a fantastic time!"

Student





"The Cornelius Vermuyden School has given me the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports that I have never been involved in. Not only has it improved my physical abilities, it has improved my confidence, leadership and teamwork skills"

Logan Maxwell 9K5



A person is sitting in a field of tall grass, looking towards a large tree with dense green foliage. The scene is bright and natural, with sunlight filtering through the leaves. The text is overlaid in a white, cursive font.

"Teachers set ambitious targets for students and most have high expectations that students will achieve them."

Support for Learning

The Learning Support Department ensures support for students with additional needs. Support for students with learning needs may be provided by a specialist teacher or teaching assistant working alongside the student in class. Support may also be provided during intervention programmes delivered to small groups or on a one-to-one basis outside the classroom.

Additionally, we provide opportunities to identify and in turn nurture those who are able, gifted and talented. This cohort normally represents the top 10% of any year group and as well as being tracked across the curriculum to ensure they progress effectively, they may also be involved in extra-curricular activities such as extension days and additional enrichment classes.









The House System

On entry, students are placed into one of five school Houses (Athena, Darwin, Einstein, Hera, and Zeus). Each House consists of a Head of House (member of staff) and also eight positions of significant responsibility for students including House Captains and Sports Captains. Each House guides and supports the academic, social, and personal development of students during their time with us here at the school.

A vibrant and diverse range of House competitions and events each year helps to embed an atmosphere of personal and shared responsibility as students work hard to earn coveted House Points for their respective Houses. Points are awarded by staff to students for one of the following reasons:

1. Respect (e.g. impressive classwork / homework or act of good citizenship)
2. Resilience (e.g. attainment / progress relative to current / target grades)
3. Responsibility (e.g. service beyond expectation / extra-curricular participation)

This ensures that every student has an equal and fair chance of earning House Points, regardless of academic ability. Indeed, every single student at Cornelius Vermuyden School is capable of demonstrating

resilience, every student can try their best to produce impressive homework, every student can participate in the extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities provided by the school, and every student can display respect and promote positive citizenship.

A student will present the House Point to his/her Form Tutor prompting a positive exchange between Tutor and Tutee. The House Point is recorded and regular updates on total points are issued to Heads of House and students. Points are displayed in the Main Hall in the eye-catching totaliser, the electronic screens around the school site are used to display the running totals, and attractive certificates are presented to the most successful students in House Assemblies each term.

Our House System is just one way of bringing a large and diverse community together in a positive spirit of collaboration and competition, and that is only possible because the members of our community pull together and demonstrate resilience and enthusiasm.

"The curriculum is enriched by an excellent range of extra-curricular activities including international trips'!"

Year 9 Student





Stretch and challenge in learning

At Cornelius Vermuyden School, we truly believe that our students should have the same opportunities as their peers in grammar and private schools. We firmly believe that identifying talents, developing potential and meeting the needs of our more able students are all important parts of our school ethos.

The curriculum at all stages is designed to support a culture of excellence within the classroom, through outstanding teaching and fantastic resources. Students who achieve a Level 5 and above in their KS2 SATs (Standard Attainment Tests) and CAT scores (Cognitive Ability Test) are identified and placed in the Express Groups when they first start in Year 7. Every half term, we analyse students' assessments and those that are performing at a high level can be moved into the Express Groups. Our most able students also benefit from two distinct and unique programmes

that ensure they are stretched to achieve beyond their potential.

The first is the High Achievers' Programme. Students who access this programme receive a personal tutor to help identify gaps in learning and develop actions to meet the needs of the student. In the classroom, High Achievers are stretched and challenged daily by teachers. High Achievers also access trips, visits and events to locations that will further develop their potential, such as universities, museums and theatres.

The second programme is 'The Brilliant Club'. Access to this programme is through application due to limited places on the programme. Successful students visit universities, benefit from a 6 week tutorial programme led by a PhD student, complete an online project and attend a graduation ceremony on completion of the course.



