

Hamstead Hall Academy

Part of the
Hamstead Hall Academy Trust



Prospectus



Pride

Persistence

Patience

Preparation

Progress

**Success for All
Through Hard Work and Harmony**



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HAMSTEAD HALL ACADEMY

Hamstead Hall is an Academy, serving the local area of Handsworth and Handsworth Wood. The Academy caters for approximately 1100 students across the range from 11 - 18 and reflects the religious and cultural diversity of the city.

Opened in 1973 as Hamstead Hall School, it enjoys an attractive setting next to Sandwell Valley Nature Reserve and Handsworth Golf Course. The site stands in its own extensive grounds and playing fields.

Hamstead Hall Academy has been at the forefront of inclusion and is one of six schools in the city with a Special Needs Resource Base. The Resource Base caters for 40 students who have statements for cognition and learning difficulties. In our latest Ofsted inspection in January 2019, Inspectors stated that "Leaders have a strong knowledge of pupils with SEND".

Today the Academy is one of the most successful comprehensives in the country. It has gained NLE (National Leader of Education) and NSS (National Support School) status. The Academy has supported schools both locally and nationally to help them improve standards.

The parents/carers and students of the local area have trusted the Academy for the best part of 48 years. The Academy, secure in its history of service to the local community, looks forward to the challenges and opportunities of the future.





Executive Principals' Letter

Dear Parent/Carer

This prospectus has been prepared to help you choose the very best education for your child. If you are unable to visit the academy, we have produced an academy video which provides a virtual tour of the academy that you are welcome to see on the academy website or through our Hamstead Hall Academy YouTube channel. We hope the academy video will give you and your child an insight into what Hamstead Hall Academy has to offer. Our aim is to create an environment in which all students can succeed to the very best of their ability through hard work and harmony, maximising the wide variety of resources and facilities which exist within our community.

We encourage all of our students to have high aspirations for themselves,

"Your school's mission statement 'Success for All Through Hard Work and Harmony' is evident in the conduct of pupils both in and out of the classroom".
– Ofsted 2019

We encourage our students to participate in a wide variety of cultural, recreational and sporting activities to develop qualities of social awareness, sensitivity, initiative and responsibility.

We have worked hard over the years to meet the needs of all of our students, making Hamstead Hall a very popular Academy with an excellent reputation and an expanding Sixth Form. In the 2019 Ofsted inspection it was stated that "the sixth form provides a broad choice of subjects for an increasing number of students. Your inclusive approach

We cannot achieve this alone.

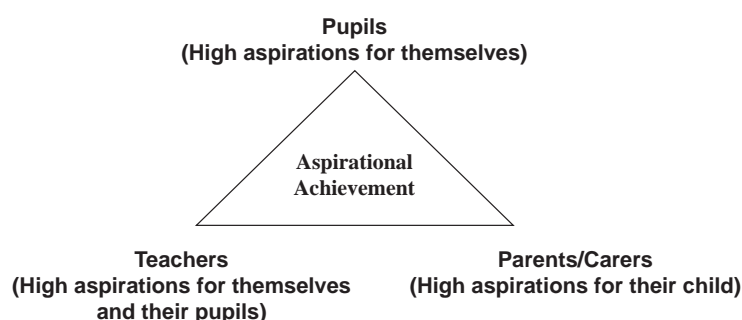
Education is a joint venture between parents/carers and teachers. Your child's success depends on close co-operation between home and the Academy. It relies upon parents/carers having high aspirations for their child; teachers having high aspirations for themselves and their students and the students having high aspirations for themselves. This partnership, we are confident, will result in aspirational achievement and ultimate success for our students.

The decision you are making is a crucial one for your child's future, so we hope this prospectus will help you make up your mind.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Farar
Executive Principal



think positively and develop their intellectual powers to the full. To help them, we have committed and skilful staff and a stimulating and disciplined learning environment. In our latest Ofsted report in January 2019, the Inspectors stated that "pupils receive a high quality learning experience". Our Academy is a community and we aim to give each student a sense of belonging to that community, based on mutual respect and self-discipline.

means that pupils are well supported in choosing academic or vocational pathways". Over 95% of our sixth form students go onto Higher Education and gain university places. We are committed to ensuring these high standards continue and improve further. We are looking forward, determined to empower all of our students to meet the challenges and opportunities that the future will bring.



Mr J Mortimer
Executive Principal



"Pupils are well
cared for at the
school."

- Ofsted 2019.



Mission Statement

“Success For All Through Hard Work and Harmony”

Our Vision

We see Hamstead Hall Academy as a vibrant, dynamic and interactive Academy for students of all abilities. There is a relentless focus on improving the quality of teaching, learning and pastoral care to ensure that achievement is at the heart of what we do.

At Hamstead Hall Academy, our vision is to create a learning community where we work together to support our learners to secure a better future for themselves through the pursuit of excellence in everything we do. We aim to provide:

- The widest possible range of opportunities for students, teachers, para professionals and the community to feel fulfilled in their lifelong learning.
- A challenging edge for us all to achieve our individual best in all aspects of academy life.

