



IN GAUDIO SERVIAMUS

**OAKWOOD  
SCHOOL**

# Prospectus

LOVE TRUST RESPECT  
EXPLORE CHARACTER  
DEVELOPMENT  
TUTORIAL FORTITUDE  
PRUDENCE JUSTICE  
SELF-CONTROL  
ELOQUENCE EDUCATE  
DISCOVERY INDIVIDUAL  
WIDER CURRICULUM  
PERSONAL FULFILLED  
ACADEMIC PATIENCE  
KINDNESS INSPIRED  
TEACHING INTEGRITY  
ETHOS CATHOLIC  
GROWTH PARENTS  
HONESTY ADVENTURE  
IN GAUDIO SERVIAMUS



WE AIM TO EDUCATE THE WHOLE PERSON, INTELLECT, BODY AND SPIRIT; OUR CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME HELPS CHILDREN TO GROW IN SELF AWARENESS, VIRTUE AND RESPONSIBILITY

QUALIFICATIONS ARE IMPORTANT BUT EDUCATION IS SO MUCH MORE THAN THAT. THE MISSION OF OUR SCHOOLS IS TO NURTURE AND DEVELOP THE INDIVIDUAL CHILD, WITH THE ULTIMATE AIM THAT OUR PUPILS GROW UP TO LIVE TRULY FULFILLED AND HAPPY LIVES. WE OFFER A SERVICE TO PARENTS SO THAT THEIR CHILDREN BECOME YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN OF VIRTUE. EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT GOOD CHARACTER AND MORAL INTEGRITY HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND SO CHARACTER EDUCATION UNDERPINS OUR RIGOROUS ACADEMIC PROGRAMME.

## Welcome

Oakwood is an independent co-educational day school, with a Catholic ethos, founded on a belief that parents are the first educators of their children. Our goal is to help parents raise their children to become outstanding young men and women who are prepared to live by Christian principles all their lives. In order to do this we encourage each child to become the best person that he or she can be.

Alongside an uncompromising commitment to academic, cultural and sporting excellence, the development of good habits, or virtues, is seen as fundamental to our children's future happiness and success. The habit of study, a quest for the truth, the responsible use of freedom and personal integrity are especially important.

Beyond their professional expertise, our teachers have an awareness of their own responsibility to serve as role models and to treat children as individuals.

Our Tutorial System, for example, ensures that our broad educational approach is effectively tailored to each child. Family and school both benefit from this co-operative spirit. The result is a love of learning which remains with the children for the rest of their lives. Moreover when the time comes to leave us, we hope that each child will have developed the strength and sensitivity of character to enable them to mature into competent, considerate and generous young men and women.

Visitors to the school often remark on the caring and stimulating atmosphere that they experience. I would like to invite you to come and visit us and see for yourselves how we work and what we can do for your child.

**Ciro Candia**  
Headmaster



## Introduction

OAKWOOD SCHOOL  
OPENED IN 1996 AND  
IS HOUSED IN A  
VICTORIAN SCHOOL  
BUILDING



The school is surrounded by an acre of grounds. It has large, airy classrooms and a multi-use, purpose-built hall. There is a large playground, two play apparatus areas, a sports pitch for netball, football and short tennis. The Early Years also has a large outside covered play area which provides an ideal outside learning environment. The school also has a beautiful Oratory with the Blessed Sacrament reserved during the week in term time.

## In Gaudio Serviamus



Our motto, *In Gaudio Serviamus* - translates as – may we serve joyfully. We are here at the service of others: the Church, our school, our families, friends and our wider society. We wish to serve everyone cheerfully.

Our school shield is an oak leaf and acorn within a circle of twelve stars. The oak is symbolic of strength and the acorn symbolises the fact that we start small. We build our strength

step by step as we progress in virtue and likeness to Christ. In the words of St Paul: “Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace which is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Tim 2:1).

The stars symbolise The Blessed Virgin Mary in the Book of Revelation (12:1). “And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.”



