



PARKLANDS HIGH SCHOOL

LEARN | RESPECT | ASPIRE | ACHIEVE



School Prospectus

Welcome

A warm welcome to Parklands' prospectus. I hope it will give you an insight into the ethos, values and vision of our exceptional school community. This is also our first augmented reality prospectus which will enable you to interact directly with some of the contents via a smartphone or tablet.

At Parklands we aim to deliver an outstanding educational experience to our student community. We are proud of our reputation as a forward-looking school which invests in the latest teaching and learning technologies and resources. This is combined with an extensive network of support, care and guidance that develops personal and social skills. It's part of our commitment to equipping our young people for adult life.

Our core values of LEARN, RESPECT, ASPIRE, ACHIEVE underpin our shared vision of academic achievement for all alongside personal, social, moral, cultural and spiritual development and awareness. We also believe strongly that schools should enrich the lives of their students, and as such this plays a crucial role in the Parklands ethos. You can read about the importance of enrichment in the dedicated section within this prospectus.

There is so much more that makes Parklands a learning community where individuals can thrive and develop into well-rounded, well-grounded young adults. This prospectus gives you a glimpse. If you like what you see in the following pages and would like to learn more about the Parklands experience, please view the school website or make an appointment to visit us during the school day.

Mrs C Hollister
Headteacher



Augmented Reality

Throughout this prospectus there is additional content that can be viewed with the use of a smartphone or tablet device. On pages enhanced with additional content, you will see the AR symbol (situated to the left of this paragraph). In order to bring the pages to life, download the AR people App from the Google Play Store or App Store, hover your device over the page and wait for the page to come to life.



“Students are proud of their school and make an outstanding contribution to it. Students are keen to participate in the many opportunities they have to take responsibility, support each other and promote the community spirit of the school.”

The Widest Curriculum

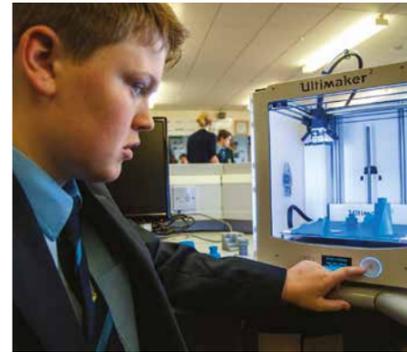
Parklands has a strong ethos of developing students to Learn, Respect, Aspire and Achieve through a rich curriculum. Our aim is to develop every student in the widest educational sense. Alongside academic success, we foster leadership skills and develop the attributes and personal qualities that will be essential as adults in an ever-changing world.

In Years 7, 8 and 9 our students follow an innovative programme of project-based learning that develops their creativity, independence and ability to manage extensive projects as a team member. This is supplemented by special focus days where students experience the real world, outside of the classroom.

In Years 10 and 11 our students are organised into learning pathways to maximise achievement and subject choice that will allow them to succeed at an appropriate level. They are also provided with careers guidance and enterprise events, where they learn entrepreneurial skills and to hone their existing skills in a fast-paced, ever-changing society. We are mindful of the fact that many of our students will work in careers that have not yet been invented, and so the development of skills is a vital prerequisite in the Parklands curriculum.

Our Senior Student Leaders, Learning Ambassadors and Digital Leaders work with teachers to maintain a strong student involvement in learning and decision making within school. Our Eco Prefects focus on the quality of our school environment. Parklands students all have access to our Leadership Academy giving everyone an opportunity to contribute to improving our school.

Our Learning Challenge events encourage students to step outside traditional curriculum boundaries and experience new styles of learning, focused on their own personalised areas for development. Students work on projects such as designing a festival; designing an educational device for speech-impaired children or learning new practical skills. The Learning Challenge event culminates in a Community Day, where parents/carers and local primary schools are invited to share in the success of our students.



