



Somercotes Academy



Tollbar MAT
Family of Academies



www.somercotesacademy.co.uk

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Somercotes Academy

Prospectus 2017-2018



Tollbar MAT Family of Academies

Tollbar Family of Academies

Somercotes Academy is a member of Tollbar Family of Academies, a Multi-Academy Trust that has the full backing of the Department for Education, having agreed with us that the success achieved by Tollbar Academy should be available to all.

We have long recognised that, as an outstanding organisation run by educationalists, we are in a unique position to share our expertise with others. We took on a failed community college and created Cleethorpes Academy, a school for 900 students and judged as 'Good' by Ofsted in May 2015. In 2013 Reynolds Primary School also joined the Tollbar Family of Academies and is our first Primary Academy. Reynolds was also judged as a good school by Ofsted in June 2015. In November 2015 Somercotes Academy joined Tollbar Multi Academy Trust and more recently Theddlethorpe Community Primary School re-opened as Theddlethorpe Academy in September 2016. The most recent addition to the Trust is Pilgrim Academy (formerly Allerton) in Immingham which joined the Trust in April 2017 becoming the third Primary within our Family.

As members of the Multi-Academy Trust all the Academies work together with others to ensure that education remains at the core of everything we do. We stand for traditional values, top quality teaching, high standards of pupil behaviour, and state-of-the-art learning environments. We are successful because we utilise business models of management to deliver outstanding educational objectives. We know they work because we have already transferred them to beneficial effect at Cleethorpes, Somercotes and Reynolds Academies.

Our goals remain the same for all, to achieve outstanding learning outcomes in state-of-the-art environments, with the very best teaching and resources available.

Tollbar Academy has been rated outstanding on consecutive occasions by Ofsted, and it continues to be ranked in the top band of high performing schools in the UK. Cross-Academy working will benefit the learning of staff and pupils for all members of the Multi-Academy Trust.

Each individual Academy within Tollbar Family of Academies will be at the centre of its community, raising aspirations and achievement like Tollbar Academy. It will do this in two ways: firstly, through the excellent teaching of an extended and balanced curriculum, which ignites curiosity, unlocks talent and realises potential; and secondly, by exercising high-quality care, guidance and support that assures the personal development and welfare of each child and young person.

Centrally-run services will reduce the time-consuming administrative tasks which many Academies find difficult to manage, while providing the expertise and support to concentrate on educational performance.

All Academies within the Trust will work with both statutory and voluntary local partners, continue to promote extended learning facilities for adults as well as pupils and students and will seek to develop further their portfolios of extra curricular activities.

Tollbar Family of Academies aims to offer a world-class, 21st century education to the young people in all its Academies, providing life-long learning opportunities and creating centres of excellence, which model the successful practices at Tollbar Academy, bringing confidence and pride to the local community.

David J Hampson OBE
Chief Executive.



Welcome

There could not be a better time for your child to join Somercotes Academy. Since the Academy officially opened in November 2015 the Academy has been transformed with new and refurbished accommodation for students as well as new educational resources for students to enjoy. The trust has invested almost £2 million at Somercotes Academy to ensure students have the best possible learning environments.

Teaching standards are exceptionally high at the Academy with additional staff mainly coming from the Ofsted rated outstanding Tollbar Academy to boost the excellent staff here in place already. Student progress continues to improve with another impressive set of GCSE results this summer.

The Academy is quickly developing a reputation for high standards and as a result is becoming a popular Academy amongst parents and students. The roll for Year 7 in September 2017 is approaching 100 students.

I hope this prospectus provides you with the information you require for your child to have a smooth transition to our community.

