



Welcome To SOMERVALE SCHOOL

About Somervale School

Somervale is at an exciting time in its history. It entered into Federation with Norton Hill School in September 2009 and was given permission to become an early adopter Academy in October 2010 due to its outstanding partnership arrangements. Being a small school by design, we have the advantage of close working relationships and a positive climate for learning that Ofsted validated in 2016.

Somervale School is one of three secondary schools within the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership multi-academy trust. There are currently 9 other schools: Norton Hill Secondary, St Dunstan's School, High Littleton Primary, Clutton Primary, Welton Primary, Dundry Primary, Longvernal Primary, Farrington Gurney Primary and Trinity Primary. We are also due to open a brand new three form entry primary school in 2017 as part of the DFE Free School Programme. Most of the schools in the partnership are graded 'good' or 'outstanding' by OFSTED. This partnership enables best practice to be shared and economies of scale to be achieved, not to mention a significantly wide offer for all children educated by schools within the Trust.

The benefits that Federation bring to students and staff are:

- Increased leadership capacity at all levels of school leadership
- An increase in the range of curriculum opportunities for 14/16
- Enhancement of professional development opportunities across the Federation, including professional advancement within the Federation
- Increased spend on capital expenditure, I.T. and educational resources created by economies of scale within the Federation
- A shared Sixth Form between the two schools with 300+ students in the Sixth Form

The school is on a fantastic journey of success. Attainment rose sharply in 2015 to 63% A*/C placing the school in the top 12% for pupil progress. These results set us well on the way to an 'Outstanding' judgement in the future. In 2016 this was 66% and in the Top 10% in the country and 2nd in B&NES for student progress.

The school has many successes of which it is rightly proud.

- A 'good' Ofsted judgement
- Attainment above national average for two of the last three years
- Arts Mark Gold status
- Our Media Arts Specialism and state of the art media facilities
- To our knowledge, the only school in the country with its own Community Radio Licence
- The first school in the Local Authority to achieve the Green Flag Award for Sustainability and the first Secondary School in the country to receive the Children's Award for Children and Young People's Rights
- Students behave well in lessons and around the school, they are extremely polite and respectful of adults and each other. Behaviour at break times and lunchtime is safe and sensible (Ofsted 2016).
- Students' engagement in the arts and sports and our enrichment programme



SOMERVALE
SCHOOL

*"Current students in all
year groups are making
strong progress."*

(Ofsted, 2016)

*"Students are safe and
well looked after."*

(Ofsted, 2016)



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Over £2m has been spent on refurbishment in the past few years. Recent developments include:

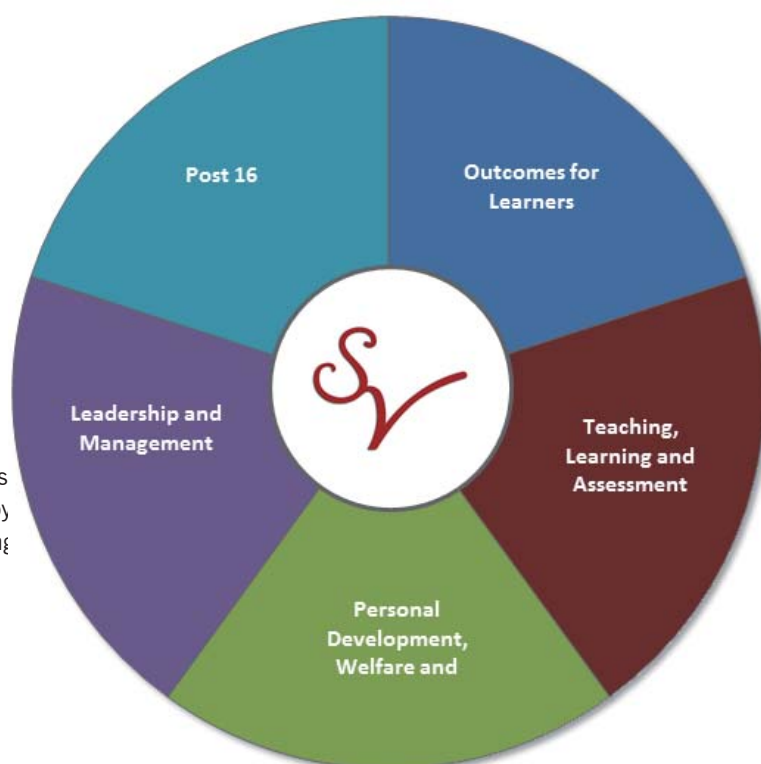
- A new 3G Astro-turf
- Newly refurbished Science Labs
- A new Sixth Form Centre
- New windows for all Main Block rooms

Our Vision

Somervale School is an Arts College specialising in English, Media and Music. It is situated on an attractive open site with extensive playing fields close to the centre of Midsomer Norton and within easy reach of Bath.

