



2020/2021


Ofsted
Outstanding
School

Welcome



Thank you for your interest in our school.

Park High School is a high achieving, mixed, harmoniously multi-ethnic 11–18 school in Stanmore, which converted to Academy status in August 2011. It is an extremely popular school and has a national reputation for academic excellence, outstanding pastoral care and for providing a positive environment in which young people thrive. Parents know that if their children come here they will be joining a strong, caring, respectful community with an emphasis on high achievement for all, alongside dedicated support and encouragement at all times.

At Park High, every individual is highly valued. Our supportive approach enables everyone to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding required to be responsible, considerate and well-rounded individuals suited to the demands of our ever-changing multicultural society. Our commitment to careers education was recognised nationally in 2018 when we were awarded the Quality in Careers Standard in Investors in Careers.

At Park High, we all work in partnership to ensure the very best outcomes for each of our students. Our aims are simple: we want to achieve excellence so that each and every student reaches their academic potential. First class teaching is crucial to our students' achieving great outcomes and, here, at Park High, our dedicated teams of specialist staff are enthusiastic, talented and strongly committed to providing the very best. Ofsted (2009 and 2013) judged the school outstanding in all areas. Staff development is widely regarded as "leading edge" and we have recently achieved the Teacher Development Trust Silver Award for Continuing Professional Development. We have strong partnerships with universities and other higher education institutions and we actively support our staff in pursuing Master's Degrees and other higher qualifications. This is a great place to learn and work, whether you are a student, a technician, an administrator or a teacher.

We place a very high emphasis on respect and positive behaviour, which ensures that the school is a happy and safe place to learn. Students involve themselves fully in everything the school has to offer. They attend well and are keen to learn. Young people enjoy coming to Park High and we enjoy teaching them. This is an outstanding school, a great school and there is still work to be done. We are not perfect and so we strive to improve. There is no room for complacency here.

We look forward to meeting you, introducing you to some of our students and showing you our school. You will be pleased that you chose to visit.

Mrs Colette O'Dwyer
Headteacher



Key Priorities

We promote high achievement in a vibrant learning community

We provide a stimulating and caring environment so that all members of the school can grow in knowledge, skills, understanding and character and achieve to the best of their ability.

We have a strong sense of purpose. We encourage our students to be enthusiastic about learning and positive about the future; to have high self-esteem and be confident and successful in what they do; to have understanding and respect for others; to have the ability and desire to further their own development and contribute to the society in which we live.

We believe in equality of opportunity and in celebrating success of all kinds.

Great Teaching – Great Learning:

Our examination results are always either the best, or among the best in the borough. In recent years they have been our best ever.

The key priorities in our strategic plan:

We have identified three key priorities for the school. These are:

Curriculum

Is underpinned by the drive to improve the literacy of all students in oracy, reading and in writing.

Classrooms

Classroom practice, the craft of teaching, is enhanced and developed through incremental coaching. That practice is research led, always in the best interests of all students and seeks to address gaps in skills and knowledge for all students with a sharp focus on those disadvantaged.

Conduct

Recognise, reward and promote respectful, resilient and responsible behaviour both in lessons and around the school.

Community

That we recognise and celebrate the ways in which all students develop themselves both inside the school and out in their communities (e.g. Character Education).



Underpinned by literacy and communication, all students are encouraged to embrace every learning opportunity within and beyond the classroom. Students are challenged to think hard, to acquire knowledge and apply this with confidence in a range of situations. Preparation for future careers and pathways is apparent throughout the curriculum, with student learning and progress at the core of everything that we do.

Ensuring the highest standards of literacy and communication for all students is a key priority at Park High School. We recognise that these skills ensure academic success across the curriculum, as well as in the wider world beyond school. The opening of our new Reading and Learning Resource Centre will help to promote lifelong reading.

Year 7 and 8 students also have a discrete literacy lesson once a week and we have a primary specialist who works alongside the English Department to ensure a smooth transition between primary and secondary phases. Students who have been enrolled in our reading programme have made significant gains in both their confidence and reading comprehension. On average, Year 7s enrolled in this course have made 16 months of progress in their reading over an 8 month period.

English, mathematics and science form the core of our curriculum. We recognise and value creative, practical and artistic subjects in equal measure, as well as appreciating the importance of an active healthy lifestyle evidenced through two physical education lessons each week.

