



Senior School Prospectus
2012-13 Entry



Immanuel
College

**Imagine
Immanuel**

Academic Excellence
Expert Pastoral Care
Inspiring Jewish Education

Imagine your child attending one of the top 3% of secondary schools measured by the proportion of pupils gaining places at the nation's 30 most successful universities. Imagine a school where, in the past three years, over 80% of pupils achieved grades A* to B in GCSE and A Level examinations. Imagine Immanuel College.

Imagine Immanuel

Immanuel College is a school characterised by academic excellence, expert pastoral care and inspiring Jewish education.

Immanuel College offers each and every one of its pupils the nurturing environment and individual attention required to maximise their academic potential. It is a place where pupils flourish in small classes that offer them the space to think independently and to develop their individual academic strengths. Immanuel, the UK's only mainstream independent Jewish secondary school, gives pupils the life skills needed for them to become confident, accomplished and ambitious young adults. In September 2011, the Immanuel College Preparatory School opened alongside the well-established Senior School and flourishing Sixth Form.





Welcome from the Head Master

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Imagine Immanuel. Immanuel College is a school whose success is founded on the recognition of the unique worth and importance of each pupil. The school's size guarantees that each child is known to me personally, as well as to my teachers. This ensures that no pupil is anonymous or unsupported.

At Immanuel College, small class sizes promote confident learning and rapid academic progress. I am extremely proud of the excellent GCSE and A Level results achieved by the pupils of Immanuel College and take personal pleasure in the fact that in the past three years, 95% of our leavers have proceeded to the university of their choice.

The foundation of Immanuel's academic excellence is the nurturing approach to pupils provided by our expert and exceptionally attentive pastoral system, which supports the personal, social and academic development of each pupil. The close relationship between teachers, pupils and parents ensures that pupils' strengths are built upon and needs for their individual development addressed.

Our pupils feel at home in a school founded on Jewish values and learning. By the end of their time at Immanuel College, they not only are confident and well qualified academically, but have also attained a deep understanding of their faith and of the place of Jewry in the modern world. At Immanuel College

we believe that Jewish and secular learning shed light on one another, that Israel is central to the destiny of the Jewish people, and that girls and boys should have the same opportunities for Jewish learning.

I hope that having read this prospectus, your next step will be to contact me to arrange a tour, so that I may introduce you personally to our school. When you visit, you will discover that our school culture is characterised by attentiveness to individual pupils, encouragement of their talents and celebration of their achievements.

The deadline for the submission of completed Application Forms for September 2012 entry is the 30th November 2011. I look forward to welcoming you and your child to Immanuel College.

Philip Skelker, MA.

Academic Excellence

Imagine Immanuel. Imagine your child attending one of the top 3% of secondary schools measured by the proportion of pupils gaining places at the nation's 30 leading universities.

Imagine your child attending a school whose pupils thrive on success and where results are excellent, with 95% of its leavers, over the past 3 years, proceeding to the university of their choice.

A place where the pupils consistently achieve excellent grades across all subjects, whether they study English, Mathematics, foreign languages, History, Science or any combination of the 24 subjects taught at A Level.

A place where the pupils benefit from a uniquely supportive learning environment.

A place where 'standards are excellent' and 'pupils are well prepared for adult life both academically and personally'. (Independent Schools Inspectorate Report, March 2010).

Our results

Imagine a school where, in the past three years, over 80% of pupils achieved grades A* to B in GCSE and A Level examinations.

A school which puts academic excellence at the top of its agenda. A place that maximises the academic potential of each pupil entrusted to it.

Academic Excellence
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The Governors, Senior Leadership Team and teaching staff are focused on ensuring that the school delivers consistently impressive academic results at every level. Immanuel College produces young adults with enquiring minds, who are confident, motivated, articulate and principled. Our pupils go on to become accomplished adults with the skills and drive needed to succeed at their chosen university and, subsequently, to lead fulfilled lives at whose heart lie Jewish values, teaching and practice.

A diverse and flexible curriculum

Immanuel's broad and varied curriculum is kept under constant review. In recent years, additional GCSE subjects including Spanish, Physical Education and Drama have been added to the curriculum. Further detail may be found in the Senior School Information Book.

Immanuel College offers IGCSE courses across a number of traditional subjects including Double and Triple Award Science, History and Mathematics, courses that are viewed favourably by leading universities.

The school's academic success is promoted by small classes and by the emphasis placed on teaching pupils to think for themselves and to work independently. Pupils are placed in sets according to ability in Mathematics, the Sciences, Jewish Studies and Modern Languages. This allows them to learn at the level appropriate for their ability.



Expert Pastoral Care

Imagine Immanuel. Imagine a school where 90% of classes have fewer than 20 pupils and the Head Master knows every one of its pupils by first name.

A school where each pupil benefits from individual attention and moral, social and academic guidance on a daily basis.

