

In all aspects
of school life
we aim to

**‘Chase
Perfection’**

**‘Catch
Excellence’**

and this
underpins our
entire ethos



Rastrick
High School

Prospectus

**We are committed
to developing
the best teaching
possible. We want
every lesson to be
'outstanding' and
never less than
'good'.**



**As a result, our student
outcomes are among
the top comprehensive
schools in Calderdale
and the wider region.**

Welcome

Rastrick High School is an exciting place to be



We pride ourselves on providing a challenging and creative education to every student in our care. We do everything we can to inspire and engage students in their learning, with the aim of developing a strong ambition and a determination to succeed in every student. Everyone is encouraged to develop their own talents and to contribute to the school, local community and beyond.

At Rastrick, excellent teaching and learning is at the heart of everything we do and this is reflected in our consistently strong exam results. We are incredibly proud of the dedication of our students and the staff who help make this happen. These results not only demonstrate excellent academic performance, but also highlight the value we place on student progress, and the effort students put into getting there.

We understand and appreciate the importance of our relationship with parents and families, we will do everything we can to ensure that our communication with you is outstanding; supporting a very positive relationship between us.

We are committed to broadening the horizons of every child, providing experiences that support their enjoyment of school and their learning that, in turn, develops their understanding of the world beyond the school. We will help them to develop in confidence and explore their own interests through great teaching and through the vibrant range of enriching activities on offer.

With this prospectus, we aim to give you an insight into Rastrick High School's character, ethos and sense of ambition. For a more detailed view, we suggest you come along to our open evening and speak to our students and teachers about their experiences here. If you have further questions, you are welcome to get in touch by phone, email, or better still, arrange to come in to meet us. We are always happy to show the school 'in action' and to answer any further questions you may have. **Rastrick really is an exciting school and we would be delighted to welcome you here.**



Best wishes
Mat Williams, Head of School



Breaking the ice and aiming for a smooth transition

We have spent the last two years working with Primary Schools to develop an extended transition programme.

When we speak to children in Year 6, they often focus on the size and scale of our school. It's as if they can't imagine feeling at home here. We certainly understand these worries, but we're confident that dealing with them early on leads to a successful and seamless transition.

Some students' first Rastrick experience may be within their primary setting, as many of our subjects teachers currently support the planning and delivery of areas of the curriculum, such as PE and Modern Foreign Languages. We design and deliver programmes in Maths and English, which build on the numeracy and literacy taught in Primary School, and prepare students for curriculum they will discover at Secondary School.

In the summer term, we invite all of the new intake to spend an extended period with us to experience a full range of lessons and activities.

'It seemed like a massive change from Primary to High School but when I came for Transition, I realised there was nothing to worry about – I knew I was ready to start a new adventure.'

We know our students by their first names, and each individual has the support they need to make the transition from Primary to Secondary School and to continue with the next phase of their education.

Students have the benefit of a strong and established support network. Each Year Group is led by an Achievement Leader and two Achievement Managers. They take a proactive role in monitoring your child's welfare and academic progress. They also offer guidance and support where and when you or your child needs it. Plus a Form Tutor plays an important day to day role in ensuring the Form Group is organised and ready for the challenges of the day.

SETTLING IN...





‘Using my planner has really helped me organise myself since Primary School. I write everything down and it helps me keep up to date with homework and lessons.’

Teaching and Learning

Giving students a first class experience

Our teachers work extremely hard to ensure lessons are challenging, inspirational and enjoyable; they are experts in their subjects and have high expectations of all students. Our professional development plan is designed to ensure staff have opportunities to access, adopt and refine world class teaching strategies in our classrooms so that we continue to inspire all of our students.

We have established a strong culture of ambition and high aspirations among staff and students. We believe this is a vital contributor to success. We make sure we know every student well, so that we understand their needs and provide realistic and stretching goals. Our relentless pursuit of excellence is achieved through a supportive learning environment where we encourage all students to achieve their targets in all of the subjects they study. All lessons include a range of activities including group work, debate, research and enquiry so that students experience a variety of learning styles.



‘My teachers make sure their lessons are fun, but we learn a lot too. They go at the right pace to make sure that we all understand.’



Our Curriculum

Our **ambitious curriculum shapes a wonderful education for our children**, going beyond the standards set by the National Curriculum and statutory guidance. Our students are provided with the opportunity to succeed and enjoy a high-quality education, both inside and outside the classroom. We pride ourselves on a curriculum that provides a **broad and inclusive** education that drives students' **ambition and love of learning**.

Inside the classroom, all students are guided through a **coherently planned learning journey** that is designed and delivered by passionate, knowledgeable, and dedicated staff. All our students and staff have a shared understanding of that five-year learning journey using '**Waypoints**'. Our curriculum design at Rastrick is 'never finished'. We always seek to refine and improve the educational experience for our students, ensuring that they **learn more** and **remember more**. The use of formative and summative assessment in all subjects provides students with ongoing opportunities to test their memory recall and track their progress.

