

XP.

Preparing our
children to be
successful in the
modern world

Prospectus
2015-2016

Courage Respect Craftsmanship & Quality Compassion Integrity





Introduction

Dear Parent

Thank you for your interest in XP. This prospectus explains what our school is about, how we do things, what you should expect from us and what we expect from you.

We base our practice on the extremely successful schools of High Tech High and Expeditionary Learning schools across the USA and as such, offer an academically rigorous curriculum with deep, visceral learning experiences.

XP opened in August 2014. Each year group has 50 children split into two classes, to a total of 350 students across Years 7 to 13 in September 2020. This small size ensures we are able to deliver our highly personalised curriculum and assessment strategies.

We focus relentlessly on quality of work and character growth. As a result, our school culture is value-driven. Therefore, we expect our students, staff and parents to be courageous, respectful, committed to craftsmanship and quality, compassionate and to always show integrity. We provide an authentically tough and rewarding education for everyone, and we believe this is best achieved through not segregating our children by any measure, such as social class or academic ability.

We hold high expectations for all our stakeholders. Without exception, our students are expected to be able to go to University if they so wish, staff pursue a high level of continual professional learning, and parents are expected to attend and be involved in Celebrations of Learning, Student-led Conferences and Passage Presentations.

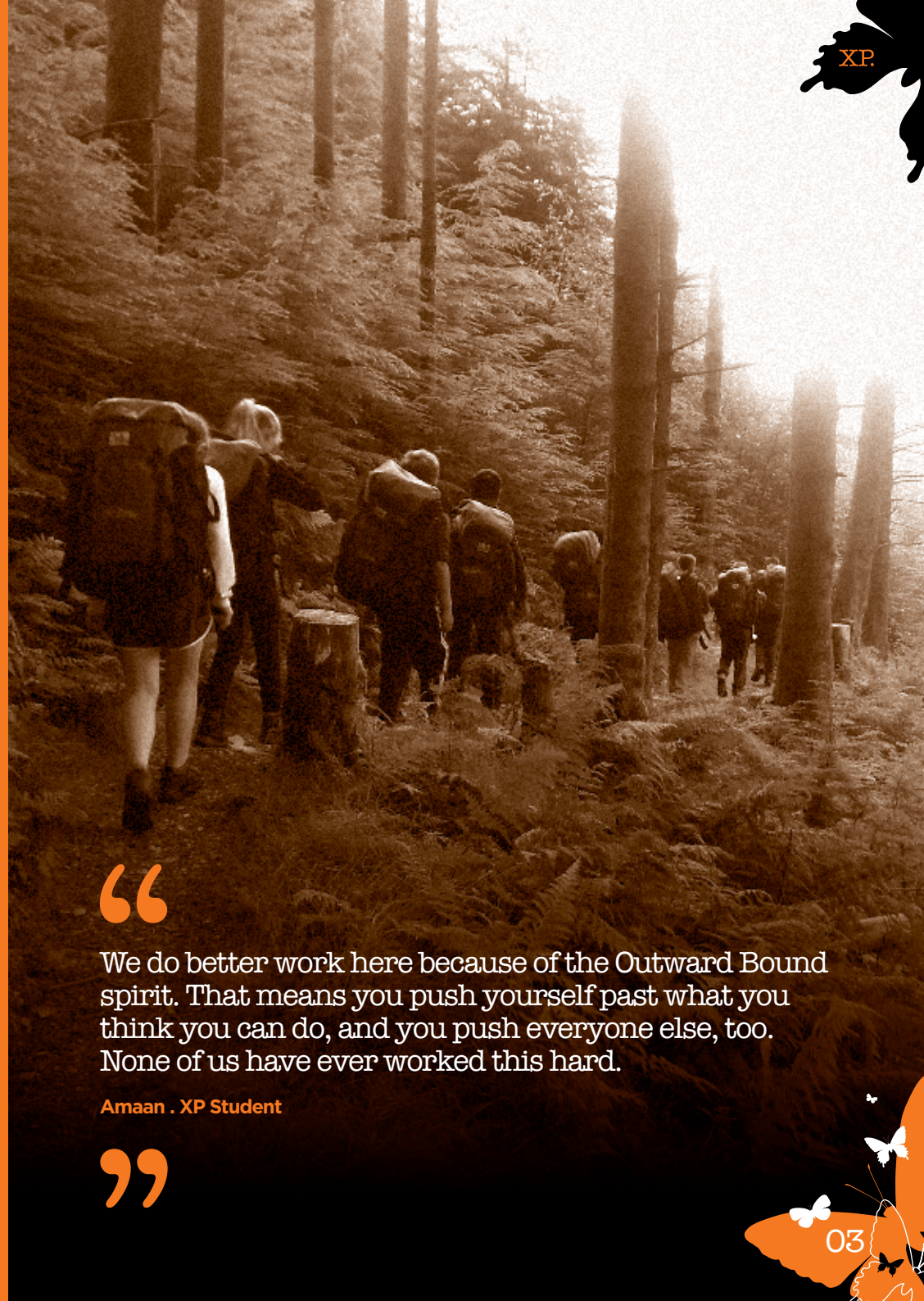
To be absolutely clear, XP is neither a vocational school, so we do not prepare students for specific trades, nor are we an outdoor adventure school. Our curriculum and its delivery is not tailored for, or aimed at, certain children with specific ways of learning.

