

FOREST HILL SCHOOL

ASPIRING TO EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS
2023-24



ASPIRING TO EXCELLENCE TOGETHER





Headteacher's Welcome

Forest Hill School is a thriving and aspirational school providing high-quality education to boys aged 11 to 16 – rated Good by Ofsted in January 2024. We also have a highly successful joint Sixth Form provision with Sydenham School for male and female students.

We believe that students achieve their full potential if they enjoy their work and find it stimulating and challenging. We offer a curriculum of great breadth that includes Dance, Drama, Art and Music alongside the traditional academic subjects. Our dedicated teaching staff are passionate about their subjects and experts in educating and inspiring students to achieve excellence, no matter what their aptitudes and abilities.

We are a community that is *Aspiring to Excellence Together*. This is our school motto and it drives us to relentlessly pursue excellence in all aspects of school life. We have a very strong ethos which is underpinned by our Core Values: **Hard Work, Ambition, Respect and Kindness**. These values pervade the school and set the agenda for our culture of constant improvement and striving for yet greater heights.

It is our priority that every student feels safe, known and valued and we pride ourselves on the quality of our pastoral support. Students' wellbeing and academic progress is overseen by a Head of Year and every student joins one of four houses, which play a pivotal role in establishing the strong community identity and caring ethos of the school.

Forest Hill School has all the ingredients to build the foundations for a lifetime of success and we look forward to welcoming you.

Michael Sullivan, Headteacher



The Learning Curriculum

At Forest Hill School we combine the traditional values of hard work with academic learning and creativity and innovation. We believe that students achieve their full potential if they enjoy their work and find it stimulating and challenging. The school offers a broad and balanced education, fulfilling all the requirements of the National Curriculum, while at the same time reflecting as wide a choice of pathways as possible, to cater fully for all levels of aptitude and ability.

From Years 7 to 9, all students will enjoy lessons in:

- *English
- *Mathematics
- *Science
- *Computer Science
- *Geography and History
- *RE and Citizenship
- *Modern Foreign Languages
- *Design Technology
- *Cooking and Nutrition
- *PE
- *The Creative Arts (Art, Music, Dance and Drama)

We deliver PSHCE during an extended tutor time each week. This includes the statutory content on relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education, alongside wider aspects of PSHCE such as financial and careers education.

Every student in Years 7 and 8 has a supported library lesson in which to read, choose and discuss books.

Homework and independent study are seen as valuable to nurturing successful learners. Parents are kept fully informed about homework tasks via 'Show My Homework' software.



Student Progress and Examinations

One of the central objectives of Forest Hill School is to ensure that students make progress in all of their subjects. We strongly believe that it is our role to do all that we can to support every student in improving their skills, understanding and aptitude in all areas, no matter what their starting position or ability is – from the extremely able student who needs to be pushed to reach even higher standards, to the students with the most challenging learning difficulties who struggle to access the curriculum.

As a school, we are committed to providing detailed and robust information about the students' progress in the form of reports, certificates of progress and parents' evenings.

In August 2023, Forest Hill students received a fantastic set of GCSE results in both attainment and progress with 25% of all grades awarded being the highest (7-9) grades, which is above the national average. With a Progress 8 score of 0.25, this means that students at Forest Hill, on average, achieve a quarter of a grade better than similar pupils nationally and almost half a grade better than boys nationally across all their subjects.

We are also particularly pleased with the progress made by our disadvantaged and SEND students in 2023 whose grades were significantly higher than in 2022.

We are very proud of how well the school meets the needs of all its students from the most able students to those with significant need. We demonstrate clearly the success of comprehensive education.



Pastoral Support

Forest Hill School prides itself on the quality of pastoral support and guidance on offer. We work very hard to make sure that all available lines of communication are open so that it is easy for parents and carers to get in touch with us whenever they need to. Our fundamental belief is that the school and parents should work in partnership to ensure that every student has the best possible educational experience.

Students' attendance, wellbeing and academic progress is overseen by a Head of Year. Heads of Year lead a team of Form Tutors who have the day to day responsibility for delivering pastoral support for the students. As the Head of Year and Tutor team remain with the students throughout their time at the school, the students (and their families) develop close relationships with the whole Pastoral Team.

Forest Hill also has a strong House ethos of which we are very proud. Houses play a pivotal role in establishing the strong community identity and caring ethos that have been the hallmarks of our success here over the years.

On entry, every student will join one of our four Houses: Ofosu-Asare, Parks, Tull or Turing. Each House is overseen by a Head of House.