Caroline Yates, (BA Hons)

Principal



Mission Statement

As an Academy Somercotes will:

- Enable students to experience an exciting and creative climate and we create opportunities for every individual to achieve their maximum potential.
- Prepare students for active local, national and global citizenship.
- Provide a secure, caring environment for each individual student.
- Encourage students to follow a healthy lifestyle.
- Promote an international understanding through a rich and extended curriculum.
- Promote an international business and enterprise culture and ethic alongside the goal of general academic excellence.
- Focus our determination to maintain the Academy at the leading edge of educational innovation.
- Reinforce and extend the links the Academy has with its partners and the local, national and world wide community.
- Raise the overall standard of teaching and learning.
- Accept that our first responsibility is to our clients, to meet their needs and provide outstanding service.
- Adopt a philosophy of continuous improvement in every aspect of the Academy's work and life.

We are committed to honesty and responsibility in all relationships, respecting the legitimate rights of individuals and stressing the importance of social awareness and sensitivity.

Admissions and Induction

Transition Arrangements

Parents can apply for a place at a secondary school from 11th September 2017 for the Year 7 September 2018 intake. The admission booklets "Going to secondary school in Lincolnshire" and "The Lincolnshire School Admissions guide" are available to download at www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/schools/school-admissions/find-a-school-place/starting-in-year-7/

The preferred method for applying for a Year 7 place is online. You can also apply by telephoning our Customer Service Centre on 01522 782030. Alternatively you can request a paper application using the same number. If you have any queries or problems applying for a place at the Academy then please contact us at the Academy.

All parents are informed of their allocation on 1st March 2018.

You will receive a single offer of a place.

You must officially accept a place that is offered at Somercotes by 18th March 2018.

If you are unsuccessful at this stage, you will be offered the right of an appeal. If you wish to appeal for a place at Somercotes, contact Admissions at the Academy and request an Appeals Form.

Please return the completed form to the Academy. All appeals are heard by an independent appeals panel.

"Casual" transfers relate to transfers other than from Year 6 to Year 7. If you would like your child to change secondary schools, you should initially discuss the matter with your child's current school. If you still wish to proceed, please contact the Academy to request a Transfer Application Form.

Making the transition to Somercotes Academy

Our co-ordinated scheme for Year 6 to Year 7 transfer minimises problems and concerns and ensures that students make the transition from Primary School to Somercotes with confidence.

In June, Year 6 students transferring to the Academy receive a visit from a Somercotes teacher who collects information about friendship groups and siblings. This teacher also addresses concerns and answers any questions that students may have.

High priority is given to keeping family groupings, siblings and friendship groups together as far as possible. If there are any concerns or special requests, parents should telephone the Academy and we will do our best to comply with your requests.

Open Evening

The Open Evening at the beginning of September is our main event where parents and students can visit all areas of the Academy and meet students and staff. If parents cannot attend our Open Evening, individual appointments to visit during the Academy day can be made by telephoning 01507 358352.

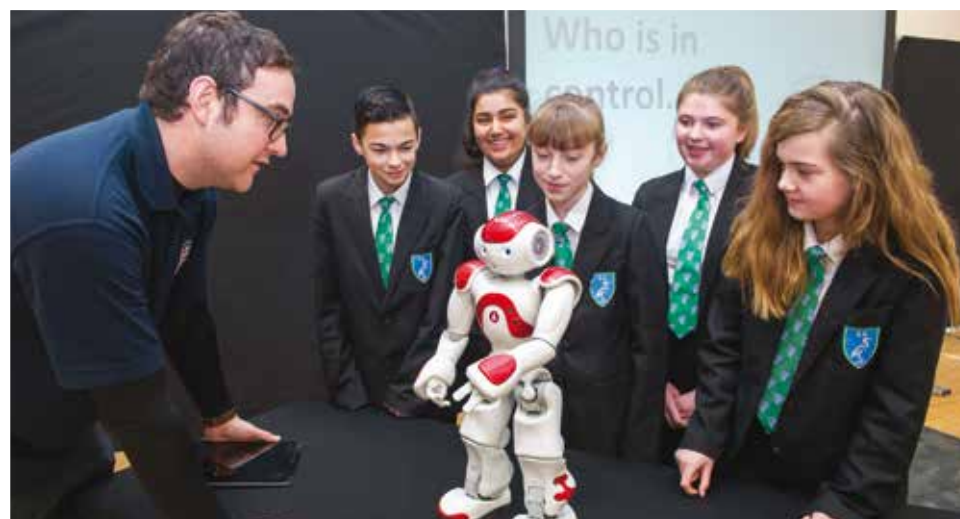
Induction days to enjoy

The next step is the Primary Induction Days that will take place during the first week of July. All students transferring to Somercotes Academy will take part in 2 full days of activities involving a wide range of subjects.

