



Highams Park

Year 7



Success through our endeavours

Prospectus



Welcome

Welcome to Highams Park School, I am delighted that you are considering our school for your child's secondary education. The school is about to embark on an exciting phase in its development, I am very much looking forward to taking over as Principal from January 2023, coupled with the process of a school re-building project, which see the school moving into brand new facilities on the existing site.

Highams Park School is a mixed 11-18 comprehensive school that serves the local community, with over 1600 students at the school: 240 in each year group from Years 7 - 11, and then approximately 400 students in our Sixth Form. Our Sixth Form students benefit from a purpose-built block which provides dedicated study areas as well as teaching spaces for our Post 16 students.

Our school motto of *"Success through our Endeavours"* and our core behaviours of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience sum up the importance of the development of students' character alongside our role of delivering academic excellence. A strong relationship between students, their parents, and the school is vital in ensuring that students fulfil their potential. Our hope is that students joining us in Year 7 are at the start of a 7-year journey with the school, remaining with us until the end of Year 13, when they will progress onto the next phase of their life and enter employment, or continue their studies at University.

There are many extracurricular activities organised by the staff including participation in sport, dance, drama, music and a variety of clubs. There are also opportunities for students to participate in residential courses, fieldwork and educational visits. We are extremely proud of our students' achievements, made possible through the hard work of our dedicated and hard-working, professional teaching and support staff, along with our highly competent and dedicated Trustees. I very much hope that your child has a fulfilling and successful secondary education and if that is to be at Highams Park School, then I look forward to welcoming them into our school.



Nigel Armsby
Principal



School Values and Ethos

Success through our Endeavours

At Highams Park School we work hard to teach students about investing in themselves - learning to be hard working, self-disciplined and to have the strength of character to succeed even when things are tough. 'Success through our endeavours' sums this up and is our continual call to students to take responsibility for their own futures by working hard in order to succeed both academically and personally. We also emphasise the need to apply a 'growth mindset' to one's aspirations - to understand that not always succeeding first time is normal and a helpful part of the learning process.



Respect, Responsibility, Resilience

We continually refer to our core behaviours of respect, responsibility and resilience to teach our students about developing their personality and character. Exam results without good character will not enable young people to succeed in adult life, so working alongside parents to help students develop such essential characteristics is a significant part of our role as educators.



Core Values

Our core values outline the key principles that the Trustees set out to deliver to the community of Highams Park.

We aim to:

- Remain a fully comprehensive mixed 11-18 local school providing a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Ensure high standards of work, behaviour, dress and achievement for all students.
- Develop cheerful, hardworking, honest and well-behaved, fit and healthy young adults.
- Ensure a safe learning environment where all are valued.
- Ensure equality of opportunity for all.
- Produce people willing and able to play an active and positive role in a rapidly changing world.
- Develop students' sense of respect for themselves and others.
- Provide opportunities for students to develop their own spiritual and moral capacities.
- Promote students' appreciation of their own and other cultures.
- Encourage students to accept their responsibilities to themselves, the school, and the local and wider communities.
- Continue to develop as an important part of the local community.
- Develop continually as an organisation committed to learning for students, staff and the local community.



School Curriculum and Facilities



Curriculum Aims

The curriculum should inspire and challenge all learners and prepare them for the future. Highams Park School's aim is to develop a coherent curriculum that builds upon students' experiences in the primary phase to help them to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

Our curriculum is carefully planned, ambitious yet accessible to students of all abilities. It is designed with Highams Park students in mind and it contains regular assessment with strategic feedback.



Highams Park Curriculum offers:

- A three-year KS3 course with academic rigour and breadth.
- A wide range of KS4 options from Triple Science to Functional Skills.
- A sixth form with examination results in the top 25% nationally.
- A 'wider education' covering cultural education, religious education, relationships education, exercise for all and careers advice.
- A healthy balance of mixed ability teaching and classes set by ability.





Our curriculum aims to help our students to:

- Achieve high standards and make excellent progress.
- Enable those who have not yet achieved age-related expectations to catch up with their peers.
- Develop high quality personal, learning and thinking skills and become independent learners.
- Be able to use high quality functional skills, including key literacy, numeracy and ICT skills.
- Be challenged and stretched to achieve their potential.
- Enjoy, value and be committed to learning both the academic and non-academic curriculum.



