Being a great school is about providing the best possible education - one that creates an appetite for life and develops the talent to live it productively.

It is about learning and scholarship, nurtured by exceptional teachers who are leading lights in their chosen fields.

It is about combining a breadth of experience through sport, creative and performing arts, CCF and many other character-forming activities.

It is about providing pastoral care that goes well beyond basic welfare and focuses on developing and maturing the individual, both emotionally and spiritually.

And, vitally, it is about preparing young people for life after school at their chosen university and beyond – equipping them to become suitably qualified and confident to lead, to serve and to be of good influence.

These values underpin everything we do and achieve at Harrow. We have a distinguished history and heritage that inspires and enriches the daily life of our entire community. As stewards of many unique and cherished traditions, we follow in the footsteps of 'The Giants of Old'. Taking the best of the past while focusing on the future, we are constantly looking to strengthen our reputation as one of the finest schools in the world.

Harrow provides a truly outstanding environment for talented boys who love learning and have the potential to make a real difference in life.

Do come and visit us and put these assertions to the test.

Jim Hawkins
Head Master
Arriving on the Hill, it feels like you are entering a traditional collegiate university town, or in this case, village. At every turn, you are greeted by beautiful architecture and become aware of history dating back over 400 years. There are glorious gardens and acres of parkland, a nine-hole golf course and even a School Farm. In fact, it will take you months to explore all the fascinating spaces that are tucked away within Harrow School.

On the High Street the boys (who wear distinctive straw hats) and beaks (the teachers) ‘cap’ one another as they go about their business. This may seem quaint, but we rather like it. Acknowledging one another in this way says something about our community. We don’t just wander through life plugged into our own little world, but are continually mindful of others. We believe that effective schools are built on strong relationships between people.

As well as the ancient buildings, the carved name-boards, in which the boys take such pride, our own unusual form of football and our archaic slang, we have a tradition that is truly unique — namely, the communal singing of the famous Harrow Songs.

There is something about these eccentric and uplifting Victorian songs that unites us together as a School community. As well as developing strong corporate spirit, they give boys an overwhelming sense of belonging to something much bigger than each of them. This is both humbling and inspiring — providing young men with invaluable experiences as they mature and prepare to make their mark in the world.
At Harrow we have an impressive array of highly qualified, excellent academics that have the talent to inspire young men. This inspiration spills out far beyond the standard timetable of lessons into what is becoming acknowledged as Harrow’s ‘super-curriculum’. Here we aim to achieve excellence in scholarship, reading, research, reflection, debate and other intellectual activity.

Our boys want to be in the form room (the Harrow classroom) for they know that every day, there will be new things to learn and discover.

On virtually every night of the week there are seminars and society meetings. Thanks to the School’s outstanding reputation and close proximity to London, we are able to attract eminent people from all walks of life to come and speak to our various intellectual societies and enrich and broaden the boys’ experience of academic and cultural life.

By establishing habitual reading, extended project work, an elective system (challenging, ‘off piste’ academic options in small groups), enrichment, debate and philosophy in the curriculum, our pupils develop the freedom and confidence to think and speak independently – maturing into precisely the candidates that admissions tutors at leading universities are seeking. Excellent grades are a ‘given’, but being an articulate, well-rounded character with a wealth of experience both in and out of the form room helps to set our boys apart.

This eclectic academic diet is not just for the intellectual elite. We think every Harrow boy, wherever he stands in our spectrum of ability, should be challenged and find education both enormously stimulating and great fun.

Virtually all of our boys take up places at the selective universities. Boys who are heading towards Oxbridge, Ivy League and other very competitive institutions are given specific guidance and preparation. Our Universities Team works with the House Masters to ensure that each boy has the best preparation for this next important step in his education. One very important measure of our success is gained through analysing the destinations of our boys.
Sport enriches the life of every boy throughout his time at Harrow. With afternoon games five times a week, sporting fixtures against other schools and the chance to compete regularly in House matches, boys are kept healthy and active.

Under the expert guidance of some of the country’s leading coaches, boys develop their skills, character and confidence. Through games such as rugby, soccer, cricket and Harrow football, they learn how to be team players. Equal emphasis is placed on the many individual sports offered here that cultivate resilience, self-discipline and enjoyment.

Surrounded by acres of sports fields, astroturf pitches, a golf course, swimming pool, sports centre, tennis, rackets and fives courts, Harrow has a breadth of sporting opportunities to match every interest and ability.

Our elite sportsmen have an impressive record of achieving excellent standards and some go on to enjoy successful, professional sporting careers. Unique occasions like the annual cricket match versus Eton at Lord’s provide memorable highlights in the School year when we take great pleasure in celebrating the success of our sportsmen.

Some of our current Harrovians, who never considered themselves athletes when they arrived at the School, have since discovered new sports and the talent to play them with great skill and flair. Many continue to enjoy the sporting abilities they discovered at Harrow long after leaving The Hill.
Harrow’s cast list of alumni includes formidable talents such as Lord Byron, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Terrence Rattigan, Anthony Trollope, Richard Curtis, Cecil Beaton, Victor Pasmore, James and Edward Fox, James Blunt, and Benedict Cumberbatch, and bears testament to the School’s remarkable heritage in the creative and performing arts.

