



Eccles School

Prospectus – July 2017

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About Our School

Aurora Eccles School is an independent day and boarding school providing specialist education for students aged 7 to 20 who experience difficulties learning in mainstream school environments.

This may be a result of specific learning difficulties around dyslexia and moderate learning difficulties, through to those with higher needs and complexities including communication and interaction difficulties associated with Asperger's Syndrome.



Aurora Eccles School offers the perfect learning environment for each student's needs to be met so they can develop and achieve their full potential, ready when they leave to go on to further education, training or employment.

Specialist teaching, together with small class sizes and a nurturing approach enables students to work at a level and pace that's right for them to achieve their goals. Focus is given to building self-esteem and confidence by implementing strategies to support students' individual needs to engage in education, as well as developing their social and independence skills.

There are many opportunities to join a variety of extra-curricular activities including sports and societies, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and trips.

Our Vision

Our vision is simple:

'To empower individuals to grow.'

The word 'growth' is personal to each and every one of the pupils at the school. We believe that no matter how big a challenge they face, each and every individual has a unique set of skills and abilities and diversity is encouraged, developed and celebrated.

Our Aims:

At Aurora Eccles School we focus on:

- Providing personalised specialist education – where students can learn and express themselves in a nurturing and safe environment that understands their needs and supports them to maximise their full potential
- Supporting students to be part of an enriched school and community life
- Preparing students for life beyond school – developing their abilities and achieving their own unique level of independence as they approach adulthood

Facilities

Set in 28 acres of beautiful Norfolk countryside in Quidenham near Norwich, Eccles School provides an enabling learning environment with facilities that include:

- Small class sizes
- Separate Junior and Senior Departments
- Specialist classrooms for Science, Music, Drama and Art.
- Outdoor recreation areas
- IT facilities
- Break out rooms/areas
- Individual tuition and support
- Integrated therapeutic model
- Large Sports Fields
- Dining room and Assembly Hall
- Indoor Swimming pool
- Activity Centre
- High Ropes, Low Ropes, Climbing wall and Forest School.



Our Approach to Education

Aurora Eccles School offers specialist person-centred education programmes for students. The curriculum is broad, balanced and differentiated based on the National Curriculum, where subjects are personalised to take account of abilities, interests and needs. Tasks and activities can be planned on an individualised basis, so they're meaningful, relevant and achievable.



For younger students, there is a self-contained Junior Department within the school grounds which houses students in Year 3 through to Year 6. There is a warm and friendly atmosphere in which younger students can develop a positive attitude towards learning, through a wide-ranging and stimulating curriculum; nurturing confidence, independence and social skills.

As students progress into Year 7 they move into the Senior Department, where the focus shifts to developing their strengths and supporting them in the areas of the curriculum and learning which they find more difficult. Before moving into Year 10, and in consultation with staff and parents, we encourage students to make a small number of curriculum choices.

Our Sixth Form offers a range of subjects from GCSE, BTEC Vocational Courses and A-level. Sixth Form studies at Eccles School are not solely about academic work, it concerns the extension of the whole learning experience. This allows students to develop their independence and further improve both their academic and vocational skills. Students can enhance their achievements through sporting, leisure and practical programmes which in themselves are accredited by external awarding authorities. Achievements can be fully recognised beyond school and extended into further education or in a more vocational setting.

Eccles School has a thriving Individual Teaching Unit (also known as the College of Knowledge) which can be accessed by students with Specific Learning Difficulties across age and ability ranges. The College of Knowledge allows students, on a one-to-one basis, to focus on areas of their education they find more challenging. Tutors work with students to develop skills, knowledge and put in place strategies to allow them to eventually reduce the amount of one-to-one tuition they require.

Eccles School provides a safe, supportive and caring environment through a comprehensive system of pastoral care for every student; both boarding and day. As a small community school, all students are known by all staff which allows them to develop a deep knowledge and understanding of all the students. Therefore, strengths can be reinforced and extended, whilst challenges and difficulties addressed with patient and consistent support by staff through regular contact.

Personal tutors

Upon entry to the Junior Department, it is the form teacher who takes initial responsibility for pastoral support and care. They have a great deal of contact with each student in their form and can offer help and guidance on all aspects of the school day. In addition, they liaise closely with parents and provide a link to other staff and departments.

