

WEAVERHAM HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION PACK

School Population

Weaverham High School is an 11 – 16 comprehensive school situated on the edge of Weaverham ‘village’ near Northwich in Cheshire. It serves the surrounding villages of Weaverham, Sandiway, Cuddington, Delamere Park, Acton Bridge, Crowton and Whitley. However, owing to its popularity and success, the school is over-subscribed and now comprises 1030 pupils drawn additionally from Hartford, Northwich and Winsford along with their surrounding villages. Over 40% of the pupils are now from ‘out-of-zone’ areas and approximately 11% of pupils are in receipt of free school meals.

Situation

Weaverham enjoys very good transport links, being close to both the A49 and A556 with fast links to both the M6 and M56. A mainline railway station is 5 minutes away and Manchester International Airport only 25 minutes away. Traditionally ICI was the major employer in the area but this has been replaced by a number of smaller employers and now many parents utilise the excellent transport links to work in Warrington, Chester, Liverpool, Manchester or beyond.

The school is situated on the edge of the open Cheshire countryside providing easy access to areas for walking, riding, cycling, sailing and canoeing. The National Parks of North Wales, the Peak District, the Lake District are all within easy transport reach. More cosmopolitan attractions can be found in nearby Chester, Manchester and Liverpool – all of which lie within 35 minutes of travel.

Accommodation

Although the original school buildings date from 1956, there have been significant additions in recent years. An extensive refurbishment and building programme has taken place to include a sports hall, an all-weather pitch, a purpose-built science block, creative arts centre which includes a fully-equipped drama studio, a new library and learning resource centre, new boys’ toilets. A major Design and Technology extension and 3 additional classrooms were completed in November 2007 and in March 2011 a new Art Block was constructed to replace temporary accommodation. There have also been full refurbishments of the Maths block, ICT and Design & Technology areas and we are currently part way through a programme of major refenestration.

The school is planned to expand to an entry of 240 over the next 2 years and we will begin a building programme in January 2017. This will relocate 2 old science labs and provide an additional 6 teaching spaces.

The PC-based computer network now comprises 380-workstations and has been combined with the installation of over 20 interactive whiteboards. This includes 5 rooms equipped for whole class use of computers. These rooms are re-equipped on a rolling programme. Each teaching room is equipped with a desktop computer and digital projector for teacher use. In the last few months we have installed Wi-Fi throughout the school. We have 5 class sets of iPads which are used throughout the school. We have a widely used VLE based on Frog OS.

Specialist School Status

In September 1997 Weaverham High School was designated a specialist Technology College. This status enabled the school to rapidly develop its Design and Technology facilities, to establish the computer network and to move thinking and ideas into the 21st century. The school was awarded High Performing Specialist School Status commencing the September 2009. For its second specialism the school took on Leadership Partner School status, as we considered this the best way to spread the expertise and benefits of specialism throughout the school.

Since the demise of specialisms following the October 2010 spending review, the Governing Body have considered carefully the distinctive features of Weaverham High School. It was agreed that as the school moves forward an emphasis on the use of new technology and the development of leadership skills within our pupils will be key elements of the school’s distinctive offer.

Academic Success

The school has a well-established pattern of academic success which has been consistent over several years. Despite its comprehensive intake the school achieves results well above the national average reflecting significant 'value-added'.

	% 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE (inc Eng & Maths)	% 1 or more A*-G grades at GCSE	Average Capped Points Score
2012	62	99	357
2013	70	100	358
2014	69	99	340
2015	77	100	344
2016	74	99	349

Although the percentage A*-C including English and Maths in 2015 was the highest the school has ever achieved, we are not complacent regarding the challenges facing the school as we seek to raise standards even further. These include improving the consistency of achievements by boys as well as girls, reducing the gap in achievement of Pupil Premium pupils, and improving further the quality of teaching and learning.

The Curriculum

The school day begins at 8.30am and the timetable is based around five 60 minute lessons each day. We operate a 2 week timetable. Responsibility for overseeing the curriculum lies with Brigid Night, Deputy Headteacher (Pupil Learning).

Key Stage 3

All pupils follow courses in:

English, Mathematics, Science, Design and Technology, ICT, History, Geography, Religious Studies, French, German, Music, Drama, Art, Physical Education, Citizenship and PSHE.