## A Service to Parents

**WE WILL BE YOUR ALLIES IN THE SHARED ENDEAVOUR OF RAISING CHILDREN OF WHOM YOU WILL BE PROUD**



Choosing the right early years education for your child will be one of the most important factors influencing both their future academic success and the development of an upright character. A first school is therefore something that must be properly considered and chosen with great care.

## Three Clear Commitments

# 1

**PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS**  
We will be your allies in the shared endeavour of raising children of whom you will be proud.

# 2

**CATHOLIC ETHOS**  
We will share with you the great task of educating your children in the Catholic faith and ensure that a rich Catholic ethos imbues the entire life of the school.

# 3

**COMPLETE EDUCATION**  
We have an uncompromising commitment to personal academic, cultural and sporting excellence.



THE ESSENCE OF CHARACTER EDUCATION LIES IN EQUIPPING CHILDREN WITH THE FREEDOM TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES FOR THE RIGHT REASONS; THIS ULTIMATELY LEADS TO A SENSE OF PURPOSE AND DEEP PERSONAL FULFILMENT.

## Character Education

QUALIFICATIONS ARE IMPORTANT BUT EDUCATION IS SO MUCH MORE THAN THAT

Character education underpins the rigorous academic programme and quest of our school to nurture and develop the individual child.

Our aim is that our pupils live truly fulfilled and happy lives. We offer a service to parents so that their children become young men and women of virtue and integrity.

Our Character Development Programme is based on the virtues of Faith, Hope and Love and on the four traditional pillars of Christian character:

**Justice** Respecting the rights and needs of others

**Fortitude** Personal resilience and adaptability

**Prudence** Sound judgement

**Self-Control** Temperance

## Catholic Ethos



The school stresses and supports the primary role of parents in their children's overall education and spiritual development.

A central part of our service to parents is to teach our pupils how to recognise the truth, goodness and beauty of the Catholic faith in everything they learn and to put their faith into practice in everything they do.

The school Oratory is at the centre of the sacramental life of the school. It is a quiet place where children and parents alike can reflect and pray.

A Catholic priest from the Prelature of Opus Dei comes regularly to the school to provide children with the opportunity to attend Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He also provides talks and other means of spiritual formation for staff and parents.



## Individual Development

### THE TUTORIAL SYSTEM BRINGS A HEALTHY AND PRACTICAL FOCUS TO THE ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF EACH CHILD

Oakwood School has a continuous Character Development Programme which starts in the Nursery and Lower School, fostering the development and study of virtues such as sincerity, industriousness, order, cheerfulness, generosity and service to others.

The Tutorial System is a natural fruit of the philosophy underlying our school, that parents are the first educators of their children. The tutor takes a direct and personal interest in each child's personal character development and regularly shares this with parents. There is also a more formal termly programme of parent and teacher meetings which allow for a thorough discussion of the progress of each child.

## A Complete Education

### MUSIC & THE ARTS

Music plays a vital role in the curriculum at every level. Children have the opportunity to learn the Recorder and Ukulele and are given specialist singing lessons. The majority of pupils in the Upper School receive individual music tuition. Piano, Flute, Guitar and Violin are the most popular instruments. There are many opportunities to perform throughout the year.

### DRAMA

The school stages a wide variety of school productions which provide opportunities for all children to become involved throughout the year.

### SPORT

Sport is one of the most effective ways in which the school's ideals are realised. We have our own dedicated sports coach and indoor and outdoor sports and play facilities.

### EXTRA CURRICULAR

We offer a wide range of extra curricular activities and clubs which take place at lunchtime or after school. These include Art, Ballet, Chess, Football and Speech & Drama.



