



2025-26



Meadowhead School Prospectus

We Make a Difference



One of Yorkshire's
Top State Sixth Forms
SHEFFIELD STAR 2024

76% of all GCSE
grades awarded
were 9-4.
GCSE RESULTS 2024

62% of A Level
Grades A*-B.
A LEVEL RESULTS 2024



100% of students
would recommend
the school to a friend

**SIXTH FORM LEAVERS'
SURVEY 2025**

Welcome to Meadowhead School

I am exceptionally proud to be the Headteacher of Meadowhead School. Our school is a large comprehensive school that serves communities in the south and south-west of the city of Sheffield as well as North Derbyshire.

Meadowhead currently has nearly 2000 students on roll. Our size – as the largest school in Sheffield – brings many benefits including the diversity of our curriculum and our very expansive enrichment programme. While we have close relationships with our seven feeder schools (Abbey Lane, Bradway, Greenhill, Lowedges, Lower Meadow, Norton Free, Woodseats), our size also means students from other primaries in Sheffield and North Derbyshire can join the school as a direct result of parental preference.

At Meadowhead, our vision is to make a difference to the lives of our young people and this mission runs through the heart of the school's life. Through excellence and continual improvement, we aim to be the best we can possibly be for our current and future students.

The school's houses are named after inspirational figures who have made a difference in their chosen field or discipline and have a connection to Sheffield. These figures are Helen Sharman, Sue Pearson, Harry Brearley and Frederick Douglass. These figures emphasise the values of the school: to combine a strong academic education alongside fostering young people who can use such specialist skills and knowledge in a proactive and positive way.

Through a skilfully planned curriculum, enrichment experiences, high standards in teaching and pastoral care we fully prepare our students for entrance to further and higher education, high quality employment and the future careers of their choice. Our ambition is to develop and nurture young people to become well-rounded individuals with the characteristics to contribute fully to society with a strong sense of civic responsibility. We have high expectations of behaviour,

uniform and learning. We expect students to wear their full uniform correctly, have the required equipment, be punctual, attend well and behave respectfully to others at all times.

Our school has been a converter academy since 2011. This means that the school's governor body is solely responsible for the direction of the school and all decisions are taken locally in the best interests of Meadowhead families. All funding is invested directly into the education the school offers.

