

Aims & Ethos

Student-friendly Version

Newbury Hall is a safe and special place. We help pupils on their journey from where they are now to wherever they want to go, and that means anywhere at all. Everything is designed so that pupils, lessons, activities and the school all fit together with the pupil in the middle as the most important person. As a pupil, you learn to think for yourself, to decide for yourself and to plan for yourself. We will always understand your life choices, whatever they are, and help you follow them.

Newbury Hall is a very good place for pupils who:

- Know what they want to do but couldn't do it in another school.
- Don't know what they want and need some help to explore options.

Pupils at Newbury Hall become more confident because we help them understand that they can do anything. If you know what you want, we can clear the path for you by stopping doing other unimportant things. If you don't know what you want, we can help you look for things you enjoy and are good at so that you can get better and better.

Everybody who helps you is open-minded:

- We don't think some interests are better than others. Whatever interest you have, we can help you.
- We understand that your choices about life are serious to you, and they will be serious to us, too.
- We give you lots of options so you can compare them.
- We respect your plans. Nothing is 'wrong', 'bad' or 'silly'.
- We make lessons and activities that are exactly what you need, not the same for everyone.

The three most important words at school (our school ethos) are:

- **Gusto** is the energy you find when you are doing what you enjoy.
- **Grit** means that you keep trying until you succeed. You never give up.
- **Growth** means that you become better and better.

Over time, you will get more knowledge and skills and your English will improve a lot. At the same time, your confidence will grow. With extra knowledge, skills, English and confidence you have better chances of success in life because these things are so important for school, university, working life, etc. Even if your English is very low at the start, we will organise lessons and activities around what you want to do in life. Vocabulary is very important at Newbury Hall, but you will also learn lots about how to 'think better' and have lessons about ethics, social issues and life generally, etc. We call it 'academic literacy'.

Pupils come from different parts of the world and so you will meet people from different cultures, who think differently and who have had very different lives to you. We can help you feel confident in yourself, but also in groups of people from all over the world so that you enjoy meeting others and learning from them. You can have a big life in a small school.

We do our best for everyone:

- A welcoming, safe and helpful place that feels like 'home'
- Micro-classes of 1 to 8 pupils and one-to-one lessons if you ask or need them
- Teachers who are free to do exactly what you need
- Lessons, activities and experiences to help you understand British life and become a better person in general
- Sports, creative activities like art and visits to places of cultural interest
- Help with moving to another school
- A school culture that says 'anything is possible'