



GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Walton High opened at Walnut Tree in 1999 with 120 Year 8 students. Since then the school has grown; has opened a second campus at Brooklands and now has over 1750 students on roll, including over 350 Post 16. The school has an excellent reputation and is consistently oversubscribed.

In 2011 the Governors of Walton High founded Milton Keynes Education Trust with the following aims:

Milton Keynes Education Trust Statement of Aims

The educational aims and objectives of Milton Keynes Education Trust (MKET) are based on our commitment to securing social justice through high quality education that promotes inclusion and embraces diversity.

The Trust aims to **enhance** and **enrich** the lives of children and young people by **enabling** them to make the most of outstanding learning opportunities within and beyond the curriculum; instilling an appreciation that there are **no limits** to what they can achieve and developing the attributes needed to successfully shape and respond to the future.

A clear secular moral framework will promote honesty, integrity, tolerance and respect as well as an appreciation of individual and collective responsibility.

In this way we will bring out **the very best** in our children and young people.

We will realise our aims and secure sustainable school improvement through high quality transformational leadership, professional development and collaborative partnerships.

The schools that are currently part of Milton Keynes Education Trust are:

- New Chapter Primary School, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes
- Heronsgate School, Walnut Tree, Milton Keynes
- Kents Hill School, Kents Hill Milton Keynes

The creation of the multi-academy trust has enabled more cross phase working and the schools within the partnership have pooled resources to provide additional educational services to support children's learning, e.g. Educational Psychologist and Education Welfare Officer. Opportunities for children and staff to work and learn together across the phases is very much part of what we do.



WALTON HIGH'S APPROACH TO LEARNING AND TEACHING

Walton High is committed to making personalised learning a reality. Our flexible and varied curriculum is an essential foundation for this, providing as it does personal learning pathways which are challenging, relevant and significant.

Personalised learning and teaching is a commitment to ensuring **all learners** reach or exceed expectation, fulfil early promise and develop latent potential. At the heart of personalisation is the expectation of participation, fulfilment and success. Personalised learning sets ambitious objectives, challenging personal targets, rapid intervention to keep students on trajectory, and vigorous assessment to check and maintain progress.

Core components of personalised learning are:

Assessment for Learning - the process of seeking and interpreting evidence for use by learners and their teachers to decide where they are in their learning, where they need to go and how best to get there;

Developing students' capacity to learn - by building the confidence and capacity of the learner and developing personal skills and strategies to enable self-management and self-direction;

Teaching and Learning strategies that actively engage and challenge learners - Walton High's approach to lesson planning ensures all the key elements of outstanding learning are considered.



TEACHER OF Music

MKET MPR

OUR VISION FOR OUTSTANDING LEARNING

We aim to develop students who:

- are stimulated and challenged by the music, dance and drama they learn, and enjoy their learning;
- feel ownership and pride in the work they carry out;
- see the progression they are making – lesson-by-lesson and year-by-year;
- recognise the value of Performing Arts both for themselves as individuals, and for society as a whole;
- are confident, independent learners who can use a range of learning talents.

As teachers, we aim to:

- plan interesting, engaging lessons that allow all to make progress;
- inspire students;
- set challenging targets for students and support them in reaching those goals;
- use AfL strategies to identify what progress has been made and by whom;
- give students feedback on their work that allows further progress to be made;
- develop students' enquiring mind.

THE PERFORMING ARTS CURRICULUM AREA

There are 10 teaching members of staff in the department.

OUR OUTSTANDING PERFORMING ARTS CURRICULUM

Key Stage 3

The Key Stage 3 course has been developed in-house, and follows a half termly modular approach with performance skills and individual creativity integral to the units. Integrated Performing Arts forms our curriculum offer for Key Stage 3.

Key Stage 4

Walton High operates a three year Key Stage 4 and students follow a three year programme; many have chosen to study either a BTEC in Performing Arts, Creative Media Production, or GCSE Music.

Post-16

As would be expected of a thriving and successful department, there is a healthy interest in the Performing Arts at Post 16. Typically we have 20 students studying Music Alevel and BTEC Performing Arts at Level 3, following the Subsidiary Diploma, or Extended Diploma.



INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Lessons are delivered by specialist staff from the Walton Partnership and MK Music Co-operative. We offer expert, dedicated and creative tuition on a range of instruments. Instrumental lessons are coordinated by the Subject Leader for Music.

YAMAHA MUSIC SCHOOL

The School also has access to the Yamaha Music School where students can access first class tuition and resources. Lessons are delivered on piano, voice, Keyboard, drums and guitar.

<http://www.waltonhigh.org.uk/yamaha-music>

MUSIC PERFORMANCE AT WALTON HIGH

A range of groups enjoy rehearsing and playing together at Walton High. The Walton High Orchestra and Jazz Band performs frequently in The Venue and at a number of community events. We are very much in demand for local fetes, Christmas celebrations and summer parties. Every year the Performing Arts enter students for the Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts and both the Jazz Band and Orchestra have won awards at this prestigious event. For three successive years Walton High has held the Christopher Hopkinson Award, giving students the opportunity through the Milton Keynes Community Foundation to develop their performance skills through this prestigious bursary.

The School year always ends with Arts on a Summer Evening where students are able to perform in a more informal environment, celebrating the talented students and giving them a platform upon which to perform.

ADVANCED LEARNING DAYS AND SESSION 9

The Performing Arts team makes a major contribution to Walton High's enriched curriculum. *Advanced Learning Days* involving professional practitioners have been developed and a well-attended lunchtime and after school dance, drama and music clubs run weekly. We also have an excellent and longstanding reputation for providing first class entertainment with school concerts, plays and musical theatre that go far beyond what is expected of a 'school production'.

FACILITIES TO SUPPORT OUTSTANDING LEARNING

- 7 Practice Rooms (Piano, Drum, and Guitar suites)
- State of the art 380 seat theatre with full fly system.
- 2 fully equipped drama studios.
- Dance studio with a sprung wooden floor, full length mirrors and bar

Performing Arts – Jan 2018



- We have a dedicated ICT room in the Performing Arts curriculum area with Cubase and Sibelius Software.
- Professional recording studio
- Each member of staff is loaned the use of a networked laptop for use at work and at home.

THE VENUE

<http://thevenuemk.com/index.php/what-s-on>

The Venue is our state of the art 380 seat theatre and for part of the year, home to the Milton Keynes City Orchestra. Developing links with the orchestra is very beneficial to the experience and development of our young musicians.

We welcome visits to Walton High and look forward to meeting you on interview and giving you the opportunity to meet the outstanding Performing Arts team at Walton High.

Sharon Alexander

Principal