



Ark Helenswood Academy

Prospectus

“The teachers here helped me get much higher grades than I ever thought would be possible.”

Natasha, Ark Helenswood Academy alumna

“I really enjoyed my time at Helenswood and I’m really going to miss the teachers.”

Mia, Ark Helenswood Academy alumna

“Teaching is very effective in mathematics and students work hard and enjoy these lessons. The performing and creative arts are strong.”

Ofsted 2015

“Students’ behaviour outside of lessons is good and they feel safe. The academy’s work to ensure students’ safety and tackle bullying is good.”

Ofsted 2015





Welcome


Dear Parent

Ark Helenswood Academy is an 11-18 comprehensive school for girls, situated in Hastings, East Sussex. From 16-18 we share a sixth form with Ark William Parker Academy, ensuring the high academic standards attained by the girls can continue to flourish onwards to University or the career of their choice.

We believe that every Ark Helenswood student has the potential to succeed. Our broad and relevant curriculum combined with inspirational teaching means students leave well educated, confident and ambitious, with an excellent understanding of the world they live in.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to join our academy.

Tracy Dohel
Principal

A large circular image showing three young women in school uniforms. They are sitting together and looking at a large, open book. The woman on the right is wearing glasses and smiling. The woman in the middle has her hair in two braids. The woman on the left is partially visible, looking down at the book. They are all wearing dark blue blazers with light blue trim and a crest on the left chest.

Every student
at Ark Helenswood
Academy has the
potential to
achieve
excellence



Inspire

Ark Helenswood Academy is a centre of excellence where students gain the necessary academic and personal skills to enjoy a fulfilled life, realise their university and career ambitions and become active and supportive members of their community.

Our high standards are underpinned by developing students who enjoy school, feel safe and receive quality support and guidance. We actively develop creativity and enterprise, leadership and responsibility and a concern for the wider community.

We aim to link the traditional values of hard work, academic standards and respect for others with a forward thinking curriculum and the development of the confidence and skills needed for our girls to enter the twenty first century workforce.



“Students enjoy lessons, are attentive, enthusiastic and take pride in the presentation of their books.”

Ofsted 2015

Achieve

Ark Helenswood Academy is proud to be part of the Ark family - a network of over 30 high-achieving schools across Birmingham, Hastings, London and Portsmouth. Each of us has our own unique character and ethos but we all share the same mission - to ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to go to a good university or into the career of their choice.

A strong focus on teaching and learning has seen Ark get some of the best results in the country - at primary, GCSE and A level - but we are about more than just exam results. We want our young people to develop far beyond the classroom which is why we offer a whole host of exciting extra-curricular activities. Highlights include network-wide sports events, performing for packed crowds at our annual Music Gala and Shakespeare Schools Festival, taking part in work experience with some of the UK's biggest companies and summer schools at top universities.

We are also extremely proud to be working across the globe - including partnering with a not-for-profit school network in Uganda and opening our very first Ark school in India. We take what works well in our UK schools and adapt it to the local context.





Excel

Ark Helenswood Academy achieves excellent examination success, which continues to improve year on year. Students excel in all areas of the curriculum whether it be English, mathematics and sciences, creative and practical subjects, languages or the humanities.

Special Educational Needs

We place a great deal of importance on ensuring that students with special educational needs are identified, properly assessed and well supported. Support might be given in class, in a small group or through withdrawal classes and is delivered by excellent teachers and learning assistants.

Gifted and Talented Students

All students in our academy are challenged and supported to excel in all curriculum areas, and we are not content with gifted and talented students simply achieving the expected level for their year. Through careful identification and assessment we provide suitable challenge and differentiation to extend the learning of all students in the academy.

We believe that every student has the right to achieve highly, but recognise that the needs of individuals vary and may need specific tailoring.



Admissions

Ark Helenswood Academy is a non-selective, 11-18 academy for girls of all abilities. Applications for all year groups are made in accordance with the East Sussex County Council co-ordinated admissions arrangements, and are made on the Common Application Form.

The Academy has a published pupil admission number (PAN) of: 216 students.

