

DISS HIGH SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS



"Parents describe the quality of care and support provided as 'superb' and 'brilliant.'"

(OFSTED)

WELCOME TO DISS HIGH SCHOOL

Diss High School is a friendly, welcoming school with an excellent academic record. We are one of the top performing 11 - 18 state schools in Norfolk, located in a beautiful rural setting on the edge of town.

Diss High converted to Academy status on 1st August 2011. We have an outstanding record of both academic and sporting achievement, and our examination results are consistently above the county and national average. The Sixth Form Centre has approximately 200 students and each year the majority of them take up places at top universities.

The school motto is "Carpe Diem - Seize the Day". We want our students to grasp every opportunity and reach their full potential. Committed to high standards of achievement, behaviour and discipline, all students feel safe, accepted and an integral part of the overall school community and ethos. Whilst we build on the traditional strengths of the school, we are also forward thinking, and seek to combine the best of the old and the new. Our aim is to achieve excellence in all we do: not only in academic matters, but also in the outstanding range of extracurricular opportunities we offer.

We have a highly valued Pastoral System, providing all students with opportunities for participation, responsibility and leadership. Students contribute to the life of the school, both individually and collectively, by representing their year or tutor group in a range of activities and special events.





THE AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

- To provide all pupils with an appropriate, broad education within a safe environment.
- To encourage academic enquiry, application and achievement as a life long process.
- To help pupils develop spiritual, moral, social and cultural values.
- To foster self-discipline and respect, consideration for others and an awareness of human rights and responsibilities.
- To promote harmonious relationships among pupils, staff, parents and the community, upholding a spirit of equality and tolerance.
- To give a sense of achievement and of being valued.

THE CURRICULUM

Details of our wide ranging curriculum can be found inside. The school has a Special Needs department which has a countywide reputation for excellence and we also provide special tuition for gifted and talented.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is based on a horizontal year system. Each year group of pupils are led by a Head and Assistant Head of Year and a team of tutors who stay with their pupils from Year 7 to Year 11. This helps to forge strong links between teacher and parents and is the foundation on which each pupil's academic progress and personal development is securely based. It allows time for tutor and pupils to get to know each other properly over five years of schooling.

“A common feature of lessons is the good relationships between staff and students, and between students and their classmates.”

(OFSTED)

“Students’ personal development and well being, including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural education, are exceptional.”

(OFSTED)

THE SIXTH FORM

The Sixth Form Centre at Diss is part of the High School and has traditionally attracted students from Harleston, Old Buckenham, Long Stratton and North Suffolk, in addition to the majority of Year 11 Diss students who choose to stay with us. Sixth Formers spend either one or two years here, working for academic or vocational qualifications. In recent years, up to 30 different ‘A’ Level subjects have been offered. Each year the majority of Sixth Form students take up places at university.