- A real sense of belonging to a supportive learning community where we prepare students for success in the 21st century workplace.
- The best facilities possible to support our work.
- The feeling of a community: caring, supportive, improving and challenging with us all taking our share of responsibility to make this a reality.

At Hamstead Hall Academy:

- Achievement is at the heart of what we do;
- We achieve success through hard work and harmony;
- Every person matters;
- There is a relentless focus on teaching and learning;
- We make every effort to ensure that our students are: healthy, safe, enjoy what they do, are able to make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being.

Aims and Values

Hamstead Hall Academy aims to be a fully inclusive learning community where everyone achieves success through hard work and harmony. Our explicit aim is to create a learning environment where we value all members of the community as learners.

Our Aims

To learn, we need good facilities, support and to be valued as a person. To achieve this at Hamstead Hall Academy we....

- Treat everyone with respect be they learners, teachers, para-professionals in any context.
- Value the fact that we all learn at different rates and we aim to support people along their individual learning pathway.
- Need to have the highest aspirations of ourselves and of others.
- Should strive to do our best in all aspects of life.
- Should be very ready to share our ideas with others and respect and value the ideas of others

Our Values

Hamstead Hall Learner:
5 Ps - Pathway to Success

PRIDE

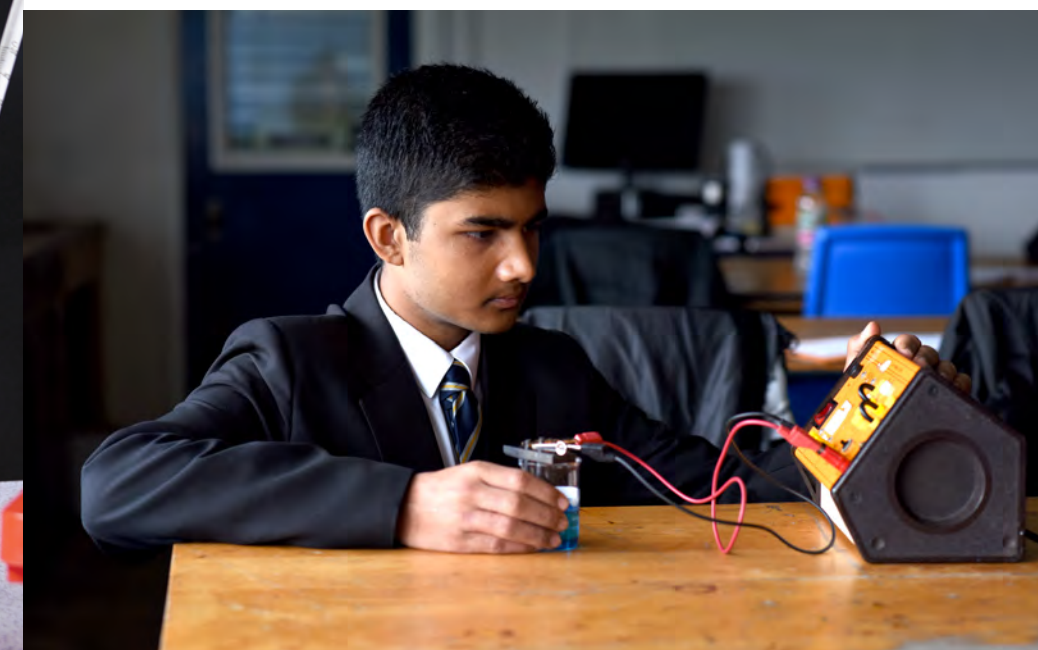
PERSISTENCE

PATIENCE

PREPARATION

PROGRESS

These values underpin our work with the students and the standards we set.





"We are very impressed at the pastoral support the school offers and this is one of the main things that led us to send our sons to the school."

Parent View
Ofsted 2019



Pastoral Care

Caring for Students

The high standard of pastoral care helps to support the positive ethos at Hamstead Hall Academy. The Academy is divided into seven year groups. Each has a Head of Year who guides the students through their academy career. They are supported by Assistant Heads of Year and Form Tutors. Together, with the support of the Senior Pastoral Leaders, they work together to ensure that all students are given the guidance and support they need to fulfil their potential.

School Council

Each year group is given the opportunity to be involved in how the Academy develops. Year councils are elected with representatives drawn from each form group. These councils can discuss important issues with their year group.

Uniform

Until they enter the sixth form all students are expected to wear uniform. It is an attractive uniform and we expect all students to wear it with pride and to remember they represent the Academy when they are wearing it.

High Standards

The Academy expects all students to be courteous, considerate and to treat others with respect. There is zero-tolerance on bullying and other anti-social behaviour. Loss of privileges and detention are the main sanctions. Information on the Academy's detention policy can be found in the Student Planner. A student may be excluded from the Academy for a fixed period of time and only in the most serious cases permanent exclusion is considered. In such cases the Academy follows guidelines set down by the Local Authority.

