



RIVINGTON PARK

~Independent School~

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RIVINGTON PARK
~Independent School~



PROSPECTUS



Welcome



to Rivington Park Independent School



"AN OUTSTANDING SCHOOL"

OFSTED REPORT JANUARY 2010

AN INDIVIDUALLY-TAILORED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Thank you for taking the time to read our School prospectus.



WE BELIEVE THAT A GOOD EDUCATION IS THE PASSPORT TO SUCCESS IN LIFE. THE CARE AND EDUCATION THAT YOUR CHILD EXPERIENCES IN THE EARLY YEARS CAN BE OF SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER IMPORTANCE AND VALUE THAN ANYTHING THAT FOLLOWS.

For over fourteen years parents have valued the unique qualities that Rivington Park offers for their children - the care and concern we extend to all, the range of activities provided and the breadth of the curriculum offered.

We are passionately committed to providing the very highest standards of education and child-care for our pupils. Each child is treated, cherished and taught as **an individual** and encouraged to

flourish so that they become independent and confident learners with strong community values.

At the same time, within this bespoke learning environment, exemplary standards of pupil conduct and commitment are insisted upon.

Rivington Park Independent School is a small co-educational school based at Knowle House in the woodlands of Rivington on the edge of the West Pennine Moors. It is within easy access of Bolton, Wigan, Chorley and Blackburn.

The Senior School opened in September 2005 and we have developed (and continue to develop) the space and specialist resources to accommodate classes up to a **maximum** of 16 pupils. We now deliver an enhanced secondary curriculum for young people up to the age of sixteen.

We would be delighted should you wish to visit us and tour the School and observe lessons on an ordinary working day. Please call in at any time or, if you prefer, please telephone to discuss your situation or to make an appointment.

We look forward to meeting you.

Michael Ruaux BA (Hons) PGCE
Head Teacher



THE PHILOSOPHY AND AIMS OF THE SCHOOL



Our philosophy is based on some simple and straightforward principles:

- *We are totally committed to small class sizes.*
- *We insist upon teaching of the highest standards.*
- *And above all we recognise and teach our students as individuals.*

By promoting academic achievement, a questioning mind, independent study skills and clear moral and social values, we equip our young people to thrive in the modern world.

Through approaching our students as individuals we are able to discover and develop each one's natural abilities and help them achieve their maximum potential.

Added value

Examination results in recent years have clearly demonstrated the success of our individually-tailored teaching and learning principles.

Some of our pupils have achieved in excess of 30 additional GCSE grades than would normally be expected for their ability, based on CAT 3 test predictions – a remarkable improvement. Pupil attainment is closely monitored and consistently profiled as they progress through School, starting in the Reception Class. CAT 3 testing is undertaken for every Year 4 pupil and re-tested in Year 7.

This procedure enables School to establish a clear base line on which to measure 'added value' as pupils progress through Key Stages 2, 3 and 4.

Our 2010 Ofsted Inspection Report identified that these principles were generating 'outstanding progress' for many pupils - and across a wide range of abilities.

Gifted and Talented

Our 'Gifted and Talented' learning programme further demonstrates our commitment to the individually-tailored teaching approach.

We have developed excellent systems to identify students with special gifts and have created bespoke learning procedures to enhance these skills and abilities.

These include, for example, withdrawal for critical thinking and tuition in Accelerated Learning Techniques. Progress is achieved via a series of 'building blocks' rather than through a strictly linear approach. This is especially useful in the teaching of modern foreign languages, for example, which are taught from Reception Class onwards.

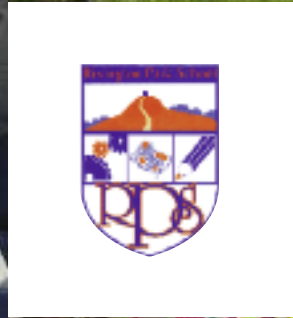
A family atmosphere

We believe that children will only realise their true potential in happy, relaxed yet firmly disciplined and secure surroundings. This is what we strive to create at Rivington Park.

We expect all students to understand, care for and value each other, their immediate environment and their place in the global community. Staff, pupils and co-workers must feel secure, valued and confident.

And, as a school that is owned by its teachers and parents, a close working partnership is readily achieved.





“TEACHERS HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF ATTITUDES TO LEARNING AND BEHAVIOUR AND THE PUPILS RISE TO THIS CHALLENGE!” OFSTED REPORT JANUARY 2010

THE CURRICULUM

Wherever possible full use is made of our unique location and a great deal of teaching and learning takes place out-of-doors.

Specialist enrichment of the Primary Curriculum

At Rivington Park all primary age children enjoy a degree of specialist subject tuition. For example, modern foreign languages are taught for 3 hours per week from Reception Class upwards.

