



# Fernhill School

Prospectus





# Welcome



I would like to warmly welcome you to Fernhill School. We aim to develop confident and articulate young adults with the social, emotional and academic skills needed to face the challenges of the twenty-first century. Fernhill is a happy and friendly school where students thrive. Our rich academic curriculum, strong and supportive pastoral care and wide range of extended activities are designed to educate, encourage and empower our students.

As Headteacher, I am honoured to lead this school, supported by talented and dedicated colleagues and an engaging governing body. This is a team approach built on positive relationships and rewarding students for working hard and making the right choices.

We aspire to provide each student with the best educational opportunities that transform potential into academic and social achievement. Teachers and staff have high aspirations for our students and support them to be the best version of themselves. Our motto:

***'be the best you can be'***

aims to ensure every child is able to reach their potential. To this end, we are committed to the pursuit of academic development at the highest level. This is built on good foundations of resilience, confidence and independence and we regularly celebrate students' achievements. Students are encouraged to apply these skills in both curricular and extra-curricular activities and have the opportunity to excel in art, drama, music and sport, as well as the chance to play a role in the wider community by taking part in charity events.

Fernhill School is a diverse and thriving community, founded on respect, honesty and equality. At the heart of our success is the strength of partnership that exists between students, staff and parents. We are proud of our reputation as a small, nurturing school in which every child is able to flourish. I strongly encourage you to make a visit and see for yourself and look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Choosing a Secondary school for your child is an important decision. All schools deliver a common curriculum but what sets Fernhill apart is the extra mile all staff go to to ensure that your child flourishes at school.

You will have heard much about Fernhill, as you will about all the other local schools. We are a rapidly improving school built on strong values and a sense of belonging. Students enjoy learning at Fernhill School. I look forward to meeting you and can promise you the warmest of welcomes!



Sarah Palmer  
**Headteacher**

## Our aims

- To provide a safe and nurturing environment so that students are happy and keen to attend school
- To provide high quality education in a stimulating and caring learning environment
- To ensure that students gain the knowledge and skills to achieve their potential and progress to the next phase of their lives whether in education, training or employment
- To develop a sense of responsibility and respect for others, accepting of all for the contribution they make to our community
- To develop key values that ensure that all students become responsible and self confident citizens and positive members of society
- To develop a lifelong love of learning
- To provide students with the skills and abilities to ensure that they can respond to the ever changing demands of a rapidly changing world

## Fernhill Values

Our values underpin our work and are shared by the whole school community. Assemblies, events and activities reflect these values:

- Confidence - to think positively and to try things, even when learning is hard.
- Independence - to develop organisation, time management and thinking skills so that we can be self-sufficient, overcoming challenges ourselves
- Respect - all members speak politely to each other and value everyone
- Aspiration - to be the very best you can be, rewarding effort and hard work
- Honesty - to be trustworthy and know right from wrong

- Community - a sense of belonging
- Equality - ensuring that every individual has an equal opportunity to make the most of their lives and talents
- Resilience - not giving up, sticking with something to overcome hurdles



## Your child as an individual

Fernhill School is a small school with a big heart. We take time to get to know your child, their interests and their talents so that we can provide learning opportunities that motivate and inspire them. We aim to recognise achievements, praising students for trying hard as this makes for more positive learning environments and helps build student confidence.

## High quality education for all

I am privileged to work with a team of talented and dedicated staff. Teachers are subject specialists, have a high level of knowledge and a passion for their subject that ensures lessons are interesting, engaging and sharply focused. We recruit well and retain high quality staff to ensure continuity of provision and a stable learning environment. A skilled group of support staff provide additional guidance to students whether via non-teaching Guidance Managers or in class support by a committed team of Learning Support Assistants (LSAs).





*“Staff have high expectations for pupils to do well in lessons”*

Quote Ofsted 2022

*“The curriculum is broad and ambitious. Subject leaders have planned a thorough curriculum that gives pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding to progress well”.*

Quote Ofsted 2022





## Parents working in partnership

We firmly believe that parents play a vital role in helping improve the quality of education their child receives. We encourage parents to share their views and become involved in making the school even better. Over the course of the academic year, there are many opportunities for parents to discuss their views of the school with the Headteacher and governors.

