

MANSHEAD SCHOOL

An 11–19 Secondary School

In search of personal excellence



Welcome to Manshead School

Manshead School is a forward thinking, successful 11–19 school where every student is encouraged to seek personal excellence.

We provide many opportunities for students to achieve success both in and out of the classroom. Our high quality curriculum is broad but personalised in order to meet the individual needs of our students. Students are provided with high quality advice and guidance to help them make preparations for life beyond school and a great number of our students progress to top universities and further study.

What makes our school so special is the emphasis that we place on supporting each individual. Our Learning Guide system provides the essential contact between home and school and allows parents, students and the school to monitor the progress of each individual very carefully. The school is a happy and calm place and behaviour is very good. We believe that high standards are important and we have high expectations of students. As a result students at Manshead perform very well.

Manshead School is a Church of England School and our ethos is underpinned by our core values of respect, responsibility, faith and compassion. We are also a school that values the community we are part of and we work closely with schools locally to ensure smooth transition to Manshead.

I hope that, as you read this prospectus, you will build up a picture of what Manshead can offer. Of course there is no substitute for seeing the school in action so if you would like to visit during the school day please contact us by phone or email (details on back cover of this prospectus). You will be made very welcome.

Jim Parker
Headteacher



What kind of school is Manshead?

There are two distinct aspects to the school.

- We are a School that serves our local community
- We are a Voluntary Aided Church of England School

These two aspects of our school are encompassed by our common purpose, shared values and shared aims. We place importance on all aspects of education and development not just academic achievement.

Our Common Purpose

To work together with a common purpose 'in search of personal excellence'.

Our Shared Values

The values of Respect, Responsibility, Faith and Compassion help us to work together to form a relationship that allows each individual in our community to be in search of personal excellence.

- Respect Everyone in our School is expected to treat themselves, others and the environment with respect.
- Responsibility Everyone in our School is expected to understand the consequences of their actions.
- Faith Everyone in our School is invited to develop their understanding of Christian belief, worship and lifestyle.
- Compassion Everyone in our School is encouraged to be generous in their concern for others.

Our Shared Aims

At Manshead School

- All students are challenged to achieve their full academic, social, spiritual and moral potential
- All students receive the greatest personal attention
- All students are prepared for adult life and future learning
- The partnership with students, the home and school is strong and effective

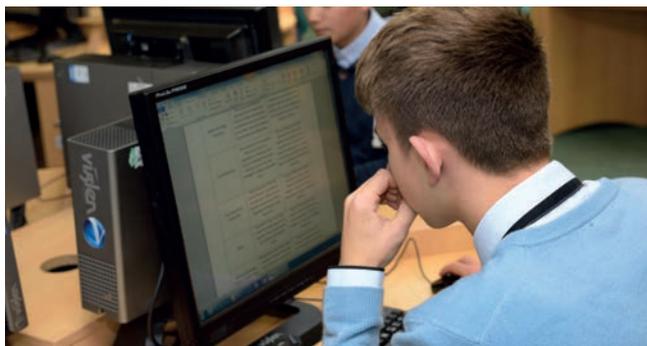


Teaching and Learning

We believe that the quality of teaching is the most important influence on how well students learn.

We are always seeking to use the best teaching techniques we can to ensure that all students make excellent progress. In lessons there is a strong focus on independent learning and teachers will expect students to be fully involved in their lessons.

Teachers monitor student progress very carefully in every lesson to ensure that they do not fall behind. We also update parents regularly with progress information. We have high expectations for students in the classroom and expect them to demonstrate our core value of responsibility as we prepare them for further study and learning beyond school. We also expect students to take their learning at home seriously and we have clear procedures and expectations about homework.





How we care for students – the Learning Guide system

When students join a new school one of their main concerns is how they will settle in and be looked after. Our Learning Guide system ensures that student welfare is at the heart of what we do in school.

The Learning Guide is the main contact between home and school and is responsible for the welfare of the individual student. Older students (including Sixth Form students) take on mentoring roles within Learning Guide groups; we know that younger students find this support to be most useful and reassuring.

We also operate a House system where students have the opportunity to take part in various competitions in sports, the arts and other activities.

Students find the Learning Guide system provides a very supportive environment that encourages them to succeed. We believe it is very important to reward students who do well at school. We operate an extensive praise system that rewards students with credits that lead to certificates, postcards home and celebration assemblies. Credits also count towards the House points totals so there is the extra incentive of being able to contribute to winning the House Cup.