Learn

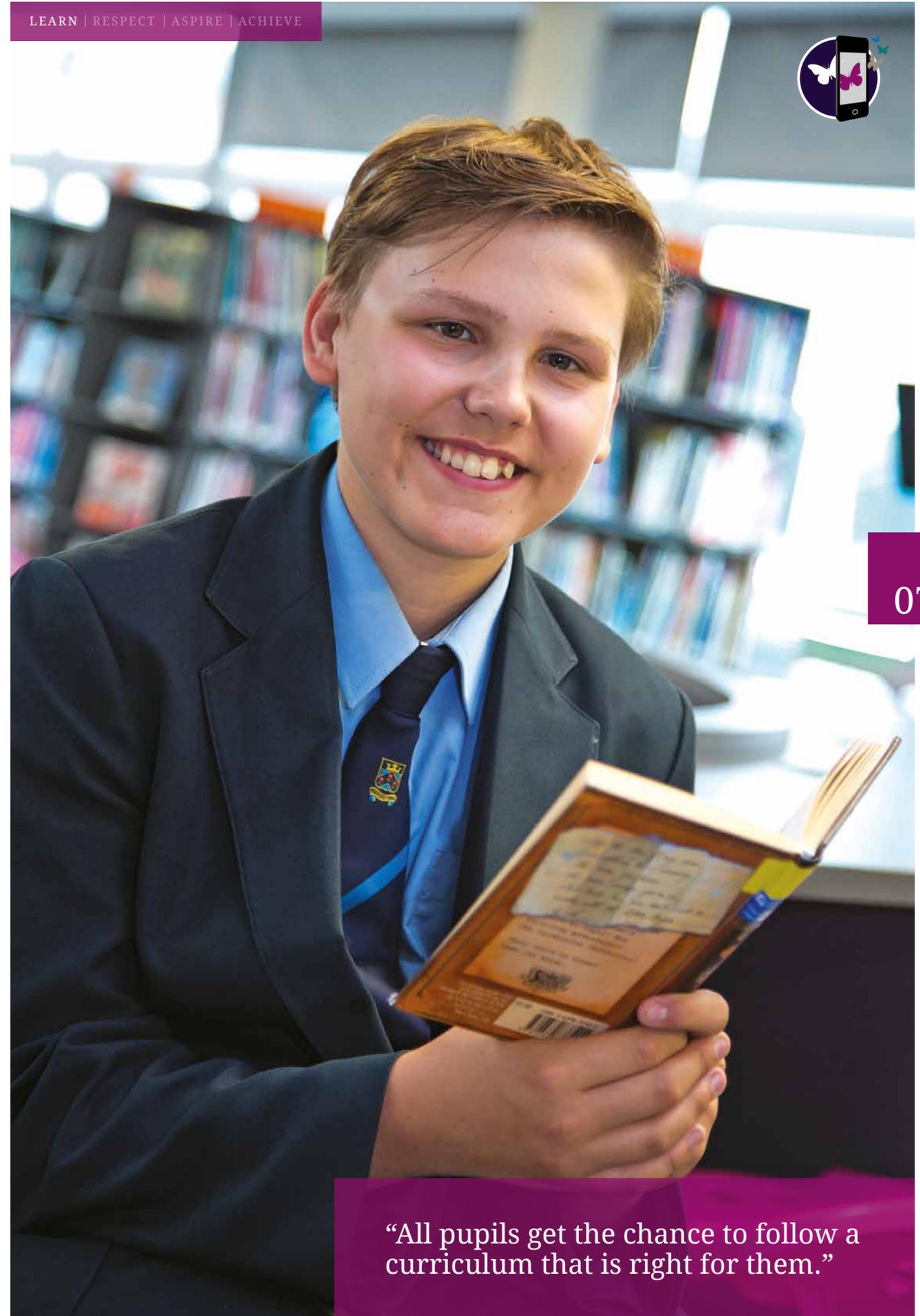
Parklands enjoys a reputation for educational success, with an inclusive curriculum for all. Academic rigour and a relentless focus on achievement across all subject areas ensures that our students acquire the knowledge and skills that they will need to secure their futures. Equally important is the value placed on modern and innovative practice in the arts, music, sport, the humanities, vocational pathways and new technologies. The result is an enriched and challenging 21st century educational experience for our student community.

