



Chapel-en-le-Frith
High School

Prospectus



We are an exceptionally inclusive school, and we recognise that every one of our students is an individual. Our role is to help them find their own direction in life, and to support their journey into adulthood. We believe in the power of young people to make a difference, so we equip our students to ask life's big questions, to engage with our complex world, and to help bring about change for the better.

Introduction

Thank you for taking an interest in our school; I hope that this prospectus provides a flavour of the work that we do.

We are a caring, friendly and inclusive school, whose success is built on a wonderful staff team, a clear focus on learning and on treating students as individuals. We aim to provide our students with an exceptional foundation for further study, training and employment.

We believe our role is to challenge young people to fulfil their potential both in the classroom and in a wide range of enrichment activities. To help them succeed we provide comprehensive and high quality pastoral care.

We have high aspirations for all of our students; we want them to leave us with superb qualifications, great communication skills and the self confidence, vision and understanding to be successful and happy in a fast-changing world.

We are always delighted to welcome visitors. Please contact us if you would like to arrange a visit or would like further information about any aspect of our work.

Greg Raynor
Headteacher



Learning

Learning is at the heart of any school's work and we aim to achieve student progress that matches that of the best schools in the country. We have a dedicated and skilled team of teaching staff who, with their enthusiasm for their subjects, create exciting and stimulating learning environments.

We aim to develop good learning habits early. We use a combination of superb teaching, relevant home study, challenging assessments and simple but effective tracking of progress, to guide our students through a five year learning journey with us.

Literacy, the ability to read, write, speak and listen well, is of critical importance and the development of literacy is at the heart of our work. Reading ages are carefully tracked, the ability to speak with confidence is developed, and extended writing skills are nurtured across a range of subjects.





Aspiration

We believe that confidence is vital to success; if someone believes that they can do something they will probably succeed. To this end, we give high priority to raising the aspirations of our students.

We work exceptionally hard to open students' eyes to the possibilities ahead of them. Students engage with a range of sixth-form colleges, apprenticeship providers and employers. We plan ahead not just to college entry but to university entry for those considering it. We take our students to visit universities and we have strong links with both Oxford and Cambridge. We work closely with local employers and host a number of in-house careers events, including our annual careers fair.

We see our 11 to 16 status as an advantage, with our students making a conscious choice at age 16 to move to a college or training provider that suits them and which is, perhaps, a stepping stone to employment, further training or university.

All of this work pays off. Rates of student entry into education or training after leaving us, with a wide range of providers, are amongst the highest in England. Colleges and apprenticeship providers consistently report that they are impressed with the knowledge, skills and maturity that our former students bring to their post-16 studies.

Curriculum

Our students study the national curriculum in years 7, 8 and 9 and can choose from a wide range of option courses in years 10 and 11. Well informed option choices are increasingly important as competition for college and university places increases, and we try hard to strike a balance between ensuring that the subjects we offer maximise a student's future options and accommodate their interests and skills.

Beyond traditional subjects, we offer all students a carefully planned Learning for Life curriculum covering a range of topics around health and well-being, finance, citizenship and current affairs. This content is delivered through Learning for Life lessons, assemblies, "thought for the week", and Learning for Life days, where students have the chance to work on topics very different from normal lessons.





Learning Support

The school has a superb reputation for supporting students with additional needs. Members of our learning support team work across the school, in mainstream lessons or within our enhanced resource provision that caters for students whose needs can't be met in mainstream classes.

The enhanced resource provision is an integral and important part of our school community and the benefits we gain from having facilities and experts on site help all of our students.

The provision is very flexible, with students able to work towards a range of qualifications at a pace that suits them. Some students will be taught in dedicated learning support classes whilst others will be integrated into mainstream lessons. The development of life skills and self confidence is an important part of our learning support work.





Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is undoubtedly a strength of the school. Our mixed age tutor groups and skilled tutors provide the security of a base in school. Tutors keep a close eye on the welfare of the young people in their care and students report that the mixed age groups help them make friends and break down barriers between year groups.

A key strength of the school, often commented on by parents, is our team of pastoral leaders. These highly trained, experienced and skilled individuals are non-teachers and are therefore available throughout the school day to resolve issues. Pastoral leaders provide a key point of contact during the school day for students and parents.

Beyond these elements our pastoral structure includes a range of more intensive support, including on-site counselling and The Learning Centre, which some students may need to access during their time with us.

Our strong pastoral systems mean that the school is a notably calm place with good relationships between staff and students. We aim to care for every student as an individual, allowing them to be happy at school and to be ready to learn.

Beyond the classroom

School is about so much more than classroom learning and we provide a range of enrichment activities both in and out of school.

Drama and music are strong in school. Our music department offers the opportunity to join several choirs and bands. Individual music lessons can be organised with our peripatetic teachers. Our annual school drama production gives students a taste of life on stage; these extravaganzas often involve over one hundred students and have been sell-out successes with the public.

Away from the school site, educational visits offer students a wide range of experiences. In recent years we have had groups skiing in Italy, improving their language skills in France, Germany and Spain, on theatre visits to London, and on a sporting tour in Holland.

Many students choose to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in school; we have impressive completion rates for this challenging award.



Sport

Sport is an enormously important feature of school life, playing a formative role in developing the all round strengths of our students; aside from the benefits of physical fitness it develops self-respect and confidence, teamwork and discipline.

