



Create, Aspire and Excel  
to 'Live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)





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# A Warm Welcome



Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in the Chiltern Hills Academy. I hope you find this prospectus helpful and that it gives you an idea of what the Chiltern Hills Academy can offer your child.

Choosing the right school for your son or daughter is an important decision. Our Academy provides a high quality and challenging education in a secure, supportive and happy environment. We believe in celebrating the talents and successes of students and we are committed to providing the best opportunities for each and every child to discover his or her individual strengths.

Our Academy, which welcomes students of all faiths and of none, fosters an environment in which creativity and innovation can develop and thrive, preparing our young people for life beyond school.

For us, education is a partnership with parents; their support is vital in encouraging their child to give their best and aim high.

Our building development has provided our community with the most wonderful facilities throughout the Academy. The sports hall, sixth form centre, library, design centre, dining area and fully equipped classrooms have given us a dynamic learning environment. We are now one of the best resourced schools in the area. This combined with our high expectations for academic achievement and commitment to clear values will ensure that all young people have the best opportunity for success.

We would be happy to show you around the Academy, to view our students and staff at work. Do come and visit us on one of our Open Days or contact us to make an appointment.

**Mr Kevin Patrick, MEd**

Principal

# Our Values

We provide a safe, inspiring place of learning to encourage achievement and ambition. We guide students to become confident and successful members of society. We foster an environment within which all young people develop the moral and spiritual values which help them to become active, thoughtful and considerate citizens. The Academy is founded on Christian values and principles, our core values are: honesty, respect, compassion, love, forgiveness, self-discipline and hope.



Chiltern Hills Academy is a community that encourages all to Create, Aspire and Excel to 'Live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)

## Create

- We foster creativity, spark imaginations and promote enquiry
- We provide a creative and dynamic learning environment
- We create an equal, harmonious and caring community based on Christian values

## Aspire

- We celebrate success in both learning and personal development
- We instil confidence and provide opportunities that will equip students for life
- We are all proud to achieve in a spirit of community and friendship

## Excel

- We encourage every member of the community to be the best that they can be
- We provide a learning environment nurturing self-belief and extending potential
- We raise ambition helping all to understand the importance of education

