



# PARKLANDS SCHOOL

**LISTEN. ACT. LEARN. INSPIRE.**

Action for Children co-educational special needs school to deliver a better childhood and brighter future for children (7-19).





## WELCOME TO PARKLANDS.

Parklands is an Action for Children school for young boys and girls, age 7-19, who need extra help and support to find their place in life. Whether severe autism, Asperger's or acute emotional, behavioural, social, learning or communication difficulties (ADD, ADHD, AS, BESD, MLD) – we don't label, we see the child, we care about their future.

We help them succeed.

The core ethos at the school is to provide a safe, stimulating environment that's forward thinking and responsive to individual needs.

Set in a beautiful rural location near Oxford, Parklands day care and residential campus provides a creative curriculum that helps each child to engage with educational activities our specialists tailor to their needs.

Our aim is to ensure our students develop the skills they need to engage well with others whilst building confidence in their own abilities to achieve their full potential.

**WE NEVER GIVE UP.**

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# OUR APPROACH.

**CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS.** We work closely with children in our care, building relationships of trust, understanding and mutual respect.

**INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.** We treat each child, each student, as an individual. We deal with their real needs and give them the support they need to develop.

**PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS.** We address problems practically and appropriately before they escalate.

**SAFE AT ALL TIMES.** We protect every student in our care. We recognise when they are at risk and view safeguarding as fundamental.

**OPTIMISM.** We give all the children in our care opportunities and hope for their future.

# WHAT WE PROVIDE AT PARKLANDS.

## 1. AN INTEGRATED AND NURTURING APPROACH TO EDUCATION AND CARE.

We work together to help young people safely manage their behaviour and emotions.

## 2. HIGHLY SPECIALISED STAFF.

To develop positive and productive relationships with our students, we only employ highly specialised professionals with the skills and understanding to make a real difference.

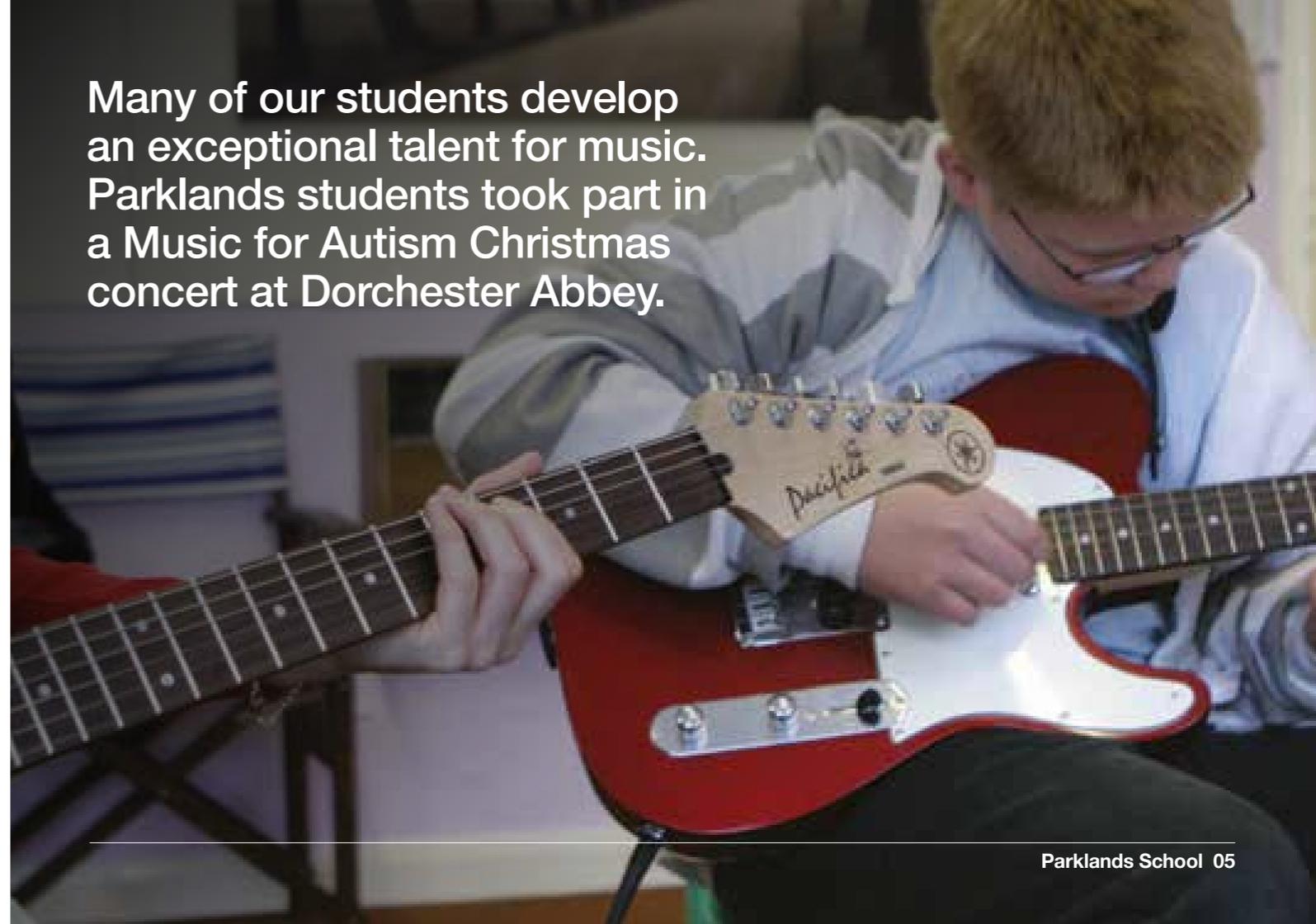
## 3. A CREATIVE CURRICULUM TAILORED TO INDIVIDUAL NEEDS.

