



PROSPECTUS

Alternative Learning Project Pierview Academy - Gravesend, Kent

Offering young people a different approach to teaching and learning within an Ofsted registered setting



FOREWORD FROM OUR HEAD TEACHER



"Welcome to Pierview Academy. We aim to meet the needs of students who have not found success in other learning environments. We adapt to our students and provide a learning package that fits around their interests and learning needs. We recognise that our students need time and space to re-engage with learning so we provide both within a supportive environment. Our staff have a range of caring experience such as fostering, schools, colleges and care homes. We hope that all young people will be able to achieve their potential at our school."

*Paul Mersh
Head Teacher, ALP Pierview Academy*



OUR VISION

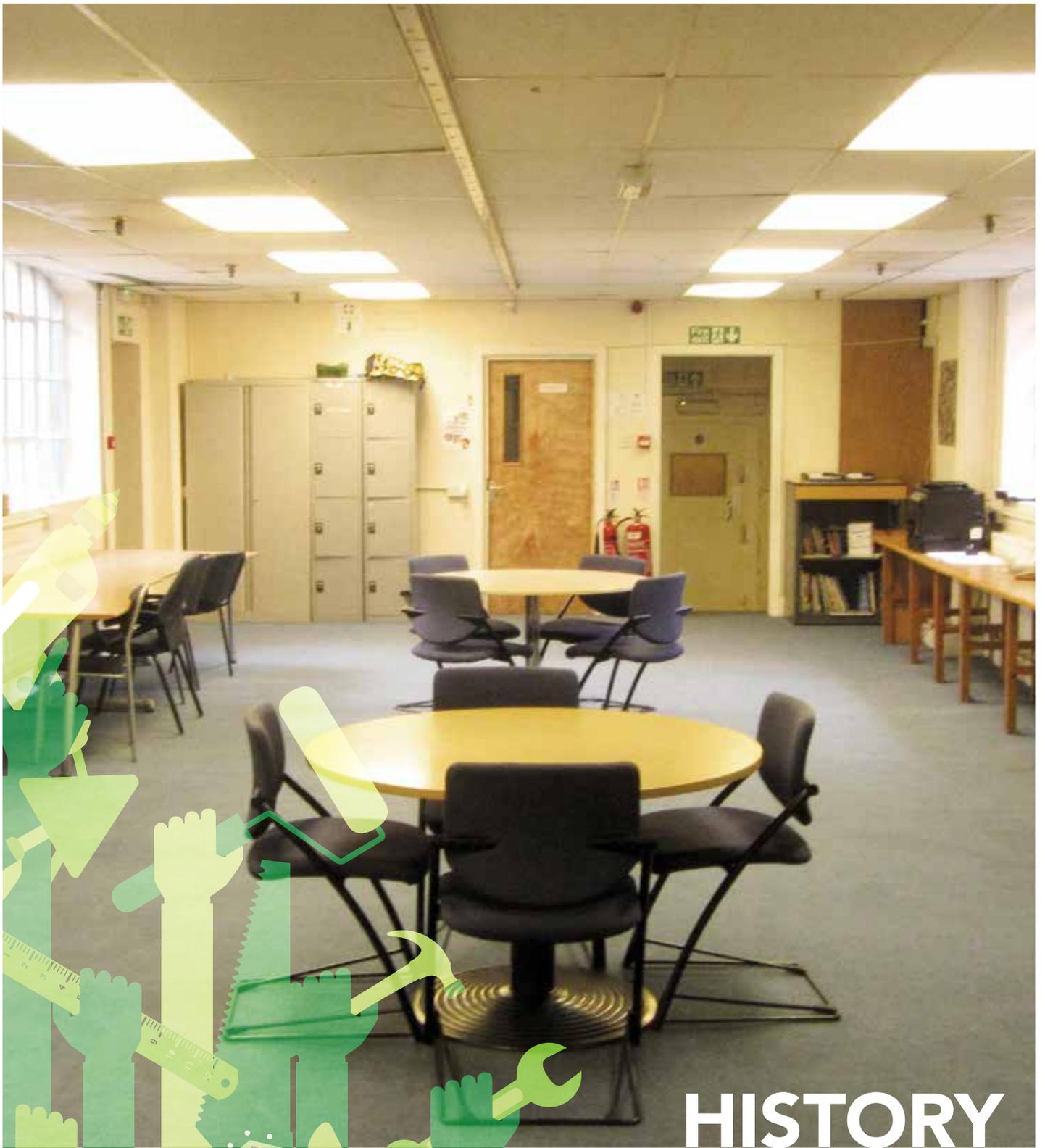
Pierview Academy aims to create flexible, individualised programmes of learning support for young people who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to access mainstream education. From the point of referral, we focus on the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) of the learner and on family support, in order to provide the most effective and appropriate educational intervention.

