



Valentines High School

Prospectus 2010



A Training School & Specialist Science & Technology College
“AN OUTSTANDING SCHOOL” Ofsted Inspection 2006



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Open Evening to meet staff and see the work of the school.

An evening for parents to meet the Year Seven Tutor Team and receive the "Handbook for new Students and their Families" and "Year 7 Learning Guide".

Prospective students visit to get to know their new school.



Headteacher: Mrs S V Jones



Welcome to Valentines



At Valentines, we aim to provide young people with a high quality education, accessible to students of all abilities. We emphasise traditional standards of uniform, good manners, discipline and respect whilst providing a relevant and very modern education which will enable our students to take their proper place in the workplace and society of the twenty-first century. The school is a Specialist School in Science and Technology and a Training School. This means that as well as providing the full range of subjects, Valentines is particularly well equipped for teaching Information Technology, Science, Mathematics and Design Technology. Valentines receives extra funding to employ the very best teachers using the latest facilities.

Our examination results are excellent and, based on present trends, most students joining Valentines can expect to progress onto Higher Education after their Sixth Form studies (in 2007, 98% of eligible students won a place at University). The school has recently won three Achievement Awards for Excellence from the Department for Education and Skills in recognition of the superb examination results attained by pupils of all abilities. We have a popular and very successful sixth form, located in a newly built sixth form block, which attracts students from a wide area.

The Department for Children, Schools & Families designated Valentines High School as a Leading Edge School in recognition of exemplary practice. In 2006 Valentines became a Training School in recognition of outstanding examination results and student progress. Other schools receive training from us on a variety of teaching techniques and receive advice on school organisation and management. In addition, we provide the highest standard of training for our own excellent staff.

Our latest Ofsted inspection report in October 2006 said of Valentines:

"Valentines, as a Technology College and Training School, is quite outstanding. Students make excellent progress and reach standards that are very high in most subjects. Test and examination results have been steadily improving each year. The quality of the provision can be traced back to the school's outstanding leadership and management by the Headteacher and her colleagues at every level. With the support of an excellent governing body, the school has continued to make great strides forward since it was last inspected. It has excellent capacity to improve even further."

Equally importantly, the inspection report also pointed out that: *'Students say that they feel safe. They are well-informed on how to stay fit and healthy and are very happy in the school. Such outstanding personal and academic achievement is a direct result of the excellent provision for care, support and guidance. There is little that the curriculum overlooks, and the school's technology specialism is used exceptionally well. Teaching and learning are outstanding, because teachers engage all students, regardless of their ability, and help them to become responsible for their own learning. Lessons involve a wide range of resources, including information and communication technology (ICT), which is used exceptionally well to create interest and pace'.*

Valentines High School benefits from a hard-working, well-qualified and dedicated team of teachers and support staff. We aim to ensure that students feel happy and safe at school as they work towards their future academic and personal success. Near the end of their Year 6 we invite our new students into Valentines so they can become familiar with the school, and when they start Year 7 with us we welcome them with a full induction programme.

We look forward to meeting you at our open evening on 1 October 2009. If you would like to know more, or receive information in another language, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Mrs S V Jones – Headteacher



“The intervention and support programmes that are used to help students, whatever their level of ability, are typical of the outstanding quality of care and support they receive from teachers, support staff, learning mentors, other adults, and even fellow students.”

OFSTED OCTOBER 2006

A Training School and Technology College

Valentines High School is a highly successful forward-looking school with 1,280 students, including a large and very successful Sixth Form.

Behind the traditional school frontage you can see from Cranbrook Road, many new developments have taken place. New teaching blocks have been built in four areas of the site, giving specialist teaching rooms in Science, Technology, Languages, Geography, Humanities, Media Studies and Drama. We now have a total of ten well-equipped Science laboratories.

We also have a large modern Sports Hall which is among the best in Redbridge and four all-weather tennis courts.

