



Marple Hall School



# Welcome

## to Marple Hall

At Marple Hall we believe that school is the most important part of a person's life.

Experiences in secondary school help to shape who a person is and set them up for the journey ahead. It is crucial to us that everyone at Marple Hall experiences success both inside and beyond the classroom. Marple Hall has a strong record of helping students realise their academic potential, and as we strive to become a truly great school we are determined to see our standards rise and rise over time. Success is not limited to the exam room but is also measured by the development of a person's character, which is why helping students develop the Marple Hall Spirit is key part of what we do.

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The '**Marple Hall Spirit**' is developed and successfully embedded to ensure that pupils endeavour to succeed at the highest standards they can achieve.

- Ofsted, 2018

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When we came along for the parents evening seven years ago Mr Barker told us that he wanted Marple Hall to be a great school...well it has certainly exceeded our expectations.

- Year 11 Parent, May 2021

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Here at Marple Hall school we believe that 'Better Never Stops', which is why we are pursuing our bold and ambitious 2025 Plan. This plan will see Marple Hall become the very best comprehensive school in the country by 2025. By focusing on the health and wellbeing of learners, the quality of teaching and support, standards of conduct and the educational outcomes for all, we are confident in reaching our very high goals. We believe that nothing else is good enough for the young people in our community, and if a school somewhere has to be the best then why not us!



# the 2025 plan

# Curriculum

Teaching is at the heart of every school and we take our responsibility to provide high quality lessons very seriously.

Our goal is to ensure that every single lesson is effective in helping students to make progress and enhance their knowledge and skills. We offer a rich and varied curriculum, holding the arts and creative subjects in high regard alongside traditionally academic subjects. Students experience a broad range of subjects in Key Stage Three before being able to specialise in Key Stage Four. All students will study a modern foreign language in KS3 and many will be given the chance to complete a GCSE qualification in a language by the end of Year 9.

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Thank you so much for the incredible online learning provision from Marple Hall. It's amazing!

– Parent, January 2021

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My teachers have been so supportive and have given me the means to be ambitious!

– Year 10 Student



Throughout KS3 I have learnt lots about myself and about society which I don't believe I would have absorbed at any other school.

– Year 9 Student

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We take staff development seriously and dedicate significant time and resources to enabling our staff to be the best they can be. However, the secret to great lessons does not lie with teachers alone. **We believe that students learn best when they are happy, enjoy their lessons and are willing and able to work independently to further their education.**

**We want students to be passionate about learning, to be determined, put effort into all they do and to show us a little bit of 'spark' - after all, they only get one chance at a secondary school education.**

# The Marple Hall Spirit

Every great school is founded on a great ethos, and ours is the Marple Hall Spirit. Devised in 2016 by the entire school community, the Marple Hall Spirit serves to remind everyone what it is that we value in people, young and old. Each element of the Marple Hall Spirit is a positive quality that is promoted and nurtured in school, enabling us all to be the best we can be.

## Determination

'We put effort into everything we do. We try our best, are positive and seek to craft only our very best work'

## Readiness

'We have high standards of ourselves and others. We are punctual, smart, organised and ready to learn'

## Honesty

'We choose integrity over popularity, courage over comfort, what's right over what's easy. We trust those around us'

## Spark

'We are creative and enthusiastic. We find our voice and are confident, eloquent speakers. We look for new challenges and work with other purposefully'

## Respect

'We are well mannered and treat others with kindness and care. We respect our school environment and strive to create a happy community'







## Determination

At our school, being determined is more than just trying hard and not giving up. It's about taking pride in the work we do; the steps along the way as well as the end product. It's about being able to accept mistakes as part of the learning process, and acting on all feedback knowing that it is being given in a positive way. Being determined requires resilience too, as no-one gets everything right first time, and we encourage people to embrace failure. To try and to fail is better than not to try at all.

## Honesty

Honesty at Marple Hall School is a lot more than just telling the truth. Of course, being truthful is essential, but at our school being honest means being honest with ourselves – reflecting on our choices and accepting when we don't make the best ones. It's about doing the right thing for others, for the school and for ourselves. Sometimes being honest is about being brave, standing up for what we know is right even if it's not the easy option.

