



## INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Morpeth is an 8 form entry, mixed, 11-19 comprehensive school situated in Bethnal Green, Tower Hamlets. We are a Specialist School for the Arts (Art, Drama and Music). Our pupils reflect very much our local community with the two largest ethnic groups being white pupils and those of Bangladeshi origin. However, there are pupils from many other ethnic groups notably Caribbean, Somali, Turkish and Chinese and we see this diversity as one of the strengths of the school. In our multicultural environment one of our priorities is to develop trust and understanding between pupils from different backgrounds. We are also a fully inclusive school and our school community welcomes pupils with a range of special educational needs. All pupils in Years 7-11 wear school uniform and there is generally excellent support from parents. Muslim girls may wear salwar kameez in uniform colours.

The last few years have seen many changes at Morpeth. The first of these can be seen in our buildings and other resources. The entire school has been rebuilt or refurbished to a very high standard and we have been able to invest heavily in computers, books and other learning materials. A new Performing Arts building was completed in October 2007. We have embarked on a fantastic Building Schools for the Future project which will see a complete rebuild of our North Wing Block (currently occupied by Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies, History, Geography and Support), a new Music Block and a Table Tennis Centre of Excellence, as well Multi Use Games Areas in the playground

The second major change has been the levels of achievement attained by our pupils. Our 5 A\*-C figure at GCSE has increased from 11% to 70%, and, more importantly, we have been at or above 50% A\*-C (including English and Maths) for the last four years (58% in 2011). Almost 100% of the pupils achieve 5 A\*-G passes.

The third change has been in our popularity within the local community, as measured by those pupils wanting to come to Morpeth. In the last few years we have gone from the lowest number of families in Tower Hamlets making us their first choice to one of the highest.

September 2011 sees the start of a new curriculum structure for us, with a two-year Key Stage 3 (Years 7 and 8) and a three-year Key Stage 4 (Years 9 – 11). This will enable us to offer two option subjects in each year of Key Stage 4, alongside the core subjects of English, Maths, Science, PE and Religious Studies. It will also enable greater flexibility and personalisation for pupils and provide some opportunities for different groupings, for example mixed aged option groups.

In September 2009 we entered into a 6<sup>th</sup> Form Partnership with two other local secondary schools – Oaklands and Swanlea. The new 6<sup>th</sup> Form – Cambridge Heath – is based in the Wessex Centre, although some teaching also takes place in all three schools. A number of Morpeth staff now teach at both Morpeth and Cambridge Heath. We remain excited about the developments and opportunities that having a Sixth Form brings.

The school is committed to creating an environment in which all pupils and staff are equally valued and respected. Morpeth is an extremely friendly school with excellent relationships and there is much importance placed on enhancing the school ethos outside the classroom. Parents and carers are encouraged to participate in the life of the school. A significant number of our ex-pupils return to act as academic mentors or support pupils in lessons. There is an extensive programme of residential experiences and there is a wide range of lunchtime and after school activities, particularly in sport and music. We aim to enhance and enrich the basic curriculum through developing these extra-curricular opportunities and raising aspirations. We work very closely with four of our local primary schools on a range of projects, many of which involve our staff teaching in the primary schools.

We have around 90 teaching staff and over 70 support staff who share a strong belief in what our pupils can achieve. Our pastoral system is a strength of the school and, wherever possible, our tutors remain with their class throughout their 5 years at Morpeth.