

WOLGARSTON HIGH SCHOOL
Staffordshire



Additional school information
2011/2012

Introduction

We intend that Wolgarston High School should represent all that is best in education and that it should be an enjoyable place in which to learn and develop.



As a Technology College, we aim to combine the best traditions of the past with the needs of a rapidly changing technological world.

Our school community is built on respect, good manners and fair play. We are keen to develop students who appreciate the value of learning, are prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century and who are able to make a full contribution to society.

We are proud of our school, our students and our achievements. Our OFSTED Inspection in 2009 graded the school overall as good and awarded us 16 Grade 1s (outstanding). The Sixth Form was also described as outstanding.

We look forward to welcoming you to Wolgarston.

Philip Tapp

Mr Philip J Tapp MA
HEADTEACHER

Learning Together, Achieving Together

Our Vision

Our Vision is to be recognised as an outstanding school that demonstrates excellence in:

- the quality and vibrancy of our learning culture;
- our levels of achievement;
- the ways in which we work in partnership with our students, parents and wider community;
- our contribution to developing lifelong learners by making learning enjoyable and accessible for all;
- enabling our young people to make a positive contribution as confident and responsible global citizens.

Our Values

We are committed to ensuring that our school is a learning community based on:

- honesty, integrity, fairness and openness in our dealings with others;
- accepting responsibility for ourselves, our actions and our environment;
- respecting the right of others to learn;
- treating one another with courtesy and respect, caring for and supporting each member of our school community;
- striving to be the best we can be, demonstrating perseverance and resilience.

Create a Positive Learning Environment

We use our specialist status to raise standards of achievement and the quality of learning in design and technology, science and mathematics for students across the ability range.

The school is committed to developing innovative approaches to teaching and learning and the development and sharing of best practice across all curriculum areas.

We strive to be active partners in a learning society with our family of schools and our community, looking to offer a range of opportunities for enriching and extending learning experiences.

Foster A Caring Social Environment

Our student community is divided into four houses, each with a House Leader:

- Alps House led by Mrs J Dean (Senior House leader)
- Himalayas House led by Mrs C Dodd
- Pyrenees House led by Mrs J Kirk
- Rockies House led by Mr S Lunn

Each House is supported by a team of dedicated House tutors, to whom students can turn for advice, help and encouragement. There is an opportunity for Sixth Form students to act as Associate Tutors as part of their School Community Service.



Family and Student Services Centre

Our Family and Student Services Centre provides a safe and caring environment to support students. Our highly trained and dedicated Centre staff have links with Staffordshire Connexions, the school health service and numerous outside agencies who will come into school and support students who need expert advice.

The Family and Student Services Centre is made up of two parts -

- A student support area, and
- a Personalised Learning Centre.

The former provides a range of extended school services including:

- Medical Support and First Aid;
- Welfare Support;
- Support for Parents and Families;
- Multi-agency work.

It is open from 0830–1630 hrs daily and students are able to access the service before school, at break, lunchtime and after school.

Our in-house, Community Social Worker is available in the Centre all day on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The other part of the centre provides an environment designed to cater for the personalised learning needs of individual students, including work related learning courses and placements for students with identified needs warranting a personalised learning programme.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Parents can feel confident that careful procedures are in place to ensure that all staff and volunteers are suitable to work with children. Staff hope that parents and children will feel free to talk about any concerns or worries which may affect educational progress and that they will see the school as a safe place. Children will be taken seriously if they seek help from a member of staff. Parents will normally be consulted and their consent obtained before any referral is made to an agency outside the school under local "children in need" procedures. However, staff cannot guarantee to consult parents first, or to keep children's concerns confidential, if referral must be made to the appropriate agencies in order to safeguard the child's welfare.



School Councils

Many of the decisions taken to enhance and review the House system and other school matters are discussed with members of our student councils. Each year we convene Whole School, Learning, Sport, Sixth Form and House councils with the students voting for their own representatives for these groups.

We consider these positions to be exceptionally important roles within our school community and students voted onto these positions receive recognition through their personal school reference as having played an essential part in the life of the school.

Curriculum Experience

The curriculum at Wolgarston High School is carefully and specifically designed to provide all our students with as full and broad an experience as possible - whatever their individual ability. We aim to provide students with the knowledge and skills to progress along their chosen pathway - whether that be to Further or Higher Education or the world of work.