# The Nursery School



**OAKWOOD NURSERY HAS ITS OWN DEDICATED FACILITIES INCLUDING A SEPARATE AND SECURE OUTDOOR PLAY AREA AND ACCESS TO SCHOOL FACILITIES SUCH AS THE HALL, MUSIC ROOM, LIBRARY AND ART ROOM**

Each child has a remarkable capacity for acquiring knowledge and skills in these years that have rightly been called the golden age of learning. The right kind of nursery education can make a huge difference to a child's ultimate academic success and to the development of all the facets of their personality. The Early Years Programme has been designed to meet these challenges and to build on success.

The atmosphere and structure of the day are carefully tailored so that a great deal of learning is achieved in a caring and happy environment. The results are that children are well-prepared and move up the school, happy and confident. Good parent-teacher communication is crucial at this stage in a child's education and the effectiveness and joy of early learning is enhanced when it is encouraged and continued in the home.

## EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMME

- Development of reading and writing skills using the leading edge Spalding Literacy Programme.
- Learning a foreign language.
- Physical education including a specific psychomotor development programme.
- Music, dance and creative play.
- Practical guidance for character formation and growth in human virtues.



# The Lower School



## RECEPTION TO YEAR 2

### A THOROUGH GROUNDING IN THE FUNDAMENTAL BUILDING BLOCKS OF EDUCATION

The Lower School is situated on the ground floor and is a bright and welcoming environment in which a high standard of work and behaviour is achieved. The classrooms are well equipped with a wide variety of teaching resources. The children have access to a play area as well as to the school's hall and other facilities. In their first years at school each child acquires the necessary skills in

numeracy and literacy upon which a first-class education is based. A class teacher takes all core curriculum subjects with specialist teachers taking Music, Singing, Spanish and Games. English and Maths have a central place in the timetable but children also study Art, Character Development, Drama, Geography, History, Religious Studies and Science.

We encourage an investigative approach and a keen awareness of the natural world. The children go on many excursions and benefit from outside speakers and visitors. Information Technology is used extensively. As children progress through the Lower School, work becomes more formal and ability groups within the classes allow the teachers to stream pupils for English and Maths.

All children are stretched and supported in order to reach their own personal potential. By the end of Lower School the children will have received a thorough educational grounding and be well prepared to meet the challenges of the Upper School.





## The Upper School



### YEAR 3 TO YEAR 6

**DESIGNED TO FOSTER  
A LOVE OF LEARNING,  
SOUND STUDY SKILLS  
AND THE ABILITY TO  
THINK, LEARN AND  
WORK INDEPENDENTLY**

Children in Year 3 and 4 have a Form Tutor who takes most of the core subjects. Children in Year 5 and 6 are mainly taught by subject specialist teachers.

The children have a full and varied curriculum covering the traditional academic subjects as well as Art, Music, Classics and Computing. We ensure that children are introduced to a wide range of literature and use the library to foster a love of reading.

Informal assessments take place throughout the year and formal assessments take place at the start and end of the year. The academic work inevitably becomes more demanding as children progress towards the final preparations for scholarship and entrance examinations to their secondary schools. Our commitment, following discussion with each parent and child, is to prepare all of our children for a successful transition to the school that is right for them.

### THE CURRICULUM

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Religious Education
- Art
- Character Development
- Classics – Year 5 & 6
- Computing
- Critical Thinking – Year 3-6
- Design Technology – Year 1-6
- Drama
- Geography
- History
- Music
- PE
- Reasoning – Year 3-6
- Spanish

# PACT Educational Trust



**OAKWOOD SCHOOL IS ONE OF FOUR SCHOOLS FOUNDED BY PACT EDUCATIONAL TRUST. ALL FOUR SCHOOLS ARE UNDERPINNED BY A CATHOLIC ETHOS AND A UNIQUE CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME THAT PERMEATES ALL ASPECTS OF SCHOOL LIFE**

PACT Educational Trust was founded in 1993 by a group of Catholic parents and educators to establish schools and other means of supporting families whose deepest desire is that their children grow into men and women of integrity committed to living their whole lives by Christian principles; men and women who, among the exhilarating, and challenging opportunities that the future presents, are resolved to be the exemplary citizens and inspirational leaders that our society needs.