**A culture  
of high  
achievement**

**Outstanding  
learning and  
teaching**

**The number one  
school of choice in  
the Chesham area**

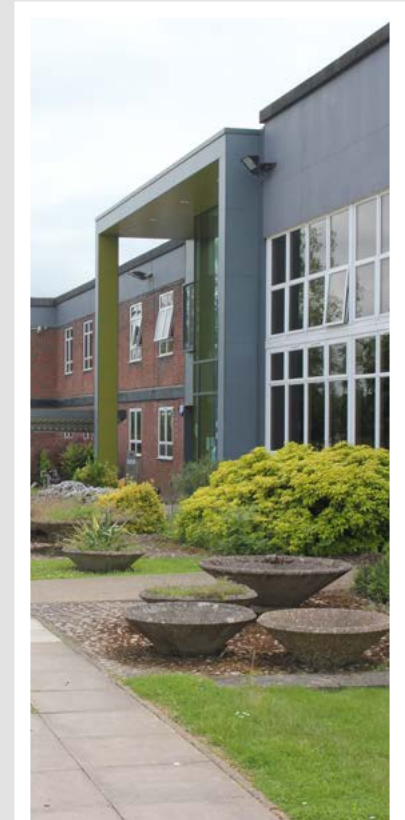
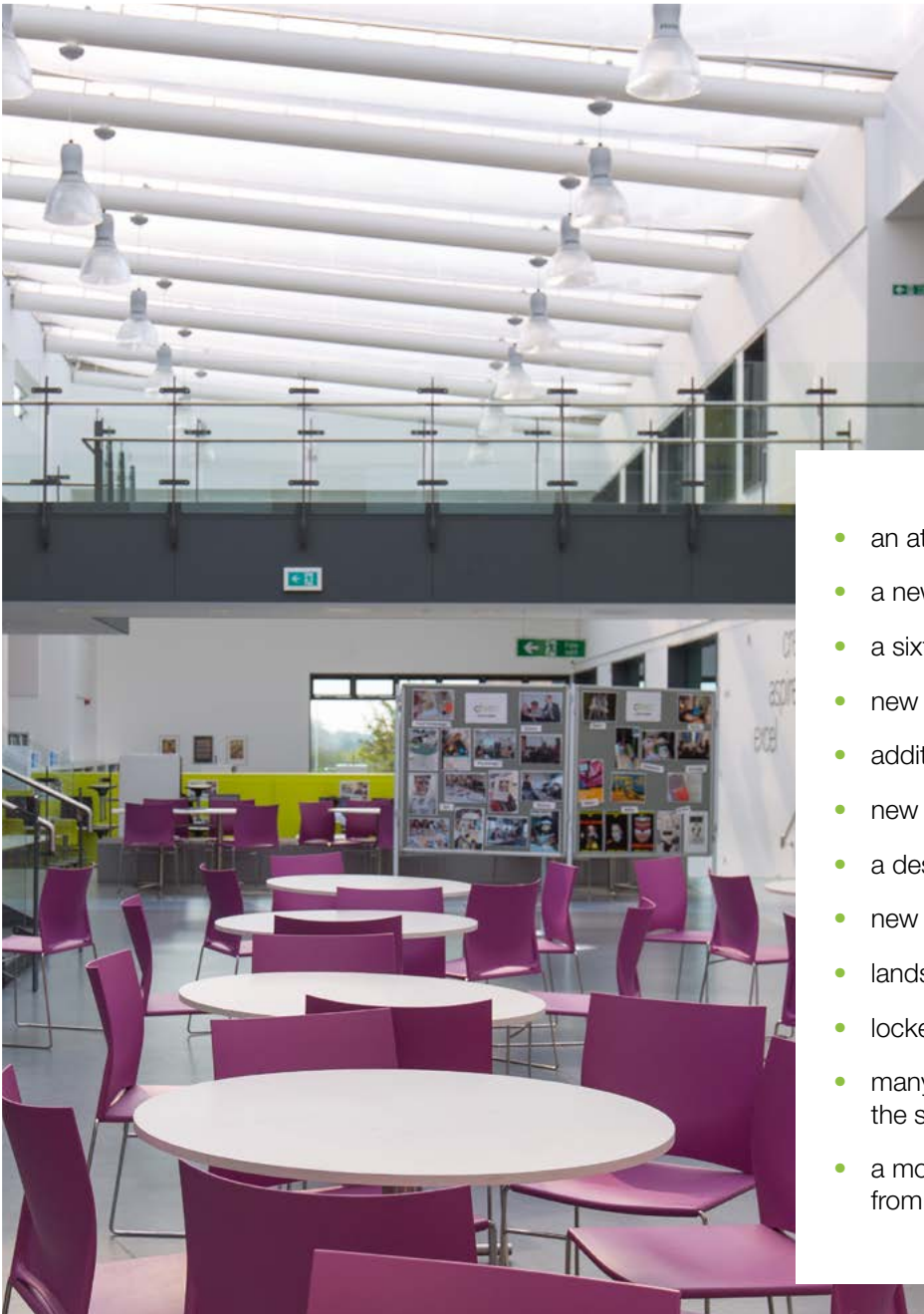
**Shared  
values and  
ethos**

**Maximise  
attendance**

# Our Academy

Working with our sponsors, the Diocese of Oxford, together with Buckinghamshire Local Authority and the DfE our facilities were significantly updated in 2013 and this re-design had provided:

- an atrium with a learning centre and a new dining area
- a new large sports hall and changing rooms
- a sixth form centre with study space
- new science laboratories
- additional classrooms
- new toilets
- a design centre with media and digital design facilities
- new music rooms, practise rooms and a recording studio
- landscaped courtyards for quiet study
- lockers for every student
- many spaces to sit for study or conversation around the site
- a modern network system, accessible at school and from home





# Our Curriculum

The curriculum at Chiltern Hills Academy is innovatively designed; paying close attention to the students and parents we serve in the local community. We provide a broad, balanced and engaging curriculum with a mix of academic, creative and vocational qualifications that demand rigour and depth of understanding. Curriculum areas have age specific, work related learning, built into them to aid understanding of further study in higher level apprenticeships, degrees or the world of work. A daily programme of literacy and numeracy acceleration is delivered in all year groups in the Academy.

During Key Stage 3 all students follow the National Curriculum over years 7 and 8. Students will deepen their knowledge and understanding and embed their skills across a broad range of subjects. All students study Life skills, during which they have the opportunity to understand resilience, how to be productive members of society and about the rules of law and democracy. They also learn about well-being and positive mental health. All students in years 7 and 8 follow our Enrichment Programme as part of our extended school day. We also offer leadership skills to students such as peer mentoring, coaching and Student Voice

In Key Stage 4 all students study English Language and English Literature, Mathematics, and Science, along with core PE, PRE and Life Skills. Through our guided pathways they select four additional courses leading to GCSEs or equivalent from a broad offer to suit their particular strengths and interests.

During their time here, students also have the opportunity to attend many visits and trips to enhance cultural experiences and to further extend the curriculum experience. We offer residential visits such as World Challenge to support global communities in disadvantaged positions.



# Our Students

We promote a healthy lifestyle and enjoyment of learning alongside high achievement.

Chiltern Hills Academy is a calm and orderly environment where students are well mannered and show the highest respect for each other and their community. We have established a culture of high expectations and high achievement, which will require hard work and endeavour from all. We believe that it is important to teach good manners, respect for others and social responsibility.

At Chiltern Hills Academy students will learn the skills and aspirations they need to contribute as creative individuals in the community; resilience, resourcefulness, self-discipline and self-belief. Students are encouraged to be aware and play an active, helpful role in the life of the Academy, the community and the wider world.

## Sports

We offer all major sports and games, as well as some lesser known sports. Our facilities are also used by local sporting clubs including Chesham Rugby Club, Chiltern Athletic Football Club and Chiltern Karate Association.

## Our admissions

The Academy is open to and welcomes families of all faiths and none. We believe that having different faiths in the Academy, and respecting these, generates understanding, tolerance and mutual respect in our students.

## Trips and activities

Field trips and visits are plentiful and diverse, ranging from a ski trip to Europe, history visits to the World War I battlefields, visits to museums and shows in London to visits to Europe to learn about European culture and languages.

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*Pupils have embraced the schools' values and ethos. As a result, they behave well in lessons and the school is calm and orderly.*

Ofsted 2017

## We serve our local community

We work closely with feeder primary schools to ensure that young people have a smooth transition from primary school to the Academy and are ready to start learning and building on their existing academic and creative skills.





# Our Sponsors

The Chiltern Hills Academy is sponsored by the Oxford Diocese and Buckinghamshire County Council.

Our sponsors share our belief that the community, students, parents and staff deserve an outstanding Academy that is the hub of community provision. They bring considerable experience of, and a total commitment to, transforming the lives of all our young people, now and in the future. The Diocese of Oxford is responsible for 279 schools serving nine local authorities.

The Diocese of Oxford and Buckinghamshire County Council enjoy excellent relationships. The success of our Academy benefits from four key areas that are common to both sponsors: long-standing experience in delivering outstanding education, shared beliefs and values, proven commitment to the future of our young people and the continuous focus on raising achievement and attainment.

## Christian Values

The Academy is founded on Christian values and principles through an ethos that promotes personal responsibility, self respect, a valuing of the beliefs and views of others, self confidence and a commitment to success and achievement. Embedded within the curriculum are the Christian values of honesty, respect, compassion, love, forgiveness, self-discipline and hope.

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*The headteacher, leadership team and the governing body are clear about the strengths and weaknesses of the school. Their plans and actions have improved current pupils' knowledge and understanding.*

Ofsted 2017



# Our Sixth Form

The Academy offers post-16 places to existing students and we welcome students from across Buckinghamshire and beyond.

The Academy offers a broad selection of A Levels in all of the main traditional academic subjects. Additionally, we offer creative and vocational courses to ensure that there is an educational pathway for all students in the sixth form.

Sixth form students have their own high quality study facilities, ICT resources and a common room. They are expected to act as role models for our younger students, setting an example of hard work, success and good behaviour.

The Academy's examination results continue to improve with more of our students earning places at top universities. All of our UCAS applicants from last years' Year 13 cohort, received offers and accepted places at a range of universities.





# Our Student Voice

Each year a head boy, head girl and deputy head students are elected from the sixth form; they are responsible for leading the student voice.

Student Voice meet weekly. The head boy and head girl are responsible for chairing each meeting. The outcome from these meetings are then discussed with students and staff.

Representatives from each year group submit their ideas and suggestions and these are used to help in the development of the Academy.

In previous meetings discussions have been varied and have included a review of the menus in the dining room through to the expectations of students in lessons.



*Pupils are happy at the school and like being part of the school community. Key stage 3 pupils are appreciative of the extra-curricular and enrichment options available to them. They recognise that these are only possible because so many key stage 4 pupils and sixth-form student give up their time to help run them.*

Ofsted 2017

Create  
aspire  
excel



# Additional support

It is our belief that young people thrive when they are treated with support and respect in a happy environment and where they are challenged and given many and varied opportunities for personal development.

*The day to day life of the academy is underpinned by seven key values known as the Chiltern Hills 7. They are understood by everyone to be Christian values while students from other faiths and with no religious affiliation recognise their relevance and importance.*

*Students acknowledge the support they receive for their learning and are particularly appreciative of revision sessions for external examinations provided out of school time which are well targeted to their specific needs. Students who join the academy other than at the start of Year 7 and new staff speak of the welcome they experience and how this is a clear exemplification of the academy's values.*

*Students are respectful and understanding of one another's responses.*

SIAMS Inspection May 2015

On joining the Academy each student becomes a member of a tutor group in the charge of an Academic Tutor. These groups are created with great care and forethought, with the aim of achieving a good mix of abilities, backgrounds, friendships and personalities. Their Tutor develops an understanding of the student as they follow him or her throughout their time at the Academy. Our pastoral staff are experienced in helping students overcome various barriers to learning and are able to deal with issues that arise quickly and sensitively.

