Tupton Hall School is a large 11-18 comprehensive school with approximately 1600 students on roll. It is ideally placed, benefitting from expansive grounds in the village of Tupton. Being just south of Chesterfield provides easy access to major motorway routes, the cities of Derby, Sheffield and Manchester and the idyllic Peak District and Sherwood Forest.

The school has recently celebrated its tenth year in a modern and superbly equipped building. The school’s legacy of specialist status in Sport and ICT has ensured that learning environments are fully ICT equipped and sporting facilities are unrivalled county wide. There is a good variety of other activities on offer for all students, including music (bands, orchestra and choir), drama, visits and foreign tours, sporting activities as well as clubs. There is an established Student Council in the school and a Sports Council as well as Year Councils.

We hold the ICT Quality Mark and are members of the ICT Register. In addition, the school holds the 3rd Millennium Learning Award and is a YST Gold Partner School.

Tupton Hall has a large catchment area, which includes the parishes of Clay Cross, Grassmoor, North Wingfield, Pilsley, Tupton, Wingerworth, Stretton and Ashover. The intake can be described as truly "comprehensive" in both background and ability. The school enjoys a growing reputation in the area and although there are ten primary schools designated within our pyramid, in recent years the school has received students into Year 7 from over 20 primary schools.

Students are placed into ‘Year based’ tutor groups on entry to the school. The Year system ensures that a number of small, manageable units are created to which students can identify and in which the students are known personally. A house affiliation continues within Tupton Hall School as part of the school’s tradition. Each Year group has its own character with different programmes of events and charity fund raising activities. Inter-House competitions, particularly in sport, contribute to community spirit. A Personal and Social Development Programme, delivered in forms by form tutors, is in operation throughout the whole school. This is based around our Learning 4 Life programme.

On entry to the school students are mainly taught in all ability groups but there is some setting in Y7, 8 and 9. Setting is more common in Key Stage 4. Students who make slower than expected progress are given support in the classroom from the Enhanced Learning Faculty. Some students are withdrawn from lessons to get further support and help which may include 1 to 1 tuition or small group literacy and numeracy booster activities. The school has fully developed inclusion policies and practices and has five learning mentors. The Aspire and Links Centres are the focal points for our Inclusion and Extended Services provision.

Students join our Sixth Form from this school and other nearby 11-16 schools. We offer an extensive range of traditional 'A' level courses and also offer more contemporary ‘A’ levels including Psychology, Sociology, Law, PE, Business, Travel and Tourism, ICT, Leisure and Tourism and Health and Social Care. As a Sports College we also offer HSLA and CSLA courses to give our students opportunities to demonstrate leadership.

Currently the school’s Faculty Areas are:- English, Mathematics, Science, Modern Foreign Languages, Humanities, Expressive Arts, Design and Technology, PE, Social Sciences, Enhanced Learning, ICT, and Life Learning. Each Curriculum Area has a Faculty Leader who is responsible for the leadership and management of that area and of its teaching and learning.

There are excellent facilities for staff including a large staff room and well equipped staff workrooms in Faculty areas. The school operates a 25 period week. Each period lasts for one hour and there are four periods in the morning. This structure offers us the flexibility to promote ICT, drama and literacy. It also allows more time for examination classes in KS4 and at Post 16 level.

There are regular meetings of the Faculty Leaders and the Pastoral Managers and these two groups along with the SLT form the major decision-making bodies in the school. Year and Faculty Teams also meet regularly and all staff are encouraged to participate fully in the consultation processes in the school. There are also several development groups covering major areas of school improvement. Staff development is considered very important and a Senior Assistant Headteacher has responsibility for in-service training and professional development.

The school has had degrees of success in examinations and the Governing Body and Leadership Team have been ambitious in pursuing higher standards. In particular raising levels of achievement at both GCSE and A Level, especially at higher grades, continues to be the main priority of the school. Significant numbers of our students enter higher education each year following their success at A Level. The school insists on hard work, strong participation, good standards of behaviour, a sense of caring for others and the development of respect for each other.

This general information can only give brief details of the school and its work. If you would like some further details then please do not hesitate to contact the school - we will be only too pleased to help.

Andrew J Knowles

Headteacher

January 2016