

Changing TIMES

Whilst Parkside School has its roots steeped in tradition, the boys (and girls in nursery) enjoy a hugely diverse and exciting curriculum which embraces and prepares them for the future

Words **NICOLE JANSSEN**

Here at Parkside, computer hacking sessions in the new STEM room, set to the lilting sounds of Mozart, are a regular occurrence; as are creative engineering sessions in the DT room. This is an example of what lies at the heart of our school; encouraging an empathy and understanding of the importance of traditional skills and values, mixed with developing an innovative mindset to prepare them for our ever changing future. Alongside this, is the excitement of predictions and theories, tested practically in both the state of the art science and food tech labs. Sporting excellence is practised in the vast grounds of the school, with professional coaches from London Irish RFC and Chelsea FC, whilst weekly swimming and water polo lessons add to the rich tapestry of Parkside's curriculum.

Music and laughter fill the corridors of the Elizabethan Manor House set in 45 acres of stunning Surrey countryside. It is a wonderful environment where the children's curiosity is awakened. Their journey is one of discovery; where talents and passions are nurtured and developed and our pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning, to embrace challenges and face failure without fear.

A genuine pride for each and every pupil who attends the school is clear, and their achievements are celebrated whether they are academic, creative, pastoral, sporting or based around the importance of etiquette, good manners and character building. The Class of 2019, saw 41% of leavers achieving scholarship status for their senior school, with a 100% pass rate in their Common Entrance exams. This is a direct result of a unique and



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innovative curriculum delivered through the inspired teaching of a passionate and very dedicated staff team; underpinned by my mantra 'Make it Happen'.

Parental involvement plays a fundamental part in enhancing the children's experience at Parkside, and results in a real sense of belonging and loyalty rarely achieved by a day school. The children develop the courage to rise to each challenge, persevere when the going gets tough and face their fears with confidence. We catch them when they fall and guide them back on their individual journey.

Being part of the 'Parkside Family' is a privilege, but not one which is taken for granted. The importance of

recognising the wider community and the world we live in, serves to teach valuable life lessons about appreciation and gratitude rather than entitlement. The boys leave as well rounded, exceptional individuals with solid foundations and outstanding moral fibre. Our pupils see their future in terms of unlimited options rather than curtailed ambitions. **P**

Parkside's next Open Morning is Friday 15 May 2020. Personal tours are recommended.

NICOLE JANSSEN

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