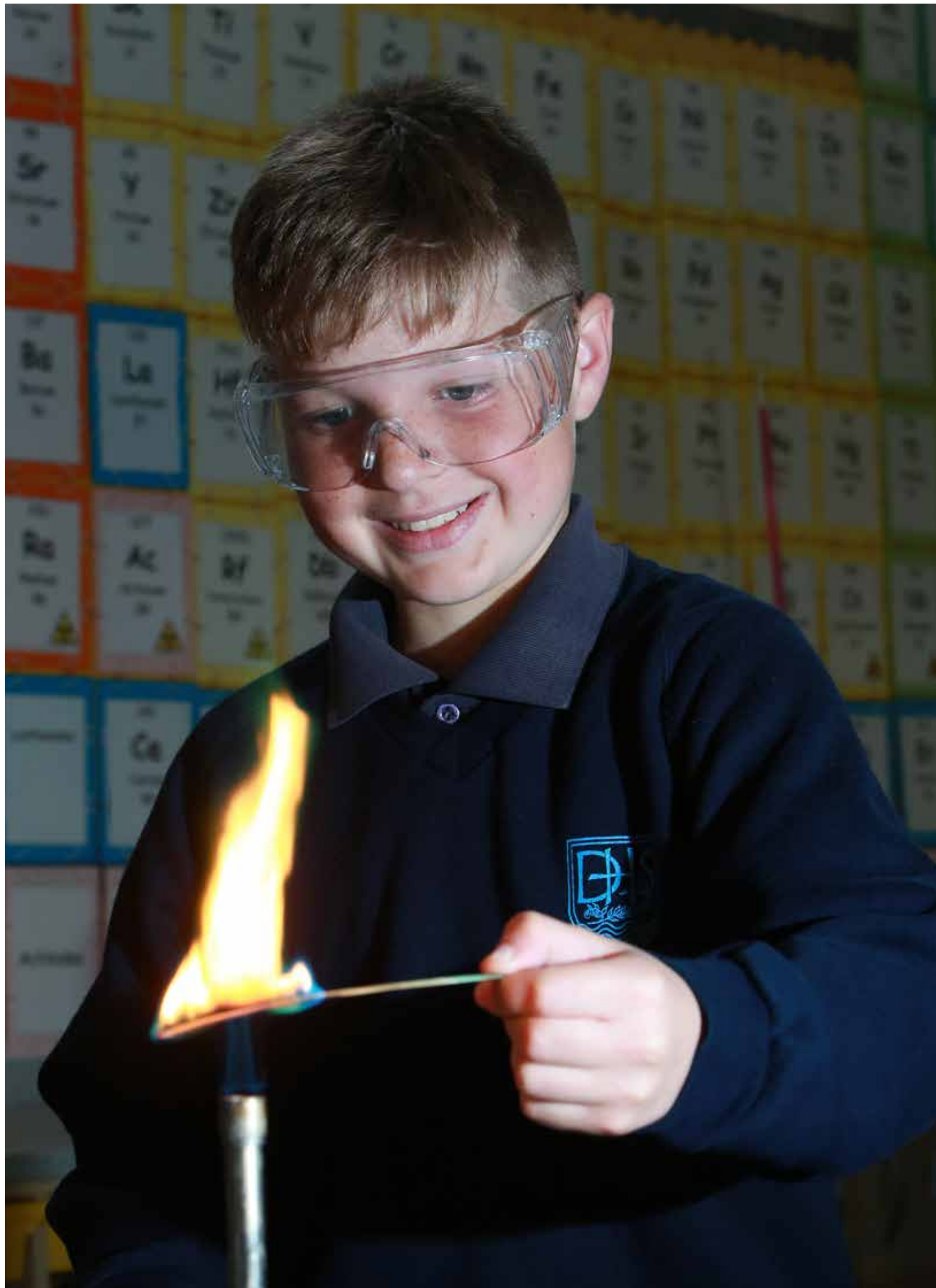
EXAMINATION RESULTS

Full details of these are enclosed, but parents may be interested to know that in recent years we have regularly out-performed the county and national averages both at GCSE and A Level.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

In addition to the usual school games teams, Diss High School has a wide range of clubs offering activities at lunchtime and after school. Full details of these can be found on the inserts enclosed.





FACILITIES

Built in 1955 originally as two separate blocks, the school was designed as a Boys and Girls secondary modern, much has changed and the school looks very different now.

In recent years all the Science Laboratories have been refurbished, there has been major investment in ICT and Media. The Performing Arts were the most recent areas to be refurbished with 2 new state of the art Drama Studios and 2 Music classrooms with a recording studio and music practice rooms.

The campus also includes Uplands House, a fine Victorian building, which acts as a social and study centre for Sixth Form students. Recent investment has provided the Bistro and ICT equipped study facilities, 2 large common rooms and 2 games rooms.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We see the school uniform as an aid to generating a purposeful and disciplined spirit in the attitude of pupils as well as a pride in the school. Full details of our dress code are included in this folder.

THE GOVERNING BODY

There is a full meeting of the Governors each term and several meetings of sub committees on topics such as finance and the curriculum. The Chair of Governors is a regular visitor to the school, as are other members of a particularly committed and enthusiastic Governing Body.

“Students thoroughly enjoy school, attend regularly and behave exceptionally well.”

(OFSTED)

“...The teachers are good fun, and there’s lots you can do hands on...”

NEW YEAR 7 PUPIL

TRANSITION

We aim to ensure that each child’s transition from primary school into Diss High is as smooth and purposeful as possible. We are delighted to have strong links with each of our feeder schools. These links are developed with visits from the High School staff. Most primary school pupils are also familiar with Diss High School before they arrive in Year 7. Throughout the school year, they enjoy activities such as Poetry Days, Problem Solving Days and Maths Masterclasses and our sports leaders help run sporting activities with a challenge. This is in addition to the Year 6 taster day in the Summer Term and the Saturday Year 6 fun morning at the High School.

