

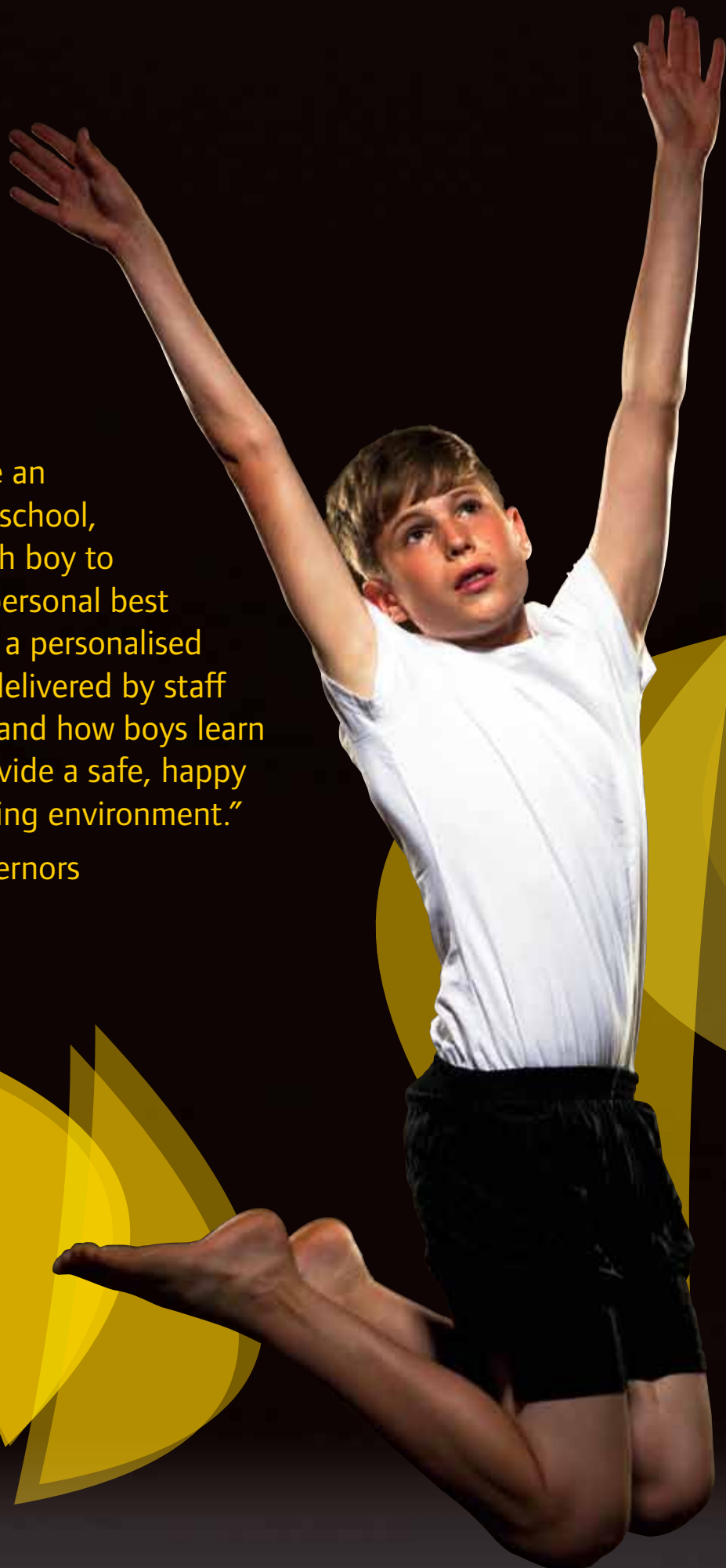
The
**Forest
School**

Where boys learn best



“We aim to be an outstanding school, enabling each boy to achieve his personal best by providing a personalised curriculum, delivered by staff who understand how boys learn and who provide a safe, happy but challenging environment.”

Chair of Governors



Achievement & Enjoyment

Welcome to the Forest School, a vibrant and supportive learning community that enables every boy to achieve his best.



