
● Meadowhead School Academy Trust

a member of
The Meadowhead Community Learning Trust



Information for candidates 2019



Introduction

We would like to take this opportunity of offering you a warm welcome to Meadowhead School.

At Meadowhead we see the education of young people as a partnership between pupils, parents and school where each partner is clear about the contribution that is expected of them. We look to appoint teachers and support staff who share our philosophy.

Meadowhead School moved into new purpose built accommodation in 2007. We became a Trust school in 2009, setting up the Meadowhead Community Learning Trust (MCLT) in partnership with six feeder primary schools, Sheffield College, Sheffield University, Sheffield Hallam University and a number of local and national businesses. In August 2012, the school became a converter Academy.

We house our own Sixth Form currently teaching 26 A level courses and level 3 courses to over 220 students. We recently opened our new purpose built Sixth Form Centre.

Our expectations at Meadowhead are clear and easily understood. We expect a high standard of performance in all aspects of school life: in behaviour and attitude, in effort and attendance, in achievement and commitment, and in determination to make the most of individual ability. We care about progress and achievement, whether it is academic, creative or sporting. Above all our concern is to ensure that we provide the right conditions and opportunities for our pupils to enjoy their educational experience and to do their best to achieve their full potential and have the skills and confidence to make successful progression beyond school.

This is an exciting time in education as we rise to meet the perennial challenge of doing the very best for all students. We believe that this is best achieved by well lead, well trained staff who are confident, enthusiastic and talented, working in partnership with parents and the wider community.

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This document gives information about Meadowhead School for prospective job applicants. Further information about can be found on our website at www.meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk.

It is our intention to create and maintain the kind of atmosphere in which young people will feel secure enough to develop their abilities, happy enough to take on new challenges and sufficiently stimulated to achieve their full potential. That working atmosphere is built upon high standards and expectations. The school aims to maintain high standards of order, care and teaching and has high expectations of all members of the school community.

Meadowhead Statement of Aims

Introduction

Meadowhead is a popular and successful 11-18 school on the southern edge of the city of Sheffield, which serves, amongst others, the communities of Batemoor, Beauchief, Bradway, Greenhill, Jordanthorpe, Lowedges, Norton and Woodseats. The school was created out of the amalgamation of two schools, Rowlinson and Jordanthorpe, in 1988. Currently we have 1830 students on roll including 215 in the Sixth Form.

The Building

In January 2007, under PFI initiative, we moved into a purpose built, single site school designed to meet the needs of the 21st century. All curriculum areas have specialist accommodation in their own wings with well-equipped rooms and offices grouped together. There is a large central courtyard at the heart of the new building with the specialist teaching wings leading off from this. The ICT infrastructure facilitates the increased use and development of ICT throughout the school and all classrooms have interactive whiteboards and multi-media technology.

There are eight curriculum areas:

- The Modern Foreign Language area has additional facilities including two fully equipped language laboratories.
- Maths, English, Humanities and Science all have fully suited ICT rooms. The Science wing has eleven science laboratories and lecture room.
- In the Art, Design & Technology area there are facilities for Food Technology, Art, Textiles, 3-D Art including two kilns, an ICT suite and Design & Technology workshops with specialist equipment.
- In Physical Education, there is a full size sports hall, two activity rooms, a fitness suite and extensive playing fields including floodlit Astro turf facilities and multipurpose activity areas.
- Performing Arts has music rooms, practice rooms, recording studio, and drama studios linked to the main hall, which has a fixed stage for performances.
- There is a Learning Resource Centre, which includes a library and careers suite.
- There is also a specially designed Learning Support Centre encompassing learning, behaviour monitoring and mentoring. Support takes place in 1:1 and small group situations as well as within the classroom and the support units.

Curriculum

Meadowhead School's 'Signature Curriculum' is accessible to all learners. It consists of the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Languages, Health, Fitness & Well-being and Ethics with other experiences of Creative Arts, Performing Arts, History, Geography, Technology and ICT being personalised to students' needs and interests.

All students experience two-hours of Ethics from Year 7, which incorporates Religious Education and PSHE/Citizenship.

