

Candidate Information



Charters School

UNITY • RESPECT • EXCELLENCE



CHARTERS SCHOOL

WELCOME FROM CO-HEADTEACHERS

Thank you for your interest in Charters School. We hope this document provides you with information to help you decide if this is the right opportunity for you.

Charters is an outstanding school (Ofsted 2009) and our students achieve excellent academic outcomes at Key Stages 4 and 5. We are particularly proud that the vast majority of our students achieve strong value added progress scores that provide them with choice and opportunity as they move forward.

Particular highlights from our results in 2016 were that 58% of our Year 13 students gained A*-B grades and we expect our L3VA score to, again, place us in the top 10% of Post-16 providers nationally. The picture at Key Stage 4 is equally strong with 78% of our students gaining an A*-C grade in the Basics (English and Mathematics). Once again, we expect our value added score to be strong and place us amongst the top performing schools nationally.

Charters became an academy in 2012 but we still maintain close links with the local authority who have recently provided funding to build replacement Mathematics accommodation for our expanded intake. They have also provided funds for a new leisure centre with a 25m swimming pool due for completion in 2019.

Perhaps the most exciting development, though, has been the introduction of the PiXL Edge. This is an award scheme for students, based on activities in and out of school, that develops and recognises attributes in leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication. PiXL Edge, backed by the CBI and leading industry partners provides a great scheme that is growing nationally with nearly 1000 secondary schools currently signed up but, best of all, the idea for PiXL Edge originated at Charters and has been developed by our senior staff.

The school has a good reputation in the local area and is regularly over-subscribed. This is because parents appreciate our inclusive comprehensive ethos allied to a hard-working and committed staff who are 'willing to go the extra mile' with students. As a consequence the day to day relationships in the school between staff, students and parents are warm and positive.

All these elements are best summed up in the school's motto: **Unity, Respect, Excellence.**



Martyn Parker and Richard Pilgrim, Co-Headteachers



CHARTERS SCHOOL

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

Charters School, an academy, is an 11-18 mixed comprehensive school of 1700 students with over 450 students in the Sixth Form. The school provides a complete range of opportunities for students to achieve well academically and for successful personal development within a caring and supportive environment.

Educational success is valued at the appropriate level for all individuals and is based on a determination to provide the best possible curriculum, resources and style of school. Appropriate attention is given to the individual needs of all students from those with learning difficulties to those with Oxbridge potential. It is recognised that the quality of the teacher is critical to all aspects of the school's work. A group of strong, experienced Curriculum and Subject Leaders lead Faculty and Departmental teams of well qualified colleagues.

The school had an OFSTED inspection in November 2009, when the Inspectors judged the school to be an "Outstanding School". The first paragraph of the Report encapsulates the essence of the school:

"This outstanding school is rightly prized by the local community. Staff, students and parents are proud of their school and the education it provides. Students excel in their academic achievement and personal development. They behave impeccably and show tremendous respect to their teachers and each other. Students relish opportunities to develop their leadership skills and take on responsibility. Their outstanding conduct and appreciation of other people's needs contribute to an extremely cohesive school community."

THE CURRICULUM - YEARS 7 - 11

The curriculum is delivered through eleven Curriculum Areas: English; Mathematics; Science; Modern Foreign Languages; Humanities; Computing; Social Sciences; Creative Arts; Technology; Business (inc Travel and Tourism) and Physical Education. We also deliver a comprehensive Religious Studies, Citizenship and PSHE programme.

Extensive liaison takes place with our feeder Primary schools and considerable care is given to placing students in the mixed-ability Tutor Groups which initially form some teaching groups in the common curriculum of the first three years.

Students in need of special assistance with basic learning skills receive in-class support and/or are withdrawn from some groups for individual help. Some setting is introduced in Year 7 and increases in Year 8 and by Year 9.

GCSE courses begin to be introduced in the core subjects in Year 9. There are various curriculum routes that students are able to follow according to their ability and interests. Traditional option subjects are available including French, Spanish, Design and Technology, History, Geography, ICT and Computing, Art and Design, Photography, Drama and Music. Students can 'mix and match' these with more vocational subjects such as BTECs in Business, Sports Studies, Performing Arts and a GCSE in Child Development.

SIXTH FORM

Students wishing to continue their education beyond the age of sixteen may be accepted for an appropriate course in the Sixth Form. The following types of courses cater for most needs:

AS and A2 Advanced Level in subjects selected from Art and Design, Business Studies, Biology, Chemistry, Drama and Theatre Studies, Economics, English Language and English Literature, Film Studies, Media Studies, Food Technology, French, Geography, Graphics with Materials Technology, Health & Social Care, History, ICT, Mathematics and Further Mathematics, Music, Music Technology, Philosophy and Ethics, Photography, Physical Education, Physics, Psychology, Product Design with Resistant Materials, Sociology, Spanish, and Textiles. **BTEC courses** are offered in Business, Performing Arts and Sport. Work experience is an integral part of the programme. In addition, students can enrol on NVQ Tennis.

