



Palatine Community
Sports College

"respect for everyone, achievement for all"



PALATINE COMMUNITY SPORTS COLLEGE
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Headteacher Mr C Powell BSc Hons



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD...

I am delighted that you have taken the opportunity to read Palatine Community Sports College's prospectus. I am honoured to be Headteacher at the school and am equally proud to be associated with such a dedicated and hardworking team of staff. The school has made tremendous progress over recent years and the enhanced reputation that Palatine now enjoys in the local community is testimony to the sustained efforts of everyone involved at the school.

The progress made by the school was further supported by our excellent Ofsted Report, which stated: "Palatine is an improving and increasingly popular school where standards and achievement are rising. There has been a determination by the senior leadership team to use the recently acquired sports college status as a catalyst to promote higher aspirations and self-esteem. As one parent said: 'Palatine is a nice place to be and is a real community school.'"

Palatine is committed to meeting the needs of all students attending the school irrespective of aptitude, creed or socio-economic background. I believe that the core values of our school are to develop 'rounded individuals' and to prepare our students for their future chosen careers. To me the measure of a school's success is not purely in items of academic performance, but more in ensuring that our young people are able to launch into both education and employment after leaving the school, surely it is our duty to prepare them for this. As Ofsted noted: "Students can achieve well in a safe supportive environment and gain the personal and social skills that will help them in the future".

I believe a pre-requisite of any successful school is based on clear boundaries of acceptable behaviour. In this respect I have the highest expectations of all students who attend Palatine Community Sports College and insist that they maintain these. Firm, fair and consistent discipline is a characteristic highly evident at the school. I am passionate in my belief that we need to uphold the basics with regard to our standards and this is something that I am not prepared to compromise on.

As I hope you can see Palatine is a forward thinking school and there is a plethora of new initiatives taking place. However, I am equally adamant that as a school we will maintain many traditional values. I recognise this is an important decision that you are making with your child. Therefore, if you wish to gain further information about the school, do not hesitate to contact me and I will do my utmost to respond as quickly as possible.

Thank you,
 C Powell
 Headteacher



'THE PALATINE WAY'

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At Palatine Community Sports College we believe in:

- S**uccess - We always aim to achieve the best we can in everything we do.
- P**erseverance - We never give up even when we find things difficult.
- O**rganisation - We attend school on time, looking smart and with the correct equipment.
- R**espect - We show unconditional respect for all other members of the Palatine family (students, teachers and all other staff) we always think how our actions affect others.
- T**ogetherness - We are all part of the Palatine family and we stick together and watch out for each other no matter what!

Welcome



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Specialist sports college status was granted to the school in September 2004 and in keeping this status we strive to:

- ensure students maximise academic potential not only in PE but in all subjects
- encourage students to participate fully in the wider life of the school by increasing the number of opportunities available both in and out of the classroom
- continue to work within the community and have active partnerships with local primary schools, youth service and children centre
- develop and maintain effective relationships established with Blackpool Football Club - Palatine CSC currently works in partnership with the Football Club to deliver Soccer Schools for all students

A Specialist Sports College

- maintain established links with Palatine Leisure Centre - students of Palatine have use of excellent facilities, sports hall, swimming pool, and fitness suite to assist in excelling at various sports.
- continue to offer climbing, canoeing, kayaking, mountain walking, and orienteering in curriculum time as part of PE.
- continue to be successful in various events/competitions entered: Trampolining; Gymnastics; Volleyball; Chess
- continue to offer excellent, floodlit Tennis/Netball Facilities
- offer students the opportunity to undertake BTEC Outdoor Education courses
- continue to reach 100% achievement from students in the BTEC First Diploma in Sport
- keep the Sports Leaders Award



SCHOOL TEAMS

- Football
- Rugby
- Rounders
- Badminton
- Gymnastics
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Hockey
- Netball
- Athletics
- Swimming
- Cheerleading
- Volleyball
- Athletics
- Trampolining



English Specialism

The school's second specialism, achieved in 2007, is in English. At Palatine we recognise the importance of high standards of literacy for young people seeking further and higher education and/or employment and the key role the school has to play in developing the literacy ability of all our students. Literacy is a key focus for the school both in English lessons, where our talented and experienced team of staff have an established record of high levels of examination success, and across all other curriculum areas where all staff follow the whole school literacy policy with the support and guidance of our school Literacy co-ordinator. The school has a number of extra-curricular activities associated with this specialism including book clubs, a school literacy magazine and a range of competitions.



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THE CURRICULUM

At Palatine Community Sports College the curriculum is designed to be accessible and appropriate to students of all levels of ability. Additional support is provided for students who will benefit from this, when and where appropriate.

YEAR 7

All students follow a course in English, Mathematics, Science, French or Spanish, Geography, History, Religious Studies, Design Technology, Information and Communication Technology, Art, Drama, Music and P.E. (including Dance). Learn to learn.

