



OPPORTUNITY • ACHIEVEMENT • EXCELLENCE



# WELCOME

We offer an exceptional academic and extracurricular experience at Samuel Whitbread Academy in an outstanding learning environment where students are expected to work hard, achieve and excel. In our last Ofsted inspection, we were judged as 'Good' with many outstanding features and have set ourselves the target of being outstanding in every category over the next few years!

Our GCSE results are amongst the best in the local authority. We offer a well-balanced curriculum with plenty of choice to prepare our students for the next stage in their lives. Most of our students continue on to the Sixth Form, which is one of the largest and highest performing in the area - providing students with a wide range of courses designed to match the expectations of universities and employers.

Our pastoral care is exceptional and we have dedicated pastoral support teams for each year group. The academy is also broken down into five houses, named after people who have made a distinctive contribution to the world. These provide the framework for the multitude of different competitions, celebrations and charity events that bring our school community together during the year.

Extracurricular opportunity is a vital part of our ethos and we expect all of our students to get involved in at least one club or activity. There are a huge number of opportunities ranging from highly competitive sports teams to spectacular drama and musical performances.

We enjoy showing visitors around the school, please contact reception on 01462 629900 to book a tour.

*We look forward to seeing you.*

**Nick Martin** - Principal  
BSc, MA, PGCE, NPQH



■ The new uniform at Samuel Whitbread Academy is now fully embedded and has been a great success. It forms an important part of our drive to being the best we can be with a continuous push for the highest standards and expectations. Pupils, parents and staff alike have all commented on how smart the students look.

**When asked, one female pupil stated that:**

*"the uniform makes me feel part of something at SWA, I know which House I am in and I feel really proud to wear it. It sets me up for the school day when I get dressed in the morning."*

# ACHIEVEMENT AND STANDARDS

## Academic Success

The GCSE results at Samuel Whitbread have consistently been above the national average for the last five years, with over 70% of students gaining a grade 9-4 and nearly half achieving a grade 9-5 in English and mathematics. In both English and mathematics, 81% of students gained a 4 or above, with 65% achieving a 5 or above in English and 56% in Mathematics, making us one of the highest performing schools in the Local Authority. We are pleased to announce that this academic trend continued over the summer, with an equally impressive set of results for 2021.

There was a similar story at KS5, where students also achieved a great set of results, with 87% of all grades at A\*-C and 39% of grades at A\*/A. In total 146 students went to University and 46 secured a place at one of the top Russell Group Universities including Oxbridge. Several students have also left us to start apprenticeships at companies such as Airbus Space, Red Bull and Lockheed Martin.

## Promoting Achievement

We have high expectations of all our students and we believe every child has talents that can be nurtured with the right support and encouragement. The size and success of Samuel Whitbread means that we can continue to offer a balanced and modern curriculum which is second to none. We also have an incredible array of educational visits and guest speakers to help enhance the learning experience.





**"The school is improving rapidly because all staff are fully focused on ensuring that pupils make good progress. "**

*Ofsted 2017*



# FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

The buildings and facilities at Samuel Whitbread are outstanding. They provide our students and staff with a fantastic environment in which to learn and work. In addition to well-appointed classrooms, we have a number of specialist facilities designed for 'A' Level standard work - that are also used by younger age groups. We have a spacious and well stocked library which is open to everyone, as well as several independent study rooms and a large study centre for our Sixth Form students.


For engineering and design technology we have a number of workshops with specialist equipment such as laser cutters and 3D printers. We have 14 science laboratories which are supported by a well-stocked science prep room and a dedicated team of technicians.

Art and textiles students benefit from a suite of rooms with a range of equipment including Apple computers for design and a kiln for pottery and ceramic work. Our drama and dance students use the theatre and four studios, with sprung floors, lighting, mirrors and sound equipment. Students studying music or film have access to a recording studio and use digital recording kit with high powered editing equipment and the latest industry standard software.

