



The South Wolds Academy and Sixth Form

"Excellent results in a caring environment"



Head Teacher's Welcome



Thank you for taking the time to find out about The South Wolds Academy and Sixth Form in Keyworth. I am tremendously proud to be the Head Teacher of our exciting and high attaining school.

Our students get some of the best results in Nottinghamshire, but we get the balance right between outstanding results and wider personal development. We offer a vast range of opportunities that develop the whole child and prepare them for life after school.

We were delighted with the feedback from Ofsted in 2016 regarding our high performing Sixth Form. This was seen as a significant strength of our school and reflects the fact that The South Wolds Academy and Sixth Form can offer the best education to its students from Year 7 to Year 13.

Behaviour is outstanding at the Academy. Students understand exactly what is expected of them and behave sensibly both in and out of lessons. All visitors to the school (including Ofsted) comment on the fantastic, positive and vibrant atmosphere throughout the school day. We recognise and celebrate hard work through a comprehensive reward system, achievement assemblies and awards evenings; our core values "Be kind, Work hard, Aspire" are evident in everything that we do.

A successful partnership with parents and carers is crucial to our work and a fundamental part of the success of South Wolds. We work closely with our linked Primary partner schools to enable us to build on the achievements of everybody at Key Stage 2.

The aim of this prospectus is to give you a real sense of how we work at South Wolds and the many opportunities on offer - but the best way is to see for yourself, so please do contact us to arrange a visit.

Halina Angus, Head Teacher

'A culture of high aspiration set within a foundation of care and support' Ofsted 2016

'Pupil attainment and care, guidance and support are outstanding' Ofsted

Why Choose The South Wolds Academy and Sixth Form?



"I truly enjoy school because of the vast range of opportunities and experiences South Wolds offers. My enthusiasm for music has grown over the past 5 years, thanks to brilliant teaching and support."

Nathan

At South Wolds we help each of our students achieve the very best they can both academically and socially, within a caring environment. So much so that Ofsted rated us Outstanding for both attainment and for care, guidance and support in our last inspection.

With 900 students, South Wolds is large enough to offer lots of opportunities for our youngsters to take part in exciting experiences outside the classroom, but small enough to treat every child as an individual. In addition to our students' academic achievements, the school is also:

- a specialist language academy offering three languages to A Level,
- the only school in the area to have the Gold Careers Mark,
- and has the Silver School Games Mark.



New Beginnings



" There are a lot of lunchtime and after school clubs from dance and gymnastics to football and tennis. There are so many different things to do. When I came up from primary school I hated P.E but now I love it because there is such a variety of different sports and clubs."

Georgia



on joint projects such as sports festivals. Our languages department go to feeder primaries to teach Spanish, and the children get to try new languages such as Russian and Portuguese. South Wolds' English department also work with the feeder primary school teachers to improve understanding of how English is taught at secondary level.

All new students are invited to an Open Evening, an Induction Day, International Day and Sports Day at South Wolds, so the school and staff are already familiar when they start.

Each student joins a tutor group, with one or two friends from their primary school, and they remain with that tutor through to Year 11. This ensures continuity of care and progress throughout the school, and you can contact your child's tutor if you have any concerns.



'Outstanding transition arrangements on transfer from Primary School' Ofsted

We understand that the move from primary to secondary school is a worrying time for you and your child. We use a range of activities to reassure our new students and help them make friends quickly.

Children who transfer from linked primary schools will have already got to know us



Many students join us from other primary schools, or in later school years, but they all get a warm welcome and find it easy to fit in and make new friends.



"I enjoy South Wolds because the lessons are fun, challenging and the teachers are very friendly and always give you good advice."

Gurpreet



'Lack of tolerance of bullying is made clear right from the start'
Parent Forum

Teaching and Learning



"Despite not knowing many people at this school, when starting in Year 7, I have felt welcomed by the staff and students throughout my time at South Wolds. South Wolds is a place to feel safe, and take part in new and interesting opportunities."

Emily



'The outstanding curriculum enables all students to achieve well and develop wider personal and social skills' Ofsted

The South Wolds Academy's students achieve some of the best academic results in Nottinghamshire, but we get the balance right between outstanding results and wider personal development. Our curriculum not only meets

current government guidelines, but enables our students to develop the skills they will need later in life. A very talented team of specialist, qualified teachers take every step to make learning relevant, interesting and enjoyable.

Specialist Language Academy

We believe that languages and an understanding of internationalism are critical for the future generations to be successful in a global society and economy. Our focus on languages sets our students apart in the modern workplace.

In Year 7, students choose two languages from French, German and Spanish to study for two years. They can then choose to study one or two languages to GCSE and A Level. We have long standing relationships with schools in France, Germany and Spain which enable us to offer a programme of exchange trips to each country, improving students' language skills and giving them real insight into the culture of each country. In Years 7 and 8 talented linguists can opt to take part in Fristory, learning History in the French language. We developed this programme with the University of Nottingham, and it is planned and taught by both the French and History teachers. We have found students studying Fristory make faster progress in French and History than their peers.

As a result, the number of students who achieve at least one GCSE A* - C pass in a modern foreign language at South Wolds is more than double the national average for secondary schools.

Special Educational Needs

We have a strong and successful Learning Support Team with its own dedicated area which works closely with students, families, primary schools and a range of support services and agencies, to ensure that students with special educational needs or disabilities receive the support they need. At lunch and break time we run clubs for vulnerable students who prefer to be inside at these times, so that they can meet other students and develop their confidence and social skills.





