Ribblesdale High School

A foundation for success since 1932

Ribblesdale High School is a mixed, local authority maintained 11-16 comprehensive school. We are situated in the market town of Clitheroe in the Ribble Valley. Preston, Burnley, Blackburn, Colne, Manchester and North Yorkshire are within a 30-45 minute car journey. A large part of the Ribble Valley lies in The Forest of Bowland, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the school has views of Pendle Hill and Longridge Fell as well as the town's Norman castle.

Our pupils come from Clitheroe and from the surrounding areas (about one third use school transport). We are a popular school in the local community and have 1251 pupils on roll, aged 11-16.

There are 75 teachers and 46 support staff. The Senior Leadership Team is substantively the Headteacher, two Deputy Headteachers, the School Business Manager, a Senior Assistant Headteacher and two Assistant Headteachers.

The school's last Ofsted inspection took place in June 2015. It was recognised by HMI that since our last inspection the school has made exceptional progress in improving the quality of Teaching and Learning. As a result we were judged 'Good' in all areas of the inspection. However, our ambition is to become an outstanding institution in all that we do.

The school has a long tradition of harnessing new technologies to enhance learning. We have recently become one of only a handful of schools globally to become a Microsoft Training Academy. This involves working closely with Microsoft to promote and develop new technologies to improve the quality of teaching and learning.

The Curriculum

At Ribblesdale we offer a broad and balanced curriculum in a range of subjects to all year groups. Both English Literature and Religious Education benefit from early entry in Year 10. All young people take part in enrichment, which encompasses the development of moral, social and British values alongside skills for the future. We have a nationally recognised Enrichment programme rated outstanding by Ofsted.

The Key Stage 3 Curriculum

In Years 7 & 8, pupils follow a common curriculum, which includes English, maths, science, technology, computer science, history, geography, RE, French, Spanish, PE, art, performing arts, music and PSHE/citizenship.

During Year 9, pupils choose their options with the support of their parents, form tutor, subject teachers and careers advisors as necessary.

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

All pupils follow a core curriculum of English, maths, science, PE and RE. They are expected to choose either a language (French / Spanish) and/or a humanity subject (geography / history). Pupils can also choose from a wide range of other subjects in school including product design, computer science, graphics, textiles, resistant materials, vocational hospitality and catering, art, performing arts (BTEC), media studies, GCSE PE and business studies. The structure of the curriculum gives all pupils the opportunity to follow the English Baccalaureate curriculum route, which requires them to study a modern foreign language (French or Spanish) and history or geography to GCSE level.

21st Century Learning

Ribblesdale has a long tradition as a school rich in the use of new technologies. From being one of the first Technology Colleges in the 1990s to its current exciting work with one-to-one devices, this willingness to utilise technology to assist learning is as much the school's heritage as it is its future.

Ribblesdale is now a Microsoft Training Academy; one of only six worldwide. Being a Microsoft Training Academy means that our pupils have access to the latest technologies and resources to support teaching and learning, both with and beyond the classroom. This not only helps them achieve their best academically, but also helps to prepare them for a life beyond Ribblesdale, giving them 21st century skills for the future. It also allows our teachers to have access to tools and training to develop their pedagogy, integrating technology within lessons to enhance learning. What we do at Ribblesdale is showcased and shared on a local, regional and national level!

One-to-one devices are now being used by all our Year 8 and 9 pupils. Our new Year 7 will be using their devices from October. The scheme not only provides a device, but a full package including, accidental damage & theft insurance, extended warranty, web-filtering and software updates for the life of the device. A range of donation options ensures that the scheme is accessible to all.

Results

In summer 2018, 65% of pupils achieved grades 4-9 in English and Mathematics. This is above national average.

Resources

- A campus wide state of the art Wi-Fi system, capable of supporting over 2000 devices
- All pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 have a one-to-one Windows 10 device
- Each teacher is provided with a mobile Windows 10 device
- 70 touch screen Windows 10 devices are available in English and maths
- 350 personal computers for pupil learning and independent learning skills, recently replaced with new hardware
- Digital projectors or panels are in every teaching room controlled by wireless Windows 10 technology
- Good, high quality accommodation to support an effective teaching and non-teaching staff
- A refurbished Learning Resource Centre/Library, with a range of support services
- Subject support staff for all departments to allow teachers to concentrate on teaching
- A Sports Pavilion with changing and learning resources, including an outdoor wireless network and access to the ICT resources found in all teaching areas

Pupil Guidance and Support

Each year group is overseen by a member of the Senior Leadership Team who in turn oversees the work of a Year Leader who focuses on pupil progress. These are supported by a team of Pastoral Coordinators who focus on pupil welfare and removing any barriers to learning that a pupil may have. The school employs a full time Counsellor and our work with other agencies is extensive and creative.

