



“ 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



Dear Parent

Our ambition for your child is that the school guides them to find the things they will grow to love in life. Our new facilities are enjoyed by all our students, supporting their learning and enriching their time.

We have a wonderful new theatre, lecture hall, restaurant, and facilities on our playing field. Our restaurant serves affordable and delicious school meals prepared by our qualified chefs and a catering team. 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.

Our school, which is set in a stunning park environment, inspires learning and encourages aspiration, helping our young people discover what they love. We have themed the areas of the school around parks of the world, with supersized photos brightening the corridors. As well as outdoor play equipment, we have animals, and opportunities that other schools can only envy.

Enjoy our prospectus which I hope will give you a good idea of our vision, values, facilities, and the curriculum that your child will benefit from at Park Community School.

Christopher Anders
Headteacher

much
more than
just a school



more than



Curriculum

Our curriculum ensures that children are well prepared for life after secondary school. The students benefit from a range of experiences outside the classroom, as well as excellent teaching inside. Through a broad curriculum which includes enterprise in our industrial unit, construction in our Apex Skills Centre, and horticulture on our smallholding, children will discover what they love to do.

Most qualifications studied are GCSEs, but alternative qualifications are used when they 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.



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

We offer a huge array of options, and in recent years an increasing number of students have chosen French or Spanish as well as History, Geography, Psychology, various technologies and performance courses.



Curriculum



Performing Arts at Park is an exciting hub of creativity and excellence developing self-disciplined and high achieving performers. Sitting alongside our wide range of formal qualifications we offer extensive opportunities for students to participate in cultural experiences, immersing them in the world of the arts.

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Curriculum



As well as learning on the school site we have an industrial unit, a smallholding, and we are developing a construction skills centre in another part of Leigh Park. Our smallholding is a new venture set on a local farm. Some students are following RHS courses in horticulture and learning to care for animals. We have chickens, goats and guinea pigs on our school site, as well as pigs on our smallholding. These provide opportunities for children to learn outside the classroom and in school groups where they benefit from new experiences. The facilities are run by Park staff.

We also organise many trips to widen horizons and develop understanding of this country and abroad. In 2015 we went on our first trip to Africa, in 2016 the students enjoyed a skiing trip, and in 2017 we plan a trip to New York.



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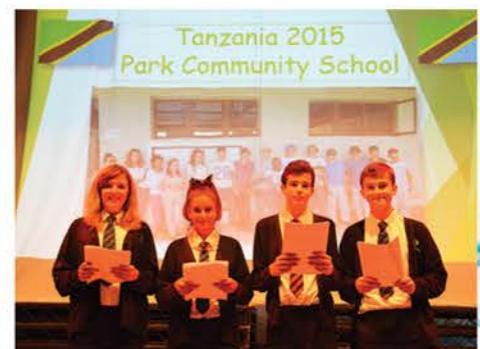
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Curriculum

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 for 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, including British values.

Students have an assembly most days in either their year group, key stage group, or in the cross year Family groups. Assemblies pick up on religious, political, cultural, moral and practical themes.



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A photograph of a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a white chef's coat and a green apron over it. He is holding a small bunch of mint leaves to his nose, smelling them. He is outdoors in a sunny garden with various plants and a building in the background.

“ Amazing food and
the teachers really care ”

Samantha Poor

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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 significantly improved.

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 a multi-person swing and climbing stones. We have begun a rowing and boat-building project with Oarsome Challenge.

Families

We have a house system based around four families: Austen, Dickens, Nelson and Brunel. The families are led by students and staff who together create a calendar of events and activities.