English	History	Modern Foreign Languages	Art	Drama
Mathematics	Geography	Computing	Music	Physical Education
Science	Philosophy & Ethics	Design Technology	Dance	PSHCEe

Our commitment to developing the whole child through spiritual, moral, social and cultural education is apparent throughout the curriculum and in particular through Philosophy and Ethics and PSHCEe.

We are very much of the opinion that a wide experience of subjects, for as long as possible, will offer our students the best possible education in our ever changing world.

At the end of Year 8, students will continue to follow a broad and balanced curriculum that includes English, mathematics, science, geography, history, a modern foreign language, philosophy and ethics, physical education and PSHCEe. In addition to this, and to increase their curriculum experience in Year 9, they will need to make a choice to follow three additional subjects from the following list:

Art (Fine, Graphics & Photography combined), business, computing & ICT (combined), design & technology, dance, drama, media studies, music and sport science.

GCSE and vocational course preferences are chosen in Year 9 and Key Stage 4 begins in Year 10.

After Key Stage 4, students stay with us into our outstanding and successful Sixth Form. We offer a wide range of courses and, in conjunction with our membership to the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate, are in a position to cater for students and their own personalised pathway. The level of pastoral care evident throughout the school continues to post 16 and, in recognition of their maturity, we encourage all students to take on roles of leadership and responsibility, as well as regularly volunteering within school and beyond in the local community.

The Wider Curriculum

Our aim is that all students should achieve their potential

Challenge, independence, engagement and creativity are at the heart of our curriculum and can be seen across all subjects, in all classrooms and, most importantly, in the progress our students make.

Class-room focused staff are dedicated to developing the art, science and craft of teaching. Adopting an exciting repertoire of teaching approaches, we cultivate our students' critical thinking and conceptual understanding through a rich and dynamic curriculum.

Students have a breadth of experience beyond the classroom, including field trips and educational visits. In addition, we extend our students' learning through use of online platforms which facilitate and support remote learning.

Student Leadership

The school offers an abundance of opportunities to develop leadership skills and to allow students to be involved in, and have an impact on, the school's environment, as well as developing skills they need for success in and outside of the classroom. These include:

Buddy Programme	Community Leaders	Duke of Edinburgh	Form Captains
Jack Petchey	Park High Pride Youth Network	Park High Promise	Prefects
Prom Committee	PSHCEe Student Advisory Body	Reading Mentors	School Council
Sports Leaders	Student Leadership Award	The Oakwood Project	

The School Council brings together elected representatives from each year group. They discuss a range of issues, and members gain valuable experience in procedures and the value of democratic and representative processes. The Council reports to the Headteacher regularly and influences school decisions. Our prefects are another example of how we encourage students to take responsibility. They play an important part in the life of the school, helping to ensure that our community runs smoothly and to everyone's advantage.

We have "buddies" and "mentors": older students who are prepared to train and take some responsibility for helping with younger students. For example, they volunteer to begin their term early, in September, to help new Year 7 students settle and work with them during the year. This makes our school community even more supportive.

Special events

Special events form an important part of our curriculum, (although these are all subject to Government advice in the coming year). These include:

- Book Week
- Regular curriculum related trips and visits
- Activities Week – a week of off-site learning experiences for all students in Years 7 - 9
- Visiting workshops for many subject areas, including The Young Shakespeare Company
- Ski Trip
- Year 10 residential Geography field work
- Work experience for one week for all students in Year 10
- UCAS Week – Sixth Form preparation for university applications

Partnerships

SSAT

NACE

Brilliant Club

Immanuel College

TDT

Academy 21



“The graduation trip to Oxford University was informative and allowed us to reflect on the programme. The Scholars Programme has opened doors for us and enabled us to believe we can apply to university.” - Brilliant Club student



Pastoral Care

At Park High, we want every child to feel safe and supported in their wellbeing. We place a high value on gaining a holistic view on our students and developing an understanding of their individual needs. Transition from primary school is an important aspect of our work. Our colleagues work closely with our primary schools to support transfer to secondary school, and all our students and their parents or carers are invited to meet with a member of staff before they start. This helps ensure that we already have a good understanding of the individual to help them thrive in our school.

