



Altwood

Church of England School





WELCOME

I am so proud to be the Headteacher of Altwood Church of England School; it really is a special place to learn and to work. From the moment you arrive, you will feel the positive energy and quickly come to understand that our values of Truth, Forgiveness, Kindness and Service live and breathe in everything we do.

We celebrate differences at Altwood, which creates a welcoming and inclusive environment. We are committed to nurturing and challenging everyone in the school, and it is our goal to deliver academic outcomes, as well as rounded, confident young people, regardless of background or special educational need. This can be seen through the opportunities we provide to get involved in Performing Arts, Sports, charity fund-raising and a wide range of leadership opportunities, both inside and outside the school day.

There are plenty of ways for you to get to know us better before making such an important decision as to whether to join our community. In addition to our Open Evening, there are a number of dedicated 'Open Mornings' that you can book to attend. However, if these aren't convenient for you, please contact us to arrange a better time to look around.

When you visit us, I am confident you will encounter the genuine passion for success which exists in our school. Our students are excited by learning opportunities which challenge them on a daily basis and inspire them to develop their understanding and progress their learning. Our staff are highly experienced, committed and set on achieving the best for every student. As a result, we are a very successful and popular school and one that is fully committed to further improvement.

As a church school, our Christian values are very important to us. This is demonstrated most clearly in our vision of 'I am known, I am valued, I will succeed'. We want all our young people to feel a real sense of belonging and as part of our vibrant school community.

“The headteacher’s strong and clear vision, which is highly aspirational, permeates the school. As a result, the school’s values of compassion, ambition, understanding and respect are evident.” Ofsted

Your child will follow a broad and balanced curriculum during their school journey and we will encourage them to make the most of every opportunity to develop academically, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.

We have very high expectations in terms of behaviour and attitudes and highly value the support of our parent body in creating a partnership built around trust and support. Everyone at Altwood is expected to aim for excellence in all that they do. We do however, understand that young people will make mistakes and this is where our values of Truth and Forgiveness ensure that we can acknowledge what has gone wrong and then move forwards, together, in a positive way.

I am really excited to lead Altwood into the future. We are a dynamic, ambitious and forward-looking school who is embarking on a new journey as a founding member of the Agape Trust. We welcome the new opportunities for collaboration and support across Altwood, The Piggott School and our new primary partners.

I really hope that you and your child want to become a part of our future success at Altwood and very much look forward to meeting and working with you in the future.



Mrs C. Harden



***“Staff and pupils speak highly of the quality and effectiveness of leadership.”
Ofsted***

“The behaviour of pupils is good.” Ofsted



“Pupils have responded positively to leaders’ increasingly high expectations.” Ofsted

“The Altwood Parliament provides pupils with the opportunity to air opinions, discuss school issues and provide school leaders with their views. This is welcomed and enjoyed by those involved and understood by many others as an effective way of learning about democracy in practice.” Ofsted

OUR COMMUNITY

We are a Church school founded upon Christian values.

As a Church school we:

- welcome all, value all, respect all, and have excellence as our goal;
- 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;
- provide extensive opportunities 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;
- have a strong House system to support personal and academic outcomes;
- develop character and culture through House and personal development opportunities.

OUR STANDARDS

All our young people are expected to show their pride in belonging to their school community:

- working as hard as they can, not simply to fulfil their potential but to try and exceed all expectations that may exist in light of their prior academic performance;
- aspiring to excel in all that they do;
- wearing their uniform with pride;
- behaving in a way that shows that they have respect for themselves and a responsibility to show respect for others.

“Pupils and parents are positive about the support that the school provides.” Ofsted





“Positive relationships between pupils and with adults permeate the school. Pupils’ personal development is a strength of the school.” Ofsted



OUR STUDENTS

Altwood Church of England School students are in a league of their own; all our visitors comment on the positive and purposeful atmosphere that exists amongst our community. We want the young people of Altwood to leave us as the discerning, responsible leaders of the future, who will make a positive difference in our world.

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. We view this as an important tool to prepare our young people for life beyond Altwood. They develop very many key skills whilst making an extremely positive contribution to their school community, the local community and the national/international community.

“The work in pupils’ books is well presented. This matches the attitudes to learning observed and the progress seen.” Ofsted



OUR CURRICULUM

Our approach to the curriculum is simple. We genuinely personalise the learning experience of our young people to meet their needs and match their aptitudes. This will be an area which will continue to develop in years to come to respond to the needs of our students.

If young people have the chance to fully develop, they are not only positioned to succeed in examinations but become life-long learners positioned to achieve in their future adult lives.

“Pupils currently in the school are making good progress. This is because teaching and assessment are allowing pupils to develop secure knowledge, understanding and skills in the subjects they study.” Ofsted

“The curriculum prepares pupils suitably for the next stage of their education, training or employment, and for life in modern Britain.” Ofsted



“Pupils are proud of their school and the opportunities it provides for them.” Ofsted



“The school’s work to promote pupils’ personal development and welfare is good.” Ofsted



OUR STAFF

Our passionate and committed specialist staff are a genuine strength of the school. All staff are dedicated to provide appropriate opportunities to allow all students to develop and flourish, academically and personally. Our staff like our students are encouraged to be life-long learners, striving for excellence in all that they do and constantly updating their skills to be on the cutting edge of education practice.

“Pupils make good use of the feedback teachers provide to improve their knowledge, skills and understanding.” Ofsted

OUR PARENTS AND CARERS

At Altwood we work hard to develop a partnership with every parent and carer. We believe this is essential in order to support every student and enable them to achieve maximum success.

Our families are involved at all stages of a student’s time at Altwood. From the pastoral care received from their Head of House or the individual support, advice and encouragement from their tutor, to classroom teacher concerns or celebrations, we keep parents and carers up to date every step of the way. Parents’ Evenings provide invaluable face to face meetings every year, something that is so important in understanding the progress your child is making. Our online systems mean that students are able to complete and submit assignments and communicate seamlessly with their teachers. Parents are able to view their child’s key information around attendance and achievements, as well as viewing their latest academic reports. Our website, Twitter feed and Facebook page are all sources of the latest school news, important calendar dates, communications with parents and carers and all our latest publications. By working with parents and carers, we can maximise the chances of success for every child as well as making sure everyone feels part of, and belongs to, Altwood C of E School.



“Students display positive attitudes to learning and are proud to be members of the sixth form. All students spoken to during the inspection are aware of their responsibilities to be good role models for younger pupils and often help with reading and academic support.” Ofsted



OUR SIXTH FORM

Our Sixth Form students are composed, confident, articulate young men and women who have a clear sense of right and wrong and how they can make a difference in the world.

With high academic standards and impressive success rates, sixth form students are exceptionally well placed as they progress to university and in to the adult world. All our Sixth Form students are excellent role models for our younger students who value their support as buddies, study mentors, house leaders and prefects.



“Teachers’ strong subject knowledge, high expectations and careful planning extend and deepen students’ learning.” Ofsted

“Students behave well and their relationships with their teachers and their peers are positive.” Ofsted





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