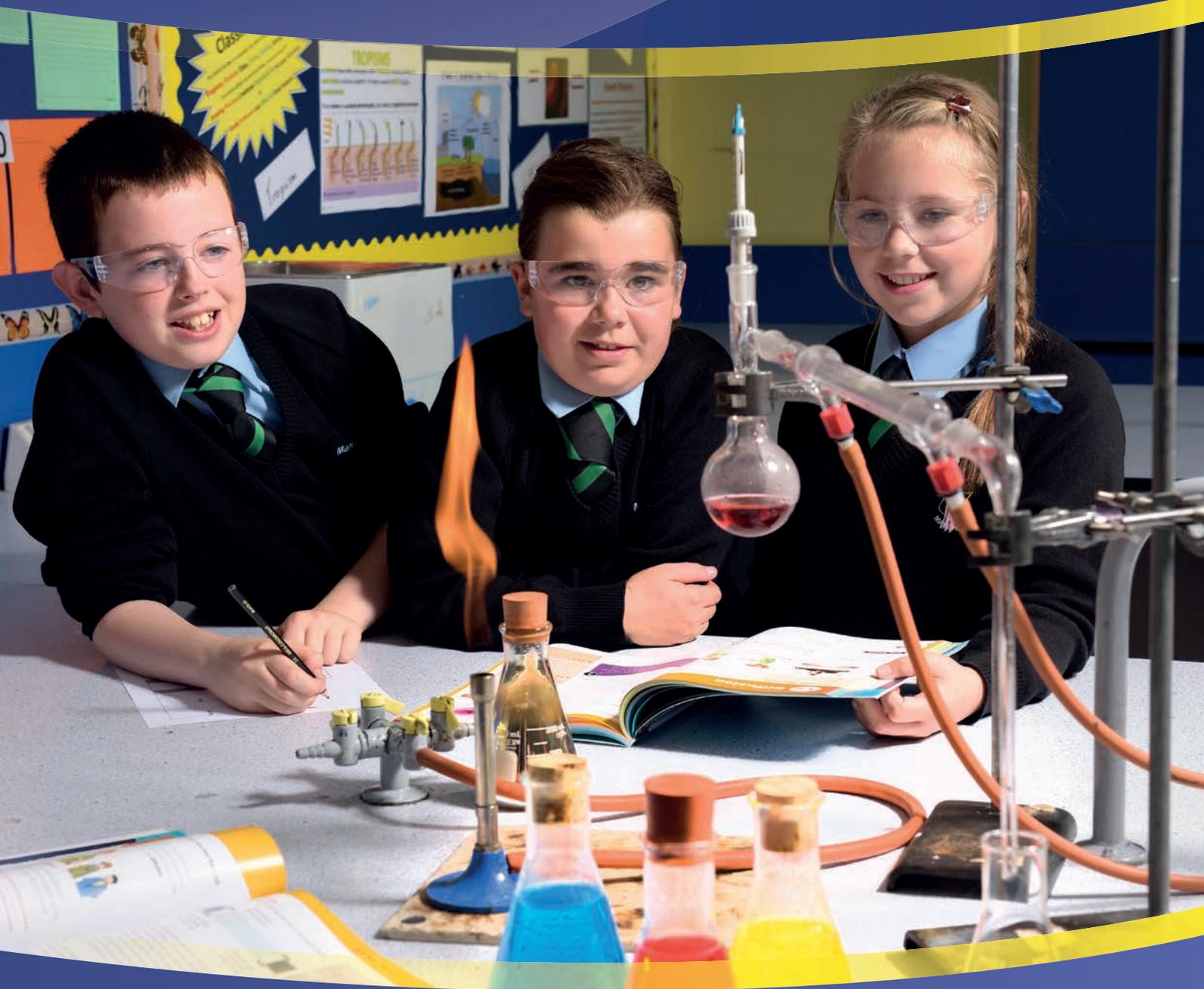
Our curriculum

In Years 7 & 8 students follow a broad curriculum that comprises the core subjects of English, Maths, Science, ICT, PE and RE. All students also follow a programme of foundation subjects that include History, Geography, Art, Modern Foreign Languages, Technology (Graphics, Food Technology, Textiles and Resistant Materials) and a Performing Arts programme that includes Dance, Drama and Music. Students develop competencies such as teamwork, leadership, problem solving and presentation skills that are essential for study later on in the school.

During the latter part of Year 8 students choose their pathways for Years 9, 10 & 11. Here we personalise the curriculum further. There are several pathways available that include a range of GCSE options. We recognise that the choice students make is important and we use specialist advice and guidance to help them make these decisions. The core subjects continue and all students will study Maths, English, Sciences, Ethics & Philosophy and ICT. Students of all abilities are catered for well in our curriculum and we are effective in meeting all students' needs.

We also provide a range of other curriculum opportunities and experiences to ensure that all aspects of personal development are met. We have very good careers provision and students are genuinely prepared for life beyond school.

Many of our students progress to the Sixth Form where we are able to offer a wide range of A-Level and BTEC courses. We have a separate Sixth Form prospectus that explains the Sixth Form provision in more detail. A large percentage of our Sixth Form students progress to University with many gaining places at top-rated universities. Our Sixth Form is one of the most highly regarded in the area.



Wider opportunities

Manshead prides itself on the quality and breadth of its extra curricular provision. We encourage students to take part in as many activities as they feel happy with as we know that these experiences really contribute to students becoming well rounded individuals.

The list of activities is too long to include here but there are lots of opportunities. Our drama activities, sports clubs and teams, inter-House activities and various lunchtime and after school clubs are just some examples. Our Music provision is very strong and students can take individual instrument lessons and be part of a range of ensembles and choirs.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is also offered which provides another opportunity for students to develop outside of the school curriculum.





Working with parents

We recognise that the relationship between the school and parents is a vital one. During the process of moving to Manshead, we outline the roles of the school, students and parents in respect of how we can best work together to support the needs of students and to ensure that they make the most of their time in school.

The key to success is communication. The Learning Guide is the first point of contact if parents have any concerns about their child's progress. We encourage parents to be in regular contact with the Learning Guide. Likewise if we feel that your child is not making good progress or seems unhappy in any way we will contact parents.

At several points in each year parents will receive a progress report that indicates how their child is working towards their targets and also rates their attitude to learning. There will also be an opportunity for parents to meet with the subject teachers and their Learning Guide at the annual parents consultation evening.

We find that the regular informal communication with Learning Guides and parents coupled with the more formal reports and consultations is effective in ensuring good progress is made.

We also publish a weekly e-bulletin which keeps parents and students up-to-date with events at school, important arrangements and useful information. We publish a web-based blog which we use to celebrate student achievement in all areas of the school, and we make use of a school wide communication system that can deliver important messages to parents by email and text message.

Manshead School



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