Sports Facilities and Environment

The school's main outdoor facilities are on a separate site 300 metres from the school campus. There are playing/sports fields, an astro-turf playing surface and a sports pavilion. On site there is a newly refurbished fitness suite, large sports hall and drama/dance complex.

In recent years our PE changing rooms were completely refurbished for both boys and girls, with additional built-in office space for the PE staff. They now offer modern changing facilities with private shower rooms and toilets. The layout also provides enough space for a pupil learning environment indoors in times of wet weather.

There are two large 'green spaces' on site. They break the campus up and encourage pupils to consider their leisure space and surroundings as active citizens. Often, these spaces link to the curriculum, for example in science, pupils and staff have developed a pond area to use as a resource for environmental science together with a large, modern greenhouse.

Dining

The school currently has a main dining hall 'Gusto', a new 'fast and healthy' dining area 'Fresco', a pasta bar 'Voilà', as well as a separate packed lunch area in the Drama Complex.

Assemblies

Assemblies and form time are valued parts of school life, encouraging social, spiritual, and moral cultural development. They are broadly non-denominational, and often have a spiritual aspect.

We encourage pupils to participate in and lead assemblies.

Parents are entitled to withdraw their children from assemblies. Requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

Religious Studies

This is taught according to the agreed syllabus to all years. The main aims are to develop pupils' understanding of religious, spiritual, moral and cultural issues to enable pupils to develop their own beliefs, values and attitudes, and to understand the beliefs of others. The agreed syllabus explores the multi-religious nature of our society and school community, whilst remaining predominantly Christian.

Parents are entitled to withdraw their children from religious education. Requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

Sex and Relationship Education

Sex and Relationship Education is taught as an intrinsic part of the PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, Education) / Citizenship programme.

The school has a clearly defined policy regarding sex and relationship education which has evolved over a number of years following consultation with teachers, pupils and school governors. Feedback from parents is also considered when offered.

Child Protection

Philosophy

As part of the ethos of Ribblesdale, which aims to provide a secure, happy and caring school in which we encourage respect for, and understanding of, each individual, we recognise the need to provide an environment in which all children feel valued and can share problems and be listened to.

Procedures

Any suggestion by pupils that they are at risk of harm will be taken seriously. That information will be passed immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Dewhurst (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs Heaton (School Counsellor/back-up Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Mrs Parkinson (Year Leader/back-up Designated Safeguarding Lead). The school will then follow the procedures laid down by the Local Authority (LA).

The school will work with other agencies as appropriate and will attend any subsequent case conferences. Wherever possible, the school will maintain good relations with the parents of the pupil involved. Pupil awareness, contacts and strategies in relation to child protection will form part of the citizenship curriculum.

Learning Support and SEND

SEN AND DISABILITY ARRANGEMENTS

At Ribblesdale High School we respect the fact that pupils:

- Have different educational and behavioural needs and aspirations
- Require different strategies for learning
- Learn at different rates
- Require a range of different teaching strategies and experiences.

Teachers respond to pupils' needs by:

- Providing support in all curriculum areas
- Planning to develop pupils' understanding through the use of senses and experiences
- Planning for pupils' full participation in learning including physical and practical activities
- Planning for pupils to manage their own behaviour, enabling them to participate effectively and safely in learning.

The school accommodates provision for pupils who experience difficulties with:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health Development
- Sensory and/or Physical Conditions
- Medical conditions.

The school employs a SENDCO who is also an in-house specialist support teacher, an Assistant SENDCO and one HLTA (numeracy) and eight teaching assistants. Other specialist teachers also visit individual pupils.

Attendance 2017/2018

Group	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Whole School
Total	95.7%	94.7%	95.3%	95.5%	94.0%	95.1%

Insurance

The school uses the Local Authority's insurance arrangements. Details are available on request.

Admissions for September 2019/20

Published admission number for Year 7: 285

Full details are provided in the Local Authority booklet 'Secondary School Admissions in East Lancashire 2019/20'. It is essential that parents read carefully the Local Authority booklet, produced for this area, detailing the admissions procedure.

Pupils transferring voluntarily to Ribblesdale High School within a term are admitted with effect from the start of the new full term unless agreed by the Headteacher and the Local Education Office to the contrary.

Transport Arrangements

Please refer to the Local Authority for guidance concerning transport arrangements and section 4 of the main Local Authority booklet 'Secondary School Admissions in East Lancashire 2019/20'.

Statutory Policies

All policies are available on request from the school, or can be viewed on the school's website, www.ribblesdale.org