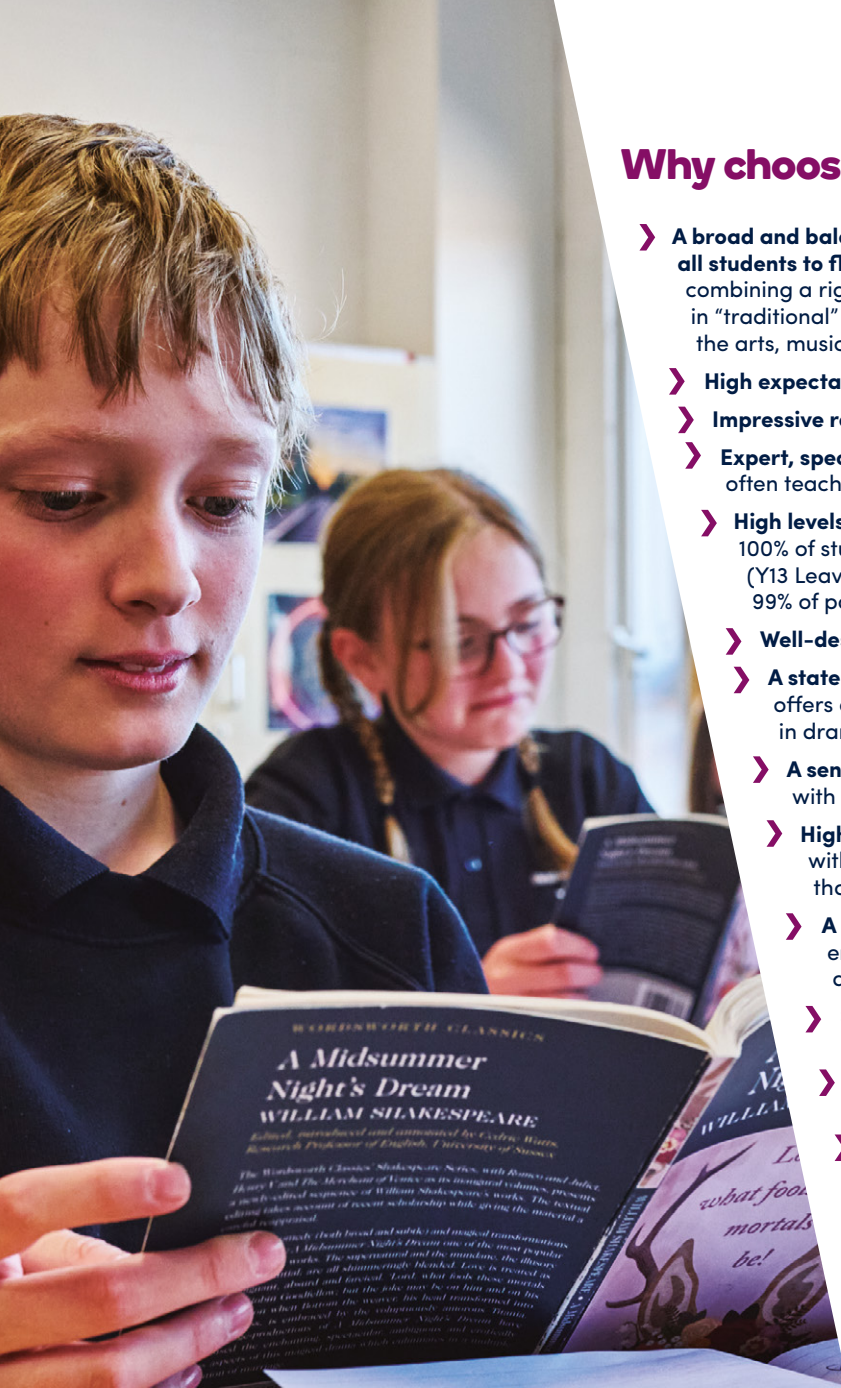
In 2009, the school set up the charity Meadowhead Together (formerly Meadowhead Community Learning Trust) to create the widest possible range of opportunities for the young people who attend Meadowhead and its feeder schools. Through Meadowhead Together, we work in partnership with others to equip students with the skills, attitudes and qualifications needed to lead fulfilling lives and to become responsible adults.

Choosing a secondary school is one of the most important decisions you will make and we hope that this prospectus and a visit to the school will provide you with the necessary information to help you make your choice.

Mrs Kam Grewal-Joy
Headteacher

"Pupils behave very positively. They are lively, confident, interested and kind. This is because everyone wants them to be successful."

OFSTED 2022



Why choose Meadowhead?

100% of Parents would recommend Meadowhead School to another parent.

Y11 PARENT SURVEY 2025

- › **A broad and balanced curriculum that allows all students to flourish**
combining a rigorous and demanding curriculum in “traditional” subjects with strengths in sport, the arts, music and performance
- › **High expectations of behaviour, conduct and uniform**
- › **Impressive record of academic success at GCSE and A Level**
- › **Expert, specialist teachers who go the extra mile**
often teachers work at Meadowhead for their entire career.
- › **High levels of student and parent satisfaction:**
100% of students would recommend the school to a friend (Y13 Leavers Survey 2025) as would 100% of parents in Y11 and 99% of parents in Y9 and Y12 (parents evening surveys 2024–25)
- › **Well-deserved reputation for excellence in pastoral care**
- › **A state-of-the-art building**
offers an excellent place to learn including specialist facilities in drama, dance, music, sports, design and the arts
- › **A sense of belonging**
with all students part of one of four houses
- › **Highly successful careers service**
with strong links to universities and employers that enables students to follow their aspirations
- › **A personal development programme**
ensures Meadowhead students develop the key skills and attributes to “Make a Difference” in their community.
- › **Student leadership at the heart of school life**
as Ofsted observed, “students have a voice at this school”.
- › **Strong connections to alumni who return to make a difference with current Meadowhead students**
- › **A rich and diverse offer of after-school clubs, trips and events**
- › **Success of Meadowhead Phoenix sports teams and support for individual athletes**
- › **All funding is invested in the education offered by the school**
and all decisions are made on site for the benefit of our students alone