The Trustees and founders believe that parents should be at the heart of the education of their children and that it is the role of schools to be of service to the family in trying to achieve this goal.

PACT has, to date, founded four independent schools. In 1996 it set up Oakwood School in Purley, Surrey and in 2004 Oliver House School in Clapham, South London. In September 2013 PACT launched two secondary schools, The Cedars for boys and The Laurels for girls, in Croydon and Clapham respectively.

PACT is governed by a Board of Trustees, all of whom give their services without any financial reward.

The PACT Board is the governing body of Oakwood, Oliver House, The Cedars and The Laurels. They meet regularly to discuss all aspects of school life, and the meetings are also attended by the CEO of the charity and the Headteachers of each school.



# Charter of Educational Principles

**1** PACT recognises that since parents are the first and the most important educators of their children, they have the right to choose the type of education they want for their own children, in accordance with their philosophical, cultural, moral and religious convictions (ref. Article 26 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

**2** PACT exists to encourage, integrate and coordinate the involvement of parents, teachers and pupils in the setting up and development of schools which aim to provide each pupil with a full and balanced education in intellectual, cultural and spiritual matters.

**3** The main objective of each PACT school is the all-round education of its pupils. A personalised Tutorial System will ensure that each pupil develops his or her talents to the full and acquires a sense of individual and social responsibility.

**4** Academic education should aim at excellence across the whole range of intellectual disciplines. The acquisition of knowledge and the ability to reason should be fostered in formal class teaching as well as in small groups and through individual attention. Science and arts subjects should not be seen as independent from each other, but should be presented as parts of a whole, structured according to real life. Each educational discipline should stimulate pupils to discover not just individual truths, but also the greater truth which exists in all things.

**5** Character formation should be based on the exercise of freedom with the consequent responsibilities and should have the following main objectives:

- to encourage the fullest development of virtues such as sincerity, hard work, perseverance, self-discipline, fortitude, temperance and cheerfulness
- to develop emotional responsibility in order to establish mature relationships
- to demonstrate, through the example of those in authority, that the exercise of power carries with it obligations of service and, therefore, deserves cooperation and respect
- to teach that work well done is a principal means of personal and social improvement.

**6** Spiritual training should not seek to impose doctrine, but should always respect sincerely held beliefs; it should therefore be able to be shared by all those who, irrespective of creed, recognise the spiritual dimension of man. For Christians, spiritual training should have the following main objectives:

- to develop a profound sense of one's condition as a child of God
- to be conscious that all Christians have received a personal call to sanctity and to enable them to realise the fullness of their faith in their own lives and every-day work
- to teach that charity is the most important Christian virtue and that it is in our dealings with others that opportunities arise to provide human, professional and apostolic service. Religious training should correspond faithfully to that of the Catholic Church.

**7** PACT schools should seek to share their resources with the greatest number of people. Each PACT school should become a social and educational centre for the community which it serves, through Family Enrichment Programmes and other social and civic initiatives.

**8** The participation of parents, teachers and pupils in PACT schools should lead them:

- to share the educational objectives of the school and to take on associated responsibilities
- to accept, respect and defend other people's freedom
- to uphold family values and the integrity of marriage

**9** In PACT schools, there should be no discrimination on social, cultural or financial grounds. On the contrary, any differences should be seen as a means of mutual enrichment.

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## Patrons



**LORD AND LADY NICHOLAS WINDSOR ARE THE PATRONS OF PACT EDUCATIONAL TRUST**

Our patrons have supported the work of the trust for several years and are delighted by the success of the schools. Lord and Lady Nicholas hosted The Circus Ball at Kensington Palace in 2015 to launch the BroadOak Bursary Fund. Its purpose is to offer our system of personalised, character-based education to as many families as possible.