Homework

We believe that learning independently, planning and organising time outside of the classroom, are essential skills to develop from the outset.

Homework is set regularly. Each student has a personal planner which shows what is expected and we ask parents/carers to check that their child records the amount of time they spend on their homework.

Our state-of-the-art ICT facilities, including the well-resourced library, are available to support students with their homework and independent learning.



Our Parents

We know that our students achieve their very best when the partnership between parents and the school is a strong and trusting one. This valued relationship is central to every child receiving a quality education.

We have structures in place to strengthen links with families, for example, Parent Forum, workshops for parents to opt into and regular newsletters.

We keep our parents/carers fully informed of their child's academic progress and achievement through regular Parents' Evenings, contact with Tutors and reports. We monitor absence closely and contact parents promptly if there are any concerns.

We ask parents/carers to help by:

- Demanding high standards of behaviour and attendance;
- Maintaining close contacts with school, using a variety of means of communication;
- Attending Parents' Evenings and celebration events.



"It is a privilege for my child to learn in such an inspiring environment"

Cornelius Parent

A young woman with long brown hair, wearing a dark blue school blazer, white shirt, and blue and black striped tie, is smiling and looking towards the camera. In the background, three other students in similar uniforms are walking away on a path, surrounded by lush green trees. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

*"I never imagined
I would enjoy so
many subjects.
The teachers just
seem to make them
come alive"*

Year 11 Student



Embracing technology & promoting independent learning

The school has a wireless ICT network with links to every classroom. This enables ICT access in any teaching area of the school. In addition to interactive whiteboards in all teaching areas, the school has invested in Apple technology, leading to the provision of Apple TV which connects wirelessly to teachers' iPads and MacBooks, as well as over 200 iPads available for student use. These technologies enable staff and students to be at the forefront of new teaching and learning methodologies.

Our Multi Media Resource Centre (MMRC) contains over eight thousand books and is integral to the school's ethos about learning. There is a computer suite on the upper floor housing over 60 iMacs alongside a conference room and the resource centre on the ground floor. The MMRC plays an essential part in enabling students to become independent learners who value more traditional resources such as books and yet are also comfortable with the highly technical research tools available to them through both Apple and Microsoft software.

New technologies permeate the school, with all staff using the latest technology to ensure that students' learning is up to date, relevant and as enriching as possible. Therefore, if Shakespeare is being studied, the Immersive Room will be used to flood the classroom with backdrop scenes from The Globe Theatre, whilst in Science, live NASA footage is used on our wide screens to investigate space exploration.

Photography, Media and Film Study students use the business standard Apple software on iMacs to create 21st Century images and films, taken using hi-tech digital SLR cameras, showing their creative potential to be the next Steven Spielberg; whilst our Geography students use the fish eye camera to take footage of their fieldwork on location, to use back in the classroom on return.