Transition

At Meadowhead, we place a strong emphasis on making an early commitment to our new Year 7s and their families, ensuring every child feels known, supported, and ready to thrive.

Our transition journey begins as early as October with our Open Evening, offering families their first opportunity to connect with us and start becoming part of the Meadowhead community. From March onwards, our senior leader responsible for transition, visits feeder schools and larger non-feeder schools. This proactive work allows us to build meaningful relationships with pupils and staff, ensuring that every child is recognised, prepared, and supported well before September. In the Summer Term of Year 6, our transition programme expands further through a wide range of carefully designed experiences. These include dedicated afternoons for non-feeder pupils, personalised SEN visits, a uniform evening to support families, and two full transition days. During these events, pupils and parents take part in a rich programme of talks, tours, mentoring from student leaders, and structured parental meetings. Together, these experiences lay the foundations for strong relationships and a confident, successful start at Meadowhead.



Our Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to be ambitious and challenging, supporting all students to fulfil their potential in the world beyond school.

We aim to build students' cultural capital within each subject area giving them a foundation of knowledge to inspire success and a life-long love of learning.

Our selection of subjects is varied and balanced providing students with opportunities to explore different disciplines.

Our sequential curriculum is based on the enrichment of knowledge and the development of skills with numeracy and literacy embedded throughout.

"Excellent teaching and resources available and I feel really lucky to have gone to such a great school!"

2025 SIXTH FORM LEAVERS' SURVEY



Years 7, 8 and 9

In Years 7, 8 and 9, students follow a broad and balanced curriculum with a range of National Curriculum subjects. Our wide suite of subjects provides the foundations for future learning and opens up different pathways for future study. Subjects are taught in both mixed ability classes and groups based on a student's ability.

Years 10 and 11

Students have the opportunity to personalise their curriculum through the options process in Year 9. They are given subject and career guidance to allow them to make informed choices. We offer a wide range of both GCSE and BTEC courses for study in Year 10 and 11, all of which lead to recognised progression routes.

Years 12 and 13

Our sixth form curriculum is broad, offering a range of A-level and BTEC courses. Students are guided and supported in making their selection of subjects, based on their own interests and ambitions.

For the full offer of subjects at all ages see our website for details.

Our Teaching

At Meadowhead, teachers are subject experts who share their knowledge and expertise with students.

Our approach to teaching and learning is informed by the best available evidence and supported by cognitive science. As a result, our lessons are structured around the explicit teaching and assessment of knowledge, direct questioning, whole class feedback, retrieval practice and silent deliberate practice.

We have high expectations of all our students regardless of their background or starting points and we foster a supportive environment for learning, built on good quality relationships with students.

"Teachers have strong subject knowledge. Most teachers use this knowledge to question pupils and check levels of understanding. Teachers use a range of methods to check the depth of pupils' learning."

OFSTED 2022



Our Students Make a Difference

Alongside our focus on an ambitious curriculum, we also place significant emphasis on student personal development.

We do not believe schools should choose between developing knowledge and skills: we want our students and alumni to be able to use the subject specific knowledge they acquire. Ultimately, we want students to be able to "Make a Difference"; both in their chosen careers and as citizens. Our school ensures students develop both subject-specific knowledge as well as skills and qualities that enable them to confidently be practised and used.

