



PARMITER'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1681



NEMO SIBI NASCITUR



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.





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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 in their public examinations. 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 characteristics that we aim to inculcate in our students are those of integrity, confidence, resilience, creativity and sensitivity to the needs of others.

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.

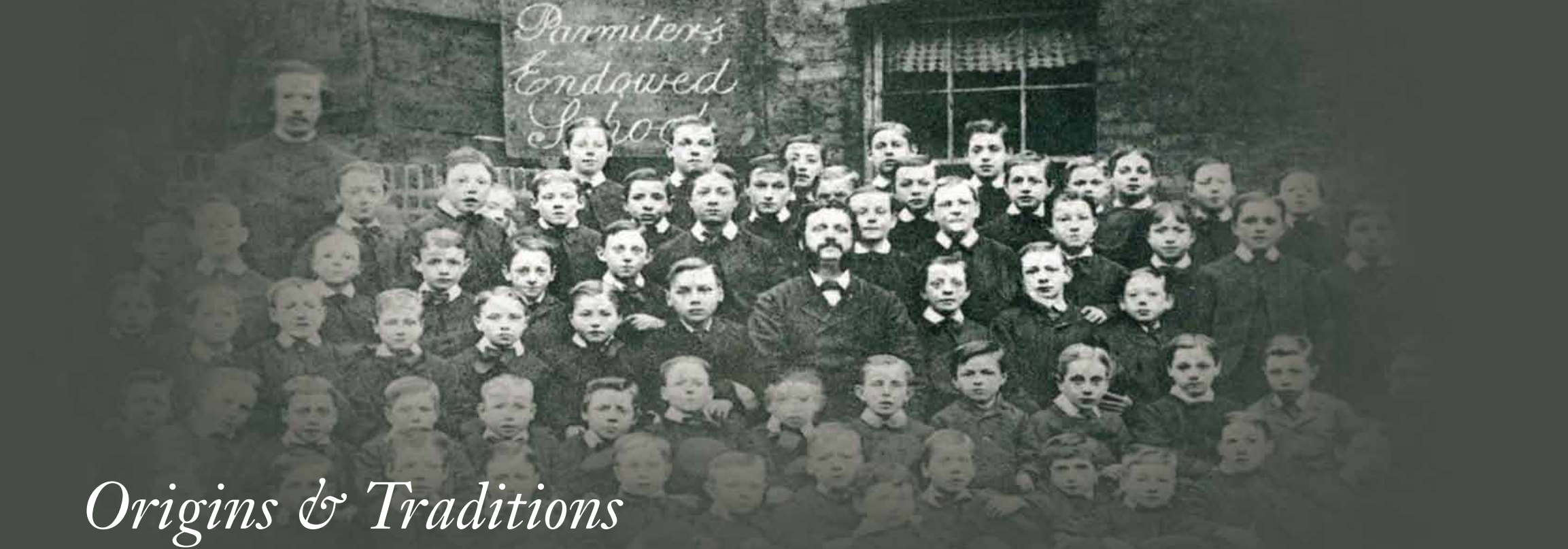
Consequently the school is extremely well accommodated, resourced and maintained.

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

Headmaster

'Parmiter's is an outstanding school with an outstanding Sixth Form' Ofsted



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 2006 Parmiter’s was recognised as a High Performing Specialist School by the DFE with three discrete subject specialisms: Technology, Music and Languages. 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.

We run a House system and the six 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!

The School Ethos

Ethos

The ethos of Parmiter's School is epitomised by the school motto – “*Nemo sibi nascitur*” (No one is born unto himself alone). As members of the Parmiter's family we are committed to serving each other and our wider community in the way Thomas Parmiter, our founder, intended.

Aims

Parmiter's School 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.

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.



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. The curriculum is well balanced and offers a very wide range of learning experiences, both inside and outside the classroom.

We have high expectations of our students – we challenge them 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 all National Curriculum subjects, including Drama and ICT, which are taught discretely.

In Years 10 and 11 all 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.