XP stands for something... a great education for all children.



Andy Sprakes
Principal

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We do better work here because of the Outward Bound spirit. That means you push yourself past what you think you can do, and you push everyone else, too. None of us have ever worked this hard.

Amaan . XP Student

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An academically rigorous curriculum with deep, visceral learning experiences

Our students are immersed in term long learning expeditions, covering standards from across many subjects. We ensure our expeditions are broad and engaging by rigorous mapping of the National Curriculum standards to each learning activity, ensuring purpose and meaning is clear.

Expeditions are designed around real-world issues and problems and our students work to affect positive change in their communities.

Our students are engaged and motivated by understanding that their learning has relevance, meaning and purpose.

Our students become scientists, historians, engineers and artists, investigating real community problems and developing creative, actionable solutions.



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I think the fact that Sam in Year 7 can come home and engage in discussions about DNA and chemical bonds with my 17-year-old daughter who is doing it at A level and hold his own, really shows what the curriculum is doing for students and the way in which it is taught.

Ken . Parent

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A relentless focus on quality of work and character growth

A person is judged by their character and the quality of work they produce.

Our school focuses relentlessly on these two crucial areas of development.

Our students express who they are by personalising their work, and are given time to produce beautiful and meaningful work by following a process of multiple drafts and critique, working towards creating products indistinguishable from professionals.

Every day, our students develop their habits of work and learning by working hard, getting smart and being kind, and reflecting on our character values of courage, respect, craftsmanship and quality, compassion and integrity.



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Before, I was afraid to talk in groups. I never talked in class. But everything changed for me. I know exactly when it changed; it was at our student-led family conference. It was supposed to be for 20 minutes, but I talked for an hour because I had so much to say. I was proud of my work. And now I talk in class, too.

