



**Fernhill School**

Prospectus





*"Pupils find the feedback from teachers useful, especially following assessment tasks."*

Ofsted 2018

# Welcome



**I am delighted to introduce you to Fernhill School. As the Head teacher I am exceptionally proud of our school and our students. Fernhill is set in beautiful grounds and has excellent facilities. We are proud of the diverse nature of our staff and student population and of our ability to care for, motivate and challenge all of our learners to succeed.**

We are proud of our reputation as a small, friendly school, built on strong, traditional values, where exceptional pastoral care, the acceptance of others and the celebration of diversity and excellent academic achievement for all students are the cornerstones of our success.

This reputation is endorsed by those parents and prospective students who come to visit us during our many open events. The improvements of recent years at Fernhill have been impressive, secured by a committed, loyal and talented team of governors, leaders, teachers and support staff.

As the Head teacher, I make time to listen carefully and genuinely to the views of parents and carers and the community – I am acutely aware that the school cannot be successful without your support. Whatever your child's interest, need or ambition, we will stop at nothing to nurture them and help them to be successful!

Choosing a Secondary school for our child is one of the most difficult choices we have to make. All schools are different. You will have heard much about Fernhill, as you will about all the other local schools. As you make this difficult decision, please do come and visit us and experience our fantastic school before making that choice. We can promise you the warmest of welcomes!

**Sarah Palmer**  
Headteacher





## Commitment of staff

At Fernhill, we are proud that our achievements are largely due to the dedication, enthusiasm and commitment of all our staff. We are united in our determination and belief in providing the best opportunities and experiences for all our students. We recruit well and retain our staff, making it a stable learning environment for your child. We believe that it is important that all staff continue to develop their skills and understanding so that they are able to motivate students, generate enthusiasm and help all students fulfil their potential.

## Our aims

- for all learners to make outstanding progress as a result of engaging and inspirational teaching and learning
- to provide learners with a dynamic, relevant and inclusive curriculum
- to move forward together to promote lifelong learning at the heart of our community
- to encourage learners to be positive, tolerant and respectful members of our community
- to foster the skills needed to develop independent lives in a rapidly changing world
- to develop independent learners, creative thinkers and good team players

*“All leaders are determined to do the right things for pupils, especially nurturing pupils’ welfare, providing a rich curriculum and assuring memorable extra-curricular experiences.”*

Ofsted 2021

## Your child as an individual

Fernhill School is a small school and this allows us to get to know your child really well. No student is hidden and everyone is treated as an individual. We will find those areas of learning which stimulate them to achieve their best and use this as educators to pitch our teaching at exactly the right level.

## Parents working in partnership

We firmly believe that parents play a vital role in helping improve the quality of education their child receives. We encourage parents to share their views and become involved in making the school even better. Over the course of the academic year, there are many opportunities for parents to discuss their views of the school with the Headteacher and governors.

## EAL (English as an Additional Language)

We have a number of students at school for whom their first language is not English. The school employs a full time EAL Co-ordinator who ensures that these students get the support they require to be successful at school. The school has recently been awarded the prestigious EAL Silver Award from EMTAS for this work.







*“The leadership team has acted decisively and with determination to improve the school.”*

Ofsted 2018



*“Year 11 pupils benefit from the extra support provided in preparation for their exams.”*

Ofsted 2018







## Curriculum

We aim that our students:

- achieve examination success and make excellent progress regardless of their starting point
- have the opportunity to experience a broad and balanced curriculum that meets the needs of the 21st century
- have equality of access to the curriculum
- have the opportunity to study a varied range of qualifications at school or at one of our partner institutions
- develop as independent learners
- will be equipped with the right skills to go onto further education

Students are placed in sets for some subjects, which reflects their attainment levels. Other subjects will be taught in mixed ability classes. We aim to help your child fulfil their potential through dynamic teaching in a creative learning environment. Progress is monitored through parents' evenings, interim progress reports and an annual report. We welcome parents into the school at any time to discuss their child's progress.