KEY STAGE 3

In Year 9 all students have lessons in:

Design & Technology*

Drama

English

French

Geography**

Humanities***

ICT

Mathematics

Music

Physical Education

PSHE

Science

Spanish

* Design & Technology is taught on a rotation of modules comprising: Food Technology, Graphic Design, Product Design, Textiles and Art & Design.

** Geography is taught as part of the Science programme in Year 9.

*** History, Religious Education and Citizenship are taught through the Humanities programme in Year 9.

KEY STAGE 4

At GCSE, in addition to English Language & Literature, Mathematics, Science, French, Humanities and a Design & Technology option, students may also select an option from the following:

Drama

Geography

German

Health & Social Care

History

ICT

Leisure & Tourism

Music

Physical Education

Spanish

BTec Art and Design

BTec Sport

A small number of places are offered to students who would benefit from vocational courses at Rodbaston and Stafford Colleges and Indigo Training.

The PSHE programme is delivered by specialist teaching staff and outside agencies.

Religious Education

Religious Education is a compulsory part of the curriculum at Wolgarston, in accordance with the Education Act, 1988. In Years 9, 10 and 11 students follow a programme of Religious Education as part of the Humanities course, based on Staffordshire's Agreed Syllabus. It is an issues based course that will lead to a GCSE qualification at the end of Year 11.

If you have any questions regarding religious education provision at Wolgarston, please contact the school.

Sex Education

Sex Education forms part of the Personal, Social and Health Education programme. Part of the Year 9 Student/Parent induction includes a request for parents/carers to give their permission for students to take part in the programme. Under the Education Act, 1993, parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of the Sex Education programme. Requests to exercise this right should be made in writing to the Director of Support or the Headteacher.



Additional school information

Independent Study

Independent study is set regularly by teachers in all subject areas and is considered to be an integral part of the school curriculum. Students are not overloaded, but it is important that they have some opportunity for disciplined work, ranging from written assignments to research in the community. In this way, they will establish good study habits, reinforce work covered in class, and prepare for tests and external examinations.

All Key Stage 3 and 4 students will be given individual learning tasks:

In Year 9 students will be provided with an independent learning timetable each half term detailing when independent learning assignments will be set. This information will be communicated to parents by letter and will also be available on the school website at www.wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk

At Key Stage 4 students will be given information about coursework deadlines and modular examinations. Independent learning assignments will mainly take the form of coursework.

In the Sixth Form, students take an even greater responsibility for their own learning and, therefore, independent learning skills become even more significant. Students following A Level courses need to do between three and four hours independent study per day.

Work Experience

To further prepare our students for life beyond the school gates, our Work Experience programme, which is run in conjunction with the Staffordshire Partnership, ensures that all Year 10 and 11 students have the opportunity to apply skills learnt in school to the world of work through a variety of placements. The main programme runs for Year 10 students towards the end of the Summer term.

Promote and Celebrate Achievement

Here at Wolgarston, we attach great importance to the recognition and celebration of our students' achievements in all aspects of school life.

In addition to articles in the local press, the "Wolgarston News" and fortnightly School News Updates (the SNU) keep parents, friends and the community up-to-date with all that our students achieve. A variety of work is displayed around the school and regular concerts, drama productions, fashion shows and exhibitions provide further opportunities to showcase our students' talents.

Students have the opportunity to achieve House points and positive referrals for their personal references. These are awarded on a regular basis by House tutors. In addition subject tutors award subject referrals for students who meet classroom expectations, incorporate high standards of expectation and organisation and produce high quality learning outcomes.

Academic attendance and community achievement awards are made in regular, special assemblies. We hold Celebration of Achievement events every Summer Term for our Year 11 and Sixth Form leavers.

In addition, regular house assemblies also provide the opportunity to celebrate house and individual achievement.

Extra-curricular Activities

A wide variety of extra-curricular activities includes engineering, music groups, instrumental tuition, concerts, shows, drama and sport. Students have the opportunity to attend lunch time and after school sport clubs which are open to all standards.

A public service bus runs by the school at 16.50hrs every week day to allow students who rely on school transport to take part in after-school activities. The school enters competitions in a range of different sports playing in events across the district, county and at national level.

Parent Forum and Home/School Communication

We believe that every child matters but also, that every parent matters, which is why we have continued to work with our parents in a variety of different ways. There is a formal Parents' Forum which meets every half term and updates parents on school issues.

Parents are the most important influence in a child's life. Any education initiative can only be fully effective if there is partnership between parents, children and providers. We, therefore, place great importance on home / school communication.

As part of our Behaviour for Learning Policy, everyone is expected to sign a home / school agreement when joining Wolgarston and this is the basis for our partnership to help every child achieve his or her best.

House Tutors will become a key communication figure in your children's school lives here and will contact you from time to time, either by letter, email, text or telephone, to discuss your child's progress.

The school website is updated regularly, containing information for parents, students and the wider community. The Contacts page provides parents with an e-mail link to the school.



GCSE
PHYSICAL
EDUCATION



School Dress and Appearance

All students are expected to come to school wearing the correct uniform at all times. Unless specified, uniform must also be worn for educational visits, regardless of the time of day. Students are also expected to wear uniform when returning to school for evening events, such as parents' evenings, options evenings etc.

Students who come to school inappropriately dressed will be dealt with according to the school's Uniform Policy as set by the governing body. The school's uniform policy and a uniform list are issued to all new students and are both published in full for reference on our website at www.wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk.

The uniform policy is reviewed annually during the Spring Term and any changes communicated to parents by the half term of Summer Term.

Uniform for Year 9 to 11

Boys

- Black blazer with school crest*
- House Tie
- Plain white shirt, which must be worn tucked into waistband. The collar must be suitable to take a tie.
- Plain black, tailored, long school trousers.
- Plain black belt (of the type designed to hold up trousers – not a fashion belt)
- Flat black leather shoes (no trainers or any other 'fashion' footwear).

Girls

- Black blazer with school crest*
- House Scarf
- Plain white, rever-collared shirt, which must be worn tucked into waistband.
- Plain black, tailored long school trousers. "City shorts", culottes, etc are not acceptable uniform.
- Plain black, knee length school skirt. Mini and split skirts are not acceptable uniform.
- Plain black belt (of the type designed to hold up trousers – not a fashion belt)
- Flat black leather shoes (no pointed/ high heels, trainers or any other 'fashion' footwear. Backless shoes or flip-flop styles may not be worn for health and safety reasons).



Make up, if worn, should be minimal and discreet. For health and safety reasons, no form of facial or body piercings may be worn at school. If earrings are worn, there should be no more than one per ear and of the stud type. These must be removed for PE. No other jewellery may be worn except a wrist watch.

All hair longer than collar length must be tied back for health and safety reasons in the appropriate lessons, eg: Science, Design & Technology and PE.

Students will need a sturdy, dark coloured, holdall-type bag for carrying books, folders and equipment. Handbags or fashion bags are not suitable.

An outdoor coat may be worn for the journey to and from school but must be removed on arrival and stored in either bags or lockers.

* Blazer badges are available from the school shop.

PE Kit for all Years

Boys

Prostar (Dynamo Plus) Emerald and White Football Shirt*
Bottle Green Polo T-Shirt*
Plain Black Fleece*
Plain Black Shorts
Plain Black Tracksuit Bottoms
Plain Black Football Socks
Trainers
Football Boots
Shin Pads
Gum Shield
Swim Shorts
Towel
Goggles (optional)

Girls

Bottle Green Polo T-Shirt*
Plain Black Fleece*
Plain Black Shorts
Plain Black Tracksuit Bottoms
Plain Black Football Socks
Trainers
Football Boots
Shin Pads
Gum Shield
One Piece Swimsuit
Towel
Goggles (optional)

* Please note: Items marked with an asterisk should be plain coloured, without advertising logos but, if desired, Wolgarston crested items may be purchased from our approved uniform suppliers.

Dress Code for Sixth Form Students

The dress code for all Sixth Form students is business dress.

Illness, Absence and Student Care

We place great importance on good attendance: if you're not here, you can't achieve!

We have a full time attendance officer who monitors the daily attendance of every student and initiates texts/ phone calls to parents when a student is absent without prior warning. We use electronic registration in all our lessons. We also work closely with our education welfare officer from the local authority who assists us in monitoring students whose attendance drops below 90%.

If a student is unable to attend school, we have a dedicated telephone number for parents/carers to ring (01785 788404) and we like a call by 0900 hrs, where possible, to notify us of a reason for absence. For any absence likely to extend beyond three days, a possible return date must be given. On return after any absence, the student must bring a note from the parent/carer indicating the reason for absence. This should be addressed to the Attendance Officer.

