



MEONCROSS SCHOOL



**LEARNING INSPIRED
BY A SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE**

AT THE HEART OF EVERY THING WE DO



Welcome to Meoncross School where we aim to provide every student from Nursery through to Year 11, with a world class education, within a small, friendly and family-oriented atmosphere.

Meoncross is a school that consistently achieves high academic results. This success is linked not only to small class sizes and highly trained and talented staff but is also the result of the school's strong focus on personalised learning, which allows every student to realise their full potential, regardless of ability.

Whilst academic excellence remains a top priority, we also passionately believe that emotional wellbeing and happiness are crucial to educational success. Not only does the school place a great deal of emphasis on providing students with a robust and rigorous pastoral system, but we also strongly believe in a values-led approach to education. The school has worked closely with all stakeholders (staff, students and parents) and identified seven core values – Family, Adventure, Integrity, Resilience, Optimism, Achievement and Kindness. These values not only form the bedrock for school culture but also provide the framework for our V2V (Values to Virtues) Character Education programme. A virtue can be defined as a 'value in action' and our aim is that these seven core values become so deeply rooted within a child's character that the corresponding virtues become an intrinsic part of each student's personality.

As Headmaster of Meoncross School, I am delighted to be part of the rapidly expanding Cognita Education Group which currently has more than 40 UK independent and 30 international schools in South America, South East Asia and mainland Europe. The benefits of belonging to a highly successful international organisation cannot be underestimated in terms of the development of best global educational practice, enhanced student opportunities, financial stability and the incredible level of educational expertise within the group. Whilst all Cognita schools operate with a high degree of autonomy, they all adopt the group's core vision of academic excellence, character education and the development of global mindedness.

The purpose of this prospectus is to provide a clearer understanding of what our school offers in terms of academic excellence and quality pastoral care. I am certain that should you visit us, (and you are most welcome to do so) you will find a school full of happy, contented children and hard-working, dedicated staff.

Mark Cripps
Headmaster

“THE MAIN ROLE OF A SCHOOL LEADER IS NOT COMMAND AND CONTROL, IT IS CLIMATE CONTROL.”

Sir Ken Robinson

CONTINUOUS JOURNEY

At Meoncross we are very proud to be a through school – enabling children to start their educational journey with us at 2.5 years, and continuing through Early Years (Nursery and Year R), Lower School (Infants and Juniors) and Upper School (Seniors).



Meoncross Nursery provides a warm and nurturing environment for our youngest children, in a state of the art, bespoke setting. Meoncross Early Years (Nursery and Year R) is renowned for providing the best possible care for children at this pivotal stage – embarking on their all-important educational journey. Children benefit from specialist teaching in subjects including French, Drama, PE, Music and Ballet. Regular Beach School and Mini-Masterchef cooking sessions are also very much enjoyed by all.

We take the time to get to know every child, their strengths and areas for development, which is guided by the bond they make with their key person.

We foster an atmosphere where the children learn to value each other as individuals. They celebrate each other's successes, are caring, considerate and friendly towards their peers.

Early Years events familiarise the Nursery children with the Year R classrooms and teachers, helping them to understand better their role in our school community. The annual Nativity and Sports Day help to build the children's confidence and encourage them to try new things.

We use the Tapestry Learning Journal as an effective method of communication with parents, as well as displaying information on the parents' noticeboard, and written reports are produced annually. Every child is supported by our highly qualified Early Years staff to maximise the next steps in their learning.

On average, children in our Lower School make greater progress than they would in other settings. This is nurtured by our individual approach to every child, regular assessments and tracking of their academic development, opportunities for growth and leadership, and the breadth of our curriculum. Through these formative Lower School years, children are expertly prepared for the next step in their educational journey; our Upper School.



ADVENTURE

We are curious and excited about our learning, prepared to take risks and try new things





FAMILY

We look after each other, work as a team and enjoy being part of a caring community

SMALL CLASS SIZES

We are aware of the fine balance between class size and a good social mix and we believe in an optimum number. There is time and space for all pupils to receive individual attention, whilst enjoying the benefits of team work in the classroom, on the stage, on the sports field and in the playground.

PROGRESS IN THE UPPER SCHOOL

Progress in the Upper School is monitored by a thorough and ongoing process of formal and informal assessment. This enables us to build an in-depth knowledge of the academic potential and development of every pupil.

In every subject, each child is given tailored learning objectives to maximise progress and every child has an Academic Mentor whose role it is to monitor their achievements and to help guide their future progress.

A range of Scholars and Enrichment provision gives in-class challenges and wider opportunities for the most able children, whilst in-class learning support for all students who need it is backed up by booster classes and subject clinics to enhance learning in individual subjects.





We are extremely proud that Meoncross students consistently achieve GCSE results at the end Year 11, that are significantly above national averages. In our 2019 GCSE results:

- 95% of all grades awarded were at 4+ compared to the national average of 67%.
- 88% achieved a 'strong pass' at Grade 5+ in English Language, which is double the national average of 44%.
- 72% achieved a 'strong pass' at Grade 5+ in Mathematics, which is significantly higher than the national average of 40%.