Parklands has always cherished its reputation as an institution with high academic expectations and excellent examination results. Learning is of course our core purpose, and as such we place a high emphasis on the quality of our learning environment. A range of learning spaces for the 21st century provide our students with an exciting place of study. New style classrooms designed for group interaction, coupled with research computers; interactive whiteboards across the school; state-of-the-art ICT, Media, Music and Science facilities; a multimedia Learning Resource centre, a TV studio, mobile devices, an immersive learning space and stage and lighting equipment for performance all play a vital part in a school where variety, diversity and enrichment are integral to learning.

Our curriculum maintains an entitlement that all will and can achieve. Core subjects such as English and Mathematics are combined with early entry to examination courses via an innovative creative option in Year 9. Students have a wide choice of options in a personalised curriculum that allows a number of diverse and relevant learning pathways, meeting the needs of all abilities and interests. Traditional subjects such as Geography and History are taught alongside newer age subjects such as Creative Media, Music Technology, Photography and an extensive range of vocational choices.



06



07

“All pupils get the chance to follow a curriculum that is right for them.”



“We all respect our community and visitors to the school because that is what we are taught at Parklands.”

Respect

Respect is integral to our core values as a school. Maintaining an ethos of pride in the school community, our students are outstanding ambassadors for their school. With extensive pastoral programmes within school, we aim to embed a sense of social, moral, spiritual and cultural responsibility in every student both towards each other and to their extended community.

Our visitors tell us that Parklands has a warm, welcoming and purposeful atmosphere. Our students tell us that they feel safe and valued as individuals with exceptional talents. The school’s greatest asset is its students: a credit to themselves and to the school and it is their contribution that makes our school unique. Academic standards are sustained by clear expectations in terms of behaviour and a positive work ethic. Our academic support programme is extensive, with a range of interventions - from support for gifted and talented students to those with special educational needs - in place to ensure that students remain on track to succeed and achieve their potential.

Students are rewarded for their achievement, and a real sense of community is prevalent throughout the school. Our Prefects are proud to represent the school whilst our Eco Warriors are committed to improving our carbon footprint and our school environment. Our Student Leadership Academy is strong and powerful in its influence, with students involved in improving their own school - year after year - through their commitment to all aspects of school life.



Supporting Achievement

Our House System

Our central purpose is to support all students in reaching their full potential and at the heart of this lies strong, nurturing and comprehensive pastoral care. We have a House System that provides support reaching far beyond our students achieving academic success. Our dedicated Achievement Team pride themselves on meeting the social and emotional needs of all our students. This holistic approach helps to develop our students into happy, successful, responsible and caring individuals.

We believe that a close home/school relationship is vital in supporting students throughout their time with us. Therefore, we have many ways to keep in touch and we ensure that siblings are always in the same House. This gives parents and carers one central point of contact.

Inter-House events add fun, friendly rivalry and a competitive element to school life. Students and staff immerse themselves in a wide range of activities hoping to achieve the much coveted award - the annual House Shield.



Vertical Tutor Groups

Vertical tutor groups create a cohesive and friendly school community where students know and work with students from other years, like a family. The nature of this structure increases opportunities for student leadership within their tutor group and House.

We celebrate success and recognise hard work, attendance, behaviour and achievement. Students are regularly rewarded in a variety of ways: achievement points; prize draws; certificates; reward trips and assemblies.

The strength of the inclusive Parklands community is built on the foundation of nurturing and developing every unique individual.



Aspire

Our diverse curriculum combines cultural awareness with technological advancement and the development of leadership capacity. Parklands' students aspire to achieve their unique potential and success in the widest sense: academic success, combined with deeper enrichment experiences that prepares them to embrace their future with confidence, equipped to become global citizens in the modern world.