Routine dental and medical appointments should, where possible, be made out of school time. Where this is unavoidable, written notification should be given to the House Tutor in advance.

Our attendance policy is published in full for reference on our website at www.wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk. We do not encourage holidays during term time. However if this is unavoidable, we ask parents to discuss dates with us before making bookings or financial commitments to ensure dates do not have a detrimental effect on their child's education.

If a student falls ill or is injured during the school day, parents will be contacted by staff from the Family and Student Services Centre to make arrangements for care. No student is sent home without prior warning. A number of staff are qualified to give First Aid. We are not permitted to administer medication to students. However, where prescribed medication is required during the school day, parents/carers may either come into school to administer it or sign a form at the Family and Student Services Centre to give the child permission to self administer. The school is required to have details of the names and addresses of ALL persons with parental responsibility for each student and parents must inform the school immediately of any change of address or emergency contact/telephone numbers.

All Children are Special

Special Educational Needs

Wolgarston identifies and focuses on the skills and learning needs of those students who have a special educational need. In line with the DfE Code of Practice for Special Education Needs (2001) the school operates a Special Education Needs Policy, which is published on our website.

The Special Education Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) at Wolgarston supports curriculum leaders in departmental provision of students' special education needs.

Students with a statement of special education needs receive their entitlement through in-class support, withdrawal from part of the curriculum to follow a specialised teaching programme or a combination of the two.

School policy for SEN follows closely the Code of Practice, with individual curriculum areas setting out procedures in support of the policy.

Gifted and Talented

To support the needs of the able student, Wolgarston is building on its Gifted and Talented programme, which offers opportunities to stretch students capable of achieving highly. During the past academic year, we ran a variety of additional activities for students talented in the arts, including Create It! Week where students worked with outside professionals from the art world, dance and performance.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Over 100 students are currently working towards Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

School Policies

Wolgarston has numerous policies which are regularly reviewed and updated, which help everyone to work towards our Vision and Values. Below is a list of our current policies which can be read in full, or downloaded from our website at www.wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk under the section "About the school":

- Admissions
- Anti Bullying
- Attendance
- Behaviour for Learning
- Charging and Remissions
- Compliments, Comments and Complaints
- Curriculum
- Drug Education and Managing Drug Related Incidents
- Fairtrade
- Food
- Health and Safety
- ICT Security Policy for Schools
- Independent and Personal Learning
- Lift Usage
- Partnership With Parents
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education
- Racial Harassment
- Restrictive Physical Intervention Policy
- Safer Recruitment
- Safeguarding
- School Uniform
- SEN
- Sex and Relationship Education
- Smoke Free
- Written and Oral Feedback

If you would like a copy of any policy in large print, please contact the school office on 01785 788400 or send an email to office@wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk

Admission in 2011

Wolgarston has 220 places to offer in Year 9. Admissions comply with the County Council's Admission Policy, which can be found in Staffordshire County Council's annual publication, "Information for Parents: Secondary School". This is circulated to all parents whose children are due to transfer to secondary education in 2011.

At the start to the academic year 2010-2011, there were 849 students on roll, including 205 Sixth Form students and 220 students in Year 9.

Sixth Form Admission

Details for admission to our Sixth Form at Wolgarston can be obtained by telephoning the Sixth Form Reception on (01785) 788416.

The School Day

The school day is divided into six periods of fifty minutes with a daily, twenty minute Tutor Time slot, a morning break and a lunch break.

There is no morning registration at the start of the day. Students are expected to be in place to begin lessons promptly at 0900 hrs. Attendance is recorded electronically in every lesson and Tutor Time. To promote the importance of punctuality, a 'late' bell is used to remind students of the need for a prompt transfer between lessons.

Students in Years 9 to 11 are required to remain on premises at lunch time unless their parents have signed a letter of permission for them to go to their own home for lunch. A permission letter is available from the Student Reception office.

Period 1	0900 – 0950
Period 2	0950 - 1040
Tutor Time	1040 - 1100
Break	1100 – 1120
Period 3	1120 - 1210
Period 4	1210 - 1300
Lunch	1300 - 1350
Period 5	1350 - 1440
Period 6	1440 - 1530
Period 7 (Sixth Form only)	1545 - 1645

The school day ends at 1530 hrs and school transport departs at 1540 hrs. The school library remains open until 1630 hrs (1600 hrs on Friday). There is a public service bus which runs daily, Monday to Friday, at 1650 hrs for use by students who rely on school transport but choose to stay for after school activities such as clubs, sports matches, extension activities or revision sessions. Students can use their bus pass on this later bus.