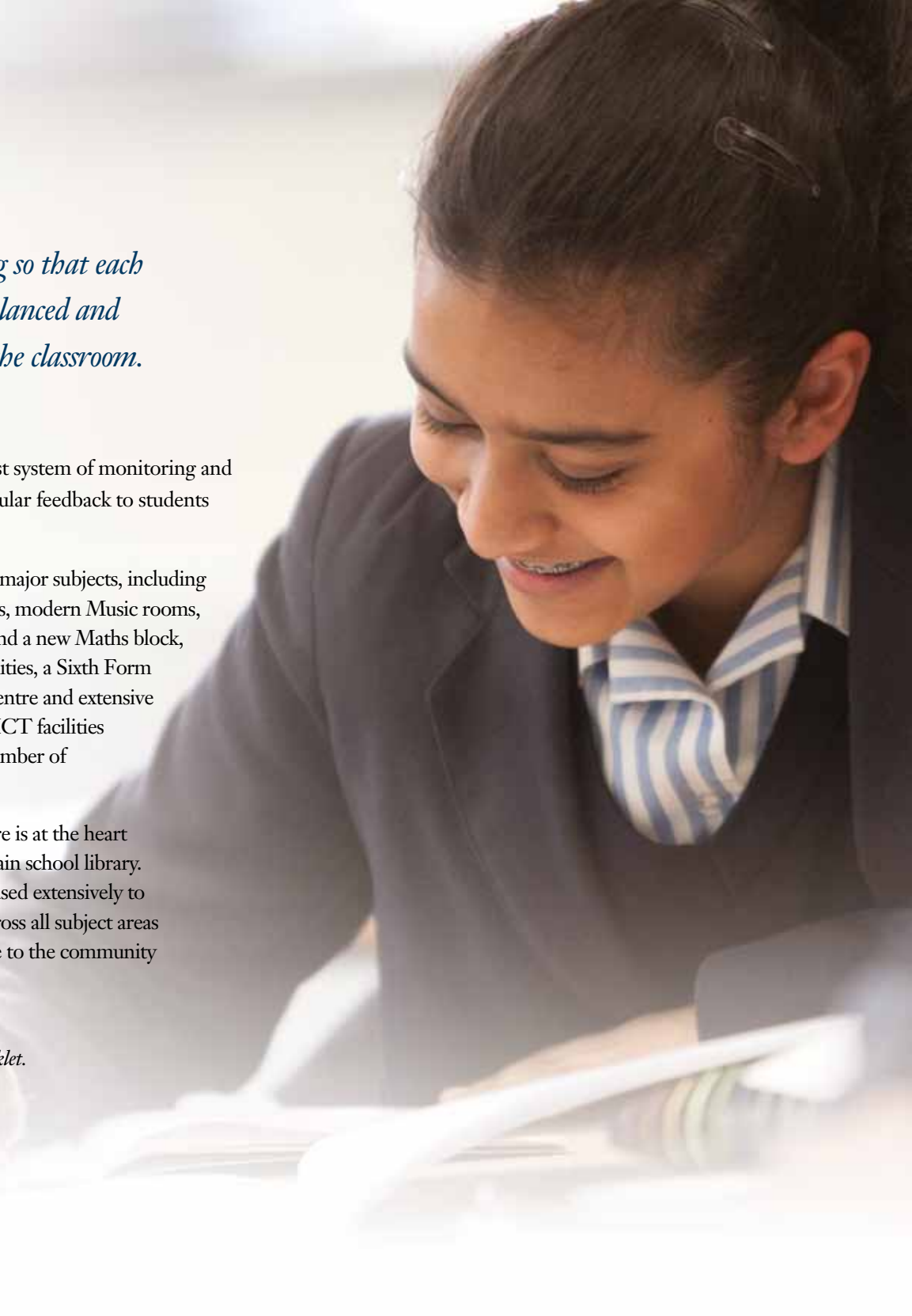
Careers education and guidance is comprehensively incorporated into the curriculum. We ensure that students are able to make good decisions about their future at each relevant stage of their secondary education.

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, modern Music rooms, a purpose built Drama studio and a new Maths block, well-equipped Technology facilities, a Sixth Form Centre, Gymnasium, Sports Centre and extensive playing fields. There are good ICT facilities across the school as well as a number of specialist computer rooms.

The Learning Resources Centre is at the heart of the school and houses the main school library. The multi-media facilities are used extensively to support curriculum delivery across all subject areas during the day and are available to the community for evening courses.

