



Great Oaks School



Prospectus



Working together to encourage, inspire and develop confidence in a supportive learning environment.

Contents

- 1 Welcome
- 3 Our Approach
- 5 Curriculum & Assessment
- 7 Clubs & Themes
- 9 Child-Centred Learning
- 11 Working Partnerships
- 13 Building Success
- 15 Visits and Admissions



Great Oaks School



Welcome

Great Oaks School is a large secondary school for young people with a range of complex learning difficulties including autism and speech and language difficulties. Our pupils come from all over Southampton as well as many from Hampshire.

At Great Oaks we strongly believe in working partnerships. We work closely with the other special schools in Southampton as well as local mainstream secondary schools, a range of multi-agencies and with parents. Pupils at Great Oaks benefit from an experienced and dedicated staff team who have skills working in a range of curriculum areas as well as an understanding and empathy for the needs of young people with learning difficulties. We benefit from many different specialist facilities including sensory rooms, theatre lighting and seating, IT suites and a sports hall.













Although we are a large school we aim to put the needs of the young people in our school at the heart of everything that we do. Through promoting a growth mindset, we help to ensure that all pupils irrespective of their learning difficulties or past educational attainment can make real progress and be enabled to succeed.

Andy Evans

Great Oaks Guarantee

At Great Oaks students will have the opportunity to:

- Stay overnight on a school residential
- Perform in front of an audience in a theatre
- Represent the school in a sporting event
- Visit an art gallery, a cinema, a theatre and a theme park
- Play an instrument
- Attend before and after school clubs and lunchtime clubs
- Learn sign language
- Run a business and complete work experience
- Learn through mobile technologies
- Raise money for good causes
- Learn at least 15 new leisure skills
- Volunteer

-  Creativity
-  Knowledge
-  Skills
-  Diversity
-  Challenge
-  Communication
-  Independence
-  Growth
-  Responsibility
-  Personalisation
-  Security
-  Resilience
-  Fun

Our Approach

Our Mission statement and values were developed by staff, pupils, parents and governors. The words on the acorns were suggested by staff, pupils and parents when we asked the question 'What is important about Great Oaks'



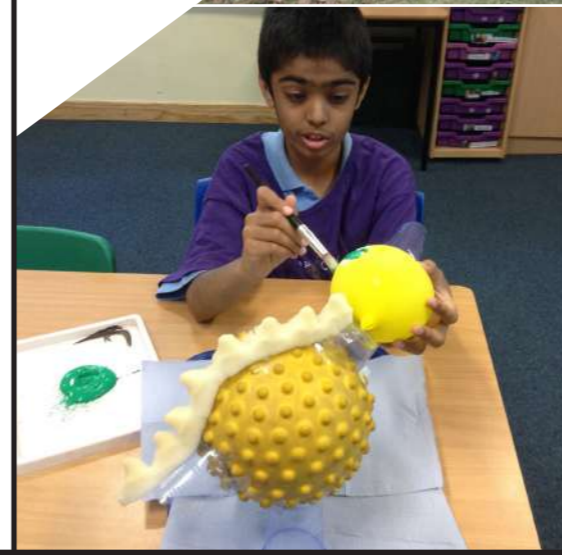
Working together to encourage, inspire and develop confidence in a supportive learning environment.



We create an environment in which students, their families and our staff are happy, safe and engaged in exploring our world.



We actively promote our belief that each child and adult feel valued for their own personal worth and contribution.



We find pleasure through succeeding in our learning: building skills, knowledge and understanding.



Curriculum

At Great Oaks our curriculum is centered on 7 strands each led by a designated lead teacher and planned to meet the needs of all learners across the school.

There is a particular emphasis on developing communication, literacy, numeracy and personal and social skills. We tailor our curriculum to individual students with a focus on creativity and the use of the latest technology. Our aim is to instill the self esteem and confidence in our young people to inspire them to engage and to take pride in their learning.



5

Our curriculum strands

1 Core skills
English, Maths, Communication

2 Technology
Computing, Food and design technology

3 World Studies
Science, History, Geography and RE

4 Leisure
P.E, Friday Activities, Clubs.

5 Arts
Art & Design, Music

6 PSHE and Citizenship
Skills for Life

7 Personalised Learning

Assessment

At Great Oaks School we use a continuous scale of assessment called 'Go Steps'. Students are assessed on various curriculum frameworks that have been designed by Great Oaks teachers specifically to match the learning needs of our students. Assessment is continuously ongoing to ensure students working towards accreditation are working at the appropriate level needed.

Most students are assessed using Earwig, an online tool, which measures progress, attainment and achievement. Parents will be able to access Earwig to see students targets, photos and progress.



Great Oaks are working closely with Rosewood School on the implementation of Individualised Profile Assessment Curriculum Target Setting (ImPACTS) for children and young people who are developmentally very young. The assessment enables very small steps of progress to be identified and a holistic program to be developed putting the individual at the centre. The five key skills areas are mapped onto the Great Oaks curriculum offer, ensuring whole school participation and involvement in activities.



6



Working together to encourage, inspire and develop confidence in a supportive learning environment.



Clubs & Themes

Weekly Themes

At Great Oaks we have a different theme every week for the whole school community to focus on. Our weekly themes are underpinned by citizenship and PSHE which are key to our student's development. The themes include national events such as remembrance day, national elections, Fair Trade week, Book Week and International Week.

The weekly themes are a focus for tutor times and are often integrated into the different subject areas of the curriculum. There are whole school assemblies on Mondays and Fridays as well as pathway, class and year group assemblies all of which are based on the whole school theme. The weekly themes reinforce the togetherness and community of the school.



Friday afternoon activities

Every Friday afternoon Great Oaks School collapses the curriculum timetable for students of all ages and abilities to socialise and enjoy time together through a chosen activity and shared interest. There are a range of fun and engaging activities on offer, students are encouraged to try out new activities to develop their skills each term.

Lunch time clubs

Students can access Sports, Soft Play, ICT and Arts clubs during this time throughout the week. The lunchtime clubs enable pupils to develop relationships and learn to use their free time in a more structured way.

After school clubs

After school clubs are available and accessible to all students.





Child-Centred Learning

Year 7

Class size: 4 - 12 students

Year 7 follow a formal curriculum mainly taught by their class teachers. The teachers work closely together to plan and deliver a specialised foundation curriculum. At the end of Year 7 students will move on to access one of the 3 Pathways. This decision is made based on progress, need and knowledge of the students.



Pathway 1



Class size: 4 - 8 students

Students on Pathway 1 follow a thematic approach to learning with a key class team that stay with them for the majority of the week. The environment is multi-sensory and structured with learning differentiated to the students' needs to ensure they reach their full potential. The PW1 curriculum is delivered in a way that is enjoyable and engaging and meets developmental needs.

Pathway 2



Class size: 8 - 12 students

Students on Pathways 2 have the consistency of being class based, but travel to some subject specialist teachers. The classes have specific support staff who will accompany the group to each lesson. This provides the students with consistency and the support of adults they know well. Pathways 2 teachers will adapt the Pathways 3 curriculum to meet the needs of their groups.

Pathway 3



Class size: 8 - 12 students

Students follow a modified secondary curriculum, accessing subject specialist teachers, facilities and resources. The first 40 minutes of every day is spent with class tutors. The curriculum encourages personal development such as independence and social skills. The specialist teachers are supported by an SSA linked to their subject and the students will access these lessons independently.

Harcourt

Class size: 2 - 4 students

An off site facility where a holistic view of education is utilised. Many of the students find it difficult to access a formalised curriculum. The approach puts the learner at the heart of every activity, where their interests and needs are focused on. Students can access the Harcourt Road group at any age or stage.



Phoenix

Class size: 2 - 4 students

Students who access the Phoenix Nurture group require key interventions to enable them to be ready to learn. There has seen to be a need for an individualised curriculum and environment. Students can access the Phoenix Nurture group at any age or stage.





Working Partnerships

Great Oaks is part of the Solent Special Education Trust which comprises of Great Oaks school and College and Rosewood Free School. The Trust employs over 300 staff and supports the learning of over 320 children with SEN from ages 2 - 19.



Multi-disciplinary Working

- Speech therapy
- Hearing impairment
- Visual impairment
- Physical therapy
- Saints Foundation
- Solent Special Education Trust
- Local SEN school partnerships
- Governors
- Community
- Chaplain
- Southampton Inclusion Partnership
- Strictly Education
- Rose Road and other Respite providers
- Social Services and the Jigsaw Team
- Local Colleges and adult service providers
- Southampton City Farm
- Southampton Music Services
- Solent NHS
- Speaking Space

Parent Partnerships

We have a dedicated welfare officer and organise a range of events and support for families.

Building Success



Students will be prepared to access accreditation in years 10 and 11. Our intent is that every student will achieve their maximum potential. Students will be prepared for moving on at the end of year 11 into either secondary mainstream colleges or our own Great Oaks college as appropriate. We enter students for appropriate programmes of accreditation that mean each young person will be challenged in terms of their abilities and rewarded by attainment at the appropriate level.

The following forms of accreditation are offered at Great Oaks School.

ARTS Award
(Bronze and Silver)

Entry Level
(Art, English, Maths, Science, Signalong and Life Skills)

Functional Skills
(English, Maths)

WJEC Entry Pathways

ASDAN
(Bronze and Silver, Towards Independence, Hospitality, Short Courses)

PE Leaders Award

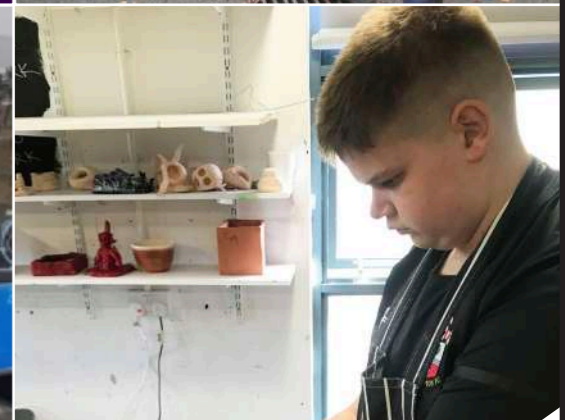
AQA Unit Awards

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

GCSE



A range of vocational accreditation is offered to Year 11 students





Visits & Admissions



All pupils who attend Great Oaks School have an Education and Health Care Plan.

Admission to the school is through our Local Authority - Southampton City Council.

We welcome visits to the school from parents of prospective pupils. Please contact the school directly to arrange this.

For more information on our Post 16 provision please see our college prospectus.



Great Oaks School

How to contact us

Headteacher: Andy Evans
Chair of Governors: Sue Williams
Chair of Trustees: Tony Boyle

Great Oaks School
Vermont Close
Winchester Road
Southampton
SO16 7LT

Telephone: 02380 767 660
email: info@greatoaks.school
www.greatoaks.school



Great Oaks School

Headteacher: Andy Evans
Chair of Governors: Sue Williams
Chair of Trustees: Tony Boyle

Great Oaks School
Vermont Close
Winchester Road
Southampton
SO16 7LT

Telephone: 02380 767 660
email: info@greatoaks.school
www.greatoaks.school