





MISSION STATEMENT

We aim to foster a culture of success through:

- placing learning at the heart of our community
- developing resilient and resourceful students
- adapting and applying skills for flexible life-long learning
- preparing students for a rapidly changing global environment

ENSURING SUCCESS

I am delighted to welcome you to Helena Romanes School.



Our mission is to develop resilient, resourceful and successful students who achieve excellent outcomes. Our ambitious curriculum is enhanced by a range of enrichment and extra-curricular experiences which take our students beyond the classroom, broadening their horizons. We ensure students leave us with the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary to move successfully into our sixth form and beyond to university, apprenticeships, training or employment.

Supporting each student's journey is a team of well-qualified, dedicated staff who believe in championing each child and guiding them towards success. We work closely in partnership with parents and carers to ensure students are happy and thrive at the school.

We are proud of our students and developing character, leadership attributes and community mindedness is a central part of our mission. Our students are wonderful ambassadors locally, nationally and internationally.

I hope this prospectus will inspire you and your child to join our wonderful community.

Catherine Davis BA (Hons)
Executive Headteacher

**MAKING THE STUDENTS OF TODAY
THE FUTURE OF TOMORROW**

A LEARNING COMMUNITY

Helena Romanes School provides students with a learning environment that is personalised and challenging. We continue to raise aspirations and to make sure every child has the best possible opportunity to succeed.

Your child will develop holistically and thrive in a challenging, purposeful and supportive learning environment. We encourage our students to take responsibility for their own learning by applying their knowledge, being resourceful and by demonstrating an eagerness and enthusiasm to explore their chosen subjects. Our focus is to improve achievement at all key stages through engaging and evidence informed teaching.

Parents can be confident that we monitor their child's progress regularly. Students are encouraged to reflect on their own progress and development to become truly independent learners.

PERSONALISED TEACHING

Our dedicated teaching team at Helena Romanes School create exciting lessons to engage all students ensuring they enjoy academic success. In addition, our support staff provide invaluable specialist and technical assistance.

Helena Romanes School is part of the Mid Essex School Centred Initial Teacher Training consortium that has successfully trained and mentored over 500 teachers. Many teachers who trained with us have stayed at the school and contributed to its academic success.

Our Continuing Professional Development programme ensures staff develop within their field and remain abreast of innovations in their subject.



A DIVERSE CURRICULUM

Students study a broad and balanced curriculum that promotes spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development and prepares students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Students are able to personalise their curriculum in Year 10 currently selecting four options alongside the core programmes of study.

At Key Stage 3, the curriculum is varied, enjoyable and challenging, and aims to inspire every child to reach their potential. Across all programmes, cultural trips and other activities are included – especially chosen to offer students different perspectives on the world around them.

In Key Stage 4, we use our knowledge of each student's strengths and interests to offer them high quality information, advice and guidance to inform their curriculum choices. Our goal is to ensure that all students achieve to the best of their ability by providing a very extensive range of academic, creative, practical and vocational courses.

The school has a successful Sixth Form offering a choice of GCE (A Level) and BTEC (vocational) courses. Our effective work related learning and study skills programmes equip our students for university and employment, and empowers them to make a positive contribution to society.



PERSONAL JOURNEYS

OUR CARE, SUPPORT AND SPECIALISMS

Every student in our learning community is important. We value the diversity within the school, providing care and support to enhance every child's school experience. We recognise and respect that every student is different and support networks are in place to help each student reach his or her potential.

We have sound processes in place to ensure that the transition from primary school is seamless. Our staff work closely with schools, the Local Authority, SEN, Children and Families Directorate to deliver timely and appropriate support for the individual needs of our students.

The school has a dedicated Careers Advisor and an excellent and up to date Careers Library.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Students can take part in a comprehensive range of activities that are available during lunchtime and after school. In addition to a major Drama production, activities offered include GCSE support sessions, Gifted and Talented Clubs, Sports, Dance, Music groups, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme (from Year 9) and other activities reflecting students' hobbies. A full list of extra curricular activities is available on the school website. As part of our Sixth Form enrichment curriculum, all of our KS5 students undertake community projects.

A variety of school trips are available to students. Regular visits include those to local and regional museums, resource centres and trips abroad. Sport tour destinations include Canada, South Africa, Australia, Singapore and Malaysia. Ski trips have been arranged to Austria and the USA, and a World Challenge expedition for senior students takes place regularly.



OUR COMMUNITY

STUDENT VOICE

Student representatives from Years 7 to 13 form the school's Student Voice. The group's main aim is to enhance the school experience for every student. By organising fundraising events, Student Voice has been able to fund many projects around the school as well as supporting charities.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

We recognise the vital role you play in the success of your child's education. Access to information relating to the progress of your child and annual Parents' Evenings ensure we keep you fully informed of your child's progress across the curriculum. We ask that you keep in regular contact with our close network of Form Tutors who are responsible for the overall care of each student in their group.

Easy and accessible systems allow you to keep up to date with school life: our online homework portal, emails, weekly bulletins and the school website: www.helenaromanes.essex.sch.uk

OUR SCHOOL

We owe our name to the school's first Chair of Governors, Helena Romanes, who was closely involved in the development of education in the county. The school began life on the current site in 1958. As the school grew, new buildings were added; it became fully comprehensive in 1970 and achieved Academy status in 2012. In 2020 the school joined the Saffron Academy Trust, and in 2021 its age range changed from 11-18 to 4-18.

The school is situated in beautiful countryside, occupying approximately 35 acres just to the north of Great Dunmow. A leisure centre, shared with the local community, is located on site. We count our links with the local community as one of our key strengths and, with effect from September 2004, we based our school crest on the coat-of-arms of Great Dunmow, with the kind consent of the Town Council.





HELENA ROMANES SCHOOL

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