



Carisbrooke College



CARISBROOKE COLLEGE PROSPECTUS 2025 - 2026

'Education is our castle'



“ I feel very lucky that my daughter is able to attend this school and am thrilled with how well she has settled in and made friends. ”



Welcome

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Carisbrooke College.

At Carisbrooke, we believe that Education is our CASTLE - a powerful symbol of strength, integrity, and aspiration. We are committed to building strong foundations that equip our students with the knowledge, values, and skills they need to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Our ethos is underpinned by six core values, captured in the acronym CASTLE: Courage, Ambition, Sustainability, Teamwork, Learning, and Equity.

These principles guide every aspect of life at Carisbrooke, helping us to foster a school community that is inclusive, ambitious, and future-focused.

I bring to this role extensive experience as a senior leader, Headteacher, and Regional Director, having previously led schools in both London and Portsmouth. I am now proud to work with HISP Multi-Academy Trust to lead and shape the vision for Carisbrooke College - a school where every young person is valued, challenged, and supported to reach their full potential.

I am incredibly proud of the warm, respectful, and aspirational culture we have cultivated. Our dedicated staff go above and beyond to provide an education that not only promotes academic achievement, but also nurtures resilience, compassion, and a strong sense of self in every student.

Together, we will continue to build a strong and successful future - one brick at a time.

Natalie Sheppard
Headteacher



About Carisbrooke

Carisbrooke College is a dynamic, forward-looking learning community in the west of Newport, Isle of Wight. Our campus sits in extensive grounds with views of Carisbrooke Castle. In Spring 2019 we moved into a purpose-built building designed for 600 students, staff and the Einstein Centre for 16 young people.

We offer specialist spaces for science, creative arts, technology and computer science, including four ICT suites. Facilities also include a library, drama studio, multi-purpose hall with retractable seating, sports hall and large playing fields. Classrooms are equipped with modern air management, lighting, large displays and interactive TVs, creating an excellent and energy-efficient environment for learning.

Students come to Carisbrooke from across the Island, and we maintain close links with our partner primary schools. We actively encourage parents and carers to be involved in their child's education. This partnership helps us achieve the highest standards and ensures every student is motivated, supported and inspired during their time with us.



Our Ethos and Values:

"Education is our castle" - Our school is like a strong, safe castle. It's a place where everyone – students, teachers, and parents – can feel safe, learn well, and grow into their best selves. The castle signifies collective strength, security, and growth within our school community. Our core values stem from this ethos and are based on an acronym of CASTLE:



COURAGE: We embrace challenges and take bold steps toward growth



AMBITION: We aspire for excellence and unlock potential



SUSTAINABILITY: We create a future-focused, nurturing environment



TEAMWORK: We support, respect and collaborate with one another



LEARNING: We explore, question and grow through curiosity and understanding



EQUITY: We ensure fairness, inclusion, and equal opportunity for all

Our Whole Education

At Carisbrooke College, 'Our Whole Education' reflects our commitment to nurturing every student's potential through a rich and balanced curriculum that combines core subjects, creative opportunities, and personalised support.

We provide a broad and balanced curriculum because we understand that students need to be engaged in their learning and able to follow courses in which they are interested, if they are to achieve their full potential.

Key Stage 3

Throughout Key Stage 3, all students receive English, mathematics and science tuition. Additionally, students are taught Mandarin, history, geography, religious education, technology and computing. All students have weekly timetabled PE and creative arts lessons (drama, music and art). Where necessary, students may have a tailored curriculum which increases the amount of literacy support they receive in order to prepare them for Key Stage 4. Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) is delivered through our bespoke social studies programme, a tutor lesson, assemblies, plays and other organised activities.

Key Stage 4

We deliver our Key Stage 4 curriculum to Years 10 and 11 with students continuing their studies in English, mathematics, science and PE, but also having an opportunity to choose four additional subjects. These are chosen in the spring term of Year 9 and include subjects they have already experienced, as well as new areas of study, such as health and social care. All students have the opportunity, and are encouraged to complete, the English Baccalaureate in Key Stage 4, which involves studying English, mathematics, science, a modern foreign language and either history or geography.

Extra - Curricular

We believe that to help students become well-rounded members of their community, they should be exposed to a wide variety of opportunities beyond the classroom. As such, our staff are committed to offering residential trips at international, national and local levels, and a wide variety of clubs and societies. In fact, our last international trip, to Vietnam, won the national 'Best School Trip' award!



The Whole Student

At Carisbrooke College, we are committed to nurturing **'The Whole Student'**, supporting growth academically, creatively, socially, and globally.

