

# Welcome to Parrs Wood

Community • Creativity • Achievement



# Welcome to Parrs Wood, one of Manchester's most successful schools for students in years 7 to 13.

Our ethos is achievement, celebration and reward. We are proud of our strong tradition of academic success and service to the community, as recognised by Ofsted.

The team of experienced teachers, support staff and student leaders are at the core of our success. We set high expectations for behaviour, challenge students in lessons and promote independent study. We are relentlessly dedicated to improving our school and ensuring our students realise their true potential through excellent teaching, learning facilities and pastoral support.

As the biggest school in Manchester, our facilities and size enable us to provide a curriculum that allows everyone to make excellent progress regardless of their background, and as you read this prospectus, we hope to demonstrate to you our genuine belief in young people's potential.

We promise to provide students with opportunities to continue confidently onto university and apprenticeships, or enter the world of work, and ultimately make a positive contribution to society. This pledge is underpinned by our

association with the Greater Manchester Education Trust (GMET), membership of which benefit us with greater resources and leadership.

Together, community is one of our core values. We are proud to be a truly comprehensive and inclusive school that is multi-cultural, multi-faith, with students in a broad range of ability levels. At the heart of this, we recognise that working in strong partnerships with parents is key to building positive relationships that ensures all our children are safe, happy and will succeed.

I remember my own school days as some of the best of my life, and it is with that vision I lead Parrs Wood, providing you with the confidence that your child's education and future here is a sound investment in them.

I look forward to welcoming you into our school community.

**Mark McElwee, Headteacher**



## What Ofsted says about our school:

**'Has maintained a good quality of education'**

**'Strong care, guidance and support'**

**'Pupils are pleased to be part of a culturally diverse and caring community'**

**'Effective leadership'**

**'Strong community spirit'**

**'A tolerant and respectful school community, pupils feel they are listened to by staff and enthusiastically develop their leadership skills'**

**'Pupils are confident that staff deal effectively with any concerns they may have'**

**'The following comment from one parent typifies their views: "The school tries to find ways in which each pupil can shine."'**

**'Leaders and staff have created a tolerant and respectful school community. Neither pupils nor staff tolerate any form of discrimination, including racism or homophobia'**



**Parrs Wood High School**  
Wilmslow Road, East Didsbury, Manchester, M20 5PG  
Tel: 0161 446 8640 Email: [admin@pwhs.co.uk](mailto:admin@pwhs.co.uk) Web: [www.parrswood.manchester.sch.uk](http://www.parrswood.manchester.sch.uk)  
Twitter: [@official\\_pwhs](https://twitter.com/official_pwhs) Facebook: [@PWHS.official](https://facebook.com/PWHS.official) Instagram: [@parrswoodschool](https://instagram.com/parrswoodschool)



## Our values

The School focuses on the core values set out by GMET:

**Community** - we value one another

**Creativity** - we embrace change

**Achievement** - we expect excellence

GMET schools hold themselves to a duty to educate, develop and safeguard students as they would their own children, to secure the highest quality educational experience for all.

We aim to enable students of all backgrounds to acquire the belief that they have the potential to make a positive difference to their lives, and to the lives of others. We aim to support them to develop resilience, independence and the ability to work collaboratively with tolerance and respect, celebrating the diversity within our society.

**Community • Creativity • Achievement**



# Getting started at Parrs Wood

## Applying to Parrs Wood

Admission to Year 7 begins in the autumn term, whereby you will receive information on how to apply in accordance with the current Manchester City Council policy via the Manchester admissions office.

You will be asked to rank the schools in order of which ones you would prefer your child attends, the deadline for which is 31st October. Parrs Wood is a hugely popular school, but by selecting us as your first choice you are likely to secure a place.

## Visiting our school

Of course, we know you will want to get a feel for all your different options. We want people to come and visit us because it's the best way to get a feel for our dynamic and diverse students, see our expert staff in action and get a sense of the scale of opportunities available.

We regularly host Open Mornings and Evenings during the autumn term, however if you are unable to attend these, we always welcome requests to arrange a visit at a mutually convenient time.