### Key Stage 3

Key Stage 3 covers Years 7, 8 and 9. During this time students are taught the full range of the National Curriculum subjects. All students have the opportunity to study at least one modern foreign language in KS3 as well as an exciting range of Technology, sports and performing arts subjects.

### Key Stage 4

In Years 10 and 11 the students study up to ten courses that will normally lead to GCSEs. Every student studies a core of subjects which includes English, Maths, Science, PE and PSHE.

Students are then guided in choosing GCSE options from: Art; Computing

Science; Drama; Food and Nutrition; Geography; Health and Social Care (BTEC); History; French or Spanish; Music; Photography; Resistant Materials; Sports Science; Textiles; Vehicle Technology (BTEC).

Some students will be offered the opportunity to study for some of the time at local colleges and workplaces. The high standards of teaching and guidance in the school mean that a very high proportion of our leavers go onto further education. All students are taught for 25 hours a week excluding registration and assembly time.

## Visual and Performing Arts

Fernhill has a reputation for outstanding visual and performing arts. This develops confidence, creativity, teamwork and innovation. Many of our students participate in our exciting drama and musical productions or contribute to our art and photography exhibitions – these are of the highest quality. The school celebrates the end of each term with fantastic whole school assemblies that reflect our excellence in performing arts.

## Religious Education

All students study RE. It is also covered in themed days and assemblies. Assemblies are held at least once a week and will sometimes include acts of collective worship. Fernhill School teaches religious studies according to the locally agreed Hampshire syllabus. Students receive one lesson a fortnight. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of RE and collective worship and should write to the Headteacher in the first instance.

## Sex and Relationships Education

Sex & Relationship Education (SRE) The school has a SRE programme that complies with the law, Hampshire County Council guidelines and promotes responsible behaviour. A full copy of the school's SRE policy is available on the website.







*“The atmosphere in lessons is respectful and purposeful. Pupils listen well and follow instructions carefully. They join in discussion and are inquisitive about their learning.”*

Ofsted 2018



## Home Learning

It is the policy of Fernhill School that home learning is a vital part of learning for all students. One way in which students demonstrate that they are taking responsibility for their own learning is by completing home learning successfully and on time. All students are issued with a planner for parents to check and sign each week. Students at Fernhill quickly become experts with Google Classroom to manage homework and to receive swift, high quality feedback on work. Ours is a thoroughly forward thinking school!

## Careers and work related learning

A careers programme is followed by all students as part of their PSHE programme. This is designed to give students a focus for their education and prepare them for life-long learning. Students will undertake a work experience programme, where they can develop their sense of responsibility and communication skills in the world of work. The school also runs progression evenings for Key Stage 4 students and parents, at which all the local colleges and apprenticeship providers are present.

## Reporting to parents

Throughout the year students are assessed to monitor their progress. They are also set targets after reflecting on what they have achieved. Progress levels and grades are collected three times a year and students who are not making progress will be targeted for support and if necessary intervention. Parents receive engagement data on a fortnightly basis in each of their child's subjects and students who require extra support receive this promptly from dedicated progress leaders.

## SEN (Special Educational Needs)


Fernhill School has a caring and sensitive approach to children with SEN. As with all students at the school, we are looking to maximise their potential in an atmosphere of support and encouragement. Our aim is the early identification of a student's needs and to provide the essential experience of success through tightly focussed Individual Education Programmes. The SEN department collates information on all incoming students. Those who we identify as needing support have Individual Learning programmes that are carefully monitored. Attainable targets are set for students and they are given time to reflect regularly on these. Progress is reviewed regularly and new targets set. The department is staffed by experienced teachers and Learning Support Assistants.