Each year group has a dedicated pastoral staff team that remain with the year group on their journey towards our Sixth Form. This includes a form tutor, Head of Year and a pastoral assistant. Each year group also has an Assistant Headteacher attached in a supportive role. Our pastoral team is key in liaising with home and school and is a vital link in ensuring that school and home work together to support each child.

We place great importance on our extensive offer of interventions that are based on the individual needs of each student. This includes mentors, homework club, a mental health team, animal assisted therapy and many other activities or programmes that can support a young person to develop and grow. We recognise that every child is different, unique and bursting with potential, and at Park High we aim to celebrate and develop this.

Attendance

Attendance at school is essential to ensure that your child has every opportunity to reach their potential. Our pastoral team monitor attendance carefully and we expect each student to achieve 98% attendance.

When students are absent we insist on a note from their parents. The rate of unauthorised absence at the school is particularly low. We never give permission for holidays taken in term time. Please do not ask us to authorise this. We will say “no”.

PSHCEe

Park High School is a school committed to the personal development of our students. We have a high quality provision of Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic education (PSHCEe). Students have one lesson per week with their tutor on a rolling timetable.

This curriculum has been recognised nationally. We have achieved the FPA Brook Award with our Healthy Relationships Programme, shortlisted by a panel of young people as being in the top five in the country for showcasing excellent delivery. We are a part of government guidance report on best practice in Healthy Relationships, First Aid and Refugee Education. With respect to these areas, we have also been used by the British Red Cross for exemplary practice. We also have a pro-active PSHCEe Advisory Body and Pride Youth Network (PYN) group. The PYN has been recognised nationally for its work when they were awarded the Citizenship Foundation Circle of Life Award. It has also helped the school to achieve Stonewall Bronze Award status.

“Whatever students’ individual academic or pastoral needs, staff put helpful and supportive care in place so that all of them can enjoy school life and make progress.”
- Ofsted

Park High School Code

- Keep safe and keep others safe.
- Be part of a school that allows people to learn.
- Help others whenever you can.
- Bring credit to Park High School in our community.
- Make those you care about proud of you.

Our School Code is frequently referenced and supports the high expectations and standards we have adopted. Students and parents are expected to sign a Home-School Agreement in the contact book to support this.

Achievements and Discipline

At Park High we use an achievement points system that celebrates the success of our students. This could be for academic achievement, effort, outstanding behaviour, or many other positive behaviours. We are particularly proud that our students bring credit to our school through representation in school events or their contribution to the local community. This is recognised in a variety of rewards, celebration assemblies, enrichment trips and prize-giving.

The school aims to be a well organised and well-disciplined community with a caring but firm approach. High standards of behaviour and courtesy are expected at all times and visitors frequently comment on how well-behaved and courteous our students are.

Our system of progress checks is designed to support good discipline, both by giving praise and anticipating problems. Certificates are given every term to students who are achieving well or improving their effort. Letters are sent home to parents for students who might be slipping back in terms of work or behaviour. Parents are invited in to discuss any concerns.

The School Code is very largely a matter of good sense and is about concern for other people as well as the smooth running of the school as a place of learning. We refer to it regularly and it is printed above.

We use Edulink to support parents, staff and students in and beyond the classroom. It is an effective means of communication between school and home with regards to the recording and reporting of student achievement and behaviour, as well as a vehicle to report progress checks throughout the academic year.

Guidance and Careers

All students are fully supported and guided through the process of planning and preparing for their futures. Our programme of personal, social, health and citizenship education helps our young people prepare for adult life, and this starts as soon as they arrive at Park High. We have a full time careers and employability coordinator, a professional careers adviser and a programme of education, information, advice and guidance for all. We believe Park High students will consequently be well prepared for their futures. Park High School is proud to have been awarded the prestigious Quality in Careers Standard, accredited by Investor in Careers since December 2018, in recognition of our outstanding CEIAG - Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance provision.

Mrs Foster is our Careers & Employability Lead who provides exceptional support to students, parents and carers, and implements our careers programme. The Careers & Employability room is based in the Park Block and students and their parents may consult our specialist careers staff at any time, or to use our extensive careers library. Specific help and advice is given to students in Years 10 and 11, and in the Sixth Form, about how best to proceed to the next stage of education, training or employment.