The House system creates a sense of community and any younger siblings starting will usually be placed in the same House as their older sibling. Houses play a central role in developing the school community, running fun and engaging events and competitions throughout the year.



Outside the Classroom

It is a strong feature of the school's philosophy to provide a full range of opportunities beyond the classroom.

We offer students a wide range of extracurricular activities that take place at lunchtime and after school. The activities vary from term to term but may include art, chess, dance, programming and reading, as well as a variety of sport and music clubs. We also offer students in Years 9 and 10 the chance to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

Each year, we arrange a variety of day visits and experiences to support the aims of the school, including trips to museums, galleries and theatres. We also regularly host visits from authors, theatre companies and other professionals.

Residential trips enable teachers to enhance classroom learning and are also a great bonding experience, which is why we usually take Year 7 students away for a few days during their first term at Forest Hill. They stay at Grosvenor Hall in Ashford, Kent, and participate in a range of challenging, high adrenaline and skill based indoor and outdoor activity sessions.

Other residential trips have included Geography trips to Sicily and Iceland, Modern Foreign Language trips to Paris, Lille and Berlin, and Science trips to Geneva.



SFH6

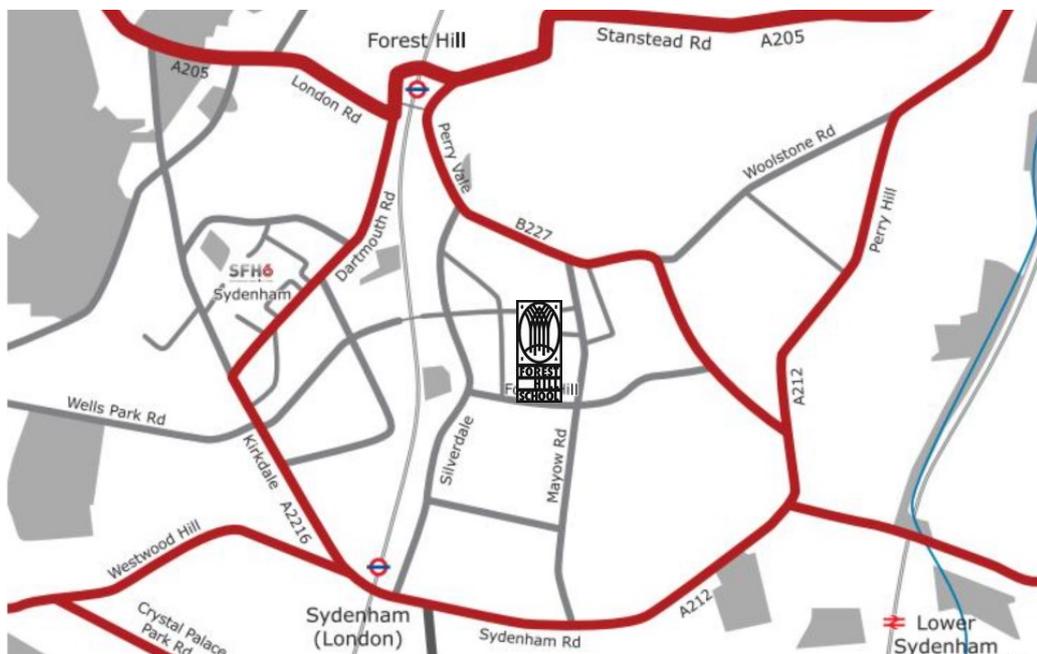
SFH6 is our joint Sixth Form provision with Sydenham Girls' School. It is a dynamic and forward looking Sixth Form with very high standards. All Year 11 students attending the Forest Hill and Sydenham Schools are able to apply for places at SFH6.

Our Sixth Form offers A Levels and vocational courses to suit a wide range of interests, talents and aspirations and we use rigorous systems and good practice in education to ensure that all our students are stretched and challenged, and that academic and teaching standards are high.

Students have access to excellent facilities and resources including the latest technology and purpose-built specialist rooms, laboratories and study areas.

Each person is known, valued and supported as an individual within a comprehensive system of pastoral care. Sixth Form Tutors have a central role in supporting students' academic progress and personal development. SFH6 students are expected to contribute to their schools and communities and we encourage them to behave as role models with maturity and consideration for others.

The hard work and dedication of our students paid off with some fantastic A Level results in 2023. As always there were some impressive individual performances with many students progressing to the elite Russell Group universities and other prestigious institutions.



Find out more...

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