Zara . XP Student

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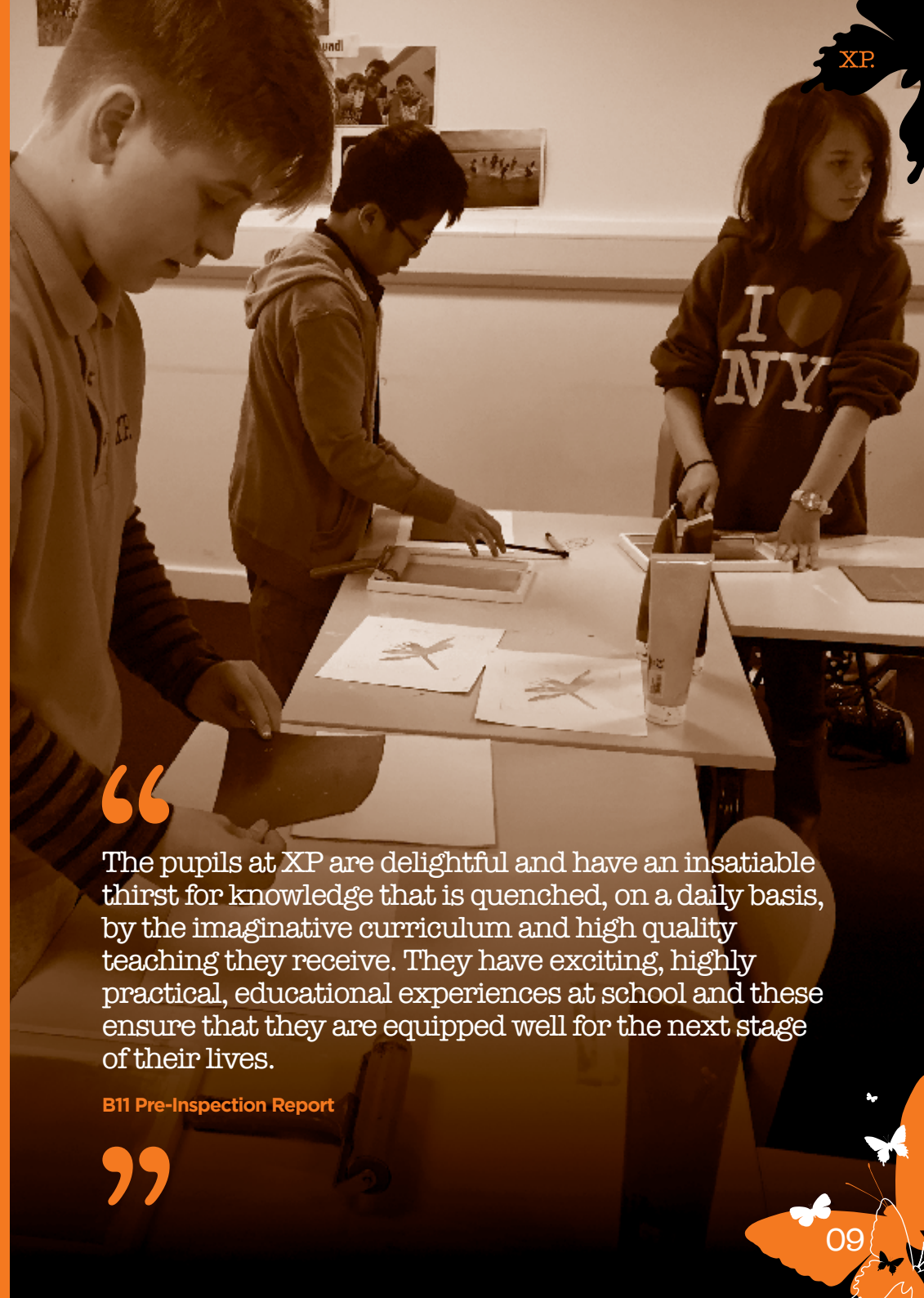


An authentically tough and rewarding education for everyone

Students of all abilities are challenged and supported to do more than they think they can. An ethic of excellence is cultivated through the quality of their work and thinking. As such, all our students are expected to achieve a minimum of 5 A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths and 3 A Levels or equivalent.

We do not segregate our children by social class or academic ability. Instead, we share a common responsibility through our teachers, students, and families for rigorous expectations of our work, achievement, and behaviour.

Our heterogeneous, mixed ability classes achieve more because of their differences. Our school culture is one of trust, respect, responsibility, and joy in learning.



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The pupils at XP are delightful and have an insatiable thirst for knowledge that is quenched, on a daily basis, by the imaginative curriculum and high quality teaching they receive. They have exciting, highly practical, educational experiences at school and these ensure that they are equipped well for the next stage of their lives.

B11 Pre-Inspection Report

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Our new home is where the heart is



Our new purpose-built school is situated adjacent to the Keepmoat sporting complex, in the heart of the emerging lakeside community, allowing us to connect with the whole of Doncaster as a driver for aspirational change.

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High expectations of all stakeholders

As well as gaining qualifications, our university-bound students learn inquiry skills, research skills, and habits of scholarship that motivate them to work independently, think critically about the world around them and persist with their work until it is of high quality.