Year 7 pupils will spend half of their week in the school's Year 7 Base. In here they will follow a largely integrated thematic, project approach to learning incorporating English, Humanities and ICT with a focus on active and enjoyable learning. The focus of the learning base is on developing the skills that are needed in fast changing technological world of the 21st Century. We believe spending half of the week solely in the area will help smooth the transition for year 7 students as they move from primary to secondary school.

YEARS 8 & 9

All students follow a course similar to that offered for Year 7. Students with an aptitude for Modern Foreign Languages may have the opportunity to study German or Spanish alongside French. In Design Technology pupils study Resistant Materials, Graphic Design, Food Technology and Textiles Technology.

YEARS 10 & 11

Students follow a course of studies leading towards GCSE or GCSE's and Vocational Qualifications. All students follow a core programme of GCSE subjects in English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education and Physical Education. Students then have a wide choice, picking courses from traditional GCSE's, BTEC Certificates, OCR nationals which run in school and National Diploma courses, college courses and Young Apprenticeships run by partner 14-19 providers.

The Curriculum

PERSONAL, SOCIAL & HEALTH EDUCATION

Careers Education and Guidance, Health Education (including Drugs Awareness and Sex Education), Multi-Cultural issues, Economic Awareness, Political and International Understanding and Environmental Education, Economic Awareness, Gender Issues and Equal Opportunities will be dealt with in six super learning days throughout the year. This will be followed by all students in all Years. Work related learning and enterprise are delivered through the Curriculum as focused theme days.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

All students, in every year, follow a course in Religious Education as required by the National Curriculum. All parents have a right to withdraw their children from RE as they do from Collective Worship. Parents wishing to take this course of action should make an appointment with the Headteacher so that the matter can be discussed.



SEX EDUCATION

The school recognises the importance of Sex Education. This forms an integral part of Health Education for all students and as such receives a whole school approach through the Health Education Policy. We recognise our responsibilities in assisting our students to adjust to the changing demands of the next century.

The school acknowledges the role of the parent in sex education and aims to support this role with a programme which looks to develop self-esteem and self-awareness within students whilst promoting effective decision making in our future adults and parents. Sex Education is taught mainly through the Personal, Social and Health Education programme, but aspects may arise through other subject areas. The Sex Education Policy is available for viewing at school but some important points are summarised below.

For students already attending Palatine a letter will be sent to parents informing them of the start date for sex education lessons and their right to withdraw students from such sessions as well as the means to do so.

Parents may view the materials to be used on the programme or may discuss the content/method of delivery with the PSHE Co-ordinator by contacting the school to arrange an appointment.

Visitors will be accompanied in all sessions by the appropriate member of staff and will work within the guidelines given by the teacher.

A Health Mentor is available in the school most days to give health advice. Any student who wishes to may see her.





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ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

One positive way in which parents can support their children is by ensuring they attend school regularly. One of the clear things in education is the link between excellent attendance and progress at school.

Frequently children who are not necessarily 'high flyers' outshine their more able friends because their attendance at school is so much better. Regular attendance at school is crucial for students to benefit from the curriculum the school offers, and we look to parents to ensure that absences only occur when the child is medically unfit for school.

The school has a very keen attendance policy which seeks to reward good attendance, through certificates and prizes, and improve attendance levels. Last year students had the opportunity to win I Pods or meals at a local restaurant. After any absence students should bring a note from their parents explaining the absence to their Form Tutors. Parents are asked to inform the school as soon as possible for all absences. School absence line number is: **01253 336504**. As part of the attendance policy you will be contacted by the school, or in extreme cases, by the Educational Welfare Officer if it is felt that a student's education is suffering because of attendance problems and there is a need for any further action. Legally only the school can authorise absences from school and permission to leave school for dental, hospital appointments, holidays etc., should be obtained from the Form Tutor and all requests must be supported by an appointment card or letter from parents.

Students must always sign out at the office before leaving school for an appointment.

Students are late if they are not in their tutor room by 8.35am and/or if they are not in their first lesson immediately after lunch.

The school has a full time attendance officer and an educational welfare officer.



At Palatine we recognise and celebrate all student achievements.

Our students regularly receive a variety of rewards in acknowledgement of their achievements and examples of these are:

- Certificates of Achievement
- Letters of Recognition
- Head teacher Awards
- Acknowledged as learner of the lesson
- Accepted as a "Pride of Palatine" Student
- Invited to achievement evenings/assemblies
- Invited to sports award evenings
- Invited to be involved in the rewards trips
- Issued with various prizes and vouchers

House System

As students arrive at Palatine they are placed into one of four houses. Throughout the year inter house competitions are held in a wide variety of activities enabling students to participate and contribute to the wider life of Palatine.

