

## **WEAVERHAM HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION PACK**

### **School Population**

Weaverham High School is an 11 – 16 comprehensive school situated on the edge of Weaverham ‘village’ near Northwich in Cheshire. It serves the surrounding villages of Weaverham, Sandiway, Cuddington, Delamere Park, Acton Bridge, Crowton and Whitley. However, owing to its popularity and success, the school is over-subscribed and now comprises 1040 pupils drawn additionally from Hartford, Northwich and Winsford along with their surrounding villages. Over 40% of the pupils are now from ‘out-of-zone’ areas and approximately 11% of pupils are in receipt of free school meals.

### **Situation**

Weaverham enjoys very good transport links, being close to both the A49 and A556 with fast links to both the M6 and M56. A mainline railway station is 5 minutes away and Manchester International Airport only 25 minutes away. Traditionally ICI was the major employer in the area but this has been replaced by a number of smaller employers and now many parents utilise the excellent transport links to work in Warrington, Chester, Liverpool, Manchester or beyond.

The school is situated on the edge of the open Cheshire countryside providing easy access to areas for walking, riding, cycling, sailing and canoeing. The National Parks of North Wales, the Peak District and the Lake District are all within easy transport reach. More cosmopolitan attractions can be found in nearby Chester, Manchester and Liverpool – all of which lie within 35 minutes of travel.

Further information about the surrounding area can be found at [www.marketingcheshire.co.uk/media-centre](http://www.marketingcheshire.co.uk/media-centre)

### **Facilities**

Although the original school buildings date from 1956, there have been significant additions in recent years. An extensive refurbishment and building programme has taken place to include a sports hall, an all-weather pitch, a purpose-built science block, creative arts centre which includes a fully-equipped drama studio, a new library and learning resource center.

A major Design and Technology extension and 3 additional classrooms were completed in November 2007 and in March 2011 a new Art Block was constructed to replace temporary accommodation. There have also been full refurbishments of the Maths block, ICT and Design & Technology areas and a programme of major refenestration was recently completed.

The school is planned to expand to an entry of 240 over the next 2 years and a building programme began in January 2017 which will be completed in summer 2018. This has resulted in 2 new science labs and also will provide an additional 6 teaching spaces.

The PC-based computer network comprises 380-workstations. This includes 5 rooms equipped for whole class use of computers. These rooms are re-equipped on a rolling programme. Each teaching room is equipped with a desktop computer and digital projector or interactive screen for teacher use. Wi-Fi is installed throughout the school. There are 6 class sets of iPads which are used throughout the school and a widely used VLE based on Frog OS.

### **Specialist School Status**

Following the demise of specialisms in the October 2010 spending review, the Governing Body considered carefully the distinctive features of Weaverham High School. It was agreed that as the school moves forward an emphasis on high achievement, the use of new technology and the development of leadership skills within our pupils will be key elements of the school’s distinctive offer.

## Academic Success

The school has a well-established pattern of academic success which has been consistent over several years. Despite its comprehensive intake the school achieves results well above the national average reflecting significant 'value-added'.

|      | % 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE (inc Eng & Maths) | % 1 or more A*-G grades at GCSE | Average Capped Points Score | Attainment 8 | Progress 8 |
|------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|
| 2014 | 69                                                | 99                              | 340                         |              |            |
| 2015 | 77                                                | 100                             | 344                         |              |            |
| 2016 | 74                                                | 99                              | 349                         | 56.18        | +0.30      |
| 2017 | 70                                                | 99                              |                             | 48.90        | +0.02      |

We are not complacent regarding the challenges facing the school as we seek to raise standards even further. These include improving the consistency of achievements by boys as well as girls, increasing the achievement of Pupil Premium pupils, and improving further the quality of teaching and learning.

## The Curriculum

The school day begins at 8.30am and the timetable is based around five 60 minute lessons each day. The School operates a 2 week timetable. Responsibility for overseeing the curriculum lies with Brigid Night, Deputy Headteacher (Pupil Learning).

### Key Stage 3

All pupils follow courses in:

English, Mathematics, Science, Design and Technology, ICT, History, Geography, Religious Studies, French, German, Music, Drama, Art, Physical Education, Citizenship and PSHE.

Pupils in Year 7 - 9 are taught in ability banded groups. This is complemented by setting in Maths, English and Design & Technology. Pupils in the H and S bands received additional English and Maths lessons to develop their key skills.

The curriculum is enhanced by Learning Skills Days. The days require pupils to work in teams on cross-curricular projects in order to develop their skills for learning.

### Key Stage 4

*All pupils study for GCSE examination:*

- Mathematics
- English
- Science

*All pupils study but are not examined in:*

- Citizenship, Health Education and Careers
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies

*Pupils select four subjects from:*

French, German, Spanish, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Music, Drama, Art, Computing, Business Studies, Physical Education, Triple Science, Dance (BTEC), Food Technology, Graphic Products, Resistant Materials, Systems & Control.