A place which understands the unique worth of each pupil entrusted to it. Where true partnerships between school and home develop and where parents are fully involved with decisions at each stage of their child's education.

A place where pupils are listened to in an atmosphere of mutual respect. A place which never underestimates the support each pupil needs on the journey to academic excellence.

A place which provides an environment where all its members feel safe, valued and respected.

At Immanuel College every pupil is encouraged to acquire a sensitivity to the feelings and needs of others, to accept personal responsibility for his or her actions, and to treat all property with due care, irrespective of its ownership. Behaviour such as bullying, insensitivity, discrimination, bad language and acts of intolerance which undermines these core values is not accepted.

At Immanuel College, the happiness and welfare of every pupil are of the utmost importance. In March 2010, the inspection team of the Independent Schools Inspectorate noted 'the excellent quality of pastoral care' at the College and commented on how 'the outstanding support and guidance that the pupils receive is rooted in the excellent relationships between all at the school'.

The work of the Immanuel College pastoral team is at the heart of the way we look after our pupils. The Director of Pastoral Education and her team liaise closely with form tutors and the heads of the sections of the school. Their collective and detailed knowledge of pupils' individual abilities and talents enables them to monitor pupils' progress closely, and to help them cope successfully with the educational and personal challenges of secondary schooling.

We believe this approach maximises each pupil's potential.

Imagine a school where parents are fully involved in decisions that will empower their children to maximise their potential.

A school where parents receive frequent reports on pupils' progress.

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A place where parents not only take part in regular Parents' Consultation Evenings for each year group, but are also encouraged to initiate meetings with their child's subject teacher, form tutor, head of section or Head Master should they have any concerns about, or wish for clarification of, any aspect of their child's progress. This partnership between home and school is helped by the expertise of the School's Teaching and Learning department, which supports pupils with mild specific learning difficulties, as well as by the Careers department, which organises aptitude testing and a rich programme of work experience.



Inspiring Jewish Education

Imagine Immanuel. Imagine a school where over 80% of candidates achieved grades A*-A in Jewish Studies and Hebrew GCSE. A school which instils a love of Jewish living and learning in its students. A place where Orthodox Judaism is at the heart of all your children's learning.

A place where the school calendar reflects the rich and varied rhythm of the Jewish year. Immanuel College celebrates enthusiastically landmarks in the Jewish calendar such as Purim, Chanukah, Succoth and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence Day) and offers excellent opportunities for pupil involvement in fund-raising activities. On Holocaust Memorial Day, Lower Sixth Form students share the insights they have gained from their recent trip to Poland with the school's younger pupils.

To preserve the special place of Jewish life has at our school, we require all pupils and parents to respect this ethos; for example, boys are required to wear a kippah, girls are expected to dress modestly and parents are required to respect the Jewish laws of kashrut when entertaining their children's friends.

Tefillah

Immanuel College offers each pupil opportunities for tefillah (prayer) that reflect their previous knowledge and personal level of observance. From Year 7 to Year 11, tefillah is a morning and afternoon ritual for all students. From Year 8 they may choose between the School Minyan or a shortened davening with their form group. For those who wish to take part, there is also a voluntary Sixth Form Mincha. Different arrangements are made for tefillah on Chagim (Festivals) and on other days of special significance.

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A love of Israel

Immanuel College offers a modern orthodox Jewish education, which aims to inspire the pupils to live fulfilling Jewish lives, characterised by a thirst for knowledge and a love of Israel. Every Year 9 pupil benefits from a life-changing three and a half week trip to Israel. Immanuel College's religious education has an inclusive approach to all its pupils, catering equally for boys and girls, regardless of the varied Jewish backgrounds from which they come.

The School's Beit HaMidrash (Jewish Learning Centre), the hub of informal Jewish education at the school, organises visits to yeshivot and seminaries in Israel. Immanuel College values its relationships with the Israeli hospitals, soup kitchens and children's homes that pupils support through their tzedakah (charity) projects. Visiting speakers help pupils view problems as diverse as Darfur and global warming from the perspective of Jewish values and idealism.



Sixth Form

Imagine Immanuel. Imagine sending your child to Immanuel College where 95% of Sixth Form pupils over the past three years have gained places at their first choice of university, the majority of which are among the nation's 30 leading universities.

A school whose results reflect the Sixth Form pupils' close and continuing relationship with their teachers, as well as teaching of a quality that provides an ideal transition from school to university study.

A place where pupils determine their own curriculum when preparing for university, choosing from an extensive range of A Level subjects according to their interests, talents and enthusiasms.

In addition to academic growth, the Immanuel College Sixth Form gives pupils opportunities to develop their leadership skills by contributing to the school community, whether as prefects or subject and sports captains or mentors of younger pupils.

Their access to an innovative Jewish curriculum and to weekly lectures from a diverse and stimulating range of speakers deepens their understanding of the place of Jewry in the modern world.

