



**Somercotes
Academy**

Prospectus 2020-2021



Tollbar MAT
Family of Academies



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Welcome to Somercotes Academy. In this prospectus, you will discover some of the reasons why Somercotes has become such a popular choice of school and why more and more students are taking up the opportunities that the Academy provides.

There could not be a better time for your child to join Somercotes Academy. In November 2018, Ofsted judged the Academy as "Good". Inspectors stated that investment from Tollbar Multi Academy Trust has been "instrumental in improving the school environment, the security of the site and the recruitment of high-quality staff" and comment on "the quality of teaching and learning and the effectiveness of pastoral care". Students at Somercotes Academy are provided with exceptionally high teaching standards along with the best possible learning environments and educational resources that students, parents and the local community can be proud of.

All students, whatever their ability, are supported both academically and pastorally. We will ensure that there are opportunities for every student to achieve their maximum potential within a secure and caring environment. All staff are determined to provide the best possible education for the young people in their care and we are committed

to developing rounded individuals who are prepared with skills for their futures. Indeed, 2019 the Progress 8 Scores placed the Academy in the top 4 non-selective schools in Lincolnshire.

I hope that this prospectus provides you with the information you require for your child to have a smooth transition to secondary school. We hope that your child will join our Somercotes community and become part of our continuing story of success.

Frances Green
Principal



Mission Statement

As an Academy Somercotes will:

- Enable students to experience an exciting and creative climate and we create opportunities for every individual to achieve their maximum potential.
- Prepare students for active local, national and global citizenship.
- Provide a secure, caring environment for each individual student.
- Encourage students to follow a healthy lifestyle.
- Promote an international understanding through a rich and extended curriculum.
- Promote an international business and enterprise culture and ethic alongside the goal of general academic excellence.
- Focus our determination to maintain the Academy at the leading edge of educational innovation.
- Reinforce and extend the links the Academy has with its partners and the local, national and world wide community.
- Raise the overall standard of teaching and learning.
- Accept that our first responsibility is to our clients, to meet their needs and provide outstanding service.
- Adopt a philosophy of continuous improvement in every aspect of the Academy's work and life.

We are committed to honesty and responsibility in all relationships, respecting the legitimate rights of individuals and stressing the importance of social awareness and sensitivity.



Admissions and Induction

Transition Arrangements

Parents can apply for a place at a secondary school from September 2020 for the Year 7 September 2021 intake. The admission booklets "Going to Secondary School in Lincolnshire" and "The Lincolnshire School Admissions Guide" are available to download at <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-admissions/apply-school-place>

The preferred method for applying for a Year 7 place is online. You can also apply by telephoning the Customer Service Centre on 01522 782030. Alternatively you can request a paper application using the same number. If you have any queries or problems applying for a place at the Academy then please contact us at the Academy.

All parents are informed of their allocation in March 2021. You will receive a single offer of a place. You must officially accept a place that is offered at Somercotes by 13th March 2021.

If you are unsuccessful at this stage, you will be offered the right of an appeal. If you wish to appeal for a place at Somercotes, contact Admissions at the Academy and request an Appeals Form.

Please return the completed form to the Academy. All appeals are heard by an independent appeals panel.

"Casual" transfers relate to transfers other than from Year 6 to Year 7. If you would like your child to change secondary schools, you should initially discuss the matter with your child's current school. If you still wish to proceed, please contact the Academy to request a Transfer Application Form.

Making the transition to Somercotes Academy

Our co-ordinated scheme for Year 6 to Year 7 transfer minimises problems and concerns and ensures that students make the transition from Primary School to Somercotes with confidence.

In June, Year 6 students transferring to the Academy receive a visit from a Somercotes teacher who collects information about friendship groups and

siblings. This teacher also addresses concerns and answers any questions that students may have.

High priority is given to keeping family groupings, siblings and friendship groups together as far as possible. If there are any concerns or special requests, parents should telephone the Academy and we will do our best to comply with your requests.

Open Evening

The Open Evening at the beginning of September is our main event where parents and students can visit all areas of the Academy and meet students and staff. If parents cannot attend our Open Evening, individual appointments to visit during the Academy day can be made by telephoning 01507 353459.

