





“ The only way to do great work
is to love what you do ”

Steve Jobs

At Park we will be at your child's side
every step of the way,
guiding them as their character develops
and as they make their own discoveries
about what they love.

Christopher Anders

more than



Dear Parent

September 2015 has been a long awaited month at Park Community School. We have spent over seven years getting ready to build and then constructing our new school. The new facilities are now being used by our students supporting their learning and enriching their time at school.

We have a wonderful new theatre, lecture theatre, restaurant and facilities on our playing field. Our new restaurant serves the best school meals prepared by our qualified chefs and a catering team all at affordable prices. The classrooms include the latest large touch-screen technology. We have invested heavily in computers, laptops, iPads and software to allow them to link together. Our science labs and technology rooms have all been refurbished with new equipment.

The school provides a stunning park environment, inspires learning, and encourages the aspirations of our young people to discover what they love. We have themed the areas of the school around 'Parks of the World', using supersized photos to brighten corridors. I hope that you will find this prospectus gives you some idea of our vision, principles, facilities and the curriculum that your child will benefit from should you choose Park Community School for their secondary education.

Christopher Anders
Headteacher

much
more than
just a school



more than





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Our curriculum ensures that children are well prepared for life after secondary school. We believe that students need a range of experiences outside the classroom as well as excellent teaching inside. Through a truly broad curriculum including enterprise experience in our industrial unit, and horticulture on our small-holding, children will discover what they love to do. Most qualifications studied are GCSEs with alternative qualifications used where these best suit the young people. In order to prepare for the new more challenging GCSEs we use a variety of learning approaches to build knowledge, understanding and skills.



Curriculum

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Our programme follows a traditional approach to Key Stage 3 with a wide range of subjects. We have many new specialist facilities this year. In Key Stage 4, (Years 9, 10 and 11) students study GCSEs, and other courses when these best meet their needs.

We offer a wide range of options and in recent years increasing number of students have chosen French or Spanish as well as history, geography, psychology, various technologies, art and performance-based courses.



Curriculum

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Curriculum



As well as learning on the school site we now have an industrial unit, a small-holding, and we are developing a constructions skills centre in another part of Leigh Park. Our small-holding is a new venture set on a local farm. Some students are following RHS courses in horticulture and learning to care for animals. We now have chickens, goats and guinea pigs on our school site, as well as sheep and pigs on our small-holding. These provide opportunities for children to learn outside the classroom and in school groups where we feel they will benefit from additional opportunities. These facilities are run by Park staff. Many trips are run to provide a wider experience of life in this country and abroad. In 2015 we undertook our first trip to Africa.



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Curriculum

In addition to the academic curriculum we believe students need to become resilient and autonomous. Our personal development programmes include lessons each week on: character building, a focus on UNICEF's Rights Respecting School curriculum, Philosophy 4 Children strategies, Accelerated Reader, and our own numeracy challenges. We organise a number of cross-curricular days each year to address work skills and personal development including E-safety, as well as providing broader cultural and social understanding.

Our assembly programme means students have an assembly most days in either year group, key stage groups, or in our cross year families. Assemblies pick up on religious, political, cultural, moral and practical themes.



A professional chef with a beard and glasses, wearing a white chef's coat and a green apron, is shown in profile, smelling a small sprig of mint held between his fingers. He is outdoors in a sunny garden setting with a building and trees in the background.

“Amazing food and
the teachers really care.”

Samantha Poor

more than

School life



PE and Sport

Keeping young people active and learning to play team games is an important part of a rounded education. In the last year our facilities have changed significantly. We now have a full-sized synthetic turf pitch and an outdoor multi-gym. We also have other fun outside activities for young people such as our multi-person swing, climbing stones and table tennis tables.

Families

We have a house system based around our four families: Austen, Dickens, Nelson and Brunel.

The families are led by students and staff who together create a calendar of events and other activities.



**Successful
career**

Good grades

Being the person
you want to
be

Surpassing my own
expectations

Be peaceful

*Having great
friendships*

Overcoming my fears

Love

HAPPY LIFE

Reaching my
goal

**What does success
mean to you?**

Long life

Doing my best

FAME

Laughing a lot

Making a
difference

Raising a family

Leaving a legacy

Doing what
I love to do

more than

“I love this school.”



