



The Thomas Alleyne Academy

# The Thomas Alleyne Academy

*Founded* 1558

2015/2016  
Prospectus



**HART**  
SCHOOLS TRUST

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# Welcome to the Thomas Alleyne Academy

Where success is expected, achieved and celebrated

## Managing Director's Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to the Thomas Alleyne Academy.

The Thomas Alleyne Academy is an 11-18 co-educational comprehensive academy in Stevenage. We are proud of our reputation as a happy, caring and safe community where success is expected, achieved and celebrated.

This is an exciting time in the history of Thomas Alleyne's. Over the last three years, we have seen rapid improvements in all aspects of our work, which were rightly recognised in our recent Ofsted report. We are a good school with outstanding leadership and management.

Through our partnership with the Da Vinci Studio Schools, and North Hertfordshire College, we have been able to significantly broaden the range of curriculum pathways and enrichment opportunities available to our students. We can confidently say that a student joining us in Year 7 will have access to one of the broadest curriculum and enrichment offers around.

There has been education on our present site since the school was founded by Thomas Alleyne, Rector of Stevenage, in 1558. Throughout our proud history we have been committed to achieving excellence in all that we do.

Thank you for taking the time to visit The Thomas Alleyne Academy. We are confident that you will find us to be a welcoming, friendly and purposeful community, proud of our school's past and ambitious for its future, and for the future of every child who joins us. We hope you will choose to send your child to The Thomas Alleyne Academy.

**Mark Lewis**  
**Managing Director**  
**Hart Schools Trust**







## Academy Principal's Welcome

As Academy Principal, I am excited to be leading the academy on its rapidly improving journey to becoming outstanding. Academy life is based around our five core values:

**Create and Succeed** Teaching staff ensure lessons are planned to engage all students in their learning and enable students to clearly demonstrate the progress they have made. Success is celebrated at every opportunity, from a congratulatory phone call home to receiving an award at our annual prize giving.

**Aim High** We have high aspirations for every student in the academy. Some of the careers that students eventually pursue do not even exist yet, so it is our responsibility, with your support as parents, to ensure all students leave with the qualifications, life skills and ambitions to excel at all they eventually decide to do.

**Take Pride** We encourage students to not only take pride in their work, but also in their appearance. We are proud of our uniform, and again with your support as parents, the students act as ambassadors for the academy in the local community.

**Be Safe** Your child's safety in the academy is our highest importance to us. We strive to ensure students feel safe and supported at all times so that they are able to achieve their highest potential in every situation.

**Show Respect** The warm and effective relationships between all members of our community are based on mutual respect and support. This provides a positive climate for learning where students can thrive.

Mark Lewis and I will work closely together to lead an academy which ensures your child receives an Outstanding education in a calm, safe and nurturing environment.

**Julia Flanagan**  
Academy Principal









# Our Curriculum

The curriculum at Thomas Alleyne's ensures every student experiences an education that is broad, balanced, relevant and appropriate to their educational needs. Through our partnership with North Hertfordshire College and the Da Vinci Studio Schools, we are able to provide a diverse range of curriculum pathways to enable our students to progress and fulfill their potential.

In years 7 to 9, students will study the full range of national curriculum subjects. We also focus on securing high standards of literacy and numeracy across the curriculums we develop, enabling our students to be fully prepared for independent learning.

## Subjects taught in year 7:

English	Geography
Maths	History
Science	Computing
Art	Music
Drama	Physical Education
French	Personal Social Health Education
Food Technology	Religious Education
Resistant Materials	

At the end of year 9, students have access to one of the broadest range of options available nationally. Students can study the full range of academic GCSEs at Thomas Alleyne Academy. Our innovative partnership with the Da Vinci Studio Schools of Science and Engineering and Creative Enterprise ensures that those students who have career aspirations in these areas can secure priority access into these schools. We have also established innovative vocational courses that are unique to Thomas Alleyne's.