Working closely with the Local Authorities and local colleges, schools and academies we provide outcomes that are in accordance with the individual needs of each learner.

We specialise in emergency, short, medium and long term education placements of young people with SEND including (but not limited to) Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Emotional, Social and Behavioural Difficulties, challenging behaviour and mental health difficulties.

Our overall aim is to reintegrate or progress learners into suitable, long term education, training or employment. To achieve this, Pierview Academy provides a more informal and nurturing approach to teaching and learning where dedicated tutors develop a close working relationship with the learners and their families.





HISTORY

ALP Schools, previously known as ASD Learning are currently on an exciting journey of establishing quality, alternative learning provisions across the country. To date, ALP Schools have created three Ofsted registered schools:

- **Pierview Academy, Gravesend, Kent**
- **ALP Leicester, Birstall, Leicester**
- **Parkview Academy, Welling, Kent**

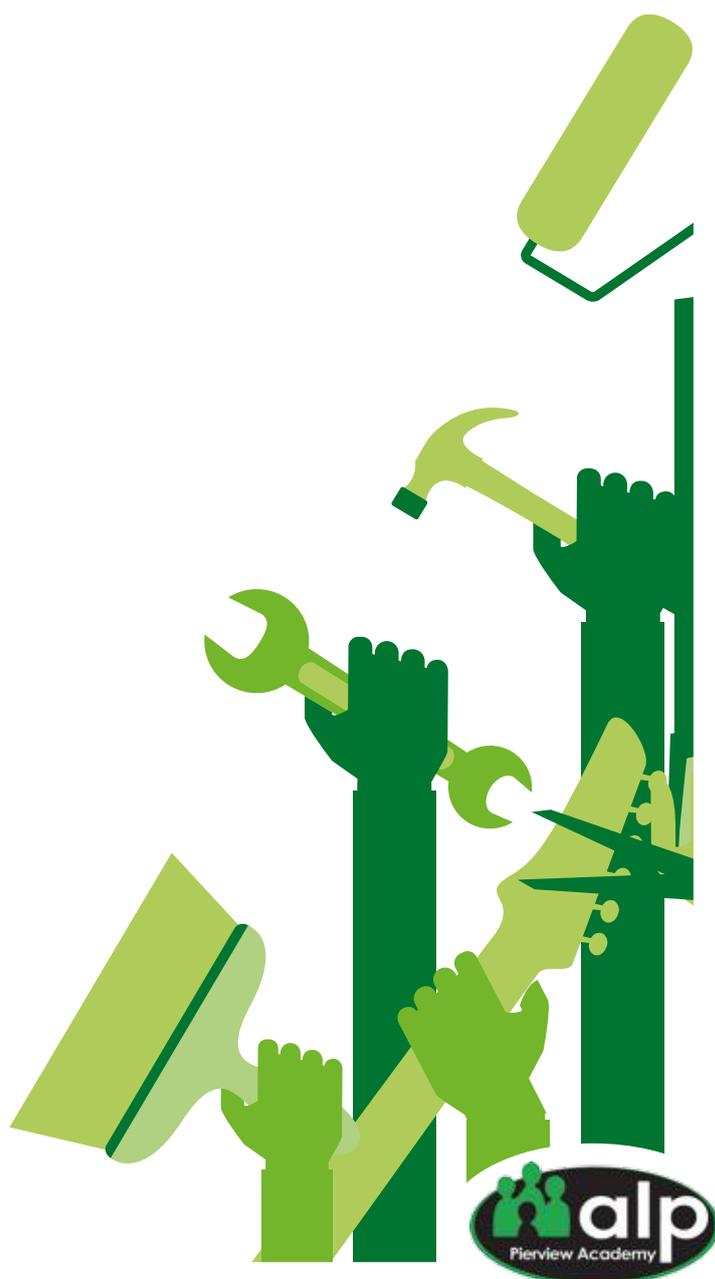
Pierview Academy was established in October 2007 and has continuously developed the learning environment and its approach to teaching and learning in the aim to establish an Ofsted registered school that can engage hard to reach learners and help them progress into positive destinations.

