



TRANSFORMING
LIFE CHANCES



WELCOME TO OUR TRUST'S PROSPECTUS

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT) is a non-profit making charitable trust that has successfully grown over the past few years to include a diverse range of academies in Medway and Portsmouth.

The lead academy is the Rochester Grammar school which is not only an outstanding school but has a rich history and inspiring reputation as one of the country's leading state Grammar Schools.

The Rochester Grammar School opened in 1888 as a school for the high education of girls and it quickly gained a reputation for academic excellence which it has maintained and now has surpassed as a national teaching school and as an advanced thinking school. It has a growing world reputation in successfully implementing planned cognitive approaches to education.

As TSAT has grown our ambition of what we expect to achieve has grown with us. Our sponsored academies are rapidly improving and we are now attracting a number of good schools which want to join our trust as they believe in our educational

vision and see joining us as the best way to ensure their school becomes outstanding.

From the outset we have been a cross phase academy trust and we now have an excellent knowledge and experience of education from pre-school to sixth form. Our success is due to our excellent understanding of thinking, learning and pedagogical research, our talented and highly dedicated staff, leaders and governors.

We believe our greatest asset is our children and young people and we are proud of their many achievements and their personal growth. Our students develop into responsible, happy and confident young people. Through the high quality of education they receive and the support and care from school and home they will literally have the best life chances possible.

I hope you find this prospectus informative and would welcome you to visit any of our academies to see our excellent work in practice.

THE THINKING SCHOOLS ACADEMY PHILOSOPHY

In order to support our children and young people in achieving their aspirations we believe in supporting them in their thinking and their learning.

This is why we have adopted the Thinking Schools' approach to Teaching and Learning. Research from organisations such as the Sutton Trust has repeatedly demonstrated that when children understand how their brains work and, therefore, use their brain more effectively they achieve better academic and personal outcomes than those who do not. This is known as meta-cognition.

This cognitive approach to teaching and learning across all our schools also means that pupils develop a common language of learning between subjects, teachers and themselves.

THE THINKING SCHOOLS ACADEMY TRUST HAS:

- SECONDARY SCHOOLS
- PRIMARY SCHOOLS
- JUNIOR SCHOOLS
- INFANT SCHOOLS

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust “a family of schools that are stronger together.”

Developing thinking across schools needs to be flexible. The TSAT model ensures our family of schools encompasses this by not creating a “one size fits all” where individual schools lose their identity and are subsumed into a corporate image. Instead we pride ourselves in nurturing schools to provide alternatives, possibilities and choices to create pathways of success.

Our fundamental moral purpose as educators is to nurture children and young people to think for themselves and therefore learn skills and develop their knowledge so that they are able to thrive and be fulfilled in an ever-changing world.

“

Our society today needs young people who are flexible, creative and pro-active young people who can solve problems, make decisions, think creatively, communicate ideas effectively and work efficiently within teams and groups”

Carol McGuiness, Queens University Belfast.



PRIMARY EDUCATION IN TSAT

We believe that children only thrive when they are happy and feel safe in their environment. Therefore all our primary, junior and infant schools are dedicated to ensuring:

- There are high expectations for every child; every lesson matters therefore they should be exciting and motivate children to think and learn; our cognitive approach to learning ensures lessons are tailored to individual needs and are therefore fully inclusive and differentiated;
- Every child is treated as an individual and with dignity;
- Excellent foundations are laid in providing the basic and key skills each child will need to succeed throughout their educational careers and beyond;
- Children learn to play and learn together understanding moral values of mutual respect, tolerance of others and personal responsibility.

TSAT has a number of outstanding primary leaders who have excellent track records in leading successful primary schools. These Headteachers ensure that our primary, junior and infant schools provide the highest quality education and working with the CEO and Board of Directors they are accountable for overall standards and achievement in KS1 and KS2.

SECONDARY EDUCATION IN TSAT

High expectations are a feature of all our secondary schools. We expect our students to take responsibility for their own actions and engage in their own learning whether at school or at home.

In return our students have access to outstanding and dedicated practitioners who share our vision of making a difference in young peoples' lives.

OUTSTANDING CURRICULUM AND ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

Our secondary schools offer a broad and balanced curriculum with a wide range of exciting and diverse academic and applied pathways. However our curriculum is not simply the sum of taught subjects offered. We offer our students:

- One to one tuition and support when needed with highly trained and skilled tutors;
- Academic mentoring from trained peers and mentors, an Aspirante programme for Oxbridge, Medics and Vets;
- The International Baccalaureate Diploma can be studied as well as 'A' levels in our sixth forms. Our students regularly access Russell Group, Conservatoires and now Ivy League Universities;
- Individual music lessons and access to our Choirs (which includes Enchant - a Chamber Choir with a national reputation);
- Foreign exchanges, World Challenge and regular visits to the theatre and art galleries. We also have in one of our schools the second largest DOE centre in the country.



Our secondary schools provide excellent standards and rapid school improvement.

83.6%

of TSAT students achieved 5+ A*-C grades including English and Maths in 2013.

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AND LEARNING

A GENERATION OF OUTSTANDING TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF

Our staff are highly trained, supported and dedicated to our students. All our teachers are expected to work together to ensure they are open to continuous learning, just as we expect from our students.

They have a robust programme of training and development as well as access to trained coaches to support their own personal development. Within our trust we have our own teaching school alliance (New Horizons) and work in partnership with a range of schools and universities, including the world leading Institute Of Education in London.

Support staff also have access to a range of training and leadership opportunities which they are expected to engage with. Many of our support staff take up these opportunities and hold senior posts within the Trust. Each year some of our support staff begin a teacher training qualification and become outstanding teachers.





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ACADEMY TRUST

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