




# PARMITER'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1681



NEMO SIBI NASCITUR





*'The education our children have received is  
second to none and the ethos and values of the  
school emulate our own' Parent*

## *A very warm welcome to Parmiter's*

*We are delighted to introduce you to Parmiter's. Thank you for reading this prospectus which is intended to give you a flavour of what it is like to be a member of the Parmiter's family.*





## PARMITER'S SCHOOL

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### Parmiter's is committed to:

- the pursuit of excellence in all that we do;
- providing a broad education designed to enable every young person to achieve their full potential and make the most of their talents;
- creating a healthy, happy, disciplined and supportive environment which promotes an independent work ethic and a love of learning;
- engendering respect for individuality and difference so that all will feel secure and equally valued;
- nurturing a sense of social responsibility and spiritual and personal development;
- fostering integrity, confidence, resilience, creativity, good manners and sensitivity to the needs of others.

We hope that you are inspired by what you see and read in the following pages. However, we would love you to experience the school at first hand. You are most welcome to visit us on Open Day or when the school is in session.

We look forward to meeting you and showing you around.

**Nick Daymond**  
Head Teacher

Parmiter's is a happy and successful school with a deserved reputation for academic excellence. Within a well-disciplined and supportive environment, all students are known and valued as individuals and helped to achieve their potential.

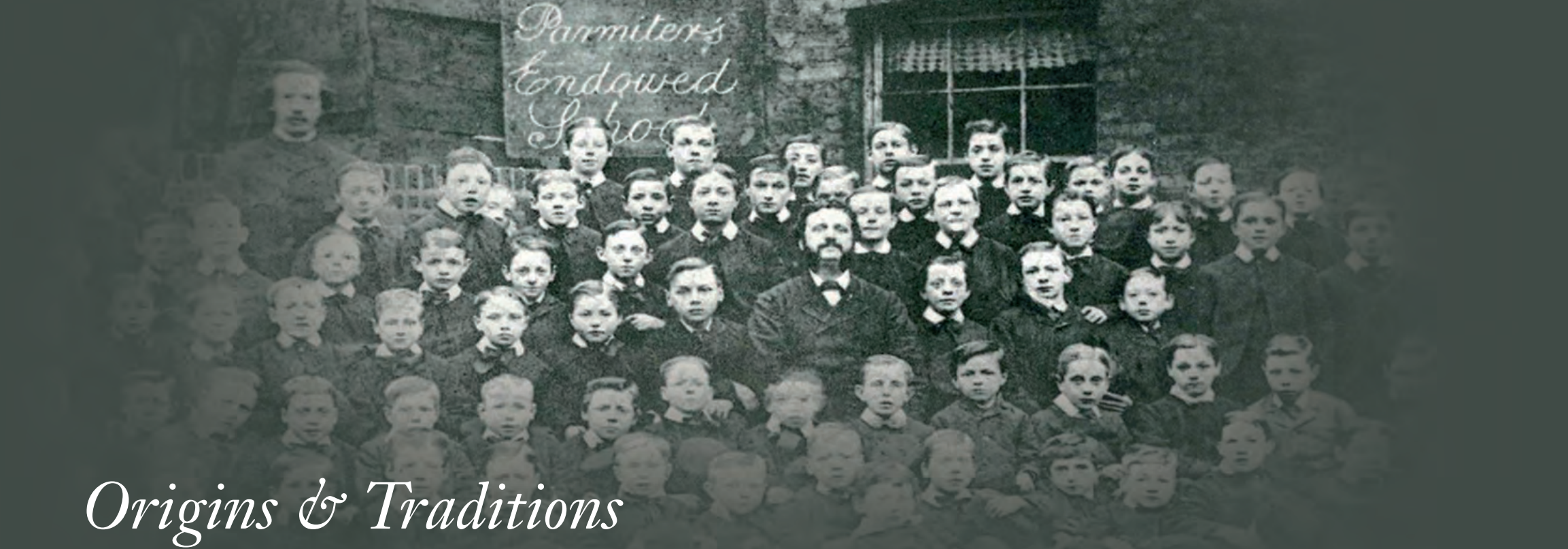
The school has a long and fascinating history. We are very proud of our past and traditions but we are forward-looking, fully embracing the opportunities and challenges of the twenty-first century.

The breadth of our curriculum and the quality of teaching ensure that students consistently achieve the highest possible standards. We encourage them to involve themselves in extra-curricular activities, notably music, sport, drama, Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme, House events, community service and fundraising for charitable causes, as well as the wide range of trips and visits on offer.

The success of our students is built upon the strong partnership between school, parents, Governors, Trustees, Old Parmiterians and the local community – the 'Parmiter's family'. As an academy, in addition to government funding, we are fortunate to receive financial support from the Parmiter's Foundation which owns the school and its site and continues to invest substantially in its development.

Consequently the school is extremely well accommodated, resourced and maintained.

Our ethos is epitomised by the school motto – "Nemo sibi nascitur" (No one is born unto him/herself alone). We are committed to serving each other and our wider community in the way Thomas Parmiter, our founder, intended. Our primary aim is for each Parmiterian to be self-assured and caring, an active and well-rounded citizen with integrity, who respects others and contributes to society.



# Origins & Traditions

*The school has its origins in the will of Thomas Parmiter, silk merchant, in 1681. In his last testament he left property to endow six almshouses and “one free school house or room” in Bethnal Green, London.*

From small beginnings the school grew over the years into a thriving boys’ grammar school. In 1977 the Trustees of the Foundation took the decision to move Parmiter’s to its present location in Garston where it was established as an all-ability, co-educational school. In 2011 the school became an Academy.

The school has the financial support of the Parmiter’s Foundation Charity whose resources are dedicated to the enhancement of educational provision for Parmiter’s students in the spirit of Thomas Parmiter’s original bequest.

Although Parmiter’s has been in Hertfordshire since 1977, our ties with the East End of London have been nurtured. Links are retained through the Almshouses and Pensioners Charities of Parmiter’s Foundation and a very active Old Parmiterians’ Society, which includes former students of the Bethnal Green school as well as those who attended Parmiter’s in Garston.

We have maintained many of the traditions associated with the long history of the school, including Speech Night, the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, Remembrance Day services, the Old Parmiterians’ Annual Dinner and the

biennial visit to Charity Farm in Withersfield, the origin of the funding for Parmiter’s School. We also hold Pensioners’ Parties at the school twice a year, to which we invite pensioners from Bethnal Green and Garston.

The six school Houses are named after benefactors or Old Parmiterians: Beven, Carter, Lee, Mayhew, Renvoize and Woolley. Students take part in a wide variety of cultural, aesthetic and sporting House events throughout the year. Our annual Sports Day in July is the culmination of the House competition when inter-house rivalry on the school field is at its fiercest!



# Pastoral Care

*At Parmiter's the greatest attention is given to each child's progress throughout the school. The pastoral system is designed to provide a supportive, caring yet disciplined environment to enable all children to achieve their academic potential, develop as all-round people and make informed life choices.*

We take the welfare of each child seriously because we recognise that social and emotional wellbeing are prerequisites for good learning and future success. All students are members of a form group and the pastoral care is offered through a year structure. This enables them to develop friendships and support networks. The Form Tutor oversees the personal and academic welfare of the students and is the first point of contact for them and their parents. Each form group in Key Stage 3 has sixth form prefects who work with the students and act as role models. Staff with pastoral responsibilities organise mentoring, support and specific help with literacy and numeracy, where necessary. There is also a Pastoral Support Base where students can go to access help with a variety of issues. Matron is always available to support students with confidential health or personal concerns. Counselling support is also available. The Senior Leadership Team work with other colleagues to review policies and practice annually, to ensure that the needs of all students are met.