Personalisation is at the heart of all students' learning and is fully supported by the learning opportunities that make the very best use of new technologies and learning styles.

Language experience remains at the heart of our curriculum and most students study a language from Year 7. Some students have the opportunity to study a second language from Year 8 and all pupils are expected to study at least one language up to Year 11.

Progression routes is also a key factor of our curriculum, which enables all students to access the most appropriate courses giving them the best opportunities to progress further at Post-16 and beyond. Our programmes consist of GCSEs, vocational courses and work-related opportunities.

Our structures are designed to allow students to take assessments at the most appropriate time for the individual, and to increase opportunities to follow courses beyond Year 11.

E-learning is widening our scope for innovative teaching and on-line assessments. Our Meadowhead Learning Platform is opening up a world of learning opportunities and ways of communicating.

In Years 7 and 8 all students study:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Modern Foreign Language (French, German or Spanish – some Y8 students study two languages)
- History, Geography and Ethics
- Design and Technology (including Food Technology and Information Technology)
- Creative Arts - Art, 3-D Design, and Textiles
- Health, Fitness & Well-being, and Performing Arts (including Music and Drama)

In Years 9, 10 and 11, the school is committed to a wide amount of choice guided by the need to maintain breadth and balance, thus all students study:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Health, Fitness & Well-being
- Ethics

We are constantly reviewing our curriculum at KS4 curriculum offer to reflect changes in requirements outlined by the DFE, and to allow all students some choice of courses. Our priority is to offer opportunities to individual students that they will enjoy and will allow them the best chance to succeed and progress beyond the age of sixteen.

Many students study a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanities subject and are eligible to gain the full "e-Bacc" set of qualifications.

We advise all students to help them choose a broad and balanced curriculum that is appropriate for them. *All these courses listed lead to nationally recognised GCSE or vocational qualifications.*

Humanities:

- History
- Geography

Languages:

- French
- German
- Spanish

Technology:

- Technology
- Food Preparation and Nutrition

ICT:

- ICT
- Computing

Creative and Performing Arts:

- Art & Design
- Art & Design: 3-D Design
- Art & Design: Textiles
- Art & Design: Photography
- Music
- BTEC Music
- BTEC Acting
- BTEC Dance
- BTEC Health & Social Care

Further Courses:

- Triple Science
- Sports Studies
- BTEC Sport
- Religious Studies

We are continuing to develop courses that are more vocational in nature with more emphasis on practical and project work, and less on final written exams. The majority of students are able to gain at least 9 GCSE qualifications, or equivalent. Depending upon choices, it is possible to increase the number of qualifications gained.

Work Related Learning Curriculum:

For some students there is a work-related dimension, which includes qualifications at Foundation Level. Some students will enhance their work-related learning following courses in Hair & Beauty, Construction, Catering and Motor Vehicle Maintenance, all leading to recognised qualifications (these are currently being reviewed).

Sixth Form Courses:

In September 2010, we introduced Post-16 courses at Meadowhead School and gained Sixth Form status in 2013. We continue to build on the best that Meadowhead has to offer in establishing a sixth form provision fit for the 21st century.

We are also working with our Trust Partners, including Sheffield University, Sheffield Hallam University and The Sheffield College, to enable us to personalise the curriculum and offer our students the widest range of courses in the city with excellent guidance and support to progress in the future.

Facilities:

Our new purpose built Sixth Form Centre opened in November 2017 and provides students with a dedicated working environment which is an integral part of the school. We are developing our sixth form provision to take advantage of many new opportunities. The Sixth Form Centre contains teaching rooms, social space with a cafeteria and areas for private study. The centre is fully equipped with the latest ICT and wifi access.

Learner Success:

A personalised learning programme is in place for individual students about suitable courses and qualifications, based on their own interests and ambitions and supported by our detailed knowledge of their strengths and potential. Offers of places on sixth form courses are based on secure evidence with a high degree of confidence that the courses are appropriate for the individual.