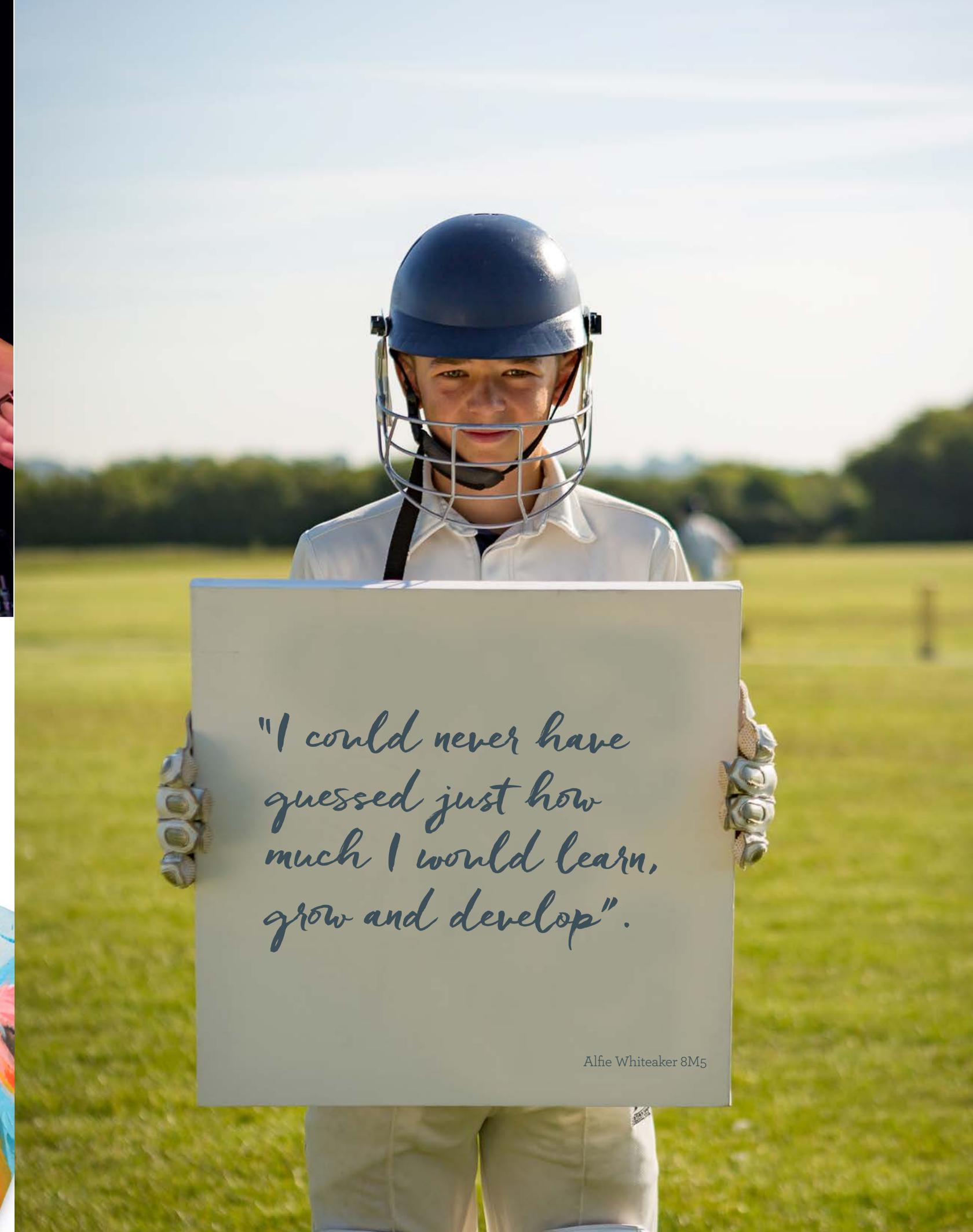


Communication

The key to a successful school is effective partnerships. One such partnership is that between the school, parents and the wider community. At Cornelius Vermuyden School, we believe in celebrating the achievements of our students across all walks of life, including both academic and sporting achievement. To ensure this success is highlighted effectively to parents and the wider community, the school produces a termly newsletter called 'Etc.' The newsletter is exceptionally well designed and really does put the achievements of our students in the spotlight – exactly where they deserve to be.

Copies of the newsletter can be found on the school website.



A young boy in a white cricket uniform and blue helmet is standing on a grassy field. He is holding a large white sign in front of him. The sign has a quote written on it in a cursive font. The background is a bright, sunny day with a clear blue sky and some trees in the distance.

"I could never have guessed just how much I would learn, grow and develop".

