



*"In Pursuit of Personal Excellence"*

# PROSPECTUS

Test Valley School | Roman Road | Stockbridge | SO20 6HA

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# Welcome ...

Welcome to Test Valley School!

My name is Caroline Lowing, and I am the Head of School at Test Valley. I am hugely proud to be the Head, and it is a privilege to work with such a dedicated team and such inspiring young people.

We are in the process of joining HISP (Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Southampton and Portsmouth) Multi-academy Trust - I have been with the MAT since September 2021. Previously, I was Deputy Headteacher at Harrow Way School in Andover and I have been a teacher for nearly 20 years.



**Ms C Lowing,  
Headteacher**

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# Vision and Aims

## Vision

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Our aim is to offer a high quality learning experience which prepares our pupils to be independent, confident and well qualified young people who are able to make a positive contribution to society and continue to build on their learning beyond school.



We will provide a curriculum that enables all of our learners to:

- enjoy learning, make substantial progress, fulfil their potential and exceed expectations across all areas of the curriculum
- become increasingly eager and independent learners who are able to contribute and have a voice in how they learn now and in the future
- develop high levels of literacy, numeracy and computer literacy
- prepare for a rapidly changing world of work
- become more aware of their place in their community and the opportunities they have to contribute as active members
- develop a range of positive attitudes and attributes in respect of themselves and others eg adaptable, risk taking, enterprising, enquiring, challenging, determined, motivated
- Acquire knowledge and understanding to inform their thinking and relevant to the changing world they will enter as adults

We will use all available resources to provide a positive learning environment, engendering respect for each other within the caring ethos of the school.

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# High Quality Teaching and Learning



We seek to educate our pupils to the highest standards and equip them with the skills, aptitudes and qualities they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

Pupils will be grouped for teaching and learning in a way that best matches their needs and the demands of the subject. The organisation of teaching groups may change in order to make real-time adjustments to maximise learning.

As a rural school, we aim to use our environment well for teaching and learning - taking pupils outside the classroom and into the wider community where possible. Our setting offers the opportunity for learning in a place that promotes health and wellbeing.



We encourage our pupils to gain increasing independence in their learning in order to develop their self-confidence as life-long learners. Our home learning tasks reinforce this approach and foster the skills pupils need to organise and work by themselves. We offer a wide range of opportunities to celebrate and reward all in their *“Pursuit of Personal Excellence”*. Children who have additional or Special Educational Needs are supported in school and, through the Hampshire Local Offer - (<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/localoffer.page>)



**‘In many of the lessons visited, teachers were observed challenging pupils to work them at an even higher level’ (Ofsted 2017)**



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## Some of our recent feedback



**“A”** has had a very positive start at Test Valley School. Please pass on our thanks to all your staff for making her feel so welcome and helping to integrate her into the secondary school environment in what are strange times for us all (Parent)

So very impressed with Test Valley School, **“J”** loves it and I am so impressed with all the staff and help given” (Parent)



**“We** have been so pleased we chose Test Valley school for our son! It’s a small school with a real community feel and its size means the staff get to really know the children as individuals. Recent changes have been put in place which have shown the school is on a very positive journey! Most importantly our son is happy and enjoys going into school each day!” (Parent)



**“Any** contact that we have had with the school has been very positive and very helpful, staff have been absolutely fantastic!” (Parent)



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# Enjoy and Achieve beyond the Classroom

## Pupil Leadership at Test Valley School

At Test Valley School, we are very proud of our Pupil Leadership opportunities. Pupil leaders are the very best ambassadors for the school and are the embodiment of our core values. Pupil leaders will be visible at school events as well as supporting pupils around school

There are pupil leadership opportunities in every year group, these are overseen by our Year 11 prefects. These are chosen because of their positive outlook on school life, with evidence of participation in the wider life of school and an exemplary attendance and punctuality record.

Pupil leadership opportunities include: -

Pupil Council: - To allow pupils a clear voice in the life of the school and encouraging deeper pupil involvement.

