



Brighouse High School

Staff Prospectus

2017-2018



Brighouse High School - Context and Ethos

Brighouse High School is a school which has high expectations and is uncompromising in working to meet the needs of individual pupils. In March 2017 OFSTED Inspectors reported that "there is a strong sense of 'togetherness' across the school" and that pupils "felt part of a caring school community that is fully inclusive with a trusting ethos. Pupils feel valued as learners". We focus on raising achievement through a framework of positive behaviour. The school is on a split site with the Sixth Form being taught in a separate college building one mile from the Finkil Street site.

As a school we emphasise team work and an inclusive and evolutionary approach to change. The school is innovative and takes a lead nationally in themes such as leadership, Personalisation and Enterprise.

Leadership Structure

The Headteacher at Brighouse High School is Liz Cresswell. She is supported by the senior leadership team, two Deputy Heads, four Assistant Headteachers and one Assistant Headteacher who holds a senior developmental post in addition to their substantive responsibilities.

Intake of pupils and the Area served by the School

Brighouse is a compact market town situated close to the Pennines, the Yorkshire Dales and the M62. The cities of Leeds and Bradford are within easy access. The traditional industrial base of the town was textiles and engineering but this has been replaced by a much more diverse economy supporting a number of small workshop enterprises.

The School draws the majority of its pupils from Brighouse and the marginal villages which surround the town. The pupil intake is of varied socio-economic background and from a wide range of housing from the town houses of Brighouse to the suburbs of Clifton, Lightcliffe and Hove Edge.

Brighouse High School is committed to providing a first class education for all its pupils and has developed strong links with the community of Brighouse and district.

There are currently 1413 pupils, including 330 in the Sixth Form. The school is popular with parents and is consistently oversubscribed.

Accommodation

The school currently occupies two sites. Years 7-11 occupy premises at Hove Edge, a pleasant residential area about one mile away from the town centre.

Teaching Rooms (Hove Edge Site)

Hall / Dining Room / Café
2 Drama Studios
Art Rooms
2 Music Practice Rooms
CDT Suite (with 3 inter-connecting rooms
and a graphics studio with ICT
facilities)
Two Food Technology Rooms

Two Maths lecture-style rooms
Textiles room
7 Science Laboratories
6 ICT Rooms
2 Music Classrooms
Literacy & Media Hub
Sports Hall (with community usage at
evenings and weekends)
1 Gymnasium

Classrooms for:

English
Modern Languages
History
Geography
RE
Mathematics
Business Studies (With ICT enhanced
facilities)



Staff and Administration Rooms / Outdoor Areas

General Office / Reception Area
Headteacher's Office
Secretaries' Office
Deputy Headteacher's offices
Assistant Heads' Offices
First Aid Room
Reprographics Room
Staff Room

Parents Room
Facilities Manager's Office
Year Tutors' Offices
Meeting Room
Finance Office
Two Hard Surface Playing Areas
Car Parking
Extensive Playing Fields

Sixth Form Centre (Halifax Road Site)

The Sixth Form is housed in a stone building (c 1910) near the centre of town and was refurbished to a very high standard in 1999. The sixth form facilities include laboratories, study and common rooms, computer rooms and pleasant teaching rooms. Almost £1 million was spent to ensure that the centre has an agreeable and suitable environment for both staff and students. The Mulberry Centre on this site is a modern facility with ICT resources and capacity for both student learning and external conferences.

Personalised Curriculum

The school believes in setting high standards for, and developing the talents of, all its pupils and in providing them with a rounded and balanced education. To this end, in Years 10 and 11, all pupils are guided into 3 routes and choose option subjects from the following list: Art & Design, Business Studies, BTEC Dance, Drama, Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages, PE, Music and Triple Science* Technical Awards in Materials Technology, Visual Communication, Fashion & Textiles, and Health & Social Care, in addition to the usual compulsory core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. All pupils follow courses in P.E., Learning for Life, Religious Studies.

(*by Teacher recommendation only)

The Post 16 Curriculum has been developed extensively with a full range of Advanced Studies. A development programme for Vocational Education has led to popular courses in Applied Law, Applied Business, Health & Social Care and ICT. The post-16 curriculum has been developed further to include new vocational courses including the Business Diploma, Criminology and BTEC Music as well as an expanding range of A Levels. At Post 16 the school works in collaboration with partner high schools (Calderdale 6) to offer breadth across the curriculum.

The Curricular structure is based on the framework of Heads of Department and whole school Co-ordinators. Each Head of Department and Co-ordinator is supported through the Line Management System by a Deputy or Assistant Headteacher.

The Special Needs Department has a SENCO and 12 Additional Needs Technicians. A Reading Retrieval Programme is in place aimed at raising the standard of reading skills in pupils who have a reading age two years below their chronological age. In addition, integrated learning systems are available to improve Literacy and Numeracy.

