CAMBRIDGE

In toto ed

totally, entirely, completely

An Independent Special School providing an alternative to mainstream education



Discover In Toto Ed:
an alternative education
provision for young people
from age 11 with complex needs







Welcome from our Head

At In Toto Ed Cambridge, every student is supported, encouraged, and able to develop their strengths. This is a place where their potential is recognised, their challenges are understood, and they are empowered to reach their personal best. Here, we provide a "whole" education: one that not only fosters academic success but also nurtures emotional growth, builds confidence, and equips young people with the skills to thrive independently.

Set in a calm and peaceful location just north of Cambridge, close to the Suffolk border, our school combines first-class facilities with a welcoming, safe environment. Students are guided by a dedicated team of expert teachers and therapists who create personalised pathways of learning and development. Alongside academic study, we offer bespoke therapeutic and vocational programmes, carefully designed to remove barriers and open doors to achievement that might have felt out of reach in a mainstream setting.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to evolving our curriculum and facilities to meet the changing needs of our students, while continuing to foster strong connections with local schools, agencies, and the wider community. Our ambition is simple: to ensure every student leaves In Toto Ed confident, capable, and full of belief in their future.

We warmly invite parents, carers, prospective students, headteachers, SENCos, case work officers, local government representatives, and professionals considering joining our team to get in touch. Whether you want to understand more about what we offer, have an informal discussion, or arrange a personal tour, please contact us today.

Best wishes,

Lawrence Chapman
Head of School
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Is it good coffee?

In Toto Ed grew out of our shared background in music and a strong belief in how education can work best for every student. We both studied at the Royal College of Music – Simon as a trombonist and Emily as a percussionist – and began our careers in performance. Music demands preparation, precision, and high standards. It also requires creativity, responsiveness, and the confidence to think differently.

Over time, our paths developed in complementary directions. Emily moved into school-based education, working closely with students and seeing both the strengths and limitations of mainstream systems. Simon continued performing while specialising in creative education with orchestras and community projects, often working with young people who had become disengaged.

In September 2022, we established In Toto Ed. It has since grown to three schools across ten buildings, developing steadily in response to demand for a different approach. Our musical training still informs how we think and approach education: we analyse, adjust, rehearse, and refine, always looking for creative solutions and thoughtful adaptations that make a real difference for our students.

The vision behind the school is simple: students do not lack ability, they lack the right environment. A young person who has struggled elsewhere deserves more than a second chance; they deserve a school that supports them to thrive, allows them to be themselves, and truly has belief in them.

Over time, that one word has come to define everything we do: **belief.**

Belief in our students' potential.
Belief in the power of the right environment.
Belief that, with the right support, every young person can achieve success.

That belief shapes our culture, our expectations, and the way we partner with our families, Local Authorities, and other schools.

If you're wondering how that principle shows up in everyday life, consider the coffee. At In Toto Ed we always ask, "is it good coffee?". If you're going to do something, do it properly; we whole-heartedly believe in the education we offer, in the staff we hire, and the facilities we provide – and yes, that includes a state-of-the-art coffee machine.

Simon and Emily Gunton
Proprietors

A typical day at In Toto Cambridge

We understand that for students with additional needs, a “typical” day rarely follows a set pattern. That’s why our approach is flexible and adaptable, designed to ensure every student leaves having had an exceptional day, every day.



Each morning, students are greeted by a member of staff who helps them settle in, checks they have everything they need, and ensures they understand their timetable for the day. From the very start, the focus is on making students feel confident, supported, and ready to learn.





Lessons are carefully planned around individual needs, with strategies in place to ensure that every student can engage fully. With class sizes capped at six, teachers are able to provide a highly personalised learning experience, offering support and guidance tailored to each student.

Time to socialise is equally important. Students have access to a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces to unwind, reset, and recharge between lessons. A range of activities encourages social interaction and helps students build friendships in a relaxed, supportive environment.





Additional support is available throughout the day, whether as part of a planned intervention or delivered sensitively in the moment to meet individual needs. Our goal is always the same: to make sure every student can thrive, both academically and personally, so that each day feels productive, enjoyable, and meaningful.