The house system promotes positive competition, team building and a sense of belonging that reflect the whole school ethos.



Behaviour & Attendance

Good behaviour matters
High levels of attendance matters



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HEALTHY EATING

Palatine Community Sports College achieved Healthy School Status in January 2009. The status recognises the work the school undertakes in relation to Personal, Social and Health Education, healthy eating, physical activity and emotional health and well-being of students.

Palatine Community Sports College has a whole school food policy. The aim of the policy is to ensure that all aspects of food and health nutrition in school promotes the health and well being of students, staff and visitors to the school.

Breakfast foods are available for early arrivals between 8.00 and 8.25 and healthy snacks are available at break.

PASTORAL CARE

The overall welfare of any student is a key priority for us at Palatine.

A variety of staff, including form tutors and Year Heads of Achievement play a key role in ensuring the welfare of all our students.

Considerable thought is given to placing students in tutor groups to which they will belong for their 5 years at school. We believe this continuity of support from the form tutor provides a sure base from which children can achieve their year 11 potential.

In addition we have a number of Pastoral Managers whose roles are totally focussed on providing pupils with the necessary support and guidance. The school also has a health mentor, counsellor, PCSO, and learning mentors to support students in all aspects of school life.



GIFTED & TALENTED

Palatine has recently been accredited as a Gifted and Talented Outreach centre.

The school has a whole school policy to address the needs of Gifted, Able and Talented students and will work to continually develop this.

S.E.N.

Palatine has a Special Educational Needs policy, which meets the code of practice and is overseen by the Learning Support Co-ordinator.

Life at School





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EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Palatine has a vast array of opportunities both in and out of lessons. We offer, therefore a comprehensive programme of extra-curricular activities, which take place before school, at lunchtimes or after school.

- **Breakfast Club** (runs from 7.30 – 8.30 am)
- **Expressive Arts**
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Chess
- Dance Club
- School Choirs
- Computer Club
- Community Service
- Music Club
- Modern Languages Club
- Mock Trial Team
- Trampoline Club
- Young Enterprise
- Table Tennis Club
- Aqua Aerobics Club
- **Instrumental Tuition** (Arrangements can be made for students to receive extra tuition)
- Art Club
- Drama Club
- Dodgeball Club
- School Band (Samba & Orchestral)
- Science
- Charity Work
- Gymnastics Club
- Vaulting Club
- Fitness Club
- Swimming Club
- Climbing Club
- Athletic Clubs
- Tennis Club

Each year the school holds productions and concerts. Over recent years Palatine has expanded to performing beyond school at public functions and in competitions. We now have a school choir, a swing choir and a Samba Band and an Ensemble.



Life after Lessons

AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY

At Palatine we are actively working towards locating our school at the heart of the community and seeking ways by which we can continue to take up the challenge of making Every Child Matters agenda a reality for children, young people and communities and ensure we are able to offer a core service of activities.

The core offer includes:

- A varied range of activities including study support, sport and music clubs etc
- Parenting and family support
- Swift and easy access to targeted and specialist services
- Community access to facilities including adult and family learning, ICT and sports grounds

We feel that high educational standards and pupil well-being go hand in hand and that children succeed best when they are healthy, self-confident and well-motivated. Extending the range of services that we as a school can offer is crucial to making sure children and families are given the support they need to thrive.



BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is the biggest ever school buildings investment programme.

We are currently working with a variety of consultants to work towards a brand new school being built.

The programme also focuses on ways in which pupils are taught – preparing the school for new ways of pupil learning, including use of the latest digital equipment and networks.

Current plans include state of the art academic and sporting facilities and we are confident that our plans will lead to a visionary, educational complex, incorporating new student learning centres, dining and social facilities.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Palatine is an improving and increasingly popular school and prides itself on many achievements and the ongoing improvements to the facilities that the school has available:

- Specialist Sports College
- Sport England Sportsmark
- Healthy Schools Award
- Strong links with Primary Schools – easing the transition from primary to secondary
- Establishment of Year 7 Base
- Campus approach – use of Palatine Leisure Facilities, Library and from 2011 onwards it is planned that a new Youth “Hub” will be available on the campus
- Excellent Climbing Wall Facility
- Accredited Gifted & Talented Outreach Centre
- Peacock – Annual publication containing literature written by our students. A way of sharing the talents of our students!
- Investors in People
- National Financial Management Standard Status

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Achievement for All



CONTACT WITH PARENTS

We maintain regular contact with parents, as we believe their support and involvement are essential in all areas of school life.

We use a range of face to face events for parents to meet teachers as well as more formal reporting processes.

We hope you will take the opportunity to visit the school and see at first hand the opportunities that we are able to offer our students.

If you would like to know more about the school, please see our Website, or if you would like to arrange a visit, please telephone the school on

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www.palatinesportscollege.co.uk