"I loved my placement at the Department for Education and am now considering the Civil Service apprenticeship scheme in the future"

**Y10 STUDENT,
WORK EXPERIENCE WITH
DEPARTMENT FOR
EDUCATION**



Leadership and Active Citizenship

There is an extensive range of opportunities for leadership at Meadowhead so students can develop the skills to make positive change. These include student parliament, sports leaders, reading mentors and eco champion ambassadors. Students regularly discuss and debate global and contemporary issues during In the News sessions during Form Time.

Teamwork and Sporting Excellence

We emphasise teamwork and collaboration across our curriculum so students are comfortable and confident in working with others in a range of contexts. For example, teamwork is a crucial part of our annual Sports Day and the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Our extra-curricular sports offer combines opportunities for enjoyment alongside participation for our Phoenix teams and athletes in local, regional and national competitions for which we have an excellent record of success.

Staying Safe and Healthy

We provide clear support and guidance in a safe, caring community, enabling our students to feel happy, confident and secure. As part of the Ethics curriculum and in Form Time, students learn about how to manage both their physical and mental health; how to build and maintain successful friendships and relationships, and are helped to avoid potential risks.

Prepared for the Future

During every academic year at Meadowhead, students plan and prepare for their future. We take care in helping students, with the support of their families, make positive choices for their futures. Students receive individual and independent advice and guidance about future education and careers opportunities beyond Meadowhead School. The school is renowned for its close collaboration with employers through its charitable arm, Meadowhead Together, and students see the benefits of this partnership during careers talks, work experience and mock interviews.

Creativity

Meadowhead has a deserved reputation for the quality and variety of the creative element of our curriculum and extra-curricular offer in disciplines such as art, design, dance, drama and music. Key elements include the annual art and design exhibition, open workshops and rehearsal rooms, the annual school production, individual music lessons and regular opportunities to perform.

Extending the experience: trips, visits and guest speakers

We offer a wide range of opportunities to extend learning. As well as giving students the chance to make the most of opportunities on our doorstep in Sheffield and in the Peak District, we have an extensive range of international experiences that include trips and exchanges to Morocco, Washington DC, Finland, Germany, France, Italy, Iceland and Spain. We have a proud history of participation in the Erasmus scheme and are now a leading school participant in its replacement: the Turing Scheme.



“Meadowhead Sixth Form offers an incredibly welcoming and supportive environment, where teachers and support staff are consistently friendly and go above and beyond to support every student.”

SIXTH FORM LEAVERS SURVEY 2025



Our Expectations and Ethos

We place great emphasis on ensuring that each individual feels part of the school community and knows the attributes and actions needed for success in their education. We combine high expectations of student behaviour and conduct with proactive and sensitive systems of student support.

Pastoral Care

Each student is placed in a form group at the start of Y7 and students remain in this group until the end of Y11. A student’s form tutor plays a key daily role for members of their tutor group; monitoring academic progress, maintaining standards of behaviour and conduct, supporting personal development, and working closely with parents and guardians. The form tutor works alongside the student’s Head of Year, Assistant Head of Year, Pastoral Manager and designated Senior Teacher to ensure all students are well-supported.

Behaviour for Learning

We expect the highest standards of student behaviour and conduct which is supported by our system of Behaviour for Learning. This offers positive rewards for the majority, but where necessary a series of consequences to promote positive behaviour and attitudes to learning. We have clear routines so students develop good habits. We identify model behaviours in Form Time – especially in the Decisions sessions. Our students show a genuine pride in themselves and their school and never fail to impress visitors who are shown around the school.

Uniform

Meadowhead students take responsibility for maintaining high standards of appearance, following our agreed Code of Conduct. All students wear the Meadowhead uniform that includes a black polo shirt and jumper, black trousers or skirt and black tights, and black shoes.

