PRIOR PARK SIXTH FORM

Prior Park
Gibraltar

"The school's ethos fully supports my own values in life, and those I would want for my child as she becomes an adult" - PPSG Parent

Welcome to Prior Park School, Gibraltar

The Sixth Form at Prior Park provides a unique and exciting post-16 experience for young people in Gibraltar and Southern Spain. Here you will find a high quality British Sixth Form education with outstanding pastoral care, rooted in the Christian values of the Prior Park Schools' family.

The emphasis at this stage of a student's time at Prior Park is to help prepare them as the employees and employers of the future. Our aim is that all senior pupils will be independent minded and self-motivated and serve as role models for the younger students in the school.

We recognise the many pressures and challenges that students face; pastoral care and teacher support are as fundamental in these years as they are throughout the Lower School. We encourage students to continue with their sports, creative activities and other extra-curricular opportunities, as well as taking the time to relax and socialise with their friends.

We want our Sixth Form community to be strong, lively, stimulating, fulfilling, rewarding and enjoyable. Working alongside parents, we will know that we have done our job well if our Upper Sixth Form are ready and excited to leave school as capable, flexible, articulate and compassionate young adults, ready to embrace and shape the future.

Paul Martyn
Headteacher

Life in the Sixth Form

The Sixth Form is a lively, sociably enjoyable and intellectually stimulating time in a student's school career. From the moment you arrive, you are part of the Prior Park community.

Sixth Form students have their own designated space within the school, providing the perfect place for students to work and relax. The Sixth Form Centre includes a large, bright room for independent study, and a common room with a kitchen area for socialising. Daily support is provided by Form Tutors, Heads of House and the Head of Sixth Form.

Our Sixth Form team prides itself on the support given to each student through the university admissions process. All students have access to Unifrog software, which helps to highlight options for them. They also have weekly meetings with our Head of Sixth Form and UCAS consultant to discuss their choices and to receive advice on finance, accommodation and student life in general. Those interested in applying to Oxbridge meet to discuss the specific requirements, take part in practice interviews and prepare for admissions tests.

All students are encouraged to pursue their academic interests beyond the A Level course curriculum through competitions, lectures, work experience and private research. However, there are many enrichment and co-curricular opportunities, including service, sport, creative options, House activities and performances.

A Level Programme

Students have opportunities to deepen their knowledge of subjects they enjoy, as well as a chance to try something new. Prior Park offers the best of the British Curriculum through its high-quality A Level programme. Success in the A Level programme is known to lead to entrance into universities worldwide. Students who choose to undertake A Levels will be well prepared and positioned to enter further education or the world of work.

The British A Level programme taught at Prior Park can offer pathways to some of the best universities in Britain, such as Oxbridge, the Russell Group and similar tertiary education institutions. It is essential for students to understand the specifications required for entry into these institutions so they can make an informed choice about their A Level subjects. Further information, such as the Russell Group's 'Informed Choices' website, can be helpful in the decision-making process.

Sixth Form Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to:

- Maximise the use of directed teaching time
- Develop skills needed for Higher Education and the workplace
- Include opportunities to participate in other enriching activities and serve the wider community

At Prior Park School all students take three A Levels and may also take a fourth qualification, such as a further A Level or complete an EPQ.

Entry into the Sixth Form is dependent on an ability to benefit from higher studies, showing aptitude and maturity. The minimum requirement for entry onto our A Level programme of study is 4-8 GCSE points, with specific grade requirements of a minimum of 6 (7 for STEM subjects) for chosen A Level options (if the student has studied the subject before).

Art
Biology
Chemistry
Computer Science
Drama and Theatre
Economics
English Literature
French
Geography
History
Mathematics
Further Mathematics
Music
Photography
Physical Education
Physics
Psychology
Spanish
Theology, Philosophy and Ethics
EPQ
iBTEC Applied Science
iBTEC Business
iBTEC Creative Media

Course details and specifications will be published in the Subject Guide Booklet

Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

The EPQ is an option for those students looking to go beyond the standard A Level curriculum. Students can choose to focus on any topic they choose from sports to psychology, and work on this project independently, developing important skills and knowledge that goes beyond the textbooks. It allows students to create their own pathways and follow their own interests.