A recent addition to our impressive facilities is a brand new sixth form block, which opened in September 2007. This contains a large private study area, a Common Room and food servery, as well as classrooms and group rooms.

This year we have opened a state-of-the-art new Business & ICT Block. Rooms in the original buildings have been refurbished, carpeted and converted to specialist use as in the Music Room which has been re-equipped with keyboards and computer equipment. The school has 14 newly equipped computer rooms connected to the internet and a total of 700 modern computers on site. Computers are available and widely used in all curriculum areas. The Design Technology Department has industry standard Computer Assisted Design/Computer Assisted Manufacture facilities and a set of laptop computers.

In recent years, we have made major investments in the latest ICT. The school has developed a ‘virtual learning environment’ allowing our students to access their work from home.

Our teachers use computer technology as a matter of course in planning and delivery of lessons. All classrooms are fitted with interactive whiteboards.

The school offers a breakfast club for younger students to practice their literacy and numeracy skills before school and a Homework Centre for older students to use after school. Our interventions strategy for pupils who have not yet achieved the expected SATs levels at the end of primary school is excellent, with over 80% of these pupils catching up over the course of year 7. We also have a thriving programme for our many gifted and talented students, which extends through the entire school to the sixth form.



What Students Learn at Valentines

New students at Valentines will experience a rich and varied curriculum, supported by the latest teaching techniques and equipment. Each subject has a different, specialist teacher, usually teaching in a room which has been specially equipped for learning in that subject. The school offers a full range of GCSE subject options as well as a very large range of Sixth Form 'A' level and advanced vocational courses.

In addition, there are specialist Learning Support and Language Support departments. These work across all subjects to assist students with special needs and with developing English skills.

PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) - includes issues relating to personal and social development such as Sex Education and cross-curricular issues such as Citizenship, Environment, Economic awareness, Work Related Learning, Enterprise Education and Careers Education. A wide range of outside speakers are involved in this programme. Students learn Information and Communication Technology in separate lessons as well as a part of most other subjects.

Literacy and numeracy skills are supported across a wide range of subjects and situations. The Valentines Literacy and Numeracy Initiative operates in all year groups, encouraging and developing reading, writing, the enjoyment of books and full use of the School Library.



Students in Year 7 will embark on our unique Valentines GREAT Learning Programme, which will equip them with the many learning and personal skills to help them to achieve across the curriculum and prepare them for work in the 21st century. Special provision is made for both Gifted and Talented pupils, who enjoy an extensive programme, as well as those with learning needs.

To organise learning, subjects are grouped into departments as follows:

- ART
- BUSINESS EDUCATION
- CITIZENSHIP
- DRAMA
- ENGLISH
- GEOGRAPHY
- HISTORY
- LAW
- INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY
- MATHEMATICS
- MEDIA STUDIES
- MODERN LANGUAGES
- MUSIC
- PSYCHOLOGY
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION
- RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
- SCIENCE: Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- SOCIOLOGY
- TECHNOLOGY: Design & Technology, Electronics, Food, Technology & Textiles



The English Department builds very effectively on work undertaken in primary schools. Work in year 7 is closely matched to student ability. Students build communication skills by learning to speak, listen, discuss, read and write effectively. Standards achieved in the department are very high.

Close attention is paid to the accuracy of written work, especially spelling, punctuation and grammar. Personal response, use of the imagination and a love of literature are also developed. Students learn to write in a variety of styles, using drafting and Information and Communication Technology skills.

A wide range of novels, plays and poems is studied, including pre-twentieth century authors and media texts. Wider reading and use of the excellent school library are encouraged for learning and pleasure.

Our excellent Mathematics department provides interest and challenge for pupils of all abilities. Our aim is for students to experience Mathematics as a meaningful, stimulating and worthwhile activity that is relevant to many situations in the workplace and everyday life. Mathematical ideas and their applications are developed through the investigation and solution of real-life problems. Students are expected to work both individually and co-operatively.

