



Chapel-en-le-Frith
High School



“This is a highly inclusive school. Work to support pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is a strength of the school. Staff consistently demonstrate a strong moral purpose, which has a direct impact on pupils’ sense of right and wrong and of belonging.” Ofsted

Introduction

Thank you for taking an interest in our school; I hope that this prospectus provides a flavour of the work that we do.

We are a caring, friendly and inclusive school, whose success is built on a wonderful staff team, a clear focus on learning and on treating students as individuals. We aim to provide our students with an exceptional foundation for further study, training and employment.

We believe our role is to challenge young people to fulfil their potential both in the classroom and in a wide range of enrichment activities. To help them succeed we provide comprehensive and high quality pastoral care.

We have high aspirations for all of our students; we want them to leave us with superb qualifications, great communication skills and the self confidence, vision and understanding to be successful and happy in a fast-changing world.

We are always delighted to welcome visitors. Please contact us if you would like to arrange a visit or would like further information about any aspect of our work.

Simon Grieves
Headteacher



“Pupils’ outcomes are good. Pupils’ attainment is well above average in English and mathematics.”

Ofsted

Learning

Learning is at the heart of any school's work and we aim to achieve student progress that matches that of the best schools in the country. We have a dedicated and skilled team of teaching staff who, with their enthusiasm for their subjects, create exciting and stimulating learning environments.

We have worked hard to ensure that our students continue to succeed in times of great change in education. With the new and more demanding examination courses, we aim to develop good learning habits early. We use a combination of superb teaching, relevant home study, challenging assessments and simple but effective tracking of progress, to guide our students through a five year learning journey with us.

Literacy, the ability to read, write, speak and listen well, is of critical importance and the development of literacy is at the heart of our work. Reading ages are carefully tracked, the ability to speak with confidence is developed, and extended writing skills are nurtured across a range of subjects.





“Pupils are very well prepared for their next stages of life and education. Almost all pupils move on to carefully considered and worthwhile education, training or apprenticeships when they leave the school.” Ofsted

Aspiration

We believe that confidence is vital to success, if someone believes that they can do something they will probably succeed. To this end, we give high priority to raising the aspirations of our students.

We work exceptionally hard to open students' eyes to the possibilities ahead of them. Students engage with a range of sixth-form colleges, apprenticeship providers and employers. We plan ahead not just to college entry but to university entry for those considering it. We take our students to visit universities and we have strong links with both Oxford and Cambridge. We work closely with local employers and host a number of in-house careers events, including our annual careers fair.

We see our 11 to 16 status as an advantage, with our students making a conscious choice at age 16 to move to a college or training provider that suits them and which is, perhaps, a stepping stone to employment, further training or university.

All of this work pays off. Rates of student entry into education or training after leaving us, with a wide range of providers, are amongst the highest in England. Colleges and apprenticeship providers consistently report that they are impressed with the knowledge, skills and maturity that our former students bring to their post-16 studies.



“The curriculum is focused on preparing pupils well for success and the next stages in their education, training or employment.” Ofsted

Curriculum

Our students study the national curriculum in years 7, 8 and 9 and can choose from a wide range of option courses in years 10 and 11. Well informed option choices are increasingly important as competition for college and university places increases, and we try hard to strike a balance between ensuring that the subjects we offer maximise a student's future options and accommodate their interests and skills.

Beyond traditional subjects, we offer all students a carefully planned “Learning for Life” curriculum covering a range of topics around health and well-being, finance, citizenship and current affairs. This content is delivered through learning for life lessons, assemblies, “thought for the week”, and learning for life days, where students have the chance to work on topics very different from normal lessons.





“Pupils with special educational needs in the school and the enhanced resource provision benefit from very positive and aspirational teaching and support and make strong progress.” Ofsted

Learning Support

The school has a superb reputation for supporting students with additional needs. Members of our learning support team work across the school, in mainstream lessons or within our enhanced resource provision that caters for students whose needs can't be met in mainstream classes.

The enhanced resource provision is an integral and important part of our school community and the benefits we gain from having facilities and experts on site help all of our students.

The provision is very flexible, with students able to work towards a range of qualifications at a pace that suits them. Some students will be taught in dedicated learning support classes whilst others will be integrated into mainstream lessons. The development of life skills and self confidence is an important part of our learning support work.





“The school’s work to promote pupils’ personal development and welfare is outstanding.” Ofsted

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is undoubtedly a strength of the school. Our mixed age tutor groups and skilled tutors provide the security of a base in school. Tutors keep a close eye on the welfare of the young people in their care and students report that the mixed age groups help them make friends and break down barriers between year groups.

A key strength of the school, often commented on by parents, is our team of pastoral leaders. These highly trained, experienced and skilled individuals are non-teachers and are therefore available throughout the school day to resolve issues. Pastoral leaders provide a key point of contact during the school day for students and parents.

Beyond these elements our pastoral structure includes a range of more intensive support, including on-site counselling and The Learning Centre, which some students may need to access during their time with us.

Our strong pastoral systems mean that the school is a notably calm place with good relationships between staff and students. We aim to care for every student as an individual, allowing them to be happy at school and to be ready to learn.



Beyond the classroom

School is about so much more than classroom learning and we provide a range of enrichment activities both in and out of school.

Drama and music are strong in school. Our music department offers the opportunity to join several choirs and bands. Individual music lessons can be organised with our peripatetic teachers. Our annual school drama production gives students a taste of life on stage; these extravaganzas often involve over one hundred students and have been sell-out successes with the public.

Away from the school site, educational visits offer students a wide range of experiences. Recently we have had a group skiing in Italy, and students improving their language skills in France, Spain and Germany. In the next year we'll have a drama visit to London, a sporting tour to Holland and a science trip to CERN in Geneva to explore the physics of the Large Hadron Collider.

Many students choose to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in school; we have impressive completion rates for this challenging award.

“A wide range of extra-curricular opportunities and purposeful educational visits enrich pupils’ learning. Pupils spoke with passion about their trips and visits.”

Ofsted

Sport

Sport is an enormously important feature of school life, playing a formative role in developing the all round strengths of our students; aside from the benefits of physical fitness it develops self-respect and confidence, teamwork and discipline.

Our PE programme covers an incredibly wide range of sports and our teachers have the skills and dedication to help any student make the most of their talents. Extra-curricular sport is strong and school teams compete regularly in local, county and regional competitions with great success. Our teams frequently score highly in High Peak and Derbyshire leagues.

Alongside traditional school sports, we pride ourselves on the range of more unusual sports we are involved in: students here may well get to experience handball and lacrosse and we've recently competed in sports as diverse as fell running, cyclo-cross and golf.

“Pupils speak positively about the wide and enriching range of extra-curricular activities in which they can engage. Participation levels are high. Such provision makes an excellent contribution to supporting and improving pupils’ physical, emotional and mental health.” Ofsted





Facilities

We are lucky to work in modern accommodation on an attractive site that provides a superb environment for learning.

Our classrooms are bright and roomy. Access to computers is good, with PCs in many classrooms and in four ICT suites. We have excellent facilities for science and technology. Drama is well catered for with a specialist drama studio and our hall converts into a fantastic theatre with raked seating, professional lighting and sound. Specialist music teaching facilities are good and a suite of practice rooms allows our peripatetic staff to teach undisturbed.

Our sporting facilities include a large sports hall, floodlit AstroTurf pitch, tennis courts and extensive grass playing areas.

A well-used, and well-stocked, library supports our work on literacy and, importantly, a spacious restaurant allows our students to eat in a pleasant environment before school, at break and at lunchtime.





Chapel-en-le-Frith High School

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