Swanshurst School

Prospectus

2026

Ofsted Outstanding Provider

Welcome

Swanshurst is a highly successful, oversubscribed school for girls aged 11-19 years.

We have outstanding students and our aim is to provide an outstanding education for each and every one of them so that every student develops a thirst for knowledge and makes the very best progress possible.

Before you walk through our doors for the first time on induction day, you need to know what it means to be a pupil at Swanshurst - what we are going to expect of you and what can you expect of us. Our mission statement is the best starting point to help you start your transition into Year 7:

At Swanshurst School, outstanding relationships and the highest expectations are at the core of everything we do. We are only satisfied when we have 'achieved excellence' for all. Our pupils and staff have strong, caring, professional relationships grounded in mutual respect and a determination to succeed.

We inspire pupils through our 11 to 18 curriculum, nurturing their development through our pastoral care and personal development curriculum. We aim to provide outstanding support and motivation to ensure every one of our young people achieve their potential.

We want our pupils to leave us able to proceed into adulthood as confident, well-qualified people with life-long principles rooted in our values: Kindness and Respect, Aspiration, Resilience, Reflection, Creativity, Independence, Confident Communication.

We want all of our pupils to go on to lead happy, healthy and successful lives, with fulfilling careers, making a positive contribution to their community, influencing and leading to make the world a better place for future generations.

Mr M. Dunn
Executive Headteacher

"Swanshurst School continues to be an oustanding school. It is an exceptional place for pupils to learn. The school's values are lived throughout all aspects of its work."

- Ofsted 2024

Learning

We are committed to providing inspiring and engaging teaching and learning.

Teachers employ a wide variety of highly effective strategies to motivate and challenge students to become confident and independent learners.

Through inspiring and engaging teaching, we aim to instil in our students an aspirational mindset which ensures they have consistently high expectations for their own academic achievement.

We have dedicated teams who work with our most able, those with specific learning needs and disadvantaged students to make certain they realise their full potential and become confident and independent learners.

We are a learning community where staff and students are committed to the principle of constant reflection and improvement. We are proud of our two fantastic libraries which are full of up-to-the-minute resources. There are plenty of well-resourced quiet and social study areas, and a dedicated team of library staff who are always on hand to support our students' learning.

Academic success is well- supported by our teachers who use their genuine passion for their subject to develop a shared love of learning. At Swanshurst, we offer a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum. Students study a wide range of subjects which allows them to develop skills and acquire knowledge to prepare them for whatever their future holds.

We believe in equality of opportunity for all and this underpins everything we do. Improving students' reading skills across all their subjects is at the heart of what we do.

Whether it's reading fiction in English, maps in geography, code in computing or sources in history, our teachers are committed to supporting all our students in their journey to being confident, enquiring, well-informed young people.

"The curriculum is exemplary; it explodes into life in the classroom. Pupils benefit hugely from the extensive opportunities in and out of the classroom."

- Ofsted 2024

One key way we develop students' reading skills is through explicit instruction in all subjects. In addition to reading in lessons, our teachers and library staff are always searching for exciting articles, thought-provoking blogs, and of course the very best fiction, to ensure all our students have plenty of opportunity to read quality texts. We know the transformational power of reading, and the incredible difference it can make to our students'

experience in education, and their confidence in all aspects of life. Our curriculum has reading at its core, because we know this is the best way to help our students soar.

At Swanshurst, education is much more than just ensuring academic success. Our students are all equipped as future leaders, resilient and independent learners who are ready to face the challenges ahead.

Caring

Our pastoral support makes the school an outstanding place to study and grow.

The holistic approach of nurturing well-rounded, happy students, in a safe and caring environment is led by a pastoral team with a wide range of expertise.

The team is dedicated to promoting good health and mental well-being, while supporting students in their academic studies. Support is tailored to individual needs - this in turn enables all learners to access the curriculum and realise their potential.

As a school we are particularly proud of our students' exemplary behaviour through our 'Swanshurst Way' and this is evident not only in classrooms but in all areas of school life.

Our values are centred on fostering mutual respect, tolerance and kindness to others. We encourage students to become resilient learners who strive to be the best they can be. Such values and successes are recognised and celebrated through the school reward system.

We are keen to develop leadership skills in all our students and create many opportunities such as our prefect system, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, and Cultural Mental Health Ambassadors in order

to create a well-established student leadership structure.

Student Ambassadors promote democracy and student voice across the school. Student leaders have close links with the wider community and are involved in many successful charitable projects.

We are committed to developing positive relationships with parents and carers and providing the outstanding care and guidance to support all pupils to achieve their potential.

Enriching

Lessons don't stop when students leave the classroom so we offer a wide variety of enrichment opportunities which include extra-curricular activities at lunchtime and after school, as well as access to a wide variety of trips and visits.

With clubs as diverse as debate club, African drumming, mindfulness and extensive sporting activities including football, netball, boxing and trampolining, there are plenty of opportunities for students to broaden their experiences and display and develop their talents.

Many students take advantage of our music tuition which is offered in a wide range of instruments. The choir and school orchestra perform throughout the academic year and we are always proud of our annual school theatre production.