Travel to School

Students living within the catchment area but more than three miles from the school are entitled to free transport whilst aged 16 or under. This is administered by Staffordshire County Council through the Pupil Support Unit. Telephone (01785) 278698 for further information.

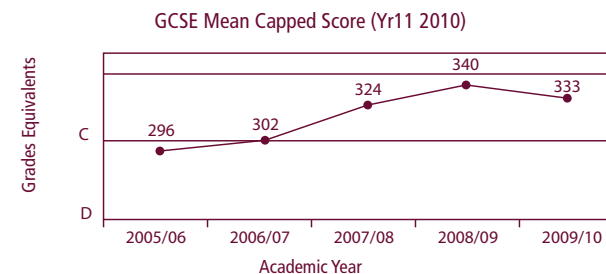
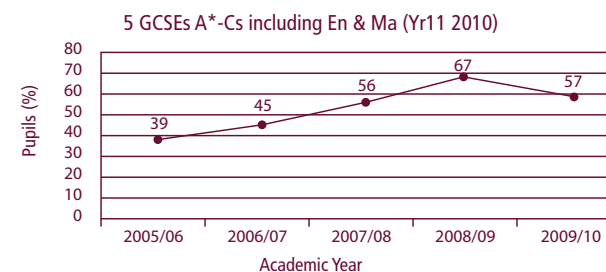
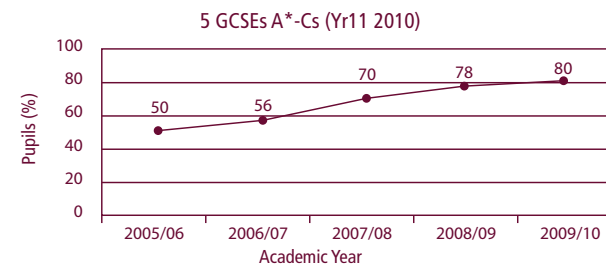
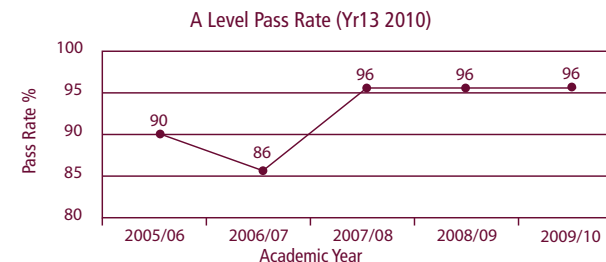
Examination Performance of Wolgarston High School Academic Year 2010/2011

Over 10% of the Year Group achieved 3 or more A/A*s in their A levels.

The number of students gaining five good GCSE passes (grade C or above) continues to rise.

80% of students achieved at least a C grade in English, 71% in Science and 62% in Mathematics.

This diagram shows the average grade entry achieved by Year 11 students. The average grade has risen from grade D in 2005/2006 to a high C grade this summer.



Term Dates and Information

A copy of the school term dates is sent to all parents once a year. In addition, they are published on the school website and there is a link to the county webpage showing school holidays for future academic years. The school term dates are set by Staffordshire Education Authority. Because of the importance attached to regular attendance at Wolgarston, parents are asked to do all they can to make sure family holidays are taken outside these periods. If this is unavoidable, please contact the school before making a firm booking to check the dates do not clash with important work or examinations. Parents will be required to complete a leave of absence form to apply for authorisation of any holidays taken during term time.

Autumn Term

Commences:	6 September 2011
Last Day:	20 December 2011
Half term Break:	24-28 October 2011 (inclusive)

Spring Term

Commences:	3 January 2012
Last Day:	30 March 2012
Half Term Break:	13-17 February 2012 (inclusive)

Summer Term

Commences:	16 April 2012
Last Day:	20 July 2012
Bank Holiday:	7 May 2012
Half Term Break:	1 -8 June 2012 (inclusive)

Please note that staff training days are still to be allocated.



WOLGARSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Penkridge, Staffordshire, ST19 5RX

Tel: 01785 788400 Fax: 01785 788418 office@wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk www.wolgarston.staffs.sch.uk

The quotes listed within the brochure are taken from our OFSTED Report of February 2009