Pupils in Year 7 - 9 are taught in ability banded groups. This is complemented by setting in Maths, English and Design & Technology. Pupils in the H and S bands received additional English and Maths lessons to develop their key skills.

The curriculum has been further developed by the introduction of Learning Skills Days. The days will require pupils to work in teams on cross-curricular projects in order to develop their skills for learning.

Key Stage 4

All pupils study for GCSE examination:

- Mathematics
- English
- Science

All pupils study but are not examined in:

- Citizenship, Health Education and Careers
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies

Pupils select four subjects from:

French, German, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Music, Drama, Art, Information & Communication Technology, Business Studies, Physical Education, Triple Science, Dance (BTEC), Food Technology, Graphic Products, Resistant Materials, Systems & Control.

Pupils who are likely to proceed to study A Levels or go to university are strongly encouraged to follow the English Baccalaureate range of subjects and all pupils take at least 3 Baccalaureate subjects.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

Throughout their time in the school all pupils follow a course comprising PSHCE. In Key Stage 3 the focus of delivery is through the tutor team, whereas in Key Stage 4 it is delivered both by tutors and by specialist staff who concentrate on Health Education and Enterprise. Pupils have one tutor-led PSHCE lesson per 2 week cycle.

Teaching and Learning

Our expectations regarding the learning experience for pupils are encapsulated in our “Every day Excellence” framework. This makes clear our common expectations regarding classroom practice. This is supported by resource and exemplar materials. The further development of Teaching and Learning practice is facilitated through each teacher being a member of a cross curricular Teaching and Learning group.

Access and Achievement

The Access and Achievement Team brings together the work of the Pupil Support Team, the SEN team, those delivering small group tuition and the Learning Mentors. It is led by Clare Morgan, Deputy Headteacher (Pupil Progress and Intervention).

Overall responsibility for pastoral care is taken by Assistant Headteacher, Phil Young. The pupil support team comprises Heads of Year, Pastoral Support Managers, Learning Mentors, Family Support Worker and Careers staff. Heads of Year move through the school with their cohort of pupils.

On starting the school in Year 7 a pupil joins a tutor group. The majority of pupils will remain in this tutor group as they move through the school. In most cases the group will have the same tutor throughout their time in the school.

The school employs 5 Pastoral Support Managers to support Heads of Year, a Learning Mentor and a Family Support Worker. The Pastoral Support Managers support pupils with particular pastoral issues, while the Learning Mentor supports pupils completing coursework and establishing good work habits. The Family Support Worker supports families in the school as well as those in our partner primary schools.

Attendance

Monitoring of attendance is carried out by Tutors, Heads of Year, the Assistant Head and the EWO. A very small minority of pupils have a history of poor attendance and three prosecutions of parents have occurred in the last 18 months for poor attendance. We use PARS to facilitate lesson by lesson registration.

	Attendance Rate	Absence	Persistent Absence (>15%)
2010-2011	94.5%	5.54%	7.7%
2011-2012	95.4%	4.6%	5.0%
2012-2013	95.0%	5.0%	5.3%
2013-2014	95.6%	4.4%	4.8%
2014-2015	95.4%	4.6%	4.6%

Behaviour

The behaviour of the vast majority of pupils is very good, as has been recognised repeatedly by the Ofsted Inspections. In September 2015 following a wide consultation with pupils, we have placed greater emphasis on rewards and more clearly stated our expectations of pupil behaviour. Individual pupils collect merit marks which lead to a “Golden Ticket” and a prize draw each term and annually in each year group. An inter-form competition based on merit marks, attendance, charity fund raising and sports competitions is held within

each year group. Trips to Disneyland, Paris and Alton Towers have occurred for winning form groups in the last two years.

Monitoring of Pupil Progress

Each pupil receives a full written report each year, based on their progress over the year, their current National Curriculum level or GCSE grade, and their targets for improvement. A parents' evening is held for each year group during the year. Additionally parents receive two brief progress reports and a full progress report during each academic year. These monitor the effort and progress of pupils against their targets based on prior attainment.

Child Protection

The school is committed at the highest level to safeguarding children. Clare Morgan (Deputy Headteacher) is the Child Protection Officer and all members of the Pupil Support Team regularly receive training in Child Protection. All applicants for posts at the school and all those working in the school in a volunteer capacity are expected to satisfactorily undergo a newly completed enhanced CRB check. Existing CRB checks are not deemed to be satisfactory for these occasions.