Curriculum Committee: - To reflect on the visible and invisible curriculum and offer feedback on the way that the curriculum is received by pupils.

- Evaluate what pupils are learning
- Understanding everyone's intentions within the curriculum offered.
- Be open with pupils' revision techniques and what is really learn within each subject.

Eco Committee: - To reduce the carbon footprint of the school, keep the school clean and save money on electricity that can be put towards education or new facilities.

Charity Committee: - To arrange a pupil-based response to charity requests and National Charity Events, working in conjunction with the Eco, Wellbeing and Events committees.

Events Committee: - To produce inter-house events for the school, such as sports days, StockFest, academic challenges and working co-operatively with the over events leaders to enable various charitable, wellbeing and Eco events.

Well being and Equality: - To provide a safe space for discussion of emotive issues and to work towards every pupil feeling confident and accepted in the school environment.

Digital Ambassadors: - To help pupils, staff and parents understand the digital world around us and to ensure that we are all: -

- Digitally aware – understand the online world
- Digitally responsible – ensuring that we act appropriately online to keep ourselves and others safe
- Digitally resilient: - ensuring we are able to cope when things go wrong and know where we can seek help and support safely.

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# Enjoy and Achieve beyond the Classroom

We are keen to extend our pupils' learning outside of the specified curriculum and encourage maximum participation. Often these are some of pupils' most memorable experiences.

All pupils are strongly encouraged to take part in a range of sporting activities, learn to play an instrument, join the choir or samba band, take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, go on a theatre trip, join a drama or dance club or take part in a concert with their own band. Residential experiences include ski trips and visits to a number of different countries including France, Germany, Poland, Italy and USA.



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## School Routine

The school day starts at 8.50 am and finishes at 3.20 pm.

08:50 – 09:25	Tutor
09:25 – 10:25	Period 1
10:25 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 11:45	Period 2
11:45 – 12:45	Period 3
12:45 – 13:20	Lunch
13:20 – 14:20	Period 4
14:20 – 15:20	Period 5

The school office is normally open throughout the day from 8.30am to 4.30pm (4pm on Fridays). The number is 01264 810555. Messages may be left on the 'answer phone' at other times. The school's email address is: [office@testvalley.hants.sch.uk](mailto:office@testvalley.hants.sch.uk)

Pupils are not allowed to leave the premises during the school day.

## Communication

Partnership between home and school is a fundamental part of a child's success. The school website provides general information about the school. Parents can also sign up to our email database on the school website to receive notice of key letters and other information, including signing up for a Moodle Parent Account to access information on their child's progress online. Parents are invited to events to discuss their child's progress and have the opportunity to be involved in aspects of the school's development including through our PSA.



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## Home Learning

At the Test Valley School we recognise the importance of Home Learning for all pupils in order to deepen, enhance and consolidate their understanding and to develop essential communication, study, research and reference skills. We therefore believe in the value of pupils working in different settings and, with independence.

Parents are asked to support their child with their studies and to liaise with the school by signing the Handbook each week and making any appropriate comments. Not all home learning tasks will necessarily be written work; the type of home learning will vary according to the age of the pupil and the subject taught.

As a guideline, DfE recommended time allocations are:

Years 7 and 8 45 - 90 minutes each school day

Year 9 1- 2 hours each school day

Years 10 and 11 1½ to 2½ hours each school day

## School Uniform

The school uniform policy sets out to encourage a sense of belonging in the school. The uniform expectation is clear and the uniform itself is intended to be both practical and smart. The uniform requirements can be found on our website; these are non negotiable because we believe that the uniform represents a commitment to learning and the ethos of the school. From September 2021 all our young people will be expected to be in the new uniform.



## Catering

During the day there are two breaks during which food is available from the school canteen or pupils may eat food brought from home. There are designated areas for eating and the school operates a cashless catering system. Free meals are available to those children who are eligible.

