



Welcome to  
**Ark Alexandra  
Academy**



## A message from the Executive Principal

I am delighted to introduce you to our school. This is such an exciting time – as we bring William Parker and Helenswood together to create Ark Alexandra Academy. Students have been educated on the William Parker site since 1619. 2019 marks the 400th anniversary for the school – and a new chapter in the history of the two schools as they come together to serve both boys and girls from our community.

Ark Alexandra will preserve and build on the legacy of William Parker and Helenswood – using our existing strengths and expertise to create a co-educational school that will specialise in the creative arts and sport.

Ark Alexandra Academy will be a Church of England school with strong universal Christian values of Faith, Excellence and Kindness that inform our ethos and culture.

Our school will have an inclusive admissions policy that welcomes, without preference, students of all faiths and none.

Our vision, ethos and curriculum will support each student to achieve the highest academic results, develop essential personal qualities, become highly employable, and serve their communities well – and so raise standards and aspiration for all.

I look forward to welcoming you to Ark Alexandra Academy.



Yvonne Powell  
Executive Principal

# Welcome to Ark Alexandra Academy

Students from  
Helenswood and  
William Parker  
chose a new name  
that reflects the  
local area.

## A fresh start

Ark Alexandra Academy will open in September 2019, bringing together William Parker and Helenswood to create a co-educational school that will specialise in the creative arts and sport.

At Ark Alexandra Academy we will provide an excellent education that will enable all our young people to:

- achieve the highest academic results
- develop the attributes and skills to be both highly employable and to be positive contributors to their community
- be creative, emotionally intelligent and physically active young adults in order that they can lead a happy and healthy lifestyle.

## A new name

Our students have chosen our new school name. The students wanted a name which was reflective of Helenswood and William Parker and which represents the local community and history of the area.

Alexandra Park was opened in 1882 and two lime trees were planted in the park to represent a new beginning and local growth. The students felt that this is symbolic of the fresh start for the school.

Our students were keen to honour the legacy of the current school names and therefore the lower school (years 7 and 8) will be known as the Helenswood site and the upper school (years 9 – 11 and sixth form) will be known as the William Parker site.



# Our Curriculum

## The Lower School

The Lower School (years 7 and 8) will deliver a new curriculum that builds on the strengths of our excellent primary schools to embed high expectations and standards; curriculum rigour and challenge; knowing every child; and enhancing leadership skills.

The curriculum for years 7 and 8 will:

- be academically rigorous
- create articulate, aspirational and confident students enriched by exposure to a range of cultural experiences
- embed excellent rituals, routines and disciplined study habits
- inspire students to have ambitious goals and develop the courage and resilience to achieve them.



## The Upper School

The Upper School (years 9, 10 and 11) will extend and build upon the experiences from the lower school. Students will transition to the William Parker site where they will begin their subject options. Choices will be informed by their long-term aspirational goals, as well as their personal strengths and interests. Their progress at the upper school will secure excellent outcomes by:

- continuing to build on mastery in English, mathematics and science whilst securing strong progress and attainment in their chosen option subjects
- being relentless in building subject knowledge, skills and cultural references through excellent teaching and wider experiences
- instilling communication skills so that students are able to present confidently in any situation and write at length with stamina for a variety of different purposes and audiences
- developing emotional intelligence that will enable our students to: know how to modify their behaviour according to the context; develop strong interpersonal skills; listen and understand another's point of view; be able to positively challenge and debate that view confidently and knowledgeably
- preparing our students to be positive contributors to their communities through a character programme
- participating in and following a programme for careers education, individual advice and guidance that is refined for each individual and provides meaningful work-based experiences
- learning what success looks like and how to be resilient and patient when faced with challenges.



# Ark Alexandra Academy 6th Form

Our small, effective and highly successful 6th form will offer specialist and high quality teaching and support for each one of our students. It will provide a seamless transition from GCSE into Post 16 qualifications in an environment where every student is known as an individual. We are ambitious for all of our students to achieve the best outcomes and progress to a top university or into a career of their choice.

To achieve this, we will have:

- relentless expectations of our students' attendance, hard work and study habits
- expert teaching in vocational and academic subjects from teachers who have a proven record of success and who have strong working relationships with their students
- high quality 1:1 career advice and guidance that supports all students to make informed choices regarding their future and prepares them well for their application to university and the world of work
- wider curriculum experiences that include volunteering opportunities within and beyond the school such as certificated coaching qualifications and outdoor and adventurous activities
- a character programme that continues to support the development of their social, moral, spiritual and cultural understanding
- the opportunity to apply for a bursary to support their academic studies whilst in the 6th form and for university.



## Our Values

Our values will underpin our ethos, culture and behaviour. Our students and staff will develop and model these universal Christian values:

**Faith** – with belief and conviction in our purpose, we will be confident in our ability to achieve, persevere when faced with adversity and be reflective in all that we do.

**Excellence** – with drive and determination we will achieve excellence in everything we do, every day, every lesson – never settling for less.

**Kindness** – we will be friendly, generous, compassionate and considerate to each other and our community.

Our academy will enable students and staff to flourish and achieve their potential.

## The House system

Ark Alexandra's House system will build upon the legacy of Helenswood and William Parker. It will promote and encourage successful behaviour and build a culture of aspiration, competition and achievement, providing students with opportunities to:

- work alongside children of different ages and with other interests through competition, cultural experiences, visits and trips, community events
- contribute to the wider community through charity and voluntary work in partnership with local and national charities.

Our House names will be chosen by the joint Student Council of Helenswood and William Parker and represent people associated with Hastings and who have been influential and highly regarded locally, nationally and internationally.