All candidates will be expected to provide the appropriate documentation, as well as proof of qualifications as part of the interview process. In addition during interview, candidates will be asked questions regarding safeguarding children, to ensure that they are familiar with good practice and apply this in their own working.

All members of staff are expected to comply with the school's Professional Relationships Policy which governs relationships between members of staff and pupils. This policy outlines the nature of communications as well as what can be regarded as appropriate behaviour. Failure to comply with requirements of this policy may result in dismissal. The school also has a staff dress code.

Extra-curricular Provision

The extensive extra-curricular programme is a distinctive feature and a strength of the school, which has been recognised as outstanding by Ofsted. The wide range of school Physical Education activities includes: *Rugby, Hockey, Football, Netball, Volleyball, Cross-Country, Table Tennis, Badminton, Dance, Athletics, Tennis, Cricket, Rounders, and Gymnastics*. School teams operate in the sports listed along with regular Saturday morning, fixtures. Pupils are selected regularly to represent the district, county or national teams.

We also offer a wide range of Creative Arts opportunities. These include learning to play a musical instrument through our programme of subsidised music lessons, an annual production and concerts at Christmas and in the summer. Recent productions have included *High School Musical, Peter Pan, Grease, Bugsy Malone, Fame and Macbeth*. We currently have 2 choirs, junior and senior bands, a jazz band, a steel band, and a number of ensembles.

Over 100 pupils each year participate in the Duke of Edinburgh award programme. The school has its own Duke of Edinburgh license and is one of the largest suppliers of D of E candidates in the North West. This programme, combined with our pupil leadership development programme, contributes significantly to the personal development of our pupils.

Each year we organise a number of trips and residential activities. During the last year there were 4 residential visits to the Conway Centre on Anglesey, 2 Modern Foreign Languages exchanges, work experience and Christmas market trips to Germany and France, First World War Battlefields trip, a ski trip, water sports summer trip, as well as theatre trips and visits to major sporting events.

In addition an enrichment programme is operated to bring expertise into school which we do not possess among our own staff. Pupils are asked to make a contribution towards the cost of these courses and currently activities include: *driving lessons, first aid, swimming, dry slope skiing, golf, beauty therapy, trampolining, fencing, archery, self-defence and climbing*.

Management Structure

Senior Leadership Team

The membership of the Senior Leadership Team currently comprises:

David Charlton: *Headteacher*

Brigid Night: *Deputy Headteacher*
Pupil Learning

Clare Morgan: *Deputy Headteacher*
Pupil Progress and Intervention

Carolyne Stratton: *Assistant Headteacher*
Personnel Development

Phil Young: *Assistant Headteacher*
Pupil Support and Well Being

Phil Morris: *Assistant Headteacher*
Applied Technology including Head of Design & Technology

2 Middle Leaders are currently seconded to the Senior Leadership Team for 1 year.

Leadership Teams

Meetings of the Curriculum Team (Heads of Faculty/Department) and of the Pupil Support Team are held monthly along with a department meeting and a Year Team meeting within each month.

All members of staff are part of a cross-curricular Teaching and Learning Development Group.

Departmental Structure

The school is organised at present through a mixture of faculty and department teams. Currently Science, Maths, English, Applied Technology and Modern Foreign Languages are organised through faculty teams, while Physical Education, Art, Music, Drama, History, Geography and Religious Education meet as faculties for teaching and learning activities but are arranged on a department basis.

Support Staff

In addition to the 70 members of the teaching staff there are another 54 members of the support staff.

These include:

13	Office and administration staff
1	Librarian
18	Learning Support Assistants
5	Pastoral Support Managers
1	Learning Mentor
1	Family Support worker
3	Cover Supervisors
2	Science technicians
2	Design and Technology technicians
4	Site staff
1	ICT Network administrator
1	ICT Technician
3	Midday Supervisors
1	Exams Officer

Governing Body

The school is supported by a well qualified and committed governing body which was reconstituted in April 2015. They meet as a full body 6 times each year and have a number of committees which include:

- Executive Committee
- Finance Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Pupil Progress Committee

9 members of the governing body have children who are pupils or former pupils of the school.

Foundation Status

In September 2010 the school adopted Foundation Status. Although this replaces some of the powers of the Local Authority by the Governing Body (including being the employer of staff), it has made little difference to the day to day operation of the school.

The Governing Body continue to examine the issue of Academy status.