Junior age children receive specialist teaching in science, humanities, foreign languages, art, drama, PE and access to the secondary school facilities. Identification of gifted and talented children is formalised from Year 3 onwards.

The Core Curriculum (Years 7-9) provides a syllabus which broadly follows the National Curriculum. However, flexibility exists to allow students to develop their own strengths and interests by extending either the breadth of subjects studied or the depth of learning in the subject areas.

For example, we depart from the formal curriculum for topic- or activity-based study weeks throughout the year, linked to themes currently being explored by School and promoting investigative, creative and challenging learning.

Such themes have covered an Environmental Field Study Week, Creative Work inspired by the artist James Goldsworthy, a French Culture and Language Week and a Sports Week.

We believe that such Study Weeks help develop those non-academic interests which are essential for every child's future. Team working and inter-personal skills are encouraged so that students not only become confident, enthusiastic learners but also develop the mutual respect and understanding that allows them to socialise happily.

Facilities

All classes have networked access to PCs and multimedia projection facilities.

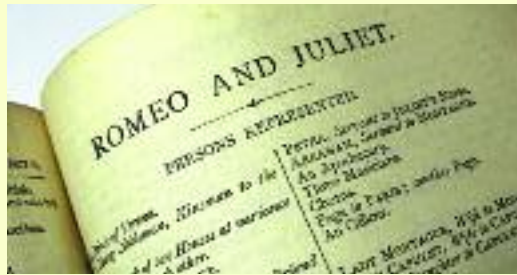
The School enjoys a fully functioning Science laboratory and access to good sports, drama and performing arts facilities.





English Language/Literature

The teaching of English follows the National Curriculum closely. A great deal of emphasis is placed on cross-curricular links with drama, media studies and other aspects of the performing arts. Students are encouraged to engage in extended, reasoned debate and to develop confidence in speaking publicly.



Science

All sciences are taught as separate subjects and are compulsory for GCSE.

During Years 7-9 the sciences are also explored as cross-curricular subjects including links to Health Awareness, Environmental Science, Geography and Personal and Social Education. Numeracy and Literacy are also promoted through the teaching of sciences, and the subject is used to develop students' investigative skills both through independent study and via group projects.

Mathematics

As with English and Science, the Mathematics curriculum follows the National Curriculum closely with the benefit of flexibility to extend or broaden the programme of study. A science and mathematics Master Class is available for our most talented mathematicians and scientists.

Humanities

The Humanities include History, Geography and Religious Education. These are taught as separate subjects in Year 7, although Field Work activities may combine more than one of these subjects where appropriate. Trips and Field Study activities are an integral part of the Humanities curriculum throughout Years 7-9.

Music

All students are encouraged to experience and enjoy music. As well as being part of the formal curriculum music makes a vital contribution to many wider areas of School life. School has a choir and a growing Brass Band. Instrumental and Brass tuition is available for all students who wish to participate.

The Recorder Group is an established part of Middle School and School has a good range of musical resources.



"PUPILS MAKE GOOD AND SOMETIMES OUTSTANDING PROGRESS IN THEIR LEARNING"



Modern Foreign Languages

French and Spanish are taught throughout School from Reception Class upwards.

School intends to pilot Mandarin in academic year 2010-11, reflecting our increasingly global outlook in which partnerships with schools in China and Rumania are being developed.

Our language staff have a record of outstanding GCSE success in this subject area. As a school we are passionate about encouraging conversational foreign languages as a living subject promoted across the curriculum. Links with overseas schools and joint projects in science, languages and humanities are a strong feature of our planning.

Information and Communication Technology

This is taught as a cross-curricular subject in all subject areas although it is also taught as a dedicated subject for one period each week.

Students are expected to become comfortable with the use of Information and Communication Technology to prepare work in all subject areas, make presentations to fellow students involving multi-media resources and become familiar with the use of digital photography. The latest commercial software is used.

Art and Design

In Years 7-9 students are given the opportunity to experience as many different forms of visual creative expression as possible. These include the traditional areas of drawing and painting, ceramics, textiles and design. School exploits the fabulous resources of our idyllic Rivington environment to provide inspiration and fieldwork.

GCSE Art is an option for Year10 students.

Links with media studies and the performing arts are a strong feature of the Year 9 curriculum. Students are encouraged to join in musical activities at social functions and in public performances. The latest computer composition software is used in the Music Room, and keyboard and percussion are taught to all students.

Pastoral Care and the role of the Tutor

All our teachers have a tutor role. As part of a very small community they are closely involved with all our students and are ready to support all aspects of pupil development.

