

Brockington College – ‘Learning to live life to the full’



Brockington College and predecessor schools have served the community around Enderby since 1759. The catchment area has grown over time and now includes the villages of Croft, Enderby, Huncote, Narborough and Thurlaston. However, we receive applications from the wider area which includes Braunstone, Leicester city, Sapcote, Stoney Stanton and Whetstone.

This is an exciting time to lead Brockington College. The school building was rebuilt in 2008 and offers state of the art facilities on a large campus. The current principal was appointed in 2010 and we became an academy in 2012 in order to retain control of our own destiny. One of the freedoms of academisation that we took advantage of, was to convert from an 11-14 high school to an 11-16 all-through school in 2015. This was obviously a significant challenge, particularly as virtually all pupils made the decision to remain at the school to study for their GCSE examinations. As a result, the school grew by 40% in respect of pupils on roll, which had to be matched with a 40% increase in members of staff and physical space. We have recruited well and have established an excellent team of teachers and support staff. Equally, we have self-funded a further building and have made changes to the existing building to gain the resources that we require.

The school has exceptionally strong links with the local community. Parents and carers support their children well and like to be involved within school life; there is a team of adults, including several governors that support school assemblies and the school hosts a whole range of sporting, musical, leisure, academic and children's holiday provision that are attended by the local community. The whole community know and use Brockington College.

Pupil Outcomes

GCSE outcomes have been good across our first two years of GCSE results, despite the enormity of the challenge that we faced to convert to an 11-16 school. Progress 8 scores in 2018 are positive in each of the English, maths, English Baccalaureate and open buckets and we have had a number of individual and subject successes over the last two years. In 2017, three pupils gained a grade 9 in each of the three new specification subjects and in 2018 our top individual gained nine grade 9s and an A*!

Curriculum

We are confident that our adjustments to the Key Stage 4 curriculum will bring further success in the coming years. We have moved to options taking place at the end of Year 8 and our current Year 9 cohort are enjoying studying their option subjects and developing their skills in this area prior to GCSE study commencing later in Year 9. We now have over 50% of pupils studying languages after we increased provision in this area. Equally, we have ensured that there are a range of vocational subjects available, such as child development, construction, engineering, health and social care, land-based environment, media, music technology, , personal effectiveness and sport. We do this because we are intent on ensuring that the curriculum matches the needs of our pupils. However, we also believe that religious studies and personal, social, health and citizenship education is a must for all pupils. We have strong teams in both these curriculum areas and pupils enjoy their lessons. Not one pupil across the school has been withdrawn from religious studies and all study up to GCSE level. Last year 75% of our 280 pupils gained a 4-9 grade in religious studies GCSE.

Ethos and Values

Spiritual reflection forms a daily part of Brockington school life for pupils and members of staff alike. Our theme of the week links to a school value and is discussed with and by pupils during form time or in assemblies. We receive invaluable support from Enderby Parish Church and our Chaplain, Jerry Taylor, in particular. He is available to support pupils, parents/carers and members of staff in their hours of need; brings a spiritual presence to whole-school events; supports assemblies, religious studies and Koinonia Café provision and welcomes us to Enderby Parish Church for our annual Harvest Festivals, Christmas and Easter services. There is also strong partnership work alongside the Diocesan Board of Education.

Our compassion committee is made up of pupils and members of staff and makes decisions on the many charities that we support and carries out random acts of kindness across the school community. Further acts of kindness regularly take place within the school via one member of staff who delivers a chocolate to the entire staff team every fortnight and another unknown member of staff who regularly leaves gifts for colleagues. The school provides a cake for every member of staff at the end of each month, alongside free access to tea and coffee. Members of staff and governors run 'Koinonia Café' for pupils at lunchtimes, we have a 'staff sports' group and members of staff that run a staff meditation group and a staff prayer group. Our reward system involves members of staff regularly contacting parents/carers with positive comments.

The range of trips across the college is immense. Every two years a group of pupils and staff travel to Kenya to support our sponsored schools, one of which has been renamed 'Brockington Embrace Academy'. Each of the

pupils has to raise £2.5K from charity events that they organise and the funding pays for their trip and provides resources to support a range of Kenyan children. During the trip, pupils and members of staff teach in the classroom, but also help to build new classrooms, paid for by the money that has been raised. Other trips go as far afield as China, New York and Iceland and closer to home for field trips, MAMA events and visits to the locality. Pupils love the opportunity to learn out of lessons and we support this to the full.

Lots of our pupils like to remain at school at the end of the day for a variety of clubs. The performing arts and PE faculty both offer an exhaustive amount of activity. This is supplemented by a variety of other activities including The Duke of Edinburgh Award, GCSE dance classes, art masterclasses, library study and a vast range of extra-curricular academic study for Year 11 pupils, which takes place from November onwards. This is so well supported by pupils and members of staff that we have need of a two-week intervention timetable.

Finance

The college takes its financial position extremely seriously. All procedures are robust and we have deliberately built up our own staff teams in the areas of site management, lettings, IT systems, catering and cleaning, such that we make significant savings and generate income that is put into the education of our pupils. As a result, we have the resources that we need and a very healthy bank balance.

We have an outstanding finance team at the college, so much so that our latest audit could not provide any management points for improvement.

Senior Leadership Team

In addition to the principal, the Senior Leadership Team is comprised of one vice principal, four assistant principals and our business manager. Together, they are accountable for standards across the college and lead on all four key Ofsted areas. There is an ideal mixture of experience and those newer to senior leadership as well as those with internal and external experience. The team is passionate about Brockington College and motivated to provide the best for all pupils within a bond of trust, energy, commitment, positive relationships and good humour.

Extended Senior Leadership Team

The Extended Senior Leadership Team consists of seven middle leaders who take on extra responsibility across the college. This team provide vital capacity to school leadership and allows talented middle leaders the opportunity to grow as whole-school leaders, so much so that two recent members of the team have been appointed to our Senior Leadership Team on merit.

Embrace Multi Academy Trust

We have been working with our partner schools on the formation of Embrace MAT for the past two years. This has already led to a number of positive outcomes for the seven schools across the trust and some of the essential reasons why we have decided to form a multi academy trust are as follows:

- To stay in control of our own destiny. The decision to form Embrace means that we have the increased autonomy to make our own decisions
- School improvement work is at the heart of the Embrace vision, “we want our leadership teams and members of staff to be able to focus on working with the children”
- Autonomy, where the academy is performing well, will remain with the local governing body
- To work together to achieve savings and shared services, that will allow improved educational standards

Brockington will be a key player within the MAT and has lots to offer other schools currently involved, as well as those that will join in the future. We see collaboration as an essential to share the good practice that we have developed, as well as to learn from others.

We will be seeking to grow the trust over time, but the forming schools are as follows:

- Arnesby Church of England Primary School (voluntary controlled). 3–11 age range
- Brockington College (Church of England Academy). 11–16 age range
- Croft Church of England Primary School (voluntary controlled). 2–11 age range
- Huncote Community Primary School Academy Trust. 4 – 11 age range
- Manorfield Church of England Primary School (voluntary controlled). 4–11 age range
- Sherrier Church of England Primary School (voluntary controlled). 4–11 age range
- St Peter’s Church of England Primary School (voluntary aided). 4–11 age range

To arrange a visit, please contact recruitment@brockington.leics.sch.uk

The school website: www.brockington.leics.sch.uk has comprehensive information, which you should find helpful.