HOMEWORK

All students do homework. The school has introduced an online programme called 'Show My Homework' which students and parents can access to keep a track of homework set and deadlines, and to pick up resources for those the tasks.

Parents receive a copy of the School's Homework Policy which identifies the amount and type of homework which should be undertaken.

PASTORAL ORGANISATION

Members of the Senior Leadership Team oversee Year Group Teams, led by Heads of Year which are organised in eight Tutorial Groups within a horizontal structure except for Year 7 where there are ten Tutorial Groups.

The Tutor is the personal tutor of all students in the group and they meet at the beginning of each day. Continuity of support is achieved as the Tutor remains with the students in his or her group as they move up the school. Similarly the Head of Year, who leads the tutorial team, continues to have overall responsibility for a Year Group throughout years 7 – 11.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Students are encouraged to adopt high standards of concern for others and to take personal responsibility within the school.

Student Committees across the year groups and exist as forums for students' ideas. The Head Boy and Head Girl team is able to respond to the Governing Board on matters raised through the School Committees.

An extensive programme of extra-curricular activities is organised including many different sporting opportunities; a theatre club; choirs and instrumental groups; electronics; technology and computer clubs, a cookery club and many others which arise from subject, staff and/or student interest. There are approximately seventy extra-curricular activities on offer to the students each week.

School journeys, abroad and in this country, are regularly arranged and the use of our own Residential Outdoor Educational Centre at Tirabad in Wales is an integral part of the curriculum. All students are encouraged to benefit from these opportunities.

'THE EDGE'

We have always used our motto 'Unity, Respect, Excellence' to emphasise the core values and qualities that we want Charters' students to embody and with this in mind, we have recently launched 'The Edge'.

We have always believed that developing rounded individuals who are stand-out candidates for future employment is not just a matter of providing an impressive academic profile. The 'soft' skills, qualities and characteristics, are just as, and many would say, more important. Whilst our Sports College legacy and opportunities outside the curriculum, visiting Tirabad, for example, give Charters' students a head start, we believe that 'The Edge' will incentivise and inspire all our students to undertake self-development activities within and alongside their academic curriculum, as well as outside the school setting.

THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

We are proud of the Charters School summary entry in 'The Good Schools Guide':

"An admirable and humane school, with some of the sparkiest, brightest, most articulate and most delightful students it's been our pleasure to meet. Successfully holds its own against its glossy independent neighbours, and is preferred to same by many parents. If we hadn't lived in Crystal Palace, we would have sent our own children here."

STAFF

Staff appointed to the school are expected to make considerable personal contributions to the academic work of their Faculty through Departmental meetings and In-Service Training opportunities.

All staff are expected to conform to good standards of formal dress and to support established activities in the school.

ACCOMMODATION

Excellent specialist accommodation exists for all subjects, with suites of rooms for all Faculties.

Considerable building has taken place since the school opened in 1958, with a main phase of development dating from 1970. A Learning Support Centre caters for the needs of students with physical disabilities, who are fully integrated within the school curriculum.

A Leisure Centre, which increased the available sporting provision and made these facilities available for community use, was completed in 1985 and has recently been added to, providing a first-rate fitness facility for students, staff and community use. Other accommodation includes a Sixth Form Centre, Sports Hall, Gymnasium, Careers Room and School Shop. The school has excellent ICT facilities.

A purpose built Library and Resource Centre came into operation in December, 1992. The Library was extended in the summer of 2008.

Additional, purpose-built classroom accommodation has been added in recent years and an additional Sixth Form building was completed in January 2010.

The school site comprises some thirty acres in delightful surroundings, with two floodlit astro-turf pitches.

LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

In addition to a wide variety of activities involving students, staff and parents, the school has established an Extended Schools core offer. The Youth and Community Service run regular youth clubs on their premises on site. The School has strong international links with France and Spain.





APPLICATION INFORMATION

Application Information

Candidates are requested to complete the Charters Application Form which can be obtained from the Charters School Website: www.chartersschool.org.uk and send it by email, along with a covering letter of application addressed to the Co-Headteachers. Please send by email to a.coates@chartersschool.org.uk

Thank you for your interest in our school.

Martyn Parker and Richard Pilgrim
Co-Headteachers



Charters School has a responsibility for, and is committed to, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and for ensuring that they are protected from harm.

All applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service

Charters School is an Equal Opportunities Employer. Charters School: a company limited by guarantee, registered in England: Company Number: 08208767



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CHARTERS SCHOOL

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