## Transferring to Parrs Wood

Thanks to strong links with our local primary schools, we have a well-established induction programme for new students. A range of events and personal interviews, including the opportunity to spend a full day at school in the summer term, ensures the transfer to our school is smooth and free from anxiety. As parents, you will be invited to an Induction Evening, offering the chance to meet our staff and answer any questions you may have.



## Amba

### Directing mental health awareness

Parrs Wood is a great high school to be part of. We are a large school which means you may find yourself feeling overwhelmed. You can be assured that this will not be an issue as we provide many strands of support to guide you through your Parrs Wood journey.

Mental Health and Wellbeing facilities are on hand, such as, a quiet nurturing room based in the hub of the school. The inclusion team are skilled and aware of the importance of supporting and sign posting our young people to the appropriate agencies.



## Reanne

### Promoting equality

Parrs Wood believes in all of us no matter their race, gender, sexuality, disability or religion. The teachers accept and respect everyone. I like that the school has students from all different backgrounds, religion and culture and that everyone is made to feel welcome in the school community.

Parrs Wood is an inclusive place where everyone can feel safe. The school promotes the importance of acceptance, and this allows everyone to be who they are without fear of judgement.



P.E.



Science



Music



Drama



Food Tech

# Facilities

Originally opened in 1967, our main school is now housed in buildings opened in 2000 with 1,500 pupils in Year 7 to 11, while our 400 Sixth Form students are mainly housed in our 18th century Georgian villa, with newly-built cutting edge IT suites, classrooms and a coffee shop.

Our size means we can provide outstanding facilities beyond what you find in a typical secondary school, including dedicated rooms for subject areas such as Technology, Science, Languages, Art, Construction and Beauty Therapy; a large sports hall and fitness suite, and the largest playing fields in Manchester.



Enrichment opportunities

# A day in the life of a Parrs Wood student

“It’s difficult to tell people what a normal day looks like because no day is ever the same. Even lessons vary so much because the teachers are so great at helping us to learn in different ways.”

Sorcha, Year 8

## Starting your day

“One of things I love is that as soon as you walk in you can feel the enthusiasm. The number of students means that there’s a real energy at Parrs Wood that you don’t feel at other schools.”

Peter, Year 9

Every school day starts with Registration in our tutor groups. Once a week this time is used for assembly, and at other times we have lessons from the Personal Development Curriculum, where we can discuss issues such as healthy lifestyles, careers and current affairs.



## Lessons

Your child’s learning experience will be different than at primary school. They will have more teachers because they are subject specialists and expectations are higher, but there is nothing to be worried about; they will be supported every step of the way.

“I particularly enjoy Science lessons because they are so different to my primary school. There is much better equipment here so the practical lessons are interesting.”

Emily, Year 13

As students get older, they have more control over the subjects they learn and are given more freedom to explore independent learning and work in teams, crucial skills for thriving in the real world.

“When selecting my options in Year 9, I wasn’t quite sure what I wanted to do in the future. Fortunately, you get a lot of choice at Parrs Wood so I was able to keep my options open by making a broad selection. In addition to the core GCSE subjects I selected Ancient History, Business Studies and Computer Science.”

Richard, Year 10



## Extended learning (homework!)

Extended learning is a key part of every student’s learning experience and is used to consolidate and further develop learning that takes place during lessons.

All our students’ extended learning tasks are posted for them online. We ask parents to check this regularly to monitor their child’s progress and to be able to discuss their learning with them. We encourage students and their parents to communicate with their subject teachers and Form Tutor if there are any problems.

“I’d be lying if I said I liked homework! However, the school carefully manages how much we do so that we don’t burn out. We’re given extra work that links closely to reinforcing what we’ve done in class – it’s never set just for the sake of it.”

Esme, Year 10



## Enrichment

Our enrichment offer is unmatched. Being such a large school, we are able to offer over 50 clubs. The range of activities is always changing and is led by what students want. If they want to set up a new one, then we’ll help them to do it.

“I helped set up the Origami club, and I’m also a member of the Film club, Choir and Table tennis. I also play for the school Football team. I found it a great way to make more friends and relax whilst doing something I enjoy.”

