

College Prospectus

2024 - 2025







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Welcome to Ely College

I am very proud of this college and it is a tremendous privilege to be its Principal. Ely College has a simple vision of being a great college of which the whole of the Ely community can be proud. I am thrilled that you are exploring the possibility of joining our community for September 2024.

Since joining the Meridian Trust in July 2016, the college has gone from strength to strength. In 2018 we were named 'Secondary School of the Year' by the Cambridge Evening News Education Awards and in July 2019, we were delighted that Ofsted judged us to be 'Good' with 'Outstanding leadership and management'. We are proud to have built further on these successes with the superb examination results that our students in Year 11 and 13 were able to achieve and our oversubscribed Year 7 intake over the past three years.

Our 6th form students in Bishop Laney Sixth Form had a very successful year. 95% of students were successful in gaining their first-choice university and several of our students were able to secure degree level apprenticeships and their first steps in employment.

Our Year 11 students performed exceptionally well in a wide range of subjects for their examinations. 71% of our Year 11 students gained at least a grade 4 in English and Maths with 53% of students gaining a strong pass of grade 5 and above. These scores indicate that our students are making excellent progress against their target grades. Several of our students achieved more than 7 grade 9s in their exams and some students made as much as two grades progress on most of their subjects. You can be confident that the quality of teaching and learning here is excellent.

The college is supported by the village college ethos and the values of Meridian Trust, described by Ofsted as: 'an absolute belief that every child matters'. The core of this philosophy is:



Achievement for all



Providing a high quality learning environment



The pursuit of excellence



Extending the boundaries of learning



Valuing people

We expect students to work hard and develop resilience when faced with challenges. Together we will celebrate the achievements of our students, whatever their level of ability. We know that learning is at its best when staff, students and parents work closely together, so on behalf of our staff may I say that we look forward to meeting with you and seeing you at as many college events as possible.

This prospectus provides a useful summary of how we translate these aims into reality for each student. We hope that you will be inspired to join us in the pursuit of our aims of knowing and supporting every student to achieve and enjoy their school experience.

Simon Warburton





"School leaders' work with the trust has contributed to improved teaching, learning and assessment and ensuring that leadership at all levels is strong." Ofsted, July 2019

The Trust was formed with a simple and clear vision: 'to ensure high quality education at the heart of the community.' It also enabled Swavesey Village College, considered to be 'outstanding in every respect'

> by Ofsted, to sponsor other academies, and help spread the best education practice.

The Trust truly values the success of every child and places the sharing of excellent education practice at its core. It is committed to improving the quality of education and life in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and their immediate surroundings. The Trust is dedicated to maintaining its core principles and focus as it grows.



Valuing People



A high quality learning environment



Achievement for all



The pursuit of excellence



Extending the boundaries of learning

- Appreciating the incredible trust placed with us in educating young people and serving our community
- Valuing the diversity and qualities of our staff and students
- ► Committing whole-heartedly to collaboration within, between and beyond our academies

appreciated and supported

► Ensuring that all students and staff feel known.

- Providing high quality buildings, engaging classrooms and excellent sporting facilities
- Delivering innovative learning resources and materials
- ► Ensuring a well-disciplined and caring environment Exploiting cutting edge
- technologies to expand the opportunities for students, staff and our community to benefit from learning in a digital age
- ► Ensuring that every student achieves their maximum potential
- Maintaining a relentless sense of optimism
- Providing a whole education: academic excellence co-existing with an exceptional commitment to activity beyond

Removing barriers to learning

- ▶ By expecting this of every person, every day
- Continually striving for the creation of a true meritocracy
- Promoting and celebrating elite performance inside school and in the wider world
- ► Rejecting outright any sense of complacency
- Providing positive memorable experiences inside and outside of the classroom
- Providing a diversity of experience to all
- Opening up the world to all students
- Securing the very best future educational and vocational experiences for our students

For more information, visit our Trust website: www.meridiantrust.co.uk

The Erican Kingham Corby Well Family

Meridian Trust is a successful multi-academy trust founded on its commitment to people and communities.

We have extended our reach further into Bedforshire and Peterborough, with the likes of The Ferrers School, Lincroft Academy, Sharnbrooke Academy, Stratton Upper and various primaries joining the Meridian family. The DfE has shown a confidence in the Trust, as we continue to support a range of Secondary, Post-16 and Special School in the local region.

Every child is known, equally valued and supported to achieve their potential in all our academies.

Every community we serve benefits from the facilities and services we provide.

Our staff benefit from strong networks, excellent career opportunities and a human approach.



