

**TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING
AND NURTURE SUCCESS FOR ALL**

TESTWOOD



SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS



Every child. Every step. Every day.



Welcome to Testwood School

It is a privilege to welcome you to our school. I hope reading this Prospectus will give you a flavour of what our school has to offer you and your child.

“Every child. Every step. Every day.” sums up our ethos. Testwood aims to ensure every student is supported and challenged to achieve their full potential.

At Testwood School, we are proud to have a very committed team of staff that strive to create a happy and supportive environment where students know how to continually develop and improve, allowing them to achieve their potential and become resourceful and responsible members of society.

We adopt a philosophy where knowledge of the individual is paramount, both academically and personally and of valuing links with parents and carers to achieve excellence in learning and nurture success for all. Our students benefit from a well-rounded, broad curriculum, which will build on prior learning, encourage success through endeavour and prepare them for the future.

Our vision for the Testwood student is one who loves learning; who can learn independently; as well as in a team, working collaboratively; explores through enquiry-based tasks and, most importantly, is happy.

I am delighted to inform prospective students, parents and carers that Ofsted judged the school as meeting the “Good” criteria in all four categories in June 2015 and again in January 2019.

Students who join Testwood School will be able to grow their passions, exceed their own expectations and become part of a community of students and staff in a caring atmosphere with an emphasis on the joy of learning.

We hope to be able to welcome you to see the school in the Autumn term and spend time getting to know our team ready for September. In addition, our website has an entire selection devoted to Open Evening and Year 6 transition with a wide selection of resources, ‘virtual’ guides and student interviews.

We look forward to welcoming you at Testwood very soon.

Mrs J. Pitman
Headteacher



www.testwoodschool.co.uk



023 8086 2146



Mission Statement

Testwood's vision is to deliver an excellent, appropriate and successful education that equips students with lifelong enthusiasm for learning and skills for the 21st century.

To achieve excellence in learning and nurture success for all

Our primary aim is that all students are educated and supported to succeed as an individual, as a partner, as a member of a team and as a citizen.

We take pride in shaping students to become self-confident lifelong learners, who are responsible, kind and respectful citizens equipped with the knowledge, understanding and skills to prepare them for an ever-changing world.

We recognise the potential in each student and provide a relevant and challenging curriculum that will develop high aspirations, empowering students to take charge of their future and responsibility for their own learning.

We have a shared commitment to learn together, celebrate success, develop skills for leadership and responsibility and to ensure students are challenged and supported to realise their potential. By working in partnership with students, parents and carers, teachers, and the trustees, we provide a caring and understanding environment that inspires and creates an exciting learning experience for all students.



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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 Tutor programme.

A wide range of trips and visits are arranged to support the learning of students inside the classroom . Residential trips include Water Sports in Spain and History trips to Poland and The Battlefields in Northern France and Belgium.

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.





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 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 Learning Support 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 then internally assessed, the results of which are shared with both the student and the parents. Depending on 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 Nurture room is located within Learning Support and is a safe space for students to feel calm and supported.



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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 that are on offer to all our students throughout their time at Testwood. Roles include prefects, literacy leaders, subject leaders, peer mentors, sports captains, sports leaders, young ambassadors 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 Head Boy and Head Girl, with their deputies supporting them, 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 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 annual school choir carol service, exhilarating whole school productions and stunning Performing Arts showcase events at Hanger Farm. Record numbers of students organise and choreograph their entry for the schools' dance competitions, such as Rock Challenge, and regularly scoop awards for their creativity, student leadership and hard work.

Fine Art and Photography are very popular subjects. Students have the opportunity to work with artists and exhibit work in the Shave Gallery. 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 newly renovated stage in the school hall. In Creative Arts, students have their own gallery, a photography studio, two fully equipped Art studios, and are one of a few schools in the county with a fully operational photographic darkroom.



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Previous Performances





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-curricular activities.

We have excellent facilities, including eighteen acres of playing fields, a gymnasium, a fitness suite, a sports hall with a Granwood sprung floor and a state of the art four lane cricket bay, and a full size 3G synthetic turf pitch, which enables students to take part in a wide range of sporting activities and clubs.

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

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

Reward trips 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

As proud Testwood students, we all value the wealth of amazing opportunities, experiences and resources that Testwood has provided to help us achieve our full academic potential and prepare for our future in the wider community.

Testwood offers not only a broad, engaging curriculum, but a vast array of extra-curricular opportunities including sports teams and tournaments, academic enrichment and creative pursuits. These experiences, as well as many others, help to nurture talent, develop confidence and enhance teamwork skills, guiding us to become mature, respectful and diligent young adults.

At Testwood, students have access to state of the art sport facilities, such as the astro turf, the sports hall and the newly equipped fitness room. The newly renovated stage and sound booth, as well as the art department's photography studio, allows students to explore their creativity while offering them a pathway into the fields of photography, art and performing arts. Computers in dedicated IT rooms and in the LRC are incorporated into lessons for research and presentation, as well as being available for student use to aid with homework assignments and projects.

However, no student would be able to succeed without the dedicated support of the incredible staff who provide an excellent environment for learning so that we can fully utilize our education. We owe the Testwood family for helping us to grow into the individuals we are today and we know that Testwood will do the same for you, every step, every day.



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Community

Testwood School is committed to providing the local community opportunities to experience and engage in a range of activities, fully utilising our facilities on site. Our aim is to be a genuine extended school providing a range of facilities and services to the wider community seven days a week. Testwood School has many well established clubs and groups that have used the facilities for many years. We are proud to be the venue for Stagecoach Totton, Tidal Arts & Crafts and sporting clubs including Waterside Table Tennis Club, Swain Taekwondo, Pace YFC, Lyndhurst Juniors FC and Winsor Utd, as well as providing a hub for Hampshire FA Coaching courses.



Ian Lewis, Chairman of Pace Youth FC: "With almost 40 football teams assigned to Pace Youth FC, catering for around 400 girls and boys aged 4 to 18 from the local community, we are privileged to have such a strong relationship with Testwood School. The school enables provision for all of our home fixtures for our teams, and by working together we are able to provide children a safe environment to participate in football. The facilities are some of the best in Hampshire and the staff are all very accommodating."



Colin French, Chairman of Waterside Table Tennis Club: "Testwood School is a fantastic venue for our club. As one of the biggest Table Tennis Clubs in Hampshire and a Table Tennis England Four Star Premier club, we are able to offer superb facilities to our members and visiting players that include accommodating up to 20 tables at any time, as well as elite level lighting. By developing a partnership with the school, we are able to not only support enrichment opportunities for the students, but also attract new players to the club."



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Testwood's Alumni

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.



Aaron Phipps, 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.



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 now 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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