

# The Canterbury Academy



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2nd October 2020

Dear Headteacher/Head of Year 6,

I hope that this letter finds you well and that, with all of the challenges we collectively face at the moment, term has started positively for you, the staff and the students.

I write to provide information about our upcoming open events and our admissions system for entry in September 2021, should any of your parents ask for advice about it.

As you may know, The Canterbury Academy has enjoyed a partnership with Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys for eight years now. This year, we are delighted to report, again, that those students in our grammar stream achieved outstanding academic results; despite the significant disruption to their education.

In September 2021 the school will admit 210 students. The mechanism for entry is the same and depends essentially upon students taking our 'banding assessment'.

Despite our Open Events needing to look a little different this year, parents and prospective students will be able to visit us at the following times:

## **Open Evening:**

- Wednesday 7th October
- A talk followed by a tour at the following times: 4pm, 4.45pm, 5.30pm, 6.15pm, 7pm or 7.45pm

## **Open Saturday:**

- 10<sup>th</sup> October
- A talk followed by a tour at the following times: 10am and 10.45am

## **Open Mornings:**

- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> October
- Arrive at 9.00am for a tour followed by a talk

*In partnership with Simon Langton  Grammar School for Boys to provide a grammar school band for boys and girls in a comprehensive school for all the talents*

The City View Pre School & Nursery

City View, Franklyn Road  
Canterbury CT2 8PT

Tel: 01227 784694

The Canterbury Primary School

City View, Franklyn Road  
Canterbury CT2 8PT

Tel: 01227 462883  
Fax: 01227 769270

The Canterbury High School

Knight Avenue  
Canterbury CT2 8QA

Tel: 01227 463971  
Tel: 01227 464872 (Student Line)

The Canterbury Academy Sixth Form

Knight Avenue  
Canterbury CT2 8QA

Tel: 01227 463971

The Enterprise & Employability College

Knight Avenue  
Canterbury CT2 8QA

Tel: 01227 463971

The Youth & Community Service

Knight Avenue  
Canterbury CT2 8QA

Tel: 01227 463791

My thanks to all those parents who have already contacted us and been following our website and social media channels for updated information on these events. For parents who may still wish to book to come and visit us you can do so by visiting our website on <https://www.canterbury.kent.sch.uk/2020/09/open-events-2020-2/> and following the links under our 'Open Events 2020' section on our homepage. We would love to see as many of your young people and their families as we are safely and responsibly able to welcome in the current climate.

As a colleague Headteacher in the area, you will already know that The Canterbury Academy has positioned itself as a 'comprehensive' option and a 'school for all the talents' for parents and children.

The Canterbury Academy's partnership with Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys means there is a grammar school band. This is overseen by a member of the senior leadership team at Langton, who is now seconded to our school full time, such has been the success of this programme. The Langton partnership provides enhanced curriculum opportunities, common faculty meetings and schemes of work, teacher exchange and joint teaching and learning on planned days. Students who 'pass' the Kent test and choose us are placed into this stream.

The partnership also operates in the Sixth Form. This was initially for elite sport but has now developed with students taught A Level jointly by staff from The Langton. The Canterbury Academy Sixth Form is now the largest in Kent and Medway, with regularly over 150 applications to university each September.

However, because The Canterbury Academy believes in the comprehensive ideal we also recognise that achievement comes in many forms. We have developed a school based on four pillars, which are academic achievement for all and excellence for some; sport for all and excellence for some; performing arts for all and excellence for some; and, practical learning and enterprise education for all and excellence for some. Many of your students may have already sampled one, or all of these pillars, having been involved in some of our community and outreach programmes. We increasingly talk about our fifth pillar too; that being the work in our community and across our district delivered 'out of hours' by our Youth, Community and Extended Services Team.

With that work in mind, I hope you will also recognise The Canterbury Academy's commitment to inclusion remains evident through our ongoing partnership with St Nicholas Special School pre and post 16, and our commitment to the Specialist Resourced Based Provisions on our campus for Speech, Language and Communication Need and Autism. Clearly, we are nowhere near perfect and we still have a huge amount of work to do, but we have aimed to establish ourselves as something different to an 'exam factory' and hope to provide appropriate and personalised programmes, where possible, for students, rather than a one size fits all approach.

It appears – numerically at least – as if our ethos and philosophy has proved popular. We have been regularly oversubscribed and continue to receive a significant number of requests from parents asking how they can gain admission for their children into our school.

So, to help clarify our admissions process, there are essentially two ways to be considered for entry to The Canterbury Academy:

1. **Music and/or performing arts selection.** There are 15% of places (32) reserved for this. It is determined by audition. For this method of admission **distance from the school is completely irrelevant.**
2. **The banding assessment.** This is NOT an entry test. It enables us to engineer a comprehensive academic intake with a wide ability spread but which contains children who are good at something; whether that be sport, performing arts, practical learning or academic study. Thus, once we know which 'band' a child would be in we rank each band in the following order:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> in = Child in care
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> in = Child at The Canterbury Primary School
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> in = Child with sibling at school at time of banding assessment
  - 4<sup>th</sup> in = Child with health need
  - Last in = Distance from school

So, with the banding assessment **distance from the school is reduced as a factor**, but it may apply. However, the importance of distance cannot be predicted since it depends upon which band a student is in, how many others are in that band and where they live. This causes confusion every year. A student in a band with few other students in it can be admitted living 17 miles away; another student in a different band, with many others in it, will not, despite living 1.7 miles away.

With regard to academically able children who are increasingly coming to us, then we provide our grammar school stream, in partnership with The Langton. To get into this grammar stream students will be considered if they:

- have scored appropriately in the Kent Test (if they did it) – passing The Kent Test will not guarantee entry to The Canterbury Academy (students do not have to take it to get in)
- have scored appropriately in Key Stage 2 SATs
- have scored appropriately in the banding assessment
- are recommended by their primary school
- are recommended by The Langton
- demonstrate, through our internal assessments, that the grammar school stream is the best place for them
- are exceptionally gifted in sport and/or performing arts and have the required dedication to academic study

I would be very grateful if you have the opportunity to please stress to parents that if they want to be considered then their children **MUST** take the banding assessment. Pupils who take the banding assessment will be considered before those who do not. The unfortunate reality is that children who do not do the banding assessment are unlikely to even be considered. Each year, it is an upsetting experience having to explain this to parents who do not gain a place for their child, because they did not sit the assessment. This year, our banding assessments will take place on either Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> November or Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> November.

Once a parent has registered their child for the banding assessment we will be in touch with them as to how we will administer them. Parents should also follow our website and social media channels for additional information.

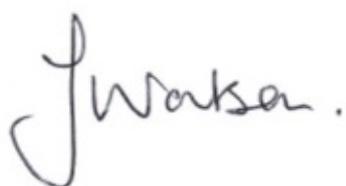
Pupils who are successful in their music/performing arts audition will be offered a place independently of this banding system. However, they will not know whether they have been successful in audition and, therefore, are well advised to take the banding assessment as well.

I am sorry for the length of this email when I know how busy you will be, but I do hope that it will help provide a little more information on admissions to The Canterbury Academy. Again, all of this information and how to apply to sit our banding assessment can be found on our website <https://www.canterbury.kent.sch.uk/2020/09/open-events-2020-2/> under 'Open Events 2020.' I do hope that parents will find it useful.

If I can help any further or if you, or any parents, have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me on [jwatson@canterbury.kent.sch.uk](mailto:jwatson@canterbury.kent.sch.uk) or call the school on 01227 46371.

My thanks in anticipation.

All best wishes,



J. Watson  
Executive Principal of the Canterbury Multi Academy Trust