Induction days to enjoy

The next step is the Primary Induction Days. All students transferring to Somercotes Academy will take part in two full days of activities involving a wide range of subjects.

The induction days in the summer term also acquaint new starters with the Academy's surroundings and provides an opportunity to meet staff and other students.

At Somercotes Academy, we recognise that transferring to a new school is a major step in the life of a young person.

For this reason, in addition to the standard procedures that have to be followed, we have our own co-ordinated scheme for Year 6 to Year 7 transfer.



Admissions

Induction

New Intake Parents' Evening

Parents of our new September intake students are invited to a parents' evening where they are given information on House Groups. They also will meet their child's House tutor.

The evening begins with a talk from the Principal and the Vice Principal and parents will have the opportunity to ask individual questions.

Students With Additional Needs

For students with Special Educational Needs our SEN Co-ordinator will attend reviews from Year 5 onwards, if invited by Primary Schools. Parents are encouraged to make individual appointments with our SENCo to discuss their child's specific needs.

Prior Assessment Arrangements

Your child will be placed in an ability band within the year group. This is determined by your child's Key Stage 2 results.



Curriculum

Somercotes Academy students enjoy a broad and balanced curriculum that prepares them for adult life.

- Our curriculum is designed to be flexible to allow for personalised learning.
- All students in Lower Secondary (Years 7 & 8) follow a curriculum which prepares them for GCSE studies in Years 9, 10 and 11.

Setting

Typically, one band will contain those students who have achieved higher KS2 scores in Maths whereas the other band will contain those students who have achieved higher scores in KS2 English.

There are opportunities throughout the year for movement between the bands.

Class sizes

Class sizes are kept as small as possible. The current Year 7 have an average class size of 24.

Equipment required

All students are required to have their own basic items each day. These include pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, basic small set of colouring pencils, protractor, compasses and a scientific calculator. Students are advised to own a small dictionary, a thesaurus and small French / Spanish dictionary.



Music tuition at Somercotes

During the last five years we have invested heavily in providing an excellent music service at Tollbar MAT. Our music staff offer a wide range of extracurricular music groups and perform regularly both in and out of the Academy. In addition to our music staff, we also employ highly qualified and respected freelance music teachers (music service accredited) for instrumental and singing lessons.

The lessons take place during the Academy day but rotate so that students do not miss the same curricular lesson each week. There are many opportunities to perform throughout the year and all students taking lessons within the Academy are expected to belong to one of the ensemble groups or choirs.



The Academy Day for Year 7 and 8 students (a continuous school day)

08:50	Warning Bell
08:55	Pastoral
09:15	Period 1
10:05	Period 2
10:50	Break (20 minutes)
11:10	Period 3
12:00	Lunch (40 minutes)
12:40	Period 4
13:30	Period 5
14:25	Period 6
15:10	End of Day

Assessment

Target Setting

Students are set targets which are challenging yet realistic and attainable. They are discussed with students and reviewed regularly.

It has been proved that effective target setting raises significantly the attainment of students.

Assessment and Monitoring

Somercotes students are regularly assessed to ensure that their progress is monitored. Individual guidance and support is given in order to keep students on track.

Assessment in the Academy consists of:

- NFER tests in reading, spelling and maths.
- Internal examinations.
- On-going teacher assessment of work.
- Progress Point Assessments (PPs)

Internal assessments are utilised to measure each child's progress based upon their KS2 starting point.

Somercotes Academy students are set individual targets that challenge and motivate them to achieve their full potential.

Reporting Progress to Parents

Regular communication is maintained with parents who receive an annual written report on progress. In addition, the Academy issues a termly assessment report that shows baseline information and internal data showing your child's progress. A meeting is held for parents before the first report is issued to explain in detail what the various information means. Parents' evenings provide the opportunity for staff and parents to discuss any concerns - and for staff to highlight particular achievements.