Safeguarding

At Hamstead Hall Academy student welfare and safety is paramount, supported by the Safeguarding and Child Protection, Anti-bullying, Equality and Health and Safety policies. (These are available on the Academy website or a hard copy is available on request). The Academy has a designated Safeguarding Lead, who provides a complementary service to address the needs of children who need help to overcome barriers to their learning both inside and outside the school.

"The School provides a safe and supportive environment for pupils. Pupils are well cared for at the school".
– Ofsted 2019



Teaching and Learning

Curriculum Intent and Vision

The curriculum at Hamstead Hall Academy should be broad and balanced. It should be well developed and planned carefully to ensure coverage, progression and intellectual challenge. It should provide opportunities for deep learning and mastery. The curriculum and learning environment should be highly inclusive, removing barriers to learning, to enable every pupil to achieve. Pupils' own community, heritage and traditions will be frequently held as starting points to engage, build on learning and develop cultural capital. Appropriate assessments and targets are deliberately ambitious in a quest to bridge the performance gap between different groups of pupils and raise aspirations, thus engendering a sense of personal pride in achievement. The curriculum is designed to make learning memorable through creativity and extensive wider provision. It will promote the SMSC, mental and physical development of pupils, preparing them for responsibility and experiences in later life. The pedagogy of learning should be driven by educational research and cognitive science. The curriculum is mapped sequentially and adopts a thematic approach which supports cross curricular links and enables pupils to revisit and recall previously learnt knowledge and make it cohere in their long term memory. We strongly uphold "Success for All Through Hard Work and Harmony".

Curriculum Implementation

The Curriculum for Key Stage 3

Students study all National Curriculum subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Computing, Drama,

Geography, History, a language (this could be French, Spanish or Latin), Physical Education, Music, Religious Education and Technology. Students are placed in sets based on ability in most subject areas but these are regularly reviewed to allow for movement between sets.

In Year 7 students follow the 'ROCIT' curriculum at different points within the year which encompasses curriculum areas such as Religious Education, Geography and History. This skills based learning is designed to emphasise the acquisition of generic skills through cross-curricular projects.

Throughout Year 7 and Year 8, students will also have a 'Read to Succeed' lesson once a week and supports students to be fluent, thoughtful, independent readers. Lessons will use a range of texts from a variety of subjects and will explore themes such as 'The Environment', 'Commonwealth and Community' and 'Health and Wellbeing'.

The Curriculum for Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 students study a common core of subjects including English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, Religious Education and Citizenship. Students are supported through appropriate information, advice and guidance to follow the Learning Pathway of their choice. This enables students to choose from a wide range of subjects and select the examination courses they wish to study alongside the core subjects.

The curriculum is differentiated and tailored to meet the needs of individual students. It caters for all students covering both vocational and traditional GCSE subjects.

All subjects lead to GCSE or Vocational qualifications. A work related learning





programme includes work experience and careers guidance for all students. In Years 10 and 11, there are often other additional classes running beyond the normal academy hours and there is an expectation that students will stay for this extra tuition and support.

Students achieve very highly at Key Stage 4 with results that are well above the national averages. Our success is based on high quality teaching, excellent resources, a secure grounding in Key Stage 3 and high aspirations of the teachers, students and parents/carers.

Physical Education

All students receive a minimum of 1.5 hours of high quality Physical Education per fortnight. The students follow a broad and balanced curriculum which involves the use of the sports hall, gymnasiums, fitness centre, astro-turf pitch, climbing tower and playing fields.

In Key Stage 4 all students also have the opportunity to enrol in the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Bronze and Silver level. There is also provision for sporting extra-curricular activities that run beyond the school day for all students.

Religious Education

Religious Education is provided for all pupils, and is inclusive, broad minded and reflects the beliefs in the local area to ensure all pupils feel represented. Parents do have the right to withdraw pupils from Religious Education. If you wish to do this, please make an appointment with the Executive Principal.

The Academy does not support selective withdrawal from Religious Education. Where the pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for Religious Education of the kind the parents want the pupil to receive. These arrangements will be made by the parents; the academy

is not expected to make these arrangements.