Our curriculum ensures that all students are supported in their **character** and **personal development**, equipping them with the **cultural capital** required for life both inside and beyond their education. This is built into everything we do at Rastrick, including the subjects we teach, values (PSHE), an extensive tutorial programme and our careers advice service.

Outside the classroom, we provide an inclusive, high quality and extensive **enrichment** programme, which ensures that all students, regardless of background, have access to a wide variety of opportunities. Our students play a key role in improving the quality of education and experience for all at Rastrick. Our **Student Leadership** programme offers all students the opportunity to grow and develop their leadership skill set, which is complemented by student voice which provides feedback on all aspects of school life.

'My favourite subject is DT. It gives me the chance to be creative and show my true colours.'

Aiming high - aspirations and expectations

Rastrick High School has 'a strong culture of ambition and high expectations among staff and pupils' **Ofsted, May 2018**

Our school provides a friendly and warm yet challenging environment. We have limitless aspirations and high targets for our students, based on an ethos which demands the very best efforts and expectations from everyone in our organisation.

Rastrick High School is a place where calm and focused learning is encouraged. This is reliant on an environment where the values of respect and responsibility are key. We believe that everyone at the school has the right to learn in a calm and safe environment without distraction.

Our school community is an essential part of raising our children's aspirations. We value the role parents/carers play in this and ensure we have open dialogue with parents around key issues in school, such as IAG (Information, Advice and Guidance), academic attainment, academic progress, attendance and the wellbeing and happiness of our students.

We ask Parents/Carers to commit to our Home-School Partnership Agreement so that they know what we expect of their child. By working together, we can jointly ensure that each child makes progress every day, allowing them to excel academically and develop into well-rounded individuals who contribute positively to our society.

Excellent support for each student, every day

We provide an inclusive environment for all our students. This is at the centre of our strategic planning which involves developing cultures, policies and practices which cater for everyone. It is important that all students feel welcome at Rastrick and we work hard to nurture a sense of community and belonging.

Our highly trained support staff focus on creating positive relationships with our students ensuring that barriers to learning are removed.

Students with specific needs

Our excellent SEN team work hard to ensure that students receive the support they need to thrive in mainstream lessons.

Students receive additional support when they need it; such as literacy and numeracy groups, mentoring and enrichment activities.

We also deliver a rich and carefully tailored programme of additional activities designed to nurture our students and complement the everyday curriculum.

Enrichment – diverse and creative

Developing self-reliance, promoting citizenship and preparing our students to take their place in society

Complementing the taught curriculum, our extensive Enrichment Programme is designed to broaden our students' horizons through a vibrant array of activities before and after the school day. We encourage our students to engage with the local community through charity work and as Student Leaders. We have close links with the National Citizenship Service which connects young people with volunteering opportunities and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme which is open to students from Year 9 upwards.

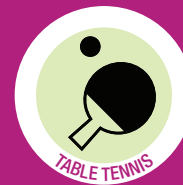
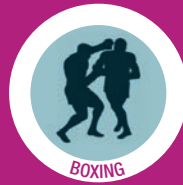
We are also keen to provide opportunities for our students to see the world and to learn outside the classroom. We typically offer a wide range of trips to various destinations:

History trip to the Battlefields in France and Belgium

Modern Languages trips to Spain and France

Skiing in Austria and Italy

Sports tour to Spain



Admissions to Rastrick High School – September 2022

The Published Admissions Limit (PAL) for Year 7 students at Rastrick High School is 345.

Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the school will follow the Calderdale Authority admissions criteria to decide which children to admit. Details of this can be found on both the school and Calderdale websites under Admissions.

Important Dates

Applications for Secondary School places

31 October 2022

All applications for Secondary School places for September 2023 must be submitted by 31/10/2022 to Calderdale Council.

Important Dates for the Rastrick Young Musician Initiative

30 September 2022

Application deadline

3 October 2022

Audition times are communicated

6 October 2022

Audition day

11 October 2022

Parents contacted



Talented Musician Development Programme

There is a further admissions opportunity for entry into Year 7 if your child has a talent in Music or Voice.

Our programme offers up to 30 admissions annually to students who have musical potential and can show evidence of skill, potential, passion and commitment to playing a musical instrument or to singing.

This enhances the high quality academic provision offered to all students which includes:

- Access to lessons led by a specialist team of instrumental staff
- Enrichment theory classes to develop theoretical knowledge
- Enrichment aural classes to develop musicianship
- A wide range of enrichment ensembles
- The opportunity to develop vocal skills
- Regular performance opportunities
- The opportunity to become a peer mentor

How do I apply?

Application forms and further information may be found on the Rastrick High School website:
www.rastrick.calderdale.sch.uk

Alternatively, contact the Data Team
data@rastrick.polarismat.org.uk
01484 710 235

Applicants will be invited to attend an assessment session at the school where their musical aptitude will be assessed by an independent adjudicator.





Rastrick
High School


Prospectus

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