The company was established in 2007 by Phil Hoppenbrouwers who initially educated the first two referrals from a log cabin in his back garden. As the demand for short term alternative provision grew, our ASD Learning Educational Centre was established in Gravesend and more centres were to follow. Secondary provisions were established in Kentish Town and Welling, a primary centre in Woolwich and a secondary provision in Lewisham, which was exclusively for girls. With only two of these centres establishing themselves in a sustainable capacity, the company expanded to Leicester where co-proprietor Ray Waring opened ALP Willows in September 2012. This was situated on Troon Way Business Park in Thurmaston and was initially for primary learners. However, a rapid rate of referrals helped by a 'Good' Ofsted rating meant the school quickly expanded and as a result relocated to their new home for primary and secondary learners, on the Campus of the Cedars Academy in Birstall, Leicestershire.

In Gravesend we established ourselves as Pierview Academy. Over recent years we have had a significant growth of learners accessing the provision. As a result we have matched this with increased staff numbers, including the introduction of Deputy Head of Schools,

A Family Liaison Officer, an Inclusions Manager and a Communications Manager. Alongside this we have developed a new Curriculum and Assessment Policy which includes the delivery of IGCSEs, Functional Skills, Vocational Learning and Personal and Social Development. Head Teacher Paul Mersh has been leading our exciting developments since 2011 and was joined in January 2016 by Managing Director David Cowell who became a Member of the British Empire in the 2015 New Years' Honours list for his Contribution to Vocational Education.

Pierview Academy continues to develop year on year and our team our dedicated TAs and LSAs thrive on helping to change the lives of young people.





OUR APPROACH

*Catering for young people
aged between 11 and 25*



Pierview Academy provides for young people aged 11-25 who have experienced difficulties in other educational settings. As a result of their previous experiences they have often become disengaged from the education system. This is likely to have impacted on the quality of family life which we recognise requires our understanding. Our alternative provision offers young people a different approach to learning, with a flexible outlook, designed around the young person's individual needs.

Educational programmes are agreed for learners with multiple difficulties needing small groups, one to one, two to one or intensive support. We work with schools, parent and carers, multi-agency professionals and our learners to ensure success in core entitlement via appropriate delivery strategies, ensuring better outcomes for pupils.

We recognise that our learners may need additional support before they are ready to fully engage in the curriculum. Therefore, we typically follow a progressive step by step approach as summarised in the mnemonic; **ARRRTT**



ATTENDANCE

Focus on improving each learner's attendance level to ensure they give themselves the basis to achieve



ROUTINE

Tutors help learners to gain a routine that is adapted to pupils individual needs to ensure they feel comfortable in the educational environment



RELATIONSHIPS

Learners are assisted in developing sound relationships with tutors and other service users



RESPECT

Working with learners and families in a holistic manner to maximize their life-chances and educational potential



TRUST

When a pupil feels more secure and understood



TEACHING

A formal, academic curriculum takes place





KEY FEATURES OF OUR PROVISION

*Flexible, short, medium and long term educational packages
for pupils on the autistic spectrum who are out of school*