The Learning Support team, in partnership with parents and other agencies, carefully assesses and regularly reviews the special educational needs of students, developing individual education plans and providing support where required. It is our policy to support students mainly within the mainstream classroom. Our breakfast club and homework club gives young people support on their arrival and study guidance at the end of the day.

The strong bond between home and the Academy is further strengthened through a range of rewards for recognising outstanding achievement in any area and a structured system of sanctions which promotes and maintains good behaviour. We offer an online facility where parents can access information regarding attendance data and ongoing academic achievement as well as a programme of reports and interim reviews. Staff are always willing to meet parents/carers by appointment to discuss specific matters relating to their son or daughter. Supporting our students' personal growth is one of the keys to their success and through our ethos based on values of honesty, respect, compassion, love, forgiveness, self-discipline and hope; this is engendered in our whole student population.

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*Pupils know how to stay safe, and the school's safeguarding procedures are highly effective.*

Ofsted 2017



## Our Governance

The Academy Governing body has fourteen governors appointed by the Oxford Diocese, Bucks County Council, parents, staff and partner organisations.

Governors are drawn from the business and education sectors and many are from the local community. The Governing body also includes the Principal. The Governors are responsible for the corporate governance of the Academy with a significant role in setting the strategic direction and reviewing progress. The breadth of educational and business experience together with the strong local links ensures that the legal duties and strategic planning are undertaken effectively.

Our Parent Forum meetings give parents and carers an opportunity to find out more about the Academy, to make suggestions and to be involved in our development. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity for the Principal to gather feedback on development ideas and to gather feedback from parents and carers.

Should there be any issues with the Academy that cannot be

resolved through the leadership and management structure, these can be raised with the Chair of Governors who can be contacted via the Academy office.

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*Governors are extremely supportive of the school leadership team and work collaboratively to evaluate and identify areas for improvement. They work with the school leaders to ensure that funds can be allocated to support future developments.*

Ofsted 2017



## Our Partners

A very exciting aspect of our Academy is the fantastic local and national partners we work with to create unique experiences and opportunities for our students.

These include Buckinghamshire New University, Amersham and Wycombe College, Hertfordshire University, University of Arts and Oxford Brookes who support the development of the Academy's specialist provision and course programmes.

### Our other educational partners

Throughout their time in the Academy students visit universities and employers, such as Tech Music Academy and Oxford University to help them consider future careers.

Students regularly participate in competitions in technology, food, Mathematics, English and Science STEM days. We work very closely with our partner primary schools especially in sports, design, mathematics, languages and the performing arts giving students an opportunity to show leadership in delivering programmes. Students have also had the opportunity to work on a live project working with designers to illustrate and design an interactive app, which has been shortlisted for prizes nationally.

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*The Diocese of Oxford and Buckinghamshire County Council, the school sponsors, provide effective support to the school.*

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# Our Community

Our school is at the heart of our community.

We are pleased to offer opportunities for the local community to use the excellent facilities at the Academy. Our site is used regularly for meetings, training and by local clubs and associations. Each Sunday morning The Kings Church use the hall and adjoining rooms for their congregation to meet. During the weekend and weekday evenings the local rugby club, Chesham Stags, attract large numbers of male and female players, boys and girls.

We let out our facilities and use this income to improve and develop the site. The sports hall is always in demand and is used by many clubs including: badminton, football and karate. Other spaces that are well used are the main hall, which can accommodate up to two hundred people and the drama/dance area. Each Friday night Community Dance Training hold dance classes in the main hall and on Wednesdays a well-established bingo evening is organised by the PTA for the local residents.



## Our Academy at a Glance

### The Chiltern Hills Academy:

- Is sponsored by the Diocese of Oxford and Buckinghamshire County Council, who have proven track records of improving attainment and providing excellent pastoral care.
- Is driving up standards in core subjects of English, Maths and Science across the Academy and in all subjects achieving record results from year to year.
- Provides programmes of learning and individual support to encourage each student to develop their creative skill of choice.
- Is an inclusive school founded on Christian values, and open to young people of all faiths or none.
- Is staffed by well-trained teachers equipped to deliver outstanding teaching in a modern school environment with state-of-the-art facilities.
- Prepares young people for work or further study through partnerships with commerce, business and educational providers.
- Is a vibrant community resource that local people can use and enjoy.











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