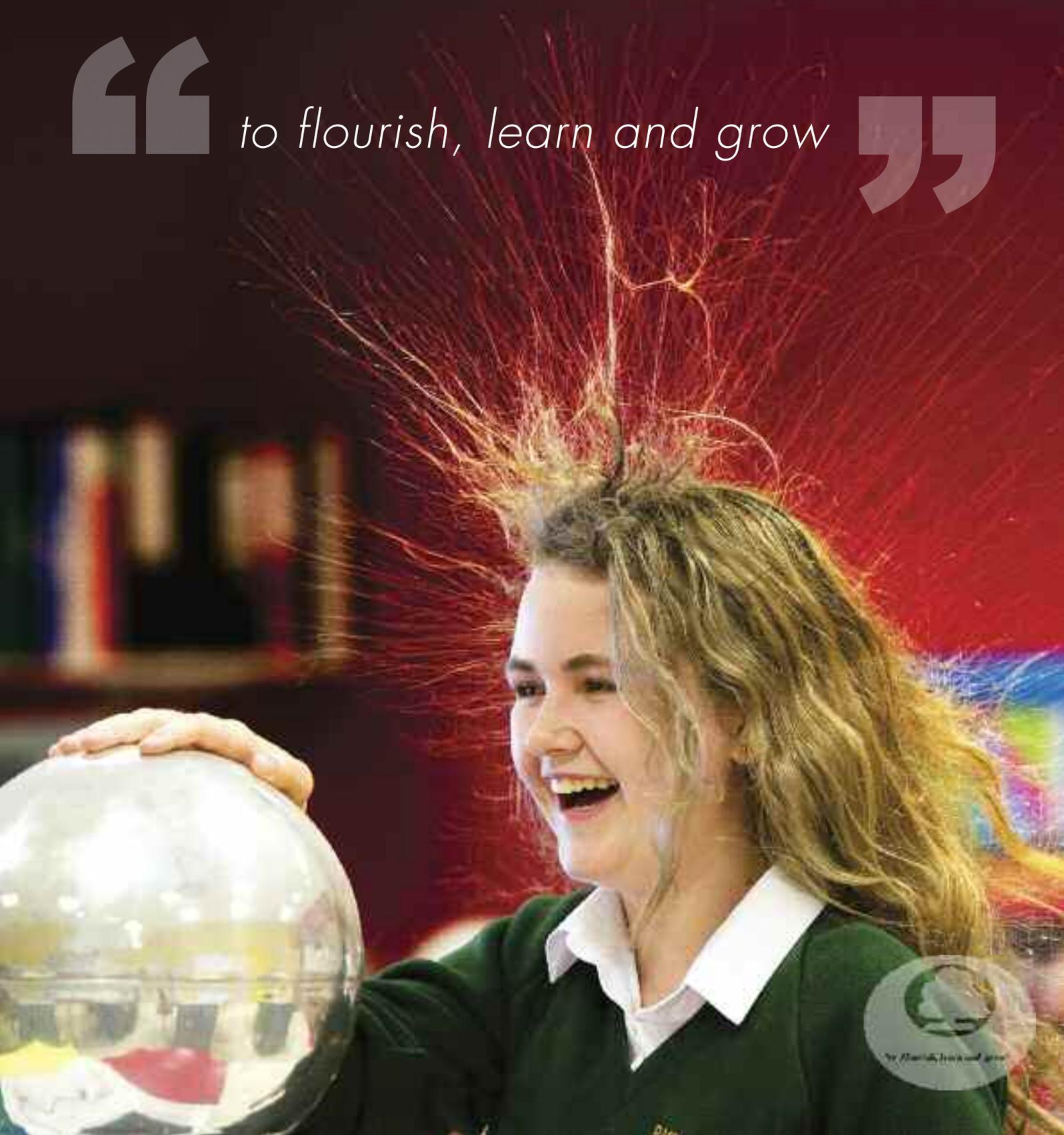


Parkfields Middle School

“

to flourish, learn and grow

”





An Outstanding School

"It has improved since its last inspection, when it was also found to be outstanding."

Ofsted



Behaviour

"Pupils are outstandingly well cared for and feel extremely safe."

Ofsted

“

Leadership and Management

“Leadership and management are exceptionally strong.”

Ofsted

”

A Welcome to Parkfields Middle School

The Headteacher, David Brandon-Bravo

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Parkfields.

I have been proud to be Head of Parkfields since September 2001. Unusually for a school of this age, there has only been three Headteachers: Mr John Fewson, Mr David Calcott and myself. The values which we stand by have remained the same for many years. We put the individual child at the centre of all that we do. Our motto is “Flourish, Learn and Grow” and we passionately believe that everything we do is to enable everyone who works at Parkfields to achieve their very best in all that they do.

I hope this prospectus gives you a flavour of the school but no booklet can substitute for actually being here and understanding why we have been referred to as the “school of a thousand smiles”.