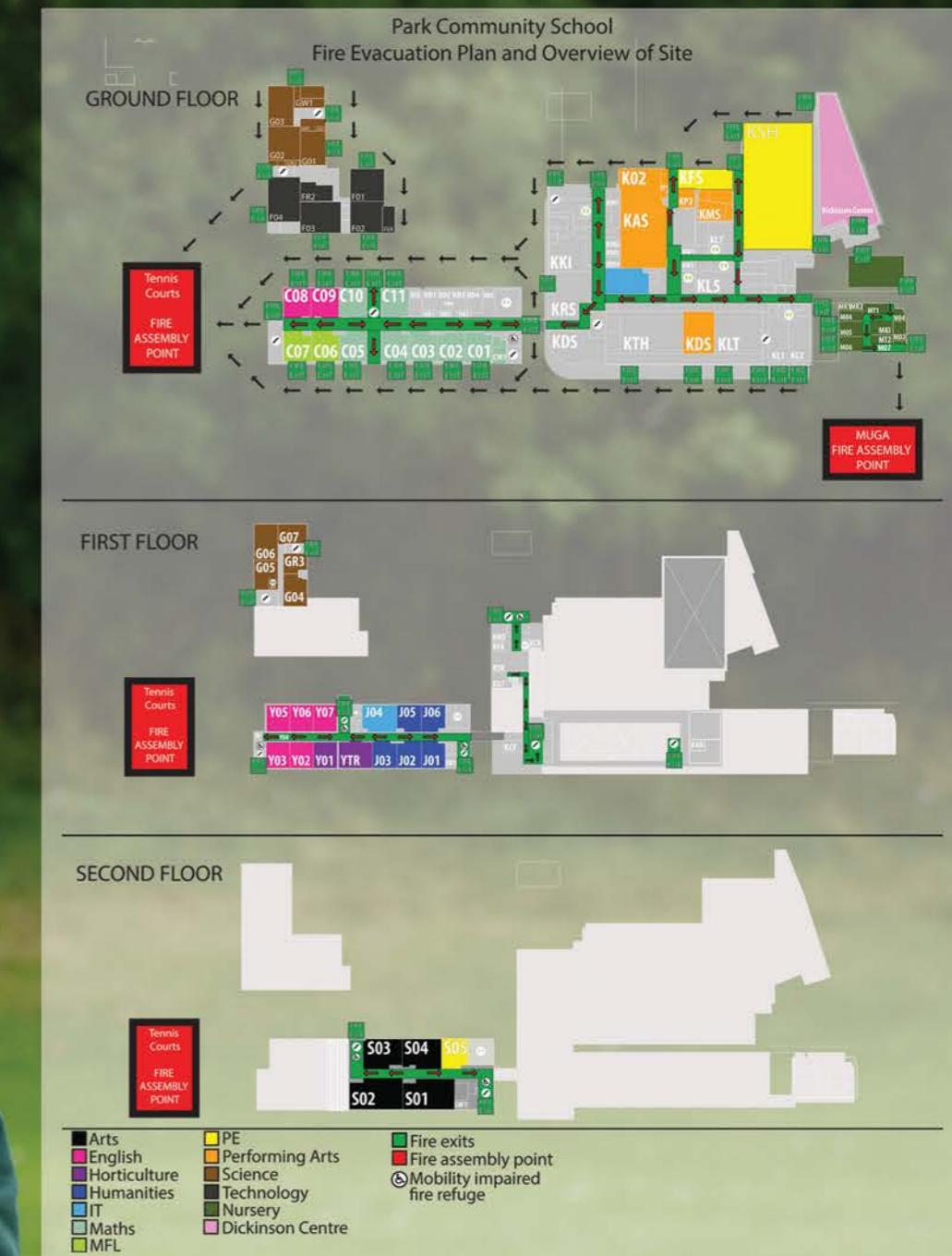


School life



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“I love this
school ”

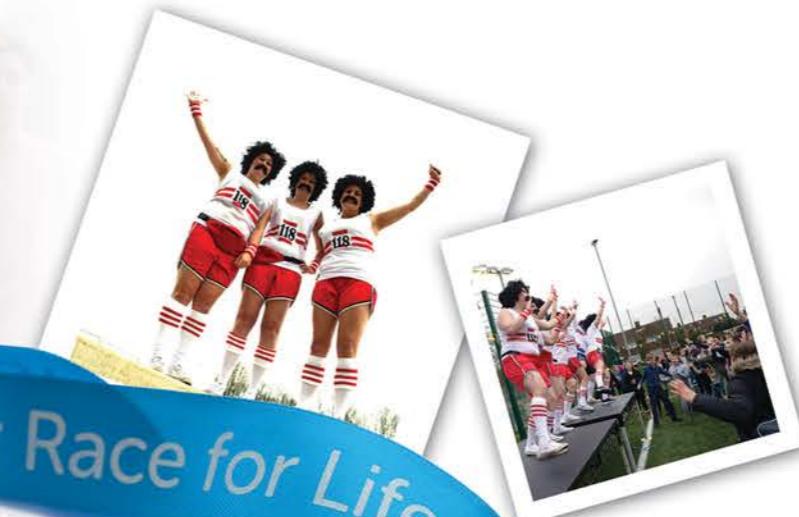




Race at Our Place...

Park Community School staff, and students, were once again inspired to take part in the Race at our Place and ran 2.5 miles in aid of Cancer Research.

"Most of us know someone who has been touched by cancer and we all have our special reasons for taking part and wanting to help more people survive. Days like this show how the staff and students of Park Community School can pull together to raise awareness and donations for a worthy cause."



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School life





Pastoral Support

Our pastoral system begins with mentors. The mentor is an adult who sees the children twice a day for 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 Heads of Year oversee academic and pastoral wellbeing.

