



Academy Prospectus 2011 - 2012

 **Oasis**

academy
shirley park



Student and Principal Welcome

We all achieve excellence through integrity and care

*"It's a great place to be."
(Year 8 student)*

*"There is a passion for every student to do well."
(Year 11 student)*

Welcome to our Oasis Academy Shirley Park prospectus. Mr Denham, the Principal, asked us to write the introduction to the prospectus and to think about what we achieve and what we aspire to achieve.

First and foremost we love our Academy; it's a place where students come first, and we are the most important part of every school day, week, month and year. We are proud that being included and accepted for who you are, no matter where you come from, what background you have or what beliefs, is at the heart of our Academy. We value and celebrate

diversity. Our founder Steve Chalke said "our students care passionately about their neighbour, their community and their planet. Thinking globally but acting locally."

We have a broad and balanced 21st century curriculum that includes a comprehensive 'extend and enrich' programme. Staff are committed and passionate about ensuring that all children, in every lesson of every day, reach their potential. We are supported by an outstanding pastoral structure that includes a four house system as well as very experienced House leaders and Heads of Year.

Students are offered a variety of clubs and extra-curricular activities. These include, sports, writing skills, science, extra language support, art, DT, music... the list is endless.

As students, we can tell you that the aspirations of our fellow students include being psychologists, doctors, lawyers, teachers, architects, archaeologists, company directors and much more. What staff do is help us reach our potential by supporting and challenging us to go above and beyond what we can imagine.

We leave you with a quote from Aristotle: "we are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." We believe this is a much better quote than Mr Denham's "it ain't what you do it's the way that you do it" (Bananarama c. 1980).

Tia Weeks - Year 7

Jamie Snadden - Year 7



"The Academy provides enrichment classes and good resources to learn." (Year 8 student)

"I like the way we are taught and the changes since becoming an Academy." (Year 9 student)

Learning and Teaching

Key Stage 3 – 11-13 (Phase 3)

Students no longer sit national tests at the end of Year 9. This allows us to be more flexible and creative with the curriculum, thus further stimulating their interest in learning. The curriculum continues to be broad and balanced with a clear focus on the development of skills and talents. Students have a voice in mapping the route through their curriculum which includes beginning their GCSE courses in Year 9. Some parts of the curriculum in Year 7 are built around literacy competencies; this enables students to learn at their own pace.

Key Stage 4 – 13-16 (Phase 4)

A full complement of GCSEs is supplemented with specialist diplomas and BTEC courses. Students entering Phase 4 take courses that will enable them to achieve English Baccalaureate: English; Maths; at least two Sciences; History or Geography; and a Modern Foreign Language. Some students begin GCSEs and others Level 2 courses in Year 9; others may take three years to complete Key Stage 4.

Assessments and Results

Results are available as a hard copy from the Academy and on the Assessments and Results page of our website.

Admissions

Oasis Academy Shirley Park is a non-selective Academy open to students of all religious faiths and those of no faith.

If you are a parent or carer of a student currently in Year 6 and wish to apply for a place at Oasis Academy Shirley Park (Secondary Phase) in Year 7 for the following September, or if you are applying for a place in any other year group, you should complete a Common Application Form available either online or by hard copy from Croydon Council (t: 020 8176 6400 x63673). There is no Supplementary Information Form.

Where there are no spaces available in any year group, a waiting list is in operation.

Admission Criteria

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. After the admission of pupils with statements of Special Educational Needs where the Academy is named on the statement, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out below:

- a) Children in public care (Looked after Children) at the time of application, ie. a child in care, who is in the care of the LA or provided with accommodation by that authority. Any application made within this category must be supported by a letter from the relevant LA (Children's Services) Department;
- b) Children for whom a particular school is appropriate on genuine medical grounds. Such applications will be decided by the Academy Governing Body or nominated panel. (Applications on medical grounds will only be considered under this criterion if they are supported by an attached written statement from a doctor. This

must demonstrate that there is a very specific connection between the child's medical need and the Academy requested).

