



Orchard Park awarded Character Quality Mark



ACE School of
CHARACTER

After a rigorous process, we are delighted to share that we have been awarded the ACE school of Character Quality Mark, held by only 29 schools in the UK.

We are thrilled to receive this award as it clearly recognises the high quality of our personal development programme experienced by all members of our school community. The assessor reported that they were delighted to visit a school which has a clear and detailed plan focusing on common sense and detailed research in equal measure.

The assessment report highlighted the following as particular strengths of the school:

The strategic planning and careful attention to detail to ensure that character activities are seamlessly blended across both curriculum activities and the huge range of opportunities provided by 'Character Clubs' was identified as excellent.

Students spoke very confidently about their experiences of character activity and they

were able to relate 'taught character material' to a range of situations and activities in everyday life.

The confidence with which students used the school's well developed language of character was impressive and in turn, enabled them to link development of their own character traits with the well-being of the school community.

Relationships across the school were universally positive, respectful and helped create a sense of security which enabled both students and staff to flourish in equal measure.

The assessor was significantly impressed with the maturity and competence of the students he interviewed. Students were able to articulate with confidence and enthusiasm for the positive impact the character programme was having on their lives now and in the future. The level of maturity and obvious personal reflection exhibited by students of all ages was impressive and reflected positively on their sense of pride in their school and its wider community. They understood that character development and academic achievement were of equal value.

Ms Ongley, Assistant Headteacher



A message from the Headteacher

As you know, Ofsted carried out an inspection of our school this half term. We could not be more pleased with the way our students and staff responded.

The team met with the teachers, support staff and students and distributed a survey.

The feedback from the inspectors was incredibly positive. It focused on excellent student conduct, high quality teaching, children feeling safe and supported, the rigorous planning of all subjects including PSHE and the kindness that underpins everything we do.

I very much look forward to sharing the report and outcome with you shortly.

Staff and pupils have worked very hard (as always) this half term - it is a privilege to see our school flourish. Thank you everyone for your commitment and drive: you're the best!

Ms C Moran, Headteacher

Under 13 team football tournament success



In January, our under 13 girls' football team represented Orchard Park in a seven-a-side tournament organised by Croydon SSP and held at Coombe Wood

Our group first faced The Laurels, where a dominant performance saw us winning 2-0 with goals from Keyanna and Kelly. We then drew a very difficult game with Riddlesdown 1-1, where the girls had to work hard to get the result; some key saves from Imade, a fantastic goal from Soriyah and tenacity from Evie saw us avoid defeat. We finished the group stage with a 1-0 win against Harris Crystal Palace to top the group ahead of Riddlesdown.

We then faced hosts Coombe Wood in the semi-final. The girls took control of the game early on. Great defending from Taliyah and Eja stopped any

threat from Coombe Wood and Soriyah scored the key goal to put us through to the final.

Coloma were the opponents in the final; another team that had beaten us in the league just before Christmas. Coloma also had a history of success in girls' football. Whether it was the chance to win a medal or the promise of Krispy Kremes, the girls played with a fearless attitude and a determined spirit. Gabby, Lilly and Keyanna never stopped running and Coloma struggled to get the ball from Soriyah.

Despite a couple of chances from either side, the game finished 0-0 and the winners would be decided on penalties – each team taking three each. Soriyah, Evie and Lilly all bravely stepped up and successfully scored their penalties, as did Coloma. It went to sudden death and Gabby also scored. Coloma's penalty taker slipped on the marker and hit hers wide and we thought we had won. However, after a quick discussion, our girls sportingly allowed their player to retake the penalty. Imade became the hero and saved the retake, resulting in us winning overall!

Hopefully, this is the first of many for these girls. A special mention to each player: Soriyah, Keyanna, Kelly, Gabby, Fatou, Taliyah, Lilly, Evie, Eja and Imade.

Ms Goodwin, PE Teacher

Under 16 basketball league news

Also in January, our under 16 team played Riddlesdown School in the Croydon Basketball League fixture.

It was a competitive game, opened with us scoring three early baskets from Kemari and Khalil in quarter one. Kemari was in fine form and collectively we won a significant amount of rebounds and interceptions to put Riddlesdown on the back foot early on in the game. As Riddlesdown grew into the game, our students showed great resilience to hold off their waves of attack during the third quarter. In the process, Jayden demonstrated one of

the cleanest three pointers you will see in high school basketball.

Orchard Park grew in confidence as the game went on and started to pick up more points. A few costly mistakes at the start of quarter four was the difference between the two sides, with the game ending 33-23. Nonetheless, for our first game so far this season, with more upcoming league games, there are plenty of positives to build on. Well done to Khalil, Kemari, Kevahney, Lucas, Shakir, Jayden G, Nathan and Jayden.

Mr Headley, PE Teacher

Ringling the changes

We recently held the first session for Orchard Park's 'Changemakers', who are leaders of 'Grassroots' – a programme that empowers students to improve the way young people in schools communicate and treat each other. Our Changemakers meet every week and work together to identify the changes they want to make in our school and put these into action. It was a fantastic first session and we are so proud of the energy and enthusiasm of the group. Watch this space!

TERM DATES

Half term holiday

Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2024

Easter holiday

Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April 2024

Summer term 2024

Monday 15th April to Wednesday 24th July 2024

INSET day – Monday 15th April 2024 (school is closed to all students)

May Day bank holiday – Monday 6th May 2024 (school is closed)

INSET day – Friday 5th July 2024 (school is closed to all students)

Half term holiday

Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2023

End of summer term

Friday 19th July 2024

KEY DATES

Year 7 parents' evening

Thursday 9th May 2024

Year 8 parents' evening

Thursday 21st March 2024

Year 10 parents' evening

Thursday 22nd February 2024

Year 11 (2 of 2) parents' evening

Thursday 18th April 2024



Proud to be part of the



Orchard Park High School
Orchard Way
Croydon
Surrey CR0 7NJ

Telephone: 020 8776 0220
Fax: 020 8777 3904
Email: info@orchardparkhigh.net
www.orchardparkhigh.co.uk