The major component in the current development plan is to consolidate and extend the school's raising achievement programme. During the past few years we have been working hard to ensure high quality teaching and learning across the curriculum. All pupils in Years 7-11 have been screened using the NFER Cognitive tests. Target setting is an important priority within the school we work to personalise the curriculum to ensure that individuals achieve their full potential. Raising achievement at Key Stage 5 has been a particular focus in recent years and has led to significant year on year improvement.

Pupils achieve well above the national average. The students who achieve 5 or more passes at Grade C and above in their GCSE examinations is higher than in most schools, as is the number of students who achieve 4+ in English and Maths GCSE examinations. Progress across a range of subjects is good.

The school is proud of its record of innovative curriculum projects. The KS 4 Guided Choices curriculum has been recently developing the KS4 curriculum to balance the demands of school performance and the best interests of the students. The school has gained a national reputation for its curriculum and is regularly involved in disseminating its good practice to other schools. The school prides itself on the standards of teaching and learning taking place in the classroom and has developed its own model of training & development to improve practice in the classroom.

Pupil Support

A school council and house system further develops pupil involvement in school life. We aim to make the school a safe, happy and hardworking place for the pupils and believe that this can be best achieved through a framework of good discipline, encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their own behaviour. We believe that if pupils know what is expected of them and the standards are applied consistently, they will respond. Therefore, the insistence by all staff on the Respect Code of Conduct, policies and standards is considered important. The whole school behaviour policy is rigorously applied and is monitored and adapted on a regular basis.

The school has a uniform policy and a homework policy, believing that the first encourages pupils to take pride in their school and their appearance and that the other helps to develop habits of individual study. Sixth Form students do not wear a uniform but are asked to dress sensibly and appropriately.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Our philosophy of broadening horizons for pupils and staff weaves a thread through all aspects of school life.

The school has a long and successful tradition of involvement in Sport, Music, Drama and Outdoor Education. There is also a strong emphasis on Business and Enterprise activities. In terms of sports the standard of both girls' and boys' team games is high with a significant participation level. Considerable success has been achieved locally, regionally and nationally. Junior Sports Leader and Community Sports Leader Awards have been added to the curriculum and take up is excellent. The school climbing wall has been a welcome addition to sports facilities.



The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme is open for pupils from Year 10 upwards. Every year large numbers of students gain their Bronze & Silver Award. Sixth Form students work towards their Gold Award. Outdoor pursuits provision in the school is growing rapidly and there is the opportunity for pupils to have residential experience during both lower and middle school. A considerable emphasis is placed on community links and charity work; there



are also design and ICT clubs after school and at lunchtime. The school is also heavily involved in charity work and over the last two years has raised money for Children in Need, Comic Relief and other nominated causes. Charity work is a major focus of the House System. House points can be achieved for participation in fund raising activities.

The Wider Community

Links with parents are strengthened through website bulletins that keep parents informed about what is happening at school.

The school has an active PTA, The Friends of Brighthouse High; they raised money recently to improve outdoor spaces, for new kayaks, new musical equipment and for outdoor furniture. Links with Industry are many and varied - through Governors, through Years 11 - 13 Work Experience schemes and via the innovative Industry Ambassadors Programme.

The school has extensive links with other schools and countries in Europe: especially France and Germany. A French study visit and German Exchange take place each year. Visits have also been made to the Isle of Man, USA, Switzerland, Italy and Austria. Football trips have taken place to South Africa, Italy and recently Spain. The Sixth Form has biannual visits to China and the West Coast of USA.

Staff

The teaching staff complement is 100, with 1 Management Information Systems Manager / 20 Clerical / Administrative staff / 1 Accountant, 1 Facilities Manager, 4 ICT Technicians, 7 Technicians, 11 Support Assistants, 3 Cover Supervisors, a small Maintenance team, including, 1 Clerk of Works, 1 Caretaker and 2 Maintenance/Grounds persons as well as Midday Supervisors, Cleaners and Catering staff making a total of almost 200. The school believes very strongly that all staff are the most important influence in the educational progress of young people and is committed to the professional fulfilment and development of all colleagues.

Recent investors in people and OFSTED reports have recognised the strengths of the school as being:-

Staff enjoy working in the school and consider it to be a 'very good place to work'. There is a strong commitment to the overall ethos and values of the school, with clear plans which help to continually review and improve performance (SEF).

There is a strong sense of togetherness.

There is a strong sense of leadership, with leaders and managers across the school providing encouragement and support for the roles and in creating an environment in which staff are encouraged to actively contribute to the ongoing development of those roles.

"People throughout the review expressed that the school is a 'very good place to work' referring to the friendly open, flexible and supportive environment. People explained that the School has a focus on improving results to enable all students to achieve their potential but that this is balanced with creating a positive and supportive environment".