



# **Church Stretton School**



Come and see what we have to offer...

# Open Evening 30th September 5pm-7:30pm Open Morning 1st October 9:15am-11:00am

**Church Stretton School**, Church Stretton, Shrewsbury Road, Shropshire SY6 6EX





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 Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

Dear Parents / Carers and Year 6 students,

#### **Open Evening for Students Transferring to Year 7 in September 2022**

The time is approaching for you to make your application for a secondary school place. We know that our local community and local Primary Schools take this decision seriously, therefore we would like to offer you an opportunity to visit Church Stretton School to find out more about us before making a final decision on your choice of Secondary School.

We are delighted to invite you to visit us on Thursday 30th September from 5:00pm-7:30pm. To help you organise your visit, we will be delivering a presentation from the Headteacher in the Main Hall at 5:00pm, with tours of the school afterwards. Of course, if you would rather just get straight on with a look around the school, there is no expectation that you have to attend the presentation.

The presentation will set out our core values, our offer to students and parents/carers and our vision for the school moving forwards. This will be followed by an opportunity to look around the school, either self - led or with our fantastic Senior Students to meet some of our current students, try a range of activities and talk to teachers from all departments.

Refreshments will also be available, and there will be a chance to meet members of the Senior Leadership Team. In addition, we have invited a representative from the Local Authority Admissions Team to answer any questions.

For those parents unable to attend the Open Evening or who would like to see the school in action, we will be holding an Open Morning on Friday 01st October from 09:15am until 11:00am. There will be further information about this at our Open Evening, or please contact Mrs Morgan, PA to the Headteacher by emailing **julia.morgan@csschool.co.uk** to register your interest in attending the Open Morning. We are asking visitors to make an appointment for Open Morning to ensure Covid-19 safe measures can be maintained.

Whether you already have a connection with the school, have visited us several times, or are new to the school or area, you are very welcome to attend.

We look forward to seeing you!

John Parr Headteacher

# Some pointers and pitfalls!

#### **Pointers:**

- 1. Make sure you know the school type
- 2. Look at Official reports
- 3. Look at how the school works
- 4. Look at exam results
- 5. See what else the school offers

# Pointer 1: Pick the best type of school

Things to look for:

Secondary schools come in two types. 11-16 schools (without sixth forms) and 11-18 schools (with Sixth form).

Some secondary schools are in groups (Multi Academy Trusts), which means they work as teams. Some are on their own.

Schools vary in size. The average sized secondary school is around 950 pupils.

Most local school are comprehensives, but some in our district have selective entry that require an entrance exam.

# **Church Stretton School**

Church Stretton School is an 11-16 school. Students are with us for 5 years, gaining excellent qualifications which enable them to access Post-16 courses (A Levels or other Level 3 qualifications). Destination success rate is very high and above the national average.

We are one of two secondary schools in a group (Trust) of six local schools. We are massively strengthened by this partnership. It means that we can share resources, expertise and benefit hugely from school to school support.

We are smaller than the average secondary and really get to know our pupils and families well, whilst still offering a good range of courses for our students. We are, therefore, able to know all of our pupils individually as we are not too large.

Like all of the schools in our area, we are comprehensive. This means we serve our community and you do not need to take an entrance exam to get in. We have had some pressure on places in recent years and are oversubscribed in our current Year 7, but we have still been able to admit pupils from 'out of catchment'. A school bus runs from this area.

# Pointer 2: Look at Ofsted reports at www.ofsted.gov

They are easy to find and easy to read. Ofsted reports are written **for** parents, so they will have the right kind of information for you.

Read past Ofsted reports too, so you can see how things have been over time. Your child will be in a school for five years, so you are after a long-view not a snap-shot.

Reports give you a clear grade / judgment. They also describe details about how each school works and its ethos. Read that to get a 'feel' for the type of school and its priorities.

# **Church Stretton School**

Our school has a secure history of excellent Ofsted reports

The most recent report in spring 2019 identified '*Pupils appreciate being part of an inclusive community that strives for excellence'*.

# Pitfalls:

- \* Avoid out of date or second-hand views. Find out for yourself.
- \* Some schools make lots of promises. Look for the facts not the sales pitch.
- \* Listen to your child, but take care they are not just copying a friend.

#### Pointer 3: Look at how the school works?

Find out by taking a careful look at the prospectus and website. Look at key details such as....

- \* Older letters and newsletters (The Link) to parents over time tell you what the school focussed on day to day and how it works
- \* What does the website show you about lockdown (letters) and how well pupils and families were supported?
- \* How well did they manage transition for year 7 last year?

#### **Church Stretton School**

The school website, <u>www.churchstretton.shropshire.sch.uk</u> shows you the excellent things the school has been doing and how we work.

- \* Letters show the positive and caring school ethos and newsletters (The Link) show the excellent work done in school.
- \* Transition for year 7 this year was excellent in such tricky times. Our Year 7 students enjoyed an on-site transition event at the end of summer term to ensure they were comfortable and confident to join us.

#### Pointer 4: Exam results and League Tables

Have a look at exam results. Look at the official Government results that are available for parents. See <a href="https://www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables">www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables</a>

Look at the schools 'Progress 8' score. This tells you how well a school is doing compared to other schools. It takes into account each schools intake which makes it a fair comparison. A positive number means it is doing better than expected in exams. A negative number means it is doing lower than expected in exams.

# **Church Stretton School**

One of just a small number of schools with strong positive Progress 8 scores.

This means Church Stretton School has done better than expected in exams.

League tables show that the school is clearly a highly performing school locally in league tables.

#### Pointer 5: What else is on offer?

What does the schools news tell you about the sorts of things they are involved in?

Try a google 'news' search. This will tell you about any newsworthy matters in recent years.

#### **Church Stretton School**

Our weekly newsletter (The Link) and also the news papers show us to be a successful, positive and happy school. Why not follow the school to stay up to date!

See our past news on our website in older editions of The Link.

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