Whether it’s learning a musical instrument, playing in orchestras and ensembles, singing in choirs or in Houses, performing in plays or discovering beauty in fine art, sculpture and ceramics, the opportunity for creative expression at Harrow not only sets our boys on a lifetime of personal enrichment and enjoyment, but also teaches them to be more self-disciplined, attentive and better at planning and organising their busy lives.

Boys who participate in the vast spectrum of Harrow’s creative and performing arts also find that this involvement has a broader, more beneficial effect on their overall academic performance.

By encouraging boys to perform in the highest quality School and House concerts, plays and competitions, we see them finding their own voice and the confidence to express their individual creativity, regardless of innate talent.
At Harrow, we believe that young men who have a wide experience of extra-curricular activities are better educated, more able to work in teams and more confident to express their creative talent. In short, they are more fulfilled, more employable and more interesting people.

In this regard, a special mention should be given to the Harrow Rifle Corps, one of the largest school Combined Cadet Forces in the country, which has a proud record of preparing boys for scholarships in the armed services. Membership of the HRC is voluntary, but the majority of Harrovians choose to join.

Harrow’s flourishing Duke of Edinburgh’s Award programme enables many boys to develop initiative, organisational skills and an even greater sense of responsibility.

Things are happening all the time across every part of Harrow School. Creating this busy, structured and purposeful environment ensures that young men never get bored.
The 815 boys live in one of 12 Houses, each of which has unique character. The buildings are quite individual with their own gardens and facilities, helping to set each House apart. The Houses inspire fierce loyalty from the boys and old boys, who take pride in their part of Harrow.

While appreciating the diversity of House characteristics, we ensure that each House has a good mix of boys in terms of their talents, interests and background.

Common to every House is the highest quality of pastoral care – a major strength of the School. The House Master, residential Assistant House Master, Matron, Year Group Tutors and Health Education Tutors form a team to look after the 60 to 70 boys in the House. In addition, the Chaplaincy, full-time Psychologist and a highly effective Pastoral Support Committee provide further layers of nurturing and support.

Of course, we are an all boys school too. We never pretend that single sex schooling is the only successful way of educating someone; but in the Harrow environment we see certain important advantages for boys. To some degree, in this boarding context, it helps to prolong childhood in a very healthy way, enabling boys to be boys for longer. They can do boyish things and have the freedom to express themselves creatively and emotionally without feeling too self-conscious or fearing how things will appear to the opposite sex.
It may seem somewhat daunting to arrive at a School that has produced such a varied and fascinating list of great men – the Giants of Old. But recalling how these men have walked the same streets, sat in the same form rooms and lived in the same boarding houses is both motivating and empowering for every boy entering the School. Palmerston, Peel, Churchill, Nehru, Byron, Sheridan, Trollope – who could fail to be inspired by the thought of these men receiving their education and spending their formative years at Harrow?

In the spirit of the great 19th century reformer and philanthropist, the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury, Harrow has a wonderful tradition in, and worldwide reputation for, philanthropy. We aim to ensure that all of our boys gain an appreciation of generosity in its many forms, so we are always looking outward, understanding the privilege we have here and being of good influence beyond the School – knowing that leadership and service go hand in hand.

All pupils at Harrow participate in charity work, whether this is raising sponsorship money by running in the annual Long Ducker event or providing companionship and entertainment for local elderly people through Community Service. Boys frequently organise their own fundraising events in School, during the holidays and in Gap years, which demonstrates the culture of caring and living for others that goes right to the heart of a life well lived at Harrow and beyond. *
The whole School gathers in Speech Room once a week; it is an important time for reflection, keeping abreast of events and news, lauding individual successes and considering topical issues.

Harrow has a Christian foundation and ethos, which means the Chapel plays a significant part in the daily life of the School. We have Anglican and Roman Catholic Chaplains, and most boys attend services three times each week. Boys of all faiths are welcome at Chapel services, where we take the opportunity to contemplate and worship together, and to address the important questions of life while developing a spiritual vocabulary; this approach provides the boys with a secure basis from which they can embark upon their own journeys into faith.
Harrow is proud of its broad and varied intake. We have boys from right across the UK – not just the southeast of England – and approximately 20% from overseas (some of whom are British families working abroad).

The diversity of Harrow all adds to the educational experience: boys on bursaries with no public school background stand side-by-side with those from long-established Harrow families; a boy from London or Yorkshire or the Scottish Highlands may become a close friend of someone who lives in the USA, South Africa or South Korea.

We are oversubscribed and are selective – but we don’t just focus on academic performance and we don’t just admit the cleverest candidates. We have a range of academic ability, a range of sporting, musical and cultural talent, and we maintain a healthy balance of different types of boys.

Most importantly we are looking for potential, a good attitude towards learning, willingness to contribute and ability to thrive in the boarding environment.
We believe that a school’s success should be measured by much more than grades. Many of the best parts of a Harrow education are unmeasurable other than by meeting the young men themselves. Their confidence, ability to work in a team, leadership potential, ability to serve others, strength of character, creativity and imagination – these are things that really count in life and make a boy from Harrow stand out and ready to make his mark in the world.

For further information, please visit the Harrow School website at harrowschool.org.uk. If you have further questions, please contact the Admissions Office by email on admissions@harrowschool.org.uk.