The induction days also acquaints new starters with the Academy surroundings and provides an opportunity to meet staff and other students.

At Somercotes Academy, we recognise that transferring to a new school is a major step in the life of a young person.

For this reason, in addition to the standard procedures that have to be followed, we have our own co-ordinated scheme for Year 6 to Year 7 transfer.



Admissions

Induction



New Intake Parents' Evening

Parents of our new September intake students are invited to a parents' evening where they are given information on House Groups. They also will meet their child's House tutor.

The evening begins with a talk from the Principal and a Vice Principal and parents will have the opportunity to ask individual questions.

Special Needs

For students with Special Educational Needs our SEN Co-ordinator will attend reviews from Year 5 onwards, if invited by Primary Schools.

Parents are encouraged to make individual appointments with our SENCO to discuss their child's specific needs.

Prior Assessment Arrangements

Your child will be placed in an ability band within the year group. This is determined by your child's Key Stage 2 results.



Curriculum

Somercotes Academy students enjoy a broad and balanced curriculum that prepares them for adult life.

- Our curriculum is designed to be flexible to allow for personalised learning.
- All students in Lower Secondary (Years 7 & 8) follow a curriculum which prepares them for GCSE studies in Years 9, 10 and 11.

Setting

Students in Year 7 are arranged in two equal bands with 2 classes in each band. One band will contain those students that have achieved higher KS2 in Maths whereas the other band will contain those students that have achieved higher in KS2 English.

There are opportunities at all times for movement between the classes and the bands.

Class sizes

Class sizes are kept as small as possible. The current Year 7 have an average class size of 23.

Equipment required

All students are required to have their own basic items each day. These include pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, basic small set of colouring pencils, protractor, compasses and a scientific calculator. Students are advised to own a small dictionary, a thesaurus and a small French and/or Spanish dictionary.

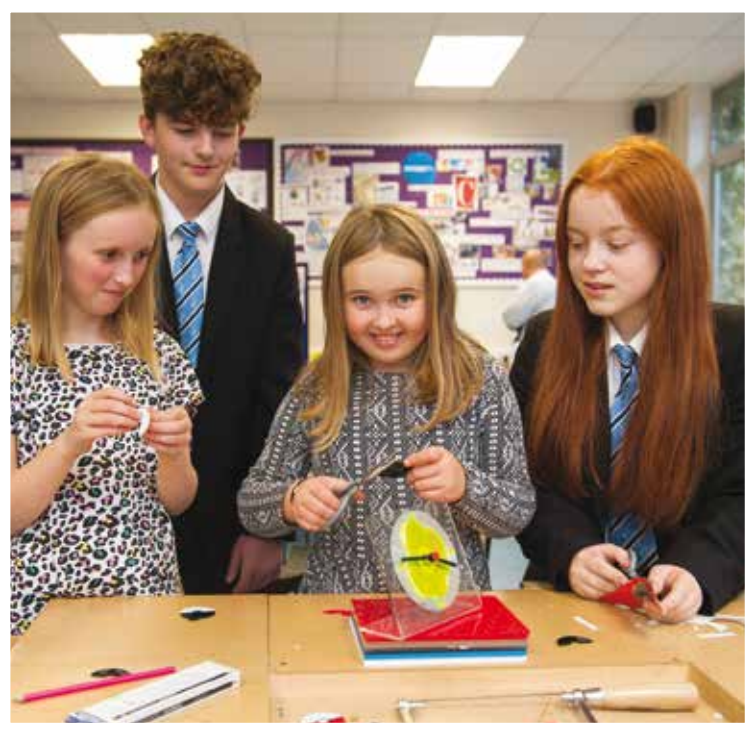


Music tuition at Somercotes

During the last five years we have invested heavily in providing an excellent music service at Tollbar MAT. Our music staff offer a wide range of extracurricular music groups and perform regularly both in and out of the Academy. In addition to our music staff, we also employ highly qualified and respected freelance music teachers (music service accredited) for instrumental and singing lessons.

