

WICKERSLEY SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

Also a Maths and Computing School

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THE SCHOOL AND ITS LOCATION

All schools have a different feel when you walk into them. Visitors to Wickersley often tell us that their first impressions are of a calm, purposeful and business-like site with friendly and welcoming pupils.

Wickersley is an attractive and prosperous village with good motorway links. We are, for example, fifteen minutes from the centre of Sheffield, ten minutes from the centre of Rotherham and one hour from the Peak District and Yorkshire Dales. The village and the School share tradition and a tangible community feel.

We are a Sports College and we use sport to help to create a healthy and happy school population. We are also a Community School and we want to do what we can to develop the cultural life of the village as well as enhance its economic well-being. We are also officially designated a "High Performing School" and therefore have been awarded the "second" specialism of Maths and Computing. OFSTED came in November 2008 and now we are also an "Outstanding" School. We want **all** of our pupils to achieve the highest standards of which they are capable. For those who need additional help we have a modern and well resourced CSA (Curriculum Support Area), for those who need additional challenge and stimulation we have a successful Gifted and Talented Programme, and for everyone we have talented and energetic teachers and support staff who use pupil profile data to identify potential and to develop it to the full through targeted teaching.

Our School is an oversubscribed 11-18 co-educational comprehensive school drawing its intake from six main Primary Schools. The number on roll presently is 1900 plus including 400+ in the Sixth Form. Many of our students go on to University including Oxford and Cambridge, and we have a commitment to all pupils to fulfill their potential both academic and social.

Our Ethos

The School exists to serve the needs of people. Learning is our core business and we believe this is best achieved in a traditional disciplined school atmosphere where all individuals are expected to behave politely and responsibly. Co-operation and collaboration is encouraged and students of all ages understand the need to set realistic but aspirational targets for themselves. The School has an excellent reputation and our children enjoy coming here. We place a high priority on pupils as individuals.

Leadership and Management

Faculty Leaders, Heads of Department and Heads of Year have a key role to play in implementing and monitoring school policies and the School Development Plan. Faculty Leaders occupy a central role in designing the syllabuses, maintaining standards and assisting less experienced colleagues. They meet regularly with a Deputy Head to discuss and co-ordinate policies and set targets. The Form Tutors play an

increasingly important role in monitoring and reviewing the academic progress of pupils, in addition to dealing with pastoral issues. Tutor Teams meet regularly under the leadership of Heads of Year who in turn review policies in a Pastoral Group chaired by the Director of Student Development and Progress.

Curriculum Support Department

We have spent several hundreds of thousands of pounds on computers and we intend to continue spending annually in this area. All teaching staff have also been provided with a laptop computer each and the School is fully connected by radio wave linking equipment: all computers, laptops and desktops 'talk' to each other; communication (registration, E-mail etc) and data analysis are enhanced greatly as a consequence.

Over ninety non-teaching support staff work with the teaching staff. They play a pivotal role in our success and we are constantly looking to re-visit job descriptions and enhance numbers of support staff so as to further enable teachers to concentrate on teaching and to further raise student achievement.

Those students of secondary school age in Rotherham LEA who have a hearing impairment have the opportunity to attend Wickersley where there are two specialist teachers of the deaf and two specialist Non-teaching Assistants. For most lessons, hearing impaired pupils are integrated into the mainstream and, for many, signing will take place.

Buildings

An £11 million plus PFI Programme of building work has recently been completed and we now have very good facilities with excellent on-site playing fields (best in Yorkshire) and courts, a Sports Hall and two Gymnasias. We now also have an excellent STP (all weather) – floodlit Football Pitch which can be used by our students and the local community. As a Sports College you might expect that sport flourishes vigorously within School. However, there is also strong Music and Drama with regular productions and concerts involving both pupils and staff. Our specialist school status affords us many advantages, and these advantages extend to **all** Departments in School not just sport.

As teaching vacancies arise we seek to recruit staff who can bring commitment, imagination and a high level of professionalism to a staff which already has those attributes in abundance and where the atmosphere is focused, but enjoyable and vibrant. High expectation is at the centre of all that we do.

We look forward to hearing from you.

(msw/swhSchInfo)