Students with SEN

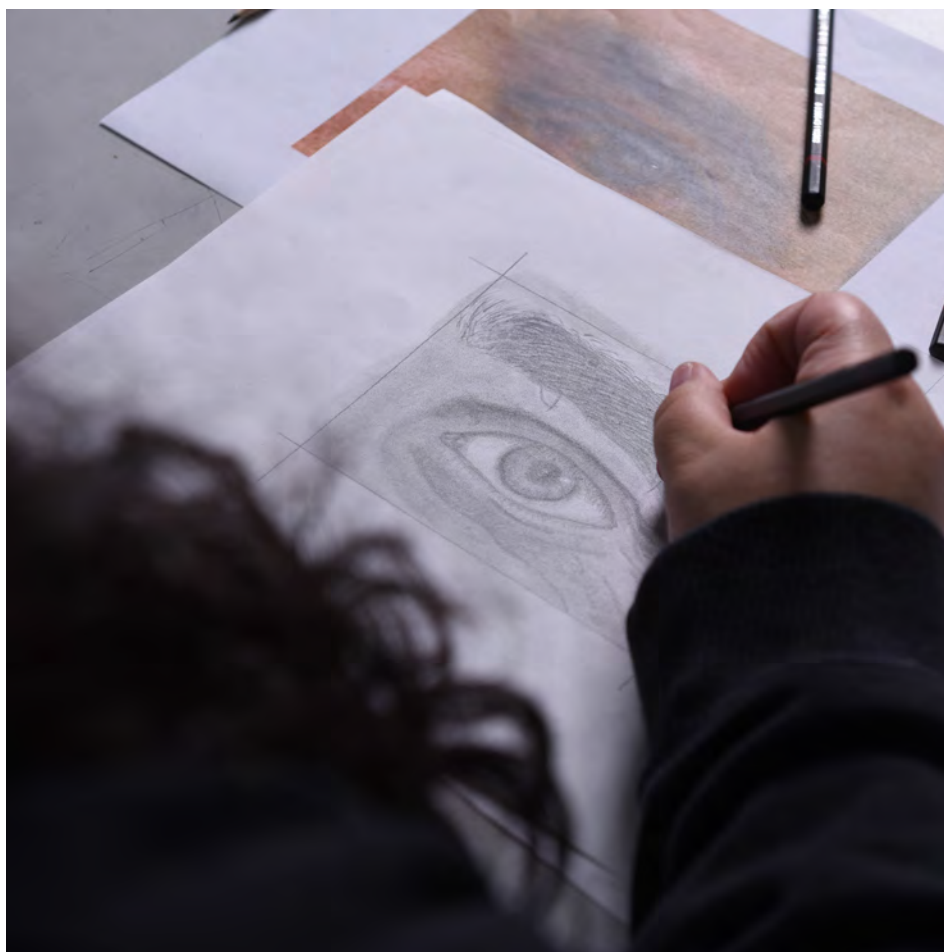
Teaching Assistants provide support to SEN students across the curriculum and where possible, students with SEN are integrated into mainstream lessons with the support of Teaching Assistants. Where appropriate SEN students are given additional time and support with English and Mathematics and access to a personalised curriculum that has been designed to develop life skills.

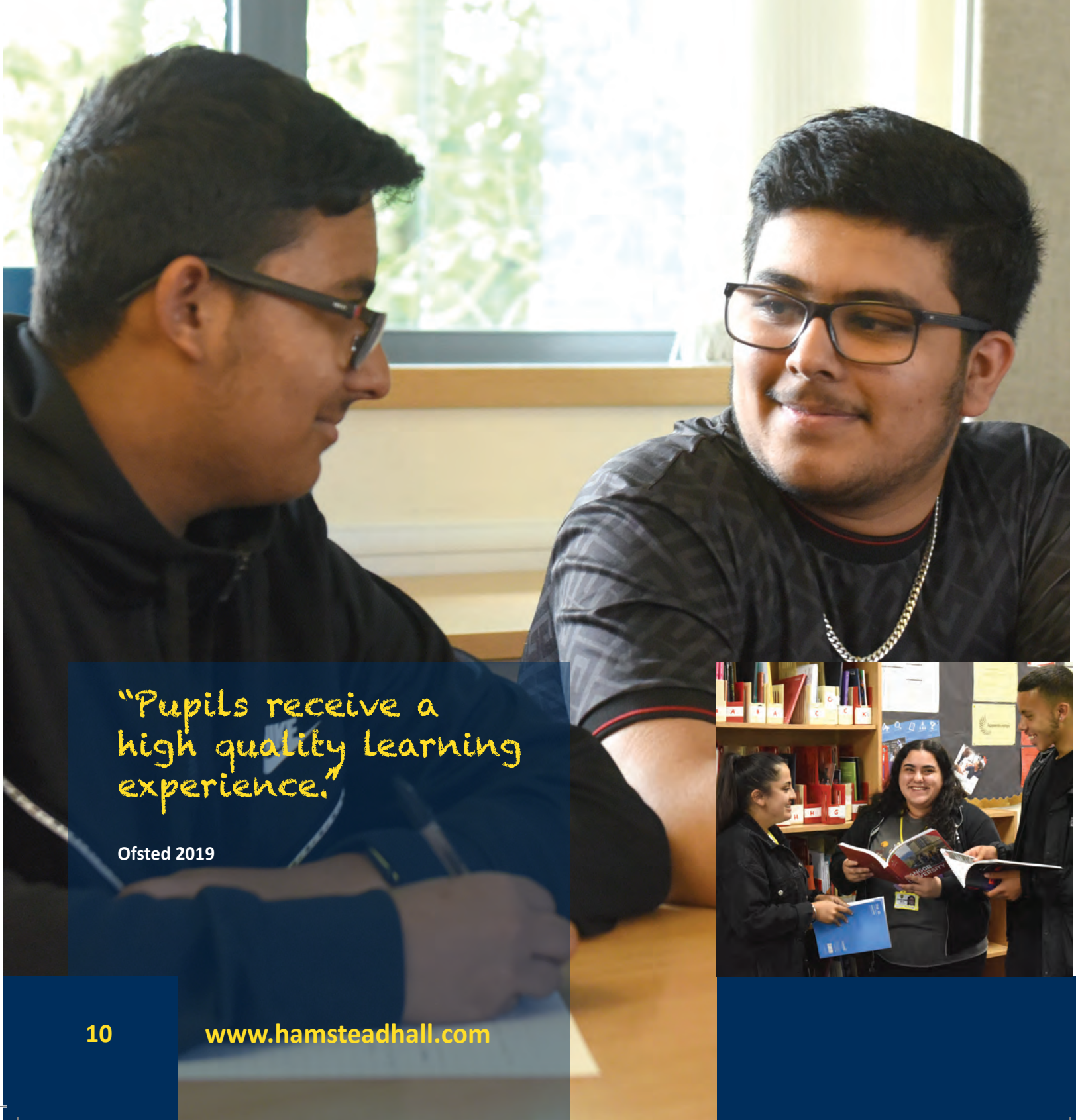
"SEND Resource Base is used effectively to support pupils and provide appropriate interventions. As a result, the progress of current pupils with SEND is similar to that of their peers"