Mahmood, Year 7



“With GCSEs around the corner, we work very hard. However, the school is great about helping us to do other things that break up the learning. I really enjoy being a member of the Cricket and Table tennis teams, especially when we were Manchester champions and runners-up in the whole of Lancashire!”

Saraf, Year 11

## Timetable: a typical day

8:35

Arrive at School

8:40

Registration

9:00

Humanities

9:50

Maths

10:40

Break

11:00

Science

11:50

English

12:40

Lunch

13:25

Computing

14:15

French

15:05

End of School Day

15:15

After School Clubs

# Reasons to choose Parrs Wood

We regularly ask for student, staff and parents' opinions about the school to find out what they think.

Here are some of the reasons they gave when asked why they think local families should choose to join them in the Parrs Wood community.



## Successful Sixth Form

"Provides continuity of a quality education if students want it." Staff



"There are lots of clubs to get involved in so it's easy to find people with common interests." Year 7 student

## Extra-Curricular Activities



### Our Size

"There's a friend here for everyone because there are so many people."

Year 11 Student



### Celebrating Success!

"There is a concerted effort to celebrate and reward success, such as the postcards teachers send us based on our child's achievements, the Reward Points system that can be swapped for items or star of the week award."



### Rigorous Academic Approach

"Children are pushed to be the best they can be."

Parent



### Excellent Relationships

"The teachers really care about us."

Year 8 student



### Fantastic Facilities

"There are a wide range of sports facilities and so much green space for us to use."

Year 10 student



### Broad Curriculum

"There is a path for every child, thanks to a huge range of subjects – many more than in most schools." Parent



### Mr McElwee's Assemblies!



### High Expectations

"Behaviour blueprint and sanctions policy make people very aware of what is expected of them." Year 10 student

"Behaviour policy prepares you for being an adult: polite, good manners." Year 11 student

### Inclusive & Welcoming

"You feel safe at Parrs Wood because everyone is accepting of one another."



### Benefits of Diversity



"It is great to be able to meet so many new people, who share different backgrounds and are accepting of everyone else."

Year 7 student

# Enrichment

## There's something for everyone at Parrs Wood

We offer over 50 lunchtime and after school activities. Whether your child is sporting, musical, artistic, looking for an extra intellectual challenge or simply wishing to find new ways to relax – there will be a club or activity to suit!

### Drawing on creative talents

Through our Art club we host and organise exhibitions of students' work in school and the local community, including contributing to the annual Didsbury Arts Festival, whilst also supporting the costume, make-up and set design teams for dramatic and musical productions.

### Dancing to their own tune

As a centre for musical excellence, we currently boast a Big Band, String Orchestra, String Quartet, Brass Group, Choirs, Steel Pan Band, Blues Band and a Jazz Band – all with opportunities to perform within school and the local community. Many will remember our Choir's iconic performance as part of Manchester's One Love concert.

### Nurturing tomorrow's leaders

Our students have many opportunities to become involved in Student Voice, from representing their form or year group on the school council, to undertaking a leadership qualification, or becoming a peer mentor.



### In the spotlight

Students have opportunities to take part in major school productions, drama workshops and regular theatre visits, and behind the scenes, we have our own student-led team that support every event.

### Behind the camera

We have our very own production company, SHOUT, which lots of students take part in. They support our technical theatre team with our productions and events, but also have access to development opportunities off-campus, learning from professionals in theatre, TV, engineering and design industries.



### This sporting life

With extensive, well-maintained facilities, our school boasts many Manchester champions, and local/ national representatives. We have teams and/or clubs for Football, Athletics, Badminton, Hockey, Cricket, Table Tennis, Cross Country, Trampolining, Rugby, Handball, Rounders, Ultimate Frisbee and Netball.

### An academic boost

Weekly revision and catch-up sessions are available for most subjects, and for our GCSE students we organise booster sessions ahead of their exams throughout the Easter holidays.

### Best of the rest...

SHE / Chess / Taekwondo / Boxing / Mathematics / Public Speaking and Debating / Architectural / Origami

### Speaking to the world

In our Languages Club students have a safe space to gain extra speaking practise, or learn another language outside of lessons, all the while learning about that country's culture from native speakers.



