



TCS
Testbourne Community School
Achievement • Excellence • Integrity

PROSPECTUS 2023-2024

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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

ACHIEVEMENT

03

“My daughter left Testbourne with ten outstanding grades which she achieved through the dedicated support and nurturing of her teachers throughout her time at school. Staff knew what her full potential was and were able to engage my daughter in her learning.”

PARENT OF YEAR 11

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 most recently validated exceptional GCSE and BTEC results achieved in summer 2022, with over 85% of our students achieving grade 4 or above in English and Maths combined, and over 24% of students achieving grade 7 or above in both English and Maths. Our students were awarded 135 grade 9s (above A* equivalent) in 2022 – of these grade 9s, there were 89 awarded across English, Maths and the Sciences.

We provide thought-provoking and engaging lessons, delivered by passionate subject specialist teachers, and enriching extra-curricular opportunities, that 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 whole range 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 and 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, which includes providing the very best training opportunities for our teachers and making sure they are supported to understand and use the most cutting-edge 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 create 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.

04

EXCELLENCE

05



INTEGRITY

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. 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.

As a community school we have established strong links with our local community. 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 prestigious 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, 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, including 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 BTEC Health and Social care students volunteer at our local nurseries and care homes.

We have specialist facilities including a fitness gym, sports hall, heated outdoor swimming pool, 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

06

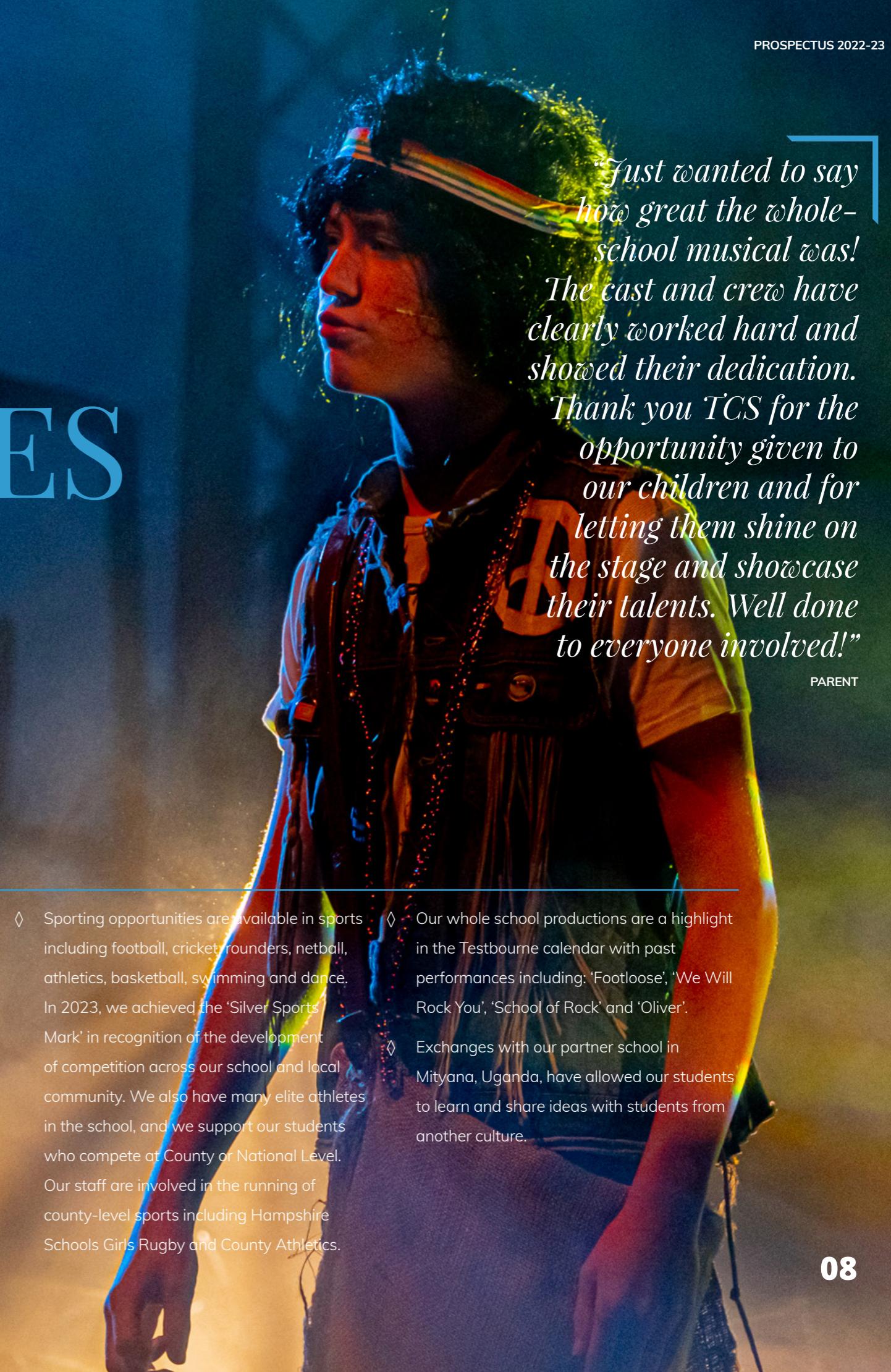
COMMUNITY

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: 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.
- ◊ Open Schools Coding Competition: students design and code their own app and compete against schools nationally at the University of Surrey.
- ◊ 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; trips to our link school in Uganda; Languages trips to three European cities; and Geography fieldwork in Sorrento, Italy.
- ◊ Our music tours have included destinations such as Lake Garda and Barcelona; these have allowed our extensive range of music ensembles to perform abroad as part of their concert series.



"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

- ◊ Sporting opportunities are available in sports including 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'.
- ◊ Exchanges with our partner school in Mityana, Uganda, have allowed our students to learn and share ideas with students from another culture.



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, with 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 a range of needs and to treat each student as an individual, using 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 support with advice and guidance, provide first aid, monitor attendance, assist with safeguarding and give targeted pastoral support where required. We also have a dedicated student counsellor on site to provide one-to-one confidential support, looking after the mental and emotional health of those students who particularly 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 support and care that has been given to my son since starting at Testbourne and especially over the last year has been exceptional. Thank you so much.” PARENT



Testbourne Community School

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Contact us on **01256 892 061**
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."