Understanding the world and respecting its cultural differences is crucial to our school ethos: regular cultural events are commonplace at Parklands, augmented by a wide range of educational visits both at home and abroad. Recent Parklands educational visits have ranged from Auschwitz to the Great Wall of China; from Kenya to our Battlefields experience. Our Learning Challenge Week promotes independent learning, and our Careers Fair prepares our students for the demands of the world of work. Our pupils have designed their own Remembrance Garden and outdoor social spaces.

It is this richer, cultural and ethical awareness that marks our students as self-aware and truly global citizens: strengthened by a support network that is rigorous and all-embracing. Outstanding support, care and guidance encourages all Parklands' students to aim for their potential: and thereby to aspire to the highest standards.

12



13

“Encouragement takes place both in and outside of the classroom.”



“All students are encouraged to perform to the best of their abilities.”

Achieve

Achievement is a core expectation for every individual. Students’ progress is constantly monitored, reviewed and discussed at every level, in every subject, throughout their school life. High achievement in terms of final results is an expectation, alongside development as creative, independent, resilient, resourceful and considerate young adults. Parklands’ students are responsible, tolerant, skilled and articulate and as such they leave us ready to make a positive contribution to society.

Students’ progress is monitored and reviewed in every subject from the first term in Year 7 to the end of Year 11. Ambitious and individualised academic targets ensure that students remain “on track” and are challenged to achieve their potential. These targets are reinforced with regular personal reviews.

Achievement is a core expectation for all at Parklands. An innovative and personalised curriculum forms the basis of this achievement, yet it is the holistic attitude to developing the whole person that makes Parklands unique. Our school ethos promotes leadership opportunities for all students and an understanding of cultural, moral, social and ethical issues. It’s one of the many reasons why our students remain in high demand with colleges of further education on leaving Parklands.



Enrichment

Beyond the Classroom

At the heart of Parklands' educational philosophy is the conviction that education does not belong solely in the classroom.

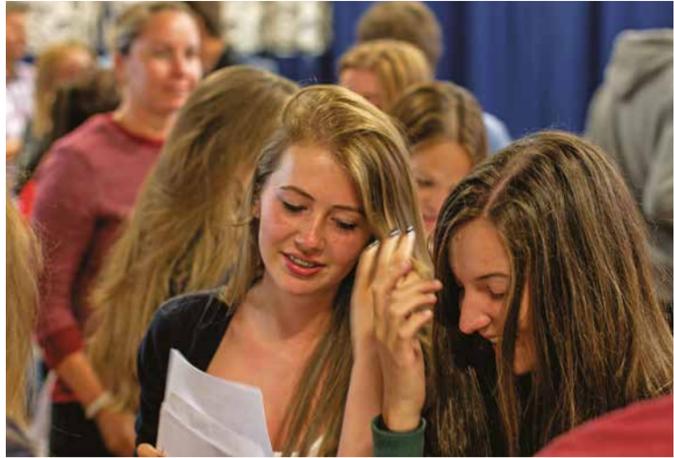
Educational visits, both at home and abroad, are complemented by numerous cultural events in school. From Zulu warrior days to university taster sessions; from Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to cultural exchanges with France and Germany; from students leading sporting events for local primary children to our annual delivery of Christmas hampers to the elderly.

Our curriculum also includes specific events to enrich the lives of our students: dedicated days to learn about key life skills such as internet safety, awareness of social issues in society and environmental action activities supplement our students' learning. These are often specifically delivered by experts to ensure that the learning is of the highest quality, up-to-date and relevant.

Parklands' students are engaged and involved in their local, national and international communities. Annual charity events are integral to our work, our sporting teams are successful and well supported, and this engagement with school life is further enhanced by annual school dramatic and musical productions.



“Students enjoy learning and are highly motivated to succeed”





**PARKLANDS
HIGH SCHOOL**
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