

September 2009



Dear Parents / Carers

I'm delighted to offer you a copy of our new school prospectus. I am very proud to be the Headteacher of the Forest School and I know that my staff, the Governors and parents of the school – and especially our pupils - all share in that pride. I hope that as you read our prospectus and see all that we can offer your son at our school, you will want to be part of our success and growth.

Boys joining our school join a safe and disciplined environment, where they are encouraged to grow and develop within clear boundaries and expectations of their behaviour, attitude to learning and respect for their teachers and each other. Through their time here, they learn to become considerate and successful young men, with a clear understanding of the contribution they can make to their local – and global – community.

I became Headteacher just over 2 years ago, and in that time the quality of teaching has improved considerably – lessons are structured and purposeful, pupils are challenged to work consistently to their "PB" and to develop the skills of learning independently that they will need when they go on to further and higher education, and the world of work. This improvement has been shown in the excellent results at Key Stage 3: Maths and English at Level 5: 95% and in Science 86% - this can only bode well for the future.

We now offer a broad and exciting curriculum, with boys choosing between a range of traditional GCSEs, BTECs in subjects such as Business and Enterprise, Hospitality and Catering and Language for Business and, for our Gifted and Talented pupils, an increasing number of AS Level courses in Year 11.

We've also expanded the opportunities for our boys to develop their skills outside the classroom, including Language exchanges, a Science trip to Brussels and a Maths trip to Paris, too many sporting teams and fixtures to mention and lots of Music and Drama. 2 highlights from last year stick in my memory – supporting our Year 7 Rugby team when they played their national final at Twickenham and the School Choir participating in the stunning 'Voices for a Better World' Concert at the O2 Arena.

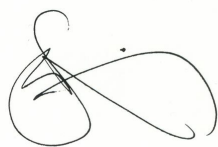
I believe that happy children, who feel safe, secure and valued, learn best. We've worked hard over the past 2 years to embed a culture of mutual respect and positive relationships. We now work closely with parents and carers to make sure that their sons get the best possible support and encouragement to do well and succeed at school. I believe our pastoral system, with our 4 Communities and our vertical tutor groups, is among the best there is – we've successfully created a sense of a small school within a large school, thereby ensuring that no boy is overlooked and that at Forest truly – Every Child Matters.

The proof is in the pudding – 1 indicator of a successful and happy school is the number of pupils that go on to further education or training – this is consistently the overwhelming majority. Another indicator is pupil attendance – last year's attendance figures were among the highest for the last 3 years and among the highest in West Sussex – our boys WANT to come to school!

I hope you find our prospectus informative and helpful. However, it can only give a snapshot of all that we do. The best way to get to know us is to come and see us at work – you are very welcome to visit the school during the normal working day and meet our staff and pupils – only then will you know how much we have to offer your son. Please contact the School Office on 01403 261086 to arrange a visit.

I look forward to meeting you at our Open Evening on October 8 – please don't hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries before then.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Denning', written on a light yellow background.

Ms Siobhan Denning
Headteacher