The EPQ is a voluntary project, which requires the student to have a certain amount of self-motivation and drive.

With a dedicated personal mentor at the school for guidance, students will work on their unique project, using their initiative and doing their own research, completing an extra qualification alongside their A Levels, by the time they leave Prior Park. A completed EPQ is equivalent to an AS Level and is well regarded by universities as evidence of a student who is ready to undertake a degree. Universities will often look out for students who have put in the extra work to stand out in their applications, and this is a great way to get noticed.

Over 95% of parents thought that the school supports student's personal development and wellbeing and over 80% of parents thought that their child would be comfortable asking for help and talking about their problems with school staff.

University and Careers Guidance

The focus for our students at A Level is to develop a sense of independence toward their own learning. We will nurture and guide them towards their goal for the future, whether that be entry to higher education or into business/industry.

During Sixth Form, all students are prepared for Higher Education and the world of work through a variety or way:

- Seminars on topics such as options at 18+ and how to choose the correct course at University.
- Individual interviews or careers appointments with our Head of Sixth Form
- Information evenings for students and parents.
- Oxbridge: providing help with the application procedure and mock interviews with specialist academic staff.
- Specialist support for potential Medics/Vet Meds or Lawyers with their entrance tests.
- Mock interviews.
- Results Day support: giving advice and guidance for clearing or looking at alternative options.

Quality Assured Teaching

It is a requirement in the UK for schools to regularly open themselves up for inspection either by OFSTED or ISI and we have fully incorporated this into our school development at Prior Park School Gibraltar. Quality assurance in the standards of teaching and learning within our school ensures that we provide the best quality and value education for all students.

Our team of experienced teachers and tutors ensure that every student gets the attention and support they require to flourish and excel during their A Levels.

Prior Park College

Prior Park College, Bath, UK

Prior Park School, Gibraltar

Prior Park School in Gibraltar is part of a family of British schools, which allows us to offer students a unique learning experience with collaboration between Gibraltar and Prior Park College based in Bath, UK. The extra support available to students from the College is an invaluable asset to students during their A Level Programme. Teachers, mentors and other A Level students can offer another perspective to our students and can enhance their overall learning experience.

We were delighted to see that 95% of parents agreed that Prior Park offers a stimulating, exciting and challenging curriculum. We will continue to invest in our facilities, resources and infrastructure to ensure that students can learn with the most up to date tools and technology, in a pleasant and engaging environment.

"She's doing things she would never have tried before, it's wonderful to see her so happy at school" - PPSG Parent

Tutor Groups

Every student at Prior Park belongs to a tutor group, and these groups meet at various times during the school week to talk about progress, address any issues and discuss non-academic matters, such as sporting or charity events, personal issues or just have a catch-up. This means every student has a personal tutor who they can approach for guidance at any time.

Individual Attention

Students who choose to study A Levels will be given more responsibility for their own learning and will be expected to show a mature approach to their studies. Alongside this, students will be supported by their tutors as they move through the Sixth Form. The small class sizes at Prior Park ensure that each and every student gets the individual attention they need to achieve success at A Level.

Prior Park prides itself on the close working relationships that can evolve between student and teacher from having small class sizes. There is a maximum of 12 students in an A Level teaching group, meaning that students get the best possible learning experience and one-to-one support that they need. This personalised teaching style also ensures that parents are informed as soon as any issues arise and can play a part in improving their child's Sixth Form experience.

Pastoral Care

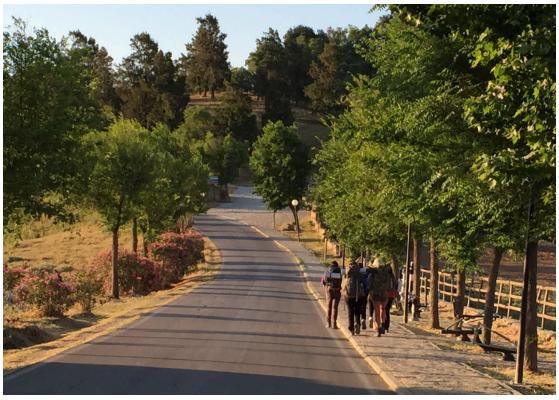
Our programme of pastoral care is central to school life. Its aim is to enable our students to make their own informed decisions to assume responsibility for their actions, and to recognise his or her own values as a unique person. It enables them to see the world outside the classroom and to prepare them to fulfil their role in society.

Pastoral issues are addressed through school assemblies, House groups and the PSHCE Programme. This aims to educate pupils to become effective citizens who understand a great deal about themselves and others, both spiritually and personally. We want our boys and girls to contribute to communities that they are a part of, both inside and outside school, locally and globally. Fundraising for charity and giving time and energy to community projects are important aspects of who we are as a school. Many parents choose Prior Park Schools because of this strong Christian identity and sense of community.

Leadership Opportunities

Experiences outside the classroom play a vital role in developing the student as a whole person, and at Prior Park we offer a variety of opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills. As the most senior students in the school, they will have the chance to take on responsibility and leadership roles within the community. These include mentoring and tutoring younger students, acting as school ambassadors for visitors and off-site trips, leading school events and working on the Student Council in various roles. We also select our Head Students from our 6th Form cohort.

Duke of Edinburgh



We are extremely proud of our excellent Duke of Edinburgh scheme available to older students, which offers a unique opportunity to get away from the classroom and into the outdoors. Students can work towards their Gold Certificate, taking part in a once-in-a-lifetime expedition, whilst learning key life skills and developing life-long friendships.

Co-Curricular Programme

The extensive co-curricular programme at Prior Park has quickly become a favourite among our students. Success in developing the whole child depends largely on students' involvement in extra-curricular activities such as sports, the arts and community/charity work. Our co-curricular programme runs every Monday to Thursday after school and every day during lunch times. Sixth Form students are encourages to keep up a regular timetable of activities to balance their academic work and to help develop teamwork and life skills, which are widely considered to be important to employers and universities.

The programme comprises three strands: Team Sports/ Activity, Creativity/ Enrichment and Service/ Leadership. Students must complete a certain amount of activities in order to fulfil the 'Prior Passport'.

Exchange trips with the UK and abroad are part of Sixth Form life, allowing our students to see the world beyond Gibraltar.

"Brilliant academics, fantastic co-curricular programme and excellent events"
- PPSG Parent

Faith in Education

At Prior Park, we want our students to be rooted in the Christian values of consideration, compassion, kindness, service, contribution to others and an openness to God, on which they can build their lives and which will be their inspiration in good times and comfort in bad.

The Catholic Christian education we offer our students allows them to learn in an inspirational and nurturing environment. Our role is to educate the whole child who is open to the richness of different cultures. Theology is a core subject to GCSE. All Sixth Formers are regularly involved in fundraising projects in aid of local and global charities. Prior Park designs its teaching to explore important moral, social and spiritual issues alongside excellent academics.

Skills For Life

All students follow the Skills for Life programme which is part of our taught curriculum. We want our leavers to be well-prepared for life beyond Prior Park, both academically and socially. Academic support provided through skills for life uses a contemporary self-reflection programme called VESPA. VESPA is an acronym for vision, effort, systems, practice and attitude.

VISION

Vision is about having a clear goal; it's about making the connection between the work you are doing and the reason for doing it. In simple terms it's about knowing the outcomes you want to achieve.

There is an argument that educators can be guilty of micromanaging of students through the examination years, and that this takes away the "future mindedness" of students, making them feel they have a lack of control over their life.

Our programme is designed to help support students develop their own ideas and empower them to take control of their future.

