



TCS

Testbourne Community School

Achievement · Excellence · Integrity

PROSPECTUS 2024-2025

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CONTENTS

02 Vision

We want students to achieve excellence, enjoy and value their education and become highly skilled learners prepared for a successful future.

03 Achievement

We have the very highest expectations for our students and believe that every child, with the right support and challenge, can enjoy academic success.

04 Excellence

Students are given a wealth of opportunities to develop their intellectual curiosity and critical thinking.

05 Integrity

Integrity is at the heart of all that we strive to do; being honest, fair, kind and thoughtful in our actions.

06 Community

We have established strong links with our local community.

07 Enrichment Opportunities

We offer fantastic opportunities outside the curriculum, as we believe that providing and encouraging these opportunities are essential to developing the skills and attributes we want to see in our learners.

09 Pastoral Care

It is important that our young people are safe, feel happy, supported and cared for in order to achieve their best in and out of the classroom.



VISION

At Testbourne, our vision is about how we want our students to develop as effective learners and people. We want students to achieve excellence, enjoy and value their education and become highly skilled learners prepared for a successful future. In doing so, we want students to embrace our Testbourne Standards of Excellence by:

- ◇ BEING KIND AND RESPECTFUL
- ◇ ACTING WITH HONESTY AND INTEGRITY
- ◇ HAVING AMBITION IN LEARNING
- ◇ DEMONSTRATING LEADERSHIP QUALITIES

To achieve our vision, we have the highest expectations of students in terms of their learning and behaviour. We develop students' skills so that they are independent, resilient and intrinsically motivated. We provide them with the ingredients for success with the expectation that they will approach all aspects of their education with dedication and enthusiasm, taking responsibility for their own learning. We believe in and value recognition above material reward.

We have a skilled and devoted staff body who are committed to ensuring that students can achieve excellence in everything they do within and beyond the curriculum. Approaches to teaching are determined by study of current research to maximise learning and teachers are supported by a highly experienced and skilled team of support staff.

We are passionate about education as an experience, as well as top class achievement in public examinations. We provide a wide range of exceptional extra-curricular opportunities to

ensure that students can pursue their interests or develop new ones, as well as meeting the full statutory requirements of the National Curriculum. A breadth of experience is the cornerstone to becoming a positive member of society and of increasing chances of success in the future.

A large proportion of our students choose to follow a demanding English Baccalaureate suite of academic qualifications and almost all our students go on to further education or employment.

Education can change lives. School is an experience that only happens once for our young people. We ensure that every second counts in providing a richness of character development and high-quality learning opportunities so that our students are well prepared for their next steps.

Mr Jon Beck
Headteacher

03

“Pupils benefit from a broad curriculum that develops their understanding of the world around them. High expectations are set for what they can achieve. This includes pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The individual needs of these pupils are known and met.”

OFSTED, NOVEMBER 2023

At Testbourne Community School we have the very highest expectations for our students and believe that every child can enjoy academic success with the right support and challenge.

This can be seen in our exceptional GCSE and BTEC results achieved in summer 2024 with over 76% of our students achieving grade 4 or above in English and Maths combined. Our students were awarded 173 grade 8 or 9s (or their vocational award equivalent) in 2024 - of these top grades, there were 97 awarded across English, Maths and the Sciences. Children with SEND did extremely well, making as much progress as all children nationally, including those without SEND. Our children with EHCPs made exceptional progress.

We provide thought-provoking and engaging lessons, delivered by passionate subject specialist teachers, alongside enriching extra-curricular opportunities that together foster a lifelong love of learning and a culture of success. Every achievement is celebrated, and every failure is seen as an opportunity to learn.

Our curriculum is broad and balanced, offering students a wide range of subjects at key stage 4. These include Triple Science, Modern Foreign Languages, Health and Social Care, Engineering and a range of Performing and Visual Arts. We provide students with timely, regular feedback to help them make progress and we work closely with parents and carers to ensure that they are kept informed of their child's progress and how best to support their learning. We believe that a close partnership between school and home is the best recipe for supporting academic success.

Testbourne students leave us with bright futures and are ready for their next steps. Our alumni have gone on to successful careers and a diverse selection of courses at a wide range of Russell Group Universities including Oxford and Cambridge.



