



Newbury Hall School

Statement of purpose

A comprehensive meaning of life is elusive, the future is difficult to predict and everyone is different, so how should schools decide what to educate young people towards, and how? Such fundamental questions do not offer easy, static answers, but provide a dynamic and exciting imperative compelling us forwards and a tether guiding our reflections.

No matter how outstanding they may be, neither individual schools nor education systems can hope to give every pupil everything they may need within their 'normal', long-term programmes. By reflecting on both the systemic and idiosyncratic imperfections in pupils' prior schooling, Newbury Hall is able to support and enrich pupils' long-term education and ambitions.

Designing and delivering short, incisive programmes to give each pupil precisely those learning experiences that they cannot find elsewhere in their long-term schooling is an infinite project of great worth.

Learn to learn

The purpose of education is to learn to learn. With this, it will matter little what novelty is required or unanticipated ambitions arise in the future; pupils will have the attitudes, behaviours and tools they need to respond and create anew.

The short-term present for the long-term future

As a small school specialising in short-stay courses, Newbury Hall does not directly impact large cohorts over several years. By quickly and deeply changing a small number of people in important ways, our influence cascades well beyond our school gates.

As adults, our pupils may take decisions impacting the lives of large numbers of people, society and the environment more generally. We want them to hesitate in their decision-making just long enough to think and decide 'better', both for themselves and for others.

Signed:

Alex McNish, Head of School & Education, on 01.03.20