Bishop Laney Sixth Form is our on site Sixth Form provision which provides a thriving centre of academic and professional 16-19 excellence. Offering a suite of A levels and Technical courses, it is their emphasis on high standards in all that they do, that has seen the centre grow significantly over the last few years, both in numbers of students and in their achievements.





Two of our local feeder primaries brought into the Meridian Trust family in recent years **Downham Feoffees** became the third primary to join in September 2017 with the Lantern **Community** primary following in June 2018.



Every child has a rich educational experience We seek to ensure that every student

feels safe, supported and excited by learning. Alongside high quality teaching, our rich curriculum and personal support, it is the daily routines, expectations and standards that create the conditions for success.







We make no apology for the high expectations set out in our policies relating to:

- » Attendance and behaviour
- » Daily academy routines
- » Celebrating achievement

"The thing I most value about working at Ely College is being proud to be a part of this well oiled machine. I take pride in my work & feel i make a real difference."

Wellbeing Survey 2022

Our students should be ready, respectful and safe in everything they do.

'All students are expected to wear full and correct school uniform. Arriving at school well-presented and in uniform is seen as an indication that students are ready to

work hard and achieve the high standards that we expect of them.'

A comprehensive breakdown of our expectations can be found on our website: www.elycollege.com

Our Expectations

The College Identity

Uniform

Community consultation is at the forefront of our uniform policy. We reviewed our uniform last year following student and community feedback, creating opportunities for personal expression as well as clarity on skirts and summer uniform. The one style 'Ely College skirt' was introduced, as well as shorts for all students and non-gendered jackets. Listening to our student feedback and the wider community has been a really positive experience that has ensured we settle into a new acadmic year with ease.

All students should wear plain black full length tailored trousers **OR** tailored style black knee length shorts <u>OR</u> the one-style 'Ely College' black knee length skirt. These options are worn with a collared white shirt, a grey jacket with piping and school logo, a House tie and black sensible shoes, suitable for a professional office environment. It is optional for students to wear a plain black V neck knitted jumper, under their jacket.

The PE uniform includes a House PE top and plain black PE shorts, so students can participate in sport with the pride of their House. Our suppliers also offers the optional addition of a black PE fleece and black sports trousers, both with piping. We currently ask that all students come prepared with additional 'wet weather' kit that should include a plain waterproof jacket, and a plain warm jumper.

Items specific to the college (grey jacket with piping and logo, the one-style 'Ely College' skirt, House tie, House PE top and the optional items of black sports trouser and black fleece, both with piping) can be purchased from our designated supplier, Price and Buckland. Orders for Price and Buckland can be placed on their online shop, accessed through the Ely College website. Paul Days of Ely also supply our full uniform range and offer a fitting service.

The white shirt, black trouser or shorts, knitted black jumper, black PE shorts and wet weather kit can be bought from any high-street retailer.

For more information, please visit www.elycollege.com/uniform



Inspiring learners

We are very proud of our staff at Ely College, who through their commitment and passion for Teaching & Learning, ensure that every child is given the support, guidance and opportunities to be the best they can be.

The Ely Expects Framework is our aspirational Teaching and Learning standard which focuses on 5 main areas:

Pride, Challenge, Knowledge, Dialogue and Standards.

Together we work hard to ensure that our knowledge, resources and practice in these five areas is of the highest standard, using the expertise within our Academy to support all teaching staff.

These shared teaching values ensures we challenge and support students to reach our high expectations, as well as inspiring trainees and new teachers into the profession to be the best they can be.

Teaching & Learning is at the forefront of everything we do at NPA and we are committed to continually improving how we teach and how our students learn to ensure outstanding success.

"The thing I most value about working at Ely College is the staff & student relationships. There is a lot of support from colleagues & the students are a pleasure to teach & spend time with." Wellbeing Survery 2022

ELY EXPECTS...







ELY COLLEGE



► Inspiring learning environments

▶ Literacy and numeracy throughout the curriculum

► Independent learning/home learning

► Continued professional development for all our staff

► Positive learning behaviours





Vertical Tutoring

The mixed aged tutor group system is known as Vertical Tutoring. Each tutor group will have a mixture of students from Years 7-11. The Vertical Tutoring system has many benefits, fostering a family spirit where older students offer guidance and provide support to younger students. It also ensures students have a sense of the whole school picture as the younger students see the older ones preparing for work experience, subject choices and important examinations.

The tutors will follow the students from their first few days to their last at the college. This allows them to easily build great relationships

with students and their families and ensure they receive the support they need. Each tutor will make regular contact with a child's family in the year to discuss progress and address any concerns.

An encouraging House ethos for students to strive in is developed and strengthened by healthy competition. Students will have the opportunity to compete alongside their House peers in a variety of activities in order to claim victory and win the prestigious House Cup.