Somervale, as a separate and distinctive school, has out its own vision of how to move to 'outstanding' by September 2016 and is well on the way to achieving that goal.

SOMERVALE VISION DIAGRAM



Outcomes for Learners

By August 2017 the Progress 8 measure for all students will be +0.6 and the % of students attaining Level 5 in English & Maths will be 55%.

By August 2017 all identified vulnerable groups make progress in line with expectation with a Progress 8 score of at least 0.0 and attainment gaps compared to other students will be less than 10% on all key measures.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

By August 2017: 90% of lessons will be judged good or better with 30% outstanding.

All teachers will ensure that high quality differentiation, questioning and literacy development is planned into lessons.

Ensure all children are technically accurate in their writing with high levels of completion and presentation.

Accelerated Reading scores will show a 10% increase in those achieving age related standards year on year.

The progress of students against age related standards will be tracked in subjects with reference to the Towers of Expertise, so students know how to improve.

Personal Development, Welfare and Behaviour

Ensure that the school monitors and intervenes systematically with those whose attendance is low so that overall attendance is 95.5% and the gap between vulnerable groups and others is less than 1%.

Eradicate low level disruption in classes so all lessons observed are at least good.

Leadership and management By August 2017

All students will be on learning programmes that maximises their achievement and offers them clear progression routes so 70% of Y10 take the E Bac with 30% achieving the full E Bac.

Ensure leaders focus on tracking student progress over time through work in books.

Continue to ensure that all aspects of Safeguarding keep children safe so that Safeguarding is judged 'outstanding.'

Improve the consistency of the use of tutor time by monitoring student participation in specified learning programmes.

Post 16: By August 2017

Post 16 outcomes are value added for academic subjects with %A*/B grades at 60%

40% of teaching is outstanding in the sixth form

40% attend Russell Group universities

Teaching & Learning

In the most recent inspection 80% of lessons were graded either good or outstanding. This is a result of the school's focus on getting teaching and learning right first time.

The school has a strong focus on Assessment for Learning strategies, Literacy across the curriculum and Behaviour for Learning which is consolidated by first class Continued Professional Development shared across the Federation.

The school enhances its curriculum through a Personalised Learning programme delivered once per fortnight which involves a focus on the Arts for KS3 Arts Extra.

Every student at Somervale is placed in a tutor group. There are three pastoral teams in the school split into KS3, KS4 and KS5 led by a Key Stage Coordinator supported by an Assistant Head of Key Stage who is a member of the support staff team. The KS5 team sits across the Midsomer Norton Sixth Form led by an Assistant Headteacher who manages the team across both sites.

Student Voice

Students play an important part in the life of the school and this is central to our belief in developing the whole child. The School Council meets regularly to consult on issues which concern them. Students are involved in the appointment of new staff and provide feedback to heads of department during subject reviews.

Somer Valley FM

Somervale School hosts a state of the art community radio station which has broadcast across the whole Norton Radstock community since Spring 2009 on 97.5fm and is a wonderful opportunity for our students and the wider community to work on a unique and exciting project. It now has over 200 volunteers working for the station.



“Students, parents and staff all make very positive comments about the culture of care, support and high levels of concerns for all students well-being and all-round development, as well as their academic achievement.”

(Ofsted, 2016)

“Students are keen to do well.”

(Ofsted 2016)

Extra Curricular Activities

Extra curricular activities are a rapidly growing aspect of school life especially in PE and Music. There are sports practices and fixtures almost every night and teams this year have enjoyed huge success against local competition. In Performing Arts we have a jazz band, a wind band, a choir, tuition in a very wide range of instruments.

The whole-school curriculum is enhanced by a varied programme of visits. All Year 10 students pursue Next Steps Week in July when younger students enjoy an Activities Week encompassing a wide range of opportunities.

Other visits include Geography and History field trips, trips to France and Duke of Edinburgh and Ten Tors teams. There is also a wide range of clubs and activities at lunchtime and after school.

Midsomer Norton Sixth Form

In September 2011 the Sixth Forms of Norton Hill and Somervale merged into a single Midsomer Norton Sixth Form. With over 350 students in the Sixth Form, teaching is spread across the two sites – which are within easy walking distance of each other. There is a curriculum offer of over 40 subjects at Level 3 including A' Levels and BTEC options. We also have Cambridge Pre-U courses to support our aim of Sixth Formers progressing to the best Universities. Information about the Sixth Form can be found on the website www.msnsixth.com.



“School leaders have been successful in ensuring that pupils’ reading and writing skills are developed in all subjects.”

“It is difficult to imagine a friendlier and more harmonious community.”

(Ofsted 2016)



“Students are keen to make progress and are proud of their achievements, particularly in the school’s specialist field of media arts. In the best lessons, they develop independence and take responsibility for their own learning.”

