



Altwood Church of England School



Information for prospective staff



*"There is an uncompromising drive to provide as many experiences as possible for students, to raise aspirations, broaden horizons and meet their **individual needs**"*
Ofsted 2017

WELCOME

I am delighted that you are considering joining our flourishing school community.

Altwood Church of England School is a popular and growing 11-18 mixed comprehensive. I am proud to have been Headteacher at Altwood School since September 2013. In that time the school has been on a path of continuous improvement with Ofsted endorsing the hard work and commitment of our students, staff, governors and parents.

We celebrate the comprehensive nature of our school by realising the potential of all our students through a varied curriculum offer and enrichment opportunities. We are committed to providing a high-quality learning environment for all, at the same time encouraging a culture of character development, through our house system and whole school activities underpinned by our core values, 'Live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10).

The friendly competition between our houses Faith, Hope and Joy culminates in a whole school rewards day in the Summer term but celebrating success throughout the school year is integral to our happy and thriving community.

Our well maintained school site and rolling programme of improvement of facilities are well respected by the school community. Visitors routinely comment on the purposeful and collaborative learning environment of our school. Our three rules: 'Be safe; be ready; be respectful' are clear for all and support our ethos. We place great value on high standards, kindness alongside truth and forgiveness.

I hope that after finding out about our school you are inspired to make an application.

It is a genuine joy to lead our school community. It is a real privilege to work with my wonderfully talented and dedicated staff team.

Mr Neil Dimbleby
Headteacher



'Positive relationships with pupils and with adults permeate the school' Ofsted 2017

About Altwood

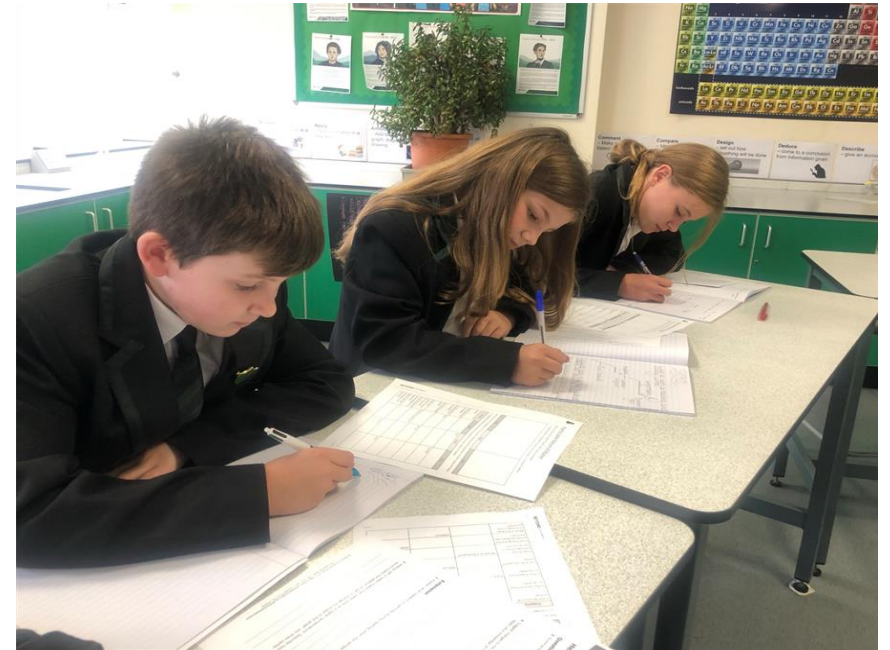
Situated in leafy Maidenhead, Altwood Church of England School is a wonderful place to work.

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 and respect all. We celebrate the fact that everyone has God-given gifts and talents, and embrace the responsibility we have for enabling students to realise their potential so that they can go on to achieve highly.

The school provides extensive opportunity for spiritual development and personal support. Our rich and diverse community is made up of young people and adults who are of the Christian faith, other world faiths or no particular faith; all have a significant part to play in our community and society as a whole.

Students told Ofsted "Behaviour is good because we are known to staff."



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 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 and our Personal Improvement Plan approach.

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: 'Close the gap by...'. 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'.

"Pupils are very keen to learn and are eager to do well."
(Ofsted)

Please submit your application form and letter to recruitment@altwoodschoo.co.uk

If you have any questions about teaching at Altwood please contact the Head's PA Mrs Nicola Walker
nwalker@altwoodschoo.co.uk 01628 622 236



"...the school's values of compassion, ambition, understanding and respect are evident." (Ofsted 2017)