The curriculum

We combine academic rigour with a flexible, student-centred approach to produce a balanced curriculum. It is designed to support every individual to succeed and to achieve a suite of qualifications that will prepare them confidently for life after school.

Our teachers – passionate learners themselves – have carefully crafted pathways that allow students to explore a broad mix of academic and vocational subjects, building a diverse knowledge and skill base. These pathways are tailored to each student, ensuring that learning is both challenging and attainable.

Students have the opportunity to work towards a range of formal qualifications, including Functional Skills, GCSEs, vocational qualifications, and A-levels. Every element of the curriculum is structured to help students grow academically, develop practical skills, and leave In Toto Ed ready for the next stage of their journey.







Key Stage 3
In Years 7-9, students study English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, Religious Studies, PSHE, Art & Design, Music, Drama, Cookery and PE.

Key Stage 4
In Years 10 & 11, all students attend lessons in English Language, Maths and PSHE. In addition, each young person choses a combination of subjects that suit their own interests and learning styles.

Post-16
Staff hold discussions with students to determine the combination of subjects and qualifications – chosen from a wide range on offer – that they wish to study at this level, taking into account any career ambitions and life goals.



Pastoral care and wellbeing

We take great pride in the positive relationships between staff, students, and their families. These connections form the foundation of the supportive, caring culture we have worked to cultivate.

We get to know each student as an individual, using this understanding to tailor their academic pathway and personalise any additional support or therapy they might need. A regular cycle of evaluation ensures we can assess the effectiveness of our provision and continually enhance it to meet each student's evolving needs.

Every student is assigned a named member of staff who acts as their champion within the school, ensuring their voice is heard at every key decision point. Our trauma-informed, relational approach underpins all interactions, supporting students' social and emotional development and helping them feel safe, valued, and understood.



