



**SARACENS**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**



**DISCIPLINE | HARD WORK | HONESTY | HUMILITY**

# Welcome to Saracens High School



**“I still stand in awe, looking up at the atrium and think, ‘Am I really part of this?’. After a long career, being involved in creating Saracens High School is the thing I am most proud of.”**

Kate Alcock,  
Saracens Multi-Academy Trust CEO

A very warm welcome to Saracens High School. Thank you for reading our prospectus which is intended to give you an introduction to our school.

Saracens High School is not a normal school. Discipline, Hard work, Honesty, and Humility are our values, which perfectly describe our approach to life and learning for everyone in our community.

Our culture is characterised by acts of kindness, ensuring there is no harm to any individual, and holds character education at our core. We develop resilient, communicative, and organised young people, the leaders of the future with drive and initiative. Our exceptional staff provide first class teaching and support, so our pupils make outstanding progress. In short, we will work with you to develop extraordinary young people, with excellent qualifications that open doors to their future.

How deeply we care about our pupils and all members of our community is evident in all we do. We have high

expectations in all areas, from effort in learning and extra-curricular activities, to how pupils present themselves and take pride in their work, because anything less is not good enough. Success is available to every pupil who is prepared to work hard for it, to be resilient when things are difficult, to embrace mistakes, and the support of those around them.

We believe that we have created an environment where we can all live and thrive together, where the conditions for growth are ideal. A tour of the school is the best way to experience the positive and energetic atmosphere first hand. Please contact us at any time of the year for a tour.

We look forward to meeting you.

Dr Matthew Stevens,  
Principal







**“It is a great privilege to lead Saracens High School. All who work and learn here are fortunate to have the unique opportunity of doing so as part of the wider Saracens family, who all share the same values. Our aim is to deliver an exceptional education to the amazing young people of Colindale, to help them be the best young adults they can be, who will have a positive impact on the local area and wherever their lives lead them.”**

Dr Matthew Stevens, Principal, Saracens High School



**“ Leaders are ambitious for the pupils here and have put in place a curriculum that supports their desire for all to succeed. In lessons pupils work hard and show respect to their teachers. Teachers have strong subject knowledge and know their pupils well. Well established initiatives such as family lunch and family reading help pupils to enjoy a genuine sense of community in the school. ”**

Ofsted, 2022





# A caring and nurturing environment

## Caring and nurturing

We take great pride in knowing all our pupils as individuals and strive for every member of staff to know as many pupils as possible. Our pastoral systems help develop our family ethos.

## Learning groups and Learning Coaches

A Learning Group has no more than fifteen pupils and is led by a Learning Coach, who have a very close working relationship with the children and their families. Most members of teaching and non-teaching staff act as Learning Coaches and see their groups twice a day; each morning for thirty minutes, which includes time for family reading, and then a thirty-minute period at the end of the day when pupils start their home learning or work independently.

## Family lunch

We are very proud of our family lunch, where all pupils and some adults sit and eat together as a family. We serve each other, develop our social and conversation skills as we eat, and we clear away together. There are no packed lunches – we all eat the same food (with a vegetarian option), which ensures that pupils have a healthy, nutritious meal to give them the energy they need to work hard throughout the day.

## Moving from Year 6 to Year 7

We aim to make the move from primary school to Saracens High School a reassuring experience. We liaise with all the local primaries, and staff visit them to make sure that we know our new pupils. We meet each child and try to learn as many names as possible before the transition day in July. We also know it can be an anxious time for parents and carers, so we hold events and communicate regularly with families to support the transition. In the autumn term, Year 7 pupils have their first day in school to themselves; the other year groups start the following day.

## Relationships with families

Our culture is one of partnership and valuing family. Good communication and partnership with home are important if we are to effectively support and challenge our children to excel. As a parent/carer, you can stay in touch with your child's progress through our online parent portals, which provide up-to-date information about attendance, behaviour, punctuality, and progress. You can also book meeting times for parents' evenings and pay for lunches and trips online. Your first point of contact will be your child's Learning Coach, or their subject teacher to communicate about a specific subject. If you need to contact the SENDCO, Year Lead, or Principal we will guarantee a response within one working day.