## Sixth Form

At the academy, we recognise our responsibility to develop the whole student and not to focus on academic ability alone. We provide a strong focus on achieving personal best and our study skills programme provides students with a wide range of skills designed to develop them as independent thinkers and problem solvers. Our strong focus on aspiration and destination allows our students to make a successful transition into university or work, where we hope they will find fulfilment in the next stages of their lives.



**“The School is graded Good for the achievement of pupils and the quality of teaching” - Ofsted June 2015**



# Our Curriculum Partners

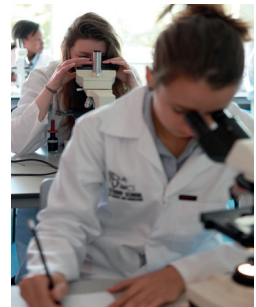
## The Hart Schools Trust

The Thomas Alleyne Academy is a member of The Hart Schools Trust, a multi-academy Trust sponsored by North Hertfordshire College. The Trust sits within The Hart Learning Group, a charitable organisation with a mission to create social and economic value through learning.



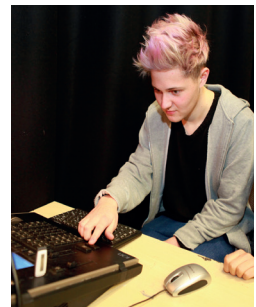
## Da Vinci Studio School of Science and Engineering

Students at Thomas Alleyne benefit from our close partnership with The Da Vinci Studio Schools. The Da Vinci Studio School of Science and Engineering is based in Stevenage and provides an innovative pathway for students aged 14-19 with a passion for the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Thomas Alleyne students are able to access this pathway at age 14 or 16 and are given preferential access to places over students from other schools.



## Da Vinci School of Creative Enterprise

This Studio School is based in Letchworth Garden City and provides innovative pathways for students aged 14-19 with a passion for the creative arts. Students benefit from a huge range of industry links that prepare them fully for careers in the creative industries. Thomas Alleyne students are able to access this pathway at age 14 or 16 and are given preferential access to places over students from other schools.



## North Hertfordshire College

North Hertfordshire College has an ambition to provide exceptional opportunities to all of its students, communities, employers and stakeholders.

NHC are committed to the principles of a delivery model of teaching and learning that engages in the world of work, equipping students with the resilience, agility and behaviours to be successful as the economic climate changes. An important part of our ethos is to engage businesses and the wider network of employers in all of our delivery models.





# The Thomas Alleyne Academy Opportunity Pathways

{ 11-14



{ 14-16



{ 16+



**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE COLLEGE**





# Behaviour for Learning

At the Thomas Alleyn Academy, we expect outstanding behaviour. We have high expectations of our students and we emphasise that excellent attendance and punctuality are essential for successful learning.

We are proud of The Thomas Alleyn Academy's identity promoted through our smart uniform. Our policy on uniform and appearance is clear, and we welcome the support we receive from the parents in ensuring students wear their uniform with pride.

For a detailed uniform guide, please refer to our academy website:

[www.tas.herts.sch.uk/studentsandlearning/uniform](http://www.tas.herts.sch.uk/studentsandlearning/uniform)

Our behaviour ethos is based on our five core values. We expect our students to create and succeed, aim high, take pride, be safe and show respect. We reward students who demonstrate these values in a variety of ways, from certificates and letters to achievement, assemblies and reward trips.



**“The leadership of teaching throughout the Academy is Outstanding” - Ofsted June 2015**





# Our Parents

We welcome parents as a vital part of our learning community. We provide information to parents about their child's progress through regular snapshot reports, parents' evening and information evenings.

Students are provided with snapshot reports on a termly basis. These reports provide information on student attitudes to learning, home learning and academic progress. All this information is sent home so parents and carers can analyse the progress of their child and see how they are participating in class.

Our pastoral system fully supports students and we ensure to contact parents to keep in regular contact with their child's form tutor to keep us informed of any issues they feel are affecting their child's learning. Our regular surveys confirm that our parents feel we listen to them and keep them well informed.