## Readiness

Readiness is the easiest to understand but sometimes the most overlooked of the five qualities in the Marple Hall Spirit. Readiness is about being ready to work and to learn – being on time, fully equipped, organised – but is also about having the right attitude for the tasks at hand. Readiness is the first quality that the school looks for when hiring new staff, and as such is an essential quality for students to develop not just for school but in preparation for adult life.

## Respect

Marple Hall is a happy school. Students learn best and adults work best when they feel happy, supported and above all respected. Therefore, respect for others is a central expectation of everyone who walks through our gates. We are all different and we are all equal, and we value every individual in the same way. Showing respect for others is the first thing that everyone can do to build our sense of community.

## Spark

Visitors to the school often tell us that it is 'spark' that makes Marple Hall School unique. We encourage creativity, celebrating original thought and providing as many opportunities as we can for students and staff to try new ideas. We are not, and never will be, an 'exam factory'. We are a comprehensive school seeking to nurture the talents of each and every one of the young people in our care, giving them the space to grow and to become high functioning members of society. We love spark...even if it can be noisy!

# Beyond the Classroom

**'Marple Hall School is to be commended for their commitment to providing a range of high quality cultural and artistic opportunities for pupils.** Innovative initiatives such as the 'SPARK' day have helped focus the school and wider community on the benefits that a creative approach to the curriculum delivery can have. You have successfully raised the profile of arts and cultural activities by giving staff and pupils the opportunity to work with a wide range of professional artists. Every opportunity has been taken to develop rich partnerships which provide pupils with authentic experiences. These initiatives and policy decisions have helped ensure pupil engagement and performance in the Arts is well above the national average' **Arts Council England June 2019, on the school's awarding of Artsmark Gold status.**

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The '**Marple Hall Spirit**' really influences students to do well and encourages them to exceed expectations.

– Year 7 Student

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Extra-curricular clubs allowed me to meet people who shared similar interests, with friendships and bonds still standing now!

– Year 10 Student

I have taken part in several school events such as music concerts, shows and charitable Christmas parties: it is during these when I felt the biggest sense of community.

– Year 9 Student

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School is not just about lessons and exam results, it's also about **helping students to become well rounded people who are able to make a positive contribution to the communities in which they live.** We take a keen interest in developing students' social skills, either through dedicated lessons in form time or through encouraging students to take part in a wealth of enrichment activities. Experiences in sport, the arts, charity work or simply by helping others both inside and beyond the school gates play a huge role in developing a person's character. In any school or organisation there will be disagreements from time to time. It is how we help students to resolve these issues that counts, which is why alongside Determination and Spark we value Honesty, Readiness and Respect: three invaluable qualities.



# Life at Marple Hall

We are ambitious. We intend, with the support of students, parents and the community, to make this school great. A school where students are proud to attend, a school where staff feel privileged to work and a school where everything that can be done is done to improve the lives of everyone in it. To enable every student to be a part of this plan we invest in first-rate pastoral care, starting before a student officially joins MHS.

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We knew the first time we visited the school six years ago that this was the place for our son. He has had a wonderful five years. He has always felt safe, appreciated and cared for.

– Year 11 Parent, May 2021

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Making the jump to high school was scary, but I really felt the school supported me and my friends. They made it really clear who to ask for advice and the older students were very helpful.

– Year 8 Pupil

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Transitioning from Primary school to Secondary school can be a challenge for all youngsters. We support all incoming Marple Hall students throughout the process, making sure that worries and concerns are dealt with and students and families know what to expect as September approached. Students are treated as individuals, supported by every member of staff but in particular their Form Tutor, Head of Year, Pastoral Manager and the wider pastoral team. Our focus on wellbeing and positive mental health for students and staff sets us apart, helping to ensure that everyone can thrive during their time at Marple Hall School.





Marple Hall uses the Stockport Local Authority admissions process.  
For more information visit [www.stockport.gov.uk/admissions-explained](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/admissions-explained)

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