



Carter Community School
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

The best in
everyone



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL



...we are particularly proud of the individual care and support we can offer our students...

Carter Community School is a small secondary academy for students aged 11-16 with 400 students on roll. In contrast to some of the larger schools in the area, we are particularly proud of the individual care and support we can offer our students, ensuring that we are able to meet their specific needs and help them achieve their full potential.

Being a small academy, however, does not prevent us from offering a wide range of GCSE courses, alongside a diverse vocational programme.

We actively strive to create a climate for learning that inspires, motivates and engages all of our students and staff. From parents and inspectors through to students and visitors, everyone who enters the academy is struck by our commitment, ethos and aspirational attitude.

We expect the best from everyone, with a clear and consistent focus on our key values - Ambition, Determination, Respect, Enthusiasm, Confidence and Creativity. Through this continued commitment to develop, prepare and nurture young people for success in further education, work and life, our aim is for our students to retain and exhibit these values within school, the wider community and in later life.

Here at Carter Community School, we continually work to raise our standards and expectations, through an aspirational drive and push towards excellence, helping ensure we reach our goals and targets.

I hope this prospectus gives you an insight into the excellent work we do here, but don't take our word for it. Come and see for yourselves at one of our open events or book an appointment to visit and find out how we really do bring out the best in everyone.

Sam Davidson



OUR PLEDGE TO OUR STUDENTS

Our Pledge to our students incorporates our values of
ENTHUSIASM, AMBITION, DETERMINATION, RESPECT, CREATIVITY and CONFIDENCE.

UNITED LEARNING



Carter Community School is sponsored by United Learning - a group of schools which aims to provide excellent education for children and young people across the country. We seek to improve the life chances of all the children and young people we serve and make it our mission to bring out the best in everyone - students, staff, parents and the wider community. We are uniquely united across both the state and the independent sectors; we make learning and improvement our focus. Together, we are one of the country's largest education providers, currently educating over 36,000 students and employing over 7,000 members of staff, including over 3,000 teachers.

We provide a broad education that prepares young people to progress in learning and to make a success of their lives. We focus sharply on the evidence of what makes it more likely that young people will progress and succeed, apply that to our practice, and continue to learn and develop our schools. We make it a priority to provide teachers with excellent professional support and development, so that every child receives an excellent experience.

“ At Carter the door is always open, communication is good, you actively listen and issues are resolved quickly. ”

YEAR 11 PARENT

Through being a group, we can offer more to both staff and young people than any single school could offer alone. The growing range of outstanding group-wide activities that we can provide means that more young people will have truly exceptional and inspiring experiences. Already, we believe that our group contains the most developed relationships and practical interaction between independent and state schools in the country, creating benefits for all the schools involved.

“ I love the fact that we are all one big community here at Carter. We all support each other and have a lot of respect for the staff and other pupils. ”

YEAR 10 STUDENT

ENTHUSIASM

- *Students will have been on an overnight stay or international educational visit.*
- *Students will have participated in one of the following events: a play, dance or musical performance, or a sporting event.*





PARTNERSHIP FOR LEARNING

Primary/Secondary Liaison

Here at Carter Community School, we place great importance on developing close working relationships with our primary feeder schools, with a dedicated transition programme and regular staff meetings to discuss transition and curriculum opportunities.

Once a student has been allocated a place here, their journey begins. They will be visited in their feeder school by key staff members and will, in return, visit us on a regular basis to ensure a smooth transition before starting with us in September.

Sport

Carter Community School has close links with many local sporting groups who support learning in school. We also have regular sporting fixtures with local schools, both home and away, and there are many opportunities for students to compete in local and national sporting events.

Work Experience and Careers

Strong work experience links are developed within the local and wider community to give older students the opportunity to experience, at first hand, a variety of career and work environments, before making their own career choices. Our students receive unbiased advice and support from career advisors on their future work and education prospects, taking part in a number of 'life skills' events to fully prepare them for life after school.

Parents/Carers

We want our parents/carers to be active participants in the life of Carter Community School. In addition to regular reports and opportunities to receive progress updates, we actively encourage parents to become involved in their child's education. Consultation and celebration evenings are just some of the ways we achieve this.

AMBITION

- *Students will have had the opportunity to help others through community work (also linked to confidence).*
- *Students will have been to an artistic or sporting event.*



LEADERSHIP



OUR PREFECTS

Carter Community School has its own team of prefects, comprising a Head boy and girl, Deputy Head boy and girl and House prefects.

Why do we have prefects?

- To develop the use of 'Student Voice'.
- To act as positive role models, where good leadership is about service to others and where our prefects have the confidence to make a difference.
- To promote the school positively to the wider community.

There are also leadership opportunities in other subject areas e.g. iGeniuses in ICT, Sports, Music and Technology leaders are very helpful members of our academy.

THE STUDENT COUNCIL

At Carter Community School, the role of the Student Council is central to the way that we operate, playing an integral part in everyday school life.

Every tutor group has two student representatives, who are democratically elected each October. The Student Council has four places on the Governing Body, regularly

meeting with Governors to take an active role in the decisions of the school. The Student Council also attends termly meetings with other student reps from the Borough of Poole at the Secondary Schools' Student Council Forum and is involved in the recruitment process for new appointments at the academy, from initial tours through to the interview stages.

You receive the best education and the staff help to bring out the best in you.

YEAR 11 STUDENT

My son has thrived academically at Carter due to the fantastic leadership and committed staffing team.

YEAR 11 PARENT

You can express yourself and be unique.

