



Neston High School

A Specialist College of Science and the Visual Arts

...in this school every student matters! Ofsted 2006



A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

I am delighted to have this opportunity to tell you about Neston High School.

Neston High School is an excellent example of comprehensive education at its best. We have the full range of ability – moderate learning difficulties to Oxbridge candidates – and a full range of socio-economic backgrounds. Whatever background, ability, ethnic background or social circumstances, our students show positive progress at all key stages.

This, along with an outstanding reputation in the community for care, guidance, support and well-being, results in high popularity and oversubscription in every year group.

We are particularly proud of the continuing strength of traditional and academic GCSE and A level courses. High uptake and success rates in Maths, English and Sciences, together with other traditional subjects, ensures economic well being and good future prospects for students. As a specialist school of Science and the Visual Arts, uptake and achievement are particularly strong and they have a significant impact on the whole ethos of the school and on raising of standards year on year.

We also provide courses tailored to the needs of individual students. The new Key Stage 3 curriculum and new developments in 14 to 19 provision include: a new approach to personal development, creativity and personal, learning and thinking skills, Diploma courses, a Baccalaureate qualification, NVQ and BTEC courses, all of which provides a good base for progression to future education, employment or training.

To further broaden opportunities for students and the wider community, we have recently introduced a new school day and an 'eXL programme' of extra learning and enrichment activities. The school is one of the first in Cheshire

to offer the full range of extended services, as a result of strong partnerships with an on site Children's Centre and joint use Sports Centre.

It isn't only the students at Neston High School who learn and develop as individuals. We have developed as a training school, become a Teacher Learning Academy and achieved the Investors in People Award in 2008.

We are an Eco School (Green Flag status), a Healthy School (national status) and have quality marks for Inclusion, Learning Outside the Classroom and for International Links. To further enhance educational opportunity for all in our area and to improve funding opportunities, we are involved in the Trust and Foundation Status Supported Schools Programme and the setting up of a Neston Shared Education Trust with partner primaries, churches, businesses and the University of Chester.

This is a high performing specialist school with a culture of aspiration and ambition.

However, do not just take my word for this, do come and visit us, look around and judge for yourself on our Open Evening or by booking a working day visit.

The staff and I look forward to meeting you.

Steven Dool,
Headteacher



Mr Dool with students on Open Evening

FUNDRAISING



Students actively support local and national charities. This year they have taken part in Samaritan's Purse, raised several thousand pounds for charities including Jeans for Genes, Claire House and Comic Relief, as well as collecting mobile phones for Vision Support.



The Parents and Friends of Neston High School actively encourages participation in fundraising and social events which directly benefit our students.

IT'S A FACT THAT...

In the 2009 examinations:

- All students achieve 5A* - G passes at GCSE
- 10 students achieved straight A grades at 'A' level
- Neston was in The Times newspaper's top 100 schools in the country for percentage of grades A and B at A level
- Overall, progress at GCSE places us in the top 25% of schools in the country
- Overall, progress at 'A' level places us in the top 5% of schools in the county
- This is our 14th year of improving results
- Neston High School has one of the highest figures for entry to Maths, English and the Sciences at 'A' Level in the area
- The figure for 5A* to C including English and Maths at GCSE is well above the national average
- 230 students succeeded in a wide range of traditional GCSEs with results well above the national average
- Every one of the 15 students who followed courses equivalent to GCSE (e.g. BTEC, Young Apprenticeships) achieved 5A* to C



Neston High School is not just any school..... it is a comprehensive school where parents and students say...

"What a great school .. the extraordinarily high level of commitment, dedication and support of all staff has been evident from the first day ... 'in this school every pupil counts' and from my experience I can fully support those sentiments." (Parent)

"After reading the comments from different subject teachers, I feel confident that each one knows our son as well as I do! Little wonder that he settled so quickly into life at Neston High." (Parent)

"Thank you for an inspiring and challenging year." (Student)

"Your support during this time was invaluable and a great advert for the enduring pastoral care that Neston High School displays." (Parent)

"I would like to say a massive thank you for all the help and support you have given me over the years. Without it I would not have been able to succeed in either my gymnastics or my studies." (Student, International Gymnast)

"This is an exciting place to be where we have learnt loads." (Student)



A Level results day 2009

"... during his time with you we always felt that his individuality was not only recognised but supported and encouraged. The genuine concern shown for his all round well being and authentic respect for him as a person, certainly enabled his wonderful successes at A level. He will start university life as a confident, empowered adult taking with him one of the best gifts of all from Neston High School – the love of learning." (Parent)

46% of students attending the school travel from outside the immediate area. Bus clubs and our School Travel Plan facilitate this.