As an 11-18 sixth form school, we have been able to offer a curriculum for our sixth form students to enable them to progress further. Currently, our sixth form programme allows students to access A-level courses in:

- English (Language, Literature)
- Maths, Further Maths and Core Maths
- Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, BTEC Science)
- Humanities (History, Geography, Sociology, Philosophy & Ethics, Psychology)
- Languages (French, German, Spanish)
- ICT
- PE (A level and BTEC Level 3)
- Art
- Art Textiles
- Product Design
- Business Studies (BTEC Level 3)
- Performing Arts (BTEC)
- Music
- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- Health and Social Care (BTEC Level 3)
- We also offer a Football Scholarship in partnership with Sheffield FC.

Curriculum Structure

All subjects are attached to specific curriculum areas led by a Curriculum Leader, with other posts of responsibility to support this. Each curriculum area has either a technician and/or an assistant to support their administration and/or technical work.

All staff are attached to a year group led by a Head of Year; the majority of teachers are Form Tutors.

Teaching and Learning is supported by a large number of non-teaching staff including Pastoral Managers, Cover Supervisors and Teaching Assistants.

Extra Opportunities

Meadowhead is justifiably proud of the opportunities it offers to pupils as extra-curricular activities and is keen to recruit staff who can extend or support this programme. The PE Faculty co-ordinate a whole range of after-school sports and consequently Meadowhead is well known for the quality and extent of its participation in sporting events, competing at all levels of sport with national success.

Equally, the school has a considerable reputation for the quality of its Music and Drama, which find joint expression each year with the July or Christmas School Production - an event which draws upon the energies that occur in a Meadowhead year. There are also talent shows, musical concerts and competitions where pupils get the opportunity to perform.

The school is always keen to encourage additional extra-curricular opportunities. We have a proud record of participation and success in local and national competitions in all curriculum areas.

Care of Pupils

Meadowhead School is the biggest school in Sheffield. The size of the school means that it enjoys good facilities but can also offer lots of opportunities, a wide range of courses, and can employ highly specialised staff. The school's size, however, places a special responsibility upon all staff to ensure that each individual pupil feels important, cared for, and part of the school, which is why pastoral care is integral to the social and academic development of every child. Equally, it is why we put such a great emphasis on the part played by their learning manager, Head of Year and the pastoral manager.

Together, these people guide their pupils in all aspects of school in order to make life as smooth and happy as possible, and to ensure that individual students achieve their potential. They also act as links, when necessary, between pupils and outside agencies such as the School Medical Services and Education Welfare Service.

Parents are welcome to contact Form Tutors, Heads of Year and Pastoral Managers at any time since we pride ourselves on our close cooperation with home.

This is an outward looking school that has strong links with the community and the world of work. It has a very active and supportive Governing Body.

Opportunities for staff and Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

We are looking to recruit staff who are committed to learning and developing.

We undertake to provide all newly appointed staff with a structured induction programme designed to support their initial year at Meadowhead School. For all staff, we seek to offer opportunities for continual professional development and are proud of the high proportion of staff that have taken advantage of these initiatives. Currently we are supporting staff through NPQH, Leading from the Middle, and Post-Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Management.

As a large school we have the expertise to offer excellent professional development and guidance for staff at all stages of their career.

We seek to recruit staff who take their job seriously but themselves rather less so. We want people who will support the school and be good colleagues. As important as all this we look for teachers who enjoy teaching and who genuinely like children.

Expectations of Staff

A Meadowhead member of staff is a good professional. Consultations with staff have defined a professional as being:

- reliable
- dedicated to the task
- committed to the development of young people
- enthusiastic
- questioning
- constructively critical,

and one who approaches colleagues, pupils and parents alike with:

- courtesy
- respect
- tact
- humour
- high expectations and standards
- tolerance

A staff collaboration produced the “Meadowhead Good Lesson Guide”, which is used as a template for every lesson and ensures consistency and high standards throughout the curriculum.

All staff are required to attend Faculty, Year Team and Staff Meetings.

The full calendar of meetings and events is published in the July preceding the relevant academic year. Up to date staff information is available via the school portal, which contains the daily and weekly events, agendas, minutes of meetings, information, and other news items.