Students learn a wide range of mathematical skills and these are reinforced and practised throughout the course in a variety of contexts. They also develop mathematical understanding through investigation and experimentation. We enable our most gifted students to compete in the national Maths Challenge competitions, where many perform very well.

Science is an extremely important part of learning at Valentines and is taught as a balanced and progressive course made up of four main areas of study. All teaching uses the latest technology. Students have access to a full range of scientific equipment and are taught using the latest internet linked electronic whiteboards.

In Physics, we look at everything around us from the smallest things, such as the particles that make up atoms, to the biggest such as galaxies and the Universe itself. We are interested in how things work. Physics studies energy and matter and includes topics such as light, electricity, magnetism, sound, forces and waves.

In Chemistry, we investigate what things are made of, how they affect each other and what we can do with them. We use the scientific method to experiment. We look at the building blocks of things around us such as plastics, metals, medicines, fuels, fireworks, our bodies and the Universe.

In Biology, we study plants, animals and other living organisms in their environment (Ecology), how characteristics are passed on from one generation to the next (Genetics), how microscopic living things behave (Microbiology) and, of course, how our bodies work.



Humanities subjects focus on the activities and achievements of people and on how we interact with each other and the world in which we live. We look at how things are now, how they were and how they might be in the future.

Geography is studied at local, national and world levels. Students learn about natural and man-made environments and the effects of these on human activity. Skills built up include investigative, analytical and presentational skills and the ability to use maps effectively. Information and Communication Technology and fieldwork are used to develop the subject at all key stages.

Students develop skills, attitudes and understanding through historical enquiries. Students are encouraged to examine, analyse and use historical evidence to develop an understanding of British and world History from 1066 to the present day. There are visits to places of historical interest in Key Stage 3.

Religious Education is about what makes people 'tick'. RE encourages the students to have confidence in their own beliefs and cultures, as well as valuing and respecting the values and beliefs of their classmates. Pupils of different faiths can learn from each other and about each other. They will learn how to think through moral issues, how belief can affect actions and, perhaps most important of all, they will learn empathy for each other. This is of vital importance in our increasingly multicultural society.

Valentines students approach technology through a problem-solving design approach, often using computers, including computerised design and manufacturing equipment, analysing, investigating, planning and making, building up a sound understanding of modern technology and preparing themselves for the technology of the future.

Students learn the importance of the design process in full, from research and planning to final production and evaluation. They gain experience in working with a variety of media, materials and tools, including computers.

Students learn decision-making and practical skills through a study of food science, design technology and consumer choice. In Textiles, modern technology and the design process are used in working with a range of fabrics, materials and techniques.





The Business Education department offers two subjects for 14-16 year olds and a range of subjects in the sixth form.

In Year 10 students can choose GCSEs in Business Studies or Business and Communication Systems. The former examines marketing, production, people and finance in business as well as the types of business organisations and the external factors that influence business activity such as the economy and government legislation. The Business and Communication Systems course covers some similar ground but the emphasis is more on the use of ICT in a business environment and students will have experience of word processing, spreadsheets, databases and graphics and how businesses use these.

Business courses are very popular in the sixth form with both academic and vocational courses offered. We offer the traditional AS and A2 level Business Studies which continue the themes taught at GCSE and we also have BTEC First in Business from which pupils can progress on to the BTEC National in Business. These last two courses are full time and give students the opportunity for a more practical experience of the main Business topics.

Information & Communication Technology

Learning how to use the latest technology is very important at Valentines. Students learn a wide range of ICT skills including researching, handling and presenting data using Networked PCs with one machine per student. Students have opportunities to use ICT in every subject, also to take taught exam courses in the subject.

Art

The Arts provide great opportunities for students to develop their own creativity and talents, building up a whole range of personal skills and achievements.