– Ofsted 2019

Reporting to Parents/Carers

Parents/carers receive information about the academic progress of their child throughout the academic year. This data and progress information is used by staff to track the progress and achievement of students. There is one formal opportunity each year to discuss your child's progress at Parents/Carers Evening. We also encourage regular communication between home and the Academy throughout the year.





"Pupils receive a high quality learning experience."

Ofsted 2019





The Curriculum for Key Stage 5 (Post 16)

At the end of Key Stage 4 most of our students stay on to continue their studies in our Aspirations Sixth Form Centre.

We offer a wide range of courses that include traditional A Levels as well as BTEC qualifications. There are a wealth of extra-curricular activities including work or university placement opportunities through our strong links with businesses and universities that students are encouraged to take advantage of.

Ofsted 2019 stated "The sixth form provides a broad choice of subjects for an increasing number of students. Pupils are well supported in choosing academic or vocational pathways".

We offer the sensitive support of an academy combined with the independence of a college. The induction programme will help to make Hamstead Hall a welcoming Sixth Form for the students and prepare them for life in the Sixth Form. The success of the Sixth Form Centre is due to the hard work and high aspirations of students and staff. There is a fully integrated information, advice and guidance process that supports students to achieve in their subjects, develop personally and make the right choices for life beyond the Sixth Form. All students will have a personal tutor throughout their time in the Sixth Form offering personalised support and guidance.

Most of our students have secured their desired university places including places at Oxford and Cambridge universities.

Digital Provision Google Classroom

Teachers at Hamstead Hall Academy

use Google Classroom to upload resources and send teacher instructions and notices. This enables students who are unable to attend school to access their learning and for all students to revisit content taught in class for revision purposes and independent study.

Teachers will provide learning and work in line with the content and teaching covered during the lessons that students would have been attending. Any resources used in the lesson will be uploaded on the same day as scheduled on the school's timetable. Students are encouraged to check their classroom on Google and complete the work. For practical subjects this may not always be possible, however if there are resources used during the lesson that would support the students to stay in touch with learning, these will be uploaded.

Teachers, form tutors and heads of year will occasionally send notices via the year group class. Students will only receive notifications if they download the Google Classroom app on a device such as a tablet or mobile phone. In the absence of such a device we recommend students to check their Google accounts on a daily basis. On an occasion where a whole year group or class is working remotely, the work set by teachers will support independent learning by including more teacher explanation and guidance. The work will be provided in one of 3 different ways:

1. A narrated powerpoint presentation which will be uploaded on Google Classroom. These are presentations in which teachers have recorded themselves explaining the content, giving instructions and activities for students to complete.
2. A "live" lesson using 'Zoom' which will take place at the same time as on the normal school timetable. Teachers will send the information for the lesson on the classroom page on Google Classroom by 9am on the day of the lesson.

3. Recorded lessons which will be uploaded in video format and students will be able to watch before completing assigned work. Teachers may ask the students to pause the video and attempt questions or activities. The recorded lesson will be uploaded on Google Classroom by 9am on the day of the lesson.