Our team of specialists provides tailored guidance and support plans, and we work with external agencies to ensure high-quality care for every individual.

Information, Guidance and Support: Students access a wide range of career activities to explore local and national opportunities. Our programme includes work experience, mock interviews, educational visits, employer engagement, and speaker events, helping students make informed choices about their futures.

College Uniform: A strict uniform policy fosters a professional, purposeful environment where all students feel they belong. Students wear a shirt, tie, and blazer throughout the college day.

Student Council: We give students a strong voice through the Student Council. Council members actively contribute to the rewards system, peer mentoring, and improvements across the college—from classrooms to the canteen.

Rewards: Achievement points, linked to our core values, recognise positive behaviour, contributions to the community, and successes outside school. Achievements are celebrated via certificates, prizes, postcards, and reward trips.

Independent Learning: Homework extends learning beyond the classroom, building skills, enquiry habits, and independence. Regular, meaningful assignments reinforce knowledge and support academic progress. Students in Years 7–8 are expected to complete around five hours per week, increasing towards Key Stage 4.

Global Community: At Carisbrooke College we see ourselves as part of a global community. As such, we offer the study of Mandarin. With Chinese the most widely spoken language in the world, the study of Mandarin at Carisbrooke aims to both unlock the mysteries of this ancient language for learners in a clear and simple way whilst also infusing lessons with a cultural and political awareness of China as a nation.

Creative Arts Provision: The Creative Arts Faculty nurtures academic and creative growth. Music, drama and art are all very popular GCSE courses. Our performing and visual arts programmes deliver professional-level productions and exhibitions, and music students perform locally and nationally.

Diversity: Our inclusive approach supports students of all genders, with an active LGBTQ+ group, allowing everyone to be themselves.

Fundraising: As a community, we raise funds for good causes several times a year. From mufti days to our annual 'Santa Dash' to Carisbrooke Castle, we come together in fun ways to help others less fortunate.



SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

Carisbrooke College is committed to providing an inclusive education for all young people, regardless of ability, gender, language, ethnic or cultural origin.

Carisbrooke College has a specialist SENDCo leading an experienced team of Learning Support Assistants. Support ranges from in-class help to small group or individual interventions, tailored to student needs.

We aim to:

- Raise attainment for students with SEND through a broad and balanced curriculum with quality first inclusive teaching.
- Ensure early identification of need and implement support strategies where necessary.
- Ensure strong progress for all SEND students through the use of differentiated resources
- Ensure support staff provide effective and dynamic

support for individuals across the school.

- Ensure all teaching staff plan inclusive lessons; taking into account the reasonable adjustments necessary to support students with a range of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

The college is fully equipped for disabled students, with wheelchair access to all curriculum areas and accessible toilets.

In line with the Disability Equality Scheme, we are committed to:

- Promoting equality of opportunity.
- Eliminating unlawful discrimination.
- Encouraging positive attitudes towards disabled people.
- Meeting individual needs, even where this requires more favourable treatment.



The Einstein Centre

At Carisbrooke College we accommodate the Einstein Centre, an Autistic Spectrum Resource Centre.

The Einstein Centre supports up to sixteen students with autism and social or emotional difficulties. We provide a calm, nurturing environment where students gradually access the mainstream curriculum, with tailored support from specialist staff.

Alongside academic learning, students take part in social and life skills sessions to build confidence and independence.

Our facilities include:

- A large classroom and work area
- Crafts and games room
- Resource room
- Kitchen/life skills room
- Calm/sensory area
- Dedicated toilets
- Outdoor space

Admission to the Einstein Centre is via the Local Authority and students must already have an EHCP. If you are considering making an application to The Einstein Centre, please contact us for a meeting and tour.

Pastoral Support and Safeguarding

At Carisbrooke College, we pride ourselves on our secure and efficient safeguarding procedures.

Our pastoral system focuses on meeting the needs of each individual student. Every student is assigned a tutor who meets them on a daily basis and is able to offer support and guidance throughout their time at Carisbrooke. Our Year Office team supports and guides students on matters relating to personal development, behaviour and welfare. We also have additional staff who support in areas of mental health as well as supporting families who need support. Our learning community is well-ordered and safe.

The work of teachers and faculties is also kept under regular review so that our students are given the best opportunities for success. We firmly believe that it is our job to remove barriers to progress and we want our students to develop the confidence and maturity required for the next stage in their lives. We are proud of our inclusive ethos which supports our work with students of all abilities and from a variety of backgrounds.