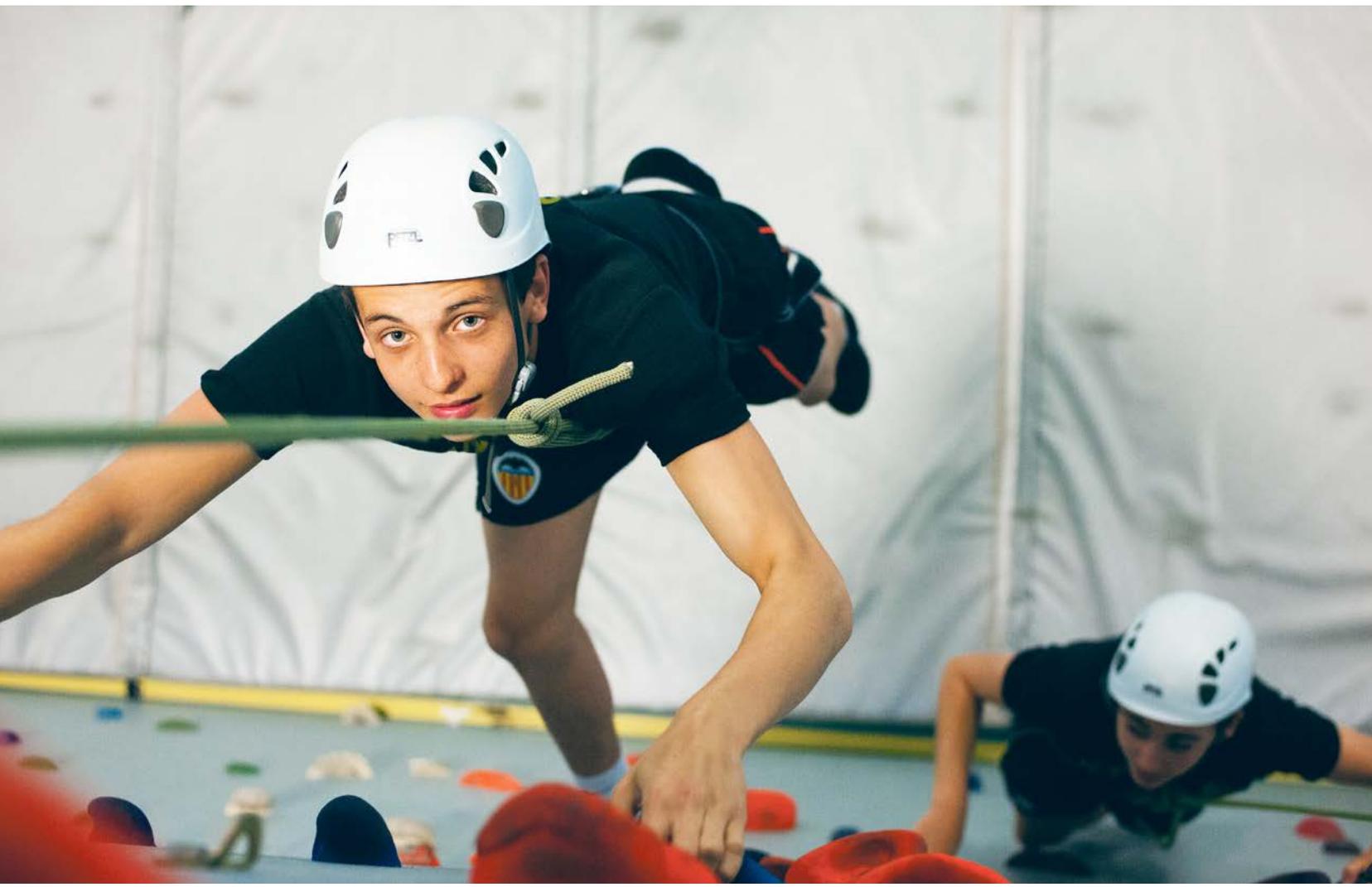
Alfie Whiteaker 8M5

Beyond the classroom

Learning in the classroom is crucial to ensure students achieve their potential. However, at Cornelius Vermuyden School, we believe that there is a wealth of learning opportunities beyond the classroom.