Working with each child and every family, we create an individual curriculum and structured pathway to engage and motivate each individual student. Standard approaches lead many children to feel that education has no relevance. To counter this, our facilities are well equipped, our curriculum broad, stimulating and balanced – from our in-house music studio, arts therapy room and on-site farm, to a range of external vocational activities.

## 4. STATE-OF-THE-ART INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

We use the latest in ICT and online learning zones to create an open dialogue between staff, parents and their children that helps them fully engage with the curriculum.

Many of our students develop an exceptional talent for music. Parklands students took part in a Music for Autism Christmas concert at Dorchester Abbey.



## **5. BRIGHTER FUTURES THROUGH PARTNERSHIP.**

We work in partnership with local authorities, colleges, universities, teacher training institutes, local schools, work-based training partners and employers, plus other youth networks, to enable our students and their parents to grasp the wide range of opportunities open to them.

## **6. QUALIFICATIONS.**

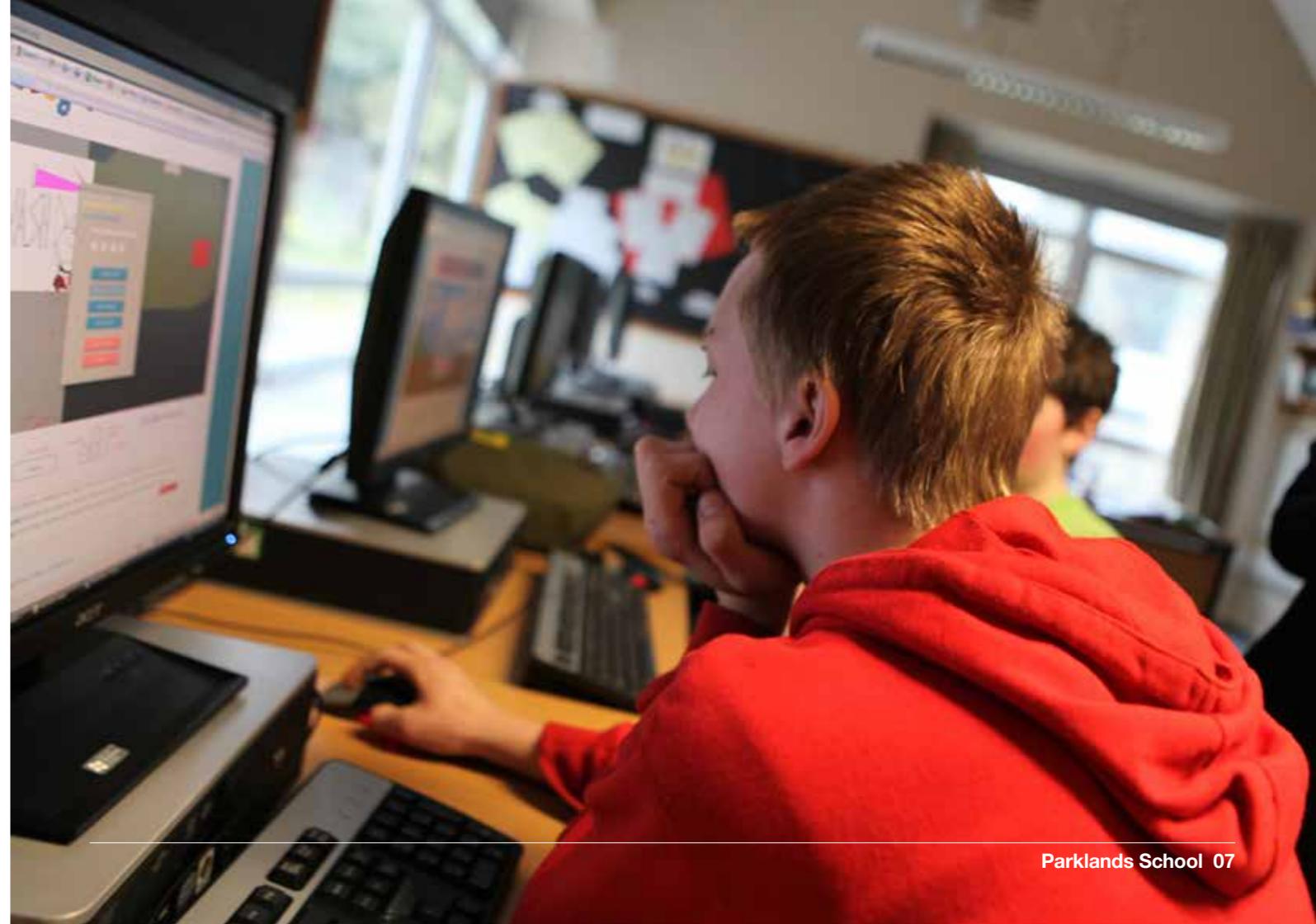
All our students are encouraged and given the opportunities they need to gain vocational and academic qualifications. Both general and work-related courses are structured to help our students to transition successfully to adult life.

## **7. KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER.**

Working with specialised professionals, we actively support family relationships and act on special needs compliance where it is in the best interest of their child to live safe and supported in the family home.

## **8. ADDED VALUE.**

We are part of Action for Children, one of the largest UK children's charities that not only runs schools, but children's and family centres, disability services, fostering and adoption, outreach services and many more. Action for Children has a formidable reputation for delivering evidence-based children's services, and an enviable track record for transforming the lives of children with acute behavioural conditions. It also attracts large corporate partners to get involved. Many are active in helping Parklands by providing real world opportunities for students to gain the experience and skills that help them to get ahead in life.



# OUR STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS.

At Parklands, we want to be proud of the achievements made, however small, by all our students. Our approach is to listen to each individual, act on what we hear, help them to learn and inspire them to achieve their goals.

## **LISTEN. ACT. LEARN. INSPIRE.**

### **John's story.**

John arrived at Parklands aged 16 with very high functioning Asperger syndrome. John displayed a natural talent for music and a developing passion for maths. So whilst nurturing his talent for music (gaining grade 5 for piano and cello) and shoring up his social, independence and employability skills, we added in a tutor from Oxford University to help him achieve his A level Maths goal. He did and he's now at university.