The vast majority of students leaving Meoncross at the end of Year 11, go on to study A Levels at some of the region's most respected further education colleges. Many continue on to top UK universities including many in the Russell Group.

The school's dedication to student success is reinforced by our team of highly skilled and talented teachers. Our teachers not only understand the importance of recognising a

student's strengths and weaknesses, but also know how best to differentiate work effectively, in order to cater for the needs of every child in their care. Personalised learning at Meoncross is further secured in the Upper School through our student mentoring scheme where every child from Year 7 onwards, is allocated a named teacher-mentor, who meets with them formally each term.

At Meoncross we also understand the vital importance of a strong and vibrant home-school relationship to children's educational success and thus we are passionate about building excellent parent partnerships. This includes an open door policy so parents are able to access staff members as quickly as possible. In addition, we believe in proactive communication with home, in order that any questions or concerns can be handled swiftly and effectively. We also place a premium on 'Parent Voice' and 'Pupil Voice' and, provide frequent opportunities to consult with parents on important issues, through our Parents as Partners programme.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Our small class sizes and strong focus on student wellbeing means we are able to know each child as an individual. The school is fully committed to personalised learning in order that every student has the opportunity to achieve their full academic potential.



"All students are unique individuals with their own hopes, talents, anxieties, fears, passions, and aspirations. Engaging them as individuals is the heart of raising achievement."

Sir Ken Robinson

COASTAL AND OUTDOOR LEARNING

Whilst the Meoncross School curriculum is based around the UK national framework for England and Wales, as an independent school we have the flexibility to adapt our programme of study to include best educational practice.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) estimates that “65% of children in school today will end up in careers that don’t even exist yet”. At Meoncross, we want our students to develop abilities and aptitudes that will be highly valued in the future. Thus we place a great deal of emphasis within our curriculum on helping students develop specific skills, including creativity, problem solving, critical thinking and collaboration.

In addition, we fully appreciate the crucial role of emotional intelligence to educational excellence and wellbeing – especially character, resilience, independence, confidence and self-esteem.

We want our children to be able to make strong links within their learning, and firmly believe that a cross-curricular, inquiry-led approach to learning, (rather than discreet subject teaching) is the best way for children to learn effectively. Children learn best by doing, and thus the school makes every effort to utilise the local environment and global links to add breadth to our school curriculum.



OPTIMISM

We are happy, confident and enthusiastic learners



CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

CO-CURRICULAR & EXTRA-CURRICULAR



Like many great schools we offer The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Bikeability and many educational and recreational trips and residentials. In addition, we have Passport, a programme unique to Meoncross School that is infused with a spirit of adventure.

Passport takes place once every week as part of the timetable and pupils follow a range of activities, some chosen, some directed. From Ultimate Frisbee and beach clean-ups to micro:bit Robot Wars, there is an exciting range of activities pupils can select from and be part of.

All of this helps pupils develop their confidence, independence and interests as well as, of course, contributing to their wellbeing.



INTEGRITY

We always do the right thing, even when it is difficult



"I firmly believe that in order to better guarantee future economic wellbeing and happiness for our children, we must help students develop resilience, which includes the confidence to take risks and to view failure as just another opportunity to succeed."

Mark Cripps
Headmaster

WELLBEING & WHY IT MATTERS

At Meoncross we believe that mental wellbeing in childhood is the single greatest predictor of success in adult life.



"Mental health is defined as a state of wellbeing in which every individual realises their own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to their community."

World Health Organization



KINDNESS

We are generous in thought, word and action

Many elements of modern life mean that our children and young people have fewer opportunities to develop the resilience and wellbeing vital to happiness and health. Evidence suggests that even a small improvement in wellbeing can help children and young people flourish emotionally, socially, physically and academically. It can even help decrease some mental health problems.

This is why we have put the wellbeing of pupils at the heart of our school life. It underpins our primary aim to deliver academic excellence and helps create happy, independent learners.

This framework gives our teachers the space to create engaging opportunities for pupils to take the five steps to wellbeing. This journey begins in Nursery and continues into Infants, Juniors and through the Upper School.

"EDUCATING THE MIND WITHOUT EDUCATING THE HEART IS NO EDUCATION AT ALL."

Aristotle

THERE ARE FIVE RECOGNISED STEPS TO WELLBEING. THESE ARE:

Connect | with people around you, your environment and causes that matter to you.

Be active | exercise makes you feel good and can be done alone or with others.

Take notice | be aware of your feelings, of beauty and opportunity, reflect and appreciate.

Keep learning | try something new, this brings confidence, pride and satisfaction.

Give | doing something for someone else is rewarding and builds meaningful connections.





ACHIEVEMENT

We thrive on challenge and always aim to succeed



"I believe that only when children feel safe, happy and respected, can they achieve their full academic potential."

Mark Cripps, Headmaster



RESILIENCE

We believe in ourselves and see setbacks as opportunities to try and try again



MEONCROSS SCHOOL



DISCOVER MORE

Contact the admissions team on **01329 666017**
or email **admissions@meoncross.co.uk** to arrange
your visit to Meoncross School.

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