



VALLEY PARK  
SCHOOL



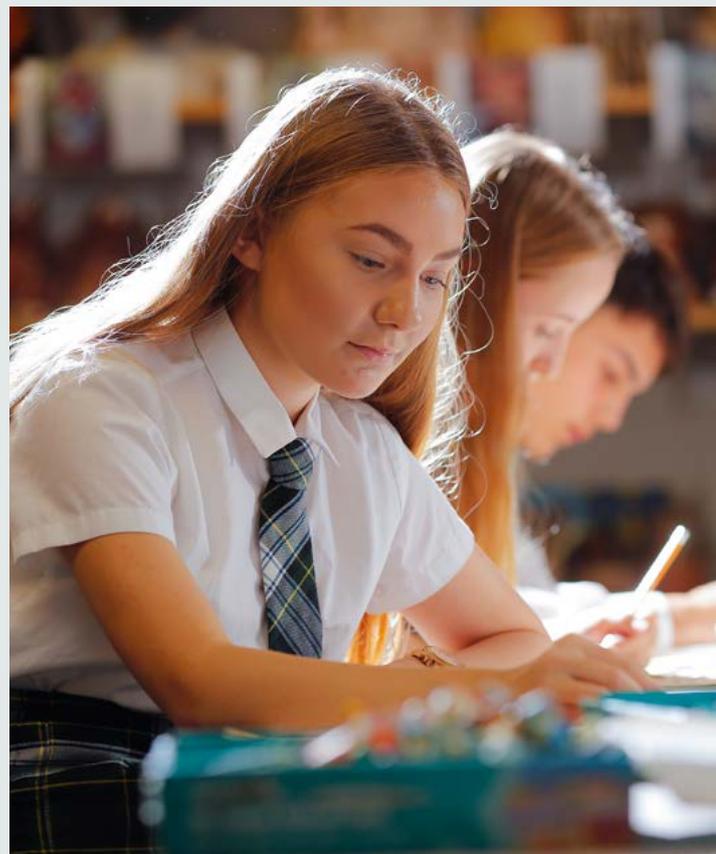


*“ Students at Valley Park School take their learning very seriously. They work hard in their lessons, always trying their best. ”*

Ofsted, 2020

*“ Our child couldn't have gone to a better school than Valley Park. ”*

Valley Park School parent





# Welcome to Valley Park School

I am delighted to introduce you to Valley Park School, where our vision for education is deeply intertwined with our core values of Ambition, Respect, and Kindness. These values guide everything we do and shape the vibrant community we nurture.

At Valley Park School, we are committed to fostering a love for learning within a supportive and inclusive environment where every student can thrive. Our dedicated team of staff embodies our values, striving to help each student reach their full potential academically, socially, and personally. We believe that by instilling ambition in our students, we empower them to pursue their goals with confidence and determination.

Our aim is to provide a high-quality education that prepares our students for success in their future endeavours. We focus on improving teaching and learning through evidence-based practices that have proven effective. Our teachers engage in ongoing professional development, ensuring they possess the knowledge and expertise to deliver engaging and impactful lessons, all the while modelling respect for every individual in our school community.

We understand the importance of a positive school culture and work tirelessly to create a safe and respectful environment where students feel valued and supported. By promoting a sense of belonging, we encourage students to take ownership of their learning and personal growth, reflecting our commitment to kindness in every interaction.

Student engagement is a priority at Valley Park School. We offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities, clubs, and enrichment programmes that cater to the diverse interests and talents of our students. These opportunities do not only enhance their skills and knowledge but also foster teamwork, leadership, and personal development, reinforcing our values in action.

We work hard to form strong partnerships with parents and the wider community, recognising that collaboration is key to supporting our students' success. We encourage parents to be actively involved in their child's education, offering various opportunities for engagement and feedback. By working together, we can create an inclusive and caring environment that embodies our values.

I invite you to explore our prospectus to learn more about the curriculum and programmes we offer. If you have any questions or would like to arrange a visit, please do not hesitate to contact our school office.

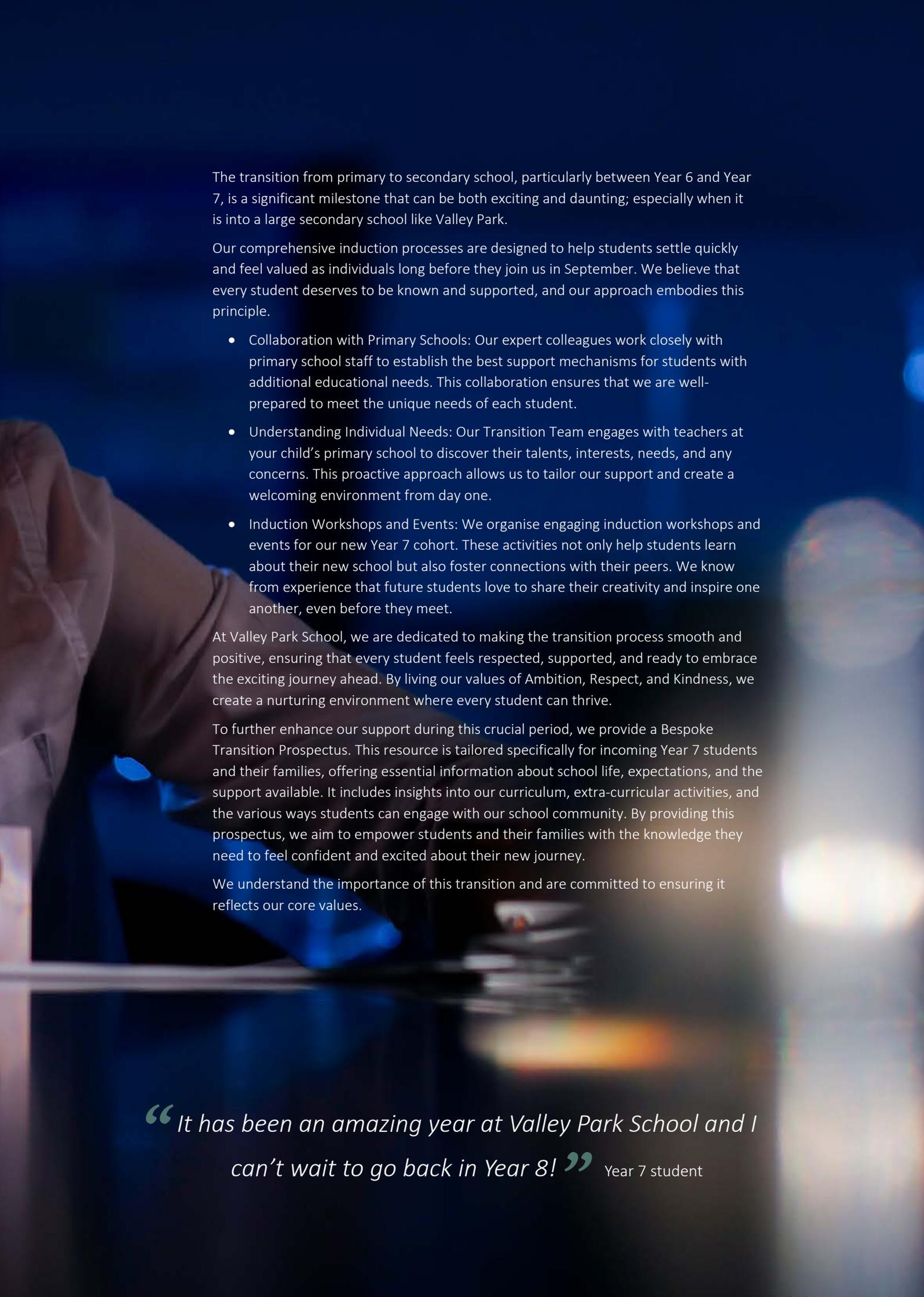
We look forward to welcoming you to the Valley Park School community where, together, we can inspire our students to live out our values every day.

**WE ARE VALLEY PARK.**

**Mr David Jones**  
Headteacher

# Transition





The transition from primary to secondary school, particularly between Year 6 and Year 7, is a significant milestone that can be both exciting and daunting; especially when it is into a large secondary school like Valley Park.

Our comprehensive induction processes are designed to help students settle quickly and feel valued as individuals long before they join us in September. We believe that every student deserves to be known and supported, and our approach embodies this principle.

- **Collaboration with Primary Schools:** Our expert colleagues work closely with primary school staff to establish the best support mechanisms for students with additional educational needs. This collaboration ensures that we are well-prepared to meet the unique needs of each student.
- **Understanding Individual Needs:** Our Transition Team engages with teachers at your child's primary school to discover their talents, interests, needs, and any concerns. This proactive approach allows us to tailor our support and create a welcoming environment from day one.
- **Induction Workshops and Events:** We organise engaging induction workshops and events for our new Year 7 cohort. These activities not only help students learn about their new school but also foster connections with their peers. We know from experience that future students love to share their creativity and inspire one another, even before they meet.

At Valley Park School, we are dedicated to making the transition process smooth and positive, ensuring that every student feels respected, supported, and ready to embrace the exciting journey ahead. By living our values of Ambition, Respect, and Kindness, we create a nurturing environment where every student can thrive.

To further enhance our support during this crucial period, we provide a Bespoke Transition Prospectus. This resource is tailored specifically for incoming Year 7 students and their families, offering essential information about school life, expectations, and the support available. It includes insights into our curriculum, extra-curricular activities, and the various ways students can engage with our school community. By providing this prospectus, we aim to empower students and their families with the knowledge they need to feel confident and excited about their new journey.

We understand the importance of this transition and are committed to ensuring it reflects our core values.

*“It has been an amazing year at Valley Park School and I can't wait to go back in Year 8!”* Year 7 student

# Our Curriculum

At Valley Park School, our curriculum is broad, balanced, well-sequenced and designed to meet the needs of all learners. We aim to equip our students with the knowledge and skills necessary to become valuable, engaged, and respectful global citizens.

Our goal is to achieve an integrated disciplinary approach, where subjects are taught discretely yet are interconnected, allowing students to blur cross-curricular boundaries and deepen their understanding of the world around them. This approach fosters a culture of respect for diverse perspectives and encourages students to embrace learning as a lifelong journey.

In addition to the academic subjects you would expect from a traditional secondary school, we offer a rich experience in Performing and Visual Arts at Key Stage 3. This not only teaches students about these disciplines but also promotes wellbeing and self-care, aligning with our commitment to kindness and personal development.

At Key Stage 4, students have the opportunity to tailor their education to their strengths from an impressive menu of options. This flexibility continues into the Sixth Form, where students can select from an exceptional range of subjects. Furthermore, opportunities for our Sixth Form students are enhanced by access to additional courses across the Valley Invicta Academies Trust (VIAT) campus, fostering ambition and broadening their horizons.

We take our wider curricular responsibilities seriously, ensuring that Careers Education, Futures (Personal Development curriculum), Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), and Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) are thoroughly mapped and implemented, either discretely or as embedded parts of the wider curriculum.

At Valley Park School, we are committed to treating all students with equality and respect. We aim to respond to the needs of every individual, providing tailored support to help them achieve their potential. Our curriculum and pastoral teams work collaboratively to offer bespoke support where needed, including making adjustments to the Key Stage 4 curriculum when appropriate.

We take pride in cultivating respectful citizens, confident individuals, and successful learners who are prepared to take their next steps, whatever their ability. By living our values of Ambition, Respect, and Kindness, we ensure that every student is empowered to thrive in their educational journey and beyond.

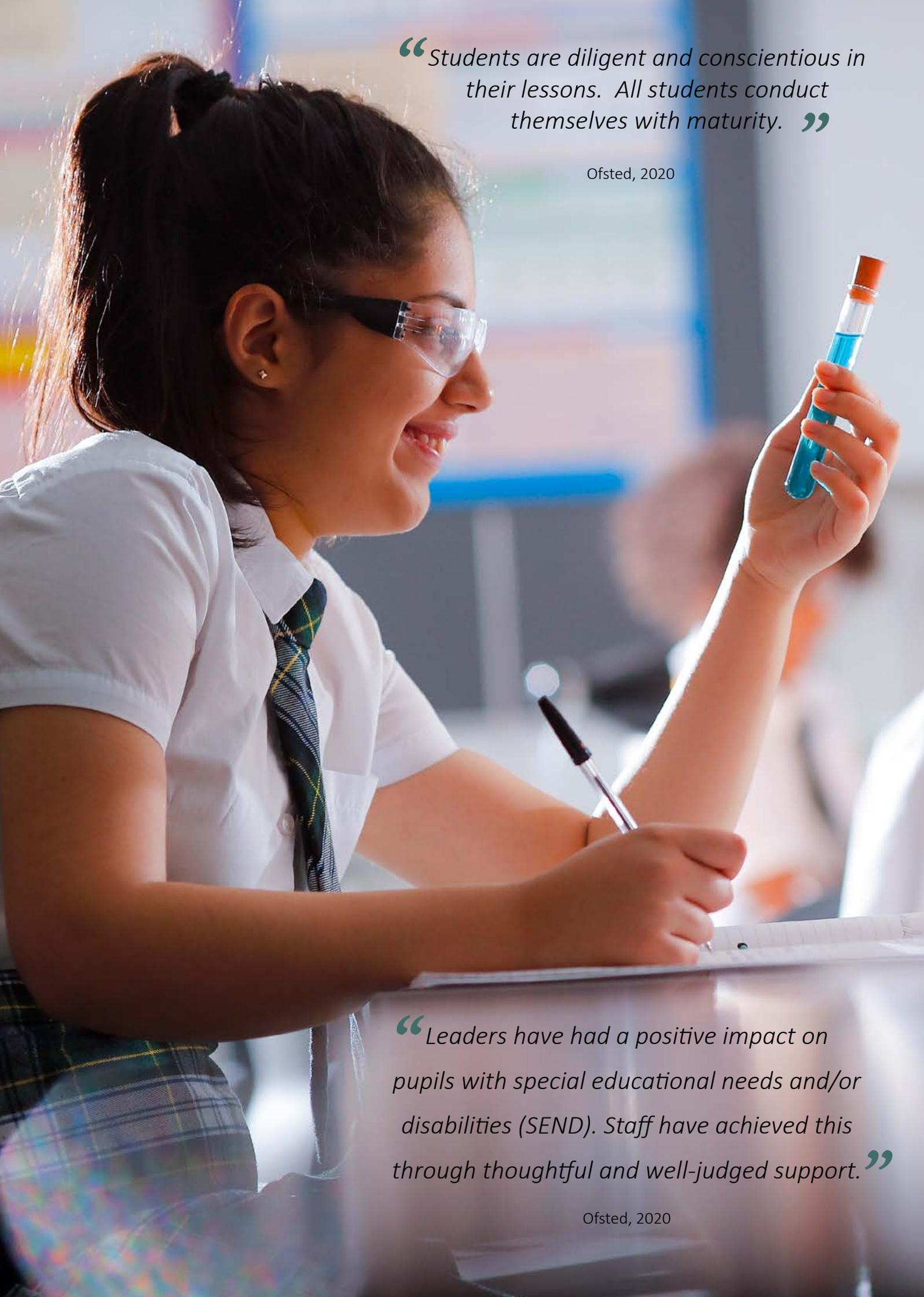


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*Teachers have strong subject knowledge which gives students confidence in what they learn. Teachers check for gaps in understanding. Students act well on feedback they receive. This is a strength of the school's practice. ”*

Ofsted, 2020



*“Students are diligent and conscientious in their lessons. All students conduct themselves with maturity.”*

Ofsted, 2020

*“Leaders have had a positive impact on pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Staff have achieved this through thoughtful and well-judged support.”*

Ofsted, 2020

# Our Pastoral Care

At Valley Park School, Pastoral Care is at the heart of what we do, reflecting our core values of Ambition, Respect, and Kindness. We are committed to providing all students and their families with a reliable point of contact; our pastoral team is here to support learning, celebrate successes, and assist your child with day-to-day challenges as needed.

Working in tandem with our teaching team, our Year Teams —led by dedicated Assistant Headteachers, Heads of Year, and Student Support Managers—offer high-quality, personalised care, guidance, and support. Our focus includes:

- Individual Wellbeing: Promoting both academic and pastoral wellbeing, ensuring every student feels valued and respected.
- Excellent Attendance: Encouraging punctuality and high attendance as a foundation for success.
- Motivation and Attitude to Learning: Fostering a positive attitude towards learning that embodies our values of ambition and respect capped previously.
- Academic Progress and Intervention: Monitoring progress closely and providing relevant interventions to support every student's journey.
- Identification and Response to Individual Needs: Recognising and addressing health, SEND, and other individual needs to create an inclusive environment for all.