We have three fully equipped indoor performance spaces including a theatre, hall and activities studio. Physical Education and sport have many hard areas, large sports hall (with its own viewing gallery), extensive grounds and pitches that are second to none as well as a brand new gym!

We have ten specialist computer suites and a number of other IT facilities for students to use. We also encourage students to use their own devices and we recently upgraded the wireless broadband to accommodate a much broader bandwidth.



A young man with short brown hair, wearing a black shirt, is shown in profile, playing a gold saxophone. He is looking down at the instrument with a focused expression. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a building and a clear sky. A blue semi-transparent box with white text is overlaid on the lower left of the image.

"I think this school is brilliant. It has great members of staff who want the best for you. The school has a fantastic reputation and amazing facilities. It is an excellent school and I am proud to come here!"

*Year 9 student*

# CURRICULUM

The curriculum at Samuel Whitbread is one that provides:

- Academic success
- Stimulation and challenge
- Choice and diversity
- Progression across the Key Stages
- Access for all, regardless of gender, race, culture or ability
- Encouragement for independent and life-long learning



## Key Stage 3 & 4

When commencing their studies at Samuel Whitbread Academy students have a broad and balanced curriculum offer from the start, and one which is carefully blended to ensure academic progress and enable opportunities to experience the option subjects that will be available to students from Year 10 onwards.

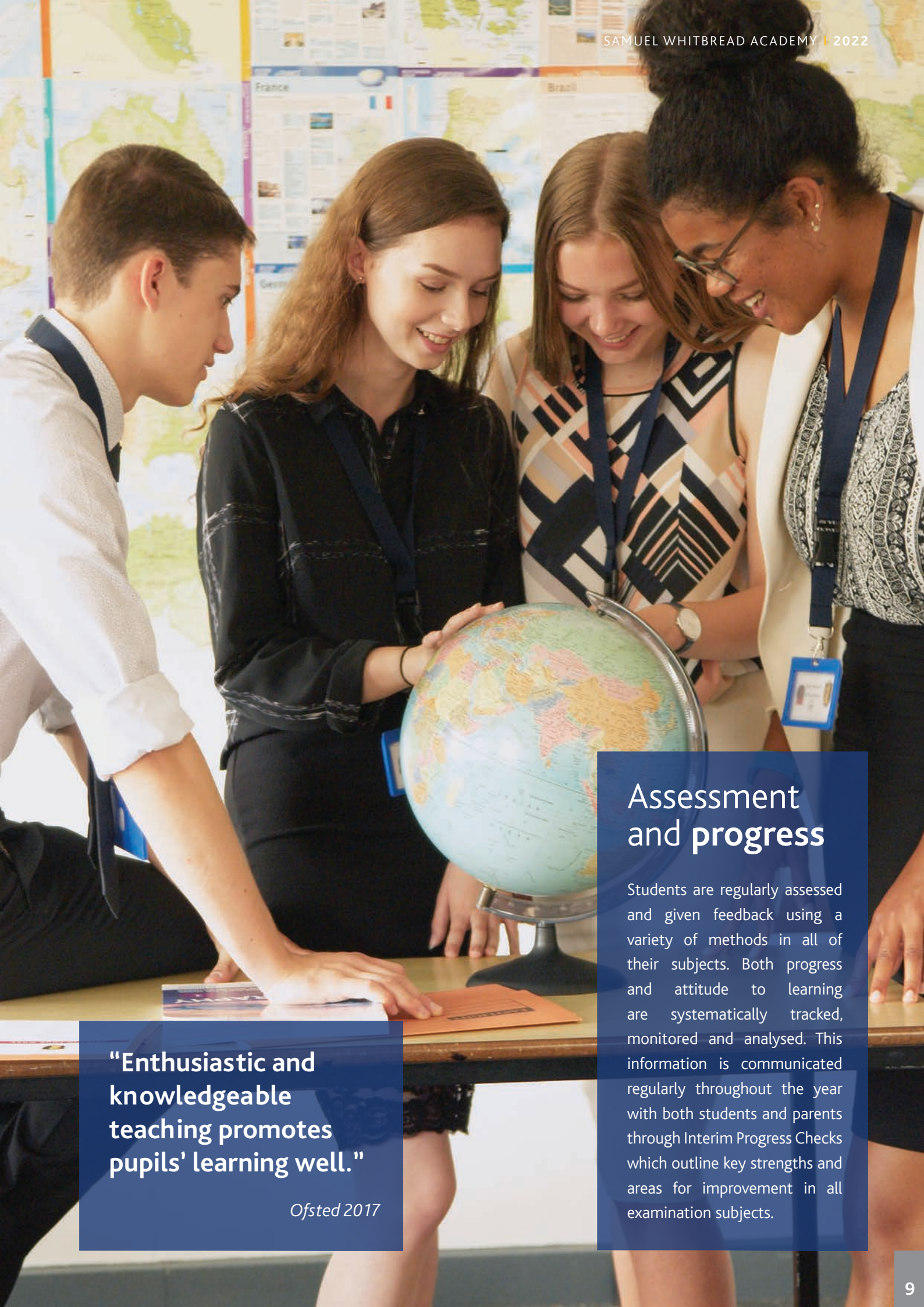
Our Key Stage 4 curriculum includes **25** options, is second to none and has been designed to strike a balance between making sure students study a wide range of subjects and allowing them to develop their own interests. We have taken great care to ensure the offer at Key Stage 4 reflects the rapidly changing national picture, where GCSEs have undergone fundamental reform. It also ensures that the academy offers the opportunity to study the full English Baccalaureate.