Children learn best when they are happy and secure. We achieve this by providing clear guidance when needed and creating a positive environment for the relaxed exploration of social, interpersonal and ethical issues. Discussions take place in many subject areas including religious education, PSHE,



science and history. Tutors also make use of circle time, role play and debate to explore student concerns and support personal development.

Extra-curricular activities

Extensive extra-curricular activities are already provided and will increase as the school roll and the number of teaching staff increases. Some clubs operate after school and many operate during lunchtime. These include Recorder Club, Choir, Brass, Keyboard and Strings, Instrumental Lessons, Brass Band Practice, Environment/Science Club, History Society, Spanish Club, Chess Club, Outdoor Pursuits, Sports and various Sport Practice clubs and training sessions.

School runs an annual Ski Trip to Aosta in the Italian Alps every February for Year 4 pupils upwards.

Sport and Teamwork

Participation in sport is actively promoted by School and a considerable amount of time is devoted to the development of sporting skills. Currently, specialist coaches contribute to football, cricket, fencing, swimming and gymnastics tuition. Football, hockey, netball, basketball, running and athletics are also included as extra-curricular activities. We provide tuition in fencing – one of the original Olympic sports! Several pupils currently fence competitively at regional, national and international level.

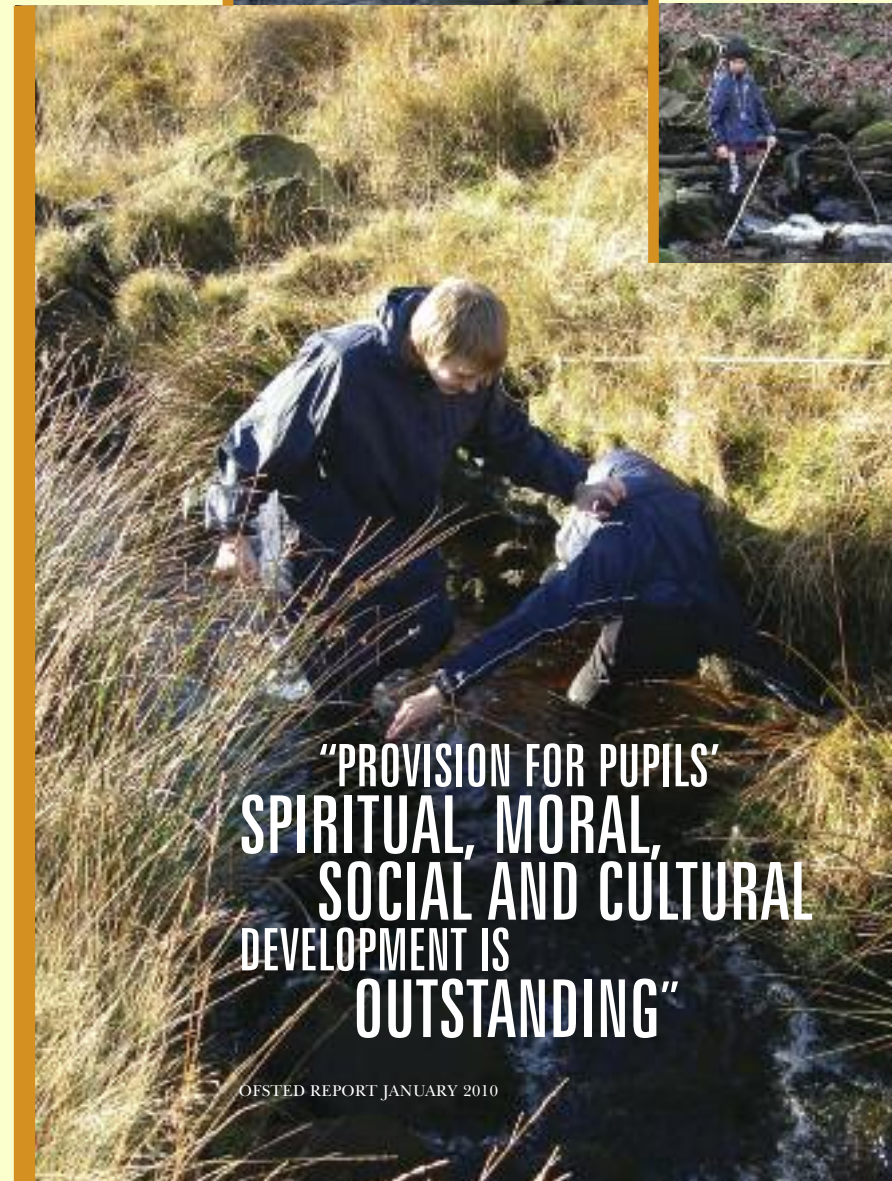
Personal achievement is rewarded at all levels, and as the number of pupils increases we look forward to much greater participation in inter-school competitions. School has multi sports facilities on-site and makes use of a range of very local venues to deliver a balanced sporting timetable.

Outdoor Pursuits

Rivington Park School has a very active outdoor pursuits programme which includes rock climbing, kayaking, gorge scrambling and hill walking. These are led by well-qualified specialist instructors and develop self-confidence, team working skills and a love of the outdoors. Curriculum time is made available for all pupils to experience these activities although rock climbing and kayaking are part of the extra-curricular timetable.

From Year 9 onwards these outdoor pursuit skills lead naturally into the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme which School actively promotes.

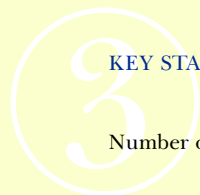
An outdoor pursuits based residential week is traditionally run either in the Lake District or Knoydart in Scotland. These trips, for Year 7-10 students, are extremely popular and generate a great sense of team work which we find translates directly to improved group working skills in class.



**“PROVISION FOR PUPILS’
SPIRITUAL, MORAL,
SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT IS
OUTSTANDING”**

OFSTED REPORT JANUARY 2010

SENIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM



KEY STAGE 3 (YEAR 7-9)

Number of 55 minute periods allocated per week

Subject	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
English	4	4	4
Drama	2	2	2
Mathematics	4	4	4
Biology	1	1	1
Physics	1	1	1
Chemistry	1	1	1
History	2	2	2
Geography	2	2	2
Religious Education	1	1	1
French	2	2	2
Spanish	1	1	1
Music	2	2	2
Art/Design & Tecnology	2	2	2
ICT	1	1	1
PSE	1	1	1
PE	3	3	3



KEY STAGE 4

Year 10 GCSE Options

It is difficult to anticipate the eventual shape of the Senior School Examination options. These may alter depending on the additional teaching experience of staff yet to be appointed. However, we can indicate the core options that will be offered and some of the extra subjects that our current staff can make available.

Mathematics	Classical Civilisation
Additional Mathematics	Geography
English Language	Religious Education
English Literature	French
Drama	Spanish
Biology	Chemistry
Latin	Business Studies and IT
Physics	Economics
Modern World History	Art
Information & Communication Technology	Music

The School Day

Our day begins at 08.45am for registration and form period.

8.55am-9.50am	Lesson 1
9.50am-10.45am	Lesson 2
10.45am-11.00am	Morning Break
11.00am-11.55am	Lesson 3
11.55am-12.50pm	Lesson 4
12.50am-1.45pm	Lunch
1.45pm-2.40pm	Lesson 5
2.40pm-3.30pm	Lesson 6

For security reasons we do ask that you inform our staff if children are to be released at any time to anyone other than those names you have authorised and with whom we are familiar.



The School Year

The School Year operates from September to July for 36 weeks divided into three terms – Autumn, Spring and Summer

School Holidays consist of two weeks at Christmas and Easter plus six weeks in Summer.

There are two one week half-term breaks during Autumn and Spring and a two week break in the Summer Term. Precise dates of all holidays will be circulated to parents in advance.

Naturally, no pupil may be absent from School without prior permission, except in the case of sickness when a telephone call or message should be given and a written note forwarded when the child returns.

Admission

Admission to Rivington Park Independent School for Year 7 (and beyond) is primarily by informal interview.

There is currently no entrance examination.

The interview with the Head Teacher will include a review of the latest available Primary School Reports, with Level 4 attainment in English and Mathematics in year 6 SATS being a condition of being offered a place in School. The Head is happy to consider requests for admission part way through an academic year should circumstances require it.

It should be noted that students in Year 6 at Rivington Park have first refusal of a guaranteed place in Year 7.

Admission is open to children of all denominations and faiths. Children may join the Primary School in the September following their fourth birthday and our admissions policy gives priority to applications from children who have attended Rivington Park Nursery, although this is by no means a condition of being offered a place.

Overseas candidates should provide equivalent assessment evidence for numeracy and verbal reasoning skills or elect to take an entrance examination.

Uniform

The uniform for School may be obtained from Andrew Leach Sportswear, 78 Lee Lane, Horwich. Tel: 01204 697624

Fees and Terms & Conditions

The latest fee structure, detailed Terms & Conditions, Application Forms and pupil documentation may be obtained from the School web site www.rivingtonparkschool.co.uk

Prospectus

This Prospectus outlines the broad principles on which School is run and our intentions for the development of the Senior School. It is not part of any agreement with parents and may quickly become out-of-date. Parents wishing to make specific reliance on any statement in this document should seek written confirmation of that statement before accepting the offer of a place.

