



AVANTI HOUSE

SECONDARY SCHOOL

Prospectus

2019–2020

Avanti House School, Harrow



MR SIMON ARNELL WITH YEAR 7 & 6TH FORM STUDENTS

Welcome to Avanti House Secondary School

It is my pleasure on behalf of the Trust, staff and students to welcome you to our school.

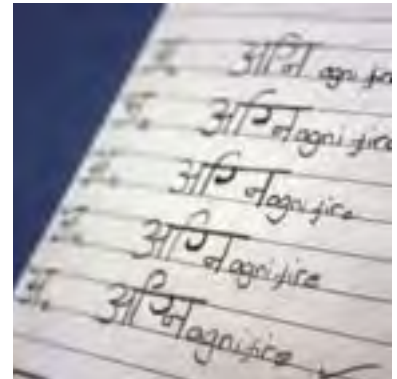
Avanti House secondary school is an Inclusive Hindu faith school based in Harrow, open to students of all faiths. In 2018 students gained excellent results in a wide range of subjects across the curriculum. 88% achieved grade 9-4 in Mathematics, 91% achieved grade 9-4 in English and 82% achieved grade 9-4 in English and Mathematics.

What makes Avanti secondary school distinctive is its values based approach to education. This encourages students to value self, others and the environment and empowers them to be effective learners as well as good citizens. The school offers a traditional an extensive curriculum, but also offers a focused study of Ethics, Philosophy, Sanskrit, Meditation and Yoga. The recently opened 6th Form offers and excellent range of facilitating subjects that are sought by universities across the country.

A wide range of extra-curricular opportunities enable the students to develop their own characters and become outstanding citizens. Our most recent Ofsted highlights that the behaviour and attitudes shown by pupils and adults are exemplary and the provision for pupils, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is exceptional. Avanti House Secondary School moved to its permanent base in April 2018 in its brand new £25million build located in Wemborough Road, Stanmore. The multimillion pound complex boasts state of the art science labs, computing rooms, design and technology workshops and classrooms that enables students to make outstanding progress through exceptional teaching and learning. The associated sports and arts facilities also enables the students to excel and further develop extracurricular activities.

I would like to personally welcome you to our open evening and would be delighted to organise personal visits to our school during the working day.

Mr Simon Arnell
Principal



THE LANGUAGE OF PHILOSOPHY

Learning Sanskrit is a truly unique offering within our curriculum



BUILDING ON THREE PILLARS

The school motto "Excellence, Virtue, Devotion" is at the heart of all we do

Our Vision

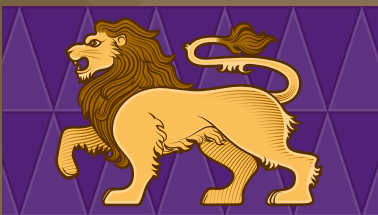
Our school prepares pupils for their respective life-journeys by promoting educational excellence, character formation and spiritual insight.

Educational Excellence



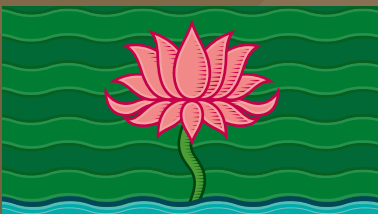
An emphasis on independent thought and personal choice fans every pupil's innate and emerging passion for learning. Our personalised approach provides tailor-made learning paths for all pupils. This motivates and enables all pupils to become reflective, articulate and independent thinkers, laying solid foundations for their future learning, vocation and self-fulfilment. Our approach is characterised by a mentorship and academic support system that is delivered in close partnership with parents.

Character Formation



Our school prepares pupils to take their place as loyal, responsible and broad-minded British citizens. Our ethos acknowledges that personal virtue, responsibility and a wholesome sense of identity underpin success in all endeavours. It nurtures conduct consistent with the universal virtues of respect, integrity, humility, courage, empathy, gratitude and self-discipline. Avanti House promotes holistic, responsible lifestyles through a vegetarian diet, a curriculum that integrates yoga and meditation and a built environment that actively fosters environmental concern.