In Art, students are encouraged to be individually creative and to develop physical and perceptual skills in drawing, painting, printing, textiles, ceramics and photography and to be able to plan and complete design assignments. There are gallery visits and displays in school of students' work.

Art can be studied at GCSE level and in the sixth form. Courses are offered at 'A' level and BTEC. Standards achieved are high.





In a world where people travel more and more and the UK plays a vital part in the European Union, speaking a foreign language can be a real advantage. All students study either Spanish or French from Years 7 to 9. The courses are taught in topics ranging from being able to talk about home, family and friends to talking about work experience and making future plans. From Year 10, students are able to take GCSE courses in French and Spanish.

As well as teaching the three main languages, we do encourage native speakers or students fluent in any other modern foreign language to take their GCSE or A Level exams in those languages. In past years, we have had candidates for Panjabi, Bengali, Gujarati, Russian, Italian, Portuguese, Modern Greek and Turkish.

Drama is taught throughout the school, up to advanced level by two specialist teachers, experienced in professional theatre. Students flourish in the highly focused environment, where they are encouraged to realise their creative potential, and are taught the skills to express it. Rehearsals for examinations, assemblies and school shows keep the studio and students busy throughout the year.

Students are given the opportunity to develop a wide range of physical and social skills. We have excellent facilities and offer many different activities including Athletics, Gymnastics, Football, Netball, Basketball, Cricket, Rounders, Orienteering

and Badminton. There are many popular clubs for students of all abilities and successful teams that compete regularly in local and regional competitions. The PE department won the SportsMark Award in 2003, and had this renewed in 2006, to signify the high standards achieved in PE.

Music

An ultra-modern Music Room very well equipped with digital keyboards (PC and Mac compatible) gives each student the 'hands on' opportunity to listen, compose and perform. Music education concentrates on good music, regardless of its origin or style. Instrumentalists and singers are very welcome in the school orchestra and choir. A full range of tuition is available.

Media Studies

A specialist area well equipped with the latest audio, video and computer technology gives students opting for this subject at Key Stage 4 an excellent base from which to investigate TV, radio, films, comics, magazines, newspapers, advertising and the mass media in general. Students will have the opportunity to make their own print productions.

GREAT Learning

is a new subject for Year 7. In it, students develop their skills as learners. The course focuses on developing students' abilities or competences in five main areas under the heading of "GREAT". They will develop the following skills: G- group work, R- resilience, E- evaluation, A- active learning and T- thinking skills. These will be developed through project tasks, involving students working in groups and independently, carrying out research, using the library and ICT, doing presentations and reflecting upon and evaluating their own learning and skills.



When Students Learn

Key Stages of Learning

In 2009 students entering Valentines start their first year (Year 7) of Key Stage 3.

Year 7	September 2010 - July 2011
Year 8	September 2011 - July 2012
Year 9	September 2012 - July 2013

Students follow a broad and balanced programme learning PSHE and CITIZENSHIP – ENGLISH – MATHEMATICS – SCIENCE – PHYSICAL EDUCATION – INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

TECHNOLOGY (Design & Technology, Textiles, Food Technology)
 HUMANITIES (Geography, History, Religious Education)
 ARTS (Art, Music and Drama)
 MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE (French or Spanish)

In Year 7	setting or banding by ability occurs in English, Mathematics and Modern Languages. Other subjects are taught in mixed ability groups.
From Year 8	students are taught in sets by ability in English, Mathematics and Modern Foreign Languages.
From Year 9	students are taught in sets by ability in English, Mathematics, Science and Modern Foreign Languages.

Year 10	September 2013 - July 2014
Year 11	September 2014 - July 2015

All students continue to study PSHE and seven subjects...

ENGLISH – MATHEMATICS – SCIENCE – PHYSICAL EDUCATION – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – ICT

PLUS: a CHOICE from a range of other subjects eg from Arts subjects, Humanities, Technology, Languages, Learning Support as well as Vocational subjects.

