



The Redhill Academy

Introduction

The Redhill Academy is a large, mixed secondary school in the residential district of Arnold, some four miles north of the centre of Nottingham. It caters for students across the 11-18 age and ability ranges, and currently has approximately 1500 students on roll, including a Post 16 of 250. The Academy's most recent OFSTED inspection in March 2013 recognised it as an outstanding school. We became an academy in December 2010. We have been designated by the DfE as a National Support School and our Principal, Andrew Burns, is a National Leader of Education. In April 2012 we became a National Teaching School and currently lead an alliance of over thirty five other schools. The Redhill Academy Trust consists of 15 academies and caters for over 10,000 students over the full 13-19 age range.

The academy has five feeder primary schools in the catchment area, as well as attracting students from further afield, and consequently the school is heavily oversubscribed. Students come from a variety of social backgrounds and represent the full ability range - the school is truly comprehensive. The majority of students continue with full-time education beyond the age of 16, a large proportion of them in the Post 16 Centre at Redhill, which continues to expand.

Staffing

Redhill has a teaching staff of 95 full-time equivalent, supported by 80 support staff, including a team of classroom support assistant and 5 cover supervisors. Redhill places a high emphasis on staff development and continually improving the quality of teaching and learning, mainly through the work of our Teaching School Alliance and the various subject networks which form a part of it.

We have also developed director of subject roles across the Trust with key staff responsible for ensuring consistency and high quality delivery in all schools. We have an excellent induction programme and a range of support activities for all new staff.

The appraisal cycle is seen as a helpful and supportive means of sharing good practice and complements our very active professional development programme. Vibrant teaching and learning communities further support on-going staff development.

The Leadership Team consists of the Principal, Head of School, two Deputy Headteachers, four Assistant Headteachers and a Business Manager. We know the crucial importance of maintaining a high profile around school as well as providing supportive line management to curriculum and pastoral teams.

The school is involved in Initial Teacher Training in partnership with the Universities of Nottingham and Trent, and as a Teaching School, do a lot of work with School Direct to lead a cohort of over twenty trainees across our Alliance.

Curriculum Organisation

At the academy, we operate a three year Key Stage 4 so that students now make their option choices in Year 8 and commence their GCSE/BTEC programmes of study in Year 9.

The academic organisation of the school is based on a faculty structure. A weekly timetable of 25 periods is currently in operation, each day being five periods of one hour each. Students are placed in two half year groups when they enter the school in Year 7, and are taught in mixed ability groups throughout the first year except in Mathematics and English where they are setted on entering the school. From the beginning of Year 8, the timetable is structured so that setting can take place wherever





The Redhill Academy

any department feels that it is appropriate. Some students, with a particular aptitude for languages may be invited to study German in addition to French in Year 8.

In Key Stage 4, all students continue to follow a similar core curriculum, but with a much greater element of choice allowing them to specialise in particular areas of strength or interest. Teaching groups are organised to meet the needs of individual students wherever possible. Vocational courses in Health & Social Care, ICT, Construction and Music Technology are offered and a GCSE short course in RE is compulsory for all Key Stage 4 students.

Students with particular learning difficulties are supported either in class, in small groups or on an individual basis. We also have a student support centre, to provide additional help and challenge for individual students so that our very high standards of student behaviour are maintained.

The Post 16 programme provides an extensive range of A Level courses, Level 3 and Level 2 BTecs, opportunities for re-sits in Mathematics and English, and a comprehensive enrichment programme.

Student Support

The school is organised vertically into five Houses; Africanus House, Green House, Knight House, Lawrence House and Smith House. Each House has its own Head of House and Achievement Co-ordinator. Nearly all staff are tutors or co-tutors and tutor groups are kept relatively small at around twenty students from the full 11-18 age range.

The Redhill Student Planner is used by all students in Key Stage 3. In Key Stage 4 students have a Student Organiser. These provide a useful channel of communication between home and school, and an opportunity for students to keep a record of their homework, targets and achievements. However, we now also publish homework online for students through a product called "Show My Homework" which has made it far more accessible for both students and their parents.

Links with Parents

Parents are supportive of the school and appreciate the caring and friendly atmosphere the academy generates. Considerable emphasis is placed on the Parents' Consultation Evenings which follow on from reports and interim reviews. A half-termly newsletter for parents, The Redhill Review, is a popular means of communication. Regular communication also takes place via letters home, notes in the student's planner, email, text messaging and the home page of the school website. In addition to all of this, we run a whole host of information evenings to help parents support the students in a variety of ways. We also conduct a bi-annual comprehensive survey to parents to seek their views on how they view the school's performance in meeting their child's needs. The results of this are posted on our website.

Extra-curricular Activities

There is an extensive range of extra-curricular activities at the school and all students are encouraged to participate. It is packaged together and promoted through the "Redhill Plus" brochure which also offers parents the option of ensuring their son or daughter is engaged in a supervised activity at the end of the school day.

The number of students involved in extra-curricular Performing Arts is a real feature of the school. There are regular music concerts and drama productions which attract large audiences. There is an extensive





The Redhill Academy

range of sporting activities including soccer, rugby, netball, volleyball, athletics, hockey, cricket and tennis.

Staff organise and lead many educational visits and trips, both at home and abroad. Weekend visits to France for Year 8 and an annual Battlefields trip to Belgium for Year 9 students take place in the Summer Term. A ski trip is offered to students in academies across the Redhill Trust. Music tours in recent years have included USA, Canada and Austria. Humanities trips have included popular visits to Poland and Berlin. We have also developed an exciting international link with two schools in Goa, India. Over the last five years this has already given twelve of our staff the opportunity to spend a week in a school in India as part of the exchange.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme is a flourishing additional opportunity for our students, and currently 50+ students are taking part.

A Careers and Aspirations Leader has responsibility for promoting and supporting students' decision making about their further options as they approach the end of Key Stage 4 and 5.

In conclusion

Redhill is a vibrant, successful and outstanding school that, through its Teaching School status, and under the Redhill Academy Trust is now influencing the education of thousands of local children. We seek to appoint hard-working, highly skilled and ambitious members of staff who want to join our team and improve the life choices of all the youngsters they work with.

Neil Matthews
Head of School

Andrew Burns
CEO and Director of Education

