Testwood School







Testwood School

Prospectus



Caring | Inclusive | Ambitious












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Welcome to Testwood School

It is an honour and a privilege to serve as the Headteacher of Testwood School. I believe that Testwood School is a uniquely fantastic secondary school and I hope that reading this prospectus will give you an insight into what our school can offer to students and their families.

At Testwood School we believe that school is about more than academic learning. Whilst all schools would agree on the central importance of learning, we believe that schools should also be about developing the person. Our stated aim is to **nurture our young people to become respectful, resilient and proud to take responsibility in our community**. These qualities are vitally important for learning, both in school and beyond, but are also hugely important in themselves in developing the adults and the communities of the future.

We do this both through an ambitious curriculum for all students, but also through the provision of the 'super-curriculum' of clubs, teams, trips and activities that do so much to enrich young lives as well as deepening learning. We aim to move closer to this vision through the continual reference to our values: caring, inclusive and ambitious. These values permeate everything we do and everything we will do.

Testwood School has served the local community for almost 80 years and its significance in the community cannot be overstated. We work hard to help students feel that they belong at Testwood, and are linked to those who have gone before and will come after them.

It is a special place and I would encourage you to visit us to find out how special.

Mr T. Webber
Headteacher









Curriculum

At Testwood School, we believe in the importance of a rounded education. We aim to develop students who are knowledgeable, reflective, articulate, artistic and physically confident, so that they can achieve highly and lead happy and fulfilling lives. Consequently, we arrange our curriculum around the promotion of deep knowledge, understanding and skills across a broad range of subjects.

All students in Key Stage 3 study English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, French, Physical Education, Technology, Drama, Music, Art, Information Technology and Religious Education.

Students in Key Stage 4 personalise their curriculum by exercising choice over some areas. In addition to a common “core” of English, Maths, Science and Physical Education, students choose up to four other courses from the broad range of those on offer. Parents and carers are involved in supporting students during this process.

Personal, Social and Health Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Key Stage 4 Religious Education are all taught as part of the curriculum.

Through our rich, broad and dynamic curriculum, we draw out students’ innate curiosity about the world and by making learning a joyful experience, we give them an education for a bright future.









Super-Curriculum

Testwood School's super-curriculum helps our students become more motivated and equipped, to succeed in their future academic and professional endeavours.

We offer many activities and enrichment opportunities which are an important part of a well-rounded education, offering numerous benefits to our students beyond the academic curriculum. These activities often provide opportunities to attend clubs, participate in workshops, engage in competitions and meet experts in various fields.

A wide range of trips and visits are arranged to support the learning of students inside the classroom and include varied Geography field trips, Portchester Castle, Harry Potter Studios, London art galleries and various theatre shows.

Residential trips, including the Art & Photography trip to Venice and History trips to Poland and The Battlefields in Northern France and Belgium, give students the opportunity to develop their cultural and global awareness.

These experiences enrich our students' educational journey and broaden their horizons, which will boost self-esteem and confidence. Many universities and colleges look for students who demonstrate a genuine interest in their chosen fields to show that they are proactive about their education and are willing to take initiative to learn more. Our super-curriculum supports this, plus these experiences are also a lot of fun!









Supporting Students

At Testwood School, we are committed to supporting all students to achieve their full potential.

Pastoral care is of paramount importance. Tutors are there for all students' day to day care and well-being, with additional support given to all students by the Pastoral Support workers, Year Leaders and Senior Leadership Team.

To support students with SEND, we follow the SEND Code of Practice (2014). Students who have interventions that are "additional to and different from" the rest of their peers are placed on the SEN Register. The needs of the students are met through high quality teaching; by applying the graduated approach and alongside the support of the SENDCo. Occasionally, the SEND team identify students that require a different approach. These individuals are internally assessed, the results of which are shared with both the student and the parents. Depending on the need, either targeted interventions are implemented or outside agencies are consulted and utilised.