'The Academy's specialist language status enhances the curriculum and ensures a good focus on internationalism' Ofsted



" The South Wolds Academy and Sixth Form is a great school and I have learnt so much over the years. I have not only learnt about the curriculum but everyday life. Also the teachers are great. "

Kajanthan



Participation and Enjoyment



" Since Year 7 I have always felt welcome and comfortable at South Wolds. All the teachers at South Wolds are very easy to talk to about questions with lessons or personal issues. I'm coming up to my final year at South Wolds however I have enjoyed coming to this school and meeting lots of great people. "

Lucy

'Relationships across the Academy are very good and pupils have good attitudes to their learning' Ofsted

There is more to school than lessons. We make sure our students have opportunities to pursue their own talents and interests outside of lesson time, from dance and drama to sport and voluntary work.

Music and Drama

We have an enviable reputation for our work in these areas. We offer one-to-one music tuition and a range of bands—from concert to jazz and steel, plus an annual production in which all year groups can take part, whether acting or painting the scenery.

Dance

We offer dance as part of PE, plus dance clubs at lunch time or after school. The highlight of the year is the Dance Festival which plays to packed audiences for three nights.

Sport

We run athletics, football, rugby, cricket and netball teams and compete in local and regional competitions against other schools. There are also many opportunities for students to take part in the inter-tutor group competitions or try many of the less traditional sports we offer. Our sporting facilities are excellent and we benefit from sharing them with the Keyworth Leisure Centre.

We are also proud winners of the Silver School Games Mark which celebrates our commitment, engagement and delivery of competitive schools sports.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

We offer the Bronze, Silver and Gold Award to enable our students to gain recognition for learning new skills, volunteering in their community and going on expeditions.

Trips and Residential

We do not let red tape get in our way! Our staff organise many visits that enhance the work done in class - from the Year 7 camp in September to overseas music tours and exchange trips to France, Germany and Spain.

Beyond the Curriculum

The Extra Curriculum is a programme of enrichment sessions run after school for Years 7, 8 and 9, sharing skills, knowledge and understanding that they are not exposed to in the main curriculum. Staff run sessions based on a personal interest, or an area of their subject that they do not have the opportunity to teach. Enrichment at South Wolds allows students and staff to experience learning outside of the classroom, to work together and share areas of common interest and to strengthen relationships. It includes overseas trips, work experience, local visits and on site activities.





" Coming from a small primary school, I was nervous for this transition, but after two days of school in September, I was no longer nervous but excited for the rest of the year to come. Once you meet your tutors you realise that they are amazing to you and are always there for you. The teachers here are great, always pushing above and beyond to help you achieve your goals."

Jack

'The Academy's specialist language status enhances the curriculum and ensures a good focus on internationalism' Ofsted

Post 16 - The Sixth Form



'The Sixth Form is a significant strength of the school' Ofsted

Our Sixth Form is one of the top achieving in the country. After they finish their GCSEs, students who meet the entry criteria can choose from just under 30 A Level qualifications to study. Our exciting A Level curriculum is underpinned by a wide range of extra curricular opportunities. All of our Sixth Form students are expected to make a contribution to working with the rest of the school and they do so becoming curriculum mentors, running extra curricular activities or helping students with reading.



" I chose to continue my studies at The South Wolds Academy's Sixth Form because I knew all of the teachers and had already established good working relationships with them. I have found my A Level teachers to be really approachable and they will always give up their time to help me. "

Oscar

Oscar is in Year 12 and studying A Levels in Biology, Chemistry, Maths and French.

Oscar is hoping to read a BSc Genetics degree at university.

Our A Level results are fantastic. They show that students make more progress in our Sixth Form than other students do nationally. Every year over one quarter of A Level results at South Wolds are A* - A and over one half are A* - B grades. Our retention and success rates are higher than national averages, demonstrating that the vast majority of students who start A Levels with us go on to complete them successfully.

All of our students progress on to either university, employment, apprenticeships or further training. Over 80% take up a place at university, with over half attending Russell Group Universities. We are also in the top two non selective state schools in Nottinghamshire, and the top 100 nationally, for sending students to Oxford and Cambridge Universities.*

There is a strong pastoral system that ensures that students receive the support and challenge they need throughout their A Levels. We continue to work closely with parents and carers throughout the Sixth Form. Every student has a personal tutor and Year 12 and Year 13 Performance Leaders work with all students and their tutors to maximise success.

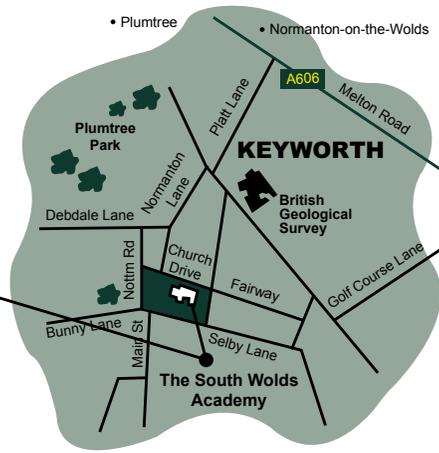
But we know that Sixth Form is not just about academic success. It is a time for new experiences, and developing interests and skills. We offer all Year 12 students opportunities to coach younger students and to lead charity fundraising events. The Sixth Form committee also arrange a variety range of social and charity events, from the Summer Ball to the Christmas Fair.

*Sutton Trust Report 'Degree of Success'

Careers and Employability Skills

We support our students to make informed choices about their future - whether that is sixth form, college, university, employment or an apprenticeship. To help them, we run annual careers fairs for the whole school to attend and mock interviews in Year 11.







East Midlands
Education Trust

Head Teacher: Halina Angus

The South Wolds Academy & Sixth Form
Chruch Drive, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5FF
Email: office@southwolds.co.uk
Website: www.southwolds.co.uk
Twitter: @southwolds Telephone: 0115 9373506