Pupils who are likely to proceed to study A Levels or go to university are strongly encouraged to follow the English Baccalaureate range of subjects and all pupils take at least 3 subjects from the EBacc 'pot'.

### **Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education**

Throughout their time in the school all pupils follow a programme of PSHCE. In Key Stage 3 the delivery is through the tutor team, whereas in Key Stage 4 it is delivered both by tutors and by specialist staff who deliver Health Education. All pupils have one tutor-led PSHCE lesson per 2 week cycle.

### **Teaching and Learning**

Our expectations regarding the learning experience for pupils are encapsulated in our “Every-day Excellence” framework. This makes clear our expectations regarding classroom practice. This is supported by resource and exemplar materials. The further development of Teaching and Learning practice is facilitated through each teacher being part of a professional development programme.

### **Access and Achievement**

The Access and Achievement Team brings together the work of the Pupil Support Team, the SEN team, Careers Staff, those delivering small group tuition and the Achievement Coordinators. It is led by Clare Morgan, Deputy Headteacher (Pupil Progress and Intervention).

Overall responsibility for pastoral care is taken by Assistant Headteacher, Phil Young. The pupil support team comprises Heads of Year, Pastoral Support Managers, Family Support Worker and Attendance staff.

On starting the school in Year 7 a pupil joins a tutor group. Pupils remain in this tutor group as they move through the school. In most cases the group will have the same tutor throughout their time in the school. Heads of Year move through the school with their cohort of pupils.

The school employs 5 Pastoral Support Managers to support Heads of Year, 2 Achievement Co-ordinators and a Family Support Worker. The Pastoral Support Managers support pupils with particular pastoral issues, while the Achievement Co-ordinators support pupils to establish good work habits. The Family Support Worker supports families in the school as well as those in our partner primary schools.

### **Attendance**

Monitoring of attendance is carried out by Tutors, Heads of Year, the Assistant Head and the Attendance Admin Support. A very small minority of pupils have a history of poor attendance and three prosecutions of parents have occurred in the last 18 months for poor attendance. We use PARS to facilitate lesson by lesson registration.

|                  | <b>Attendance Rate</b> | <b>Absence</b> | <b>Persistent Absence</b> |
|------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>2012-2013</b> | 95.0%                  | 5.0%           | 5.3%                      |
| <b>2013-2014</b> | 95.6%                  | 4.4%           | 4.8%                      |
| <b>2014-2015</b> | 95.4%                  | 4.6%           | 4.6%                      |
| <b>2016-2017</b> | 95.2%                  | 4.8%           | 10.2% *                   |

\*Note changed definition of persistent absence

### **Behaviour**

The behaviour of the vast majority of pupils is very good, as has been recognised repeatedly by the Ofsted Inspections. In September 2015 following a wide consultation with pupils, we have placed greater emphasis on rewards and more clearly stated our expectations of pupil behaviour. Individual pupils collect merit marks which lead to a “Golden Ticket” and a prize draw each term. An inter-form competition based on merit

marks, attendance, charity fund raising and sports competitions is held within each year group. Trips to Disneyland, Paris and Alton Towers have occurred for winning form groups in the last two years.

### **Monitoring of Pupil Progress**

Each pupil receives a full written report each year, based on their progress over the year, their current attainment at key stage 3 or GCSE grade, and their targets for improvement. A parents' evening is held for each year group during the year. Additionally parents receive two brief progress reports as well as full progress report during each academic year. These monitor the effort and progress of pupils against their targets based on prior attainment.

### **Child Protection**

The school is committed at the highest level to safeguarding children. Clare Morgan (Deputy Headteacher) is the Child Protection Officer and all members of the Pupil Support Team regularly receive training in Child Protection. All applicants for posts at the school and all those working in the school in a volunteer capacity are expected to satisfactorily undergo a newly completed enhanced DBS check. Existing DBS checks are not deemed to be satisfactory for staff members employed by the school.

All candidates will be expected to provide the appropriate documentation, as well as proof of qualifications as part of the interview process. In addition during interview, candidates will be asked questions regarding safeguarding children, to ensure that they are familiar with good practice and apply this in their own working.

All members of staff are expected to comply with the school's Professional Relationships Policy which governs relationships between members of staff and pupils. This policy outlines the nature of communications as well as what can be regarded as appropriate behaviour. Failure to comply with requirements of this policy may result in dismissal. The school has a staff dress code which all employees and volunteers are expected to follow.