Spiritual Insight



The development of spiritual insight is at the heart of the curriculum and draws on the teachings of Krishna Chaitanya*, which embrace a universal, inclusive approach to spirituality, aimed at rekindling a personal, loving and spontaneous relationship with the divine (Krishna). The curriculum offers opportunities to explore the philosophies and traditions of different faiths. Collective worship includes the following practices: kirtan, meditation, worship, reflection, song, prayer, and story-telling.

* Our ethos draws from the teachings of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Chaitanya was born in 1486 in Nadia, then East India's epicentre for learning and scholarship. At an early age he founded what quickly became the region's foremost school, widely renowned for its teaching in logic, grammar and rhetoric. He went on to lead an early civil disobedience movement, contesting religious sectarianism. In later life, he turned his attention to spiritual ideals that transcended social and religious boundaries and thus paved the way for a great spiritual renaissance. He taught that the essence of education is to appreciate how everything has a special relationship with the divine and that such an understanding culminates in a profound spiritual realisation of love, compassion and selflessness – the original, pure nature of every being. He emphasised spiritual equality and advocated that humanity can be united through a shared love of God, expressed through the singing of God's many names. Chaitanya's exemplary life heralded the dawn of an inclusive spiritual resurgence that continues to inspire people from all faiths.

How we achieve our ethos

Educational excellence will be achieved through:

- Happy and fulfilled learners and teachers.
- Highly-skilled and actively engaged leadership and governance, dedicated to continuous improvement and to realisation of the school's distinctive vision and ethos.
- A broad and challenging curriculum focused on core skills and subjects.
- Continuous development of the professional knowledge and skill of all staff, and adequate respect for their professional discretion and integrity.
- Staff with high expectations, convinced that every child is both uniquely gifted and has identifiable areas for improvement.
- Personalised targets and learning paths for all pupils, supported by thorough, learner-focussed mentorship and effective ICT systems.
- Provision of subject and qualification choice, ensuring that each learner maximises his or her talents and never becomes lost.
- Provision of a broad, flexible and challenging curriculum that allows students to develop in the direction best suited to them, at their own pace, and which promotes realisation of their full potential.
- Curriculum that includes a focus on ethics, philosophy, the creative and performing arts, and valuable cultures of ancient and contemporary civilizations.
- Values-based approach to the humanities and its emphasis on the artistic and spiritual realms.
- The study of Sanskrit as the root of almost all eastern and western languages.
- Progress-tracking using rigorous intra-year staff assessment, self and peer assessment, formative assessment, detailed reporting, and – as needed – early intervention and support classes.
- Lessons designed to be relevant to students' lives, to develop learning and questioning skills, and to deepen motivation, understanding and personal insight.
- Partnerships with universities, links with businesses, and opportunities for apprenticeships and work-related learning.
- Sincere and committed engagement of parents (and other family members) as co-educators.