Recent speakers to the Sixth Form include Mr Simon Wolfson (Chief Executive, Next Plc), who spoke about wealth creation, Mr Daniel Bazini (Barrister of Immigration Law), whose subject was the laws relating to asylum seekers, and Mrs Jocelyn Hunt (Winston Churchill Foundation), whose talk painted a vivid picture of wartime activity in the Cabinet War Rooms.

For additional information, please refer to the separate Sixth Form Prospectus.

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Creativity

Imagine Immanuel.
Imagine a school whose art department has one of the best reputations in the country.



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Art

Imagine a school whose art department consistently produces outstanding results at GCSE and A Level. Immanuel College enjoys a tradition of excellence in the visual arts and has invested in state-of-the-art photographic equipment. The annual Art Show, at which the Gottlieb Trophy and its associated prizes are awarded, is one of the highlights of the Immanuel College year.

We encourage you to make an appointment to visit the school and see at first-hand the impressive art work and photography on display.

Sport

Imagine a school that offers a stimulating programme of sport, games and gymnastics. Immanuel College consistently punches above its weight in sporting competitions with other schools. The school offers pupils a fitness suite, a fully-equipped gymnasium and large all-weather courts for tennis and netball.

Among Immanuel's sporting achievements in 2010/2011, are the trophies secured by the girls' team at Maccabi basketball, table tennis, netball and trampolining tournaments. In 2010 the Year 7 boys won the Watford Schools District Cricket title and the Year 8, 9 and 10 boys' basketball teams all won the Watford Schools District Basketball leagues for their age-group. In the course of the year Immanuel College also became an accredited centre for Sports Leadership and Dance Leadership awards.

Well over twenty sports clubs meet weekly for team practice in badminton, table tennis, netball, basketball, athletics, tennis, football and cricket. The teams take part regularly in both Jewish and district fixtures and tournaments.

Drama and Music

Imagine an exciting variety of musical, cultural and dramatic opportunities every day. The popularity of Drama, taught from Year 7

upwards, at both GCSE and A Level, owes much to the impressive school productions staged in the school's Joyce King Theatre. Recent productions include *Pygmalion*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Blue Remembered Hills* and *Bugsy Malone*.

Four concerts take place each year. In addition to the Music Scholars' Concert and the Chanukah and Rose Garden Concerts, a concert is held at the end of the annual Music Festival, which celebrates the rich and diverse talents of the school's musicians.

Extra-curricular clubs

Imagine a school that stimulates, challenges and stretches pupils. Extra-curricular clubs, supervised by members of the teaching staff, provide further opportunities to develop pupils' confidence and broaden their horizons. The clubs span every aspect of school life and include: art, chess, debating and public speaking, drama, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, ICT and Israel.

Clubs exist for modern languages including Mandarin, French and Italian, as well as for philosophy and astronomy, science and sports. The variety of music clubs available includes orchestra, the Year 7 band, choir and the chamber music club.

Educational Trips

Imagine a school that offers its pupils a wide variety of inspiring, educational, enriching and, in many cases, spiritual field trips, which help to broaden their knowledge of the subjects they study. Geographers stay at Nettlecombe Court, set in a secluded valley on the eastern edge of Exmoor; art historians visit the Palazzo Pitti and others of Florence's museums and Year 8 pupils explore Paris.

The school's Jewish journeys deepen pupils' understanding of how history has shaped the place of Jews in the contemporary world. This is especially true of the Year 7 trip to York, the transformational three and-a-half week Israel Trip which every Year 9 pupil experiences and

the life-changing Poland Trip in the Lower Sixth. Pupils forge strong friendships during the trips, and their respect for one another grows as a result of sharing the experience of living an observant Jewish life.

Charity and the Community

Imagine a school that makes charity a way of life. Each year, the Immanuel College Charity Committee, Shevet Achim, chooses a range of Jewish and non-Jewish causes to support. It organises fundraising activities and arranges for representatives of the charities to report on the uses the funds donated by the school have been put to. In the last academic year, over £28,000 was raised for charities chosen by the pupils. Presently the pupils' charities include Sierra Leone Action Relief, One Family, the New Hope Trust for the homeless in Watford, the Emunah Children's Home in Afula, the Teenage Cancer Trust and Camp Simcha.

Next Steps

We hope that having read this prospectus your next step will be to arrange a visit to Immanuel College. On your tour you will see the description of Immanuel College in these pages - its atmosphere, activities and ideals – embodied in the daily life of the school.

Completed application forms for September 2012 entry should be submitted to the Admissions Department by 30th November 2011. For more information please contact the Admissions Department on 020 8955 8938 or email: admissions@immanuel.herts.sch.uk



Immanuel College

87/91 Elstree Road
Bushey,
Hertfordshire,
WD23 4EB

Telephone: 020 8950 0604

Email: admissions@immanuel.herts.sch.uk

Website: www.immanuelcollege.co.uk