Homework

Students at Hamstead Hall Academy are set homework regularly as we strongly believe that homework plays a crucial role in both a student's learning and the performance of the Academy. Not all homework is written; students are also expected to read and research topics, as well as prepare work for lessons. Teachers will set homework on Google Classroom and students will be notified via the Google Classroom app. Students should log in to their Google Classroom account daily. Homework deadlines will be shown on the Google Dashboard as well as the Google Calendar. Parents/Guardians and students can interact with teachers and ask about their progress and tasks set via Google Classroom.

The Academy also uses 'Show My Homework' as an online educational platform to help support and improve homework completion for our students. 'Show My Homework' enables parents/carers to track homework details and monitor deadlines. We hope that all parents/carers demonstrate a commitment to engaging with 'Show My Homework'. All parents/carers will receive a unique login slip and letter to help with registration for 'Show My Homework' at the start of the academic year. This log in gives you access to your personal account where you will be able to see your child's homework calendar, their 'To Do' list and any homework that is overdue. Parents/carers are also asked to check and sign their child's planner to confirm homework is being completed.



"Leaders
work hard
to create a
harmonious
and
productive
learning
environment."





Personal, Social and Health Education/Citizenship

At Hamstead Hall, our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum brings together Citizenship with personal well-being and SMSC whilst promoting British Values. PSHE is taught across the Academy on two full days and four weekly tutor time sessions covering the statutory curriculum as outlined by the DfE and the PSHE Association. PSHE is continuously taught during lessons, assemblies, clubs, events and is integrated into school life through our motto, our weekly core values and mental health themes which all underpin the ethos of the Academy. We offer a cohesive whole-school approach which enables our children to become healthy, independent and responsible members of society.

There are additional Citizenship lessons in KS4 which follow QCA guidelines, however, we also encourage our students to forge community links and embrace the subject outside the classroom. Our students have taken leading roles in charitable events and activities such as the Envision Community Apprentice Challenge and collecting food to make hampers for the local community. Hamstead Hall have made a commitment to support a school which we built in The Gambia and Year 12 students get a chance to visit The Gambia and become part of

this worthwhile project. All students are taught to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives now and in the future.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Hamstead Hall Academy has a very high reputation for its extra-curricular provision for Physical Education, Music, Drama, Dance and other enrichment programmes. Students have the opportunity to be involved in music concerts, drama productions and dance shows throughout the year. Students are encouraged to develop their sporting skills in a number of disciplines, under the guidance of our highly qualified staff and coaches. Our provision includes football, hockey, cricket, netball, rugby, cycling, rounders, athletics, basketball, trampolining, badminton, table tennis, rock climbing, canoeing, handball, dance, multi-gym and gymnastics. There is an opportunity to compete against other schools in regular fixtures and school games competitions.