Gifted, Talented and More Able Students

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

There are opportunities each year to visit and stay at local universities, including the universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Support

more than

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. 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 enjoy their time at school.



Support

School Uniform

We believe school uniform is very important, and we expect parents to support the school governors policy on uniform.

We also have high standards when it comes to aspects of appearance like hair styles, because we believe this helps them prepare for the world of work.

Community School

Park Community is proud of its track record of community involvement. Our buildings are used by many groups in the evenings, holidays and at weekends, throughout the year. Students love getting involved and raising money for local and national causes through family fundraising activities.



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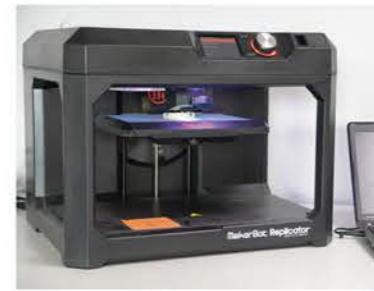
Testimonies

Year 10 GCSE Design & Technology

Bobby Jervis decided to do Design & Technology because it will help him in the future. Graphics will give Bobby the tools needed to pursue his career as a graphic designer, and his love of computer engineering.

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

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





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My favourite subject

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

Logan Herridge Year 9

"I like reading a lot because I'm able to get away from the real world and jump into another. No matter what, a good book will keep me interested for ages."

Louise Ireson Year 11



Testimonies

Testimonies

My favourite subject

"I'm really enjoying my English lessons. The atmosphere in my class is good and everyone makes progress. We all know our targets and how we need to improve in order to reach them. As a class we work out strengths and weaknesses and improve together.

Recently, we finished the Woman in Black. It had some old English and fairly difficult vocabulary, but after analysing quotes and having many discussions we all began to understand the language and the skills of writing."

Chloe Gould Year 10



"I love History because of the fun and exciting homework where we can be creative and imaginative."

Ella Russell Year 8

Testimonies

Year 11 GCSE Art

"I have chosen Art GCSE because I'd like to study theatrical production make up, and use artistic methods to make the characters look detailed and alive."

Chloe Stedman Year 11

"I love Media because I love being creative."

Tyler Simmons Year 11



Venture

Pre-School

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. We are continuing to identify ways that the younger children can benefit from being on a secondary school site, as well as opportunities for secondary school children to help with the nursery.

Apex Centre

The most recent addition to our school facilities is the Apex Centre in Leigh Park. The centre has a construction skills workshop, and garage area. We host practical courses, helping those who wish to work in the construction industry. It is also home to our new boat building project.



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Venture



Farm

On a local farm we grow vegetables, and 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 between what they eat and where and how it is grown.

Younger students are taught horticulture and at Key Stage 4 can take 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. They give the children the opportunity to learn about animal care. For some students a quiet place and a cuddle is welcome.



Quotes from staff, students and visitors in 2016

"Park Community is a special place. Every student is valued, and nurtured and encouraged to be the best they can be. A truly happy caring school where success for all is our goal."

Ella Capaldi

I like everything about PE because the teachers are lovely, challenge us and work us hard. I especially enjoy the athletics and running activities and the opportunities to represent the school at different events.

Jorja Greenslade Year 7

Over the past 4 years I have enjoyed the variety of sports we do in lessons. I like the alternative activities we get to experience like lacrosse because it is different and we have the equipment and great facilities to do it. I chose GCSE PE which has challenging theory to learn but you are given time and the support you need from the PE staff.

Morgan Fewings Year 10

"Around school, at the events and in conversation, students are very proud of what they are doing and recognise it is very important."

Jon Crowley

"In PE students will experience an exciting curriculum offering them opportunities to excel in a range of sports and activities. Students gain the skills and knowledge required to pursue further education and careers in physical education, as well as an understanding of the importance of health and wellbeing."

Laura Cavanagh

Park Community School provides amazing opportunities for those who have not found their path. Maths at Park can make anybody a young Albert Einstein before they know it. Providing excellent facilities for all. Anyone could be the next Jessica Ennis-Hill.

Shauna Matkin Year 10

"Taster days, open evenings, performances and visiting Primary Schools. The students love it."

Suzie Clarke

Park Community School is a thriving community that enables all to enhance their skills. Maths lessons push students to reach their full potential through creative, passionate and inspiring lessons.

Jack Barron Year 10

PE is the subject I have thoroughly enjoyed. The ability to be able to be physically healthy is very beneficial and the experience is mostly always new and interesting.

Lauren Hollis Year 10

Reception



Cairngorms



Kruger



Machu Piccu



Ha Long Bay