Our students enjoy educational day trips and residential visits both in the UK and overseas. This has included trips to France, Germany and Spain and also skiing trips to the Alps.

We have a thriving Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme which takes students out of their comfort zone and builds confidence, resilience and team-building skills. Expeditions include treks in the Brecon Beacons and the Peak District.

This year, we are launching a partnership with combined cadet force (RAF) to broaden our enrichment offer even further.

We are proud of the enrichment activities we provide for our students. Through participation in such activities, students gain key life skills, develop their self-confidence and acquire a competitive edge when making university or work-based applications.

Progressing

By selecting a school with a large and successful sixth form, our students benefit from a seamless transition from GCSE to advanced level study.

We pride ourselves on the continuation of our caring main school ethos into the sixth form and our year 12 and 13 students contribute significantly to our whole school community, acting as role models, leaders and mentors for younger students.

Students specialise by choosing the subjects required for their career pathways that they are passionate about and enjoy the most. Our post-16 curriculum includes a wide variety of A level and applied courses, some of which include work placements. Our high academic standards in a supportive and caring school setting, excellent teaching, extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities make our sixth form the first choice for more than half of year 11 Swanshurst students.

We foster a culture of aspiration. Outstanding careers advice and guidance throughout a student's education at Swanshurst continues into the sixth form. We are therefore highly successful in supporting students to achieve their goals and realise their dreams.

All of our students are well supported to progress to university, apprenticeship programmes and employment. Many secure offers for their first choice courses at the best universities, training providers and employers.

"Sixth form students are supported with free access to high quality academic journals, as well as focused reading before and after lessons."

- Ofsted 2024

Structure of the School Day

Timings of the Day	
Form Period	08.40 - 09.05
Period 1	09.05 - 10.20
Break	10.20 - 10.40
Period 2	10.40 - 11.55
Period 3 and Lunch	11.55 - 13.50
Period 4	13.50 - 15.05
Most Pupils Depart	15.05
Enrichment and Intervention	15.05 - 16.05

Lunch Time

We have high quality in-house food provision for our students with a wide choice of meals at reasonable prices. We operate a cashless system with pre-payment through our online payments system.

This system reduces the need for students to bring cash into school and also means any students who access free school meals can do so discreetly.

Lunch break is split for year groups lasting 40 minutes during which all of our students in Years 7 to 13 are required to stay on site.

Our refurbished dining area enables more of our students to eat meals together, enriching their lunch break and dining experience.

School Uniform

We pride ourselves on the fact that our pupils look smart and ensure consistently high standards of uniform are kept.

The uniform consists of:

Black blazer with school badge.

Plum V neck jumper with school logo.

Black skirt or trousers - Charleston/long plain black skirt or black tailored trousers.

Plain white open V neck shirt. Please note there is no tie in the school uniform.

Shoes - Should be black, sensible and waterproof. They must be suede, leather or have a leather look, and they must have no heel or a very small heel. Laces should be black. All black plain trainers are allowed. Canvas shoes or Crocs are not acceptable.

Socks/tights - these can be flesh coloured or black. Leggings cannot be worn instead of tights. No patterned or lacy tights. Short white socks in the summer months are acceptable.

Headscarves should be plain black only. This also includes head caps. After May half term there is an option of wearing white.

Coats and jackets - need to be smart and practical. They should be plain in colour, with no writing or large logos. No hooded, tracksuit or branded tops are allowed and will be confiscated. Jackets with leather or denim are not allowed.

Jewellery - we allow one plain stud in each ear and one small stud in the nose. Nose rings and hooped/dangly earrings are not permitted. All piercings must be removed for PE. Girls can also wear one discreet ring, a watch, one discreet bracelet and one discreet necklace. Bracelets should not be worn.

Nails and make up - nails should look natural. False nails are not allowed. All other types of nail polish will be removed. Make-up and hair colour should be natural.

PE Kit

- White polo shirt.
- Plain black jogging bottoms.
- Trainers don't have to be a specific colour.
- A black fleece with the school logo is compulsory for all pupils in Years 7-10 and any pupils taking GCSE to BTEC PE in Year 11.

Attendance Procedures

Excellent attendance and puncuality is essential in order for your child to make progress and reach their potential. Time off school has a negative impact on students' progress. For example 90% attendance over 5 years adds up to 4 months absence and can result in a child dropping a whole grade in achievement across their subjects.

One of the simplest ways you can support us is to ensure your child is punctual and attends school regularly.

If your child is absent from school please call us on 0121 464 2400 **each day** they are absent, or report it through Edulink. Your child needs to bring an appointment card, hospital letter or hand written note, **the day before** any medical appointment, and this needs to be signed by their form tutor.

Handwritten notes need to state what the appointment relates to and the time your child will be collected from school. All documents need to be brought to their year office on the day of the appointment so that an out of school pass can be issued. Please refer to the school's attendance policy on the school website for more details on attendance.

Parents as Partners - The Tutor

We want to build successful and long lasting relationships with our parents and carers, and at the heart of this is our commitment to encouraging positive communication between home and school.