We are proud of the vibrant and active Thomas Alleyne Supporters' Association (TASA). TASA members run numerous fund-raising events throughout the year and work closely with our student parliament to decide how to spend the funds raised so that all of our students benefit from these ventures.

**"Ofsted rated "Good" School with Outstanding Leadership and Management" - Ofsted June 2015**

*"The school has been very supportive and has made the transition very smooth." - Parent comment, Kirkland Rowland survey 2015*

*"I love Thomas Alleyne; the size, the fantastic teaching staff and the fantastic achievement by children have made this school, which paid a huge part in deciding that my younger child will attend also."*

*- Parent comment, Kirkland Rowland survey 2015*

*"So very happy with the academy. Our son is excelling academically in almost all subjects, even others he feels weaker at!"*

*- Parent comment, Kirkland Rowland Survey 2015*



# Support for Students - Care and Guidance

We have an excellent pastoral system which supports and guides our students throughout their time at Thomas Alleyne's. Students are placed into one of three houses; Darwin, Franklin and Newton, named after pioneers in Science. Good-natured competition is fostered between the houses, for example in attendance, sport and music.

Each house has a Head of House, who leads the tutors and embodies the ethos of our Academy.

Year 7 students join a year 7 tutor team who are experienced in helping students make a successful transition into secondary school. Students will continue in year group tutor teams throughout their time at the academy. Siblings and other family members are usually placed in the same house group. All lessons are taught in academic year groups.

We work effectively with outside agencies and have a wide variety of support systems available for our students, including young carers, student mentors and peer mentoring, with students taking an active and often leading role in these activities.

Our Learning Support Unit is available for all students, including those with special educational needs. We have a very experienced team of teaching assistants who support in lessons and in extra learning activities running from the Learning Support Unit.

Sometimes students will need to access the Learning Support Unit for additional help with home learning, social skills or coursework. They are all able to access this facility whenever necessary to help them improve their learning and outcomes.





# Enrichment Activities

Throughout the year we provide a wealth of sporting, cultural and social activities that enhance our students' experience. Our clubs and activities programme has expanded significantly in recent years and we are confident that there is something for everyone in the diverse range of opportunities we offer.

Due to our impressive enrichment programme, Thomas Alleyne's has been recognised as a centre to deliver the Children's University programme. This enables our year 7 students to obtain credits towards the Children's University through their attendance at enrichment activities. Students who successfully complete the programme will attend a graduation ceremony at the end of the year.

This year, we launched the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Thomas Alleyne's and over 20 students have completed their bronze award. Next year we will be running groups at both bronze and silver level. Year 7 students were also able to attend a residential visit to France to develop their language skills.

We also maintain our historic links with Cambridge University and use these to inspire our most academically able students.

*“Our daughter has really enjoyed her time at The Thomas Alleyne Academy. The combination of a friendly, family atmosphere, a desire for excellence and a culture of rewarding achievement makes Thomas Alleyne a place that has been very special to her.”*

*Letter from a parent of a Sixth Form leaver*







## The School Day

Students are required to be in school by 8:25am in time for registration at 8:30am.

Breakfast club/enrichment	8:00-8:30
Registration	8:30-8:40
Assembly/Tutorial	8:40-9:00
Period 1	9:00-10:00
Period 2	10:00-11:00
Break	11:00-11:20
Period 3	11:20-12:20
Period 4	12:20-13:20
Lunch/enrichment	13:20-14:10
Period 5	14:10-15:10
End of school day	15:10
Enrichment activities	15:10-16:30

## Home Learning

At Thomas Alleyne's we believe that home learning is an important way to develop our students' skills, confidence and motivation to study effectively on their own.

Each student is provided with a planner to help organise their work. We expect students to write in their planner the details of their home learning, showing the date it is set and the date they are expected to hand it in.