"One of the best things I've experienced at Parrs Wood is the Duke of Edinburgh programme. To achieve the various awards you have to do a series of challenges that become increasingly more difficult. I accomplished the bronze level, in part by doing 30 hours of volunteering and completing a hike in the Peak District that included wild camping.

Taking part has really pushed me to do new things, particularly taking on leadership roles. The pressure is quite



### Beyond the school gates

We have strong local, national and international links for residential trips, offered to students at all stages throughout their school life. This includes cultural exchange opportunities and subject-based expeditions, as well as cinema and theatre trips.

**Students benefit from numerous educational, community and business partnerships that enrich the curriculum and provide opportunities for personal development.**

## Year 10 Student Profile

### Building skills to target gold

stressful, but I'm pleased to have proved to myself that I can do it. I'm looking forward to doing the silver and gold challenges now!

The programme has shown me that being successful might not be easy, but it's worth the hard work. In the future I plan to become a carpenter and, thanks to the school's support, I've taken on more projects in Design Technology to help achieve my future ambitions."



# Parent partnership

As a parent or carer at Parrs Wood we will support you to play an important role in your child's education. We believe that their success depends on an effective partnership between students, parents and staff.

## Local Governing Body (LGB)

Our LGB is made up of educational specialists, parents, teachers, local council members and representatives from the community. The governing body is responsible for the conduct of the school and for promoting high standards. Parent Governors bring views of the parents, but act as individuals (not as delegates for the parents), with equal status and voting rights as other governing body members.

Leaders from school and GMET work with parents to:

- strengthen the home school partnership
- give the opportunity to question leadership teams
- contribute ideas for improvement
- be part of the future development of Parrs Wood and GMET.

Interested in becoming a Parent Governor, a member of the Parent Forum or more active in the PTA? Please see our website for more details

## Parrs Wood PTA

As a parent or carer you are automatically a member of our Parent Teacher Association (PTA). This provides the opportunity to promote the interests of students, meet other parents/carers, create links between home and school, and participate in the school's decision-making process. The money the PTA raises also provides considerable financial support to the school and our students.

## Active Parents

We provide a programme of activities and courses to develop relationships between home and school. Courses include:

- 'Get Cooking' - engaging with your child's learning through cooking
- 'Parenting your Teen' - offering a practical and friendly resource to aid the transition into adolescence
- 'BOOST' – providing tips in mental wellbeing for mood, thinking, relaxation, assertiveness, motivation, confidence and sleep.

# A school for everyone

We have a strong commitment to inclusion in our school. We want staff and students to be active participants in all areas of school life, using their skills and experience to make sure everyone feels comfortable and supported.

This support takes many different forms, including:

- In-class support
- Individual support
- Group work
- Differentiated curriculum
- 14-19 Optioned pathways
- Access arrangements for exams
- Multi-agency advice
- Counselling

## 'FRED'

Through a fictitious character, FRED, we ask our students to ask themselves what they should do when faced with everyday challenges. To promote equal opportunities, self-awareness, self-esteem and confidence, 'FRED' asks them to consider the impact of their behaviour on others through principles of Fairness, Respect, Equality and Dignity.

## Peer Mentoring

The Peer Education Project promotes fellow students as a resource for their peers, and the whole school community. Our project has taken different forms over the years from Anti-Bullying Counselling to a health drop-in centre. With the aim of reaching fellow students in need of help, mentor training is provided to allow our Student Leaders to assist in lessons, tutor time and exam revision.







## Community • Creativity • Achievement

Parrs Wood High School  
Wilmslow Road, East Didsbury, Manchester, M20 5PG  
Tel: 0161 446 8640 Email: [admin@pwhs.co.uk](mailto:admin@pwhs.co.uk) Web: [www.parrswood.manchester.sch.uk](http://www.parrswood.manchester.sch.uk)  
Twitter: [@official\\_pwhs](https://twitter.com/official_pwhs) Facebook: [@PWHS.official](https://www.facebook.com/PWHS.official) Instagram: [@parrswoodschoo](https://www.instagram.com/parrswoodschoo)