### **Extra-curricular Provision**

The extensive extra-curricular programme is a distinctive feature and a strength of the school, which has been recognised as outstanding by Ofsted. The wide range of school Physical Education activities includes: *Rugby, Hockey, Football, Netball, Volleyball, Cross-Country, Table Tennis, Badminton, Dance, Athletics, Tennis, Cricket, Rounders, and Gymnastics*. School teams operate in the sports listed along with regular Saturday morning, fixtures. Pupils are selected regularly to represent the district, county or national teams.

The school offers a wide range of Creative Arts opportunities. These include learning to play a musical instrument through our programme of subsidised music lessons, an annual production and concerts at Christmas and in the summer. Recent productions have included *West Side Story, The Wizard of Oz, High School Musical, Joseph and Grease*. We currently have 2 choirs, junior and senior bands, a jazz band, a steel band, and a number of ensembles.

Over 100 pupils each year participate in the Duke of Edinburgh award programme. The school has its own Duke of Edinburgh license and is one of the largest suppliers of D of E candidates in the North West. This programme, combined with our pupil leadership development programme, contributes significantly to the personal development of our pupils.

Each year we organise a number of trips and residential activities. During the last year there were residential visits to the Condover Hall near Shrewsbury, 2 Modern Foreign Languages exchanges, work experience and Christmas market trips to Germany and France, First World War Battlefields trip, a ski trip, water sports summer trip, as well as theatre trips and visits to major sporting events.

In addition an enrichment programme is operated to bring expertise into school which we do not possess among our own staff. Pupils are asked to make a contribution towards the cost of these courses and currently activities include: *driving lessons, first aid, swimming, dry slope skiing, golf, beauty therapy, trampolining, fencing, archery, self-defence and climbing*.

## Leadership Structure

### Senior Leadership Team

The membership of the Senior Leadership Team currently comprises:

David Charlton: *Headteacher*

Brigid Night: *Deputy Headteacher*  
*Pupil Learning*

Clare Morgan: *Deputy Headteacher*  
*Pupil Progress and Intervention*

Carolyn Stratton: *Assistant Headteacher*  
*Personnel Development*

Phil Young: *Assistant Headteacher*  
*Pupil Support and Well Being*

Phil Morris: *Assistant Headteacher*  
*Daily Organisation and Strategic use of ICT*

2 Middle Leaders are currently seconded to the Senior Leadership Team for 1 year.

### Leadership Teams

Meetings of the Curriculum Team (Heads of Faculty/Department) and of the Pupil Support Team are held monthly along with a department meeting and a Year Team meeting within each month.

### Departmental Structure

The school is organised at present through a mixture of faculty and department teams. Currently Science, Maths, English, Technology and Modern Foreign Languages are organised through faculty teams, while Physical Education, Art, Music, Drama, History, Computing, Geography and Religious Education meet as faculties for teaching and learning activities but are arranged on a department basis.

### Support Staff

In addition to the 70 members of the teaching staff there are another 54 members of the support staff.

These include:

|    |                                   |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 13 | Office and administration staff   |
| 1  | Librarian                         |
| 1  | Exams Officer                     |
| 18 | Learning Support Assistants       |
| 5  | Pastoral Support Managers         |
| 2  | Achievement Coordinators          |
| 1  | Family Support worker             |
| 3  | Cover Supervisors                 |
| 2  | Science technicians               |
| 2  | Design and Technology technicians |
| 4  | Site staff                        |
| 1  | ICT Network administrator         |
| 1  | ICT Technician                    |
| 3  | Midday Supervisors                |
| 12 | Cleaners                          |

**Governing Body**

The school is supported by a well qualified and committed Governing Body which was reconstituted in April 2015 to comprise only 12 members. They meet as a full body 6 times each year and have a number of committees which include:

- Executive Committee
- Finance Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Pupil Progress Committee

9 members of the Governing Body have children who are pupils or former pupils of the school.

**Foundation Status**

In September 2010 the school adopted Foundation Status. This transferred some of the powers of the Local Authority to the Governing Body (including being the employer of staff). It made little difference to the day to day operation of the school.

**Academy Status**

The Governing Body continues to examine the issue of Academy status and have expressed its preferred option as being to join the Sir John Brunner Foundation MAT along with Sir John Deane's 6<sup>th</sup> form College and other good and outstanding local secondary schools. Subject to the satisfactory resolution of the Trust Articles and the Scheme of Delegation, this conversion is expected to take place as soon as possible after the completion of the building work.

The Sir John Brunner Foundation is expected to be established on a cooperative basis with each academy retaining its own individual identity and ethos. Each academy will retain its own Headteacher/Principal and leadership will be provided through a collaborative Headteacher Board. The initial trustees will be nominated by those schools establishing the MAT.

Within the Sir John Brunner Foundation there is a strong commitment to reduce corporate identity and branding to a minimum, with the Multi Academy Trust operating in the background. Although over time economics of scale will become evident and provide a sensible option, it is envisaged that initially each academy will remain responsible for its own procurement of services.