

WICKERSLEY SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

“An Outstanding School” – Ofsted 2008



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THE SCHOOL AND ITS LOCATION

All schools have a different feel when you walk into them. Visitors to Wickersley often tell us that their first impressions are of a calm, purposeful and business like site with friendly and welcoming pupils.

We are a Sports College and, amongst other things, we use sport to help to create a healthy and happy school population. We are also a Community School and we want to do what we can to develop the cultural life of the village as well as enhance its economic well-being. Above all, we want **all** of our pupils to achieve the highest standards of which they are capable. For those who need additional help we have a modern and well resourced CSA (Curriculum Support Area), for those who need additional challenge and stimulation we have a successful Gifted and Talented Programme, and for everyone we have talented and energetic teachers and support staff who use pupil profile data to identify potential and to develop it to the full through targeted teaching.

Our School is an oversubscribed 11-18 co-educational comprehensive school drawing its intake from six main Primary Schools. The number on roll presently is 2000 plus including 466 in the Sixth Form. Many of our students go on to University including Oxford and Cambridge, and we have a commitment to all pupils to fulfill their potential both academic and social.

We are officially one of the Governments “High Performing” Schools and we have a second specialism (Maths and Computing). Our second subject for our first specialism, Sport, is Science. We became an “Outstanding” School in November 2008 and we have more recently been awarded Teaching School Status.

Wickersley is an attractive and prosperous village with good motorway links. We are, for example, fifteen minutes from the centre of Sheffield, ten minutes from the centre of Rotherham and one hour from the Peak District and Yorkshire Dales. There is a tangible community feel.

Our Ethos

The School exists to serve the needs of people. Teaching and learning is our core business and we believe this is best achieved in a traditional school atmosphere where all individuals are expected to behave politely and responsibly. Co-operation and collaboration is encouraged and students of all ages understand the need to set realistic but aspirational targets for themselves. The School has an excellent reputation and our children enjoy coming here. We place a high priority on pupils as individuals.

Management

Faculty Leaders, Heads of Department and Heads of Year have a key role to play in implementing and monitoring school policies and the School Development Plan. Faculty Leaders occupy a central role in designing the syllabuses, maintaining standards and assisting less experienced colleagues. They meet

regularly with a Deputy Head to discuss and co-ordinate policies and set targets. The Form Tutors play an increasingly important role in monitoring and reviewing the academic progress of pupils, in addition to dealing with pastoral issues. Tutor Teams meet regularly under the leadership of Heads of Year and their Assistants, who in turn review policies in a Pastoral Group chaired by the Director of Student Development and Progress.

We have spent several hundreds of thousands of pounds on computers and we intend to continue spending in this area. All teaching staff have been provided with a laptop computer each and the School is fully connected by radio wave linking equipment. All computers, laptops and desktops 'talk' to each other. Communication (registration, E-mail etc) and data analysis have been greatly enhanced as a consequence. All new teachers to the School receive a laptop.

Over a hundred non-teaching support staff work with the teaching staff. They play a pivotal role in our success.

Those students of secondary school age in Rotherham LEA who have a hearing impairment have the opportunity to attend Wickersley where there are two specialist teachers of the deaf and two specialist Non-teaching Assistants. For most lessons, hearing impaired pupils are integrated into the mainstream and, for many, signing will take place.

Buildings

An £11 million plus PFI Programme of building work has recently been completed and we have very good facilities with excellent on-site playing fields (best in Yorkshire) and courts, a Sports Hall and two Gymnasias. We also have an excellent STP (all weather) – floodlit Football Pitch which can be used by our students and the local community. As a Sports College you might expect that sport flourishes vigorously within School. However, there is also strong Music and Drama with regular productions and concerts involving both pupils and staff. Our specialist school status affords us many advantages, and these advantages extend to **all** Departments in School not just sport.

As teaching vacancies arise we seek to recruit staff who can bring commitment, imagination and a high level of professionalism to a staff that already has those attributes to the highest degree and where the atmosphere is purposeful, but relaxed and comfortable. High expectation is at the centre of all that we do.

We look forward to hearing from you.