



Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE

Soar Valley College – General Information

We are justifiably proud of our school, in particular the caring, inclusive ethos, our high standards and our achievements. Our school motto of ‘Aspire, Enjoy, Achieve’ is more than just words. It really does sum up our ethos; that of working with every individual to ensure they do the best they possibly can in a supportive environment rich with opportunities. More on this can be read in our prospectus which is available on the school website www.soarvalley.leicester.sch.uk

We are an Outstanding 11-16 community, comprehensive school in the city of Leicester with approximately 1500 students on roll currently, and are heavily over-subscribed. Students come from very diverse ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, which contributes to our unique ethos, with the vast majority, around 90%, coming from ethnic minority backgrounds. Most of our students have a first language which is not English and around a third are eligible for free school meals.



As part of the first wave of the BSF programme in Leicester, we moved to a new building in 2009. Our highly impressive school building offers excellent accommodation and facilities for all areas of the curriculum and the local community. We also have our own Training Centre which is used for a wide range of activities and has proved to be extremely successful.

“A distinct feature of the college’s culture in creating a very purposeful environment for learning is the excellent relationships between the teachers and the students. One student summarized the feeling of others: ‘It’s not just the teachers, it’s all the staff.’ Students feel that the staff make time and get to know them very well.” (Ofsted 2014)

Achievement is impressive. When students start at the College their prior attainment is below national expectations on average. However they rise throughout both KS3 and KS4 to above national averages by the end of Year 11. Both attainment and progress measures are very strong, well above national averages.





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Progress 8 figures of +0.5 and +0.3 in the last two years illustrate these high levels of achievement.

Attendance is also excellent, in the top 20% of schools nationally and amongst the best in the city of Leicester. The vast majority of our students, round 98%, go on to Further Education or training, mainly at local Sixth Form Colleges.



As a school we are looking to continually improve the experiences and outcomes for our students and our staff. CPD is a key feature of our work and builds on current practice. It is recognised as a real strength with a multi-faceted programme for staff at various stages of their career and to meet particular needs.

We invest a good deal of time, energy and resources in our self-review and monitoring, but without it being onerous for staff, and so have a clear understanding of our strengths and needs as a school.

“Teaching is exemplary. Almost all curriculum areas have examples of outstanding teaching. Teachers have very high expectations and they use imaginative activities in order to ensure students make substantial progress.” (Ofsted 2014)

Another significant strength of the College, of which we are very proud, is the range and quality of the extra – curricular activities that staff offer. Opportunities are too numerous to mention here but we have, for example, a thriving Duke of Edinburgh programme, an extensive sports programme and are also very active within performing arts. Trips and visits are numerous. We are proud of the fact that we were the first school in the county to gain the Quality in Study Support Award at each level which recognises this outstanding provision. We have very strong links with our feeder primary schools through both curricular and extra-curricular activities.



“Students are proud to belong to the college. They demonstrate outstanding behaviour and attitudes to their learning. There is a great level of maturity and respect towards all learning. Students’ tolerance for each other and their ability to listen are excellent.” (Ofsted 2014)

We also have a wide range of activities on site in the evenings and at weekends that benefit the wider community. The College is open until 10pm most evenings and until 4pm at the weekends with the facilities mainly booked for sporting activities. A number of events are also held at the college by various faith communities. Parents are generally very supportive of the College and the benefits that it brings for their children, with students making an outstanding contribution to their community.



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In the days of specialisms we were designated as Maths and Computing College, which has led to significant investment in ICT resources across the college. We are the 'hub' school for maths development across the city and we hold regular meetings for all Heads of Department across the city along with an annual CPD conference.

"The leadership of teaching is very strong; much of the teaching is outstanding and the vast majority is consistently good." (Ofsted 2014)

All secondary and special schools in Leicester belong to the Education Improvement Partnership (EIP) which is an alliance of schools in Leicester to offer support and challenge to each other, and the office for which is situated within our Training Centre. The partnership is very strong and brings a number of distinct benefits to the city and member schools. For example, schools collaborated on a city-wide approach to assessment following the removal of National Curriculum levels.



Soar Valley is also involved in a number of other exciting and rewarding developments. We play an important role in the Leicester Teaching Schools Alliance, with involvement in many strands of its development work. In addition we have hosted various training programmes; for example we have been heavily involved in the Specialist Leaders of Education (SLE) training programme with many participants being trained in our Centre and visiting lessons as part of this.



Thank you for your interest in our school. We believe it is a unique place, one where staff and students are proud to belong. Please do look at our website and our twitter page @soarvalley16 to gain more information and a flavour of what we are about. Visits are welcomed; please just contact us.

January 2019