Our Emotional Literacy Support Assistant is there for students who require additional support for social, emotional and mental health, or communication and interaction difficulties. Support can be received in the form of 1:1 counselling sessions or small groups developing social skills. Testwood's Nurture group is specifically aimed for younger students who find the transition to secondary school particularly challenging and would benefit from extra support and guidance. Our ELSA room is located within Learning Support and is a safe space for students to feel calm and supported.









Student Leadership

"The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow" Nelson Mandela

It is our aim that all students have the opportunity to develop leadership skills, to take on responsibility and become fully involved in their education.

We are very proud of the leadership opportunities on offer to all our students throughout their time at Testwood. Roles include Senior Prefects, Prefects, Subject Captains, Peer Mentors, Sports Captains, Sports Leaders and School Council Members.

The role of the prefect is a responsible one, both as a role model to other students and as an ambassador for the school, assisting at functions and liaising with the public. The prefect team is lead by the Senior Prefects, who play a significant role in the student voice.

Members of the School Council regularly meet to discuss topics ranging from the environment to school policies and reflect the views and opinions of their peers.

The Young Leader Sports Programme offers training on sports leadership and the opportunity to support local schools with organising their sports events.

At Testwood School, we value the contributions from all of our student leaders make and we encourage this personal development opportunity.









Performing and Creative Arts

We believe that Performing and Creative Arts enhance the education of students and contribute towards the social and cultural life of the school.

Dance, Drama and Music at Testwood are embraced by a large number of students and their talent and skills are celebrated through a variety of events and productions. Testwood has achieved an excellent reputation for the quality performances of the exhilarating annual whole school productions and Testwood's ArtsFest. Record numbers of students organise and choreograph their own routines and regularly receive awards for their creativity, student leadership and hard work. A vast number of students engage in various clubs such as singing groups, drama club and school band. Individual students also have the opportunity to hone their skills in weekly peripatetic lessons ranging from drums, guitar, keyboard and singing.

Fine Art and Photography are very popular subjects. Students have the opportunity to participate in after school Art, Photography and Clay clubs and exhibit their artwork in our gallery and at Arts Fest. Year 11 student work is showcased in a graduating exhibition at Hanger Farm Arts Centre.

Facilities for Performing Arts include a music suite, music practice rooms, a purpose-built drama studio and a renovated stage in the school hall. In Creative Arts, students have two fully equipped Art studios, a ceramics studio, gallery space, a photography studio and are one of a few schools in the county with a photographic darkroom.



























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Sports

At Testwood, we believe in the benefits of PE, sport and physical activity, as well as leading a healthy and active life. Regular physical activity stimulates both the mind and body and should be an important part of everybody's life. It helps to reduce stress, relieves anxiety, supports concentration within lessons, improves academic ability, but most importantly, it is fun.

Physical Education at Testwood is an inclusive subject, where skills, techniques and strategies are developed, as well as developing understanding of how to live an active and healthy lifestyle. We aim to offer a wealth of opportunities within the curriculum by experiencing a range of sporting activities and to deliver high quality extra activities.

Testwood has excellent facilities, including eighteen acres of playing fields, a gymnasium, a fitness suite, a full sized sports hall, an artificial cricket pitch and a full size 3G artificial turf pitch. The wonderful facilities enables students to participate in a wide range of sporting activities on and off the curriculum. The school is due to start an exciting redevelopment project that includes a state of the art Artificial Turf Pitch (ATP) that will be both football and rugby compliant, as well as the installation of two new artificial cricket pitches.

Sports teams compete within the county and New Forest district in athletics, basketball, cricket, dance, football, gymnastics, hockey, netball, rounders and table tennis and many more sports. Students also have the opportunity to represent their house through inter-house school competitions which are held throughout the year.

















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Recognition for Success

At Testwood, recognition for achievments and excellent progress of learning is key to help instilling pride and confidence in our students.

House points are awarded for exemplary work and attitudes in lessons. Subject badges are awarded to students who make exceptional progress and produce outstanding work.

The Headteacher's Tea Party invites parents and carers to join with celebrating the very best work displayed by subjects in the Headteacher's corridor.