- c) Children whose sibling(s) currently attend the school (including the Sixth Form) and who will continue to do so on the date of admission. The term "sibling" means a full, half, adopted or fostered brother or sister. Sibling criteria may apply where, at the time of application, a sibling is expected to be on roll (including in the Sixth Form) when the child starts at the Academy. If the sibling unexpectedly leaves the Academy after the offer has been made, the place must not be withdrawn on these grounds. The Academy will request proof of relationship;
- d) Children who live nearest to the Academy, calculated using the Local Authority's computerised system. Distance will be measured in a straight line from the centre of the student's permanent home address to the Academy's main entrance. For shared properties, eg. Flats, the centre will be taken from the centre of the building.

* The child's permanent home address is where he or she normally lives and sleeps and goes to school from. Addresses involved in child-minding (professional or relatives) are excluded. Proof of residence and parental responsibility will be requested during the admissions process. If false or misleading information is used to gain entry to the Academy, the offer of a place will be withdrawn. The LA must be notified of any changes of address immediately. Failure to do so could result in the child being denied a place.

Tie-Breaker

If there are more applicants than there are places remaining within a particular category, and where there are siblings or there is no difference in distance from home to the Academy for two or more children, random allocation will be used to allocate the final available place(s).

Please note, the admissions criteria mirror those of Croydon Local Authority. There is an appeals process, and the admission authority follows the nationally agreed code for admission appeals.

The All-Through

Oasis Academy Shirley Park provides an all-through education experience for learners between the ages of 3-18.

Through an innovative and dynamic approach to learning we incorporate the Children's Centre, Primary and Secondary phases, and the newly opened Post 16 provision. Our all-through nature is the platform from which we further improve learners' academic achievement and raise their aspirations, confidence and self-esteem.

Pastoral Care

At Oasis Academy Shirley Park the pastoral care of our students is of integral importance in everything we do. As highlighted in our recent Ofsted report, the Academy's pastoral care system is a strength which our students speak highly of. All students belong to a form group supported by a form tutor. The form tutor will support your child holistically, focussing on both academic achievements including curriculum pathways, and their emotional wellbeing, ensuring your child is able to learn effectively and meet their academic targets.

At Oasis Academy Shirley Park, we aim to nurture a student community who support and care for one another, sharing experiences and knowledge.

We see much merit in students encouraging one another and believe this peer support further motivates students to succeed.

During the summer term prior to your child's transfer to the Academy, we aim to visit each transferring child's primary school so that we have all the information required to be able to give your child the best possible start to their secondary school career. In support of our Year 7 students in their transition to our Academy we offer a wide range of support strategies including an induction day that focuses on team building. For our most vulnerable learners, at transition we offer Art and Design workshops and further bespoke support packages to

enable all students to have the best opportunity for success with their transition to secondary school life.

Throughout the academic year, parents are invited into the Academy for a Target Day where the academic progress of your child will be reviewed. This is an opportunity for form tutors to receive information from your child's subject teachers and provide feedback to parents/carers on progress made. There are also traditional parents' evenings held for each year group at least once per year. This provides a further opportunity for parents/carers to meet key staff, including subject teachers, and learn about your child's progress and targets.