If the academy is oversubscribed, priority is given to pupils with statements of special educational needs. The remaining places are then offered in the following order of priority:

Secondary - Oversubscription Criteria

- Where the Academy is named on a pupil's Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health and Care Plan, that child will be admitted by the Academy. If the number of applications for admission to either the secondary school is greater than the published admissions number, applications will be considered against the criteria and order set out below:
 - a) Looked After Children and children who have been previously looked after (pursuant to the Admissions Code)¹.
 - b) Children of staff at the school where there is a demonstrable skill shortage – children of members of staff will have priority in the oversubscription criteria if the staff member is filling a post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage. Ark Schools is required to approve the Principal's designation of such posts and confirm the assessment that a member of staff appointed meets the requirements of the shortage. Priority will be limited to one place for each form of entry in any year.
 - c) Children who at the time of the admission have a sibling who attends the academy. For this purpose "sibling" means a whole, half or step-sister or an adopted child resident at the same address. In respect of applications to the primary school (where applicable), the fact that an applicant has a sibling attending the nursery school will not be a factor giving rise to priority. In the case of multiple births or sisters in the same year group, where there is only one place available in the academy, both will be considered together as one application.
 - d) Children of staff in the school - where there is no demonstrable skill shortage, priority may be given where the academy is oversubscribed to a child of a person who will have been employed in the academy for two or more years at the time the application for admission is made. Priority will be limited to one place for each form of entry in any year.
 - e) Children living within a pre-defined community area.



- f) Distance measurement (outside the community area)- A child's home will be the address at which the child normally resides and which has been notified to the Academy and other relevant agencies as being the child's normal place of residence.
 - i. In those cases where the relevant local authority measures distance on behalf of Ark Schools, the method they adopt for measurement and also selection between equal applicants and those living in flats will apply.
 - ii. In those cases where Ark Schools is required to carry out the measurement itself priority will be given to those children who live closest to the school using a straight line measurement taken from Ordinance Survey Data from the Academy Lower School building's main reception to the main entrance of the child's home. Where a child resides in a block of flats, the distance will be measured from the Academy building's main reception to the main entrance of the building in which the flats are located.

Tie breaker - If Ark Schools is unable to distinguish between applicants using the published criteria, including those who live in blocks of flats with the same building entrance, places will be offered via a random draw which will be supervised by someone independent of the academy.

Distances are measured using the East Sussex County Council's geographical information system from the child's home to the nearest gate used by children at the Lower School site.



Ark Helenswood Academy

The Ridge

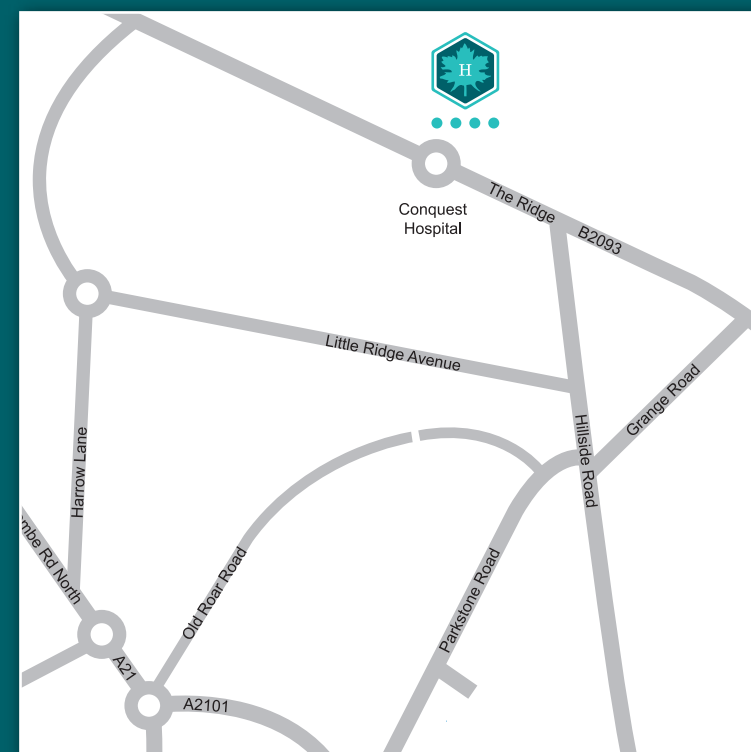
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