We actively encourage our students to share their experiences with school leaders through our Student Voice programme. This initiative empowers students to take ownership of their community and fosters leadership skills that benefit everyone, reinforcing our commitment to kindness and respect.

Developing and maintaining a positive relationship with our local community is important; students need to value the area that they live. We have aligned our House System with the locality linking it to curriculum and extra-curricular trips. This brings, we believe, an understanding and respect of where we live and supports our young people to develop a responsibility and ownership of their community, in turn becoming positive local citizens of the future.

We also welcome the contributions of our parents and encourage their involvement in all aspects of school life, including the development of our vision and values. Regular meetings with our Parent Champions highlight the importance of their input in driving school improvement. We believe that student success is built upon strong home-school relationships, and we are dedicated to fostering these connections to support every student's growth and achievement.



# Our Unique Performing and Visual Arts Offer

At Valley Park School, we are proud to provide a unique Performing and Visual Arts Offer. Our commitment to fostering creativity and self-expression is evident in every aspect of our arts programme, which is designed to inspire students, nurture their talents, and prepare them for future success.

We believe that every student has the potential to excel in the arts. Our curriculum is ambitious and inclusive, offering a diverse range of opportunities in Performing and Visual Arts, including:

- **Theatre Productions:** Students can participate in school plays and musicals, allowing them to hone their acting skills, collaborate with peers, and experience the thrill of live performance.
- **Visual Arts Projects:** Our art curriculum encourages students to explore various mediums, from painting and sculpture to digital art, cultivating their creativity and encouraging them to express their unique perspectives.
- **Music Ensembles and Bands:** We offer a variety of musical groups, including choirs and orchestras, where students can develop their musical talents while building strong friendships and a sense of community.





We believe in the power of the arts to bring people together and encourage kindness within our school community and beyond. Our initiatives include:

- **Community Performances:** Students have the opportunity to showcase their talents at local events, promoting a sense of belonging and pride in their school while engaging with the wider populace.
- **Art Exhibitions:** We regularly hold exhibitions to celebrate the creative achievements of our students, inviting families and community members to appreciate their work and foster connections.
- **Mentorship and Support:** Our experienced staff provide guidance and encouragement, ensuring that every student feels supported in their artistic journey. We also encourage older students to mentor younger ones, promoting a culture of kindness and collaboration.

At Valley Park School, our unique Performing and Visual Arts Offer is not just about developing artistic skills; it is about nurturing well-rounded individuals who embody our values of Ambition, Respect, and Kindness. We are dedicated to creating an environment where every student can thrive creatively and personally, preparing them for a future filled with opportunities in the arts and beyond.

## Valley Park Scholarships

For primary children applying to join us at the start of Year 7, we are proud to offer the Scholarship Programme, which offers enhanced opportunities throughout their time at Valley Park.

Each year, we are able to offer a small number of Year 7 places to Year 6 children, based on their aptitude for one of our three specialist disciplines: Performing Arts, Music and Art.

Benefits currently include instrumental tuition in a specialist instrument/voice for Music scholars, Art resource packs and portfolios for Art & Design scholars and LAMDA examinations for Performing Arts scholars.

We have a Scholars' Day programme, which provides all scholars with masterclasses from visiting professionals.

You can find out more, including about the processes of application and assessment, by visiting [our website](#).

*“We are so proud that our son is part of the Valley Park School family.”* Year 9 Art Scholar's parents

# Our Co-Curricular Programme

At Valley Park School, we believe that education extends beyond the classroom, and our Co-Curricular Offer is a vital component of our commitment to nurturing well-rounded students. Rooted in our core values of Ambition, Respect, and Kindness, our co-curricular activities provide students with opportunities to explore their interests, develop new skills, and foster meaningful relationships within our school community.