The Forest School is a high-achieving comprehensive school for boys aged 11 to 16. We believe that we have the most important job in the world – if we get the education of our boys right, we can change lives by turning pupils' aspirations into reality. We take pride in providing a stimulating, happy and safe environment in which boys can learn, allowing them to develop into self-assured and successful young men. Our aim is for students to look back at their time at the Forest School with both pleasure and pride.

Achievement is at the heart of everything we do. Committed to the highest standards of teaching and learning, we use a combination of challenge, support and praise to ensure that all pupils fulfil their potential, whatever their ability. We value each pupil as unique, nurturing their individuality and encouraging them to take calculated risks within a disciplined environment. Fundamental to our success is our expertise in how boys learn best, which we use to develop the knowledge and confidence of our pupils right across the curriculum. By engaging pupils in their education, we help them develop skills for lifelong learning. As a result, they leave school well qualified and prepared for higher education or employment.

This prospectus can give only a flavour of school life, so we warmly invite you to visit and discover for yourself why boys learn best at Forest. Then you will be able to meet our best ambassadors – our pupils – whose enthusiasm for learning, care for each other and determination to succeed are self-evident.

Siobhan Denning
Headteacher

Inspiration & Enthusiasm

As experts in boys' education, we use imaginative teaching and interactive learning to engage and inspire our pupils.

"It is the teachers that make the Forest School such a great place, they are really inspirational." Pupil

We recognise that it is the quality of teaching that makes the biggest difference to pupils' achievement. At Forest, we cater for individual needs, aptitudes and learning styles, building on pupils' strengths and interests to develop their confidence. By designing lessons that are active, stimulating and challenging, our highly qualified teachers channel boys' natural energy and enthusiasm into their learning. This is supported by state-of-the-art technology in every classroom and extensive use of our Virtual Learning Environment to engage and motivate pupils.

With high standards and expectations, we pride ourselves on giving every boy the opportunity to fulfil his potential so that he is equipped for the exciting demands and challenges of life. We cultivate the development of sound research and study habits, enabling boys to become independent thinkers, articulate communicators and lifelong learners. We also help them to be reflective pupils, taking responsibility for their own progress.

We appreciate that every pupil is different. Getting to know each boy as an individual allows us to tailor his learning experience to his specific needs. Pupils are grouped by ability in English, Mathematics and Science, with those in need of extra support receiving specialist help and the more able boys being stretched through additional challenge.



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Choice & Challenge

Our innovative and diverse curriculum is teamed with progressive teaching methods to create a unique learning environment.

“An innovative approach to curriculum design gives students access to a broad range of options...The breadth of the curriculum is helping to motivate students and sustain their engagement with learning.” Ofsted

We provide a broad and balanced curriculum that offers a variety of academic and applied learning courses. In all subject areas, we focus on promoting skills such as initiative, leadership, problem solving, communication and teamwork. The result is a well-rounded education that provides an excellent foundation for further and higher education and the world of work.

Recognising that challenge takes many forms, we give boys careful guidance to ensure that their education sparks interest, provides diversity and offers appropriate pathways at school and beyond into adult life. Personalised learning programmes ensure that each boy learns at the right pace for him, with continuous assessment of progress and support provided to maximise achievement.

All pupils begin some GCSE or alternative courses at the start of Year 9 and many will be supported to take a wider range of GCSEs when they are ready. This means that pupils may well have achieved four or five GCSE or equivalent qualifications by the end of Year 10. This staged approach provides appropriate challenge at Key Stage 3 and spreads the pressure of examinations. It also enables more able pupils to begin courses at an advanced level during their final year.



Opportunity & Excitement

We provide a wealth of activities to extend learning beyond the classroom, providing enjoyment and developing practical skills.