## Curriculum

Our curriculum aims to:

- provide the knowledge and skills to develop a deep understanding of different subjects
- challenge students to think creatively and independently
- inspire students to develop a love of their subjects
- provide social, moral, health and sex education so that students can make informed decisions
- provide a wider curriculum that helps students stay safe, develop a sense of right and wrong and effectively contribute to society as a whole.

## Care of students

On entry to the school Year 7, students are placed in mixed ability tutor groups. These provide a social group that grows together. Each year group is led by a Guidance Manager, who will support, nurture and challenge them every day to do their very best and to take part in the wider aspects of school life including the many extra-curricular activities on offer.

Following initial assessments students are placed in sets for some subjects which reflects their attainment levels. Other subjects will be taught in mixed ability classes. We aim to provide high quality teaching and in class support to ensure that all students are able to reach their potential. Progress is

monitored through Parents' Evenings, interim progress reports and an annual report. We welcome parents into the school at any time to discuss their child's progress.

We have a Transition Manager to support students moving from primary to secondary school and a progression Manager for Year 11 students moving to Post 16 destinations. Our Family Support Manager will support families who are most in need. The school has a dedicated Attendance Lead and a Matron to ensure that children attend regularly and are well looked after.

## Key Stage 3

Key Stage 3 covers Years 7, 8 and 9. During this time students are taught the full range of National Curriculum subjects. All students have the opportunity to study at least one modern foreign language in KS3 as well as an exciting range of technology, sports and performing arts subjects.

## Key Stage 4

In Years 10 and 11 students study up to ten courses to GCSE or equivalent standard. Every student studies a core of GCSE subjects which includes English, Maths, Science, PE and PSHE.

Students are then guided by senior leaders to select appropriate GCSE options from: Art; Computing Science; Drama; Food and Nutrition; French or Spanish; Geography; Health and Social Care (BTEC); History; Information Communication Technology (ICT), Music; Photography; Resistant Materials; Sports Science; Textiles; Vehicle Technology (BTEC).

All students in Year 10 undertake a week's Work Experience where they develop the wider skills needed for future employment including leadership, organisation, communication and time keeping.







*“Careers guidance for pupils is strong”.*

Quote Ofsted 2022

## Careers Education

Our careers programme begins in Year 7. Students are encouraged to develop an understanding of their skills and strengths to think about their future career choices. As students progress up through the school Careers guidance becomes more bespoke. At Key Stage 4 all students receive individual careers guidance, and a Mock Interview. In addition, students who need additional support to understand their potential and raise aspirations are involved in mentoring programmes. We have a vibrant programme of events including university and business visits, STEM days and workshops. The high standards of guidance and teaching in school means that a very high proportion of our leavers go on to further education.

## Visual and Performing Arts

Fernhill has a reputation for outstanding visual and performing arts. This develops confidence, creativity, teamwork and innovation. Many of our students participate in our exciting productions or contribute to our art and photography exhibitions – these are of the highest quality. The school celebrates the end of each term with fantastic whole school assemblies that reflect our excellence in performing arts.

## Religious Education

All students study RE. It is also covered in themed days and assemblies. Assemblies are held at least once a week and will sometimes include acts of collective worship. Fernhill School teaches religious studies according to the locally agreed Hampshire syllabus. Students receive one lesson a fortnight. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of RE and collective worship and should write to the Headteacher in the first instance.

## Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

As part of our provision for compulsory RSE students undertake a mixture of timetabled lessons and enrichment activities. The school's RSE programme complies with Government and Hampshire County Council guidelines and promotes responsible behaviour. A full copy of the school's SRE policy is available on the website.

## Home Learning


It is the policy of Fernhill School that home learning is a vital part of learning for all students. One way in which students demonstrate that they are taking responsibility for their own learning is by completing home learning successfully and on time. All students in Year 7 are issued with a planner to help with student organisation and for parents to check and sign each week. Students at Fernhill quickly become experts with Google Classroom to manage homework and to receive swift, high quality feedback on work.

## Reporting to parents

Throughout the year students are assessed to monitor their progress. They are also set targets after reflecting on what they have achieved. Progress levels and grades are collected three times a year and students who are not making progress will be targeted for support and if necessary intervention. Parents receive regular attitude to learning data in each of their child's subjects and students who require extra support receive this promptly from dedicated progress leaders.