- ✓ Individual, flexible and creative learning environments
- ✓ Calm and low arousal approaches to challenging behaviours
- ✓ Development of a positive home / school relationship
- ✓ Delivery of IGCSE's in English, Maths, Science, Art and History.
- ✓ Daily evaluation reports, supporting termly and annual reviews
- ✓ Proactive working with families
- ✓ A quick response to emergency referrals
- ✓ Flexible timetabling according to needs
- ✓ Home visits
- ✓ Outreach
- ✓ Partnership working with multi-agencies
- ✓ Vocational courses delivered within school and in partnership with specialist providers
- ✓ Support at the point of transition
- ✓ A focus on Personal and Social Development and Well-Being.
- ✓ Personal and individualised timetables that meet the learners' needs and interests
- ✓ A registered centre to deliver IGCSE's, NCFE and Asdan qualifications
- ✓ A kitchen space shared by learners so they can develop independent living skills
- ✓ Bespoke educational plans for pupils
- ✓ An empathetic approach to Special Educational Needs
- ✓ Support and positive relationships with families
- ✓ Exclusions used only as a last resort
- ✓ Support learners' progression into schools, colleges and work.
- ✓ A focus on developing enterprise and customer service skills



OUR EDUCATIONAL OFFER

Being in an alternative provision doesn't mean young people are held back academically. We offer a range of IGCSEs to provide the foundation for progression.



CURRICULUM

Our learners are offered bespoke courses to suit the individual's needs. Our curriculum is based around a model of foundation learning which ensures that all of our students have an element of Functional Skills, vocational learning and personal and social development within their timetables.

We are a IGCSE registered centre offering five core IGCSE subjects in Maths, English, Science, Art and History. We ensure that our learners develop their curriculum in accordance to their key stage and level of ability. For example, key stage 3 learners will engage in schemes of work that keep them on track for achieving in key areas of the national curriculum.

In key stage 4 they will focus on exam preparation and completing course work to meet the requirement of IGCSEs and in post 16 we introduce a focus on college placements and higher level achievement in vocational options and preparation for working life. Teaching and learning within our school is differentiated to meet the ability of each learner. We also ensure that our learners engage in a curriculum that will enable them to progress back into suitable educational pathways.

IGCSEs

We became a registered centre for IGCSEs in December 2014. We strongly believe that despite the need for an alternative provision, young people should not lose their opportunity to gain IGCSEs. Our range of IGCSEs are offered to key stage 4 and post 16 learners. We currently offer IGCSEs in:

- **English**
- **Maths**
- **Science**
- **Art and Design**
- **History**



FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

These are essential skills needed for English, Maths and ICT which are vital for young people and adults to participate in life, learning and work. Functional Skills feature in most educational and training choices.

They are an essential, compulsory element in two main qualification routes for young people from 11 to 25, in apprenticeships and in the foundation learning tier, as well as being stand-alone qualifications in their own right at Entry Level (1-3), Level 1 and Level 2.

The development of Functional Skills is seen by the Government as essential to address employers' concerns that young people and adults are not achieving a firm enough grounding in the basic education and life skills. At Pierview Academy we recognise that Functional Skills strengthen and bring consistency to learning routes.

VOCATIONAL LEARNING

Vocational learning is used to equip learners on their journey towards a particular trade or craft. Within the school environment we are able to deliver a variety of art and crafts, customer service skills, sport and leisure activities, cookery, enterprise and occupational studies.

These can be complimented with a range of Asdan short courses such as Hair and Beauty, Animal Care, Expressive Arts and Foodwise. In addition, for our post 16 learners, we have developed working relationships with local alternative education providers and colleges who deliver a wide variety of practical learning, thus enabling us to be flexible to the desires of the individual.

This includes, but is not limited to, outdoor pursuits, climbing, construction, equine studies, fishing, animal care, mechanics, traditional crafts, beauty therapy, IT maintenance, woodwork and more. Pierview Academy is an approved OCR, NCFE and Asdan centre which allows us to ensure that our learners work towards accredited qualifications in their vocational choices.

