## *GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION*

Walton High opened in 1999 with 120 Year 8 students. Since then the school has grown significantly and now has over 2,000 students on roll, including 300+ Post 16. The school has an excellent reputation and is consistently oversubscribed.

In November 2016, Walton High expanded onto a second campus that is two and half miles away from the Walnut Tree Campus at Brooklands. The Brooklands campus opened with 270 students across Years 7 – 9 and now has nearly 1000 students in Years 7 – 11 growing to 1,500 students, including 300 Post-16, by 2022.

When both campuses are at capacity, Walton High is one of the largest secondary schools in the country ensuring excellent opportunities for career progression.

A single system of governance, organisation, leadership and management operates across both campuses.

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 Infant School, 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, Education Welfare Officer and Speech and Language Therapist.

### *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.

# MATHS AT WALTON HIGH

## OUR VISION FOR EFFECTIVE LEARNING

We aim to develop students who are not only functionally numerate and confident in using their mathematical skills but who are also willing to engage, think and experiment with maths. In order to do that we want our teachers to develop students as learners by planning inspiring, engaging lessons which set challenging targets for students and support them in reaching those goals.

### Our team

We are a team of 23 specialist maths teachers split across our two campuses. Each campus has a Leading Teacher who reports directly to our Director of Maths. The leadership is further supported by subject leaders for KS3, KS4 and KS5 shared between Walnut Tree and Brooklands. Specialist maths intervention teachers support the department in ensuring all students make excellent progress. We work collegiately - sharing ideas, resources and expertise with each other and with trainees, always with a sense of purpose – and good humour.

## OUR MATHS CURRICULUM

**Key Stage 3**

- This course has been developed in-house, with concrete materials, pictorial representations and investigational work integral to the course. We believe students deriving methods themselves is more powerful and leads to better retention for our students.
- Diagnostic testing in the autumn term of Year 7 helps us to supplement the information from primary schools and so immediately work with students to fill any gaps in knowledge or understanding.
- We teach in mixed ability groups across KS3. This allows us to consolidate the fundamental core skills of mathematics, whilst also allowing higher attaining students to explore skills in multiple contexts.
- Our course aims to minimise repetition and maximise the potential for students to develop conceptual understanding.

**Key Stage 4**

- At KS4 students are taught in groups set according to prior attainment and tier of study; when assessment informs us, set changes are made to best meet our students' needs.
- The course has scope for functional and investigative maths to secure students' deep understanding.
- There is a heavy focus on applied mathematics to prepare our students for the more rigorous GCSE examinations.

- At Walton High it is our aim to nurture students' enthusiasm for Maths. The students are at the heart of everything we do. We want our students to leave school equipped with the skills and confidence to be successful beyond GCSEs.

**Key Stage 5**

- Students wishing to study maths at A Level have the option of Core Maths, Maths or Further Maths.
- Essential for many higher education courses and careers, A-Level Maths proves to be one of our most popular subjects for Post-16 at Walton High; we currently have almost 80 students enrolled.
- We encourage all our students to become independent learners. The role our teachers play in empowering our students to become better mathematicians is integral to students' development and success in the subject.

## ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The maths team makes a major contribution to Walton High's enriched curriculum.

*Advanced Learning Days* have been designed to explore how Maths is employed in the design and construction of a range of buildings and businesses. Trips to country houses to see how architects have used Maths to design classical homes; to theme parks to study how rides are constructed and RAF establishments and warehouses to understand the role of Maths in logistics have all featured recently.

After school support sessions are well attended by students who want additional support with their Maths. We enter students, from all years, into local and national competitions and have had major success in the UK Maths Challenge. We are in close liaison with our partner primary schools and are looking to forge even closer links in the future.

## FACILITIES TO SUPPORT OUTSTANDING LEARNING

- We have a suite of 18 spacious and well-resourced maths classrooms across Walnut Tree and Brooklands.
- There is a networked PC in each room which is connected to an interactive smart panel.
- We also enjoy regular access to the ICT rooms, and use Autograph, Geogebra as well as a variety of cross-curricular software.
- All subject areas have administrative, reprographic and data support.

As Key Stage 5 Subject Leader for Maths, we are looking for someone who will inspire the next generation of mathematicians. The candidate should be someone who is excited about maths and can enthuse their students in the same way. We want students to be exposed to different types of mathematics and understand the real-life contexts in which these skills can be applied.

We are looking for someone who is aware of the demands to recruit students to Post-16, and can develop and implement strategic plans to entice students to study maths at Walton High. As Subject Leader for Key Stage 5 you will be responsible for monitoring data, identifying where there are gaps in students' knowledge and devising plans to support students in their learning.

You will be required to observe and train colleagues in the department; continuously improving and develop students' experience of maths at Post-16. We want someone who shares our common sense of purpose and strives to maintain the high expectations we aim to achieve for every student.

***'The essence of mathematics is not to make simple things complicated, but to make complicated things simple.' (Stan Gudder, Mathematician)***