OPEN EVENINGS

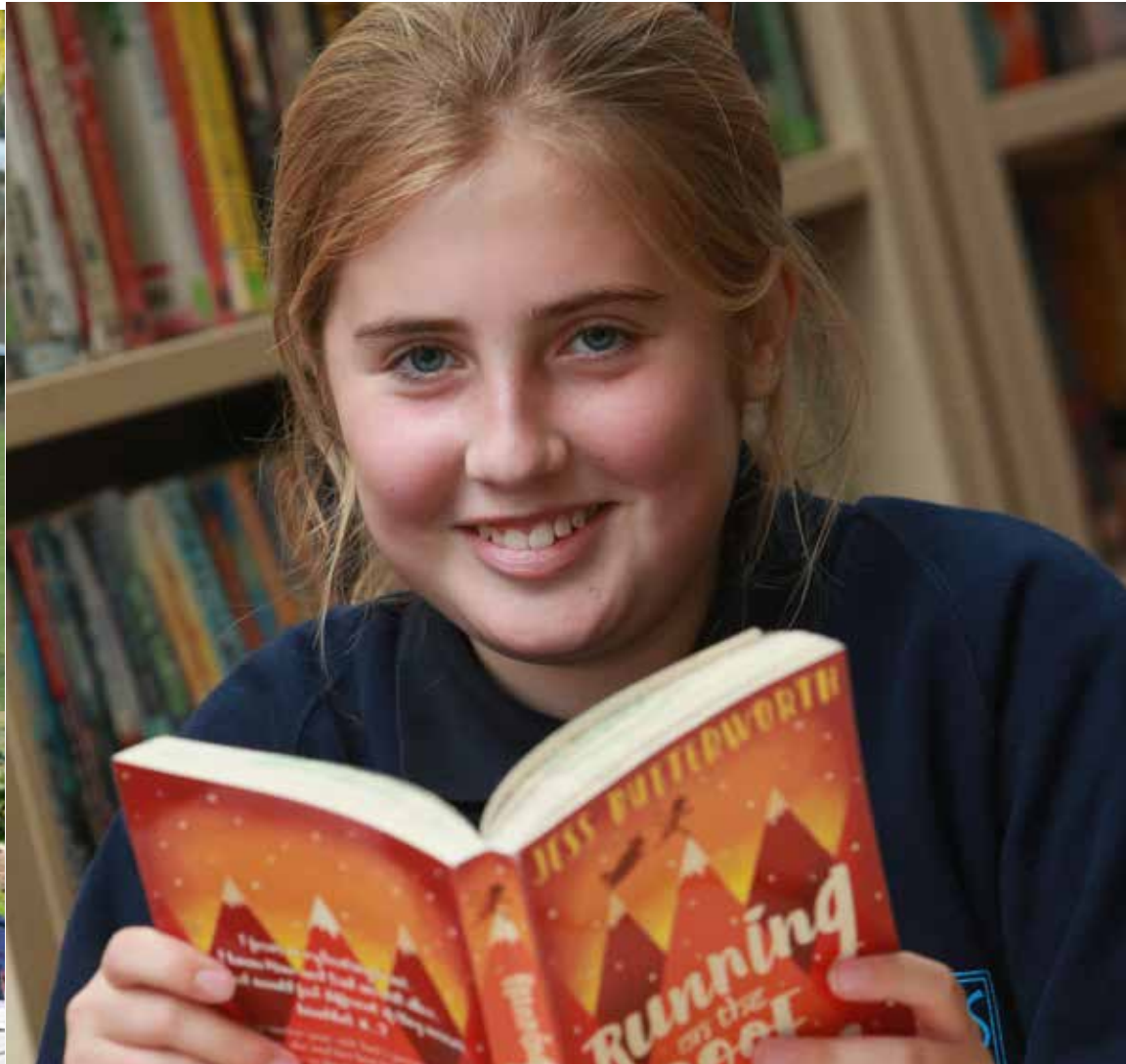
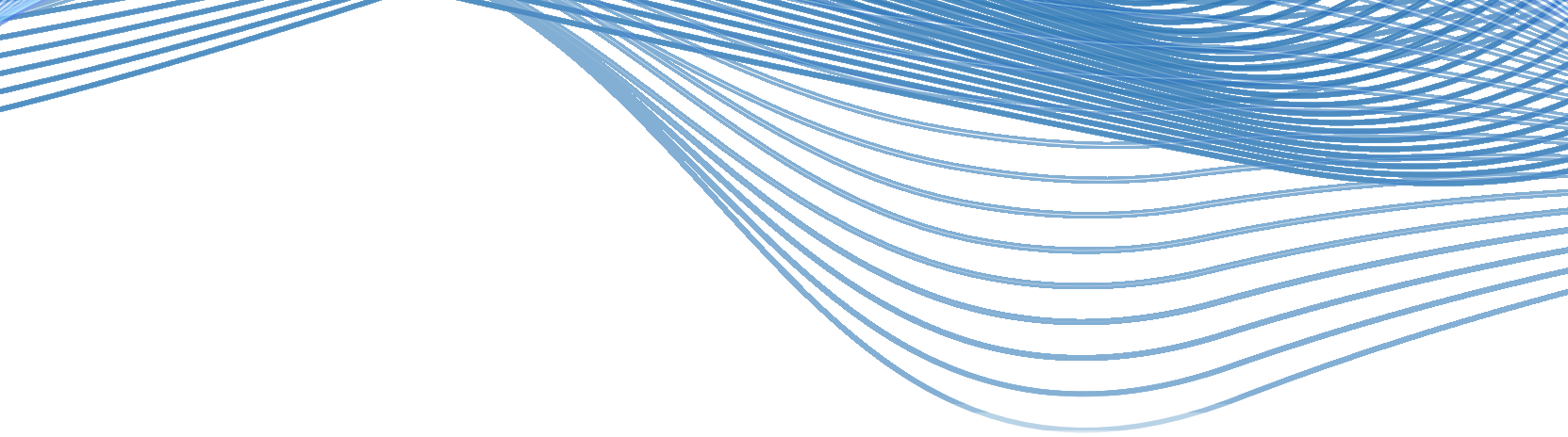
Open Evenings are held in the Autumn of the year preceding entry for children coming from primary schools and prospective Sixth Formers; additionally, there are Parents’ Evenings for all new entrants in the summer term immediately prior to entry. Any parent wishing to visit the school is welcome to do so, by arrangement, at any time.

ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE

Full details of the admission process can be found in the enclosed inserts.



DISS HIGH SCHOOL



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