## Four Schools. One Mission.



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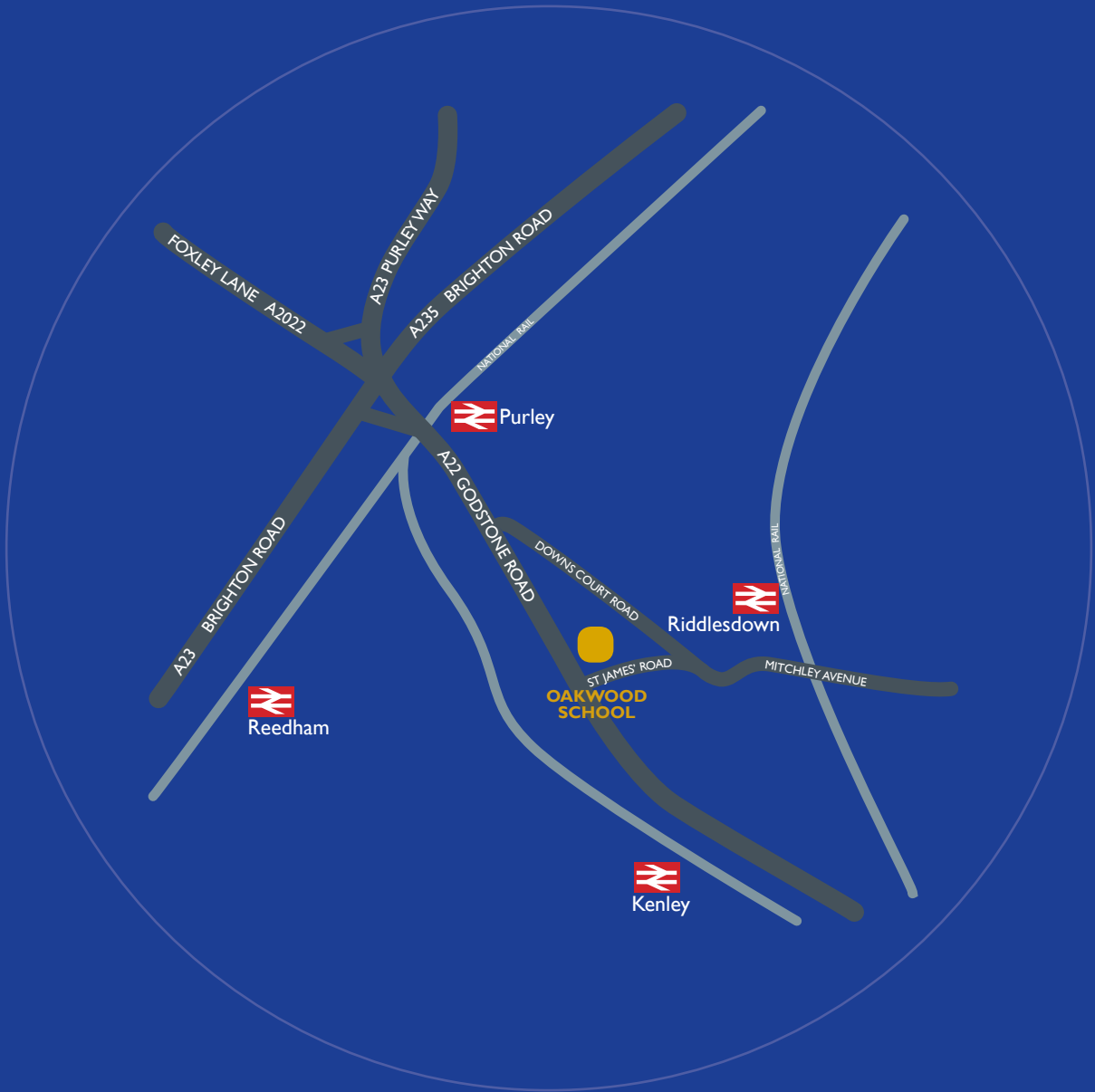
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