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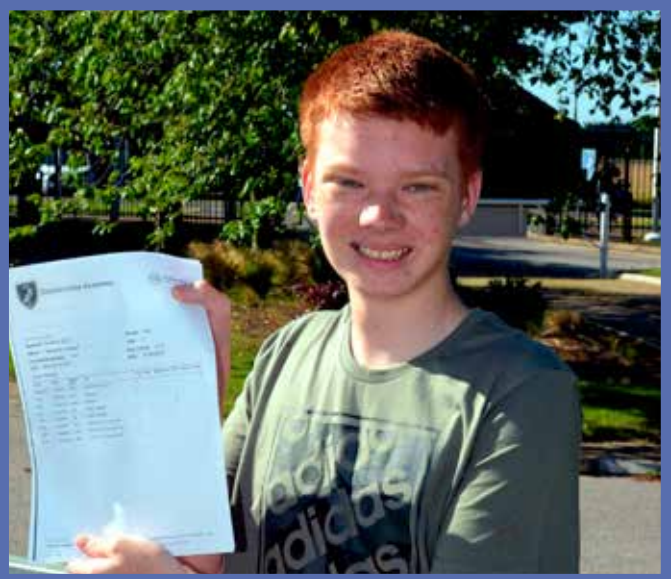
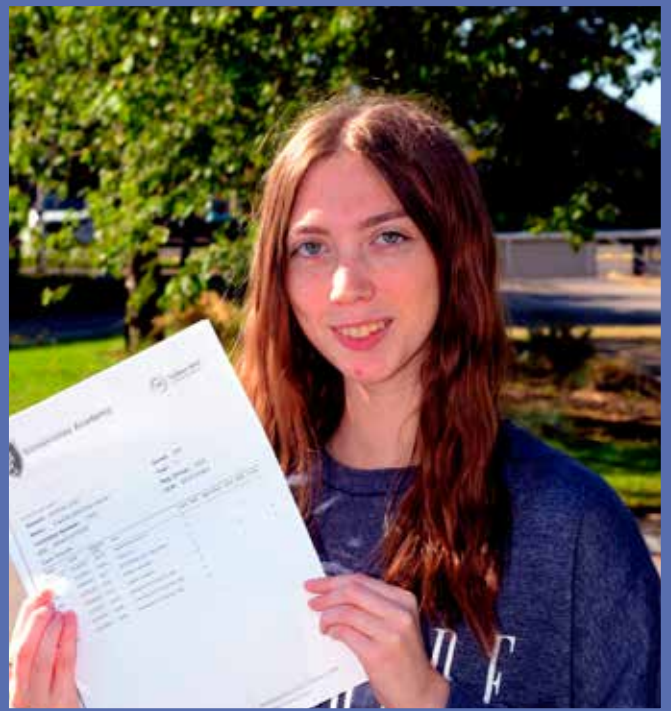


GCSE EXAMINATION RESULTS 2020

Five years after Somercotes Academy became a member of Tollbar Multi Academy Trust, students again achieved excellent results in GCSE examinations with students making strong progress against their starting points despite Covid-19 disruption.

Under the new system, subjects are marked from Grades 1-9, with a standard pass being a Grade 4 and a strong pass being a Grade 5. At Somercotes Academy, 80.8% of English students and 61.5% of Maths students achieved Grades 9-4 (a standard pass) with 32.7% of students achieving a strong pass in both subjects.

Individual subjects were also notable for their achievements including: Biology, Chemistry, Physics where 100% of students achieved a standard pass. In Art 90% achieved a standard pass; in History 88.5% of students achieved a standard pass and in Geography 78.9 % achieved a standard pass.





Pastoral

Our induction days start the process of acquainting students with their new surroundings and this continues on the first day at Somercotes.

Staff and other students do their best to help our new starters to settle in and to address any worries they may have about moving to their new school.

House Groups

Somercotes is divided into three houses named after constellations in the night sky - Cetus, Dorado and Volans - each of which have tutor groups with approximately 24 students.

Each tutor group has an older student as a Prefect and includes five or six students from each year group, creating a family unit that gives continuity throughout Academy life.

The First Day for New Year 7 students

On arrival at Somercotes, new students assemble in the hall where they are collected by Prefects from their tutor groups.

A tutor period follows which lasts until morning break and provides the opportunity to get to know the rest of the House Group.

New students are introduced to the Academy by older students and given their timetable. They will also have a discussion with their House Tutor in which they can talk about any concerns they may have and sort out any problems.

The tutor will go through all Academy procedures including standards of behaviour and what will be needed for lessons.

