

# Why Choose The South Wolds Academy and Sixth Form?



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.



*"The school made the transition really easy. There was time put into getting to know your teachers and new classmates. I had been worried about getting lost but then I picked it up surprisingly easily, the teachers were sympathetic and older students were always willing to help."*

*Rachel*  
Year 10

*"Rachel is studious and determined. Keen to pursue a career in teaching she is already inspiring our younger students by running subject support sessions as well as working with students in our local primary schools. Alongside her academic brilliance, Rachel excels in music and plays the piano, violin and steel pans. She has won awards as part of the Steel Pan Group and regularly performs in our Christmas and summer concerts."*

*Mr Polley,*  
Head of Year 10

# New Beginnings



*"My experience at South Wolds so far has been amazing. My teachers are great, I have great relations with them and I'm enjoying my time here."*

*Jack  
Year 10*

*"We are incredibly proud of Jack's engagement in the sports we offer at The South Wolds Academy and he has already represented the school playing cricket and competing in athletics. He has fully immersed himself in many extra-curricular enrichment opportunities, not only designing an impressive Eco house as part of STEM club but also achieving the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. Jack aspires to be an architect and ensures he grasps every opportunity to ensure his dream becomes a reality."*

*Mr Polley,  
Head of Year 10*

*'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 through 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 and maths departments 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.

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.





*"My enthusiasm and confidence levels for my subjects has grown over my time in the sixth form thanks to the brilliant teaching and support I have received."*

*Izzy*  
Year 13

*"Izzy is currently studying A Levels in English Language, Sociology and PE and hopes to study English Language and Linguistics at university. She is a keen sportswoman demonstrated through her competitive rowing at a national level. Izzy has been a huge asset to the PE department, volunteering her time to help out with extra Curricular clubs and is an excellent role model to our younger students."*

*Head of Year 13*



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



# Teaching and Learning

*'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 three 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 significantly above 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.





"I chose South Wolds Sixth Form because it offers a broad range of subjects, that other sixth forms don't seem to offer and I want to study Product Design at university. I'm happy at South Wolds Sixth Form because it's a happy and relaxed environment. Teachers are understanding and help me minimise my stress whilst still making sure I can reach or exceed my target grades."

*Kajanthan*  
Year 13



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

"Kajanthan has fully immersed himself into sixth form life and is a popular student. He is a vital member of the Post-16 committee, helping to organise fundraising and social events throughout the academic year. Kajanthan is a keen designer studying Photography, D&T and Business Studies A Levels. He is working towards a career in Architecture and has recently completed a packaging design competition run by Starpack. Our younger students have had the privilege to be mentored by Kajanthan whilst he volunteers his time as a Maths GCSE tutor and D&T support."



*Mrs Capewell*  
KS5 Performance Leader

# Participation and Enjoyment



*'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 pan, 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 our Sports Council are always looking for new and exciting ventures.

We are 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. We have been recognised at regional level for successes with this worthy endeavour.

## 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 ice-breaker in September to overseas music tours and exchange trips to France, Germany and Spain, we love to get everyone involved!

## 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.



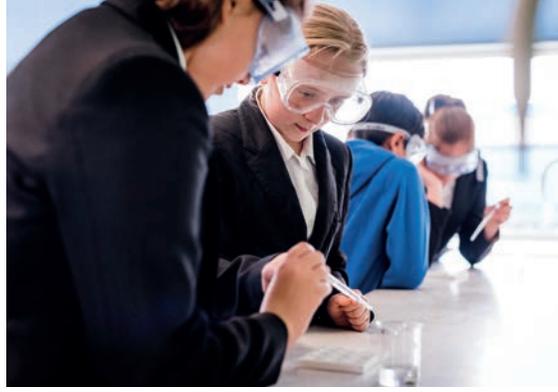
*"The school has provided essential skills that have helped me gain confidence in my learning and has prepared me for my future. During my time at South Wolds I have explored new opportunities and learnt to appreciate the experiences I have been offered."*

*Lilly  
Year 10*

*"Lilly is an ambitious and forward thinking student who is looking to turn her love of languages into a career as a translator or instructor. She has recently been appointed as one of our Perfect team and she will be on hand in September to ensure that our new Year 7s make a smooth transition to secondary education. Lily has performed many times in school concerts playing the violin and she has responded well to her inclusion in our ASPIRE programme that gives some of our students some early experience of life as a university student."*

*Mr Gell  
Head of Year 11*





*"Since joining the school, I have been provided with lots of incredible opportunities including foreign exchanges, sports events and exiting extra curriculum activities."*

*Rowyn  
Year 11*



*"Rowyn is a very active and valued member of the South Wolds student community. She has participated in our Sport Leaders programme working with younger students in our local primary schools and, as a newly appointed Perfect, she was a tremendous support to our Year 6 Transition Day. As a talented saxophonist, Rowyn takes every opportunity to perform at one of our many school concerts, raising money for many worthwhile local charities. She is also part of our ASPIRE programme which encourages students to begin their preparations for study at degree level and she was one of around 30 students that attended an open day at the university of Nottingham, earlier this year. She is now focussed on studying Veterinary Science at university after her A-levels"*



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

*Mr Gell  
Head of Year 11*

## Post 16 - The Sixth Form



*"I decided to continue studying at The South Wolds Sixth Form as not only was I familiar with my surroundings but also the teachers have had chance to learn about you over the past 5 years. This allows for more bespoke approach to teaching. I hope I'll be able to gain a place on my desired course at university. The application process is supported by my tutor who provides one to one advice on applications but also guidance on any other queries I may have."*

*Archie*  
Year 12

*"He has demonstrated an exemplary work ethic whilst studying Economics, Maths and Geography A Levels and takes advantage of all the extra-curricular opportunities that the Sixth Form offers. Archie has supported students with their D&T project work during lunchtimes and has attended an Economics Summer School at Bath University. He aspires to study Economics and Finance at university."*

*Miss Aston*  
Head of Year 12

*'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.

Our A Level results are fantastic. They show that students make more significant 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 of social and charity events, from the Summer Ball to the Christmas Fair.

\*Sutton Trust Report 'Degrees 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 career interviews in Key Stage 4.