From Year 7 onwards, all students choose a member of staff they like and trust to act as their Personal Tutor. We place a great deal of emphasis on this personal tutor system and students are encouraged to use their tutor in times of trouble or difficulty, whether social or academic.

Wider Curriculum

There is an extensive club and activities programme at Eccles School including community projects, Duke of Edinburgh Award and Junior Leadership Challenge. Students are encouraged to join in to experience new challenges in a supported environment and develop friendships and teamwork skills.

Physical education is an important part of the curriculum and the school is well resourced with extensive grounds, an indoor swimming pool and activity centre. All students take part in a range of individual and team sports, and both inter-house and external fixtures against other schools are planned regularly throughout the academic year.



Sporting Activities available at Eccles School:

Rugby Union, Hockey, Football, Netball, Cross Country Running, Swimming, Horse Riding, Athletics, Rounders and Soft Ball, Cricket, Volleyball, Basketball, Tennis, Archery, High Ropes, Climbing Wall, Dance, Martial Arts.

Club Activities available at Eccles School:

Swimming Personal Survival, Archery, Golf, Pottery, Basketball, Art, Calligraphy, Fitness, Table Tennis, High Ropes Course, Drama, Craft, Gardening, Choir, Rugby, Board Games, e.g. chess, Fire Service, Cooking, Camp Craft, Community Care.

School Trips

The learning experience for students does not end at the school gate. Eccles School actively encourages students to participate in school visits, trips and community projects and supports staff in organising them. Extending the learning experience outside the classroom brings the curriculum subjects they are learning to life.



International: English as an Additional Language (EAL) Department

Over the years, we have welcomed International Students from around the world to Eccles School. We accept students for short, medium and long term stays in the school and there are various courses which will support all students no matter the length of their stay. The EAL department at Eccles School serves to support all students for whom English is not their native language.

Residential Living

Eccles School provides flexible boarding options including full, weekly and flexi-boards. The Junior and Seniors boy boarders are accommodated in separate houses, while the girls are accommodated in the beautifully converted stable building behind the Main Hall.

Ample space is available in all boarding areas for relaxation, including TV and games rooms and quiet areas. These are comfortable and well-maintained. There is a busy and varied weekly routine ensuring a balance between work and leisure. There are opportunities for students to get involved in out-of-school activities and clubs.

At the weekend a published programme of activities and excursions is organised for boarding students by duty staff, for example, trips to Norwich and Cambridge for shopping and visits to other local places of interest.



Safeguarding Statement

Aurora Eccles School is wholly committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of pupils and expects all staff, volunteers, parents/carers and visitors to share this commitment. Safer recruitment practices are followed and all staff have an Enhanced DBS check.

Quality Statement

Aurora Eccles School is wholly committed to providing the highest quality service to children, young people, parents/carers and Local Authorities. We believe that children, young people and young adults, as well as others, have the right to comment on the service we provide and they are supported to understand the complaints procedure.

If you have a concern or complaint, we do want to hear about it as soon as possible. Please ask the School office for a copy of our complaints procedure if you would like to know more.

We like to know when we are getting things right too, so please feel free to also send us any compliments which our staff are always happy to hear.

[For further information on the Safeguarding policy and copies of other school policies please refer to the website or contact school reception.](#)

Our term dates

Our term dates are sent to parents and carers annually. These are also available to view and download on our website.

Contact Us

For more information or to get in touch with our Principal please contact us at:

Aurora Eccles School

Quidenham

Norwich

Norfolk

NR16 2NZ

Telephone: 01953 887217

Email: EcclesSchool@the-aurora-group.com

Website: www.the-aurora-group.com/ecclesschool

Headmaster: Rob Thornton

Proprietor: Stephen Bradshaw – The Aurora Group, CEO

How to find us

Eccles School is just one mile from the major Norwich to London A11. Norwich is twenty miles to the north east and Cambridge is only forty-five minutes' drive away, and London under two hours by road.

The school is less than twenty minutes' drive from the nearest intercity station at Diss on the main London (Liverpool Street Station) to Norwich line.

East Anglia is well served by Stansted Airport linking the region to many countries in Europe. Norwich Airport links directly with the international hub of Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam.