



Alexandra Park





# Admissions

Alexandra Park School (APS) has places for 232 students in year 7. APS is a fully inclusive school and applications are through Haringey Local Educational Authority. For more information, please visit the admissions section of our school website.

**Head Teacher** Michael McKenzie

**Deputy Head Teachers**

**Performance & Development** Iraj Felfeli

**Pastoral Care** Rose O'Riordan

**Curriculum & Standards** Dan Silverman

**Chair of Trustees** Jamie Scott

The information contained in this prospectus is correct at time of printing. The school reserves the right to amend policies and structures to maintain excellence.

# Welcome from the Head Teacher

---

Alexandra Park School is a high-performing school that provides the best quality education and achieves the highest standards of academic success. Our motto is “Success for All” and we are proud to be a truly comprehensive school. Ours is a rich, diverse and harmonious community with a culture of great teaching and learning at its heart. Alexandra Park School continues to be rated Outstanding by Ofsted and is recognised as one of the best schools in the country. The Sunday Times has named Alexandra Park School in their ‘Top 20 Non-selective State Schools’, based on GCSE and A level performance. These accolades are heartening and celebrate the successes of our students.

Above all else, school is a place of learning and our students enjoy coming to school and develop a love of learning. We know that their experience of our teaching will be formative in encouraging their intellectual curiosity and their aspirations. We aim to make the classroom a positive, engaging and innovative place for them. Our teachers are first-rate, dedicated and skilled professionals who want to make a difference to each and every student’s future.

We deliver a broad and ambitious curriculum, which provides rich learning experiences and allows every student to master skills, develop passions and achieve. We recognise that character matters as much as knowledge; we actively teach, develop and reward independence, excellent behaviour and self-belief. Through our teaching, the opportunities afforded to our students, and our school values we aim to nurture positive, creative, resilient and kind young



people, who will one day be ready to take their place in the global community. My job is to make all of this possible. My responsibility is to share my vision, recruit the finest teachers and then to give them the freedom and resources to deliver outstanding teaching in order to develop exceptional learners. Alexandra Park School is a fantastic school. Your child will flourish with us.

Michael McKenzie, **Head Teacher**



# About Our School

**Alexandra Park School opened in 1999 with the aim of creating a great comprehensive school at the heart of the community. We have become that great local school offering top-class education alongside a wealth of experiences for all our students.**

We are a traditional school with an ethos of core values and an innovative edge. One of the reasons we are so successful is that we do not shy away from tough decisions. We enforce our behaviour policy and uniform code, whilst insisting upon healthy eating and refusing to tolerate mobile phones!

The recent Ofsted report highlights this as it states “Staff have very high expectations of pupils’ behaviour. Clear systems are in place to enable pupils to meet these”.

Childhood is a magical time and we want our students to grow and develop in a safe, healthy and supportive environment.

This focus on traditional educational values does not however prevent the school from being outward-facing and at the forefront of the changing world of education. We have a plethora of awards; we do not go out to collect them, but they indicate our priorities and our commitment to being the very best at everything we do.

We are part of the teaching school hub and continue to lead the recruitment and training of the very best teachers into the profession. We hold ‘World Class School’ status, the new standard in education for schools that have

moved beyond OFSTED outstanding. Whilst we hold the Prince’s Teaching Institute Award for all three core subjects, English, Maths and Science, we are equally proud of our Artsmark & School Games Gold standard, reflecting our diverse, creative and lively musical, artistic and sporting talents. We are one of only a handful of Confucius Schools that lead a national programme to develop Mandarin learning within UK schools. As a Science and Maths specialist school, both subjects are thriving and we lead on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) training across London. We have been appointed as the regional coordinator for science teacher development for the whole of London. We are also an Ogden Physics School, opening the door to an array of engaging scientists and universities that inspire our students.

Our passion for education and learning runs through all our subject areas. We are so very proud of our school, our staff, our students and our achievements to date.





# About Our Curriculum

## The Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Our intent is to provide students with a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum that fosters a love of learning, has a positive impact and enables all students to reach their academic potential. We build on students' achievements in Key Stage 2 to develop the breadth and depth of their knowledge, skills and understanding, preparing them thoroughly for the end of Key Stage tasks, tests and assignments in Year 9 and for taking GCSE and Vocational courses at Key Stage 4.

At every key stage, "Teachers are experts in their subjects" (Ofsted 2023).

Each year within Key Stage 3 has a different emphasis:

In Year 7 the focus is on reinforcing and strengthening numeracy and literacy skills, establishing high expectations and developing students' enthusiasm and independence for learning.

In Year 8 the focus is on maintaining high expectations, developing students' self-motivation by providing them with a very wide range of learning opportunities including the world beyond school and raising the level of challenge to stretch the most able.

In Year 9 the focus is on preparation for the end of Key Stage tests or assignments, preparing students for the demands of GCSEs and on making choices for Key Stage 4.

At Key Stage 4 students have access to a variety of GCSE courses as well as vocational options. More information on all subjects offered is available on the website.

At Key Stage 5 APS has an outstanding and oversubscribed sixth form that offers more than 30 A-level courses as well as vocational studies.





# Pastoral Care

At APS all students have a Form Tutor who stays with them throughout their time at the school. The tutor sees their form class at least twice a day, is the main point of contact for parents and provides day-to-day pastoral care. The Form Tutor monitors students' behaviour, attendance and has an overview of their academic progress.

A **Director of Studies** leads each year group and has overall responsibility for academic monitoring, rewards, encouragement, pastoral care and discipline. They are key in communication between home and school. They also work very closely with the Assistant Headteacher for the Key Stage and the Deputy Headteacher.

The school takes the safety of all students very seriously. APS is unequivocal in its intolerance of bullying incidents of any sort. Systems are in place to challenge wrongdoing and support victims and those whose behaviour causes upset or distress.

Students may receive commendations, postcards, emails, telephone calls or letters home to parents. Subject awards are distributed during 'Celebration Assembly'. Exemplary work is displayed in classrooms and corridors or shared with the class as a 'model'. Directors of Studies also issue school star badges during weekly assemblies to students meeting the threshold commendations for good work and behaviour.

Subject badges are issued to students who have demonstrated consistent engagement and attainment. 100% attendance badges are also issued and worn with pride on blazer lapels.



Within school, 'The Bridge' facility offers students who are finding mainstream lessons challenging, a short term and supportive environment in which to access support. This facility is also used for interventions and direct work. Key pastoral staff meet regularly to discuss students who may benefit from short term targeted additional support in school. We have support staff, mentors, a school counsellor and access to external agencies and alternative provisions, who may be able to offer more specialist intervention for students who need longer term support.

The school has an outstanding SEN department. More information is available on the website, please refer to the SEN Report .

“Pupils thrive at Alexandra Park School. They are very proud to attend the school. They support the well-being of others and say that everyone is welcome here.”

*Ofsted*





AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions in visual and/or other form.

AO1: Develop ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical understanding.

AO2: Refine ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.



# Transition

Year 7 students and their families benefit from the support of a dedicated Transition Manager. Ms O'Flynn works closely with feeder primary schools, making visits to the majority of our students whilst they are in Year 6. She leads liaison with our primary school colleagues, Year 6 students and their families prior to their transfer to secondary school. Ms O'Flynn remains with the year group for the whole year and builds very strong and supportive bonds with the students and families.

A 'taster' day during the summer term acquaints students with their form tutor and new friends prior to joining us in September. An early team-building visit to an outdoor activity adventure centre, offers an opportunity to make friends quickly within the tutor group and across the whole year group. Students engage in 'settling in' activities in the first term during form time. Additionally, students can benefit from trained 'peer mentors' from KS4. These activities, coupled with the many and varied extra-curricular opportunities available, mean Alexandra Park School offers a uniquely supportive transfer and transition programme.

Families are involved right from the start. They are invited to an early information evening in the summer term and two student progress days through the year. Communication is very important and the website, regular newsletters, letters, 'parent call' and email are used to keep parents and carers involved and updated every step of the way. Following us on our Twitter and Instagram accounts give you a great flavour of the plethora of activities happening at school.



## Henry

I joined APS from Bounds Green school with lots of other people, but none of my good friends. This made it a bit harder, but then I went to football club, and made my best friend at school. This helped me because we could find our way around together. I now feel really settled at APS and I hope that you enjoy being a student here.

## Lucas

When I first came to APS, I was a bit nervous. I knew I would fine because I went to Rhodes Avenue and lots of my friends came to APS too. I joined lots of clubs like STEM and maths club these were very fun and I made even more friends. I like how friendly my teachers are to me as well as being great in lessons. I have had a brilliant first year at APS and I hope you will too.





## Isla

I came to APS from Our Lady of Muswell Primary. When I first arrived, there were so many welcoming students and teachers. There were lots of clubs including sports and languages to get involved in. I was excited to do Design Technology and catering and they proved to be great new subjects. I also like the library it is a friendly space where you are always welcome and has so many books. I am sure that you will make loads of new friends and fit in amazingly well.



## Ella

I came here as the only one from my primary school, knowing no one at APS. I need not have worried as APS is a fantastic school and is full of opportunities. I settled really quickly. There are a variety of clubs for everyone, the lessons are challenging but you get lots of help and teachers are nice and caring. My favourite subject is PE as I really enjoy all the different sports. We are lucky to have lessons that not all schools have, such as such as Mandarin. I hope you enjoy your time here at APS.

## Josephine

When I joined APS I was really excited, however it is a very big school and I was nervous that I would get lost, forget my homework or arrive to class late! However, everything was fine. We have enough time to get to our next class and I have developed a daily routine and pack my bag so I don't forget any school books. APS is a great school and I have made lots of new friends, so I can always walk to class with someone I know. All the teachers are really friendly and are very helpful. There are lots of opportunities to join fun clubs, for example, I really enjoy Badminton. Girls football on the AstroTurf is also great. If you are lucky enough to get here you will have a lovely time at APS, it is a special school and you will fit right in!



# Alexandra Park School's Values

Our school is about more than exam results; we educate the whole student.

When we say goodbye to students at the end of their time with us we hope that they are well-rounded individuals, confident about their futures, with the skills to achieve on their chosen paths. To ensure this, we actively teach values and characteristics that we believe will help them during their time in school and later in life.

**Resilience** is the ability to deal with setbacks and the capacity to push on through difficulties to complete tasks. At school and beyond, this characteristic can be the difference between success and failure.

Sometimes we need to be **fearless** in order to start a task, particularly something that is new to us: we must have a sense of adventure and the desire to try something challenging.

Learning new things requires an interest in the world outside of your immediate life. A sense of **curiosity** makes this easier. This in turn opens up new worlds and our curiosity grows.

The best learners show **drive**; they are independent and motivated, with high ambitions for their work.

We are using the word **creativity** to mean more than artistic endeavour. Creativity is also finding new ways to accomplish tasks and being innovative in finding solutions to difficult problems. Being ready and willing to adapt to new situations is a valuable skill in a changing world.

One of the goals of education is to give students **independence** so that they can flourish on their own. This means taking the initiative and having a sense of responsibility for your own learning.

Being **organised** is more than just remembering what you need to bring to school, planning your time and completing tasks by the due date. It is about having systems of thought that will allow you to structure essay responses and see your way through a task.

The care, patience, diligence and desire to perfect a piece of work are summed up in a sense of **craftsmanship**.



Whilst being happy may not be as simple as making a decision to be happy, we can find ways to be **positive** and practise other characteristics that will help us be happy: gratitude, kindness and **open-mindedness**. Positivity is also about enthusiasm; **hard work** is much more rewarding if you commit wholeheartedly to it.

**Empathy** and consideration, the ability to understand the feelings of others and modify our responses with those feelings in mind, are qualities that may not help earn academic grades or get us to university but will be essential to our success in every other aspect of life.

Attitudes	Personal Qualities	Study Skills
Resilience	Positivity	Organisation
Fearlessness	Open-mindedness	Hard work
Drive	Empathy	Independence
Creativity	Curiosity	Craftsmanship





“The school’s values are embedded throughout the school and underpin a range of opportunities for pupils to support their community.”

*Ofsted*



# Enrichment

Alexandra Park offers a dynamic and varied enrichment programme. There are opportunities to get outdoors, for example through of hugely successful Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver and Gold programmes as well clubs and trips throughout the academic year.

Music is thriving at APS, with opportunities to learn an instrument as well as perform in well-established large ensembles, choirs, bands and orchestras. The music and drama departments put on regular exciting productions, the most recent being The Wizard of Oz.

There are many curriculum based trips and opportunities to engage in: poetry, Shakespeare, debating, cookery, math challenges, travel, debating and public speaking, to name but a few.

Science is flourishing at APS, with opportunities to learn outside of the classroom for students, in clubs, engineering challenges, collaborative projects with externals, guest lectures and university outreach.

APS really embraces the international dimension. The languages department offers immersions in French, Spanish, Swiss and Chinese exchange programmes. International activities also include skiing and cultural trips to create well-rounded, independent-minded, curious, and global citizens.

There is a brilliant AstroTurf and a large number of sporting clubs and opportunities at APS, providing something for everyone, including athletics, badminton, cricket, dance, football, netball, fitness, rounders and rugby.







# Wellbeing

At Alexandra Park School we aim to look after all our students academically, emotionally and socially; keeping minds and bodies healthy.

We are aware that students feel the pressure of modern society and need support in a variety of ways. The school intend to provide students, parents, carers, family and friends with some easy ways to maintain all-round wellbeing; mentally, physically and by eating well.

We offer support via our website, bulletins and top wellbeing tips. In addition there are a variety of therapies and focus groups provided via our Bridge provision, as well as activities such as Mindfulness, Wellbeing focus week, assemblies and the day to day support by our outstanding staff.

The school acknowledges the well-researched link between eating well and staying hydrated, with general wellbeing and academic performance. We work closely with our catering service, to ensure the food provision at APS is balanced, healthy and tasty. There are several outlets serving good quality food with a varied and engaging menu.



# Academic Achievement



GCSE Results	2018	2019	2020*	2021*	2022	2023
Level 5+ in English & Maths (%)	64 (43)	72 (43)	72 (50)	73 (52)	74 (50)	83 (-)
Top Grades 9-7/A*-A (%)	37 (20)	39 (21)	42 (28)	45 (30)	52 (27)	50 (22)
English Pass Rate (%)	89 (62)	88 (62)	89 (80)	90 (81)	92 (77)	95 (64)
Maths Pass Rate (%)	84 (60)	88 (60)	87 (77)	91 (78)	92 (75)	96 (61)
Attainment 8	56.9 (46.5)	58.8 (46.7)	59.3 (50.2)	61.3 (50.9)	62.8 (48.8)	64.5 (-)
Progress 8	0.49 (-0.03)	0.62 (-0.03)	Not Available	Not Available	0.41 (-0.03)	0.58 (-0.03)

National average in brackets, where published

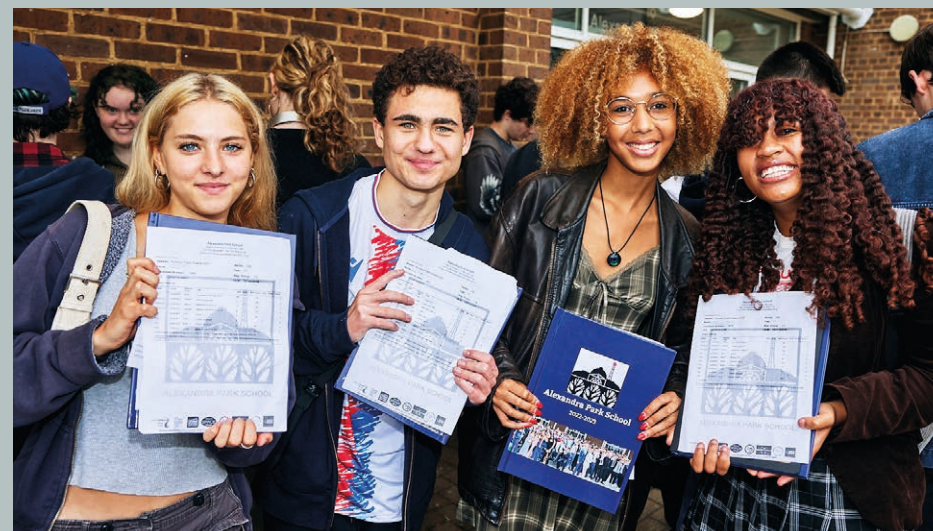
Sixth Form Results	2018	2019	2020*	2021*	2022	2023
A*-A Grades (%)	28 (26)	29 (25)	37 (38)	43 (45)	43 (36)	33 (26)
A*- B Grades (%)	62 (52)	64 (51)	68 (65)	74 (70)	71 (63)	64 (53)
A*-C Grades (%)	87 (76)	87 (76)	90 (88)	92 (89)	90 (83)	85 (75)

National average in brackets, where published

**Attainment 8** is a student's best eight grades, with certain 'Ebacc' subjects prioritised.

**Progress 8** is a value-added measure which compares each student's progress to the national average of students with the same level of prior attainment each year. To date, our Progress 8 figures show that students at Alexandra Park School are consistently performing "significantly above" (DfE / Ofsted) the national average for comparable students.

*\*In both these years public exams were cancelled and grades were awarded centrally based on assessment.*









An interactive version of this prospectus is available on the school website

WWW.ALEXANDRAPARK.SCHOOL



**Headteacher:** Michael McKenzie **Deputy Headteachers:** Iraj Felfeli | Rose O'Riordan | Dan Silverman  
Alexandra Park School, Bidwell Gardens, London, N11 2AZ Phone: 020 8826 4880 Email: [office@alexandrapark.school](mailto:office@alexandrapark.school)