A photograph of several students sitting at a desk in a classroom. They are focused on their work, with some holding yellow pencils and others using blue pens. The desk is covered with papers and a green book. The students are wearing grey school uniforms.

*“Leaders ensure that pupils who have fallen behind with their reading are identified promptly.”*

Quote Ofsted 2022



## Additional Support for Students

### EAL (English as an Additional Language)

We have a number of students at school for whom their first language is not English. The school employs a full time EAL Co-ordinator who ensures that these students get the support they require to be successful at school. The school has recently been awarded the prestigious EAL Gold Award from EMTAS for this work.

### Able and Talented Learners

Shortly after starting school all Year 7 students undertake Cognitive Ability tests (CAGs) to identify potential, which helps ensure that we provide a challenging and supportive learning environment for all students. Able and talented learners work with outside companies and undertake events such as 'Model United Nations' and debating activities.

### SEN (Special Educational Needs)

Fernhill School has a caring and sensitive approach to children with SEN. As with all students at the school, we are looking to maximise their potential in an atmosphere of support and encouragement. Our aim is the early identification of a student's needs and to provide the essential experience of success through tightly focussed Individual Education Programmes. The SEN department collates information on all incoming students. Those who we identify as needing support have Individual Learning programmes that are carefully monitored. Attainable targets are set for students and they are given time to reflect regularly on these. Progress is reviewed regularly and new targets set. The department is staffed by experienced teachers and Learning Support Assistants.

## Involving other agencies

Fernhill School has strong links with external support agencies including Educational Psychologist Service, Ethnic Achievement and Advisory teachers for hearing and visually impaired students. We also work with staff from CAMHS, EIST, YPI and Social Services.

### No place for bullying

We believe that every child, regardless of age, has at all times and in all situations, a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice that results in a child being physically or psychologically damaged. Complacency is not an option. Safeguarding is a shared responsibility and we recognise the need for vigilance on the basis that "it could happen here". We work proactively to help students understand how to stay safe, report issues and look out for each other. Staff take their safeguarding responsibilities very seriously; all matters are dealt with swiftly and communicated openly with parents.

*"The whole school team is working with energy and a cheerful outlook".*

Quote Ofsted 2021



**EAL Award Gold**





## Year 6 Transition and Admissions

As soon as you are informed that your child has a place at Fernhill, March 1st of each year, we consider them to be part of our community. The school has an extensive transition programme, including visits to Fernhill and visits from the Headteacher and teaching and pastoral staff to junior schools. If your child is likely to find the transition to Secondary school rather daunting, we are always happy to work with parents to establish a bespoke transition programme, to ensure your child is supported and happy in those crucial early days and weeks.

A dedicated Transition Manager works with children from Year 5 onwards to make their passage to Fernhill a smooth and happy one.

## Further Information

### Key Dates

Date	Event
22nd September 2022	Open Evening 6.00 pm – no need to book
26th September 2022	Tour at 9.00 am – please book via our website
27th September 2022	Tour at 9.00 am – please book via our website
6th October 2022	Tour at 9.00 am – please book via our website
11th October 2022	Tour at 9.00 am – please book via our website
18th October 2022	Tour at 9.00 am – please book via our website
31st October 2022	HCC application deadline
1st March 2023	HCC Notification of school place allocation

## Key Contacts

SESCO  
Transition Lead  
Headteacher's PA

Mrs Victoria Crowe  
Mrs Lisa Loch  
Mrs Cindy Reynolds

**[vcrowe@fernhillschool.org.uk](mailto:vcrowe@fernhillschool.org.uk)**  
**[lloch@fernhillschool.org.uk](mailto:lloch@fernhillschool.org.uk)**  
**[creynolds@fernhillschool.org.uk](mailto:creynolds@fernhillschool.org.uk)**

HCC Admissions

**<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/year7>**

Fernhill School website

**<https://www.fernhill.hants.sch.uk/>**



**Fernhill School**

Neville Duke Road, Farnborough  
Hampshire GU14 9BY

Telephone: (01276) 702540  
Email: [adminoffice@fernhillschool.org.uk](mailto:adminoffice@fernhillschool.org.uk)

**[www.fernhill.hants.sch.uk](http://www.fernhill.hants.sch.uk)**