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





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

Pastoral Care

At Parmiter's the greatest attention is given to each student's progress throughout the school. The pastoral system is designed to provide a supportive, caring yet disciplined environment to enable all students to achieve their academic potential 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. All students are members of a form group and the pastoral care is offered through a year structure. In the lower school, students are taught in form groups for most subjects which 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 year group has a team of support tutors who will assist Form Tutors and support the mentoring process. The Head of Year and Deputy Head of Year have an overview of the year group and deal with more serious issues and organise mentoring and support, where required. All members of the Senior Leadership Team have involvement with the pastoral care of the students. Heads of Key Stage have overall responsibility for pastoral care, policy and practice and work strategically with other members of the Senior Leadership Team 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 to ensure that students settle quickly into the school.

All students are expected to be punctual, tidy, hard-working 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.

Support for students with medical needs is provided by our Matron, who will deal with medical issues as they arise. The school nurse provides a drop-in surgery once a week to support students with confidential health or personal concerns. Counselling support is also available.

'The excellent pastoral support that my son has received at Parmiter's has made an enormous difference in helping him cope with his first year at the school and having the confidence to participate in all aspects of school life' Year 7 parent

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 with parents/carers 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 parents/carers to approach the school if they 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.

'The children of our primary school and others in our partnership have benefitted enormously from the time, energy and commitment your school has given to the partnership activities'

Head of a primary school

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.



Developing Creativity & Leadership

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.

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 levels. 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. The school has extensive, well-kept playing fields, an Astroturf surface as well as many other first class outdoor and indoor sporting facilities. There are strong links with local clubs, with which many of the school's students, past and present, have been or are associated.

Drama

Involvement in Drama is immensely valuable because it encourages innovation, instils self-confidence and prepares students for life after school. Whole school productions are always of a high standard and give opportunities for students to get involved as performers or stage crew. The school also participates in Rock Challenge UK, a performing arts event which promotes healthy life choices and challenges students to create and be involved in their own production from conceptualisation through to the live performance.

Music

Music is a major strength of Parmiter's and musical aptitude is one of the possible criteria for entry to the school. Many students join in one of more of the groups in the Music department's flourishing extra-curricular programme; these provide opportunities for students to participate in many different types of performances within school, in the local community and on tour. The ensembles cover a range of abilities - from beginner level through to accomplished performers - and although most groups are not auditioned, repertoire is varied and often ambitious. Senior musicians take leading roles and support younger musicians, and we are proud of our long-standing tradition of joint music-making with Breakspere School. A significant number of students also take advantage of the individual tuition available for voice and a wide range of instruments.

Art

All students are encouraged to explore their own artistic passions and express themselves through a range of different media in Art & Design. Through theoretical studies and the individual development of practical skills, our courses lead to a fuller understanding of the part played by Art & Design in the history of human development. Widening cultural horizons, enriching the individual's personal resources and engendering self-awareness are central to our teaching. Students are supported in their creative endeavours by residential trips, visits to art galleries and exhibitions, masterclasses, visiting artists and competitions.



A group of students in historical costumes are performing on a stage. In the foreground, a young woman with long brown hair, wearing a black dress with a red sash, is smiling and gesturing with her arms. Behind her, other students in period clothing, including a man in a white shirt and dark vest, and a woman in a red dress, are also visible. The background is a warm, orange-toned wall.

Student Voice

We value all members of our school community and are committed to developing student voice to ensure that students' views are represented at all levels and that they are empowered to be active learners and leaders. As well as assisting the learning and social development of students, we believe that student contributions can benefit the school's performance.

At School Congress meetings, students discuss issues which are relevant to their year groups and contribute to reviewing school policies and practice, and developing teaching and learning practice.

Enterprise

Students across the school are encouraged to develop their entrepreneurial skills and enhance their skills in other areas such as team working, financial understanding, communication, creativity and initiative.

A range of business-related activity is offered to give students the opportunity to work in a team, running a business to raise money for charities. Previous business ideas have included publishing a book and launching a kitchen garden.

'I enjoy the fact that even in Year 7 you are given responsibility and that teachers listen to your opinion' Year 7 student

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.

The school clubs which are offered include:

Musical ensembles:

- Big Band
- Choirs
- Concert Band
- Flute Quartets
- Friday Band
- Guitar
- Jazz Workshops
- Orchestra
- Percussion Ensemble
- Recorder Group
- Saxophone Ensemble
- String Groups



Sporting activities:

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

Other extra-curricular activities/clubs include:

- Art Open Studio
- Board games
- Deck & strategy games
- Chess
- Christian Union
- D&T Club
- D&T Jewellery Club
- D&T Engineering Club
- Debating Society
- Film Club
- Languages
- Latin
- Mathematics
- Reading
- Science
- STEM EAST Club
- Sustain Group
- Young Enterprise

Educational Trips & School Visits

'I've enjoyed all the extra-curricular activities and meeting so many new friends. Everyone is extremely friendly and there are a huge variety of clubs to join' Year 7 student

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.