## Post 16

The size of the Sixth Form at Samuel Whitbread means our curriculum offer at Post 16 is second to none. We offer 37 courses in the Sixth Form. Following the recent government reforms to A Levels, we recommend that students study three courses (with the exception of some of the most able students and students taking Further Maths who often take four). Alongside these courses, we offer a range of extra-curricular courses including the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) which is highly regarded by Universities.

Full option booklets for Key Stages 4 and 5 are available on the website. The Society, in the Sixth Form aims to help students achieve their goals of applying to universities or apprenticeships, information is available on website.



A group of four students, three girls and one boy, are gathered around a desk in a classroom. They are all looking at a globe on the desk. The boy is on the left, leaning over the desk. The three girls are standing behind him, looking at the globe. They are all smiling and appear to be engaged in a learning activity. In the background, there are maps of France, Germany, and Brazil on the wall.

**"Enthusiastic and knowledgeable teaching promotes pupils' learning well."**

*Ofsted 2017*

## Assessment and progress

Students are regularly assessed and given feedback using a variety of methods in all of their subjects. Both progress and attitude to learning are systematically tracked, monitored and analysed. This information is communicated regularly throughout the year with both students and parents through Interim Progress Checks which outline key strengths and areas for improvement in all examination subjects.



# SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

At Samuel Whitbread we have two key principles that guide our sports and physical education. Firstly, we want everybody to take part in the extensive range of sports and activities that we have available, so they find a sport or type of exercise that they enjoy and continue outside of school.

Secondly, we thrive on competition, or to put it another way, we like to WIN! If your child loves sport and wants to excel, then this is the school for them. We expect our sporting teams to train hard and to win. We are the most decorated sporting school in Bedfordshire, holding more district, county, regional and national titles than any other school in the county.

## In the last few years we have been...

**U15 National Vase Rugby Champions**  
**U18 National Vase Rugby Champions**  
**National Gymnastics (tumbling) Finalists**  
**National Girls Futsal Semi-finalists**  
**4x Football District Champions**  
**National finalists in U18 Netball**

**...and these are just a few of our many sporting successes.**

The past few years have been our most successful on record, with the rugby U15 and U18 boys winning historic National Vase trophy finals at Twickenham – the first ever state school to do so. Prior to last year's sport being affected by the pandemic, our girls football teams showed immense talent with the U14s and U15s becoming both District and County Champions, and our less recognised but growing sports of futsal and handball have seen us progress to regional and national finals.

