

VALLEY PARK SCHOOL

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

Thank you for your interest in joining our school. Valley Park is an outstanding Kent high school. In April 2013 Ofsted commented that our work was 'exemplary'. The school was rated outstanding in all areas. It is the school of choice in the Maidstone area and is the most over-subscribed school in Kent. Student attitudes, behaviour and academic standards are outstanding. I hope you will read the report and decide to proceed with your application.

Valley Park School is an 11-18 mixed high school. There are approximately 1584 students on roll – 1310 in Years 7-11 and 274 in the Sixth Form. The school is expanding and we project a final roll of 1,500 once the expansion is completed. Results have improved dramatically over the past 10 years from 17% including English and Mathematics in 2004 to 66% passing both English and Mathematics in 2017. It is the highest performing non-selective school in Maidstone and in terms of value added scores in the top 20% of schools nationally.

Current Innovations

These include:

- Academy Status from 1st April 2011
- MacBook for every teacher
- Subsidised private healthcare for all colleagues
- Outstanding learning environment
- E-learning iPad programme for students
- Multimedia projector and Interactive Whiteboard for every classroom
- Examination invigilators
- £3.4 million new building opened September 2014

Students

Student behaviour and attitudes to learning are outstanding (Ofsted April 2013). The school has a small catchment area (a reflection of its ever increasing popularity) and in 2017 our 'line' was drawn at 1.962 miles from the school. The school operates within the Kent selective system but is consistently and increasingly over-subscribed.

Staff

We are completely committed to the professional development of all our staff and have held the Investors in People award for over 13 years. All new teachers and NQTs follow a comprehensive induction programme.

Curriculum

We moved to a two year KS3 followed by a three year KS4 from September 2011 in response to the government White paper. This allows the vast majority of students to study the English Baccalaureate whilst maintaining a flexible and diverse range of option choices. A revised options system operates in Key Stage 4 over three years allowing students to follow one of two pathways to GCSE and beyond within a highly developed curriculum plan that offers the English

Baccalaureate or a Valley Park Baccalaureate alternative. All students have the opportunity to study at least eight level 2 courses.

Our current Year 12 students take three A level subjects or vocational courses. The Sixth Form at the school has grown rapidly and has 274 students on role in September 2017. Students can study courses at either Valley Park or Invicta Grammar School across a curriculum common to both schools.

Academic Standards

In 2017 66% of students achieved pass grades in English and Mathematics. 30% achieved a 'Good Pass' in both. Sixth Form results were the best in the school's history. KS4 results are in the top 20% value added for all schools nationally.

Extra Curricular Activities

Our colleagues are dedicated and offer a wide range of extra activities. These include the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and visits abroad. Colleagues have the opportunity to take part in visits if they wish.

The sports teams compete against other schools locally and do consistently well in inter-school competitions. The school has a widespread reputation for excellence in the Performing Arts with two productions a year – one in the summer and one in February. Both productions play to sell out houses.

During the school lunch break clubs and societies are organised by both students and staff to enable students from all years to take part in a wide range of activities. Some of these are subject based but many are purely for interest and enjoyment. We encourage students to take part in both day and residential visits and believe these are essential to broaden students' perspectives, not only for curriculum development, but also for their own cultural and personal development.

We are seeking outstanding colleagues to work in an outstanding school. I look forward to receiving your application and meeting you in due course.

Mr Vic Ashdown
Headteacher