88% achieved
grade 9-4 in Mathematics

91% achieved
grade 9-4 in English

82% achieved
grade 9-4 in English & Maths

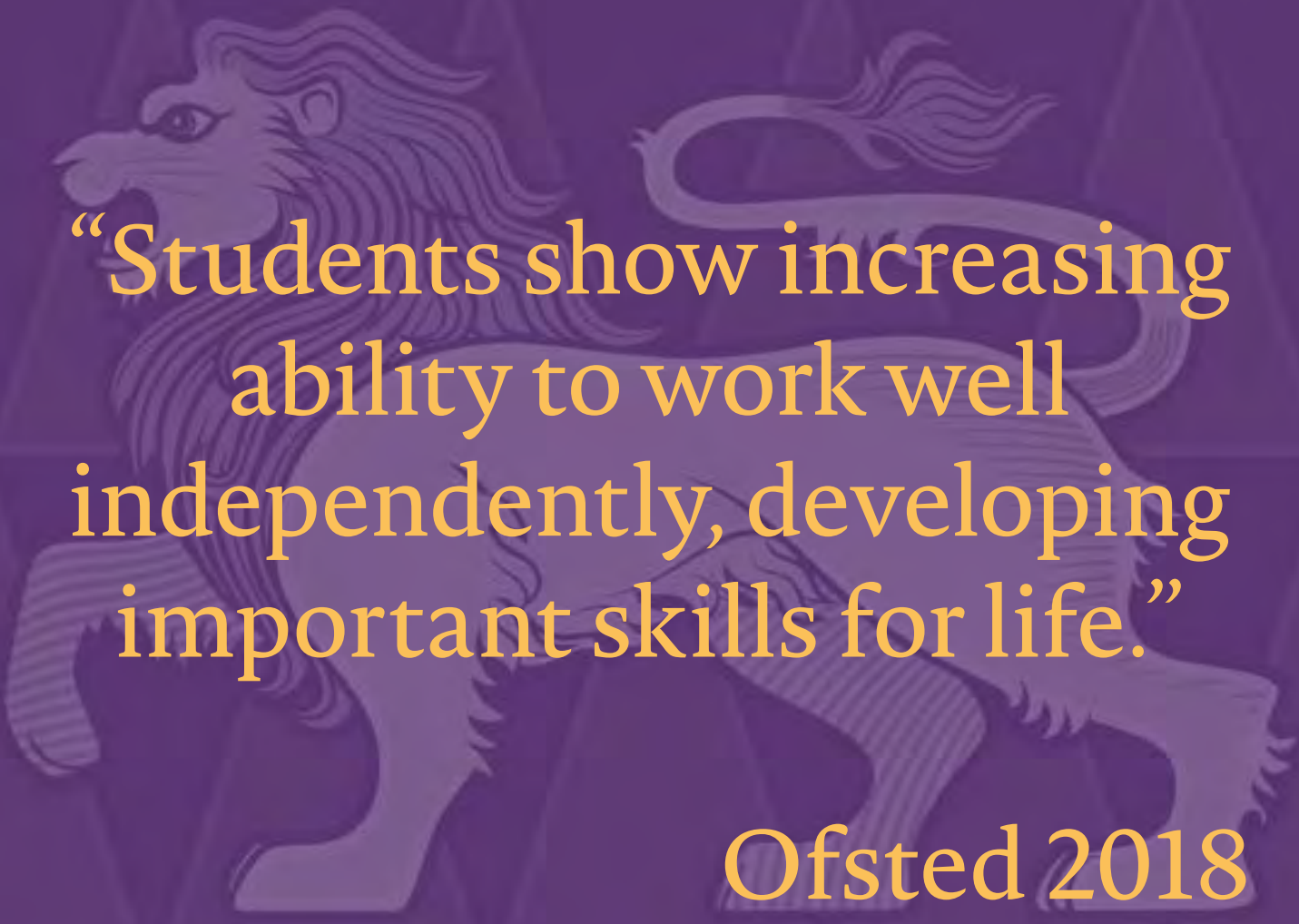
GCSE Results 2018

How we achieve our ethos

Character development will be achieved through:

- A curriculum that challenges students to reflect, think for themselves, explore the links between character and conduct, develop moral literacy and make their own well-informed lifestyle choices.
- Empowerment of students to empathise with others and to deeply reflect on their own choices and their social and personal impacts.
- Dedication to community cohesion, especially through service to the community and active partnership with other social, charity and community-based groups.
- Encouraging students to adopt conscientious and balanced lifestyles, underpinned by a sense of stewardship and an innate reverence for life, nature and the earth's resources.
- Provision of classes in yoga and meditation, and a vegetarian diet that is healthy and freshly cooked.
- Clean, uncluttered and sustainable learning environments that support the school's emphasis on mindfulness.
- Working collaboratively with the wider community, especially partner public agencies.
- Visits to diverse sacred places and educational venues.
- A broad offering of competitive and non-competitive sports, both within the curriculum and as extra-curricular opportunities.
- Opportunities for developing leadership, team building and personal integrity through partnerships with other organisations.
- Dedication to leadership at every level and nurture of students' voice and involvement, up to Governance level.