When lessons start, staff will always ensure that students know where they should go for their next period so that new entrants have no worries about getting lost.

Lunch Arrangements

Somercotes operates a continuous Academy day, with Years 7 and 8 taking lunch at 12 noon and the remainder of students at 12:50pm. This means that only half of the Academy students are on their lunch break at any one time which helps new students settle in.

House Structure

Each house is led by a pastoral manager responsible for student guidance. An Assistant Principal is responsible for transition from Year 6 to Year 7 and for giving continued support to the new year group throughout the year. An Assistant Principal has overall responsibility for the pastoral system.

In addition, new students who need it, have the support of the Special Education Needs Co-ordinator (Assistant Principal - Special Needs) during the transition period.

Assemblies

Assemblies are held in house groups or in year groups and are led by Heads of House or a senior member of staff

Learning Support

Literacy and Numeracy support is provided with a personalised programme meeting the needs of individual students.

Student Planner

Each student is issued with an Academy planner, which includes: the Behaviour Policy; helpful sections on Literacy and Numeracy and a great deal of other information designed to help students settle into Academy life.

The planner also has sections to record homework and merits. It helps students organise their work and take responsibility for their own learning.

The planner is an important means of communication between parents and the Academy.

Every Somercotes student is treated as an individual. We believe that success is achieved by recognising and responding positively to each student's particular skills, talents and needs.

Positive Reward System

We insist on high standards of work, behaviour and dress at all times.

We value our students and believe in recognising their achievements, not only with praise but with Merits.

Years 7 and 8 earn Merits for exceptional work, outstanding effort, very good attendance, involvement in extra curricular activities and service to the community.

Certificates are awarded at various levels, together with gift vouchers for those collecting high numbers of Merits.

Homework

All students are expected to spend between 7 to 10 hours a week on homework.

The planner gives clear advice on how to organise homework and where to access helpful information.

Homework Club

For any student needing help, or who would like access to a computer, Homework Club runs at lunchtimes and after school on certain days depending on need.

Uniform

Somercotes is proud of its high standard of uniform. This makes the Academy stand out and gives our students a real feeling of identity.

All students must wear the Academy blazer, black trousers, a white shirt, the Academy tie and black shoes. Trainers and boots are NOT allowed. Coats and jackets should be black. Sportswear, blazers and ties are available from Uniform Direct. This ensures good quality garments at a reasonable price.

Our high standards also extend to personal appearance, for example, we do not allow extreme hair styles, such as Mohicans and vivid or two tone hair colour is not acceptable. All hair styles should be blended.

Home-College Agreement

Parents and students are required to sign an agreement to uphold the high standards set by the Academy in terms of dress and behaviour.

Student Council

The Academy actively seeks the views of the students. Students have the opportunity to be a member of their House Student Council and the Academy Student Council. All students can put forward ideas to be debated.

Extra Curricular

Somercotes offers a large number of clubs and societies which take place at lunchtime and after school and range from sport to music, drama and art.

Medical

If a student is absent through illness, parents should notify the Academy immediately by telephone and provide a note on their child's return.

For a student on regular medication, parents are asked to complete the relevant medical form. All medication is lodged in the Medical Room.

Should a student become ill during the day, staff will issue a medical note and send the student to the Medical Room. If it is felt necessary, parents will be notified to collect their child.

Transport Arrangements

At the end of the Academy day, all students catching a bus go to the hall where they wait until told to board a bus by a member of staff. Parents need to apply to Lincolnshire County Council for a bus pass if their child will be travelling on a Lincolnshire County Council bus. Students travelling from Grimoldby, Manby, Holton Le Clay, Tetney and surrounding villages have a bus service operated by the Academy. Parents should contact the Academy for a bus pass. If you have any queries regarding transport please contact the office at Somercotes Academy.

Student Support and Safety

Somercotes staff are well aware that most students feel apprehensive when moving schools. If children have any worries, they must not keep these to themselves but should let someone help them. Students can talk to their form tutor, head of house or a senior member of staff. There is also a counsellor available if required.

In order to ensure that students are safe in the Academy, there is CCTV coverage around the site.





Somercotes Academy



www.somercotesacademy.co.uk

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