## Admissions Policy

Hampshire County Council is the admission authority for Test Valley School. The admission arrangements are determined by the County Council, after statutory consultation: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions>

For the normal admission round, all preferences will be considered simultaneously and ranked in accordance with the admission criteria. If more than one school can offer a place, the parent's highest stated available preference will be allocated.



## Absence and Attendance

We want all our pupils to have a positive school experience and be able to unlock their potential. At Test Valley School, we expect parents to meet their legal obligations to ensure excellent punctuality and attendance and will work in partnership with you to overcome any barriers to strong engagement into school. The year leader has overall responsibility for the academic progress safeguarding and attendance of individuals in their year.



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# Careers Education and Guidance

Careers Education and Guidance is taught through event days and the tutor based PSHE programme from Year 7 through to Year 11. In addition, visiting speakers address assemblies and subject teachers help pupils explore careers related to their subjects. The school also provides parent information evenings, some of which provide careers information and support.

In Year 7 pupils explore adult pathways and career structures within organisations and develop their understanding of further and higher education.

Pupils take part in an event day called 'The Dream Day' which is split into two halves. In the first half pupils take part in a simulation game where they make a start at thinking about where they would like to live, what transport they think they would choose to use and lifestyle choices. They are given a random job, at which point a lot of exploration and discussion take place before moving onto the second half of the day. This involves exploring a career and creating an information sheet all about something they would like to do. The day culminates in celebrating their outcomes.

In Year 8 pupils explore self-awareness, employable skills, transferrable skills and their strengths and bias towards different occupational areas before looking at what their future could look like and future proof careers.

Pupils take part in an event day called 'Get Inspired' run by the Education Business Partnership South. This is an interactive event that inspires young people to consider areas of work they may never have thought of, and which helps them to understand how they might get there with the support of colleges and other providers.

Year 9 explore their red lines regarding making decisions, share career ideas, investigate reasons for making choices, rate their subjects and profile their skills. This year is pupils' Curriculum Choices year prior to Key Stage 4 and pupils take part in a 'Futures Day' where they attend a variety of workshops giving them the opportunity to talk to pupils who are currently taking part in KS4 courses. They also take part in Apprenticeship, University, Paths Post 16 and Profiling workshops. This day is also supported by a "Curriculum Evening" for parents and pupils when they can talk to staff about the variety of courses on offer at KS4. This is then further supported by a Parents Evening.

In Year 10 pupils explore what their future lifestyle may look like, they investigate the person they are and want to become, they discover the geographical locations of all the further education providers in the area and the qualifications required to study the different levels of courses on offer. The tutor-based programme is topped off with a soft skills awareness activity. Event days include a day entitled 'Put your money where your mouth is, supported by Lloyds bank, the event attempts to contrast different future pathways and understand much more about the cost of living and difference a well-paid job can make to their future. Towards the end of Year 10, pupils are involved in an ambassador event day which enable them to find out about different colleges and talk with employment ambassadors. Andover college kindly provide a college taster day enabling pupil to visit the college and try out courses they express an interest in.

In Year 11 pupils complete a CV or personal statement to support their next steps, they move through the transition process of exploring courses, formalising their plans through a futures portfolio before applying for courses or apprenticeships. A visit to the area 'Careers Fair' attended by local colleges, careers advisers and work-based training providers gives pupils the opportunity to gain face to face discussions and open doors to their future.

A Personal Adviser, Careers Guidance from the local Hampshire Future Careers Information Service provides advice and guidance to all pupils in Year 11 and selected pupils from Years 9 and 10 throughout the year.

The full careers programme can be viewed on our website detailing all the opportunities available to pupils in each year group.

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# Sport and Physical Education

The school is proud of its PE Curriculum and encourages pupils to not only participate in core teaching time lessons but also in extra curricular sporting activities. There is also the opportunity to take a GCSE course in Physical Education as well as the Sports Leader's course. There is an extensive extra curricular programme, including inter house and inter school competition as well as taster sessions and regular training/coaching. All activities are run either by adults in school or by qualified coaches.