### **Tom's story (age 15).**

For some families, the strain of 24/7 care can lead towards family breakdown. Placing Tom at Parklands gave his family the chance to recharge and push for the best for Tom who has autism and learning disabilities. He particularly loved working with the animals on our farm and growing vegetables at the school allotment to sell at the local market.



### **Jane's story (age 18).**

Isolated from her family, Jane was self-harming when she first came to Parklands. With counselling tailored to her needs, she gained confidence and worked exceptionally hard towards reaching her personal goal of working with young children. As part of her skills training, Jane successfully completed a work placement at a local nursery.

### **Fred's story (age 13).**

Fred found it extremely difficult to talk to or interact with strangers, except when it came to explaining systems and anything to do with outer space. We encouraged Fred to express himself more freely by developing coping strategies (he calls 'systems') for new situations and meeting new people that stopped the panic building up. With a terminally ill mother, every effort was made by staff at the school to give Fred a stable, supportive childhood with people he could trust to care.

### **Ben's story (age 11 and three quarters).**

Ben liked beans and he liked bacon but he hated his beans to touch his bacon. He was a bit like this about all his food and refused to eat anything brown. Not a problem. We worked together to try new and nutritious things to eat, setting them out in a way that made sense to Ben. Not surprisingly, he took a keen interest in cookery classes and working in our canteen. His orange and purple Victoria sponge won the school prize.

Note: names have been changed to protect identities.

“ Staff fully support their students to give them every opportunity to reach and attain their educational potential. ”  
**Ofsted.**



## WHAT OFSTED SAYS.

“Staff fully support their students to give them every opportunity to reach and attain their educational potential.”

“Staff are both committed to and act on ensuring that agreed contact is maintained between students and their families.”

“Parklands provides its students with the opportunities they need to develop a range of practical and social living skills that enable a smooth transition towards independence.”

“Students are given every opportunity to learn more effective strategies to help them manage negative behaviours in a more constructive manner.”

“Students benefit from living in a caring and supportive environment.”

“Students enjoy good health and a varied and nutritious diet.”

“Students live in an environment maintained to a very good standard and the premises provide excellent facilities.”

Ofsted also reported on a purposeful leadership team delivering a visible impact on improving the school.

We are making great progress but we are also ambitious about the future.

Ofsted rate Parklands residential care ‘Good’. We aim to reach ‘Outstanding’ across all areas and our goal is to get there in the next five years.

As part of Action for Children, we have the governance and best practice from other schools, to do just that – and by doing this, give more children the childhood, the future, they deserve.



## WHAT WE SAY.

Action for Children exists to make children's lives better: now, tomorrow and every day.

We believe in helping all children and their families.

We support and protect the most vulnerable.

We take action early to make things happen quickly and with understanding.

We treat everyone as an individual, giving children and their families the support they really need.

## WE NEVER GIVE UP.



## WE TAKE ACTION FOR CHILDREN.

For more than 145 years, Action for Children has never been afraid to push for the best for children. Today, we directly support more than 300,000 children, young people, parents and carers across the UK.

We believe all children need to feel loved, safe and secure. With strong foundations, they'll grow up strong and resilient. They'll perform better at school, cope better with challenges in life and have every chance of reaching their potential.

### OUR VISION:

every child has the love, support and opportunity they need to reach their potential.

### OUR MISSION:

to act early so children get the care and support they need, and to speak out fearlessly on their behalf.

## PARKLANDS IN DETAIL.

- 20 acre private grounds with farm, allotment and garden area
- School places for 10 residential and 10 day students
- One dedicated staff member for every two students
- Three four-bed family style residential homes
- Well equipped classrooms
- Science room
- Music room
- Food technology room
- Creative arts studio
- Gym and sports hall
- Cycling facilities
- Skateboarding area

**Principal: Sean Cannon**

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“ I have improved my reading and now feel confident enough to start a college course in construction and go to work one day a week. ”



Children shown are from Action for Children schools and services. They took part in photo shoots to encourage more children to get the help and support they need to reach their potential.

**Please get in touch to find out more about our school:**

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