YEAR 7 STUDENT

DETERMINATION

- *Students will have planned, delivered and evaluated a project from start to finish (also linked to confidence).*
- *Students' academic, sporting or creative talents or their commitment to Carter Community School's values will have been celebrated in the academy or outside.*





BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

We whole heartedly encourage our students to make the most of the extracurricular activities offered at Carter Community School.

These include:

- A full range of sports teams and clubs, including work with AFC Bournemouth.
- Music clubs - Individual and group tuition in music by specialist teachers.
- The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.
- Theatre visits.
- Pledge activities including visiting London, museums and physical challenges.
- Dance clubs.
- Gifted and Talented events and activities.
- Academic intervention activities.
- Mandarin lessons.

The academy also operates a house system, with four houses - Holmes, Churchill, Austen and Hawking. Each tutor group is assigned to a different house along with staff members.

*What makes Carter special for me is its size.
Every teacher knows you and doesn't consider
you just a student. Everyone is friendly too.*

YEAR 11 STUDENT



RESPECT

- *Students will have learnt to understand other cultures and faiths.*



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is there a school uniform?

Yes. Our prospectus shows many examples of our student uniform. Our students take pride in their uniform, which we believe promotes a sense of community. All our students are expected to wear full academy uniform at all times and in the correct manner.

How much homework is set?

We believe that homework is an essential extension to school study and helps to develop independent learning skills.

We will ensure that:

- Homework is set on a regular basis in accordance with the homework timetable.
- Tasks are of an appropriate length and difficulty.
- Homework will be marked and students given feedback.
- Students wishing to complete homework at school may do so.

“Carter keeps me updated on my son's progress and gives me an idea of any extra tuition that might be necessary.”

YEAR 11 PARENT

“Parents' evening at Carter is useful as I have met every teacher for each lesson, who all gave me valuable insight into my daughter's progress.”

YEAR 8 PARENT

How do you reward and celebrate positive behaviour?

Carter Community School has its own dedicated rewards system: Vivo. Vivos are given for good behaviour and exemplary work and can be used as house points and converted into gifts and vouchers. We also have 'The Pride of Carter' award ceremony each year to celebrate the very best that the academy has to offer.

What happens if a student misbehaves?

Student behaviour at Carter has been recognised as one of our strong features. However, should a student misbehave there is a chance/choice/consequence structure which includes red cards, after and in-school detentions and parent/carers meetings in school. A full copy of our behaviour policy is available from the academy website - www.carter.poole.sch.uk.

CREATIVITY

- *Students will try an activity that they have never tried before.*





What is Carter Community School's admissions policy?

Students will be admitted at the age of 11+. We are a non-selective academy so do not have entry examinations. Our admissions policy is reviewed annually and is available on our academy website. Admissions during the academic year will also be considered. Please contact our attendance office for further details or an informal discussion.

What support is there at Carter Community School for students with special educational needs?

Our progress hub and inclusion team and outside agencies work closely together to ensure that all students, no matter what their personal requirements may be, are able to share in all that the academy can offer them and provide them with the support to be fully involved with their education and to achieve their full potential. A copy of our Student Support (SEN) policy is available from the academy website.

“We always get the opportunity to have our say in the things that we do both in and outside of lessons.”

YEAR 11 STUDENT

“This is the only school where I have felt that my child's teachers have actually known my children, their strengths, weaknesses and their potential.”

YEAR 10 PARENT

How do you inform parents/carers about student progress?

Student progress and attendance is monitored and stored on our electronic management information system (eportal) which can be viewed at any time. There is also a regular schedule of updating student progress which will enable you to gain an overview of all subjects. In addition to this there are two annual consultations to give you the opportunity to discuss your son/daughter's work with their form and subject teachers, where you will receive a detailed student summary at this meeting.

How can I contact the school?

Our telephone, email and website details are on the back cover of this prospectus. If you would like to visit us or discuss any aspect of the academy, we would be delighted to hear from you.

CONFIDENCE

- *Students will have had the chance to express their views on local, national or global matters.*





TEACHING AND LEARNING

At Carter Community School, we strive to promote excellence and enjoyment in teaching and learning, enabling all learners to engage in a broad and rich curriculum. Teachers at the academy use a variety of teaching strategies to engage and interest learners so that they make good progress. We encourage our students to try new and creative approaches to their learning; we always allow reflection time for students to re-draft and improve their work in every subject.

ICT is incorporated into many lessons through the use of ipads, other tablet devices and laptops, which allow students to personalise their studies and enhance their independent learning skills.

All in all, Carter is a fantastic school. It has a wonderful community, you are never let down if you have a problem and I feel like I learn a lot here.
YEAR 9 STUDENT

The staff are supportive and give lots of tips on how to get better at our subjects.
YEAR 10 STUDENT

CURRICULUM

Each year, we review the Curriculum to make sure that the subjects we offer meet the needs of our students. There are 30 lessons each week for KS3 and KS4, and each one lasts for 50 or 100 minutes. Students spend 20 minutes at the start of each day with their tutor.

Key Stage 3 - Years 7, 8 and 9

Carter will continue to deliver an age and ability appropriate programme. This allows all students the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and understanding that will ready them for examination based study in Key Stage 4 and beyond.

In years 7, 8 and 9 students will study all of their lessons, with specialist teachers in dedicated subject classrooms. ICT is delivered via a cross-curricular approach using our ICT suites.

Key Stage 4 - Years 10 and 11

We are proud to offer a wide range of traditional GCSEs and vocational courses. KS4 courses last two years and students study 3 periods per week in each options subject.

All students study at least 8 GCSEs (or equivalents) including English Language, Maths and Science. In addition, students also take part in Physical Education and have three collapsed days of Beliefs and Values.

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Principal: Ms S Davidson BEd. (Hons)

Vice Principal: Mr C Phillips BSc. (Hons)

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