We coach a variety of sports teams and clubs and enter teams at both District and County levels where suitable. Matches range from County Cup competitions to the entering of teams in local leagues. Pupils then have an opportunity to represent the District Schools' Sports Association in Athletics, Cross Country, and Football. This can lead on to representation at county level and still further to national level. Where there are no district teams, pupils have the opportunity to go directly for County trials.

There are two specialist indoor spaces, the gymnasium and the sports hall. Outdoor facilities include:

- a football pitch with junior and senior goals
- a rugby pitch
- court area 3 netball courts and 1 basketball court
- two outdoor basketball hoops
- an outdoor swimming pool
- a 400m athletics track



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# School Structure and Organisation



## Pastoral System

Each pupil is placed in a tutor group and their Form Tutor is responsible for the everyday matters related to their welfare and progress. Tutor groups register at the start of each day in the morning and the Form Tutor is the first point of contact between the parents and the school. All matters relating to your child's well being and progress will be communicated through the Form Tutor in the first instance. There is a Year Leader who oversees the academic progress, attendance and wellbeing of every child in the school.

## ELSA/Counselling

Everybody deserves to feel emotionally well and at Test Valley, we all take responsibility for the education of the whole child as well as looking after one another: everybody matters. There are times where people need a little extra support and in this in mind, we offer Emotional Literacy Support Assistance as well as individual support from adults in school. Test Valley School also offers Art Based Support to pupils on a one to one basis. Again, the adult leading the activity is trained and experienced in work of this nature. We have a dedicated wellbeing room, all Year 7 engage in a 6 weeks support group.

Each child is also in a house which links to the ethos of the school. The 3 houses are



## Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE)

Health Education, which includes Sex Education, is an essential part of the National Curriculum and forms an integral part of the School's Personal, Social and Health Education programme. PSHE is delivered through tutor sessions and supplemented by other events. The School's Relationships and Sex Education programme places particular emphasis on developing a caring and responsible attitude towards relationships. It aims to help pupils to understand the importance and role of the different types of family and to consider the part it can play in happy and fulfilling relationships. Attitudes towards relationships are considered alongside the moral and social issues involved. We intend to support parents in equipping pupils with the knowledge upon which to make informed decisions, to develop responsible attitudes to their own lives and to show consideration of others.

### Year 7

Autumn 1 How we learn	Autumn 2 Money management	Spring 1 Health and well-being	Spring 2 Careers	Summer 1 E-Safety	Summer 2 Sex and relationships
Recovery Curriculum	Getting a job, minimum wage	Body image	Career Pathways	How to report	Intimate relationships
Ground Rules	Opening a bank account	Impact of social media	BTEC qualifications	Indecent images	Peer pressure
How we learn	Saving for the future	Bullying/peer pressure	Careers in the forces	Cyber bullying	What is consent?
Managing Home learning	Budget challenge	Developing self-esteem	Linking subjects to career path	Online shopping	Why have sex?
Metacognition	What is gambling?	Healthy exercise	Career videos	Crowd funding	Contraception
Memory Retrieval		How to be mindful	Career videos		What is sexting?
Spaced learning		Being mindful			

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# School Structure and Organisation

## Year 8

Autumn 1 How we learn	Autumn 2 Money management	Spring 1 Health and wellbeing	Spring 2 Careers	Summer 1 E-Safety	Summer 2 Sex and relationships
Recovery Curriculum	Getting a job, minimum wage	Body image	Career Pathways	How to report	Intimate relationships
Ground Rules	Opening a bank account	Impact of social media	BTEC qualifications	Indecent images	Peer pressure
How we learn	Saving for the future	Bullying/peer pressure	Careers in the forces	Cyber bullying	What is consent?
Managing Home learning	Budget challenge	Developing self-esteem	Linking subjects to career path	Online shopping	Why have sex?
Metacognition	What is gambling?	Healthy exercise	Career videos	Crowd funding	Contraception
Memory Retrieval		How to be mindful	Career videos		What is sexting?
Spaced learning		Being mindful			

