



## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Friesland School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

Friesland is a fully comprehensive 11-18 co-educational Foundation School with Performing Arts Status, situated in an urban setting on the edge of the small town of Sandiacre, midway between Derby and Nottingham. Junction 25 of the M1 and the A52 are not far away. Each year, approximately a half of the school's intake comes from Sandiacre and the nearby villages of Risley and Draycott (the school's designated area). The remainder come, by parental choice, from outside the school's designated area - mainly from Long Eaton, Breaston, Borrowash, Ockbrook and Trowell - as a result of the school's popularity. The typical number on roll is 1200+. The school is typically oversubscribed and the admission limit for each September will be 225.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

The School is housed in modern buildings, which are pleasing to look at, and they are kept that way by our students. Apart from general purpose teaching rooms, there is specialist accommodation which includes six Science Laboratories, six Information Technology rooms, a Resource Centre, two Gymnasias, a Hall with stage lighting, a Drama Studio, two Music rooms, an extensive suite of Art and ultra modern technology facilities and a Modern Foreign Language block. A new Performing Arts Centre was opened in October 2007 with a performance area with seating for 170, music practice rooms and drama and dance teaching areas. The School has an artificial grass hockey facility, seven tennis courts, a refurbished floodlit five-a-side football pitch and both grass and artificial cricket wickets. Through a Reciprocal Agreement we have daytime use of the Sports Centre's Sports Hall, Squash Courts and Fitness Suite.

The Sixth Form Centre was opened in October 1998 and has two Science Laboratories, two of our IT rooms, a large Common Room, Sixth Form Office, eight classrooms and separate toilet facilities.

The atmosphere within the school is a caring and friendly one. Friesland has a long standing reputation for the traditional values of good discipline, manners, dress, academic excellence and extra curricular activities.

### **ORGANISATION OF THE SCHOOL**

For pastoral care, the school is presently organised on both a Year Head and Key Stage basis. The KS3 Pastoral Manager and the Head of Year 7 play a vital role in liaison with our feeder Primary schools and the settling in of new students. All members of staff are expected to have a tutorial function and we regard the tutor's role as being of fundamental importance to the whole school.

For academic work, the school is organised on a faculty team basis. Students with Special Educational Needs are helped by the Learning Support department. This is achieved primarily by classroom support but occasionally by withdrawal. Curriculum Support Assistants, Cover Supervisors, Teaching Assistants, the Resource Centre Manager, Systems Manager and Technicians, Pastoral Assistants, site staff and office staff all support in the delivery of the curriculum.

The meeting structure involves Leadership, Directors of Study, Subject Leaders, Year Group Pastoral meetings, Learning and Teaching group meetings and whole school staff meetings. This cycle of meetings is constantly monitored and reviewed.

## **THE CURRICULUM**

At Friesland, we believe that the curriculum is concerned with every aspect of a child's development and all the ways of learning that a school can provide to encourage that development. It includes:

- the formal programme of lessons in the school timetable.
- the informal programme of out-of-school and extra curricular activities promoted by the school.
- the general ethos of the school

The timetable is organised on a 25 period week.

In Years Seven to Nine, all students follow a common curriculum of Mathematics, English and Drama, Integrated Science, Humanities, Technology, Creative Arts and Design, two from French, German or Spanish, PE, Music, Computer Science and Personal and Social Education.

In Years Ten and Eleven, most students study a common core of Mathematics, English Language and Literature, PE, Science, Technology, four option subjects and Personal and Social Education including careers. This incorporates vocational options in line with the entitlement curriculum. All Year 10 and 12 students have one week's Work Experience with local employers. Approximately 70% of Friesland Year Eleven students go on to our Sixth Form or Colleges of Further Education in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. The Sixth Form offers both A/S, A2 levels and vocational qualifications. Some of our students also access level 1/2 courses.