“Students show increasing ability to work well independently, developing important skills for life.”

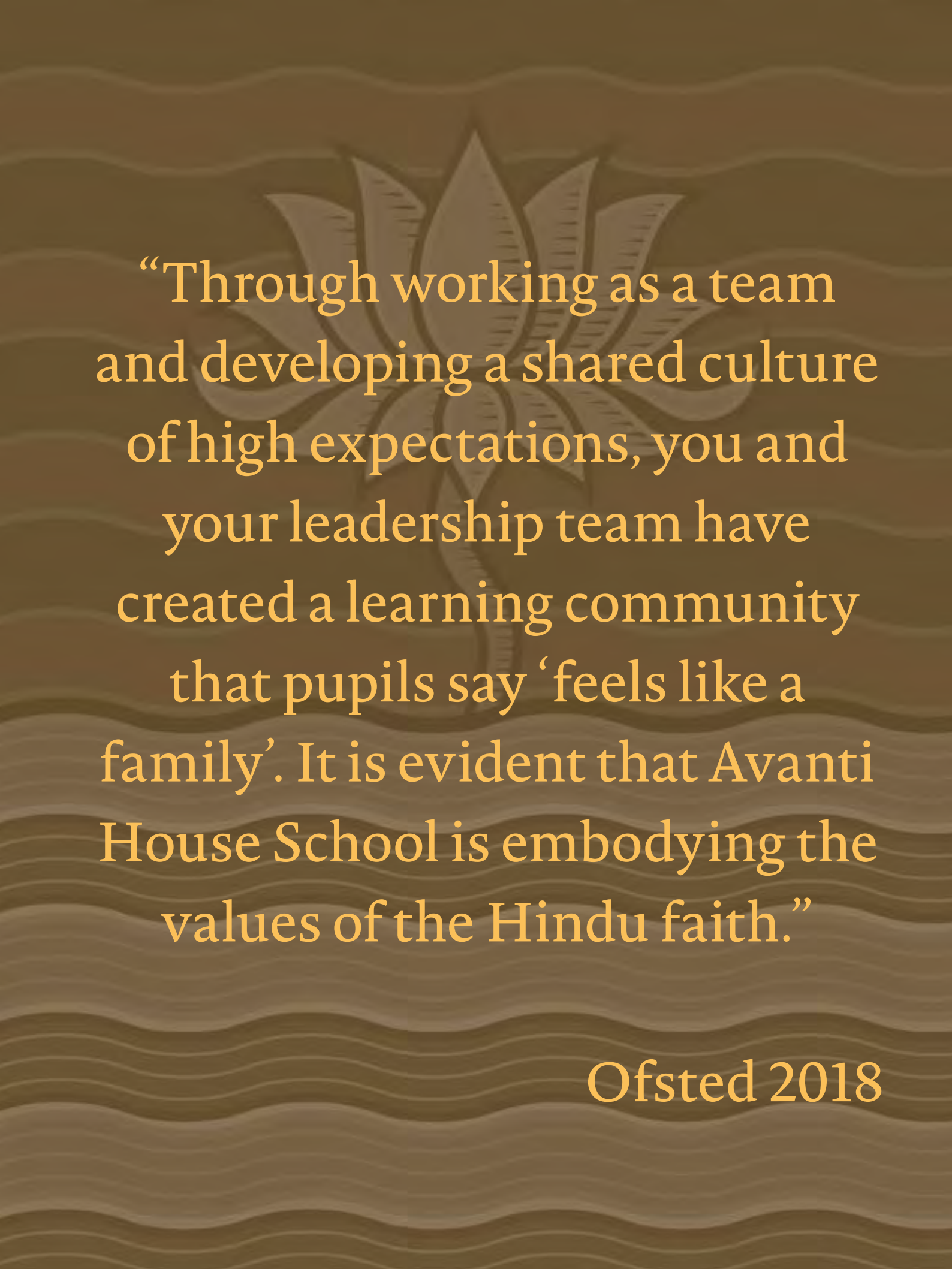
Ofsted 2018

How we achieve our ethos

Spiritual insight will be achieved through:

- Positive and uplifting experiences of RE and Collective Worship.
- The singing of the names of the divine, with special but not exclusive focus on Krishna.
- Opportunities for self-discovery and spiritual exploration.
- Effective pastoral care that supports each student's personal, emotional and spiritual journey.
- Dedication to working in partnership with other faith schools/organisations to provide students an authentic experience of diverse spiritual traditions.
- Recognition that all of the world's great spiritual traditions represent the divinity in their distinctive ways.
- Authentic understanding of the worldviews underpinning various manifestations of religion and spirituality, with stress on their shared essence: a loving reciprocal and personal relationship with the divine.
- Exploration of faith and spirituality across different traditions in a probing and dialogic manner, with constructive critique of practices, philosophies and epistemologies to promote honest and empathetic dialogue.
- Encouragement of students to develop a broad-minded perspective by acknowledging the key roles of free choice, fidelity to tradition and exemplary role models.
- The warm and welcoming enrolment of young people from all backgrounds.
- Preparation of students to make up their own minds on issues of faith and belonging, religious and otherwise.*
- Rekindling of an awareness of an essential spiritual identity that unites all living beings, transcending all designations related to age, race, gender, species, faith affiliation and ability.





“Through working as a team and developing a shared culture of high expectations, you and your leadership team have created a learning community that pupils say ‘feels like a family’. It is evident that Avanti House School is embodying the values of the Hindu faith.”

Ofsted 2018

The Curriculum

Key Stage 3: Years 7 to 9

At Key Stage 3 we deliver a rich, broad and balanced curriculum, which has an academic foundation but is adapted to meet the needs of individual learners. Although all subjects are treated equally, we enjoy mathematics and performing arts specialism – areas in which we truly excel. As a faith school, our Trust-led, bespoke Philosophy, Religion & Ethics curriculum forms an unique backcloth for our development of character and spiritual insight in our learners.

There is a six hour teaching day which comprises of six one hour sessions with optional after-school clubs which are integral to the school's ethos.

Key Stage 4: Years 10 & 11

During Key Stage 4, the curriculum builds on the subjects and activities of Years 7 - 9, links with the post-16 curriculum, and is served by the same core principles – with each child:

- being treated as a unique individual with a personalised curriculum
- enjoying positive relationships between students and staff
- experiencing an enabling environment that stimulates learning
- discovering innovative approaches to learning and personal development both as a team leader and a team player

The core curriculum will be based on the English Baccalaureate and include English, Mathematics, Science, foreign and classical Languages, Humanities (History and Geography) and ethics. It will also offer a breadth of choices.

Key Stage 5: Years 12 & 13

In our Sixth Form we continue the school's aims of high academic achievement and helping every student to develop their full potential. The Sixth Form is an integral part of our school community, but it also has an identity of its own. Our new Sixth Form centre opened in September 2017. The centre includes silent study areas, group study areas, computer work stations, social spaces and a kitchen/eating area. Students have the opportunity of joining in a wide range of activities including debating, Model United Nations and the Young Enterprise Scheme.



COMMITTED TO INCLUSION

A dedicated Inclusion team ensures each child is viewed holistically



YOUR TIME TO SHINE

Performing Arts is a fun way to build confidence through self-expression



DEVELOPING POTENTIAL

Academic and pastoral support at the forefront of all we do



Our Specialisms

Performing Arts

At Avanti House, we see Performing Arts as a powerful means for helping young people develop self-confidence and communication skills in a wide range of settings. It is also a key element in living out the distinctive faith and aesthetic ethos of the school. Among other real benefits for your child, Performing Arts can help develop:

- their understanding by bringing together the spiritual, physical, aesthetic and intellectual
- a growing understanding of the role of performance as an offering and service to the Divine and to others
- an awareness of the relationship between excellence, skill and practice
- growing confidence in working with and for others in a variety of roles, including leadership
- a growing ability to deal with new situations, to problem-solve and a range of linguistic, musical and movement registers.