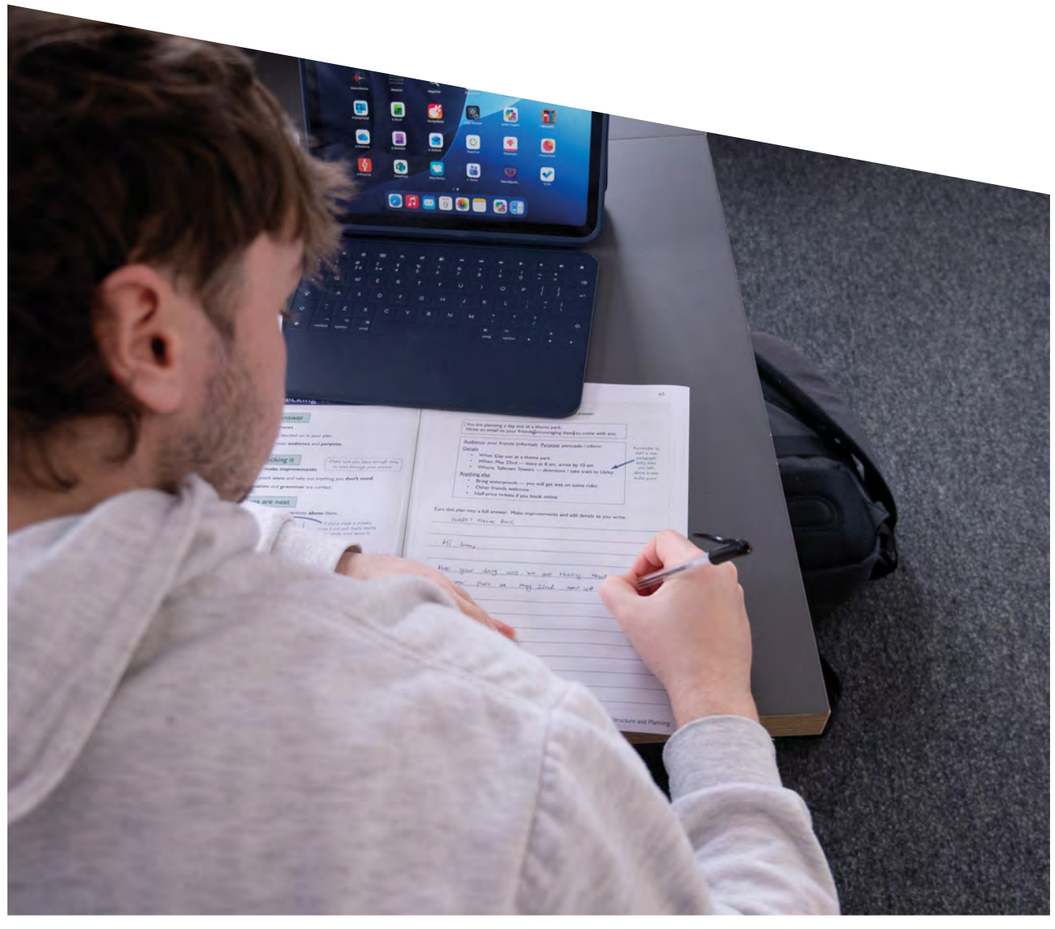
Supporting students with SEND

Our provision is designed specifically for students with SEND. For us, supporting additional needs isn't an afterthought; it's our whole purpose. Every aspect of our school – from curriculum, to facilities, to staff – is shaped around the needs of our students from the very beginning.

All lessons are delivered in small groups of no more than six students, allowing teachers to provide highly personalised support and tailored guidance that helps each individual make real academic progress.

Sensory awareness plays a key role in how we design and plan learning spaces, and we are proud of the calm, inviting classrooms our students use every day.

Every student benefits from their own iPad, which is integrated into lessons to support personalised learning. This technology enables students to explore topics in ways that suit their individual needs, helping them to engage fully with the curriculum.





Therapeutic approach

We recognise that academic progress and personal development go hand in hand. That's why we have created a cosy, welcoming space known as "The Barn", where students can access pastoral support from school staff and receive specialist therapeutic input tailored to their needs.

Our team of in-house specialists includes a Speech & Language Therapist, an Art Therapist, and an Occupational Therapist, all working closely with students to provide personalised interventions.

We also collaborate with external partners, and parents / carers, to ensure a consistent and meaningful level of support that benefits each student; not to mention Eddie the hamster – our emotional support animal – who lives in the common room.

Whether it's building communication skills, exploring creative expression, or developing sensory and motor abilities, our therapeutic approach is designed to help students thrive both inside and outside the classroom.



The In Toto Team

Every member of the team brings a combination of professional expertise, creativity, and a genuine commitment to supporting students with additional needs. Many of our staff have specialist backgrounds in education, therapy, or the arts, and are committed to continuing professional development, regular training, and research to refine their skills and approaches.

The In Toto Team work together closely to create a learning environment that is responsive, flexible, and tailored to the individual. This goes beyond lessons, with staff collaborating across departments to design enrichment opportunities, therapeutic interventions, and learning experiences that meet the wide-ranging needs of our students. By combining their expertise, teachers, therapists, and support staff ensure that each student's academic, social, and emotional development is nurtured holistically. We find creative ways to help students overcome barriers to learning, and support them to achieve their potential and become young adults who can contribute positively to society.

Collaboration extends beyond the walls of Cambridge. Our staff work closely with colleagues at the other In Toto Ed schools in Peterborough and London, sharing insights, strategies, and resources. This network allows each school to retain its unique identity while benefiting from the breadth of knowledge and innovation across the wider organisation.

The team's commitment also reaches into the wider community. Staff liaise with local and national support agencies to ensure that students and their families have access to appropriate guidance and resources. Whether arranging bespoke support, facilitating transitions, or helping families navigate complex systems, our team ensures that students receive consistent, comprehensive care.

World-class facilities

Set amidst beautiful countryside, In Toto Ed Cambridge occupies a peaceful, inspiring environment. Our buildings are warm and welcoming, and moving between them offers calming views and invigorating fresh air.