House System

Ely College has five main school Houses:

The Houses provide crucial support and guidance, and the needs of every student are acknowledged and understood by their tutor and senior tutor. The system enables individual progress to be monitored much more closely and the House is the key focus of the relationship between the college and families, with siblings joining the same House.

The House offices are a great base for students and parents to find the support and advice they may need. Each House has a dedicated member of the leadership team, a Senior Tutor and a Student Support Assistant (SSA).

In 2021 we established Seacole, our fifth House for Ely College, as a result of our growth and student numbers. We included students, staff and wider community in this important process and look forward to building on its success.



Turing



Scott



Franklin



Etheldreda



Seacole

KEY DATES FOR THE FIRST TWO TERMS

Primary Taster Days – students are introduced in to their new House and team members take part in activities individually. across their subjects.

Primary Evening –

families meet the tutors and House

These represent the minimum extent of contact you should expect from us during this important transition period. Situations can arise where more support and contact may be necessary and we aim to ensure that you feel that communication is easy, valued and effective from the very start of your partnership with us.

1ST WEEK IN JULY: | 1ST WED IN JULY: | 2ND WEEK IN SEPT: |

Tutor calls home, not only to celebrate the successful first week of secondary school, but also to make sure that we are aware of any concerns or issues

SEPTEMBER:

Year 7 Tutor Evening where parents are invited to attend a 15 min meeting with their child's form tutor. This provides parents with the opportunity to discuss how their child has settled into Ely College and ask any questions they may have. transition.

IANUARY:

Parents' Evening to further cement the home / school partnership and to celebrate the continuing, smooth

Ahigh quality

that may have arisen.

learning

environment

The Year 7 Experience

Once students are allocated a place at Ely College, our main aim is to get to know each individual student as soon as we can through regular, personal contact. The timeline shown here is an outline of the key dates which form part of our Year 7 transition process. The transition process starts for students during their taster day experience in Year 6 and continues throughout their first year at Ely College.

The relationship between college, student and parents is fundamental to a successful start to secondary school and our House system is the best platform to achieve this. Should situations arise where a student may need more support, we promise communication will be easy, valued and effective from the very start of your partnership with us.

Our commitment to transition starts early, with many activities planned, organised and supported by Ely College's staff and students throughout the course of the academic year with our partner primary schools.

This is crucial because it allows the primary students to familiarise themselves with the college, its values and its culture before arriving in September.















College PLEDGES













We have an uncompromising commitment to ensure that every child achieves their academic potential at Ely College. Our curriculum has been carefully designed to secure the best possible outcomes for our students. We also have support systems in place for students that need extra support and guidance to achieve.

In order to support our challenging curriculum, we have also developed and invested in a simple but broad set of college PLEDGES that students are expected to complete during the course of their time at the college, at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels.

PLEDGES are an awards system which encourages students to tackle a range of character-building opportunities that enhance their learning and development. It is an expectation of every student to complete their PLEDGES during their time at the college.

The PLEDGES system aims to encourage and support many important qualities in students that employers value, such as responsibility, expectation, intuition and citizenship, all of which are crucial for giving students skills and brighter futures.



Did you know?

► Completing PLEDGES can also help your House to win the House Cup at the end of the academic year

Session 6

We offer a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities through a timetabled programme over the year. These encompass activities such as sports, film making, music and additional subject support.

The college day extends to 4.15pm for those students who wish to stay for after-school activities or additional curriculum assistance – these sessions are called Session 6's. We provide transport to the local villages to allow students to get home; this is booked each day via the LRC.

Session 6 can also be important in ensuring that students receive additional support to develop understanding and confidence at all ranges of abilities. Teachers will recommend sessions that will be useful if a student needs additional support or clarification. Students can also drop into extra-curricular sessions themselves if they are feeling overwhelmed or need assistance.

Did you know? Attending Session 6s can help you work towards your PLEDGES



Enrichment Opportunities

We believe in an all-inclusive education where every student not only develops academic skills, but self-confidence, life-skills, and leadership experiences.

In addition to the enrichment programme, there are a wide-range of other whole college community events:

- ► Inter-House competitions
- Extended curriculum days
- Charity events

There are student leadership opportunities to be found throughout all aspects of college life – from the informal leadership that is inherent in the mixed age tutor groups, through to the college House Captains, and local and national representative groups.