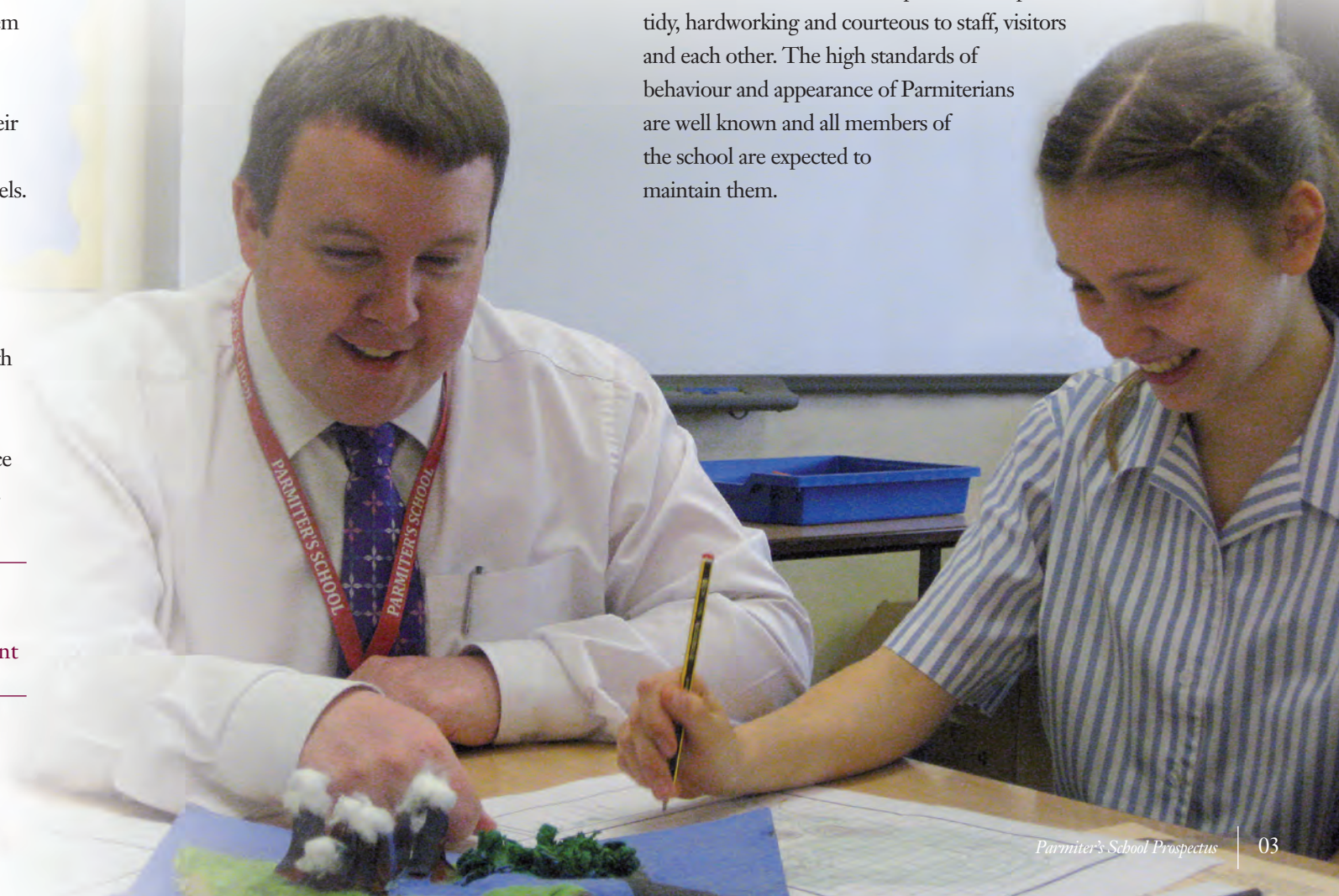
Significant support is provided to students who are transferring between Key Stages, to enable them to cope with the pressures of making choices which will affect their future.

The Head of Year 7 offers a range of events and activities to support students and parents through the secondary transfer process so that students settle quickly into the school. All students are expected to be punctual, tidy, hardworking and courteous to staff, visitors and each other. The high standards of behaviour and appearance of Parmiterians are well known and all members of the school are expected to maintain them.

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*'It is clear that the Parmiter's staff are totally dedicated to their pupils.'* Parent

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# The Curriculum

*At Parmiter's we provide an education which is relevant and stimulating so that each student is able to fulfil his or her full potential.*

We challenge our students academically and encourage them to take responsibility for their own learning. Those who need specific help to thrive are guided and supported individually. This entitlement is for everyone, regardless of age, gender, race, religion or disability.