Our PE programme covers an incredibly wide range of sports and our teachers have the skills and dedication to help any student make the most of their talents. Extra-curricular sport is strong and school teams compete regularly in local, county and regional competitions with great success. Our teams frequently score highly in High Peak and Derbyshire leagues.

Alongside traditional school sports, we pride ourselves on the range of more unusual sports we are involved in: students here may well get to experience handball and lacrosse and we've recently competed in sports as diverse as fell running and golf.





This is ‘an inclusive school where pupils are happy’ and ‘have positive relationships with staff, who know them well.’ We have ‘a clear moral purpose’ and ‘high expectations of pupils’ learning and behaviour’. ‘The school’s curriculum is ambitious’ and aims to ‘broaden pupils’ experiences and knowledge of the wider world.’ Ofsted

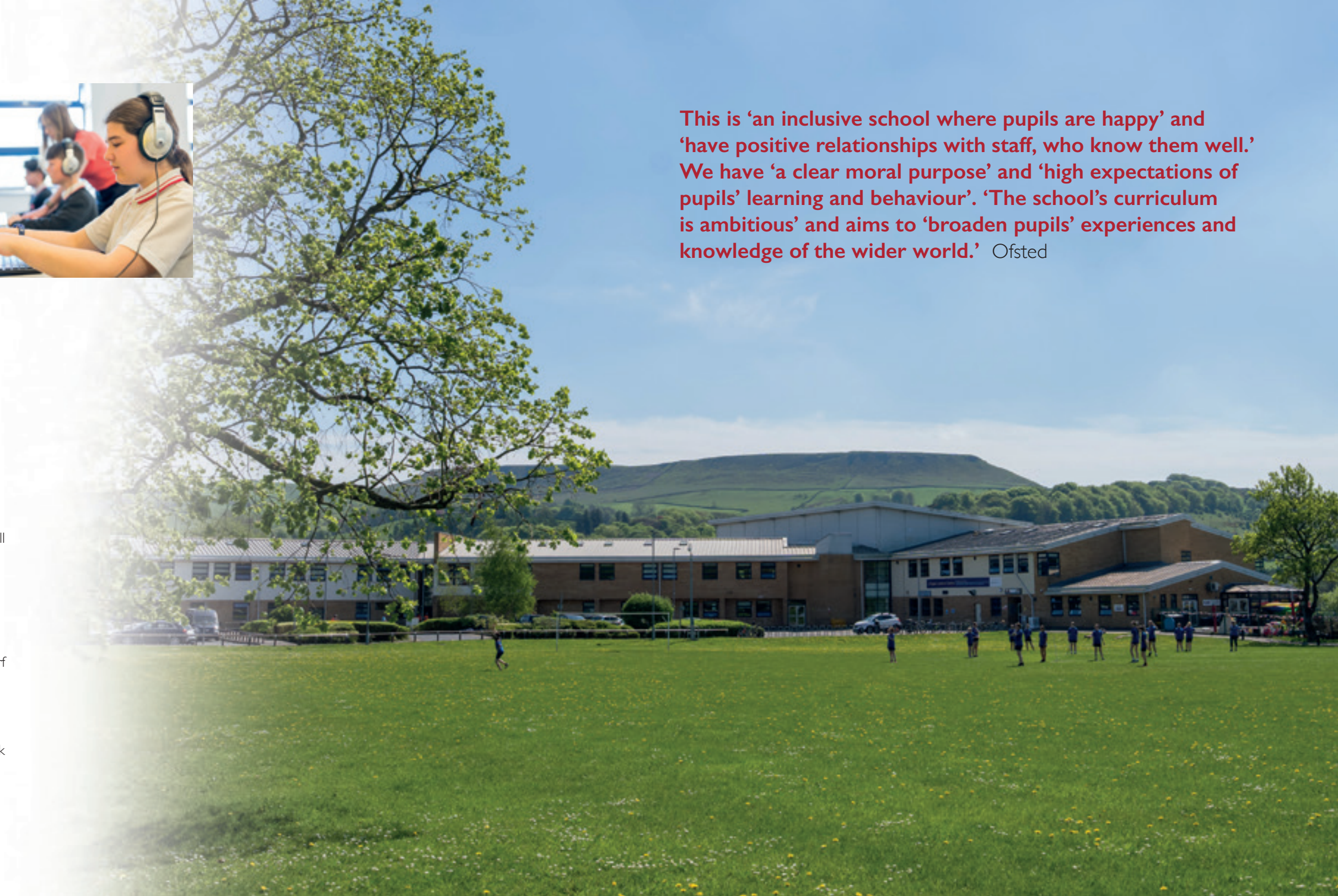
Facilities

We are lucky to work in modern accommodation on an attractive site that provides a superb environment for learning.

Our classrooms are bright and roomy. Access to computers is good, with PCs in many classrooms and in four ICT suites. We have excellent facilities for science and technology. Drama is well catered for with a specialist drama studio and our hall converts into a fantastic theatre with raked seating, professional lighting and sound. Specialist music teaching facilities are good and a suite of practice rooms allows our peripatetic staff to teach undisturbed.

Our sporting facilities include a large sports hall, floodlit AstroTurf pitch, tennis courts and extensive grass playing areas.

A well-used, and well-stocked, library supports our work on literacy and, importantly, a spacious restaurant allows our students to eat in a pleasant environment before school, at break and at lunchtime.





Chapel-en-le-Frith High School

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