A photograph showing three students sitting at a light-colored wooden table, focused on drawing. The student in the foreground is a girl with long brown hair, looking down at her work. Behind her, a boy with curly brown hair is also drawing. Further back, another student is partially visible. They are using yellow pencils and blue pens on white paper. There are various drawing materials on the table, including a black pen, a yellow pencil, and a blue pen. A small photograph of a green and yellow insect is placed on the table. A grid paper with a drawing of a blue and yellow insect is also visible. The overall atmosphere is one of concentration and creative activity.

*“The whole school team is working with energy and a cheerful outlook.”*

*Ofsted 2021*



## Care of students

Upon joining Fernhill School, all students are placed in a tutor group. They remain with the same students, and usually the same tutor, throughout their time at the school. Each year group is led by a Guidance Manager, who will support, nurture and challenge them every day to do their very best and to take advantage of the many extra-curricular activities on offer.

We have a Transition Manager to support students moving from primary to secondary school and a Progression Manager for Year 11 students moving to Post 16 destinations. Our Inclusion Manager will support families who are most in need. The school has a dedicated Attendance Lead and a Matron to ensure that children attend regularly and are well looked after.

## Involving other agencies

Fernhill School has strong links with external support agencies including Educational Psychologist Service, Ethnic Achievement and Advisory teachers for hearing and visually impaired students. We also work with staff from CAMHS, EIST, YPI and Social Services.

## No place for bullying

We believe that every child, regardless of age, has at all times and in all situations, a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice that results in a child being physically or psychologically damaged. Complacency is not an option. Safeguarding is a shared responsibility. We recognise the need for vigilance on the basis that “it could happen here”. All matters are dealt with swiftly and with open communication with parents.

## Year 6 Transition and Admissions

As soon as you are informed that your child has a place at Fernhill, March 1st of each year, we consider them to be part of our community. The school has an extensive transition programme, including visits to Fernhill and visits from the Headteacher and teaching and pastoral staff to Junior schools. If your child is likely to find the transition to Secondary school rather daunting, we are always happy to work with parents to establish a bespoke transition programme, to ensure your child is supported and happy in those crucial early days and weeks.

From September 2021 a dedicated Transition Manager works with children from Year 5 onwards to make their passage to Fernhill a smooth and happy one.







Further Information

Key Dates

| Date                | Event                                       |
|---------------------|---|
| 23rd September 2021 | Open Evening 6.00 pm                        |
| 28th September 2021 | Tours at 9.00 am                            |
| 7th October 2021    | Tours at 9.00 am                            |
| 8th October 2021    | Tours at 9.00 am                            |
| 12th October 2021   | Tours at 9.00 am                            |
| 14th October 2021   | Tours at 9.00 am                            |
| 15th Oct 2021       | Tours at 9.00 am                            |
| TBC                 | Year 6 Taster Day                           |
| 31st October 2021   | HCC application deadline                    |
| 1st March 2022      | HCC Notification of school place allocation |
| 17th March 2022     | Year 6 coffee morning and tour 9.00 am      |
| 18th March 2022     | Year 6 coffee morning and tour 9.00 am      |
| 4th July 2022       | Year 4 and 5 tours 9.00 am                  |
| 7th July 2022       | Year 6 Induction Day                        |
| 11th July 2022      | Year 4 and 5 tours 9.00 am                  |
| 14th July 2022      | Year 4 and 5 tours 9.00 am                  |

*'The school's ambition is to help pupils to be well-prepared for their future and ready to take up their place in the world'*

Ofsted 2018

Key Contacts

|                  |                    |  |
|------------------|--------------------|--|
| SENCO            | Mrs Victoria Crowe | <b>vcrowe@fernhillschool.org.uk</b>    |
| Transition Lead  | Mrs Lisa Loch      | <b>lloch@fernhillschool.org.uk</b>     |
| Headteacher's PA | Mrs Cindy Reynolds | <b>creynolds@fernhillschool.org.uk</b> |

HCC Admissions  
**<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions/applicationprocess/year7>**

Fernhill School website  
**<https://www.fernhill.hants.sch.uk/>**





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