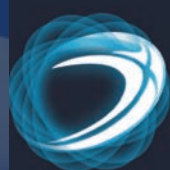
In recent years we have seen further expansion of elite sport, with the addition of the school's first netball academy partnered by **Saracens Mavericks**, as well as growth on the Whitbread Football Academy programme, alongside the now well established **Northampton Saints Rugby Programme**. We are also incredibly proud to see several ex-students, who we have guided and nurtured, turn to professional sporting contracts and international honours, including our first student to join Northampton Saints with a professional contract. We encourage you to speak to the PE department and any of the dedicated staff to find out what makes sport at Samuel Whitbread so different from other schools.



“...we  
thrive on  
competition,  
or to put  
it another  
way, we like  
to WIN!”

*Edd Rhodes  
Rugby coach*

In 2019 Samuel Whitbread saw off competition from illustrious private schools across the country to be awarded RFU National Rugby School of the Year at Twickenham.



**NATIONAL  
RUGBY  
AWARDS**™

# THE ARTS

We are very proud of the arts provision at Samuel Whitbread. We want as many students as possible to learn and engage with the arts to develop their creativity, team work and confidence; skills that will stand them in good stead in their further studies and employment. In Year 9, every student studies the arts and as a result of high quality teaching, many continue on to GCSEs and the Sixth Form.

Our students have the opportunity to display and perform at the highest levels. We have an excellent reputation for the arts and students perform and display their work all over the country. Our extra-curricular provision is extensive with

over 20 different groups, clubs and ensembles to join, catering for all styles and tastes. Samuel Whitbread arts alumni are also extremely successful, including Maddie Morris, BBC Young folk singer of the year, Crissie Rhodes in the Shires and Ben Whishaw (currently Q in James Bond and the voice of Paddington Bear) who is on record as crediting Samuel Whitbread as the place which ignited his love of acting!

If your child loves the arts, you can be assured that Samuel Whitbread will provide ample opportunities. We will support, challenge and develop their talent and we look forward to welcoming you, to one of our many performances.





**"My love of acting  
started at Samuel  
Whitbread."**

*Ben Whishaw*

# CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

One of the advantages of such a big school is that we can offer an incredibly wide range of activities and clubs. Whether it's racing an electric car as part of 'Team Scooby', camping on the side of a mountain for the Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award or discussing the latest book in the library with the other enthusiastic readers in Page Eaters club, there is something for everyone. And if we don't have a club for a particular passion then we will help students to form it.

# THE HOUSE SYSTEM

We have five houses, each named after prominent people who have made a difference to the world. The houses are led by a member of staff and our sixth formers who are house captains, prefects, sports and charities captains. The houses have a busy programme of competitions, house council meetings and charity events and every year each house selects a particular charity to support. Throughout the year, the members of each house work together across all years to form a caring and united community, culminating in the House Olympics!



# CHARITY WORK

We believe it is important that students raise funds and support people in our own country and around the world who have lives less fortunate than ours. Students can take part in the National Citizenship Service Awards and use their contribution to their houses as part of this. As a school we support national and local charities, as well as the Jambo School in Kenya and Tafo in Ghana, for whom we raise money to develop their facilities and buy much needed equipment.





In 2017 our equestrian team was crowned the 80cm showjumping national champions by the NSEA.





# PERSONALISED LEARNING

Our teaching and learning strategy is centred on the idea that every pupil is embarking upon their own personal learning journey at Samuel Whitbread. Individual academic targets, based upon prior data, are regularly reviewed by academic and pastoral staff to ensure that our pupils and their parents always know where they are on that journey and what they need to do to reach their destination and full potential.

Our well qualified subject specialists work hard to create a learning environment which inspires and stimulates students' interests, as well as giving personalised support and guidance to help all students reach aspirational targets.

Termly targets for progress in the core subjects, plus pupil/teacher reviews and evaluations at the end of every term, ensure that students have the opportunity to maximise their potential and achieve and excel. These individual targets and analysis of assessments help inform our teachers' planning so they best adapt their teaching to meet the learning needs of all the pupils in their care.

