

SCHOOL PROFILE

MODERN HISTORY

A new chapter lies ahead for **Emanuel**, a school that is rooted in its local community offering boys and girls a first class, varied and dynamic educational journey



Emanuel

Emanuel prides itself on its position as a top independent school embedded in the local community, providing a first class, co-educational and vibrant learning environment. Headmaster Robert Milne, who joined in September 2017 after six years as Deputy Head at King's College School, Wimbledon, has high academic aspirations for the school, without compromising the co-curricular and pastoral values that Emanuel is known for. "We have academic ambitions and the desire to make sure every girl and boy achieves their best," explains Milne. "We want to see children succeeding based on their particular ambitions and talents, be that studying PPE at Oxford, applying to RADA or obtaining a place at the Royal Conservatoire."

The richly varied co-curricular life has historically been a big draw for pupils, with drama, music and sport celebrated passionately by the school community. "There is a breadth of opportunity here at Emanuel; when students do well in one area it can help with results in another

by building good self-esteem leading to good academic outcomes," says Milne. He wants all of the pupils to pursue their co-curricular passions alongside their academic life, citing next year's head girl and top order batter in the school's first XI cricket team, as an example of this all-round achievement at the heart of Emanuel.

There are continued plans, subject to funding, to develop the site, creating a bright, contemporary learning environment through refurbished classrooms and possibly a STEM or mathematics building, while retaining the iconic architecture and well-loved green space of the school. Mentor schemes with Google UK and workshops with YouTube have allowed students to explore future opportunities, building on the school's links in the media and technology industries. World wide web founder Sir Tim Berners-Lee is a former pupil.

Emanuel has outreach and community partnerships in the local area, but wishes to do more. From September 2019, all sixth form pupils will be involved in Friday

afternoon sessions where lessons will be replaced with community service, either to local charities or through teaching local primary school pupils. "It's important for young people to have a sense of the world beyond the school gates - to look out as well as in," says Milne. "I believe all schools should play a vital role towards social mobility and I see our pupils' wellbeing growing through meaningful contributions to the local area."

Milne has changed the admissions process by removing, from all entry points, the current cap on the number of applications. "From 2020, there will be no cap on applications and the deadline will not close until October of the year before admission. Hence families can take their time to visit the school, understand more about our aspirations and get a sense of the atmosphere before they decide to register.

Emanuel's sixth form outcomes are thriving with the school being amongst the very highest for value added data. The confidence for parents in the value added performance, plus the range of co-curricular and academic scholarships and superb support for UK and US university and vocational course applications, makes the school an attractive pre higher education choice. At the age of 16, young people are often beginning to focus their talents: our new entry process, A level options and Extended Project Qualification recognise and harness such talents and personal ambitions." Pupils leave Emanuel for Russell Group universities, American universities, art colleges, drama schools or music colleges, and the school is well equipped to help with this range of aspirations. "We want to make sure we get the most from the individual while they're here and help them develop their talents within a caring, purposeful and happy school."

Milne's aims for Emanuel and its pupils are clear: to modernise the school and support the potential of every child while harnessing its undoubted heritage and its existing strengths. It's an exciting time to be part of the school's next chapter. Rumour has it that there will be football on the lower school curriculum from spring 2020! ■