# A challenging learning and development curriculum



**“Saracens High gives my son the tools to learn and to achieve great things. With support from staff, hard work from my son, and input from us, I believe that his dreams can be achieved. Family lunch is a great opportunity to exchange ideas and talk about current affairs with staff. Every day he says he’s loving school. He’s enjoying the lessons, already becoming more assertive in classes. I cannot praise Saracens High School enough.”**

Year 7 parent

## Teaching & learning

We have a learning culture which recognises that we are all lifelong learners. As staff, we all strive to be better at our jobs than we were last year, not because we aren’t good enough, but because we know that we can always improve. Our pupils are challenged in every lesson to adopt this mindset, and to demonstrate progress and improvement. We develop pupils’ capacity to learn so they become more independent as they progress through the school. Pupils who understand the psychology of thinking and learning, and are engaged by inspirational teaching, achieve the highest levels of success.



## Sixth Form

The Saracens High School Sixth Form offers a traditional A Level and Key Stage 5 vocational pathway to support learners into employment or higher education at the University of their choice, alongside two unique pathways. Our Pre-Apprenticeship pathway combines school-based work, focused on developing employability skills,

## Curriculum

All pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, which alongside our exceptional extra-curricular programme, enables each child to find and nurture their individual talents.

A strong core curriculum sees pupils study English and Maths each day, and everyone takes part in daily reading. We are proud to be a ‘reading’ school, and know that reading develops communication skills and enables pupils to understand the whole range of subjects by extending their vocabulary. As pupils oracy skills improve, so does their writing.



with work placements in the industry of the pupil’s choice, which leads directly to an apprenticeship.

Our Saracens High Performance pathway is for pupils pursuing high level rugby or netball, combined with the A Levels of their choice. Pupils on this pathway will work

## Character Education

Our Character Education is fundamental to the success of our young people. As well as permeating all areas of learning, we have discrete Character Education sessions, which are supported and reinforced in the daily sessions with Learning Coaches.

Pupils have the opportunity to achieve up to four qualifications in Character Education during their seven years at Saracens High School. They plan and undertake tasks in leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative, and communication to achieve the PiXL Edge awards, which are accredited by the NCFE.

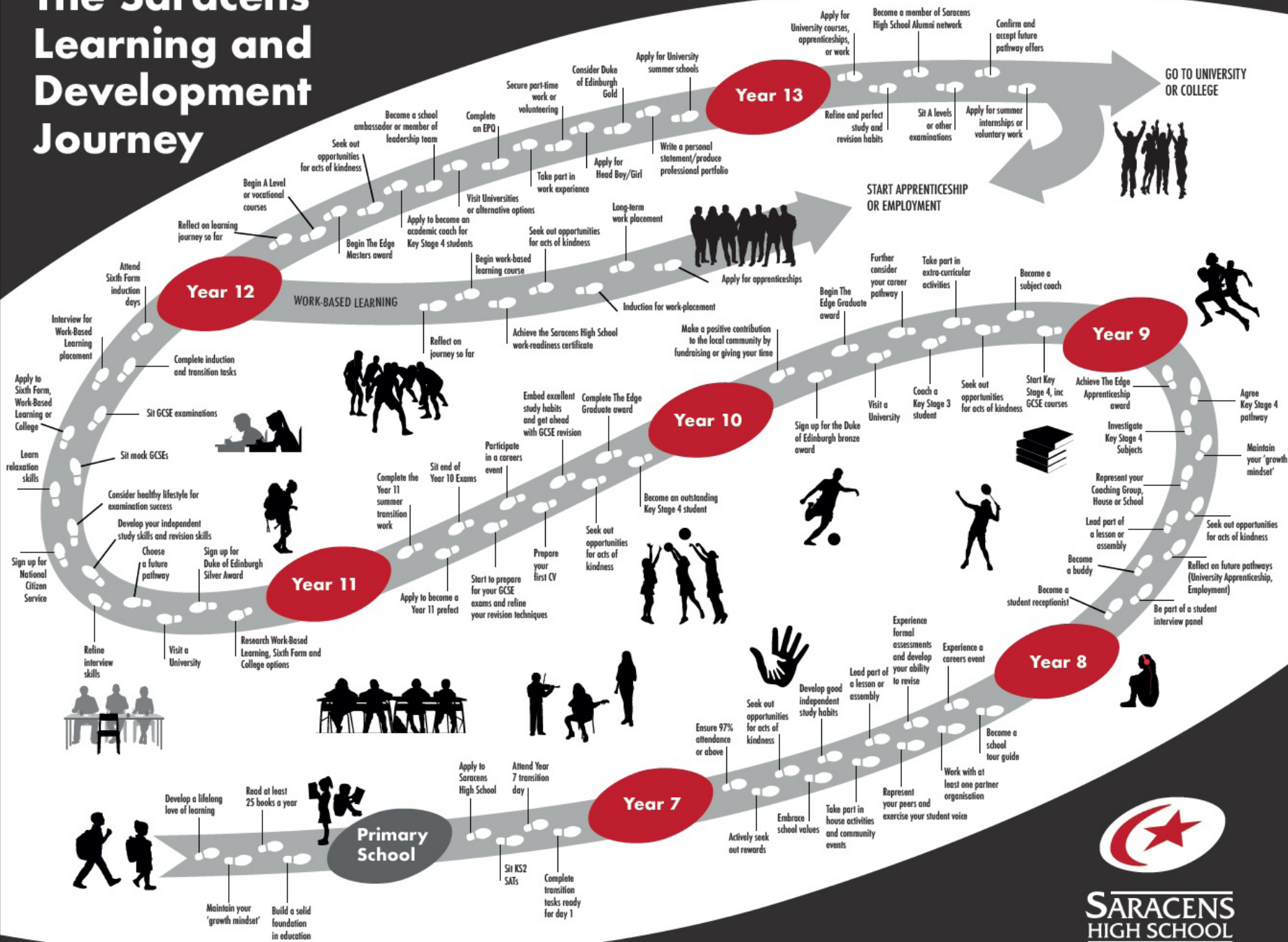


closely with the Saracens academy staff to develop their sporting potential.

All Sixth Form students are assigned a Learning Coach to support them in and outside of the classroom. This includes daily contact to support with study skills, well-being, career aspirations and next steps into university or an apprenticeship.



# The Saracens Learning and Development Journey



**Core Values**

**Discipline**

**Hard Work**

**Honesty**

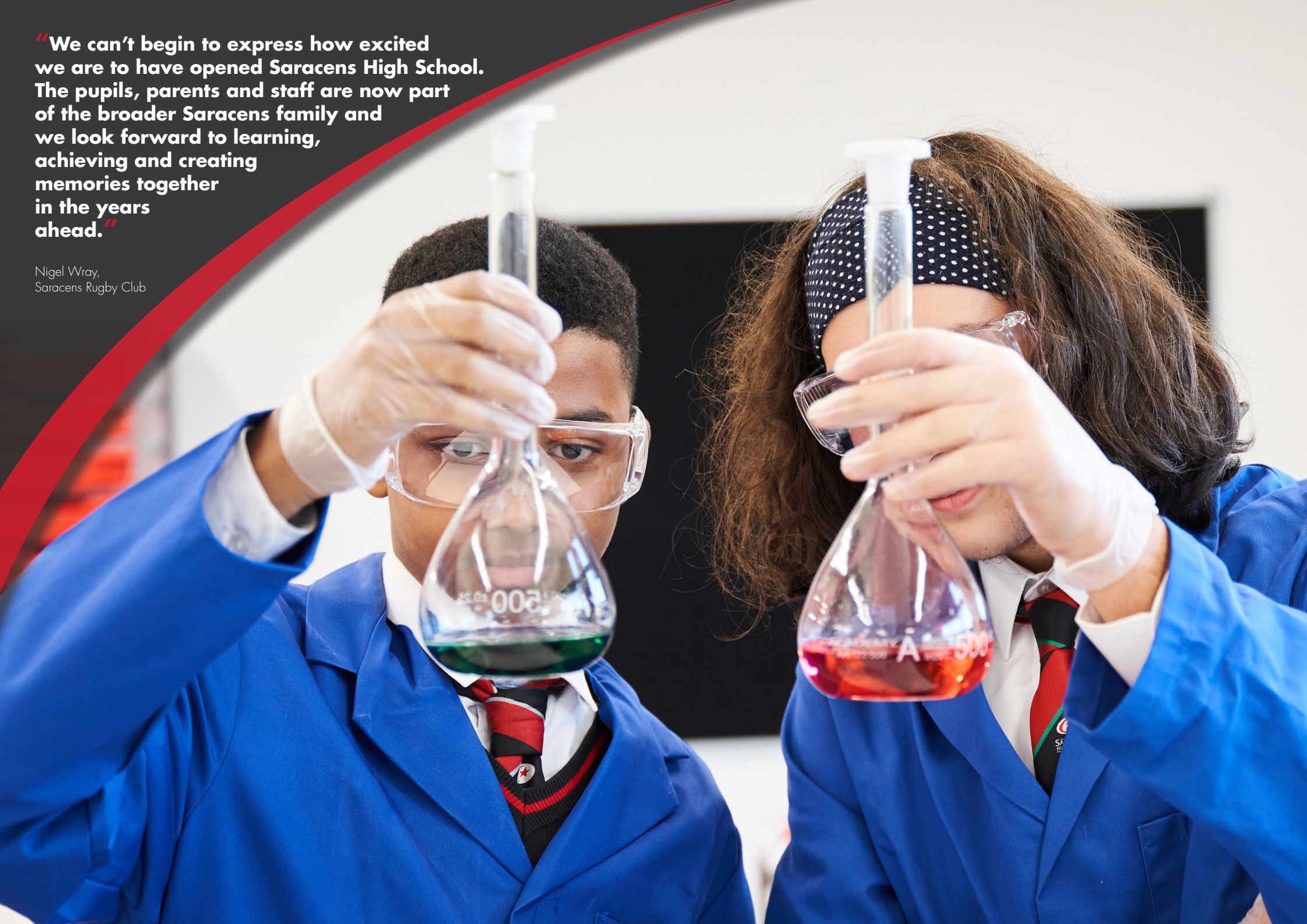
**Humility**





**“We can’t begin to express how excited we are to have opened Saracens High School. The pupils, parents and staff are now part of the broader Saracens family and we look forward to learning, achieving and creating memories together in the years ahead.”**

Nigel Wray,  
Saracens Rugby Club



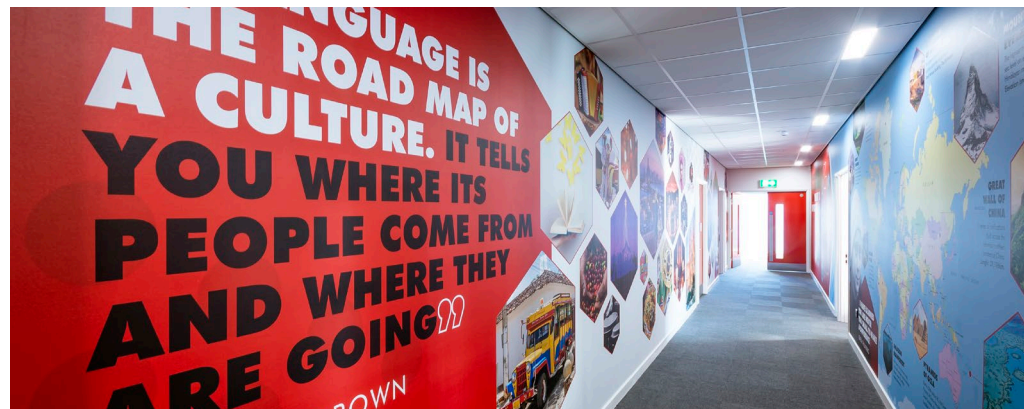


# Creating a great learning environment

Our three simple rules are to be Ready, Respectful, and Safe, and we expect the best standards of behaviour in school at all times.

Exceptional learning can only take place within a disciplined environment. At Saracens High School pupils have a responsibility to promote high quality learning in the classroom through self-regulated good behaviour. Good manners and politeness are a prerequisite, allowing us to ensure that pupils are learning in a structured manner, essential for focused study and motivating them to succeed. A visiting inspector noted *'Behaviour seen was calm, orderly and self-regulating. Pupils negotiate the school building with care and consideration for their peers and other adults, including during lunch and break. They are polite, open doors and say thank you'*.

