



**The Charter School**  
East Dulwich

# Open Day

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023

*Visitor Pack*



## Welcome!

I would like to welcome all our visiting families to our Open Day at The Charter School East Dulwich. We are excited to show you our school and the wide variety of learning and development that you can take part in, if you join us here.

In this pack you can find answers to our most frequently asked questions and a map of the school. Please use the maps to walk around our site and see all the different subject and enrichment activities on offer. There are student and staff guides stationed around the school so please do speak to them to find out more.

I will be making my presentation in the Drama Studio for families at 3:40pm, 4:40pm, 5:40pm and 6:40pm so I look forward to meeting with you then and sharing with you about our school.

I hope you have an enjoyable and interesting time with us here today.

Best Wishes

*Ms Harbottle, Headteacher*



## Frequently Asked Questions

### When do I need to apply for a place?

If your child is due to start secondary school in September 2024 you must apply by completing a common application form online. This is available now. Applications must be submitted before the **closing date of 31 October 2023**. However, we would encourage you to submit your application by **Friday, 20 October 2023 to your home borough**. Our Admissions Policy is on our school website under *About Us – Admissions – Admissions Policy*: <https://www.chartereastdulwich.org.uk/page/?title=Admissions+Policy&pid=23>

### How do I complete the common application form?

If you are a Southwark resident, you must apply online by visiting [www.southwark.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/schooladmissions). If you live in another borough, you must complete the admission application for the borough in which you live, even if you would like to apply for a school in Southwark. If you need help with completing your application, please call Southwark Admissions on 020 7525 5337.

### Where do I return the common application form to?

All applications must be submitted to Southwark Education no later than 31 October 2023. The online application will not be valid unless it is submitted by 23.59 hours on 31 October 2023. You will then receive an application reference number by email confirming that your application has been submitted successfully. If you do not receive this email, please submit your application again as it will not have been received. There is **no** supplementary application form required for The Charter School East Dulwich.

### Do you have a catchment area?

The Charter School East Dulwich DOES NOT have a fixed catchment area. Every year, the school determines the straight-line distance between its front gate (also called its 'nodal point') and the home addresses of those students making an application for admission. In 2024, the school will offer places to the 240 students living closest to its nodal point. In 2023, the successful applicant who lived furthest from the school was approximately 2208 metres away; but this distance will vary year-on-year based on the number of students making applications.

### What happens after I have submitted my application form?

On 1 March 2024 Southwark Admissions will email all applicants who applied by the closing date of 31 October 2023. This letter will let you know which school can offer your child a place.

### What if I am given a place at The Charter School East Dulwich but decide to accept a place at another school?

Last year more than 1034 families applied for a place at The Charter School East Dulwich. For those who are not offered a place initially it can be an extremely stressful time. Therefore, to allow us to offer places from the waiting list, please can you let us and Southwark Admissions know as soon as possible if you do not want to take up your





child's place at The Charter School East Dulwich by emailing – [admissionoffice@chartereastdulwich.org.uk](mailto:admissionoffice@chartereastdulwich.org.uk) with your child's name and the name of the school they will be attending.

## **How do you make students feel ready for starting at The Charter School East Dulwich?**

We work very hard at offering our new students a positive experience on starting the school. In July 2024, we will hold an Induction Day for our new students to make their step to secondary school as seamless as possible. We are particularly conscious of the young people that may come with just a few friends from their primary school and take account of that in our planning. Visits to feeder primary schools take place between May and July and ensure that students feel ready for their entry to secondary school, as well as enabling staff to have a clear understanding of the strengths and needs of each individual pupil.

## **What is your homework policy?**

All subjects give homework from Year 7. All homework is posted on the school virtual learning environment, through Google Classroom, so parents and students can see what homework has been set.

## **What are the class sizes?**

Research consistently shows that class sizes are less important than quality of teaching in determining student progress. However, we understand that parents will be concerned with the size of their child's teaching groups. At The Charter School East Dulwich, class sizes can vary depending on the subject being taught. In 2022, the average class size was 27. Students with specific learning needs also have the opportunity to work in smaller groups in some subjects.

## **What about setting and/or streaming?**

Setting typically involves grouping students with similar prior attainment into common teaching groups for English and Maths. Although this makes intuitive sense, there is no evidence to suggest that it actually benefits any students and a large amount of evidence suggests that mixed ability teaching support learners of all abilities most effectively. We do not set students in the vast majority of subjects The Charter School East Dulwich.

Streaming is where different groups of students in the same school work towards substantially different sets of qualifications at ages 16 and/or 18. While students at The Charter School East Dulwich enjoy an element of choice in the selection of GCSE subjects, this in no way approaches streaming.

## **Do you run any school trips?**

Yes, we organise many trips every year. Last year, students visited a range of universities and careers-based events; Bewl Water in Kent for a team-building activity day; Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award camping trips, The Globe Theatre for performances of Shakespeare. We also have a range of rewards trips that take place each year, for students who have high levels of merits.

## **What about music and am I required to buy my own instrument?**

The music provision at The Charter School East Dulwich is excellent. Our highly committed and motivated Head of Music has an exceptionally diverse range of musical experience that she uses further to inspire our students.



In addition, we have instrumental teachers teaching nearly 40 students instruments, in small groups (up to four) or individually. Study is offered in a range of instruments including strings, brass, woodwind, vocals, keyboard, drums and guitar. These are paid for separately by the student. At the moment, many students own their own instruments.

We run choir, steel-pans, orchestra, keyboard and song-writing clubs after school.

### **My child loves art: what support do you offer?**

We work with a number of leading organisations, such as Tate Modern, Dulwich Picture Gallery, Tate Modern and Camberwell College of Art. Our students work with professional artists and take part in external competitions such as Amnesty International and Saatchi School.

### **I often see a police officer outside school, why is this?**

Every school in Southwark has a dedicated police officer and we are no exception. If the police are aware of any immediate threat, they will react immediately and visibly, hence the numbers of police sometimes seen. PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers in uniform but not police) regularly patrol all the local area after schools finish, ensuring students are not victims of crime.