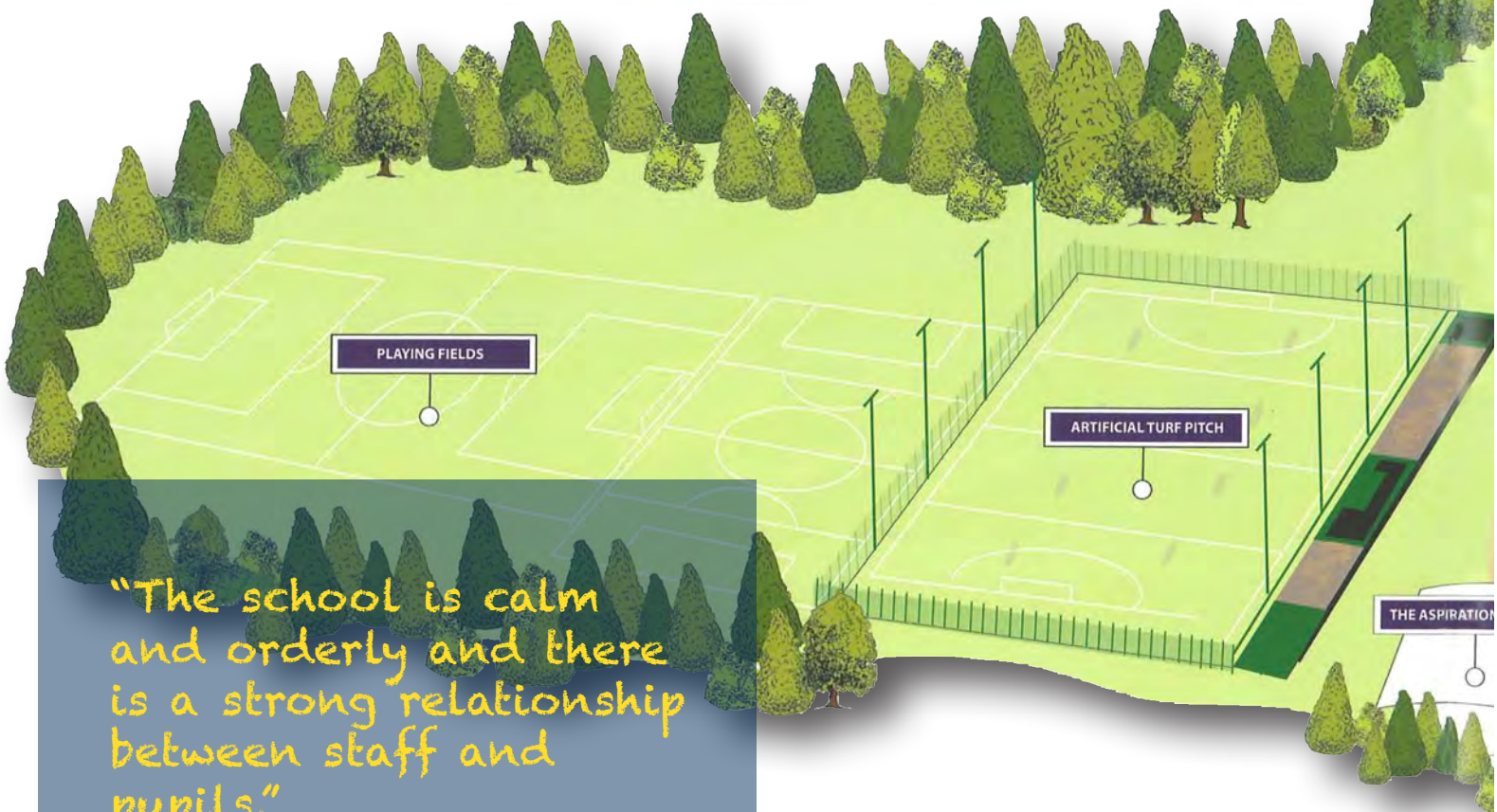
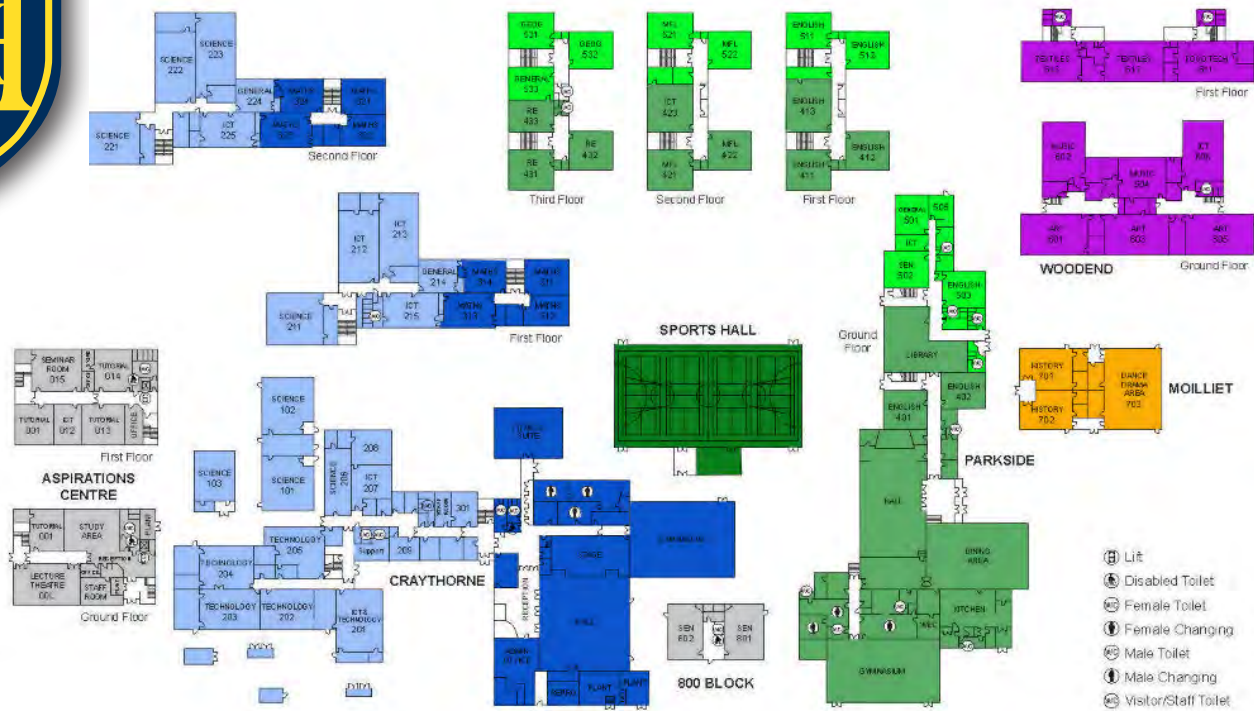
We have a state of the art climbing tower facility which offers students the chance to participate in very challenging activities such as rock climbing,

abseiling and the leap of faith with an impressive 100m zip wire descent from the top.

The Academy has also established excellent links with local clubs and community groups that offer an extended sporting programme at weekends and during the holidays which are fully inclusive.