OUR AIMS

At Neston High School, we believe that each member of the community has a unique and equal worth. We foster mutual care, respect and ambition for all.

Together we strive for excellence. We aim therefore:

- To offer high quality education
- To foster a love of learning
- To engender a strong sense of shared responsibility and mutual respect
- To develop self worth and confidence
- To recognise we are an integral part of the community

We provide opportunities for students to take responsibility for their learning, for themselves and others; to take initiative, to be involved in team work; to be generous of time and spirit.

To complement our long standing as a highly successful comprehensive school, we are a centre of excellence in Science and the Visual Arts. Our specialist status has not only brought unique benefits to these areas of the curriculum but substantial benefits to all students across all curriculum areas also.

THE CURRICULUM

At Neston High School, we provide high quality teaching and a stimulating environment for learning. The curriculum is fully inclusive, providing challenge and enrichment for every student.

The following principles guide our work:

- Fostering success at every level
- Providing for the needs of all students
- Celebrating individual and collective achievement
- Monitoring and supporting progress through thorough and realistic assessment
- Preparing students effectively for further and higher education and for their lives as adults



This is Mr Dool meeting year 7 students on the first day of term

ECO-PICNIC

We were delighted to welcome Alan Beer, Director of Beers Timber & Building Supplies Ltd., to open our new outdoor classroom and to take part in our Eco picnic. Our partnership activity with the countryside rangers saw students working alongside pupils from local primary schools on activities related to ecology.



We were honoured to present year 12 textile work to the local parish church, where it now hangs in celebration of our 50th anniversary. The dedication service was presided over by the bishop of Birkenhead and attended by all year 7 students, parents and friends.

Liverpool University Salters' Chemistry Festival

This year our team of 4 year 8 students took part in the Liverpool University Salters' Chemistry Festival. Competing against 25 North West Schools they finished a fantastic second.



The school works collaboratively with its local community and takes part in local activities. We are delighted to have the support of a number of partners whose work with our students enriches the curriculum. They include Unilever, Unichema, World Museums Liverpool, Ness Gardens, Leahurst, Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Chester.



extra learning for everyone

In October 2009 we launched our new and innovative 'eXL' programme (extra learning). Aimed at all students it provides opportunities at the end of the official school day for students to undertake activities, courses and training to meet their personal interests and aspirations. Over 1200 extra hours of learning are being provided and additional opportunities are being included as they are requested. We are

indebted to our many community partners who are working with us as we develop this exciting opportunity for our students.

AND THE WINNER IS...



We were delighted to be awarded a Youth Challenge Award for the art work, which students (led by student Ben Twells), produced on the underpass wall at Neston Station.



We were extremely proud when our football team won the Wirral Cup



ethos where teachers continually learn – and apply their learning to new and changing situations – can improve their learning at all levels and ultimately that of their students.

HOME & AWAY

YEAR 7 CONWAY TRIP

Every Year 7 student has the opportunity to take part on a 3 day residential trip to the Conway Centre at the end of Year 7. This has proven to be an excellent opportunity to strengthen relationships in a fun environment!



FOREIGN EXCHANGE



We offer opportunities for student to travel to a number of our partner schools in Europe by organising a French Exchange to College Louis Pasteur, Graulhet for years 9 and 10; a Mini-French Exchange to College Pablo Picasso, Eragny for year 8 and a German Exchange to Ludg-Uhland-

Schule, Heimsheim for year 10 and 11 students. Meanwhile 6th Form students are able to take part in annual trips to Paris, Berlin and Madrid.

PASSPORT TO NESTON

This is a 3 day Summer School available for all students in Year 6, 5 and 4. This experience will aid the transition from primary school to Neston High School. Students cover a number activities including our specialist subjects.



SKI TRIP



We offer the opportunity for students to take part on an international ski trip to Europe. Our next trip (to Italy) departs during the February half-term of 2011.

Meet our 'Internationals'...



Arthur Bush - Arthur attended HiPAC which is the National Hockey Centre of Excellence in Lilleshall. He now plays for Tier 1 of the North West Team

Aisling Williams - Great Britain gymnast. Won Bronze medal at World Championships.

Rosie Lamprey - 5 International football caps for Wales; represented Wales in the last UEFA tournament.

Stewart Parry - Stewart has won numerous national kayaking competitions.

Lauren Williamson - is currently North West Trampoline Champion and has competed in the British Championships in the U15 age group.



Thomas Ince - England U16 International and Liverpool FC. Thomas is presently in our 6th Form while on a professional contract with Liverpool.

Nuffield Bursary

Students from the school regularly secure places on the Nuffield Bursary Project. This exciting project means that during their summer holiday they work on a research project in industry. We are proud that this year Michael Aspinall won The Gold level Award Research Council UK Lab Experience.