Day and residential trips are built into the school year, with regular visits abroad. Inside the school, there is also a wide range of clubs and activities before and after school. These include early morning sports clubs, as well as after school clubs such as Creative Arts, Music Workshops, ICT Club, Science Club and a wealth of sporting opportunities which take advantage of the 38 acre site.

Students also have the opportunity to take on positions of responsibility and student leadership roles. From Library supervision, to sports leaders awards and ultimately, the opportunity to become a prefect in the school during Year 11. The school also has a school council that contributes strongly to the 'voice' of the school.



Sporting achievements

Our excellent reputation in delivering a balanced physical education curriculum, combined with our success in competitive sport, is recognised by our prestigious Sportsmark Award. We are a winning school, justifiably proud of the success achieved by our teams.

Our approach to sport extols high standards of sportsmanship and encourages everyone to participate at the level of their ability. The school's sporting facilities boast an extensive area of playing fields, a purpose built sports hall and two MUGAs (Multi Use Games Areas). The extra facilities at the nearby Waterside Farm Leisure Centre are regularly available to students.

Roll of Honour

Dean Marney - Professional Footballer Tottenham Hotspur, Hull City, Burnley

Billy Knott - Professional Footballer, England U16, 17, 20 Sunderland, Bradford City

Nathan Smith - England Basketball U20

Mitchel Sarling - England Golf

Reece Durrance - England Rugby U18

Danielle Hartin - International Paralympic Swimming World Champion

Amie Corbyn - England Karate

Megan Key - U16 National Open Water Swimming Champion

Michaela Aubrey - National ABA Boxing Champion

Ellana Woodley - U19 NPL Netball – Surrey Storm

Jack Sims - Professional Footballer at Blackpool FC

Jack Gillingwater – International boxing

Chelsea Hobbs – International Race Walking

Rosie Offord – International Show Jumping

Joshua Hickling - Scholarship at university in Florida – Golf

Jason Sanchez - Achieved first Dan (black belt) in Karate age 11 and second Dan age 14. Member of the TSKUK England team, attaining medals at national, international & World levels e.g. National competition at Southend 2011 - Gold Individual Kata, Gold Individual Kumite European Championships Cyprus 2008 - 3 Gold medals, Individual Kata, Kumite and Team Kata World Championships Portugal 2010 - Gold, Team Kata - Bronze, Team Kumite

Drew Durrance - Rugby Union Player Westcliff RFC 2000-2007, Saracens RFC Academy 2006-2007, Essex County RFC 2004-2007

Laura Wheeler – International Marshal Arts

Tyler Powell – International Archery

Chanel Spall – International Boxing

Bradley Halls – International Darts

Liam Dunmore – European Karate Champion

"Behaviour in lessons and around the school is good. Students are polite, courteous and respectful to each other and to adults"

Ofsted 2015





Leaders of Tomorrow

Prefects have an important role in the life of the school. The school appoints a Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputies who have special duties and responsibilities throughout the Year, and School Councils. Students present their ideas through elected representatives from each tutor group, the selection of which is taken very seriously.

Cornelius Vermuyden School aims to create good citizens in the wider community and students' personal and social identities are developed through a balanced citizenship programme, which encourages their role in society through active learning. As part of the programme and the philosophy of the school as a whole, we encourage visitors from the world outside and have fostered partnerships with industry and the wider community. The school has also fostered links with international schools in Kenya, China, Holland and Germany to enrich their experiences as global citizens, alongside facilitating breathtaking trips to NASA, Iceland and Barcelona; enabling further opportunities for students to enrich their experiences as global citizens.

Careers education including talks and visits is provided for all students through links with the Connexions organisation, and colleges. As a first step, students are encouraged to understand some of the requirements for citizenship through making a commitment to others. Subject teachers also make clear links to citizenship and British Values as part of the wider curriculum.





JULIUS VERMUYDEN SCHOOL

Visitor Entrance





CORNELIUS VERMUYDEN SCHOOL

Specialising in Arts, Mathematics and Computing

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