



THE FERNWOOD SCHOOL

Information for Candidates

Background to Fernwood School

The Fernwood School converted to Academy status in May 2011. It was judged by OFSTED as 'outstanding' in all categories in April 2012. It serves a mixed social catchment on the outskirts of Nottingham City. The school has an excellent reputation for high standards of achievement, care and discipline and is oversubscribed annually by over 300 applicants. The school will be expanding from 1050 to 1500 students by 2024.

Fernwood is a genuinely comprehensive school combining a broad range of cultures, faiths, abilities and social backgrounds into a strong cohesive community. Approximately 47% of students come from ethnic minority backgrounds, 25.5% have English as a second language, 15% are on the SEN register and 23.4% are entitled to free school meals.

The school has been awarded Leading Edge status for many years, and we have strong partnerships with other city schools playing a leading role in developing and sharing good practice through the Leading Edge programme.

With the expansion of the school, a £4 million building project will provide further facilities for science, sport, a new multipurpose school hall and additional classrooms and associated learning facilities. We have recently completed building works to provide a state of the art library and purpose built facilities to support the Inclusion Team. The school also enjoy excellent ICT facilities providing all departments with access to interactive whiteboards, class sets of laptops and notebooks, alongside 8 well equipped ICT suites.

School Ethos

Staff, students and parents are very proud of their school. There is a strong sense of commitment to the school's vision which is reflected in high levels of participation and hard work by all. Relationships between students and staff are very positive. High expectations for achievement and behaviour underpin all aspects of school life. Visitors to the school frequently comment on the respect, courtesy and good manners of students as well as the very friendly welcoming atmosphere. This ethos is achieved through a huge amount of hard work on the part of all staff, a consistent and rigorous approach to discipline as well as a collective emphasis on courtesy care and support for all.

Achievement

Fernwood is very ambitious for all students and the drive to continue to raise the bar is reflected in an ongoing upward trend in results placing the school comfortably inside the upper quartile for all measures. Our results continue the trend for Sig+ in most Raise Online categories. We continue to build capacity for the future by placing a strong emphasis on the quality of teaching and learning and developing personalisation and inclusion strategies.

Curriculum

We are proud of our curriculum which continues to evolve as we embrace change and development. We provide a broad and balanced curriculum based around nine areas of experience: English, maths, science, art design & technology, languages, humanities, expressive arts, sport and vocational education supported by a foundation learning curriculum for identified students at KS4. There is a strong emphasis on developing cross curricular and interpersonal skills as well as teamwork and self awareness in both the academic and pastoral curriculum.



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Art Design & Technology

The ADT Faculty within The Fernwood School was established to provide a flexible and streamlined curriculum, which responds to the needs of the students it serves and the society it supports. To achieve this objective, well-trained, highly motivated staff, are the key factor in creating an atmosphere in which students can grow in confidence and enjoy learning.

Current curricular developments in the three department areas strongly suggest that the curriculum should emphasise a process-based approach to learning rather than content specific. The subject matter and student's activities should allow the student to acquire and develop a range of skills through active involvement in the learning process.

The three main areas of study are: Design & Technology, Art & Design, and Computer Systems. We aim to stimulate intellectual development and enrich the lives of our students by arousing interest in their immediate environment and encouraging responses to it. First hand experiences through the senses are the starting point for the progressive acquisition of experience, knowledge, skills and values.

We aim to develop technological capability in our students. This encompasses understanding of appropriate concepts and processes: the ability to apply knowledge and skills by thinking and acting confidently, imaginatively and with sensitivity. The ability to evaluate activities, artefacts and systems critically and constructively is crucial. To acknowledge individuality of interests, aspirations and needs by providing a breadth of experience and choice to which our students can relate.

Specific Aims

- To promote and develop in our students a confidence in their creative powers and technological capabilities.
- To promote the acquisition of skills: problem solving, presentational, organisational, social and technological.
- To improve our students visual awareness and critical faculties by developing their drawing skills, investigative and presentational—both manually and with technical assistance.
- To promote process based learning whenever it is appropriate.
- To develop in our students an awareness of our cultural heritage and an understanding of the importance of design and technology in today's society.
- To develop our students dexterity through structured experimentation utilising a variety of tools, materials and processes with a due regard to health and safety.
- To prepare our students for internal and national examinations.
- To advise on subject choice and career prospects.
- To promote and encourage cross-curricular links whenever possible.
- To develop and maintain a well-trained staff who pride themselves in delivering a balanced and cohesive curriculum in an atmosphere of mutual respect for their students and their colleagues.
- To promote a variety of learning and teaching strategies, which should include group/team activities to foster tolerance and co-operation with others.
- To monitor student progress regularly and accurately to ensure that every student achieves her/ his full potential.