## Year 9

Autumn 1 How we learn	Autumn 2 E-Safety	Spring 1 Careers	Spring 2 Sex and relationships	Summer 1 Money management	Summer 2 Health and wellbeing
Recovery Curriculum	How to report	Red lines	Stereotypes	Debit cards	Ideals of body image
Ground Rules	Harassment and stalking	Guess my career	History of LGBT+	Credit cards	Body image - media
How we learn	Managing risk online	Rate my subject	Marriage	Contactless payment	Eating disorders
Managing Home learning	Comparison of people	Rate my subject	Positive and negative relationships	Online shopping	Healthy lifestyles
Metacognition	Positive viral content	My skills profile	Abusive relationships	What is gambling?	Resilience
Memory Retrieval	Consolidation	My skills profile	Peer pressure		Self-harm
Spaced learning					Self regulation online

## Year 10

Autumn 1 How we learn	Autumn 2 E-Safety	Spring 1 Sex and relationships	Spring 2 Careers	Summer 1 Money management	Summer 2 Health and wellbeing
Recovery Curriculum	How to report	Equality	Crystal Ball	Hire purchase	Stress and anxiety
Ground Rules	Online gaming	Domestic abuse	Personal branding	Direct debits	Getting organised
How we learn	Virtual footprint	What to revise	Personal branding	API rate	Emotional health
Managing Home learning	Big data	How to prepare for exams	College and 6 <sup>th</sup> form types	Budgeting	Stresses and solutions
Metacognition	Social media careers	Legal rights in marriage	Level 3 qualifications	Ethical consumerism	Getting support
Memory Retrieval	consolidation	Legal rights relationships	Soft skills	KS4 wages	Getting support
Spaced learning		Coercive control		Student finance	Building self esteem

## Year 11

Autumn 1 How we learn	Autumn 2 careers	Spring 1 Health and wellbeing	Spring 2 E-safety
Recovery Curriculum	CVs and personal statements	Getting into gear for exams	How to report
Ground Rules	College courses	Stress and managing it	Internets and stress
How we learn	Futures portfolio	Help! I'm stressed	Fake news
Managing Home learning	College applications	Keeping perspective	Online banking
Metacognition	Options reflection	Work life balance	Internet revision
Memory Retrieval	Apprenticeships	Sleep, natures treat	consolidation
Spaced learning		Keeping active	



## Parent Partnership

We value our partnership with parents based on a shared sense of purpose and commitment to wanting the best for your child - our pupil. We ask that you work in partnership with us. Our home-school agreement seeks to clarify what the school is aiming to achieve and sets out the role of the school, parents and pupils in this vital partnership. The following points highlight how you can support your child in school:

- see that your child attends school regularly, is punctual, is properly equipped and in uniform.
- make the school aware of any concerns or problems that might affect your child's work or behaviour, contacting the Form Tutor or Head of Year, as appropriate.
- provide notes in cases of unavoidable absence and if leave of absence has to be requested for any reason to apply in good time for school consideration to be given\*.
- support the school's policies and guidelines for behaviour and discipline, both when your child is in school and is travelling to and from school.
- support your child in home learning and checking their daily stamps.
- attend parents' evenings and annual discussions about your child's progress.

(\*Leave of absence must be sought in advance for school consideration to be given.)



## Parent Teacher Association

Test Valley School PTA is a registered charity run by parents, teachers and friends of Test Valley School. The purpose of the PTA is to help enhance the activities and environment for pupils and employees by running fun, fundraising activities to reinvest in the school. Our fundraising activities are numerous and add to the community and social life of the school – from movie nights, discos to hotdog stalls and raffles!

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## Contact Details

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