## Creativity and sporting excellence

Creativity and sporting excellence have long been at the heart of the Hastings community, and Ark Alexandra Academy will offer our students the very best opportunities to engage in sports and the creative arts. In addition to newly refurbished sports facilities, Ark Alexandra Academy will also be offering scholarships in the arts and sports to continue the proud legacy of Helenswood and William Parker students.

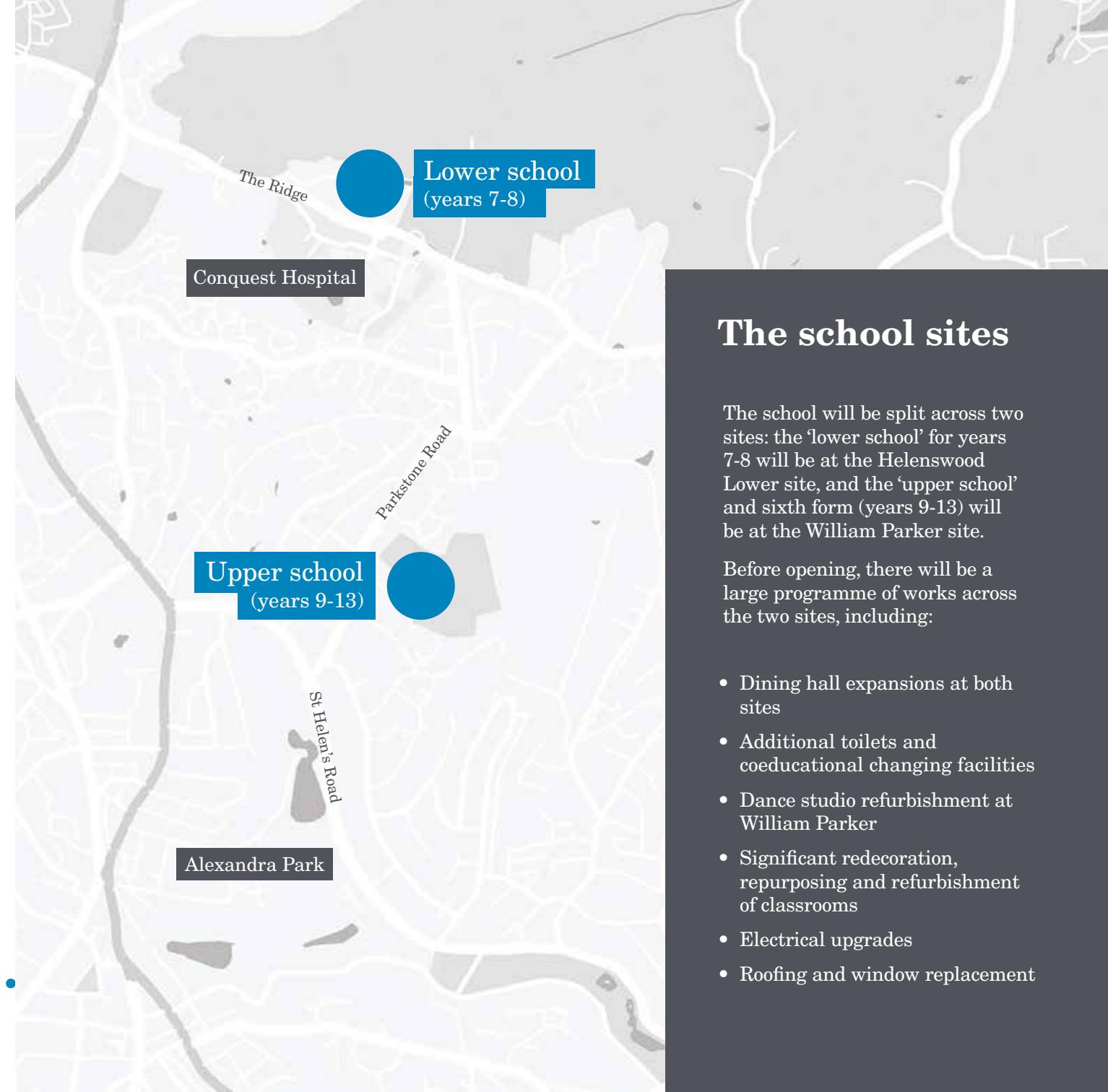
Some of the additional extra-curricular activities we will offer include:

- the Duke of Edinburgh award (bronze, silver and gold)
- Combined Cadet Forces – Army Strand
- Community support through the church and local charities
- extra-curricular clubs that are directly linked to external clubs, for example Hastings Athletics club, ACROMAX girls' gymnastic and acrobatic club and other local sporting clubs.

## Culture, ethos and behaviour – the pastoral system

Ark Alexandra Academy will have a strong sense of family. We will have dedicated pastoral teams so that we know each student as an individual, recognising their strengths and talents and understanding the support they need to fulfil their potential. The school will operate a year group system, led by a Head of Year. This will support excellent attendance, exemplary behaviour, strong progress and attainment, and personal development through careers education and character lessons.

Building partnerships with parents is a priority – ensuring that communication is effective and timely. We will provide: curriculum information evenings to explain what your child will learn and how; termly communication informing you about your child's progress and development; direct contact with teachers through subject parent evenings and opportunities to engage with the school's progress and development by becoming a member of the Parent Working Group.



## The school sites

The school will be split across two sites: the 'lower school' for years 7-8 will be at the Helenswood Lower site, and the 'upper school' and sixth form (years 9-13) will be at the William Parker site.

Before opening, there will be a large programme of works across the two sites, including:

- Dining hall expansions at both sites
- Additional toilets and coeducational changing facilities
- Dance studio refurbishment at William Parker
- Significant redecoration, repurposing and refurbishment of classrooms
- Electrical upgrades
- Roofing and window replacement

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