



# Prospectus



ABOVE ALL, COMPASSION

# Introduction

## Dear Parent

Thank you for your interest in XP. This prospectus explains what our schools are all 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 and XP East opened in 2014 and 2017 respectively. Every year there are 50 places available at XP and 50 places at XP East, and no more. You apply for places through the normal Local Authority process. To have the best chance of gaining a place at an XP school, you should put XP and XP East as your first and second choice. This does not reduce your chance to gain a place at any other school if you are not successful.

At XP 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, our staff pursue a high level of continual professional learning, and our 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.

In July 2017, XP was judged by Ofsted as outstanding in all areas, highlighting character growth and stating that academic progress is outstanding for all groups of students, including the most able.

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

## Claira Salter

Principal of XP and XP East Schools



‘At XP we all have a common goal and that’s to get to the top of the mountain. It’s basically a metaphor for us all achieving our goals and we all do it together so if someone falls behind we don’t just leave them, we help them achieve what they want as well.’

**XP Student**

# An academically rigorous curriculum with deep, visceral learning experiences

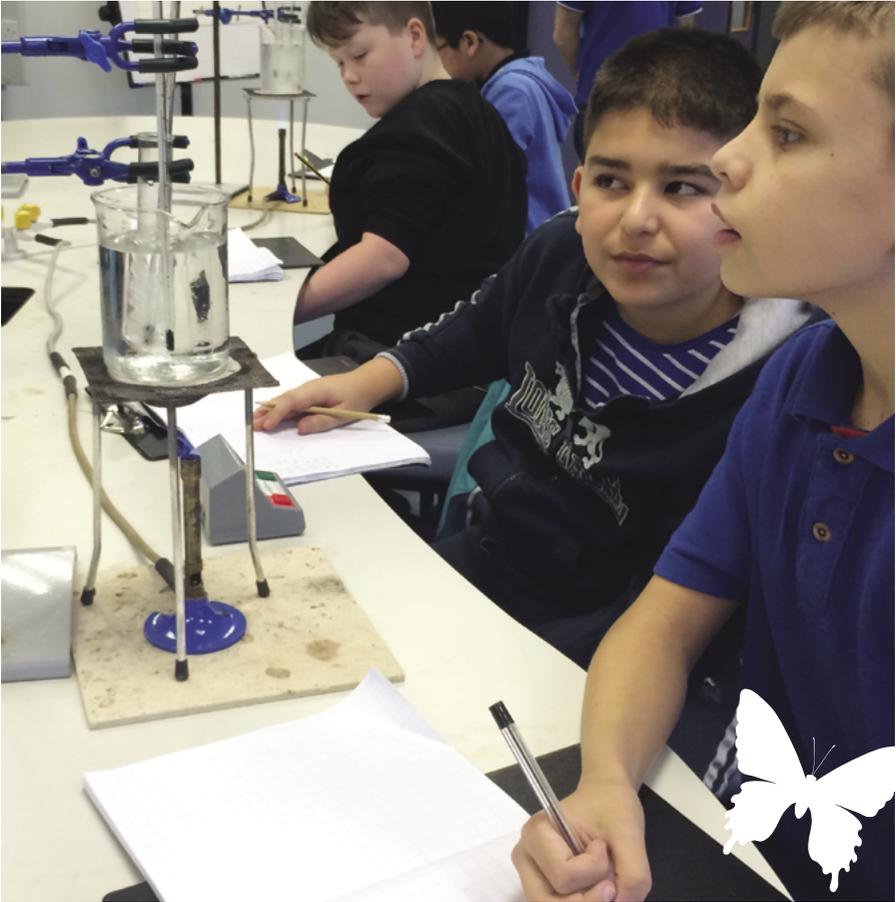
Our students are immersed in term long learning expeditions, covering standards from across many subjects. We ensure our expeditions are broad and engaging by rigorous mapping of appropriate standards from the National Curriculum, GCSE and the International Baccalaureate to each learning activity, ensuring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





‘Inspection evidence shows that throughout each year group and across all subjects, including English and mathematics, pupils make sustained and substantial progress from their starting points. This is because they are taught extremely effectively and are eager to learn. They are making outstanding progress.’

**Ofsted 2017** (Based on XP School inspection)

# A relentless focus on quality of work and character growth

We believe a person is judged by their character and the quality of work they produce.