Mathematics

Similarly, Mathematics will suffuse the whole learning community at Avanti House. As well as ensuring that all young people reach a level of numeracy that enables them to access and engage with the numerical requirements of society, mathematical approaches to the world and to learning will be essential elements of the distinctiveness of the school. The Mathematics specialism at Avanti House will give your child:

- the skills and knowledge to manipulate and use numbers with growing confidence and skill in a wide range of contexts
- a growing understanding of and engagement with the economic world we live in and their roles and responsibilities within it
- skills in shaping and posing questions and developing convincing arguments that can be presented in a variety of ways
- a growing understanding that, beyond the functional, Mathematics has rich spiritual, historical and cultural roots.



Aiming for excellence

Avanti Schools Trust is driven by five strategic aims which allow us to measure our progress and effectiveness.

I Outstanding in every Ofsted category

Using Ofsted's framework as the benchmark, Trust staff and consultants carry out support visits, audits and mini-inspections to ensure awareness of a school's grading in each Ofsted category. The best possible support is provided to each of our schools to accelerate progress towards outstanding and beyond.

II A national family

The Trust maintains and keeps under regular review a pipeline of new school proposals. The current status, next steps and projected start date are reviewed to ensure that we are well prepared for the new schools that join our family and that our growth is optimal in terms of rate, location and nature of offering.

III Excellent service to Trust schools

The Trust team provides a set of central services and brokers and quality assures a small number of critical external providers across the family of schools, such as IT and HR advice. All of these services are kept under review to ensure that they are both excellent and best value.

IV Enriching the nation's education

We are committed to contributing to the heart of the nation's school system. This will be delivered through partnership with Government and DfE, teaching alliances, universities and other organisations working in education. The Trust aims to develop its own Teaching School status with associated partner organisations.

V Leaders in ethics-based education

The distinctive ethos of the Trust is manifest in its Philosophy, Religion & Ethics curriculum and in Collective Worship. The Trust seeks to become a thought leader in these areas with a view to developing a unique and accredited programme for spiritual and ethics-based education.

Our New Home



Applying for a Place

Although a Hindu-designated faith school, Avanti House has no faith criteria for entry and is open to applications from students of all faiths and none.

In the event of receiving more applications than there are places (180 in Year 7), please refer to the Admissions Policy for oversubscription criteria.

For the academic year 2019–20, the closing date for Year 7 applications is Wednesday 31st October 2018.

The outcome of your application will be sent by email on Friday 1st March 2019 from Harrow Council School Admissions (in some cases letters will be sent through the post).

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY

www.avanti.org.uk/avantihouse-secondary

APPLY VIA THE HARROW ADMISSIONS WEBSITE

www.harrow.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Staying connected

AVANTI SCHOOLS TRUST

The Trust website is a good starting point to learn about the Avanti vision at play in our schools. Short videos are also online.



www.avanti.org.uk

HIGHLIGHTS AND UPDATES

The Avanti Life magazine brings you the very best of what's happening within our family of schools. Also available in print.



www.avanti.org.uk/life

SCHOOL LIFE IN DETAIL

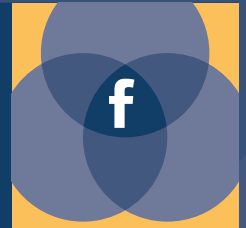
The school website offers up-to-date information on key aspects of school life, from ethos to admissions; school lunches to job opportunities.



www.avanti.org.uk/avantihouse

SOCIALISING

We use Facebook as a shared community page where many school and Trust highlights are broadcast – a great way to stay informed and in touch.



www.facebook.com/avantischoolstrust

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AVANTI HOUSE
Excellence · Virtue · Devotion

A Journey of
Self-Discovery