In Years 7 to 9 the curriculum is designed to build on the knowledge, skills and understanding acquired at primary school. In Years 10 and 11 students continue with the essential core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, a Modern Foreign Language, Physical Education, Religious Education and Life Skills. They also select freely from a range of options including the humanities, expressive arts, technological subjects and a second language.

***Full details of the curriculum can be found in the supplementary booklet.***

Careers education and guidance is incorporated into the curriculum to help students make good decisions about their future at each relevant stage of their secondary education.

We have a thorough and robust system of monitoring and assessment which provides regular feedback to students and parents on progress.

We have specialist suites for all major subjects, including Science laboratories, Art studios, Music rooms, two Drama studios, well-equipped Technology facilities, a Sixth Form Centre, Gymnasium, Sports Centre, Astroturf and extensive playing fields. There are good ICT facilities across the school as well as a number of specialist computer rooms.

At the heart of the school is the Learning Resources Centre which houses the main school library.





# Beyond the curriculum

*All students are encouraged to participate in some form of creative or sporting pursuit beyond the curriculum and a huge number do so with impressive skill, imagination, enthusiasm and enjoyment. Many activities are partly or wholly student-led.*

## Music

Music is a major strength of Parmiter's and many students join the groups in the flourishing extra-curricular programme; these provide opportunities for students to participate in many different types of performances within school and in the local community. The ensembles cover a range of abilities and repertoire is varied and ambitious. Senior musicians take leading roles and support younger musicians, and we are proud of our long-standing tradition of joint music-making with Breakspeare School. A significant number of students also take advantage of the individual tuition available for voice and a wide range of instruments.

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*'Parmiter's is not just about examination results and our children have benefitted greatly from the extra-curricular opportunities that the school offers'* Parent

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## Drama

Clubs for younger students encourage innovation, instil self-confidence and prepare students for life after school. Whole school productions are always of a high standard and give opportunities for students to get involved, on or offstage.

## Sport

Parmiter's has an enviable tradition of excellence in sport and we are proud of our numerous sporting successes at district, county and national level. However, our emphasis is on the enjoyment and participation of all students, regardless of ability. We offer a wide range of sports through which our students develop as individuals, in groups and in teams, and take on different roles and responsibilities, including leadership, coaching and officiating.

## Student Voice

We ensure that students' views are represented at all levels – including in interview processes – and that they are empowered to be active learners and leaders. As well as assisting their learning and social development, the students' contributions benefit the school's performance. At School Congress meetings, students discuss issues relevant to them and contribute to reviewing school policies and practice.





# Societies, Clubs & Extra-Curricular Activities

*Clubs and societies flourish outside the timetable and our students are actively encouraged to join in.*

Many clubs run during the lunch hour, but some are held before the start of the school day and there are also numerous after-school activities. Students help with many of these clubs; indeed, many of them are actually run by senior students.

## ***Musical ensembles***

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|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| • Symphony Orchestra | • Big Band                           | <i>Percussion, Guitar, Brass, Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet, Double Reed, Recorder.</i> |
| • Choirs             | • String Ensembles                   |  |
| • Concert Bands      | • Jazz Workshop and other ensembles: |  |



## ***Sporting Activities***

- |              |                             |                          |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Athletics  | • Football (Girls' & Boys') | • Rugby (Girls' & Boys') |
| • Badminton  | • Gym                       | • Tennis                 |
| • Basketball | • Hockey                    | • Trampolining           |
| • Dance      | • Netball                   | • Volleyball             |



## ***Drama Productions***

Recent productions have included, “*Les Misérables*”, “*Black Comedy*”, “*Lady Windermere’s Fan*” and “*Macbeth*”.