Our co-curricular programme is designed to inspire students to pursue their passions and strive for excellence in various fields. We offer a wide range of activities that cater to diverse interests, including:

- **Sports Clubs:** From football and basketball to athletics and swimming, our sports clubs encourage students to engage in physical activity, develop teamwork skills, and promote a competitive spirit.
- **Creative Arts:** Students can participate in drama, music, and art clubs, allowing them to express their creativity and collaborate with peers. Our annual showcases and exhibitions celebrate their talents and hard work.
- **Academic Enrichment:** We provide opportunities for students to engage in academic clubs, such as debate, science, and coding, promoting critical thinking and a love for learning beyond the curriculum.

We recognise that every student is unique, and our co-curricular offer is designed to respect and support individual growth. Through participation in these activities, students learn to:

- **Value Diversity:** Our clubs and societies celebrate the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of our students, fostering an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcome and respected.
- **Build Relationships:** Co-curricular activities provide a platform for students to connect with their peers and staff, creating a strong sense of community and belonging within the school.
- **Develop Leadership Skills:** Many of our co-curricular activities encourage students to take on leadership roles, empowering them to lead projects, mentor others, and contribute positively to the school community.

At Valley Park School, our co-curricular offer reflects our commitment to developing ambitious, respectful, and kind individuals. By providing a diverse range of activities, we empower our students to explore their interests, build lasting relationships, and contribute positively to both our school and the wider community. We believe that these experiences are essential in shaping confident, compassionate citizens who are ready to embrace the challenges of the future.





*“Thank you for all of the opportunities and education that has been provided for the last two years.”*

Parents of Year 8 student.

# Sixth Form

Our popular Sixth Form offers a wide range of courses, tailored to suit each individual student, and our Careers Adviser meets with students during Year 11 to discuss the best possible post-16 options. We understand that some students will wish to pursue specialist courses at college or at another institution, but our careers guidance is sufficiently broad and open-minded to encompass opportunities both within the Valley Park Sixth Form and beyond it.

We offer a blended approach to post-16 qualifications, providing students with the opportunity to study for academic A-Levels, vocational qualifications, or a mixture of both – all of which perform very highly.

Our Sixth Form students, regardless of ability, are exemplary role models for students in the younger years, notably with Year 13 students leading the student body via a team of hard-working Prefects and Head Students.

Our 'Futures Programme' embeds the art of independence and ensures that students develop the skills needed to prepare them for the next stage in their lives. We have links with local businesses, communities, charities and employers so all students are able to utilise their strengths and develop their areas of interests, including leadership, so they can reach their full potential.

We encourage our Sixth Form students to feed back to us regarding their experiences, and to help us to continually review the provision we offer. A recent example of our Sixth Form students taking the lead in order to make changes for the better, was the suggestion that Valley Park should train Mental Health First Aiders – an arrangement that we were able to pioneer with a number of dedicated and passionate Sixth Form volunteers.



*“The Sixth Form is a strength of the school. Students have a broad set of courses to choose from. The teaching is strong, and students show mature commitment to their studies. As a result, they have achieved very well in their examinations.”*

Ofsted, 2020



# Moving On

*“Students speak highly of the careers guidance they received. They are very successful in reaching ambitious destinations.”* Ofsted, 2020

At Valley Park School, we aspire for every student to reach their true potential; we offer pathways to suit our students' differing needs within Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 and we offer guidance to support our students with their onward steps and the decisions they make.

The school offers a careers curriculum and activities for all that broadens students' horizons and opens their eyes to subjects, pathways and careers that they could study from Year 9 onwards.

At Key Stage 4, in particular at the end of Year 10 and the start of Year 11, we offer students the opportunity to explore their post-16 options, both at Valley Park School and beyond; every student has at least one in-depth interview with a specialist adviser, with ongoing support being available where it is needed.

In Year 12, the focus of Careers guidance shifts to exploring post-18 opportunities, whether these be through university (we provide extensive guidance and support the UCAS process, including training students in how to write a high-quality personal statement), college, apprenticeship, the world of work and even gap years.

We have an extensive careers network that is constantly growing, and we have our own alumni network upon which we also draw for pearls of wisdom that specifically relate to our Valley Park students. Our Careers Adviser is well-informed and has a vast number of connections that can help in offering advice and even work-experience. The Careers guidance we offer does not necessarily cease even when your child leaves school.

Many of our Sixth Form students do not leave their Valley Park family behind when they depart – they keep in touch, drop in to see us, and let us know how high they are flying. We are always delighted to hear from them!



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S C H O O L

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