There are regular opportunities for students to undertake fieldwork, to visit theatres, museums, galleries and other places of interest, and to work with students from other

schools, e.g. masterclasses, competitions. Large numbers of students participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. 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 Bolivia, Mongolia and Tanzania.

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





The Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at Parmiter's is a large and vibrant body that is central to the ethos and traditions of the school. It is noted for its diversity of opportunities, its academic excellence and its friendly and positive nature.

Curriculum

We offer an extensive and highly successful two-year A level programme. This is enhanced by the opportunity for Year 13 students to take the Extended Project, a qualification which allows them to work in an undergraduate style. A further distinctive feature is the Year 12 Liberal Studies programme in which outside speakers present a wide variety of sessions, covering social issues, health education, religion and politics.

Beyond the Curriculum

We are acutely aware that competition for higher education places or employment is more intense than ever before. We provide a huge range of rewarding opportunities for students to extend their experiences beyond their A level studies. These include activities in: sport, music, drama and dance; Duke of Edinburgh; public speaking and debating; the house system.

Sixth Form students often organise activities with minimal input from teaching staff. Many become House Captains or Prefects, gaining further experiences that develop skills of leadership, communication, organisation, time management and responsibility.

Pastoral

The Sixth Form pastoral team 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. However, the school is aware that, increasingly, they are considering alternatives to university. Whether they face the challenge of entry into Higher Education, employment, apprenticeships, training or gap years, they can be assured of expert help and guidance.

Facilities

Sixth Form facilities at Parmiter's are being continually developed and improved. They currently include: a Learning Resource Centre for the exclusive use of sixth formers and supported by qualified librarians; two further private study areas, one of which is the base for information about further education and careers; a large common room; 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.



'I have had a really good time in the Parmiter's Sixth Form; teachers are friendly and supportive, and it has been a great transition to my higher education' Year 13 student

Admissions

Secondary Transfer to Year 7

There is a wealth of information about admissions on our school website, including the admissions criteria, application forms and answers to frequently asked questions.

It is recommended that families who wish to apply for a place at Parmiter's attend our Open Day. Tours of the school will be offered, including all of the departments, and teaching staff will be available to answer questions about our courses. The Headmaster will give a series of talks to parents and students to give a flavour of life at Parmiter's School and to cover the main aspects of the admissions process. There will also be an opportunity to answer more detailed enquiries about admissions and school transport, if required.

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

In Year Admissions

We very 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 and not according to the date a child's name was added to the list. If there are no vacancies, children will be placed on the continuing interest list for the appropriate year group.

Further details are available on our website.

A photograph of two young women, likely Year 7 students, in school uniforms (dark blue blazers over blue and white striped shirts). They are sitting at a desk in a library, looking down at a book. The background shows bookshelves filled with books.

'The happiest thoughts when I look back at my first four weeks at Parmiter's are the friends I have made, and enjoying new experiences together' Year 7 student

Transition

There is a very successful transition programme in place at Parmiter's School to help the students to settle well so that they feel happy and safe at school.

The process begins soon after the offer letters have been sent out in March. Students are asked to come in to sit CAT diagnostic tests and we use the information from these tests to help us monitor the progress of the students throughout the school.

We have excellent relationships with our feeder schools and once KS2 SATs have finished the Year 7 team undertake an intensive programme of school visits. These visits enable us to share information with the primary school staff. We also meet the students and answer their questions about secondary school.

We host a series of Parent/Student Transition evenings where sessions on literacy, ICT, general Year 7 organisation and time management 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 and school processes.

Students who are the only one joining us from their primary school have some additional support. We organise a special tea party for these students 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.

Transition doesn't stop once the academic year has started. Throughout the whole of Year 7 we use form period in the morning as well as Life Skills lessons to continue to support our students through this 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.



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 and 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.





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'I feel very privileged to have been part of the Parmiter's family and believe that the amazing 'community' created there is one of the main reasons for helping me achieve what I have, along with the encouragement of the staff and the fantastic feeling that exists throughout the school' Ex student



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