This allows specialisation or preparation for a future career or entry to the Sixth Form.

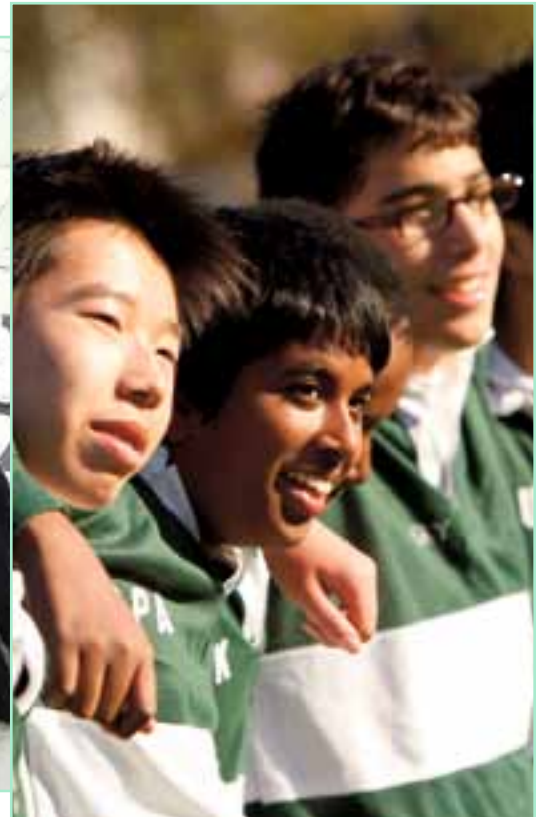
Year 12	September 2015 - July 2016
Year 13	September 2016 - July 2017

Valentines has always had a strong, successful and forward-looking Sixth Form. We offer a wide range of courses to cater for all interests and abilities.

At present, students can choose from:-

A levels	2 year courses in a wide range of subjects – both vocational and academic (eg English, Physics, Psychology, Sociology and many more).
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Vocational Courses
 For up-to-date details please see the new Sixth Form Brochure in 2015!



➤ More Than Just Lessons

Lessons are crucial, but at Valentines we believe that our students' experience of school should be more than just lessons. Many teachers build day trips out of school into their studies and from time to time holidays or visits abroad may be organised. Our recent inspection described the range of additional activities at Valentines in the following terms:

And all students get the chance of spending a week doing exciting outdoor activities such as climbing, canoeing, caving and pony-trekking at Glasbury.

Inside school there is a wide range of clubs and activities going on at lunch time or after school throughout the week. Clubs include Breakfast Club, after school Study Club, Homework Club, Computer Club, Keyboard Club, and Chess Club.

Everybody has the option of attending a supervised homework club after school, with full access to high speed internet linked computers.

There are clubs in Drama, Photography, Art, Trampolining, Football, Basketball and Netball to name just a few! Each student is placed in a 'House' (Cranbrook, Eastern or Woodford). They can gain House points for good work and contribution to the school and extra curricular events. Each

year the winning 'House' is awarded the House Cup. The House system generates a sense of social responsibility through the many charity events organised by students. It also provides a focus for friendly rivalry and is a highly popular feature of the school. Each year students star at Sports Day and prize giving evenings and play a major part in organising and running our many House events such as 'House Come Dancing' or 'House Idol'.

Throughout the year all sorts of activities and events can take place such as Myths and Legends Day, Multicultural Evening, Mini-pops, fashion shows and discos. We enter and do well at all sorts of competitions eg Creda Challenge, Young Enterprise, Panathlon, Chess, Rotary and Mock Trial competitions.

The cafeteria provides high quality food with a healthy range of options both at break and lunchtimes. Service is fast, so that pupils have time to attend the wide variety of lunchtime clubs available.