Saracens High School is a civilised place, which has a civilising impact on all who learn here, preparing them well for life in modern Britain. Through hard work and diligence, staff set the example that pupils follow, and we support everyone each step of the way.



## Our new building

In November 2021 we moved into our brand new state-of-the-art building that should be completed during 2021.

Its welcoming learning spaces embrace the newest technology, which support pupils of all abilities to make outstanding progress in all subject areas. There are exceptional facilities for STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) as well as for sports and the arts. Our partitioned wall opens up a stunning performance/community space by combining the main hall and dining areas.

The site of the old temporary accommodation has now been transformed into a full-size 3G AstroTurf pitch, a grass football/rugby pitch, with areas for athletics and cricket practice as well.

Our aim is for the school to be a hub of the local community and out of school hours it is used extensively by local community groups.

# Learning beyond the classroom

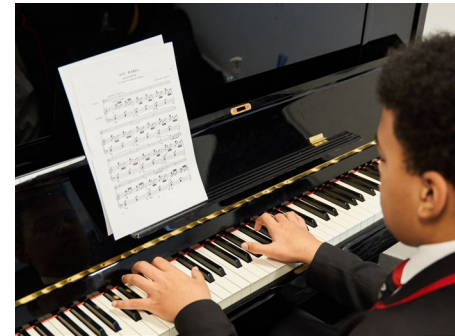
## Enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities

We are committed to offering the widest range of learning opportunities incorporating a diverse selection of topics and activities, to help build character, develop curiosity, and acquire life skills.

Enrichment opportunities take place each day through our extra-curricular clubs and classes, encompassing a wide range of activities, from sport and music clubs to science and debating clubs.

We ask that all pupils commit to at least one club each term, there is no limit to the number of clubs and classes pupils can join, and many attend five or more each week.

Wider learning also takes place within the school day through activities that permeate all areas of the curriculum. For example, educational visits linked to each subject area include a trip to the cinema to watch a film in Spanish, trips to museums, galleries, the theatre, the London Aquarium, and London Zoo. Each month has a specific focus, including Black History Month, Gender Equality Month, Disability Month, and Diversity Month. 'Our History Month' celebrates our diversity and heritage as individuals and a school, and our 'Them and Us Month' includes activities that promote unconditional acceptance, demonstrating respect, and performing acts of kindness.



## House system

On a pupil's first day they find out which House they are going to be in for their time at Saracens High School. We named our six Houses after inspirational people who all have a significant local connection: Rimla Akhtar, Maggie Alphonsi, Richard Hill, Amy Johnson, Lord Trenchard, and William Wilberforce. While most activities take place in year groups, House events develop a sense of community throughout the school.

## Partnerships

We are proud to have such prestigious partners who support our learning community through a variety of ways. Our formal Educational Partnership with the Goldstar Federation provides numerous opportunities for staff and children in the three schools to work together to facilitate a more effective transition from primary to secondary.

We are proud to be a member of the Saracens family. The club supports children and families in attending men's and women's rugby games, and we have received donations from fans to provide library equipment, furniture and technical equipment for our theatre, exercise machines and weights for our gym, as well as supporting enrichment activities and mental health projects.

Saracens Sport Foundation provides opportunities for pupils to receive top quality coaching in a range of activities, including

rugby, dance, and cheerleading as part of our enrichment offer. We are extremely lucky to have the whole of the Saracens organisation supporting our work and our community.

We have a formal relationship with Belmont and Mill Hill School which has seen pupils compete in academic and sporting competitions, and we have run joint projects in English, Science, and Art, with more exciting ventures yet to come. Colindale Communities Trust are a wonderful partner who aim to improve the economic and social wellbeing of people in Colindale. We are happy to work with them and their associated groups in being a school for the whole community.

The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators, with their remarkable relationships in UK and international commerce, provide children with careers education and work experience opportunities.





**"We want every pupil at Saracens High School to be the best that they can be, and the Saracens Sport Foundation helps by providing some fantastic opportunities for personal development and achievement."**

Gordon Banks, Saracens Rugby Club Chief Community Officer





# #TOGETHERSARACENS

## CONTACT US

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