High rates of attendance are intrinsically linked to high rates of achievement. Students will only achieve their best if they come to school every day. Securing high levels of attendance is a high priority. The expectation is that all students aim for 100% attendance and we proactively work with students, parents and carers to achieve this.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and we expect all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment. We are dedicated to ensuring that consistent, effective safeguarding procedures are in place to support families, young people and staff.

All eligible staff and volunteers are required to undertake relevant safeguarding training and this is regularly reviewed by our Designated Safeguarding Lead to ensure it is up to date. A training database for all staff and volunteers is also maintained.

“Leaders have made sure that safeguarding is central to the work of all staff.” - Ofsted



Equal Opportunities

We are committed to creating an environment in which all members of the college community are equally valued and have equal opportunity to achieve their full potential in a culturally diverse society.

We are committed to providing an education which meets the needs of all students irrespective of sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief.

We aim to:

- Promote positive attitudes towards all members of society, with a clear code of conduct about respect for individuals.
- Provide a curriculum that promotes equality of access and is appropriate for all students.
- Provide a curriculum which reflects the culturally diverse society to which students belong and of which they will become adult members.
- Use teaching strategies which are most effective in promoting equality and generating positive images of the individual and other people in society.
- Ensure equitable distribution of praise, rewards and responsibilities to encourage an atmosphere of tolerance and cooperation.
- Encourage all members of the school to use appropriate, non-stereotypical language.

Admissions

Carisbrooke College is an academy within the HISP Multi Academy Trust.

The college takes students of all abilities and aptitudes aged 11-16. The Trust Board is the admission authority with responsibility for admissions and administering appeals.

Parents who are considering applying for a place at Carisbrooke College for their child are warmly invited to visit the college; this is not a requirement of the admissions process. The college's Admissions Team will be pleased to provide information by letter or telephone, or to meet with parents to discuss possible applications. The college will have an admission number of 120 students for year 7 in 2026.

Carisbrooke College takes part in the Isle of Wight Council's coordinated admissions scheme. For admission to all schools for September 2025, the Local Authority is required to operate a coordinated admissions scheme and applications for all school places must be made on the common application form provided by the Authority, with the opportunity to nominate up to three schools, ranked in order of preference. Alternatively, you can complete the application form online at: www.iwight.com/schooladmissions

Once completed, the application form (including if you apply online) must be received by School Admissions at County Hall, by midnight on 31 October at the very latest.



One Trust, Our Trust, HISP Multi Academy Trust



OUR TRUST was formed in January 2020. We now have eight schools: Thornden, Highcliffe, Danebury, Crofton Carisbrooke and Medina (including The Island VI Form) Secondary Schools, and

Portswood and Tanners Brook Primary Schools. We are delighted to be in discussions with a number of other schools also interested in joining.

OUR TRUST's purpose is courageous, transformative education for all. Celebrating diversity and inclusion, our vision is to create and promote supportive environments that eliminate barriers to education and empower individuals.

Our mission, quite simply, is to create One Trust – Our Trust through careful growth and sustainable school improvement; the development and embedding of a professional continuum; by attracting high quality trainees to our initial teacher training Inspiring Future Teachers programme; by nurturing talent; providing high quality development for all and ensuring that we grow our own inspirational school leaders.

Our values are fundamental to how we work:

Courage: We embrace challenges with bravery and resilience, empowering our pupils and our people to take bold steps toward growth and social mobility.

Ambition: We cultivate high aspirations for all, striving relentlessly to unlock the full potential of every child and individual in our community.

Excellence: We commit to the highest standards in teaching, learning, and leadership, ensuring exceptional outcomes and opportunities for every pupil.

Sustainable: We build a future-focused, sustainable environment that nurtures long-term growth, well-being, and success for our pupils and the wider community.

Equity: We champion fairness and inclusion, ensuring every pupil has the support and opportunities they need to succeed, regardless of their background.

Pupils First: We put pupils at the heart of everything we do, guiding every decision and action with their best interests in mind, ensuring they thrive academically and personally.

To help us navigate through our mission, we have adopted the five strategic pillars used in the Department of Education's quality assurance model: High Quality and Inclusive Education, School Improvement, Governance and Leadership, Workforce and Finance & Operations.

Join us on our journey to empower every learner, where your child will be supported by our dedicated team and guided by our values to achieve, succeed, and thrive in a nurturing and ambitious environment.

At HISP Multi Academy Trust, we are **#BetterTogether**



“ Starting a new school was really daunting, but I felt at home as soon as I started. My tutor really helped us to settle in quickly and encouraged us to get to know people from different Primary Schools. ”





Carisbrooke College

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