The Home Learning programme at The Thomas Alleyne Academy has five main aims:

- 1. Stimulate the learning and enthusiasm of our students**
- 2. Ensure that students complete home learning to a high standard**
- 3. Ensure that home learning is handed in on time**
- 4. Ensure that teachers set quality, worthwhile home learning**
- 5. Develop independent learning skills**

At Key Stage 3 we will follow a predominantly project-based home learning programme. Each home learning project lasts for three weeks. You can find examples of the current projects on our website. We are always impressed with the imagination, creativity and hard work demonstrated by our students through their projects.

Home learning at Key Stage 4 and 5 follows a timetable of regular tasks to support students in meeting the requirements of examination boards.

Students are able to attend an after-school home learning club from Monday to Thursday in the school library. Staff and Sixth Formers are available to support students with their home learning projects.

## Reporting Home - 'Snapshots'

At The Thomas Alleyne Academy we are determined that all of our students reach their full potential. A key strategy to enable this is our reporting system. At regular intervals teachers assess the progress of all students in all their classes measured against each student's personal academic target for individual subjects.

All students are also given a 'learner profile' and 'home learning' grade for us to monitor students' attitude towards their learning. All this information is sent home so parents and carers can analyse the progress of their child and see how they are participating in class. We call these reports 'Snapshots'.



# Careers Education

We have been extremely successful in ensuring our students leave us fully prepared for the next stage in their adult lives. In the past three years, all of our summer leavers have gone on to further or higher education, to employment or an apprenticeship or to serve in our country's forces.

Careers education is delivered from the beginning of year 7 through tutor time, PSHE lessons and a careers day. Our year 8 students have a work-shadowing day and all year 10 students have a week-long work experience placement.

Throughout their time with us, our students meet and visit a range of employers to ensure they are fully aware of the diverse opportunities available to them. We are able to draw on a breadth of expertise across our partnership to ensure our students are fully prepared to select and succeed on appropriate pathways through their education.



# Community Activities

The Thomas Alleyn Academy actively encourages students to become involved in the local and wider community.

Our students have the opportunity to represent their form and year groups at our house and school councils. These are run by our Senior Student Team who meet regularly with the academy Senior Leadership Team to ensure the ideas and concerns of students are heard. Our students have been involved in leading many changes around the academy and we are proud of our positive approach to hearing students' opinions and ideas.

Each house chooses a charity they wish to support over the year. The students organise events to raise funds for their charity. This year we also raised funds to enable our former Head Girl, Julia White, to teach English in Cambodia.

The school participates in the Macmillan Coffee Morning each September and we are the first school in the country to take part in a three-year Cancer Awareness research project.

Our students participate in the Remembrance Day Parade and lay a wreath at the Town Memorial on the Bowling Green. They also help lay a wreath at our own Memorial Gates, with members of the Old Alleynians' Association. This year we are working with Stevenage Family History Society to share their research on the Alleynians who fell in World War I with our community.

Each Christmas our students organise food parcels from each form, which are donated to the Stevenage Haven, a charity for homeless people in our community.

Our students have set up an Eco-Warriors group to ensure we are running our academy in a sustainable way.

We are proud of the time and energy our students commit to supporting our local and wider community.







# The Thomas Alleyne Supporters' Association (TASA)

We are delighted to have an active parent and teacher association at The Thomas Alleyne Academy. This is called the Thomas Alleyne Supporters' Association (TASA) and is involved in supporting the school through a range of fundraising initiatives.

We welcome new members to TASA. Anyone who is interested should visit the TASA pages on our website for further details.



# The Old Alleynians' Alumni Association

We are proud to belong to a school with so much history. We have an active alumni association, The Old Alleynians, who host an annual dinner and maintain an interest in the development of our academy. For further details please visit our website.

*“We attended the recent year 9 options evening which was brilliant. We felt very inspired and it was appreciated that the teachers took time to talk late into the evening.”*

*Parent comment from the Kirkland Rowell Survey 2015*









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**Follow us on Twitter:**

**@Thomas\_Alleynes**