### ***Other extra-curricular activities/clubs across the school include:***

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|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| • Astronomy Society     | • Christian Union       | • Debating Society             | • Film Club                        | • Mathematics                | • Science          |
| • Art Open Studio       | • Community Service     | • Dissection Club              | • GO4SET Club                      | • Mathematics Team Challenge | • Science Magazine |
| • Board games           | • Computer Science Club | • Dragons’ Apprentice          | • Homework Clubs                   | • Medical Society            | • STEM EAST Club   |
| • Deck & strategy games | • D&T Club              | • Engineering Education Scheme | • House Events ( <i>numerous</i> ) | • Public Speaking            | • Sustain Group    |
| • Charity work          | • D&T Jewellery Club    | • Feminist Society             | • Languages                        | • Reading                    |                    |
| • Chess                 | • D&T Engineering Club  |                                | • Latin                            |                              |                    |



# *Educational Trips & School Visits*

*We greatly value the education and experiences that our students gain from taking part in trips and visits and the time that staff devote to making them successful. Students are offered a wealth of opportunities across all year groups and subject areas.*

Students undertake fieldwork, visit theatres, museums, galleries, activity centres and other places of interest, and work with students from other schools, e.g. masterclasses, competitions. Large numbers of students participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, up to Gold Level. Visiting speakers – poets, authors, scientists, religious leaders etc. – also enhance teaching and learning in school.

We have well-established language exchanges with schools in France, Spain and Germany. There are other opportunities

to use the languages taught in the countries where they are spoken and sometimes such trips create cross-curricular possibilities – such as trips to visit the war graves and music tours. The ski trips are always very popular and, over the past few years, senior students have participated in overseas expeditions to Mongolia, Cambodia and Tanzania.

A list of typical trips and visits can be found in the supplementary booklet.





# Charity

*At Parmiter's, to be true to our charitable foundation we put a great deal of emphasis on charity work and raise a large amount of money every year for causes chosen by students.*

Each year group in the school has an allocated time for charitable activity and there is a specific day of activities every year - "The Big Day" - when the whole school engages in fund-raising for a host of charities. A number of the speakers who give presentations to the Sixth Form represent charities, with some of which we have established long-term relationships, such as the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Speakers sometimes visit school assemblies. Expeditions overseas, such as to Tanzania, have had a charitable aspect and we enter Sixth Form teams in the Dragons' Apprentice competition, where students have the opportunity to learn business and entrepreneurial skills, while raising money for local charities.





# Partnership

## *Parents/Carers*

We believe that young people benefit most from their education when parents and school work together in partnership. Our aim is to support parents by involving them in their child's education and in the full life of the school. We communicate regularly through letters, emails and the school website and hold information evenings when decisions need to be made. We will get in touch with you if we have any concerns about your child socially or academically; we encourage you to approach the school if you have concerns or information that we need to know. All parents are automatically members of our excellent Parents' Association and parents are also represented on the Governing Body.

## *Governors*

The Governing Body has a key role in setting the ethos and strategic direction of the school. We are extremely well served by dedicated and supportive governors who get involved in school life at all levels. A current list of governors can be found on our website.

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*'I feel very privileged to have  
been part of the Parmiter's family'*

Former student

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## *Herts & Bucks Teaching School Alliance*

The Herts & Bucks Teaching School Alliance is a collaboration of schools, universities and learning trusts in the south of Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire. We work together with the aim of sustaining and promoting an exceptional quality of education for the students and communities we serve. Each establishment involved shares a commitment to continuous improvement and has a proven track record of good practice.

Our principal activities are Teacher Training, Professional Development, Research and School-to-School Support. Within the current landscape of significant educational change, this partnership is a key source of stability and mutual support.

## *Community*

We encourage all our students to contribute to the life of their local community. Volunteering is a vital component of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Community Service is an expectation in the Sixth Form. Through such activity students develop skills for life and future employability. We run work shadowing, work experience and business-related projects with the support of local business and industry. Close links with local primary, secondary and special schools facilitate joint project-working, sharing of expertise and resources, and transition.





# Admissions & Transition

## Admissions

Full information about admissions is on our school website. It is recommended that families who wish to apply for a place at Parmiter's attend our Open Day, when tours of the school are offered and teaching staff are available to answer questions about our courses. The Headmaster will talk to parents and students to give a flavour of school life and to cover the main aspects of the admissions process. There will also be an opportunity to ask more detailed questions.

Tours during the school day are offered in October. Appointments can be made via the school office or at the admissions desk at Open Day.

## In-Year Admissions

We rarely have vacancies outside the normal admissions round. Families who wish to apply are asked to complete the In-Year Application Form, available from the school office or the website. Any vacancies are filled from the list in accordance with the relevant over-subscription criteria.