In 2015, we introduced a music scholarship award for each academy. This recognises the progress and achievement made by the students during their lessons, as well as the commitment to performing in concerts and representing the Academies at music events in the local community.

The lessons take place during the Academy day but rotate so that students do not miss the same curricular lesson each week. There are many opportunities to perform throughout the year and all students taking lessons within the Academy are expected to belong to one of the ensemble groups and choirs.



**The Academy Day for Year 7 and 8 students
(a continuous school day)**

08:50	Warning Bell
08:55	Pastoral
09:15	Period 1
10:05	Period 2
10:50	Break (20 minutes)
11:10	Period 3
12:00	Lunch (40 minutes)
12:40	Period 4
13:30	Period 5
14:25	Period 6
15:10	End of Day



Assessment

Target Setting

Students are set targets which are challenging yet realistic and attainable. They are discussed with students and reviewed regularly.

It has been proved that effective target setting raises significantly the attainment of students.

Assessment and Monitoring

Somercotes students are regularly assessed to ensure that their progress is monitored. Individual guidance and support is given in order to keep students on track.



Assessment in the Academy consists of:

- NFER tests in reading, spelling and maths.
- Internal examinations.
- On-going teacher assessment of work.
- Progress Point Assessments (PPs)

Internal assessments are utilised to measure each child's progress based upon their KS2 starting point.

Somercotes Academy students are set individual targets that challenge and motivate them to achieve their full potential.

Reporting Progress to Parents

Regular communication is maintained with parents who receive an annual written report on progress. In addition, the Academy issues a termly assessment report that shows baseline information and internal data showing your child's progress. A meeting is held for parents before the first report is issued to explain in detail what the various information means. Parents' evenings provide the opportunity for staff and parents to discuss any concerns - and for staff to highlight particular achievements.



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GCSE EXAMINATION RESULTS 2017

Once again Somercotes achieved outstanding results in GCSE examinations. 67% of students achieving at least a standard pass in Maths and English. 80% of students achieved at least a standard pass in English with 53% achieving a strong pass in English. 67% of students achieved at least a standard pass in Maths with 43% achieving a strong pass in Maths.

Other notable achievements were: Chemistry 91% (grades A*-C); Biology 91% (A*-C); Physics 100% (grades A*-C); Additional Science 65% (grades A*-C); History 67% (grades A*-C) and Textiles 100% (grades A*-C).





Pastoral

Our induction days start the process of acquainting students with their new surroundings and this continues on the first day at Somercotes.

Staff and other students do their best to help our new starters to settle in and to address any worries they may have about moving to their new school.

House Groups

Somercotes is divided into 3 houses named after constellations in the night sky - Cetus, Dorado and Volans - each of which have tutor groups with approximately 23 students.

Each tutor group has an older student as a Prefect and includes five or six students from each year group, creating a family unit that gives continuity throughout Academy life.

The First Day for New Year 7 students

On arrival at Somercotes, new students assemble in the hall where they are collected by Prefects from their tutor groups.

A tutor period follows which lasts until morning break and provides the opportunity to get to know the rest of the House Group.

New students are introduced to the Academy by older students and given their timetable. They will also have a discussion with their House Tutor in which they can talk about any concerns they may have and sort out any problems.

The tutor will go through all Academy procedures including standards of behaviour and what will be needed for lessons.

When lessons start, staff will always ensure that students know where they should go for their next period so that new entrants have no worries about getting lost.