Our digital magazine, The Testwood Review, celebrates students' experiences and accomplishments both in and out of school.

Reward events are arranged for students with excellent attendance and superb work ethic.

At the end of the year, Prize Evenings take place celebrating students' success and achievement over the course of the school year.







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Message from the Senior Prefects

Testwood School isn't just a great place to learn – it is a safe space for many to make friends, discover new skills, experience exciting activities and celebrate knowledge.

During our time at Testwood, we've experienced the very best that this school has to offer. Testwood has enabled us to strive further and aspire towards an exciting and ambitious future by providing us with unique and invaluable opportunities, which will remain with us throughout our lives. With copious enrichment opportunities and an immense variety of school trips to take part in, Testwood offers the chance to engage in meaningful activities that create lifelong memories, nurture practical skills and help us to develop as caring, mature and responsible members of the community.

Testwood School champions a multitude of subjects with its exciting facilities, such as the upcoming renovations to our artificial turf pitch; the computers in the Library; IT suites; the Photography Studio and not to forget, the vast and beautiful field where PE lessons and lunch breaks are spent in warmer seasons.

What truly enables us to thrive, during our time at this school, is the Testwood community and this is at the heart of everything we do. Every member of the school from the teachers, students, parents and carers, support staff, school leadership team to the catering and cleaning teams, all form the inclusive Testwood family. Our dedicated staff provide top level support and an outstanding learning environment to be a part of.

Testwood is our school and hopefully it will be yours too.









Testwood in the Community

Testwood School is proud of its strong, well established links in our local community. Our participation in community activities and projects creates a sense of belonging, helping our students develop stronger social and emotional skills. It encourages them to become responsible, informed citizens who contribute positively to society.

Students are encouraged to participate in local volunteer activities, such as the Testwood Baptist Church Food Bank. Our students take part in community events, for example the Remembrance Day Parades. We have also organised educational field trips to local businesses, galleries and museums.

Testwood School is committed to providing the local community opportunities to experience and engage in a range of activities whilst fully utilising our facilities on site. Testwood School is proud to have Pace YFC, Waterside Table Tennis Club, Tottonians RFC and Totton and Eling CC as key partners, as well as having many well established clubs and groups utilising the school's facilities, including Stagecoach Totton, E-Minor Performing Arts, Swain Taekwondo, Southampton Gymnastics, Lyndhurst Juniors FC, Totton & Eling YFC, AFC Totton and Saints Foundation.

By linking with the community, Testwood School creates a dynamic and supportive environment that nurtures our students' growth and benefits our community as a whole.







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Testwood's Alumni



Aaron Phipps MBE, Gold Medal Winning GB Paralympic athlete for Wheelchair Rugby
I had a really positive experience during my school years at Testwood School. My teachers were very nurturing and I built great relationships with them, some of whom are still there in Senior Leadership roles. I loved PE, and the school was able to provide a wide range of activities, but it was Basketball that I loved best.
When I contracted Meningitis in Year 11, the whole school was very supportive, there was a real community spirit that built to help me through, which included fund raising to help me and my family through my treatment.



Ellie Gennings , Lecturer at Bournemouth University
I loved my time at Testwood School. The teachers went above and beyond to help me achieve my best. The school offered many opportunities to get involved with and those experiences have shaped me as a person. Since leaving Testwood, those same teachers have supported me during my PhD. I am now starting my first role as a Lecturer at Bournemouth University and am excited to give back to Testwood by continuing to work with them and provide exciting opportunities in the future.



Trina Sillence, Headteacher at Eling Infant School
During my time here I made firm friends who continue to be in my life today. I remember with fondest memories the teachers who gave up their time to help students get through their GCSEs, often afterschool and during half term. This was instrumental in my decision to pursue a career in teaching, and I went on to be a teacher and now a headteacher of a local infant school. I also remember the enrichment opportunities, such as drama trips to London theatres and playing Netball for the school team. Both my children attend Testwood and are experiencing the same positive schooling that I received. I have now joined the board of trustees at Testwood in order to give back time and expertise to the school that I attended.

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Contact Us

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