



GENERAL INFORMATION

Be happy, be ambitious, make a difference

Mission statement: We promise to do whatever it takes to ensure that every student at The City of Leicester College realises their full potential. Every member of staff is determined to ensure that students leave with the ability to make a positive difference to their community and the wider world.

We set the highest expectations and support every student in reaching them. We remain focused, enjoy challenges and revel in the diverse environment in which we work. We are ambitious, honest and believe that hard work leads to success.

The City of Leicester College is a large and popular 11-19 mixed multicultural college which serves a catchment area on the eastern side of the City of Leicester. All visitors to the college comment on the welcoming, inspiring learning environment and supportive, positive relationships between staff and students.

The College is growing with a gradual increase in numbers planned over the next few years. This will take us from our current situation of approximately 1500 students to nearer 1900 students, made up from 300 in each of Years 7-11 and approximately 390 in the Sixth Form. This makes us the largest school and sixth form in the area. The college is fully comprehensive, multi-cultural and multi-faith, with the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students judged as outstanding in our last two Ofsted reports. The catchment area includes suburban owner occupied housing, council housing from various periods (1930-1980) and privately rented inner city terraced properties. The great majority of pupils are from a minority ethnic background; most are of Indian heritage. Although most pupils' first language is not English, only a relatively small proportion of students are learning English for the first time. The proportion of pupils with learning difficulties is broadly average.

Our students are a wonderfully diverse group of students in their cultural backgrounds, diverse experiences, range of ambitions and are united in a common aim to 'be happy, be ambitious and make a difference'. They are focussed on their desire to achieve and express their unique and varied cultures in an independent way. Ofsted commented that our students are 'polite, warm, friendly, open and compliant' and are 'respectful to staff and each other'

Our staff are dedicated to making a difference to the students and are exceptionally supportive of each other. We are committed to recognising the professional and emotional needs of our staff and place a high value on work-life balance.

Our Sixth Form is one of our strengths and we have a strong tradition of high levels of retention, catering for students of all abilities and offering innovative pathways post 16. We consistently achieve fantastic results at post 16. Our sixth form is consistently in the top 10% nationally for A level progress. We are also delighted to have increased the number of students who achieved the highest grades, the new A* and A and B grades.

We work hard to offer an inclusive curriculum despite the pressures of Progress and Attainment 8. We moved to a 3 year KS4 which has resulted in increased challenge and engagement for our Year 9 students. We are committed to a flexible, personalised curriculum, developing pathways from 13-19 that include vocational GCSEs and alternative courses offered in partnership with other providers in the city. Personal, Social and Enterprise Education are an integral part of our 13-19 provision.

We have a superb physical environment to work in, having moved to a £23 million building at the end of 2013. The building is frequently commented on as it reflects the fact that it was designed with the learners at the heart of the building. This can be seen in the open design and the independent work areas which provide a focal point for learning in the hubs. In addition to the new site, we have a strong partnership with the Evington Leisure Centre, owning the Sports Hall and changing rooms.

The curriculum areas work together in hubs, with the leadership and management structure designed to support consistency across all areas and to encourage partnerships and collaboration – jointly planning, solving problems and celebrating success together. Each Hub has a leadership triad consisting of: Hub Leader, Leader of Teaching and Learning and Raising Achievement Leader.

The five hubs are:

Business and ADT

MFL and English

Science and Social Science

Maths and ICT

PE, Expressive Arts, Humanities and PSHE

Most staff are Form Tutors who work in year teams alongside an Achievement Co-ordinator or Head of Year. All tutors have daily registrations and a weekly assembly. Year 7 students are allocated to a tutor who will remain with them, together with the Achievement Co-ordinator/Head of Year, through to the end of Year 11. At Post 16 we have a highly effective leadership team which is made up of Assistant Head, Head of Sixth Form and Achievement Coordinators for Year 12 and Year 13.

The college recognises the importance of ICT developments to support teaching and learning and improve communication. In the last few years we have greatly expanded our provision, and through BSF every classroom now has an interactive projector, Apple TV, and easy access to whole-class sets of devices. Our aim is to reach a 1:1 device per student ratio and with this in mind have introduced an iPad mini lease scheme in Y7 – 11 which a large proportion of students have signed up to. Teaching staff all have a laptop and an iPad.

The tutor teams and the wider 'inclusion' team of SEN staff, MEA teachers, Learning Mentors, student welfare officers and associated support staff are at the centre of our inclusive approach and low exclusion rate. The social, emotional and behavioural support given to students is exceptional, and significantly contributed to positive learning outcomes. We are one of the few schools in the country to have our own full-time counsellor for students and staff.

We have made a number of innovative appointments to support teaching and learning and we have embraced the remodelling agenda in an attempt to improve the quality of what we do. The college enjoys excellent support from a full range of over 50 administrative and support staff.

One of our strengths is the energy and commitment that exists in our collaborative teams: all staff are able to contribute to the growth of their year teams, faculty teams or to cross curricular initiatives in whatever way they wish. Contributions are made by many staff to extra-curricular and enrichment activities and there are voluntary task groups that look into whole school developments. The extent of the wide range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities and achievements of the students can be seen in the extensive termly newsletter.

In addition to a core, regular staff professional development programme, we participate fully in the national PiXL programme and we run bespoke programmes e.g. for NQTs and new teachers, individual support and mentoring programmes, collaborative planning sessions. We have 23 trained coaches on the staff who are available for one to one coaching. We also run a Lesson Study programme for all staff and a Teaching and Learning showcase session once a month where staff share good and developing practice. Our staff regularly contribute to national and international Teaching and Learning conferences and we run an annual Teaching and Learning conference in the autumn term which attracts top speakers and workshop presenters from around the country.

There is a commitment to supporting staff's health and well-being and this is rewarded by an atmosphere that is friendly, open, honest and optimistic.

Anne Gregory, Head Teacher
February 2018