Lunch Arrangements

Somercotes operates a continuous Academy day, with Years 7 and 8 taking lunch at 12 noon and the remainder of students at 12:50pm. This means that only half of the Academy students are on their lunch break at any one time which helps new students settle in.

House Structure

Each House is led by their own Head of House responsible for student guidance. An Assistant Principal is responsible for transition from Year 6 to Year 7 and for giving continued support to the new year group throughout the year. An Assistant Principal has overall responsibility for the pastoral system.

In addition, new students who need it, have the support of the Special Education Needs Co-ordinator (Assistant Principal - Special Needs) during the transition period.

Assemblies

Assemblies are held in house groups or in year groups and are led by Heads of House or a senior member of staff

Learning Support

Literacy and Numeracy support is provided with a personalised programme meeting the needs of individual students.

Student Planner

Each student is issued with an Academy planner, which includes the Behaviour Policy and helpful sections on Literacy and Numeracy and a great deal of other information designed to help students settle into Academy life.

The planner also has sections to record homework and merits. It helps students organise their work and take responsibility for their own learning.

The planner is an important means of communication between Parents and the Academy.

Every Somercotes student is treated as an individual. We believe that success is achieved by recognising and responding positively to each student's particular skills, talents and needs.

Positive Reward System

We insist on high standards of work, behaviour and dress at all times.

We value our students and believe in recognising their achievements, not only with praise but with Merits.

Years 7 and 8 earn Merits for exceptional work, outstanding effort, very good attendance, involvement in extra curricular activities and service to the community.

Certificates are awarded at various levels, together with gift vouchers for those collecting high numbers of Merits.

Homework

All students are expected to spend between 7 to 10 hours a week on homework.

The planner gives clear advice on how to organise homework and where to access helpful information.

Homework Club

For any student needing help, or who would like access to a computer, Homework Club runs at lunchtimes and after school on certain days depending on need.

Uniform

Somercotes is proud of its high standard of uniform. This makes the Academy stand out and gives our students a real feeling of identity.

All students must wear the Academy blazer, black trousers, a white shirt, the Academy tie and black shoes. Trainers and boots are NOT allowed. Coats and jackets should be black. Sportswear, blazers and ties are available from Uniform Direct. This ensures good quality garments at a reasonable price.

Our high standards also extend to personal appearance - for example we do not allow extreme hair styles, such as Mohicans and vivid or two tone hair colour is not acceptable. All hair styles should be blended.

Home-College Agreement

Parents and students are required to sign an agreement to uphold the high standards set by the Academy in terms of dress and behaviour.

Student Council

The Academy actively seeks the views of the students. Students have the opportunity to be a member of their House Student Council and the Academy Student Council. All students can put forward ideas to be debated.

Extra Curricular

Somercotes offers a large number of clubs and societies which take place at lunchtime and after school and range from sport to music, drama and art.

Medical

If a student is absent through illness, parents should notify the Academy immediately by telephone and provide a note on their child's return.

For a student on regular medication, parents are asked to complete the relevant medical form. All medication is lodged in the Medical Room.

Should a student become ill during the day, staff will issue a medical note and send the student to the Medical Room. If it is felt necessary, parents will be notified to collect their child.

Transport Arrangements

At the end of the Academy day, all students catching a bus go to the hall where they wait until told to board a bus by a member of staff. Parents need to apply to Lincolnshire County Council for a bus pass if their child will be travelling on a Lincolnshire County Council bus. Students travelling from Louth, Tetney and surrounding villages have a bus service operated by the Academy. Parents should contact the Academy for a bus pass. If you have any queries regarding transport please contact the office at Somercotes Academy.

Student Support and Safety

Somercotes staff are well aware that most students feel apprehensive when moving schools. If children have any worries, they must not keep these to themselves but should let someone help them. Students can talk to their form tutor, head of house or a senior member of staff. There is also a counsellor available if required.

In order to ensure that students are safe in the Academy there is CCTV coverage around the site.