Students are given a wealth of opportunities to develop their intellectual curiosity and critical thinking. Visitors often comment on the calm, studious atmosphere and positive classroom interactions they see when touring our school.

During their time at Testbourne, we take pride in seeing our students foster a love of learning and make rapid progress in their studies by offering them high calibre lessons with engaging and stimulating teaching. We expect an excellent attitude to learning and these high standards and expectations result in a student body who are resilient, independent and who are challenged to achieve more than they thought possible. Anecdotal feedback from our local sixth form colleges shows that they rate Testbourne students as highly skilled and motivated learners whom they love having in their institutions.



At Testbourne Community School, we pride ourselves on our commitment to excellence in our teaching. This includes providing the very best training opportunities

for our teachers and making sure they are supported to understand and use evidence-based teaching methods to get the most out of the learners in the classroom. We are determined to provide challenge for learners in lessons, to stretch their understanding and deepen their knowledge.

We strive to develop students who leave secondary school not only with an impressive suite of results but equipped with the skills and understanding to become successful individuals at college, university and beyond.

“The school has carefully crafted a highly ambitious curriculum through which pupils learn a wide range of subjects. Engaging and interesting topics are taught across all areas that ignite a passion for learning.”

OFSTED, NOVEMBER 2023

ACHIEVEMENT

EXCELLENCE

04



“Pupils are supported to be confident and articulate. They embrace the school’s value of personal integrity, building a sense of responsibility for their own choices and their learning.”

OFSTED, NOVEMBER 2023

Integrity is at the heart of all that we strive to do; we believe in being honest, fair, kind and thoughtful in our actions. We encourage students to be caring and supportive of each other within school as well as in the wider community. Intrinsic motivation underpins our recognition system and students collect recognition points by demonstrating our Testbourne Standards of Excellence:

KINDNESS AND RESPECT - We treat others, ourselves and our environment with respect. We are kind and caring towards others. We never use prejudicial language, bully or harass people because of their gender, religion, ethnicity, race, sexuality, disability or other protected characteristics. We value equality.

HONESTY AND INTEGRITY - We do what is right, even when no-one is looking. We tell the truth, and we admit our mistakes and learn from them.

AMBITIOUS LEARNING - We can work independently, we are resilient when work is hard, we respond positively to challenge, we are motivated, we seek improvement, we work hard, we are organised and have the right equipment and resources to learn.

LEADERSHIP - We are positive members of the school community and, to others, we are a good example of the Testbourne Standards of Excellence.

Achievement is also recognised by our Heads of Year through their weekly assemblies and certificates are awarded to deserving students at the end of every term. Students who demonstrate our standards of excellence are invited to attend ‘Hot Chocolate Friday’ with senior leaders. Our Headteacher also recognises significant achievements by writing personal letters to congratulate students and inviting them to afternoon tea. At the end of the academic year, we take pride in formally recognising our students who most embody our standards of excellence in our prestigious Prize Giving Ceremony at the Guildhall, Winchester.

INTEGRITY

As a community school we have established strong links with our local area. We have a dedicated community officer on site who helps to promote and increase participation in the activities we provide and support our local groups.

We offer our facilities to the community at evenings and weekends. We are proud of our close links with local businesses who kindly sponsor our Prize Giving Ceremony, held at the Guildhall Winchester.

Testbourne has a thriving and dynamic PTFA (Parents, Teachers & Friends Association) who help raise thousands of pounds each year to support the school. Recent donations include a canopy for our playground, outdoor seating, cameras for our photography students, a laser cutter for design technology students, ukuleles for our music department and resources for our gardening club. The PTFA committee make an extremely positive contribution to our school, not only in fundraising, but in organising all the various events which help to bring the school and local community together. These include our annual Christmas Fayre, school productions, musical concerts, quiz nights as well as other events throughout the year. Our Music department have organised Carol Concerts for the community and hold an annual Summer Music Showcase to allow students to demonstrate their musical achievements. Many of our students participate in musical groups within the local community, supported by our team of peripatetic music teachers. Our Health and Social care students volunteer at our local nurseries and care homes.

We have specialist facilities including a fitness gym, sports hall, full size all-weather 3G pitch, drama studio, dance studio and music technology suite.