We are committed to ensuring that all students have high quality CEIAG through a planned progressive programme from Year 7 to Year 13 which incorporates:

- Kidzania visit for Year 7 – Introduction to Careers
- Year 8 and Year 9 group career workshops
- Masterclass opportunities for Year 9 students with Brunel University
- Mrs Foster or Miss Fiszson will attend all SEN annual reviews
- GCSE / BTEC preferences programme
- Year 9 & 10 University and Further Education visits
- An interview programme with our independent and impartial careers adviser which starts in Year 10 and continues into Year 11 and again in Year 12 for all students
- Mock interviews for students in Year 10 and Year 12 with our extensive links with employers
- Assemblies on skills for the work place
- Speed networking
- Career talks
- Career of the Week
- Apprenticeship of the Week
- Partnership with Immanuel College for Oxbridge and Medicine / Dentistry applications
- Recording interactions, activities, skills through Unifrog
- Students take part in the annual Day in the Life of a Sixth Former, experiencing taster lessons across the curriculum. This provides students with the opportunity to find out what life as a Sixth Form student at Park or a college is like
- A wealth of information about Post 16 options is provided in assemblies delivered by Mrs Foster, Further Education, Higher Education and Apprenticeship Providers

In Year 10, all students undertake work experience. This includes practice interviews with staff from local businesses, a wide variety of placements and a debriefing session on their return. We use our many contacts in the business world to assist us with this programme and call on them again in our annual 'Preparing for Opportunities' Conference in Year 11. This event introduces students to the job opportunities and entry requirements for a wide range of careers. As a result of this year's pandemic, these experiences were replicated through a comprehensive online provision.

Please take a look at our Careers & Employability webpage which provides a wealth of information.

<https://www.parkhighstanmore.org.uk/careersandemployability>



We encourage our students to have respect for others and the ability and desire to further their own development and contribute to the society in which we live.

Sixth Form



Park High's Sixth Form is extremely popular and highly successful, with students achieving very high standards.

Along with the rest of the school, our Sixth Form was judged Outstanding by Ofsted in its 2013 inspection.

We offer a wide range of courses. The breadth of the courses we offer is greatly enhanced by our membership of the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate: we work in partnership with local high schools and colleges to ensure that all our sixth formers can follow their desired pathway.

Our school's ethos of high expectations and individual care and support continues into Sixth Form. In addition to outstanding teaching and learning, our sixth formers enjoy a wide range of trips and activities and are expected to carry out leadership roles in the school and local community. This is reinforced by a rigorous pastoral programme, developing further the spiritual, moral, social and cultural education which students receive all the way through their time at Park High School. We aim to ensure that the students who leave our Sixth Form will have developed into well motivated, articulate and courteous young adults, fully prepared for university or working life. Our students will be thoroughly equipped to meet the many challenges ahead with confidence and self-assurance.

A separate prospectus for the Sixth Form is available from the school reception, alternatively, visit our website: <https://www.parkhighstanmore.org.uk/sixthform>



“Park High School Sixth Form continues to help me in growing as an individual, developing my skills in various areas, reaching for new heights out of my comfort zone and becoming more studious. With the unconditional support of the staff, excellent study resources and facilities, and an abundance of opportunities to excel as a student, means it couldn't be a better environment to spend my studying years.” - Head Girl Sixth Form



Parents and Carers

“My child has had an amazing first year at Park. The support and dedication from all staff is outstanding.”- Year 7 Parent

We believe that success and happiness for your child depends very much on a close relationship between parents, carers and teachers and this is carefully fostered by all Park High members of staff. We are determined to know and nurture the whole child so they can gain a true sense of self-worth, as well as those all-important qualifications.

Contacts

Once a place at Park has been offered and accepted, we invite all parents to a meeting with a member of staff. This is an important start to what we hope will be a warm and close relationship.

In the July before your child starts you are also invited to an evening to meet a number of staff, including your child's tutor, and to meet other parents, (This is currently subject to Government advice). It is an opportunity for you and your child to ask questions and for us to explain some of our arrangements.





TRANSFORMING PRACTICE IN
**Variety of teaching
approaches**

SSAT Framework for Exceptional Education



TEACHER DEVELOPMENT TRUST
**NETWORK
SILVER AWARD**

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