Every classroom has been equipped with the latest digital technology, including large interactive screens and personal devices such as MacBooks and iPads, enabling dynamic and personalised learning.

We provide industry-standard environments for specialist study. Our dedicated Art & Design studios give students their own workspace to explore a variety of media, and develop projects that reflect their personal style and creativity. In the Science lab, students carry out hands-on experiments, testing theories and using technical equipment to explore science in action.

The Music studio and Media suite are interconnected, allowing students not only to perform on a wide range of electrical and acoustic instruments, but also to record and digitally manipulate their work. Our brand-new Beauty salon provides spaces for massage, nails, and makeup, equipped to the highest professional standard, encouraging students to develop creativity, confidence, and strong communication skills alongside their industry knowledge.

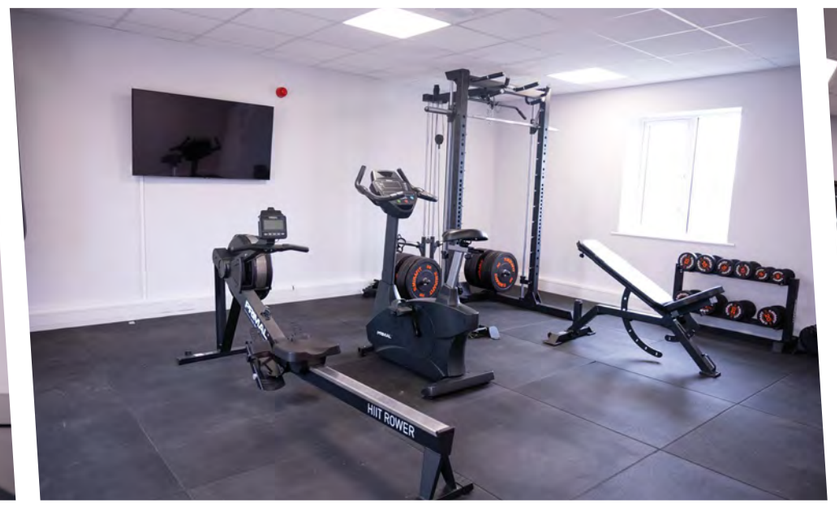
Our Cookery room gives each student their own workspace, with ovens, hobs, and countertops to prepare meals, snacks, and desserts using fresh ingredients, while the Gym serves a dual purpose: offering equipment and space for sports qualifications and personal training, as well as supporting physical fitness and mental wellbeing.

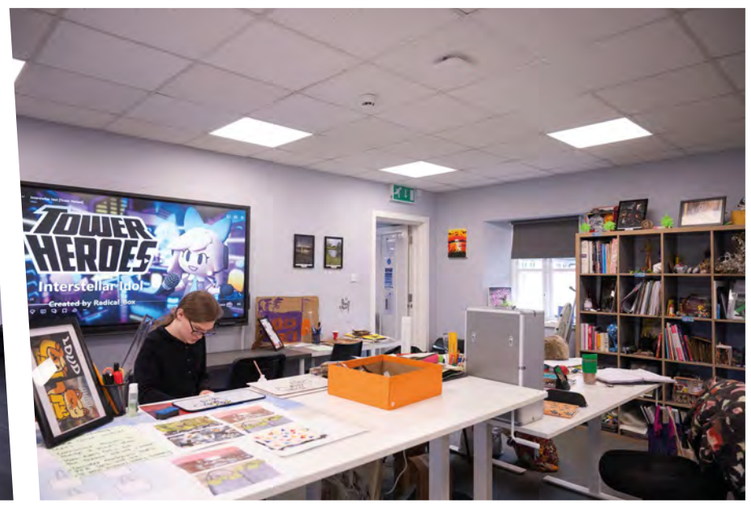
From classrooms to studios, labs to salons, every space at In Toto Ed is designed to inspire, engage, and support students as they explore their talents and achieve their potential.











Contact us

If you have any questions about In Toto Ed, please get in touch. We also welcome visits and can schedule a personal tour with a member of our Leadership Team.

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In toto ed
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