Through both the curriculum and our enrichment programme, pupils are encouraged to develop a variety of talents. The broad range of extra-curricular sports, leisure activities and arts opportunities contributes to the social interaction of pupils and staff, providing both fun and a sense of belonging. Pupils get the chance to showcase their abilities in numerous musical and dramatic performances, as well as in many inter-school and inter-community sports matches and team-based or individual challenges, including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

Boys enjoy a wide range of educational day visits and residential trips, both in the UK and abroad, that broaden their outlook and boost their independence. Within school, we nurture links with the community and local businesses to provide a rich programme of activities – including Discovery Week, enterprise events and enrichment days – that develop pupils' leadership, entrepreneurial and social skills.

“Students are well supported by a good range of additional provision including a popular programme of enrichment activities.”

Ofsted

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Support & Confidence

Our strong pastoral structure supports every pupil, providing the self-esteem required for a happy and successful school life.

We see each boy as special, valuing his individuality and his contribution to the life of the school. Proud of our pupils' academic, artistic, musical and sporting achievements, we take every opportunity to celebrate their success.

The school is committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment where enjoyment of learning is seen as essential. To this end, we foster an ethos in which the traditional values of courtesy, integrity and respect – along with pride in personal appearance – are developed within a community that is disciplined but also has a sense of fun. Our pupils are expected to take a responsible and active part in their own education and there is a strong reward culture in place to support the high attendance, hard work and good behaviour that lead to achievement.

We work closely with our feeder primary schools, parents and boys to ensure that the transition from primary to secondary education is exciting and problem-free. Our highly effective pastoral system provides the blend of care and support required to develop contented and confident young people with a strong sense of their own worth. Our mixed-aged tutor groups are organised into four Communities – each headed by a non-teaching Community Leader and an Assistant Headteacher – and this structure enables the development of close relationships based on trust and mutual respect between pupils and staff.

“Students are well cared for and supported... Procedures for safeguarding are outstanding.”

Ofsted



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Community & Respon

By developing their sense of community, cultural awareness and tolerance of differences, we help our boys to take their place in society.

We believe that we cannot achieve our wider goals without sharing our expertise and resources, as well as a sense of common purpose, with the local community. The school places a high value on the concept of service, promoting this through charity fundraising and various community projects, such as the intergenerational Silver Surfers programme in which our boys tutor senior citizens in ICT skills.

Pupils participate enthusiastically in the development of the school and this builds their self-belief, leadership skills and community spirit. Some represent their peers on the pupil leadership team, while others take on the role of Prefect or are trained as Academic Researchers to give constructive feedback on teaching.

We understand that nobody knows a child as well as their parent or carer. Believing that their involvement in a pupil's education contributes enormously to achievement, we work in partnership with families to maximise the success of our pupils. Fundamental to this is clear and frequent communication with parents so that they understand how they can best support their child. The school provides many opportunities throughout the year for parents to review their son's progress, talk to teaching staff and be involved in school events. We also involve families in our school community through parent forums, family learning days and the active Friends of Forest.



“ At Forest we learn respect for each other, develop our community spirit and grow in confidence.”

Head Boy

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Aspiration & Success

“It is great to see our son growing into such a confident young man... thanks to his experiences at Forest.” Parent

The Forest School provides a firm foundation for further learning and helps to prepare boys for university and the workplace.

We believe that young people today need to be bright, flexible, confident and self-motivated, with good social and communication skills. Our aim is to prepare our pupils for further and higher education and the workplace and to empower them to take their place as successful and happy citizens of the 21st century.

The large majority of our boys go on to post-16 education, with many progressing from there to university. Others choose specialist courses in vocational subjects or the Arts, or enter into workplace training and apprenticeships.

Through our close links with the local providers of post-16 education and training, our in-house careers provision including a work experience programme and our relationships with the business community – which provides practical support, such as training in interview techniques – we ensure that pupils have the guidance and support required to make the right choices for them.

We take great pride in seeing our boys flourish and move on from Forest as confident young men, knowing that we have worked together with them to raise their aspirations and realise their goals.

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The Forest School
Comptons Lane
Horsham
West Sussex RH13 5NW

Tel: 01403 261086
Fax: 01403 217150
office@forest.w-sussex.sch.uk
www.theforestschool.net