School Curriculum and Facilities

Key Stage 3

In years 7, 8 and 9, students study the full breadth of a traditional Key Stage 3 school curriculum, developing skills and knowledge to successfully transition from the end of primary education through to their GCSE options. Students study English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, Religious Studies, Modern Foreign Languages, Dance, Drama, Music, Art, Technology including Textiles & Food, Computer Science, Citizenship and Physical Education (PE).



Key Stage 4

In years 10 and 11, students are set by ability in English, Maths and Science and they receive guidance to enable them to choose four options from a wide range of academic and practical subjects: Geography, History, Religious Studies, Modern Foreign Languages, Dance, Drama, Music, Art, D&T, Textiles, Food, Computer Science, Critical Minds, PE, Media Studies, Sociology, Health and Social Care, Business and Functional Skills. Our Key Stage 4 curriculum is broad and balanced. It offers students the chance to study the full English Baccalaureate (English, Maths, Science, Humanities, Languages) without forcing all students to take it. It focuses on a strong core, whilst offering a wide range of subjects including the performing arts and more creative subjects. It builds upon what has been learnt at Key Stage 3 and prepares students for their Sixth Form study.

Facilities

We are immensely proud of our School site and its facilities. Our school was founded 80 years ago and holds a strong tradition of success and a passion to see young people fulfil their potential. The school has therefore grown and developed to become a centre of excellence in so many areas across a broad academic curriculum.

We have modern and well-equipped sports centre, with large sports hall, auxiliary study area, fully equipped gym and AstroTurf. Our creative arts subjects enjoy a well-equipped drama area (as well as use of the school hall for our annual school shows), music teaching rooms and practice rooms and a dance studio.

Our Art department has three large art rooms in a single block and our Design Technology area contains nine teaching rooms covering traditional design technology, Electronics (systems), Food & Nutrition and Textiles. The school has large study areas for sixth form students along with a traditional library that lends books to students of all year groups.

Our Science department has been recently refurbished and contains 9 laboratories and a computer suite. These allow students to learn science within a genuinely practical environment to support the academic demands of the subject.

The school has a strong IT infrastructure, with eight dedicated computing rooms, along with two large sixth form study areas, each with approximately 50 computers.

Following a recent refurbishment in our canteen, we are proud to offer quality food to our students that is prepared onsite – the sixth form also has its own dedicated canteen area used by our older students.



Standards and Expectations

It is part of the school's traditions that our students' uniform is kept smart and is worn correctly. Learning to care for one's own appearance is an important part of the process of education. We also are keen to ensure that students are punctual – arriving at school by 8:30am prompt. Each day has five lessons, one hour each - the need to be ready to learn by the start of the lesson is key to maintaining high aspirations.

Students should ensure that they bring the correct equipment to school so that their activities and work can be completed to the highest possible standard. Homework is also set regularly and students must

ensure that they have a calm and quiet area where they can study at home.

One of the most significant factors that ultimately affects students' academic success is their attitude towards their studies, and how effectively they invest quality time in their learning. Throughout their time at Highams Park School, we encourage students to take responsibility for their learning, to become independent learners – those who are able to succeed without the need for continual reminders and deadlines. Developing this understanding and attitude is key for our students' educational journey.



The Pastoral System

Highams Park School is absolutely committed to our students' welfare, protection and safety so that they feel safe and secure. Our experienced and well-trained pastoral team deal with any pastoral concerns promptly and sensitively. If students have any concerns about their safety and welfare, they can raise these issues with any member of staff. We have a dedicated area - 'student services' - where our students will find all of the Heads of Year and their deputies along with other members of the pastoral team including our school nurse. As a school, we recognise that our role is wider than that of simply teaching an academic curriculum, we want students to be successful in their endeavours and that takes good mental and physical health, too.

House Structure

All students at the school are allocated to one of our four houses, Burnell, Forest, Gibson or Payling. Students in the different houses are identified by stripes in their school tie, students are encouraged to identify with their house by being involved in a range of House activities and competitions. The houses are a way of students being involved with a wider group of students from the whole cohort, every few weeks students will gather for a house assembly, which is a unique time for students across all year groups to gather together in the main hall. House points are rewarded to students when they show good character, behaviour, or complete particularly good work - these points are totalled for all students in the house giving a healthy competitive edge between the houses.



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Year 7





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Nigel Armsby

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