



# Altwood Church of England School

## ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Altwood Church of England School is a small mixed 11 – 18 comprehensive school based in Maidenhead. We serve a vibrant community where every student is treated and valued as an individual. We set high standards and expectations and we encourage and support our students to achieve their very best. The school is situated in pleasant grounds with many of the curriculum and other spaces having undergone recent refurbishment. Altwood Church of England School converted to an Academy in 2012.

### OUR VALUES

As a Church school we:  
Welcome all, value all, respect all;  
Celebrate the fact that everyone has God-given gifts and talents and embrace the responsibility we have for enabling students to make the most of these gifts and talents so that they can go on to achieve highly;  
Have excellence as our goal;  
Provide extensive opportunity for spiritual development and personal support;

Value our rich and diverse school community because it is made up of young people who are of the Christian faith, other world faiths and of no particular faith; all have a significant part to play in our society.

### OFSTED GOOD (2017)

'(The school) provides extensive opportunity for spiritual development and personal support;'

'The effectiveness of the leaders' approach to improving the quality of teaching was evident during this inspection.'

'Pupils are very keen to learn and are eager to do well'

'Pupils' behaviour is good. Positive relationships between pupils and with adults permeate the school'



### OUR COMMUNITY

Leadership is a very important part of life at Altwood. The House system provides the basis for extensive leadership opportunities and every student is encouraged to play an active part in one way or another.

Altwood Parliament ensures that students have the opportunity to fully engage in decision making at our school and the (PiXL) Edge programme credits all of our students, encouraging them to develop their leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication. These key life skills support our academic curriculum so that our students can play a positive role in the school and wider community.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING AT ALTWOOD

Teaching and learning is at the heart of our drive for continuous school improvement. Based around our non-negotiables and our teaching and learning cycle staff and students are clear about expectations and set high standards to ensure progress is made in all lessons.

At Altwood, we take staff development seriously, as it is fundamental in providing the students with the best possible education and the most equitable class room experience. New staff are given a bespoke induction programme so that they quickly know the Altwood approach. All teachers participate in regular professional development through tailored INSET and staff learning programmes.

Students are expected to arrive at all lessons ready to learn, with the core equipment with them (Six for Success) which includes a reading book as well as the usually stationery. They speak highly of their experience of teaching and learning at Altwood, and their attitude to learning is positive. Students are encouraged to 'Think Hard' and challenge themselves in order to make the best possible progress.

Precise feedback is also crucial to ensure that teachers guide students to identify the gaps in their knowledge and boost their learning. Work is routinely marked in green with a focus on praise: what went well and specific improvements: even better if. Students are regularly given clear time in the lessons to improve their work which we call DIRT (dedicated improvement and reflection time), with the guiding principle 'if it's not excellent, it's not finished'.

What our students' say:

89% say that teaching and learning is good or better and that they know what they need to do to improve their work.

'I like to have a checklist of what I have achieved and what I need to do to make the most progress.'

Over 80% of students in Year 11 and the Sixth Form believe that they have made good progress.

'Teachers give lots of their time to help me improve.'

'I enjoy lessons where there are lots of different activities which keep me focussed and make learning fun.'

## BUSINESS & ICT

Currently Business forms part of a wider faculty which includes Computer Science.

Business GCSE follows the OCR specifications and whilst at present BTEC First awards are studied at KS4 we aim to move BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise for 2018 start. This is an exciting vocational route which is supported by the Peter Jones Foundation. This gives learners the opportunity to immerse themselves in the practical application of the skills required to run a business.

Students may study A Level Business at Key Stage 5 or Level 3 BTEC nationals either the extended certificate or diploma routes, with the subject area being a key part of our level 3 offer. The subject is popular and has a strong uptake at KS4 and KS5.

Students are successful in Business and many go on to study the subject further at university or gain Apprenticeship looking for successful careers in the sector.

The department is well resourced with a range of ICT facilities. As members of PiXL the Business team have benefitted from the resources and support available from that forum.

It is important to develop local business links and the department has established business lunches alongside business relationships, in particular the Discovery Centre facilities at 3. Students have also benefitted from attending study support lectures.

This is an exciting time for business, new curriculum opportunities will enhance student experience, with in school with the development of enterprise opportunities and links to our house system.