House System

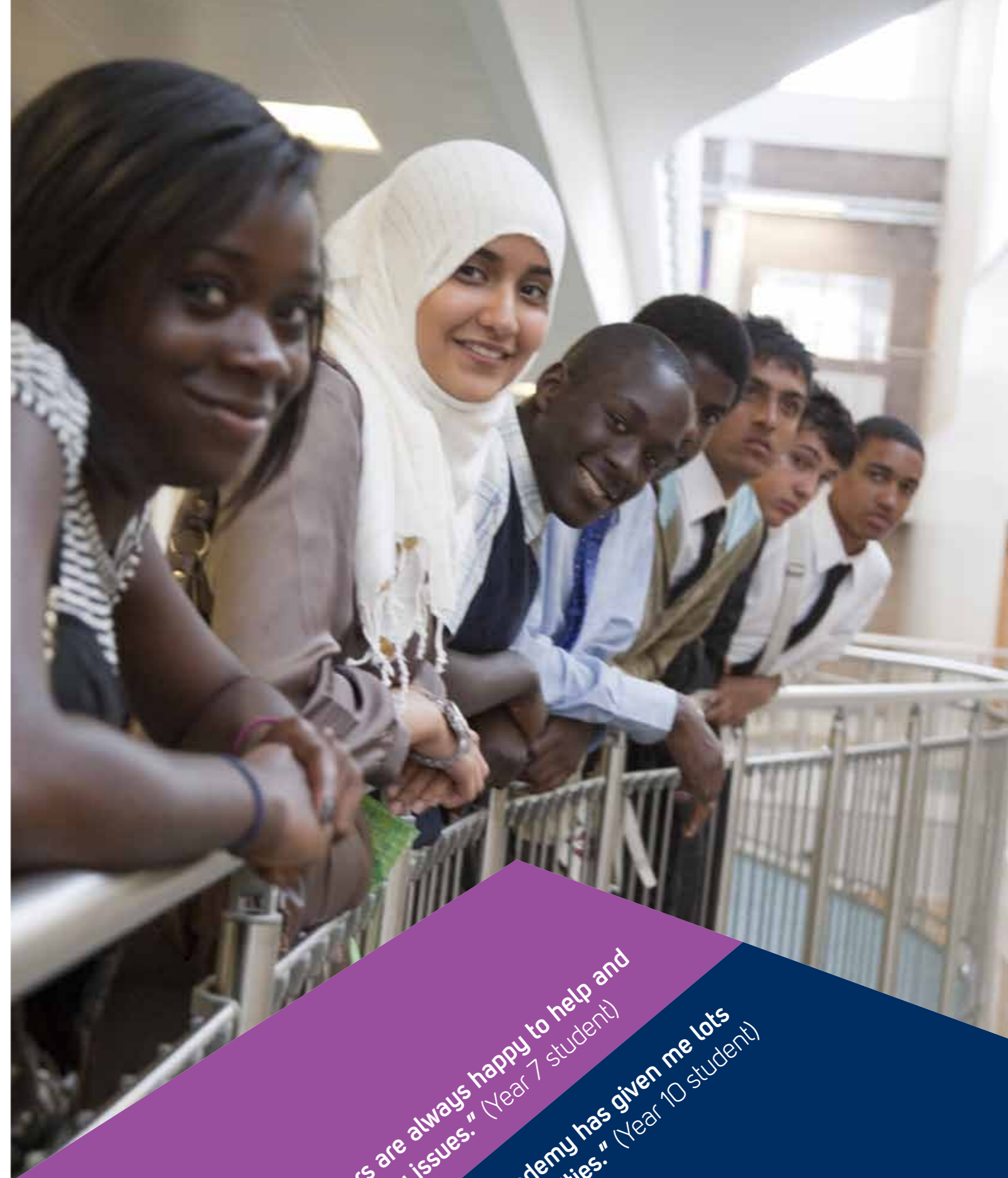
Our ethos and culture are at the heart of our House system, which revolves around a sense of community and a feeling of belonging. All students are valued and encouraged to work together and contribute for the common good. The development of stronger student/staff relationships are at the heart of all that is good about the House system.

All students across both the Primary and Secondary phases have been assigned to one of the four Houses: Eagle; Falcon; Hawk; and Kestrel –

each of these Houses are led by a House Leader and Student House Captain. Students collect personal house points for good work in the classroom and around the Academy, with regular House competitions taking place in a variety of disciplines, including: sports; cooking; chess; maths; science; and music. Individual house points and competition results culminate in weekly and termly House totals and, at the end of the year, the House with the most points is awarded the House Cup.

Students benefit from a sense of:

- community
- ethos
- identity
- belonging
- team spirit
- loyalty
- friendship
- competition
- celebration of success
- FUN!



"Teachers are always happy to help and sort out any issues." (Year 7 student)

"The Academy has given me lots of opportunities." (Year 10 student)

"Teachers encourage you to do your best." (Year 11 student)

"The Academy is fun and there are lots of different cultures." (Year 9 student)

"I think we have been really well-prepared for our GCSEs." (Year 11 student)



Specialism

Oasis Academy Shirley Park has been successful in broadening its curriculum offering by specialising in English, Business Enterprise and Visual Arts courses to meet the appropriate needs and abilities of our students.