The academy offers a variety of educational visits, locally, nationally and internationally. Every year a group of students are taken skiing at the resort of Crans Montana in Switzerland. These visits prove not only most enjoyable but provide the students with an opportunity to practice the language skills they have acquired. Residential trips are also available as well as field trips and outdoor adventure activities to a number of destinations including the Longtown Adventure Centre in South Wales. The Academy also offers the Duke of Edinburgh Award at bronze, silver and gold level which involves outdoor adventure expeditions and camping in the Malvern Hills in Worcestershire, Blackwell Court, the Long Mynd in Shropshire and the Brecon Beacons in Wales. This is completely inclusive and offers the students the opportunity to extend their learning outside of the classroom in very challenging environments.





"The school is calm and orderly and there is a strong relationship between staff and pupils."

- Ofsted 2019.

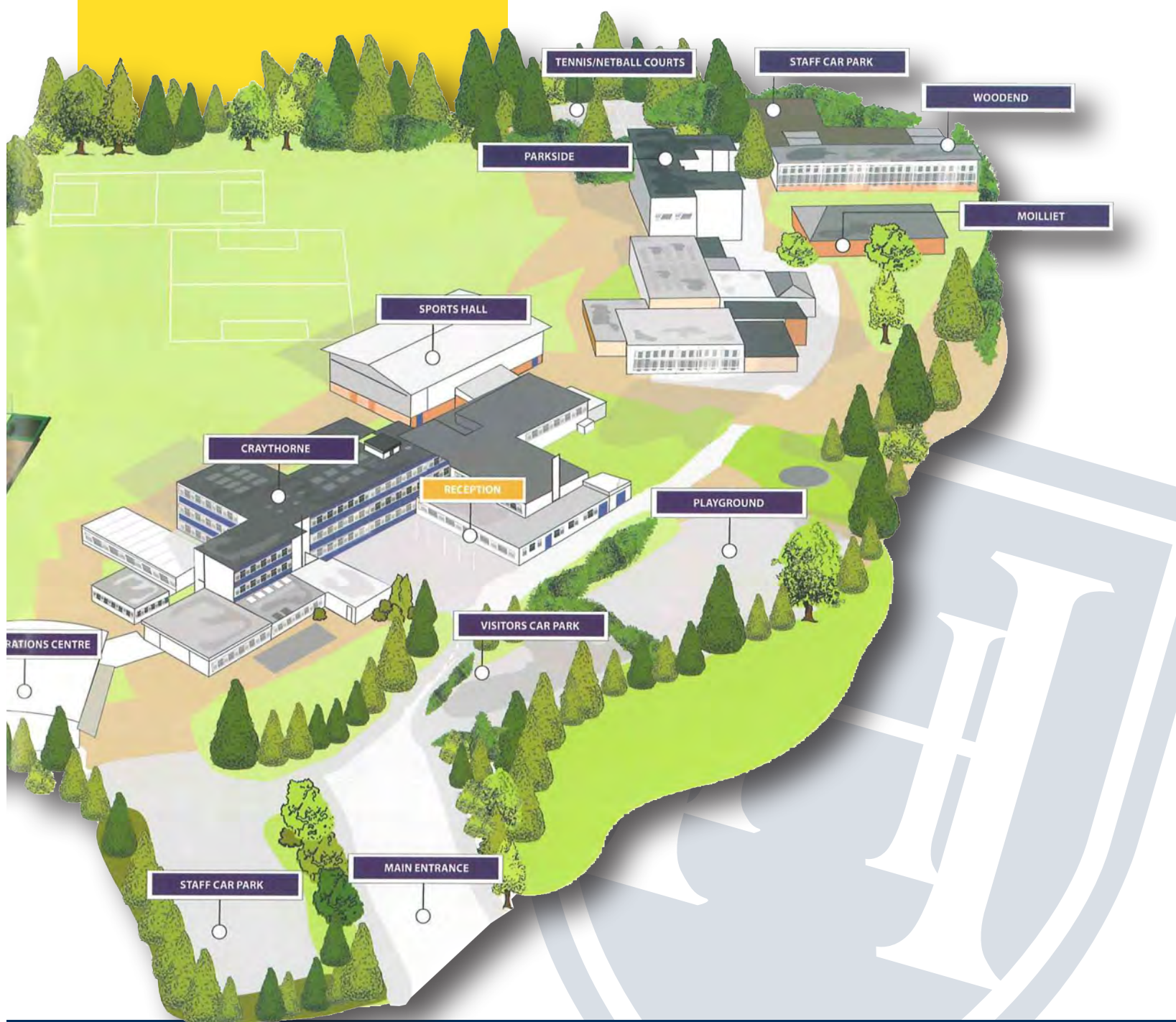


Complaints Procedure

Any complaint, by a parent/carer or member of the public should be made, in writing, to the Executive Principals. A complaints procedure is available on www.hamsteadhall.com

"Thank you for all your hard work, my son is thriving"

– Year 8 Parent.





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