Homework and independent learning is uploaded onto the site 'Show My Homework' (Satchel One), so students (and their parents!) can see what homework has been set and when it is due 24/7.



# CARE, GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

We are very proud of the pastoral system at Samuel Whitbread. During the transition from middle school all pupils are placed into tutor groups and assigned a form tutor. This is a key role within the pastoral system and students remain with their tutor from Year 9 to 11. They have daily contact with their tutor group, where they discuss important issues such as internet safety, healthy eating and British values - as part of the PSHE curriculum.

The tutors are supported by their Head of Year and a dedicated Pastoral Support Officer (PSO), who work closely with the Senior Leadership Team and the Heads of Department to carefully monitor student behaviour and academic progress. They also liaise between school, home and Central Bedfordshire's support services where necessary.

We have a strong and well developed Learning Support Department that supports students with Special Educational Needs. The dedicated team work with staff and students in classrooms to help them achieve their very best, as well as providing a package of support outside of the classroom to meet the needs of each student. For more information please contact our SENDCo - Mr Rowell and Mrs Swift.

The vast majority of students enjoy life at school and get on well with each other. On the few occasions when students do misbehave our Assertive Discipline System deals with this effectively and efficiently.

At Samuel Whitbread we have a set of values that drive everything we do. These were chosen by students, staff and parents, and include:

- Equality
- Teamwork
- Integrity
- Empathy
- Respect
- Ingenuity
- Determination



"Pupils enjoy coming to school and appreciate what staff do for them. They feel listened to and value the work of the school council because they share their views with school leaders."

*Ofsted 2017*

# **LIFE RULES**

**BE HAPPY**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

**HELP OTHERS**

**ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH**

**BE SWEET**

**KEEP YOUR PROMISES**

**LAUGH A LOT**

**WORK HARD**

**BUT PLAY HARD**

**THINK BEFORE SPEAKING**

**SMILE**

**SAY PLEASE & THANK YOU**

**EAT YOUR EGGIES!**



## **PARTNERSHIPS**

We greatly value our partnership work in the community. We share many of our support services with the other schools in The Trust and jointly develop our teaching and pastoral systems. We also work closely with all of the other schools in our catchment area to ensure that transition across our pyramid is as smooth as possible.

One of the ways that we develop our teaching is through the Schools University Partnership in Educational Research (SUPER) at Cambridge University. Through this network we exchange ideas and learn from other schools across the country as well as teachers from Kazakhstan, Sweden, Holland and the USA.

Our partnerships in engineering are excellent. Local and national companies provide opportunities for our students to experience work in an industrial setting and experts from these companies come into the academy to provide advice and materials. Our very successful Formula 24 teams started with the support of our engineering partners.

The Arts too have a number of partners who support and work with us to give our students the very best opportunities available. As a result we have been invited to play at both local and national events including receiving an invitation to play for Prince Philip at the Chartered College of Teaching.

We are not satisfied with being the best school in the county for sport and as a result we have developed partnerships with a wide range of outstanding organisations. For example, our partnership with Saracens Mavericks Netball and Northampton Saints School of Rugby Excellence attracts players from all over the county to receive coaching at the highest level and be part of their development squads.



This year we have teamed up with Saracens Mavericks in an exciting new venture to provide outstanding opportunities for our netballers lead by our Director of Netball and High Performance Netball Coach.

Following many years of football success, we are also excited to launch the Whitbread Football Academy to be led by our new Director of Football.

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# OPPORTUNITY ACHIEVEMENT EXCELLENCE

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Principal: Nick Martin

Samuel Whitbread Academy  
Shefford Road  
Clifton  
Shefford  
Bedfordshire  
SG17 5QS

Telephone: 01462 629900  
Fax: 01462 629901  
Email: [swa-info@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:swa-info@bestacademies.org.uk)

 SamWhitAcademy

 SamWhitAcademy

[www.samuelwhitbread.org.uk](http://www.samuelwhitbread.org.uk)