“My child feels secure and safe [since transferring to Testbourne] and he now has that drive to succeed due to his teachers showing a real interest in his learning and development. Many teachers just teach because it’s a job, but Testbourne teachers teach because they see the reward in the seeds they sow, and for that I will be eternally grateful.” PARENT

COMMUNITY

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

“Character education is highly valued. Pupils develop their leadership qualities in a range of democratically elected roles.”

OFSTED, NOVEMBER 2024

We offer fantastic opportunities outside the curriculum as we believe that providing and encouraging them are essential to developing the skills and attributes we want to see in our learners: resilience, ambition, responsibility, inquisitiveness, dedication, commitment, teamwork and a growth mindset.

We also want to give our students a sense of achievement and instil a life-long love for learning by inspiring them.

Our enrichment opportunities include:

- ◇ Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) club that participate in, and have won, local and national competitions. Students can also complete the Crest Award.
- ◇ Duke of Edinburgh Award: students can participate in this internationally recognised award scheme to achieve their Bronze award. Some students also go on to complete their Silver Award with us after their GCSE exams.
- ◇ Residential visits to enhance learning outside the classroom. Previous trips have included History visits to Berlin and the battlefields in Belgium; Geography fieldwork trips to Southampton, Hengistbury Head and The Eden Project and PE netball residentials to provide additional coaching and fixture opportunities for the school netball teams.

- ◇ Sporting opportunities are available, which include: football, cricket, rounders, netball, athletics, basketball, swimming and dance. In 2023, we achieved the ‘Silver Sports Mark’ in recognition of the development of competition across our school and local community. We also have many elite athletes in the school, and we support our students who compete at County or National Level. Our staff are involved in the running of county-level sports including Hampshire Schools Girls Rugby and County Athletics.

- ◇ Our whole school productions are a highlight in the Testbourne calendar with past performances including: ‘Footloose’, ‘We Will Rock You’, ‘School of Rock’ and ‘Oliver’. Testbourne students have also performed in local theatres as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festivals.

“Just wanted to say how great the whole-school musical was! The cast and crew have clearly worked hard and showed their dedication. Thank you TCS for the opportunity given to our children and for letting them shine on the stage and showcase their talents. Well done to everyone involved!”

PARENT



PASTORAL CARE AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

At Testbourne Community School, we strive to create an outstanding climate for learning.

It is important that our young people feel happy, supported and cared for in order to achieve their best in and out of the classroom. Our Pastoral system and our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) department provide the support and guidance that students need from Year 7 right the way through until Year 11.

We know that every teacher is a teacher of SEND and that students may need support for a short while or for a longer period. We work collaboratively, the SEND department helping teachers to provide the right interventions for students at the right time. Our SENDCo, a member of the senior leadership team, ensures all teachers know how to support diverse of needs and to treat each student as an individual, employing a range of techniques to overcome any potential barriers.

Each morning students meet their form tutor for registration, and it is this member of staff that students will turn to initially if they have a problem. Form tutors monitor planners, school uniform and attendance as well as discussing both positive and negative behaviours, and wider issues with members of their tutor group.

Each year group is led by a Head of Year who coordinate the team of form tutors, ensuring that high standards are kept within the year group. They also have an overview of the progress made by all students.

Students are also supported by a non-teaching pastoral team. Their role is to provide advice and guidance, administer first aid, monitor attendance, assist with safeguarding and give targeted pastoral support where required. We also have a dedicated student-welfare advisors on site to provide one-to-one confidential support, looking after the mental and emotional health of those students who need it.

Students are given opportunities to develop as leaders throughout their time at Testbourne from taking roles as student council representatives and peer mentors to joining the Senior Prefect Team in Years 10 and 11.

“The school is a calm and purposeful environment. Pupils feel safe and most behave very well. They are respectful of each other and have warm relationships with staff. Pupils’ voices are heard. They make a strong contribution to the school’s focus on creating a culture of equality. Pupils are understanding of and value diversity. They are not concerned about bullying and know that discrimination is never tolerated.”





Testbourne Community School

Achievement • Excellence • Integrity

Contact us on **01256 892061**

or visit

www.testbourne.school/contact



“Students act with integrity; achieve excellence together; enjoy and value their education; feel and demonstrate respect for themselves and others and become highly skilled learners prepared for a successful future.”