Each student is placed in a tutor group and has a Form Tutor. The Form Tutor is the first point of contact between home and school. The tutor will usually stay with the form for their five years in main school.

Form tutors meet their tutor groups at the start of each day so that firm relationships are formed. The tutor is the central figure in the day to day well-being of the students – sharing in achievements, monitoring individual progress and dealing with any concerns. Information regarding your child's attendance, behaviour and assessment can be found through our parent portal in Edulink.

Swanshurst Values – Rewards & Responsible Behaviour

We have a set of Swanshurst Values which are at the heart of all we do. Such key values are recognised via the school's recognition system. Students are rewarded points via Edulink each time they demonstrate a Swanshurst Value. Certificates & badges are awarded on the basis of these points and presented during assemblies.

We are particularly proud of our students' exemplary behaviour as can be seen in the way students conduct themselves in and out of school. Please refer to the school website to view our current behaviour policy.

Our Curriculum Intent

Our curriculum at Swanshurst School actively sets out to develop learners into citizens of the 21st century who will embody the values we hold dear. It is broad, balanced, ambitious and offers a wide range of subjects that only a large school can.

After a foundation two years of broad study, our students begin the process of selecting their options and are guided and supported to follow tailor-made pathways.

At KS4, all students study a humanity subject (geography or history). The majority study a modern foreign language and therefore follow the English Baccalaureate. Students have choices from a full range of technological, creative, practical and vocational subjects.

At the end of KS4, students specialise by selecting the subjects required for their career pathways. Our post-16 curriculum offers a breadth of A Level and Applied courses allowing access to any university (inclduing Oxbridge and Russell Group universities).

We provide extensive careers guidance built into the core of the curriculum in order for our students to make the right choices at every stage of their education and into the world of work.

At Swanshurst, education is much more than just ensuring academic success. Our students are equipped as future leaders, risk takers and resilient learners ready to face the challenges ahead.

Supporting & Extending Learning

At Swanshurst we provide comprehensive provision for students with additional needs. Specialist staff work across the curriculum offering support within mainstream lessons.

If you would like any further information regarding provision please email our SENDCo, Mrs Hanvey, at:

SENAdmin@swanshurst.org

You can also refer to the school SEN information report, which can be found on the school website, for more details on SEND provision.

Home Learning

Homework is used to develop students' knowledge and understanding as well as building their independent study skills. Homework is set by all subjects weekly.

All homework that has been set can be tracked using Edulink. Students are expected to take full responsibility for organising their own study and will be supported in building the skills required for this, from the moment they start. Help is always on hand from their subject teachers and their form tutors. Other resources are available to help them such as excellent libraries and homework clubs.

Equal Opportunities

Swanshurst is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity to all, to maintaining the right of all its members to feel valued and respected and developing the full potential of all pupils. Please refer to the school's Equality Diversity Policy for more details.

"The support provided for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is exceptionally strong.

Pupils feel exceptionally well supported."

- Ofsted 2024

Year 11 Examination Results 2026

Congratulations to all our Year 11 students who have achieved brilliant exam results.

Our students this year have secured an exceptional set of GCSE, BTEC and Cambridge National L1 & 2 Technical Award results.

Grade Headlines

- 75% of all GCSE grades were awarded at Grade 4 or above
- 71% of students achieved Grade 4 or above in both English and Mathematics
- 50% of students achieved Grade 5 or above in both English and Mathematics
- 18% of all GCSE grades were awarded at the top grades of 8 and 9
- 80% of vocational qualifications were achieved at Level 2 Pass or above
- Over 40% of vocational qualifications were awarded at Distinction or Distinction*

Our highest-performing students achieved exceptional outcomes, with 12 students securing an average grade of 8 or above across their qualifications and 54 students achieving an average grade of 7 or above.

Progress of Students with SEND & in Receipt of the Pupil Premium

We are particularly proud of the achievements of our students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and those in receipt of Pupil Premium funding.

SEND attainment improved significantly across a range of measures, including English and Mathematics. Our highest-attaining SEND students achieved an average grade of 8, while nine SEND students achieved an average grade of 7 or above.

Post 16 Examination Results 2026

All our Post 16 students yet again achieved another fantastic set of results. We are extremely proud of all our Sixth Form students.

Grade Headlines

- 58.2% of A Level grades achieved at A to B*
- 26.1% of A Level grades achieved at A to A*
- Average grade of Distinction across vocational qualifications*
- Continued growth in the number of students achieving the highest grades
- Exceptional outcomes across both academic and vocational pathways

Swanshurst provides an exceptional education for students within a highly supportive and caring school setting. Our high academic standards, the breadth of courses on offer, excellent teaching, extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities make us the first choice for many Swanshurst students and applicants from other schools.

Many students have secured places at university this year

Dentistry
Medicine
Law
Pharmacy
Optometry
Fine Art
Radiography
Nursing
Neuroscience
Architecture

"Pupils in the sixth form are provided with many opportunities to prepare for life after school.

They have a strong and active influence, setting a fine example for the younger pupils."

- Ofsted 2024

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