



Welcome to Wath Comprehensive School

A Language College



Wath Comprehensive School: A Language College is a popular 11-18 comprehensive school with approximately 1900 students on roll including 400 in the sixth form. The school is regularly oversubscribed, with significantly more applications than the 300 places available.

In April 2005 we moved to brand new accommodation on our original site through a PFI scheme and now benefit from an excellent building equipped for the demands of education in the 21st Century. The leadership team was fully involved in the entire process and with the school's staff were very influential in its design. A floodlit full size synthetic turf sports pitch was added in August 2008 and, through a separate project, a community swimming pool was completed in December 2008.

The school is set in extensive grounds and enjoys excellent facilities including a well resourced library/ learning resource centre, drama studio, sports hall and recreation centre, dedicated ICT areas and fully equipped science and technology areas. Subjects are suited with dedicated staff work/preparation areas available throughout the school. Significant additional investment in ICT is ongoing in all areas of the school, and all classrooms have interactive whiteboards.

We were delighted when we acquired specialist Language College status in September 2001. This has enriched the school in many ways and all subject areas have benefited. The school has worked exclusively with Specialist Schools Trust at local, regional and national levels. We are proud to hold the International Schools Award for our outstanding work in this area. Our commitment to quality provision across all subject areas remains our core purpose.

There is a strong and effective partnership between the school, parents and the community. We are delighted that, following a period of consultation' Wath Comprehensive School and the learning community primary schools became a Cooperative Trust from September 2013 and this has further strengthened and cemented our commitment to working together.

The school's aims are to ensure that:

- Students achieve high standards in their work and behaviour
- Students and staff are encouraged to achieve their full potential
- The school is a happy, secure environment and a caring community.

Wath Comprehensive School has a well-qualified and dedicated staff. The school's management style is based on teamwork and team leaders are supported by the Senior Leadership Team.

The school was last inspected in October 2011. The report was very positive and the school was judged to be "good," with several outstanding aspects; the report can be accessed from the Ofsted website.

Our academic outcomes have improved year on year, we are committed to continuous improvement and very keen to move from good to outstanding. As such it is an organisation which values its staff and their work with students. Staff are supported with training opportunities designed to improve the quality of teaching and learning as well as their own individual professional development. A comprehensive programme of support for newly-qualified teachers and staff new to the school is well established and is viewed as a key strength by those who have followed it.

Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their work and behaviour. They are also encouraged to develop their own values and to respect those of others. We have an extensive programme of extra-curricular provisions, including many visits and residential opportunities. The work of the Student Council is a real strength of the school.

Wath Comprehensive School is a school in which we aim to challenge, develop and support all our students. There are many opportunities for them to develop their talents, skills and interests. Sport, music, drama, community service and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme are all flourishing activities that students can enjoy. We expect our students to leave us “able, active and qualified.”

We ask parents to work in partnership with the school. Parents are asked to support the school in its efforts to encourage students to behave responsibly, dress sensibly and work effectively. In addition to specific communications we inform parents of our activities and key information through our in-house newsletter ‘The Torch,’ our website and through half termly progress reports for all students.

The Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at Wath Comprehensive School is large, with approximately 400 students on roll, and it continues to attract a large number of applicants. For entry in September 2015, the number of those who applied to join us was 383, far more than we could accommodate.

Currently, our students are divided into two Level 3 pathways, the academic pathway and the vocational pathway and each has its own entry requirements. For the academic pathway, students need to have a minimum of 5 GCSEs, four of which must be at least at grade B, include English and Maths and have an average score of 41.6 or over. For the vocational pathway, students must have at least 5 passes at grade C or equivalent, preferably including English and Maths, but the opportunity to re-sit one or the other is available for those who need it. In both pathways, there is a good range of subjects to choose from and we try to add new subjects when possible and appropriate.

The vast majority of our Y13 students go on to study at university: 92% of the 2015 cohort were successful in doing so. All other students are supported in securing their next step into employment, apprenticeships or training; this year our NEET figure was again 0%.

Students wear the sixth form uniform and are required to register each morning with their tutor at 8.30am. This daily contact, in addition to weekly assemblies, ensures that there is regular communication between staff and students, which allows any issues to be resolved at an early stage. The experienced Sixth Form Team is led by the Head of Sixth Form (an Assistant Headteacher), the Head of Year 12 and the Head of Year 13.

In addition to the academic programme, all students follow a PSHE programme that covers topics such as study skills, revision, coping with stress, higher education, UCAS, student finance, personal health and wellbeing issues and a citizenship/political element looking at local democracy, local and national politics and the EU.

All Y12 students also complete a computer based course leading to basic conversational level in an additional language – there are 35 to choose from – and this supports the Language College aspect of the school. Students are encouraged to become involved in school and help out in a variety of ways, from supporting in lessons, to helping organise and run sporting events, to supporting students at KS3 whose reading skills are below what we expect. All Y12 students undertake Work Experience in the summer term and this supports all students in their UCAS applications and, for some students, the work experience element of their BTEC course. We also encourage students to gain as much voluntary work experience as possible.

Y12 students are all assigned an assertive mentor for the year and they meet regularly to look at performance and are supported to achieve their very best.

There is also a Preliminary Examination period in January/February, when all Y12 and 13 students undertake exams in preparation for the final exam period. We use these results to inform us about the best course of action for every student, with the intention of supporting students to obtain the best results possible.