

What are Specialist Schools?

The Specialist Schools Programme helps schools, in partnership with private sector sponsors and supported by additional government funding, to establish distinctive identities through their chosen specialisms and raise standards for all their pupils.

Specialist schools have a focus on their chosen subject area but must also meet the National Curriculum requirements and deliver a broad and balanced education to all pupils.

Any maintained secondary school in England can apply to be designated as a specialist school in one of ten specialist areas: the arts, business and enterprise, engineering, humanities, languages, mathematics and computing, music, science, sports and technology. Schools can also combine any two specialisms.

Our History

The Forest School proudly holds Business and Enterprise and Engineering status – one of only three schools in the country to do so. This notable achievement is helping The Forest School develop into one of the most innovative schools in the region, bringing many benefits to the school including:

- The purpose built Business and Enterprise Centre (BEC)
- Bespoke industrial engineering workshop
- Additional funding of over £250,000 to support the development of ICT across the school
- Taking a lead part in the specialist schools network, developing and sharing best practice with local schools
- An innovative curriculum designed around the learning needs of our boys
- Closer links with our local community
- Closer links with local businesses
- Staff training
- A dedicated Community and Enterprise Officer

At The Forest School every pupil has access to first class Business and Enterprise and Engineering education.

In all subject areas, enterprise skills such as communication, team work, leadership, presentation, research and problem solving are delivered through the curriculum. This enhances the final grade outcomes for our boys, and

equips them with the skills they need to be successful at school and in their future education and careers. Our boys are encouraged to use their own initiative and to become independent self-motivated learners.

What does this mean for our boys?

- An innovative curriculum with more option choices at Key Stage 4
- More specialist teachers
- More planned opportunities to develop their enterprise skills across all their subjects
- Opportunities to further develop their engineering skills through tuition from specialists from further education and industry
- Opportunities to set up their own businesses
- Mentoring from leaders in industry
- Running the school bank with RBS
- Opportunities to create links with other schools and education providers
- Increased opportunities for learning beyond the classroom and beyond the school day
- Opportunities to work with young people and adults for the benefit of their local community

What does this mean for other local schools?

- Closer links with our local schools
- Technical support and resources for our primary partners
- Support for local schools through bespoke primary transition work
- Ongoing staff training opportunities

What does this mean for our local community?

- To develop specific Business and Enterprise skills in our pupils which will allow the community of Horsham to prosper and grow
- Maths, Business, ICT and Engineering courses for parents and other members of the local community
- Support and training opportunities for local businesses and individuals

Our status represents an exciting way forward for The Forest School, our pupils, our staff and the wider community. We have the opportunity to build on the already excellent practice for which The Forest School is known.

The curriculum and our approaches to learning are designed to meet the challenges of the ever-changing business environment. Our facilities and resources support these approaches to education.

Our success is dependent on the contributions of everyone. If you would like more information please contact our Community and Enterprise Officer, Mrs. Laura Ward at lward3@wsgfl.org.uk