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Pastoral Support

Our pastoral system begins with mentors. The mentor is an adult who sees the children twice each day for both academic and pastoral activities. The first role of the mentor is to help students who are struggling with their learning. Key days each year are identified for reviewing students' progress. Parents are invited into school for review meetings at least twice each year. Each mentor group belongs to a family. Family Leaders and Progress Leaders oversee academic and pastoral well-being.

Gifted, Talented and More Able Students

More able students are challenged and supported to achieve high standards through higher targets, demanding homework, and external visits and visitors.

Support

Student Support

Students with additional needs are supported through carefully planned lessons, extra support, and smaller groups where appropriate. Individual interventions are based on need.

On some occasions children need more support and we have support and guidance staff attached to each year group as well as medical, counselling and youth specialists. It is very important to us that we do all we can to make sure each child is given every opportunity to be happy at school.



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Support



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School Uniform

We believe school uniform is very important. Parents' support for the school governors' policy on uniform is expected. Uniform, whilst non-negotiable, is based on a wardrobe which gives students some element of choice and evolves over the course of a student's time at Park Community School. We also have high standards when it comes to students' appearance such as their style of hair. We believe that good preparation for work life includes a focus on appearance.

Community School

Park Community School is proud of its track record of community involvement. This means the buildings are used by many groups in the evenings, holidays and at weekends, throughout the year. Students also raise money for local and national causes through family fundraising activities.



Support

Testimonies

Year 9 GCSE Design & Technology

Bobby Jervis decided to do Design & Technology because he believes it will help him with his career choice. Graphics will give Bobby the tools needed to pursue his career as a graphic designer and in computer engineering.



margratham



Testimonies

My favourite subject

"My favourite subject is reading. Thanks to Park Community's library I have access to all the books I want (that's a lot)".
Logan Herridge, Year 8

"My love of reading has been encouraged and nurtured at Park. I love reading even more than before."

Chantelle Saunders, Year 11



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Testimonies

Year 9 GCSE Design & Technology

Matthew Warwood will use the skills of 3D printing and laser cutters to design art and characters.

Matthew chose Design & Technology as he believes the skills are not only important in school but are also transferable to life after school. He might even consider opening his own business to design and make 3D model characters of people.



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Testimonies

Year 11 GCSE Art

"I have chosen Art GCSE because I like to be creative and practical with my hands. I get to use my own imagination and put that in my artwork."
Lewey Byng, Year 11

"I like creating art that I can express my feelings through. I have always been interested in art since I was very young, so it is one of my favourite subjects."
Kayleigh Parsons, Year 11



monmouth

Venture

Pre-School

Opened in September 2015 we now have a purpose built nursery and pre-school called Springwood Park Nursery and Pre-School on site. Please contact the nursery directly if you are interested in a place.

Apex Centre

Our most recent addition to school facilities is the Apex Centre in Leigh Park. The centre has workshop and garage areas. This year we will refurbish the facility to become a construction centre. This will provide students practical hands-on courses, for example, helping those who wish to work in the construction or garage trades.



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Venture

Farm

We are leasing a piece of farm land and have established a small-holding. Here we grow vegetables, rear animals for meat. The vegetables and meat from the farm are used in the school kitchen, not only promoting healthy eating but also allowing students to make the connection with what they eat and where and how it is grown. Younger students are taught horticulture and a Year 9 class have just begun an accredited RHS course.

On the school site we now have Benji and Enrique (two pigmy goats), a brood of chickens, and a group of guinea pigs have arrived and bring a new dimension to Park. It gives children the opportunity to learn about animal care and they can choose to look after them. For some students a quiet place and a cuddle can help.



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Quotes from staff, students and visitors in 2015

"An amazing group of students.
We couldn't have completed
Sports day without you."

Leella Mengham, Barncroft School

"Your students have been amazing."
Anya Loynes, Morelands Primary School

"Your students have been brilliant!
Thank you!"

Colin Harris, Warren Park School

"I don't teach these students but around school, at the events and in conversation they are very proud of what they are doing and also recognise it is very important. At the events I have noticed increased confidence and maturity."
Jon Crowley

"More respectful and responsible."
Amy Binns

"Taster days, Open Evenings, performances and going to Primary School. The students love it."
Suzie Clarke

"Superb presentation of the school with Primary Schools."
Paul Taylor

www.pcs.hants.sch.uk



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Park Community School, Middle Park Way, Havant, Hampshire PO9 4BU
T 023 9248 9800 F 023 9248 1012 E info@pcs.hants.sch.uk