Session 6 and lunchtime activities have included:

- Archaeology Club
- Engineering Club
- Debating Club
- Computing Club
- Schools Shakespeare Competition
- Sewing Bee
- Reading Group / Reading Aloud
- Knitting and Crochet

- Charity Committees
- Chess Club
- Spanish (Key Stage 4)
- Science Club
- Creative Writing
- Games and Enrichment Club
- ► French Club
- Student Librarians

Music groups / ensembles have included:

- Gypsy Jazz Ensemble
- ▶ Choir
- Brass Ensemble

- ► Jazz Ensemble / Combo
- String Ensemble
- ► Flute Choir

Sports clubs and opportunities have included:

- ► Rugby
- ▶ Netball
- ▶ Basketball

- ► Ultimate Frisbee
- ► Football
- Dodgeball

Extending the boundaries oflearning

The students are at the heart of the educational process and must be encouraged to participate fully in the life of the college. Contributions and ideas from all students will be valued and listened to. We believe that all students, regardless of their age, gender, ability and background should experience personal fulfilment through the 'entitlement curriculum'.

It is essential to recognise that education is an 'on-going' process and students receive only a section of their education at this college. The curriculum of the college must be continuously evolving, forward looking and under constant review. The college will ensure that its statutory duties regarding the curriculum are carried out.



Curriculum **Structure: Key Stage 3 (KS3)**

Students in Years 7 and 8 (Key Stage 3) currently study the following subjects:

- ▶ English
- Mathematics
- ▶ ICT
- ► Physical Education
- ▶ Science
- ► Creative Arts (Art, Drama and Music)
- ► Humanities (Geography, History, and Religious Education)
- ► Modern Foreign Languages (French or
- ► Design and Technology
- ► Personal Development, Careers Information, Advice and Guidance

Curriculum Structure: Key Stage 4 (KS4)

All students in KS4 work towards external examinations in all subjects with the exception of Physical Education. Students in Years 9 to 11 have some degree of choice but all students will study:

- ▶ English
- Mathematics
- Science
- ► Physical Education
- ► Humanities (History. Geography)
- ► Core studies which includes Religious Education, Personal Careers Information,

Advice & Guidance

There will also be a number of guided choices designed to give a good range of choices and sound careers and further education progression.

- ► Creative & Performing Arts (Art, Drama, Media Studies, Music)
- ► Humanities (Business ► Computer Science Studies, Religious Education, Child Development, Health and Social Care)
- ► Physical Education
- ► Modern Foreign Languages (French or Spanish)

- ▶ Design and (Product Design or Fashion and Textiles)
- ▶ Sport
- ► Hospitality and Catering
- ► Hair and Beauty





Curriculum Structure: Key Stage 5 (KS5)

Bishop Laney Sixth Form is based at Ely College. At Bishop Laney we offer a range of highly regarded A Level, Technical and Professional courses.

► Fashion & Textiles

Fine Art

Photography

▶ Geography

Philosophy &

Psychology

Criminology

Hairdressing

Exercise &

Digital Media &

Sport Science

Sports Coaching

Business

All students engage in a planned programme of extra-curricular and work related learning. The subjects currently offered are:

- ► English Lang & Lit ► Product Design
- ► English Literature
- Further Maths
- ▶ Computer Science ▶ History
- Chemistry
- Physics
- ▶ Biology Drama
- Music
- ► Music Technology ► Sociology
- ► EPQ: Extended Project Qualification

- Accounting
- Applied Science
- Barbering
- Beauty Therapies
- Business
- ▶ Business Admin.
- Catering & Prof. Cookerv
- ► Health & Social Care
- Profession Programme:

► Norwich City Football Club



Adult and community education

We're passionate about providing the widest possible range of learning activities in Adult Education, not only because it is important to do so but because learning really does enrich people's lives. We aim to offer the best possible experience for adult learners in the region and were recently awarded as Highly Commended for being an excellent provider. When you join a class, you can be assured a high quality service, taught by well qualified and enthusiastic tutors. We offer a huge variety of courses; visit our website www.elycollege.com/community for further information.







Drawing upon the Village College roots of the Trust, we firmly believe our role is to provide for all members of the community we serve. The college's facilities are open and widely used by the community, and we offer a wide range of popular adult and community education classes.

Students are given many opportunities to take a lead in the college and in their Houses. They can run for election to become one of our Student Ambassadors, join the Student Council as Form or House Representatives or become a House Captain, and in doing so will work towards their Leadership PLEDGE whilst airing their views and concerns.

Each House has a chosen charity that they support and students are encouraged to volunteer in the wider community.

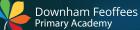
Establishing close links with younger students at nearby primary schools is also important, and we will be inviting them into the college to take part in a range of sporting, science and cultural projects. Some of the college's teachers will also be attending local primary schools to provide the students with wider opportunities in areas such as languages, music, drama and sport.



Our Student Ambassadors























Sawtry Village Academy























ELY COLLEGE YOUTH SPORT



MUSIC

MUSIC MARK SCHOOL

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Artsmark Silver Award Awarded by Arts Council England