## Transition

We have a very successful transition programme to help students settle well so that they feel happy and safe at school. The process begins soon after the offer letters have been sent out. Students are asked to come in to sit CAT diagnostic tests and we use the information from these to help us monitor their progress throughout the school.

We have excellent relationships with our feeder schools and the Year 7 team undertake an intensive programme of school visits. We also meet the students and answer their questions about secondary school. We host a series of Parent/Student Transition evenings where sessions on necessary skills are held. The Induction Day in July is an opportunity for students to sample some lessons, meet their Form Tutor and familiarise themselves with the site. We organise a special tea party for students who are the only one joining us from their primary school a few days before Induction Day where they are introduced to others who will be in the same form and who are also coming on their own.

Throughout Year 7, we use the form period in the morning as well as Life Skills lessons to continue to support our students through the transition process. Parents are encouraged to contact either the Head of Year or one of the team if at any point they are worried about their child.





# The Sixth Form

The Sixth Form is central to the ethos and traditions of Parmiter's. It is noted for its diversity of opportunities, its academic excellence and its friendly and positive nature.

We offer an extensive and highly successful two-year A level programme. This is enhanced by all students taking the Extended Project Qualification, which allows them to work in an undergraduate style. A distinctive feature is the Liberal Studies programme in which outside speakers address a wide variety of topics, such as social issues, health education, religion and politics. We provide a huge range of rewarding extra-curricular opportunities for students to extend their experiences beyond their A level studies, as the page on Societies and Clubs indicates. Many sixth formers become House Captains or Prefects, gaining further experiences that develop skills of leadership, communication, organisation, time management and responsibility.

The Sixth Form pastoral team, working closely with the Careers Co-ordinator, is vastly experienced in helping students settle into the Sixth Form, adapt to new ways of working, cope with the pressures of school and adolescent life, prepare for examinations and progress to life beyond Parmiter's. Most of our students move on to Higher Education.

Whether they face the challenge of entry into Higher Education, apprenticeships, employment, training or gap years, they can be assured of expert help and guidance.

Sixth Form facilities include: a Learning Resource Centre for the exclusive use of sixth formers; two further private study areas, one of which is the base for information about further education and careers; a large common room; a Sixth Form café; car parking space on site. We are keen to welcome students from outside of our own Year 11 into our Sixth Form. Students in this position often mention how welcoming and caring they find their reception here.

*There is a separate Sixth Form prospectus and further information is on our website.*

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*'Parmiter's has an excellent Sixth Form and the atmosphere and environment are positive'*

Former student

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# Additional Information

## Attendance

The importance of attending school regularly and punctually cannot be overstated; the link between good attendance and high standards of achievement is well proven. Good attendance means that students establish good educational habits and routines, keep up with work more easily, develop well socially and have a good attendance record to show prospective employers. It is essential for these reasons that students do not miss lessons unless it is unavoidable. So we ask parents not to take children out of school during term time for holidays.

## Child Protection & Safeguarding

Parmiter's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students. We expect all members of staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Our aim is to establish an environment where students feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to when they have a worry or concern. Parents and carers may also contact us where they have concerns about the welfare or safety of their child. The Designated Senior Teachers work closely with the pastoral team to support students. A copy of our Child Protection Policy, which is updated and reviewed annually, can be accessed on the school website.

## Uniform

Great importance is attached to the wearing of correct school uniform (Years 7-11) and the dress code in the Sixth Form. The uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of the school and setting an appropriate tone. It instils pride and supports positive behaviour and discipline. It helps to promote a sense of belonging to the Parmiter's community and has been chosen to be smart, practical and affordable.

## Worship

School assemblies are of a broadly Christian but non-denominational nature. It is the intention that school worship at Parmiter's should foster the spiritual - the sense that there is more to life than the purely material and physical - and should also emphasise the reasons for moral choices within a common framework. Parents may ask for their child to be withdrawn from Religious Education or acts of collective worship, and alternative arrangements for their supervision are made.







PARMITER'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1681

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*'I am proud to have been a Parmiterian'*

Former student

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## PARMITER'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1681

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*Photographs taken mainly by Parmiter's students and Fashion Show photos taken by Marissa D'Alessandro*