EFFORT

Sometimes referred to as "academic perseverance", effort refers to how much hard work you do. It is fair to say that the absence of effort pretty much guarantees failure; however more effort on its own is not a guarantee of success. One of the most important messages to convey to students is the 'myth of effortless success'. Pupils only get to understand this when they see and hear the amount of effort that has generally gone into a successful performance.

The effort tasks within our programme allow students to explore their current levels of effort and provide practical tools to help them improve their levels of effort. In VESPA Academy we focus mainly on 'efficient effort', i.e. tasks which maximise the gains on the time students invest.

SYSTEMS

Systems is about two things:

1) A System to organise learning so students can make sense of everything
2) A System to organise their time so students can complete key tasks to meet deadlines.

For many students, academic challenges are related more to a lack of organisation than intellectual ability (Hassanbeigi, 2011). We have also found amongst our own students a clear link between those who are underperforming and poor organisation and project management skills.
The activities included in VESPA Academy are designed to help students develop good habits and teach them how to organise their learning more effectively

PRACTICE

Practice represents exactly what learners do with the time they put into their studies. Not the "How much" of study but the "How".

Practice alone doesn't make perfect; deliberate practice makes perfect. Academic progress is as much about how you work as it is about how long you work. Many pupils who are putting in large amounts of time and effort but failing to make progress, are very often working on the wrong things.

Our VESPA Academy activities focus on developing students' knowledge of deliberate practice methods and strategies.

ATTITUDE

We believe there are four elements to developing students attitude (in relation to performance virtues). These are confidence, emotional control, academic buoyancy and having a growth mindset.
Confidence is key to success in any field, and students can very quickly lose confidence if they are unable to recognise their achievements and progress.

Emotional control is especially important to deal with stress of public examinations and overcome the weight of expectation many students feel at this time.

Developing academic buoyancy allows students to see critical feedback as a way of improving, and learning how to bounce back after disappointing test results.

Finally students need to believe they can improve, without believing their intelligence is fixed or gifted, the importance of developing a growth mindset is critical.
At VESPA Academy our activities aim to develop all of these aspects of student attitude. By developing the correct attitude, it improves the likelihood that a student will achieve the best they can be.

Alongside our academic support programme we offer structured careers guidance. The programme incorporates the latest guidance from the British government and follows the Gatsby Benchmarks.

- A stable career programme
- Learning from Labour market Information
- Addressing the needs of every pupil
- Linking curriculum to careers
- Encounters with employers and employees
- Experiences of the workplace
- Encounters with further and higher education providers
- Personal guidance

Students will also participate in workshops which help to build skills outside the classroom such as cooking, self-defence, resilience, interview skills, CV writing, goal setting and financial guidance.

We hope our students will leave Prior Park with many happy memories, a broad understanding of the issues facing their generation and the tools and knowledge to start their own journeys in the working world. An overwhelming 99% of parents can see their child leaving school as a confident, capable, compassionate and independent-minded young adult.

Social Life

Good schools help to prepare their students for a rich and fulfilling life after school and part of that should be giving them experience in a number of different social settings. In addition to the informal social life based around the Common Room, we will offer a programme of more formal events including a Sixth Form Leavers' Ball.

Starting the Sixth Form in a new school can be an intimidating prospect and we reduce some of the anxiety and uncertainty for our new students by holding induction events, such as taster days at the school.

Common Room and Quiet Study Area

Our Sixth Form students have a dedicated Common Room, complete with a kitchen area, soft seating and quiet study space. This is their space to use at break and lunch times and to work independently on their studies.

Uniform

Prior Park Sixth Form requires students to dress appropriately for a formal learning environment. We recognise that A Levels are the steppingstone to independence, whether that be heading off to university or into the workplace. Students will be expected to wear a smart, business-like, dark coloured suit with a shirt and tie for boys and blouse for girls. Please refer to our policy on Sixth Form uniform for specific guidelines.

office.ppsg@priorparkschools.com

200 62006

Prior Park School

@priorparkschoolgibraltar