In the early 1970s, the schools in Bedfordshire were regrouped into lower, middle and upper schools. Middle schools offered a transition between lower and upper. From the age of nine, children had access to specialist facilities and specialist subject teachers. At a time when a broad and balanced curriculum was considered essential, middle schools proved to be very successful. We believe that the same is true today.





An Outstanding School

"Pupils flourish in an environment that fosters their academic progress and broader social development exceptionally well."

Ofsted

In recent years the debate has raged over whether schools should be grouped in two tiers with pupils moving from small primaries to a very large secondary school at eleven years old, or whether the three tier system, which still values and nurtures children in their middle years and specialises in their needs, should be retained. The Harlington Area Schools Trust (HAST), of which we are a member, is determined that this three tier system continues to provide the best education available today.

On average, we have 480 pupils aged between nine and thirteen. There are four main feeder lower schools, but Parkfields receives applications from a wider area each year; this is a reflection of the enduring popularity of the school and the widely-held recognition that at Parkfields pupils are happy, secure and achieve at the highest level. Together with our Trust partners, we were awarded the commission to run the county provision for deaf children. We believe passionately in caring for vulnerable and disadvantaged children.





Progress and Achievement

"All groups of pupils, including deaf pupils, make very rapid and sustained progress and achievement is excellent."

Ofsted



Progress and Achievement

“The outstanding curriculum makes a great contribution to the pupils’ academic success and their excellent spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.”

Ofsted





Outstanding Teaching

“Teachers plan very interesting lessons and challenge pupils with high expectations.”

Ofsted

Over recent years there have been many causes for celebration but none more so than our two ‘Outstanding’ Ofsted inspections. We have also recently been awarded Healthy School Status, Artsmark Gold, Junior Engineering Club of the Year 2014 and Sportsmark.

We foster excellent relationships with feeder lower schools, ensuring transition is as seamless as possible. Children coming from these schools are excited but understandably anxious and the process of transition is handled with extreme sensitivity. During their first year, the younger children are eased into a secondary-style education within their own teaching block, and are taught by primary-trained teachers. As soon as children start at the school they have access to the specialist facilities of science studios, DT workshop, food technology and textile rooms, computing rooms, art and music suites.





Behaviour

"Pupils' outstanding behaviour contributes very well to the strong relationships and very positive atmosphere in the school."

Ofsted

Leadership and Management

"Governors and the wider Harlington Area School Trust provide an ambitious and clear vision for the continuing success of the pupils."

Ofsted

Subject leaders are specialists in their subjects and ensure continuity across the age range and in their liaison with lower and upper school colleagues. Whilst literacy and numeracy are the key cross-curricular skills, the curriculum nevertheless remains broad and balanced with all children studying the full range of academic subjects.

Sport is a significant feature of the success of the school, embodying for each pupil the ethos of personal self-improvement within a supportive team environment. Not surprisingly, the school does exceptionally well in sporting events, even when competing against much larger schools.

Over the four years at Parkfields, pupils make exceptional progress. Pupils complete their accelerated Key Stage 3 in Year 8 by condensing a three-year course into two in the core subjects. This puts them a year ahead of the national average. They move to the upper school in Year 9 (age thirteen) fully able to embrace a wide range of options.





Behaviour

"Pupils have excellent attitudes to learning, attend regularly and take full advantage of the wealth of opportunities on offer to them."

Ofsted

Progress and Achievement

"Attainment in all subjects is consistently well above the levels expected nationally by the time pupils leave school."

Ofsted



Quotes from the Ofsted Inspection Report June 2012

Inspection grades: 1 is outstanding, 2 is good, 3 is satisfactory, and 4 is inadequate

Inspection judgements

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Overall effectiveness | 1 |
| Achievement of pupils | 1 |
| Quality of teaching | 1 |
| Behaviour and safety of pupils | 1 |
| Leadership and management | 1 |

Outstanding Teaching

"The pursuit of consistently outstanding teaching is increasingly being met because of the commitment and dedication of the staff."

Ofsted



Year 8 is the great finale for pupils at Parkfields. With their final assessment complete, the whole year group works on a final production with casts as large as 70, while other pupils in the year group work on set design, props, costumes, make up and marketing. Seeing Year 8 pupils act, sing and dance in such productions as Annie, Alice in Wonderland, Oklahoma Jnr and Beauty and the Beast Jnr is testament to the levels of confidence these pupils gain at Parkfields.

The final leavers' assembly celebrates the oldest pupils' achievements over the previous four years. The younger pupils are inspired each year by both this and the production, recognising that it is just a matter of time before it is their turn.

I look forward to meeting you and hope that you decide that Parkfields is the right place to send your child. It is a partnership and we work together for a common purpose, to do all we can to enable your child to flourish, learn and grow.

David Brandon-Bravo
Headteacher





Parkfields Middle School

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