Our students are highly engaged learners, motivated to master academic content and produce high quality work. Their learning expeditions, which may result in original scientific reports, presentations to government officials, or urban renewal projects, contribute to the world beyond the classroom. Learning with a purpose helps students develop the academic skills and work ethic that prepare them for University and beyond.

Parents, experts and the wider community are invited to our Celebrations of Learning where students articulately present their finished expedition work. Often, student crafted products are placed within the community to provide a meaningful function.

Together, we work tirelessly towards academic, career and life readiness.



“At XP - the way we learn - we don't just remember facts, we create memories.”

Emily . XP Student

Character Values as our DNA

Courage

- to put ourselves outside our comfort zone to develop and deepen our learning and character
- to have conviction in our thoughts and feelings and communicate them effectively
- to endeavour to succeed, even though there is a chance of failure

Respect

- to respect ourselves and others
- to work with others despite differences or difficulties
- to show consideration towards other people and our environment

Craftsmanship and Quality

- to always strive to create beautiful work
- to take time and effort to draft, redraft and critique our work
- to aim for a quality in our work that is indistinguishable from professionals

Compassion

- to show understanding, care, love and pride for ourselves and other people
- to be committed to contributing positively to our community
- to help others to achieve

Integrity

- to be self-motivated to achieve our best
- to build resilience, responsibility and a never give up attitude
- to recognise the reasons for failure and, as a result, enhance our chances for success

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We don't wear uniforms in our school because we are trusted to make good decisions. Like if it's a regular day, you just dress in nice school clothes. If it's a fieldwork day you've got to wear your mac and wellies. And if it's a day when you work with the community, well then, you have to dress smart don't you? That's the way it is in real life.

Mary . XP Student

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Habits of Work and Learning (HOWLS)

Work hard

- I arrive for each class on time and prepared.
- I participate fully and mindfully in class.
- I complete all work in a timely manner to the best of my ability.

Get smart

- I take responsibility for my learning by asking questions and seeking help when needed.
- I assess my work based on established criteria and rubrics.
- I welcome feedback and revise my work.

Be kind

- I communicate politely and kindly.
- I work cooperatively with others.
- I take care of resources and materials and act as a steward of our community.



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Thank you for attending Doncaster Business Conference where you represented XP. The reason I wish to thank and congratulate you, is that in this one event, your attendance and input showed just what young people can achieve, and what a vital role they play in business and the possibilities for change in education. Added to this, your contribution and questions amongst 200 business leaders and politicians was nothing short of inspirational.

Mathew Lynds . Rejus

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How to apply for a place at XP...

XP is an academically rigorous mainstream 11-19 Secondary School open to admissions from children across Doncaster. Our aim is for all that attend XP to be able to go to University after experiencing seven years of working hard, getting smart and being kind.

We are a deliberately small school, with 25 children in two classes per year, starting with 50 students in Year 7 in 2014 growing to 350 students from Year 7 to Year 13 in 2020.

We intend our school to benefit Doncaster and its' surrounding area. Accordingly, the catchment area of XP is defined by the postcode boundaries of DN1-12 and S64.

We have been oversubscribed every year, and we expect this to continue. As such, places are awarded using random allocation, independently carried out by the Local Authority. We do not select students by any other criteria.

Our full admissions policy can be viewed at:
www.xpschool.org/admissions-policy

Our school admissions is handled through the normal Local Authority admissions process as part of their co-ordinated arrangements. This requires parents to complete a common application form (CAF) which is provided by the Local Authority to all applicable parents.

Details of how to apply for a place at XP are posted to your child's home address.

For further details, please contact Doncaster Council's School Admissions Team on **01302 737204** or at www.doncaster.gov.uk/admissions

Find out all you need to know about XP...

XP School website

www.xpschool.org

Example expeditions

www.xpschool.org/all-expedition-examples

Beautiful work

www.xpschool.org/category/beautiful-work

Assessment at XP

www.xpschool.org/assessment-at-xp

Governors

www.xpschool.org/who-we-are

New Schools Network video

www.xpschool.org/new-schools-network-video/





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