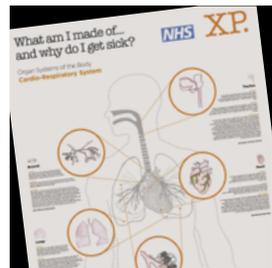
Our school focuses relentlessly on these two crucial areas of development.

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 which are 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.

‘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.’

**BII inspection** (Based on XP School inspection)





‘Leaders have an approach to understanding and learning about the world that is rooted in kindness, rigour and integrity. It prepares pupils very well for their next steps and for life in modern Britain. This is because, through a range of very carefully planned and challenging activities, leaders and staff encourage pupils to develop intellectual resilience, a sense of moral purpose and emotional intelligence.’

**Ofsted 2017** (Based on XP School inspection)

# 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 8 good GCSE passes including English and Maths at grade 4 or better and a post 16 points score to enable them to obtain a place at a university of their choice.

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 work, achievement, and behaviour.

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

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

**XP student**





‘Pupils have excellent attitudes to learning. All pupils want to learn and improve because of the dedicated teaching, care and challenge they receive from staff at the school. Pupils say that they love coming to school.’

Ofsted (Based on XP School inspection)

# 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.

**‘The conversations students have, the beauty in their work, the growth in their character... I’ve never seen anything like it.’**

**XP teacher**

**‘Leaders and governors have created a culture of excellence at the school. This is sustained through consistent and rigorous checking systems, focused support and training and, above all, on an insistence on the highest expectations for all.’**

**Ofsted** (Based on XP School inspection)

# 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 & 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

# 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.

‘The school is very effective in developing pupils’ understanding of themselves as spiritual beings working within a moral framework. The school offers many opportunities for pupils to develop this sense of self in the service of others whether through voluntary and charity work or during regular times of reflection with their crew/tutor teams.’

**Ofsted** (Based on XP School inspection)



‘It’s such a lovely environment to learn in. Every child and every teacher is just so positive.’

**XP parent**

‘We work harder at XP because what we do matters.’

**XP student**

‘In this school we are not just a school we are a family.’

**XP student**

# Connect with the world - true partnerships

Our students connect with the world from their first day Outward Bound, and continue to do so with active fieldwork for example at nature reserves, museums, care homes, businesses and universities. This is supported by experts from industry, artists, historians, athletes and ordinary people with extraordinary stories to tell, coming into school to enrich the education for all our students.

As well as this, many organisations allow our school to work smoothly by actively supporting the work we do. We would like to recognise these partners, and many more, for making XP a very special place to be.



# How to apply for a place at XP and XP East

XP and XP East are academically rigorous mainstream secondary schools.

Admission is open to children from across Doncaster. Our aim is that all students who attend XP schools will be able to go to university after experiencing seven years of working hard, getting smart and being kind.

Our schools are deliberately sized, with 50 students in each year group split into two classes of 25 students each. We intend our schools to benefit Doncaster and its surrounding area. Accordingly, our catchment area 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, oversubscribed places are awarded using random allocation, independently carried out by the Local Authority. We do not select students by any other criteria. To have the best chance of gaining a place at an XP school, you should put XP and XP East as your first and second choice. This does not reduce your chance to gain a place at any other school if you are not successful.

Our full admissions policy can be viewed at:

**[www.xptrust.org/how-to-apply-for-a-place-at-xp](http://www.xptrust.org/how-to-apply-for-a-place-at-xp)**

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](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/admissions)**

*'XP is fantastic. They treat each crew member (pupil) as an individual and cater to their individual needs. They work as a team and do things together as crew to build relationships and conquer problems and fears, helping everyone to grow.'*

**Parent Ofsted questionnaire** (Based on XP School responses)

# Find out all you need to know about XP Trust

XP School Trust  
[xptrust.org](http://xptrust.org)

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XP School  
[xpschool.org](http://xpschool.org)

XP East  
[xpeast.org](http://xpeast.org)

XP Gateshead  
[xpgateshead.org](http://xpgateshead.org)

Green Top School  
[greentopschool.co.uk](http://greentopschool.co.uk)

Plover School  
[ploverschool.co.uk](http://ploverschool.co.uk)

Norton Infant School  
[norton-inf.uk](http://norton-inf.uk)

Norton Junior School  
[www.xpeast.org](http://www.xpeast.org)

Carcroft School  
[carcroftschool.co.uk](http://carcroftschool.co.uk)





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