The Valentines Community Working in Harmony

The wide range of popular clubs and activities at Valentines gives some idea of the good relations which exist here. Good relations are essential to us because we are a community of people working and living together during the school day. According to Ofsted "Students make outstanding progress in their personal development and well-being. They say they feel safe, secure and valued. The racial harmony in the school is striking. 'Integration is really important at Valentines,' said one of the students. Being part of a multi-ethnic community contributes significantly to their outstanding spiritual, moral, social and cultural development."

Mutual respect and tolerance is central to the positive atmosphere at Valentines. Students are expected to abide by the Valentines Code of Conduct, to behave themselves and treat each other with respect. We have clear policies and statements on issues that can cause problems in schools. One such policy concerns bullying; bullying is not acceptable at Valentines.

Students who offend against these policies or the Code of Conduct or in any way misbehave are punished. Serious misbehaviour would result in fixed-term or permanent exclusion from school.

Behaviour is very good at Valentines. This is one reason why we are a Leading Edge School. We also pride ourselves on attendance, punctuality and the standard of uniform. We are grateful for the help that parents and students themselves give us with maintaining these high standards.

Learning in Valentines is very much a co-operative process with students being actively involved in lessons. 'Student Voice' is an important feature of Valentines. There are numerous opportunities for student leadership at the school.

Students are encouraged to contribute ideas via the Year Councils and School Council. They are also consulted about the learning opportunities they receive and what helps them to make the best progress.

Each form group elects two representatives to the Year Council. These representatives meet with the Head of Year to raise ideas and suggestions from students linked to any aspect of school life. Suggestions from all of the meetings go directly to the Headteacher for discussion with senior staff.

Student Voice and Student Leadership are important features of school life, which enable young people to become confident and active citizens.





Some students have more difficulties at school than others. These students may need extra help. This can be given by the Learning Support Department or Pastoral System.

The work and progress of each student are monitored by Subject Teachers, Learning Support staff and the Form Tutors. Students with significant learning or language problems are given additional help by Special Educational Needs staff or Language Support staff. These teachers work individually with students, work with small groups or share teaching in the classroom with Subject Teachers. Extra help is also given by Subject Teachers and Form Tutors.

For 14-16 year olds, a special Learning Support option exists for those who need it, replacing one GCSE subject. This gives the teacher more opportunity to help students increase their performance in essential core skills and enhance performance in other subjects.

The Pastoral System can provide support for other types of difficulty. The Form Tutor takes a close interest in the welfare of students in the form group and can help with problems of a social or personal nature. The Head of Year can also provide help with such matters and can, if it is felt to be appropriate, arrange specialist support.

At Valentines, we believe regular contacts between parents and teachers are very important. Each year you will be invited to a Parents' Evening where you can meet the Form Tutor, Head of Year and Subject Teachers to discuss your child's work, behaviour and progress.

You will also be invited to a mentoring and target setting session, where your child's needs will be individually discussed and you and your child will agree appropriate goals for the year with a teacher.

During the year we will contact you if we have any concerns about your son's or daughter's education.

We encourage parents to join 'Parentmail'. Via this scheme we are able to email letters home to parents and to send them text messages, thus saving paper and preventing letters getting lost in transit.

During the year you will receive two reports on your child's achievements. With the parents evening, this means that you will receive a progress update in each of the three terms in the academic year. If you have any concerns, please contact us.

Throughout the year there are many occasions when teachers, parents and students come together informally, such as concerts, drama productions, and any other events. There are also more formal occasions when we celebrate the achievements of our students. The Upper and Lower School Presentation Evenings are held at Ilford Town Hall, which is packed with proud families on these evenings.

We are interested in parental views and will consult you regularly through surveys and meetings to ensure that you feel that the needs of your children are being met.

We hope this brochure has answered many of your questions about Valentines High School.

Please contact us by telephone or letter if you need any more information or if you have a query of any sort.

"In Harmony - Achieving Excellence"



“In Harmony – Achieving Excellence”



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