House System

When students start at Meadowhead, they and the rest of their form group are allocated a house. Each of the houses are named after inspirational figures who have made a difference in their chosen field or discipline and have a connection to Sheffield. These figures are Helen Sharman, Sue Pearson, Harry Brearley and Frederick Douglass. Students compete as houses in events like Sports Day and for the annual Cook Shield reward trophy. Each house has a team of house captains and vice captains that lead involvement in these events and help lead their house to success. Students also wear a badge of their house alongside their uniform.



Rewards and Celebrations

Alongside the house system, we also promote and celebrate achievement and success for all through our school rewards system. Student efforts and hard work are regularly celebrated through the half-termly parent newsletter, form time announcements and celebration assemblies. Diamond Award ceremonies celebrate excellence over time for students achieving the most prestigious award at Meadowhead.

Parental Communication

We believe on building close and supportive relationships with all families of students who attend Meadowhead. Alongside annual parents evenings, where families discuss academic progress with subject teachers, we use a range of other methods to maintain regular communication. This includes information events at key points of transition, regular academic reports, email bulletins, the school’s Phoenix newsletter and the Meadowhead School App.

Key notes from our last Ofsted Inspection

Inspectors judged the school good in all areas.

“Meadowhead School Academy is an inclusive and welcoming school, with a popular sixth form. Pupils are happy and safe. They care about each other and treat each other with respect. They respect the differences between people.

The curriculum is ambitious. Subject leaders and teachers have received high-quality training to enhance their plans. Teachers have strong subject knowledge.

Pupils behave very positively. They are lively, confident, interested and kind. This is because everyone wants them to be successful.

Leaders' work to promote personal development is a strength of the school. Teachers help to nurture rounded, open minded and conscientious young people. Pupils value respect and diversity.

Pupils enjoy opportunities to develop their leadership through volunteering for the 'Pupil Parliament'. Pupils have a voice at this school.

Teaching in the sixth form is highly effective. Teachers use a variety of approaches to encourage students to think deeply, to make connections and to support their views and ideas. Sixth form students are wonderful ambassadors for the school.

Younger pupils value the school's reading programme. Staff encourage them to read widely. Pupils said they enjoy the challenge of the reading programme and that time is made available to read together with other pupils in lessons.”



“The sixth form is incredibly supportive, always providing guidance, encouragement, and resources to help students succeed.”

2025 SIXTH FORM LEAVERS' SURVEY

Our Sixth Form

Meadowhead has as an excellent Sixth Form that serves the South West of Sheffield. We are the Sixth Form of first choice for students in the area and we welcome a large number of students to join the Sixth Form at the start of Y11 from other local secondaries. They join students who have taken their GCSE exams at Meadowhead.

Teaching and facilities at Meadowhead are of the highest quality and these, combined with our outstanding care, guidance and support enable students to thrive academically. Our students go on to gain places at a wide range of universities, including the best in the country.

Due to our size we are able to offer a wide range of academic and vocational subjects at Key Stage Five. We have the highest expectations of our students in all areas of their learning and a lot of care is taken to ensure that they develop into well-rounded young adults who are able to take the next step with confidence and success.

Our Sixth Form is a vibrant community where students actively run and participate in a number of societies. These societies allow students to pursue their wider interests whilst also helping them to understand the importance of making a difference in the wider community.



Our Facilities

Our excellent school building is a source of immense pride and one of the key parts of the school's success. The building offers specialist facilities in drama, dance, music, sports, design and the arts.

The school's light and sizeable atrium, the Rosling, is an impressive heart of the school where flags hang from countries that are part of our students' personal and family histories.

The Sixth Form centre was opened by astronaut and alumnus Helen Sharman in November 2017 and this £2.4 million extension offers state-of-the-art facilities, enhanced capacity, silent and group study space, social space and a café.



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For more info about our school visit
www.meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk