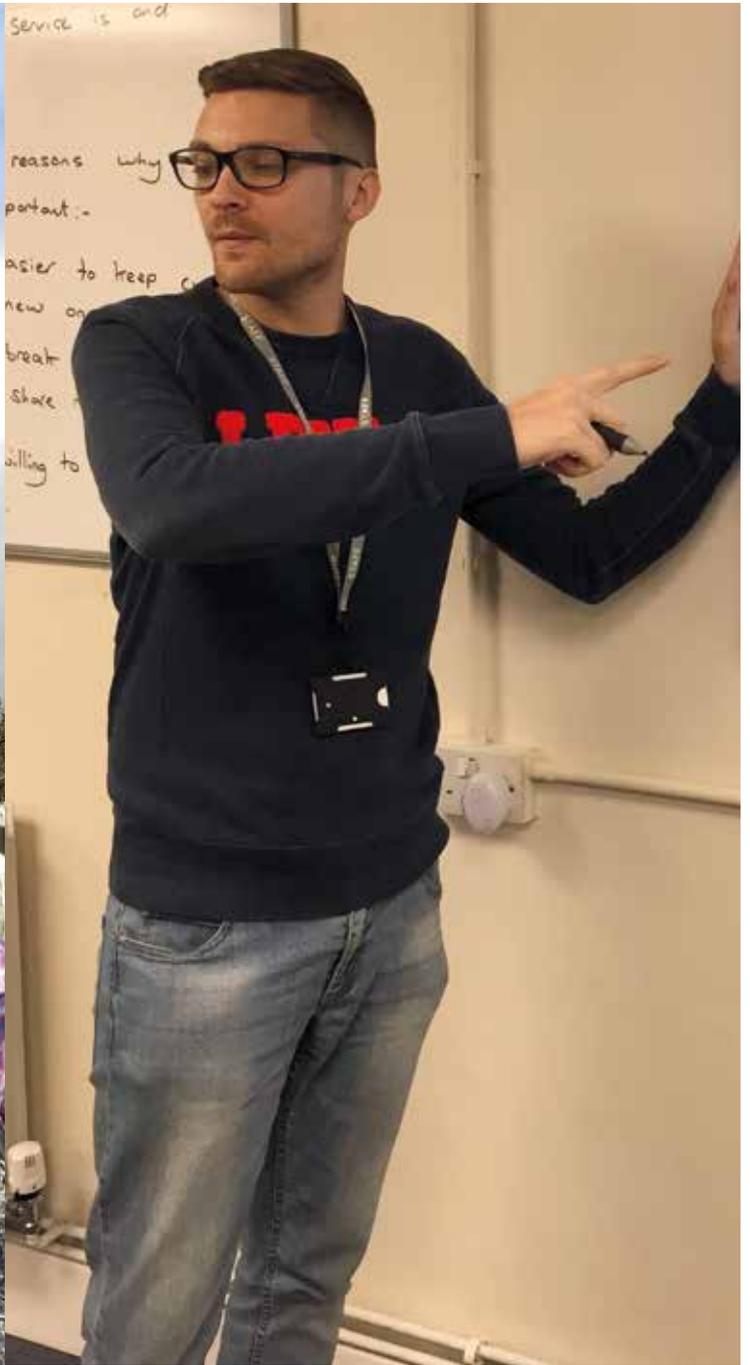
PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Our focus on Personal and Social Development (PSD) means we come up with imaginative ways of supporting young people in:

- Becoming confident individuals who are physically, emotionally and socially healthy
- Being responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society and embrace change
- Managing risk together with their own wellbeing as well as introducing them to new activities and personal challenges.

Our Personal and Social Development can lead to young people receiving recognised accreditation in both pre and post 16:

- Towards Independence – which provides a framework of activities through which personal, social and independence skills can be developed and accredited for those with severe learning difficulties (SLD) and profound multiple learning difficulties (PMLD).
- Short Courses – provide a range of flexible programmes to accredit young people's activities when aged between 13 and 19.
- Bronze/Silver/Gold Personal Development Programmes – provide challenges over 13 modules of topics such as Sport, The Community, Technology and Healthy Living.
- Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) - is ASDAN's flagship qualification and offers an imaginative way of accrediting young people's curriculum enrichment and extra-curricular activities, allowing our school to certificate a wide range of personal qualities, skills and achievements, as well as introducing new activities and challenges.
- PSHE – to allow our learners to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy and safe and prepare for life and work in modern Britain.
- Well-Being – Covering subject's areas crucial for our older learners, including Substance Misuse Awareness, Alcohol Awareness, Sexual Health, Personal Safety and more.
- PSD – providing access to units in developing self, encouraging problem solving and working towards employability and independent living skills.





OUR STAFFING STRUCTURE

"Staff interact well with pupils and develop very positive relationships with them, encouraging them to communicate their feelings, concerns and anxieties."

Ofsted 2013

Our school has identified a structure that caters for the diverse range of needs of our learners. We are proud to have specialist staff who complement our team of Assistant Teachers and Learning Support Assistants. Our specialist team includes:

INCLUSIONS MANAGER

Responsible for, reviewing our schools Provision Maps and assisting with Annual Reviews and Personal Education Plans. Our inclusions manager also works closely with the young people by providing one to one literacy and numeracy lessons. Many of these sessions focus on multi-sensory, structured phonics Programmes such as 'Spelling Made Easy' and 'Toe by Toe'. They complete comprehensive assessments of our learners through the WRAT 4: Wide Range Achievement Test.

COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

We are delighted to have a qualified Speech, Language and Communication therapist who specialises in working in schools with students with communication and language difficulties associated with being on the autistic spectrum. Our Communications manager works closely with students, staff and parents to enable them to successfully access education and develop their social communication. They are a fully qualified ELKLAN trainer which is the main provider in the UK of accredited training to education staff to enable them to be more effective in their support of children with speech, language and communication needs.

FAMILY LIAISON OFFICER

Our Family Liaison Officer supports the Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team in co-ordinating a range of activities, addressing the needs of children/young people who need help to overcome barriers to learning, in order to achieve their full potential and to act proactively to improve attendance. They establish and foster good relationships with parents/carers of our learners and encourage good home/school communication. This helps to identify why learners may not be achieving in a variety of areas and assist in the implementation of action plans to address the issues. This may also involve signposting families to sources of advice and guidance within the local community.

CAREERS INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE OFFICER

Our internal careers service is offered across all three schools to guide and support our learners at both primary, secondary and post 16 level. We recognise that careers advice is crucial for the successful progression of our learners, therefore, we work in partnership with external careers agencies to ensure all of our learners receive appropriate information, advice and guidance in relation to their key stage.



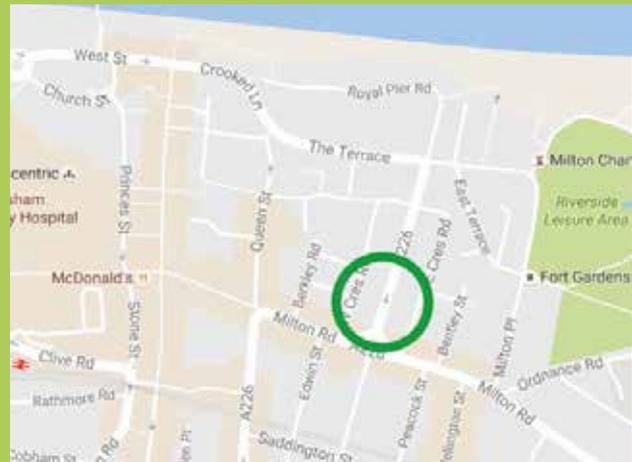
We work closely with our providers and are happy to arrange meetings to discuss potential referrals.

Initial point of contact can be made via direct correspondence using the details listed on the 'Contacts' page within this brochure. Alternatively, we have an electronic referral form on our website:

www.alpschools.org

Click on the referral icon, complete the required details and click the 'Submit' button. We will respond promptly to your request and do all we can to assist.

How to find us



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www.pierviewacademy.co.uk