

MAKING LEARNING IRRESISTIBLE



New Horizons
Children's Academy

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THINKING
SCHOOLS
ACADEMY TRUST

"A family of schools
that are stronger together!"

Welcome

Welcome to New Horizons Children's Academy: Child first, Aspire, Challenge, Achieve

New Horizons Children's Academy is part of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust and are committed to an ethos of excellence and a whole school approach to the teaching and learning of thinking skills. The Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT) is a non-profit making charitable trust that has successfully grown over the past few years. The lead academy is the Rochester Grammar School which is not only an outstanding school but has a rich history and inspiring reputation as one of the country's leading state schools.

At New Horizons, we want to transform the life chances of every child who walks through our door by providing an education which promotes aspiration, fosters a love of learning within a safe, purposeful and nurturing environment. We hold high aspirations and standards for all members of our school community and work in partnership with all stakeholders for the benefit of all of our children.

We believe that children only thrive when they are happy and feel safe in their environment. Therefore we work tirelessly to ensure that;

- There are high expectations for every child
- Every lesson matters therefore they should be exciting and motivate children to think and learn
- Every child is treated as an individual and with dignity
- Children learn to play and learn together understanding moral values of mutual respect, tolerance and personal responsibility

Starting or changing schools can be both exciting and daunting so it is important that both you and your child have as much information as possible. You are very welcome to arrange a visit to the school to meet our staff and pupils.

I look forward to welcoming you to New Horizons.

Mrs Murphy, Headteacher



VISION AND ETHOS

High Aspiration for All Children

We have an ethos of high expectations, where every child flourishes intellectually, personally and morally. We teach our children to be successful, independent learners who concentrate, persevere, take risks and have a willingness to make mistakes. We want all our children to make accelerated progress and achieve well.

Making Learning Irresistible

We want to make learning irresistible so that your child comes to school every day happy and eager to learn. We know that children are naturally inquisitive and we aim to develop this curiosity by providing a curriculum that engages and excites but also provides challenge at the correct level.

As a Thinking School, we teach our children to become creative, analytical, adaptable and resilient thinkers which we believe is a vital skill needed for life in the rapidly changing 21st Century.

Above all, we want to give even the youngest children the behaviours that will enable them to become successful lifelong learners.

A Nurturing and Safe Environment

Children learn best when they are in an environment which makes them feel happy and safe. We pride ourselves on our high quality learning environment which is calm, purposeful and promotes children's independence.

There are high expectations of behaviour and everyone in the school community has a responsibility for maintaining a relaxed, calm and happy atmosphere. We recognise that all behaviour is communication and that sometimes children need support to make the right choices.

Throughout the school, we will nurture your child's social development. From learning to share in the Early Years to coping with a fall out with friends, your child will be supported to recognise and deal effectively with the different emotions that they experience. We want to equip our children with the skills which will enable them to be polite, confident, hardworking members of society.



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OUR CURRICULUM

We believe that children learn best when learning is linked in a meaningful way. Our topic based curriculum is designed to capture children's interests, excite their imagination and provide plenty of first hand experiences to help them make sense of the world.

Children are taught according to developmental level and are either learning something new, practising or applying a skill already taught in a real life situation. We regularly assess both formally and informally, to ensure that every child is making progress and put in extra support when necessary.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Nursery and Reception children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. There are 3 prime areas, communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development and 4 specific areas literacy, numeracy, understanding the world and expressive art and design. The environment in the foundation stage is set up to allow children to develop their knowledge and skills through play. There are opportunities for children to learn both inside and outside the classroom.

National Curriculum

In Years 1 – 6, we follow the National Curriculum. Your child will be gaining a range of knowledge and skills in English, Maths, Science, Computing, History, Geography, Art and Design, Design Technology, Music, Physical Education and Personal, Social and Emotional Education. We use a topic based curriculum to seamlessly make links between all subject areas to enhance the quality of the provision for the children.

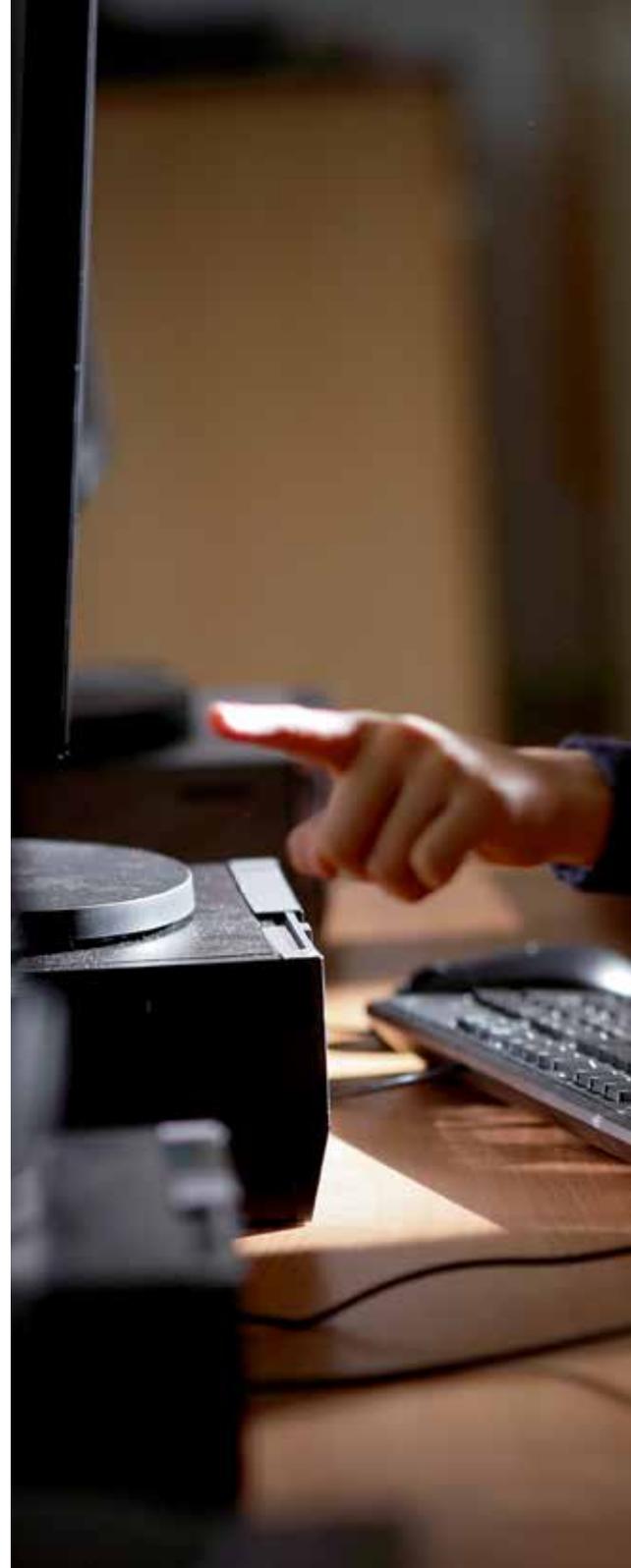
Thinking Skills

Our curriculum promotes cognitive education and thinking skills by providing our children with a range of tools and techniques to structure their thoughts. Thinkers' Keys, Habits of Mind and Philosophy for Children (P4C) are embedded within our curriculum, used within pastoral work and help with decision making at different levels throughout the school.

Enrichment

Staff regularly volunteer to run after-school clubs which begin at 3.00pm and finish at 4.00pm. Clubs start after the first full week following the Summer, Christmas and Easter holidays and finish a full week prior to these breaks. A range of clubs will be provided including football, cooking and art and crafts.

We also offer a wide range of experiences for the children including a residential adventure trip, workshops, cooking sessions and other valuable life experiences to help bring the learning to life.



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PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

At New Horizons parents are encouraged to become involved in their child's learning and to have high expectations of the school from the outset.

We value you as your child's first educator and ask you to work with us to ensure that your child is achieving as much as possible. We encourage you to help your child complete the homework set by the class teacher.

There are regular workshops for parents explaining the approaches the school uses for key areas such as phonics, maths, reading and thinking skills. Parents are regularly invited into school for Curriculum Days, Class Assemblies and various other events.

Parents have regular opportunities throughout the year to meet with staff to review their child's progress and a written report will be provided at the end of the year.

We pride ourselves on being very approachable and have an open door policy so if you are concerned about your child's education, please make an appointment at any time with the Class Teacher.



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