A key element in our specialism is the raising of overall standards achieved by students in all subjects. The Academy, through a wide range of quantitative

and qualitative measures, has developed effective links with the local community and the Primary phase of the Academy.

Since the uptake of our specialism designation, our results have doubled in these areas at Key Stage 4, significantly exceeding expectations. The key areas of our Specialism include:

- specialist subjects are evaluated and modified on a regular basis to ensure courses match our students' needs effectively;
- level of standards achieved by students in external examinations within specialist subjects; and
- outstanding quality of teaching in specialist subject lessons.

Sixth Form at Oasis Academy Shirley Park

The Sixth Form opened in September 2011 and offers a wide range of A-level courses. Sixth formers are leaders, role models and ambassadors for the Academy and enjoy a wide range of extra curricular activities. They are encouraged to take part in our accredited volunteering programme, enriching their own lives as well as 'adding-value' to their CVs for University or job applications. Our sixth formers contribute to the life of the Academy and community we serve by mentoring young students across all phases of our Academy. A separate prospectus is available for Sixth Form either as a download from the Academy website or in hard copy by emailing shirleypark.6thform@oasisshirleypark.org.

Arrangements for Students with Disabilities

For information on arrangements for students with disabilities, please refer to our Inclusion and SEN policies which can be found on the website: www.oasisacademyshirleypark.org. For information about specific facilities regarding a Special Educational Need or disability, please contact the Director of Inclusion at the Academy.

"I like the music studio and the way I can make my own track." (Year 10 student)

"The astro-turf really enables me to excel at different sports." (Year 7 student)

"A real sense of community." (Year 11 student)

Facilities

The Academy building is very modern, with excellent and innovative facilities. The music department is continually evolving and is now equipped with Apple Mac computers for musical/media productions. These facilities have allowed for the inception of the Academy's student media team which has been extremely successful this year.

The sports hall, astro-turf and bespoke dance studio provide excellent facilities for the PE and Performing Arts department and for use in extra-curricular clubs. These facilities have helped provide a platform for the Academy's excellent local sporting record.

ICT facilities in the Academy are first class with easy access to the Academy network, both inside and out of the Academy. This allows for students to access the network at home for homework purposes and for parents to access information on their child's progress and attendance at any time.

Catering facilities provide a traditional canteen area as well as a more innovative 'Snack Shack' and are operated via a 'cashless' card system.

Our Community

Extended Services

All Oasis Academies offer opportunities for extended learning beyond the core Academy day. Extended community use is part of the Academy vision. We aim to provide integrated care for all students and, currently, we are working with Birbeck University, offering 'Higher Education Introductory Studies' as well as a number of other providers who are offering vocational courses for our parents/carers and other community members.

Development Partners

We have partnerships with many local organisations including St Mildreds Church, Rotary Club of Croydon, Home Start Croydon, Lifeline Croydon, Churches in Action, Three Faiths Forum and national organisations such as National Citizenship Service.

Global Links – Oasis Zimbabwe and Oasis Belgium

Staff and students are forging strong links with Oasis staff who work in pre-schools, health projects, education, IT and skills programmes, and directly with the children and young people who they work so tirelessly for. Current project links include:

- 'Tanaka' – Shirley Park students have fundraised for this project which improves the life chances of street girls by supporting them residentially through education, health and safety. Our support is ongoing.
- Pre-Schools – Shirley Park Children's centre shares good practice and resources with several Oasis trained pre-schools in Harare.

- We are working, together with Oasis Belgium, on projects which will bring together students from our Academy and young people from Belgium in the fight against human trafficking.



If you have a query regarding Oasis Academy Shirley Park, please contact the Academy office on **020 8656 0222** or admin@oasisshirleypark.org

You can keep up-to-date with developments at Oasis Academy Shirley Park via our website www.oasisacademyshirleypark.org.



If you wish to know more about Oasis Community Learning – part of the Oasis group of charities please contact:

75 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HS
www.oasisuk.org/education

Registered number: 5398529. Charity Number: 1109288

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