While Directors of Study, Heads of Year and Subject Team Leaders play a significant role in working with the Head and Leadership Group in determining the curriculum organisation, philosophy and ethos of the school, all colleagues are expected to take a share of corporate responsibility. The school has an enthusiastic and hardworking staff, and for several years, the results gained by students at GCSE and A level examinations have been well above regional and national averages. The school's excellent reputation in the locality rests both on its academic results and on its caring approach to students and their parents. In terms of attainment last year's GCSE results were the best the school has ever achieved and our A level results have been consistently high across time.

The informal programme of out of school and extra curricular activities provides a wide range of recreational opportunities, after school and during weekends and holidays. All new appointees to the staff are expected to play a full and active role in this aspect of school life. Annual presentations include concerts of music, drama and dance and two major school productions. The PE staff organise a wide range of sporting activities including badminton, gymnastics, football, tennis, athletics, cross country running and netball and also participates in regional and national competitions. The school has been District Athletics Champions for 21 out of the last 22 years, an achievement of which we are very proud. A wide range of leisure activities supervised by the tutors form part of our rewards package and residential experiences at Lea Green and abroad. The school has many other activities arranged by individual members of staff who also run clubs and societies that reflect their own personal interests. The school also supports a number of charities each year. The Sixth Form has a bi annual ski trip and an exchange programme with a school in Philadelphia USA.

As a school, we attempt to develop a caring community, which promotes social responsibility, a positive working atmosphere and a secure environment in which each individual student can flourish. We are proud of the reputation, which the school has gained for supporting and caring for its students as they face the challenges of growing up. Our most recent Ofsted report commented that Friesland is a good school with outstanding features where children are happy. It is a school where the teaching is good and where the commitment of the staff is highly praised.

### **LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

The school's links with the local community are vitally important.

We have a thriving PTA which, for a number of years, has given considerable financial support to the school, providing opportunities for teachers and parents to meet socially and organising events to raise money for the school. There is a regular pattern of parents' evenings at which parents and teachers discuss the students' progress and an annual 'Review Evening' when parents can discuss their child's progress with the Form Tutor and an 'Awards Evening' in the summer term we have run for two years now.

### **THE GOVERNING BODY**

Friesland's governing body has 15 members:

- Two Partnership
- The Headteacher
- Two Teacher Governors
- Two Parent Governors
- One LA
- Six Co-opted
- One Staff Governor

The school agreed to Foundation Status in September 1999.

It has established the statutory committees required of a Foundation School including Curriculum and Pupil Progress, Premises, Finance and Personnel and Policy. Each of these Committees contains either the Head or an Assistant Head to provide professional advice and three of them contain staff representatives. The Finance and Site Managers are also co-opted to the Finance and Premises Committees respectively.

### **HOUSING, SHOPPING, ENTERTAINMENT AND LEISURE**

Sandiacre's geographical position enables the Friesland staff to have a wide choice in the housing market. Derby, Nottingham, Long Eaton and Ilkeston are all within easy commuting distance as are a number of villages to the north, south and west of the school.

Modern high standard shopping facilities can be found in Derby, Nottingham, Leicester and Sheffield - all within easy travelling distance. Many local towns and villages have a smaller range of facilities, including traditional markets.

Outstanding leisure opportunities are not far away. The Derbyshire Dales, the Peak District and the parks in North Nottinghamshire prove a great attraction for walkers and climbers. There are a number of stately homes, including Chatsworth, each with their own magnificent grounds and collections.

Entertainment can be found in the Theatre Royal and Playhouse in Nottingham, the Crucible and Adelphi Theatres in Sheffield, the Derby Theatre, The Assembly Rooms, Derby, the Buxton Opera House, the Haymarket Theatre Leicester or one of many local theatres. League football is played in Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Sheffield, Mansfield and Chesterfield and County Cricket at Nottingham and Derby. The National Water Sports Centre at Holme Pierrepont and Nottingham Tennis Centre is also not far away. The area contains a number of modern purpose-built sports centres, which enable local people to participate in a wide variety of indoor sporting activities.

## **GENERAL**

Friesland operates an equal opportunities policy and places a strong emphasis upon the professional development of colleagues. The successful applicant will join a school, which is proud of the achievements of both its students and staff colleagues and benefiting from the many opportunities offered by Foundation status.

Mr P Monk  
Headteacher  
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