

South Charnwood High School



'encouraging excellence, valuing people'

Headteacher: Andrew Morris:

Deputy Headteachers: Simon Andrews, Abigail Lear

Assistant Headteacher: Kathryn Juskiewicz

Business Manager: Alistair Keates



GENERAL INFORMATION

South Charnwood is a high-achieving Leicestershire Secondary School which formerly admitted pupils aged 10 – 14. From September 2014, it started to change its age range to 11-16 by admitting Year 10 pupils for the first time. The school was thoroughly prepared for this development and approached this challenge with confidence and excitement. In September 2015, the change to 11-16 was complete and in 2016 the school had Year 11 pupils for the first time. The school delivered impressive GCSE results that year which showed excellent attainment and progress. The overall Progress 8 score was +0.07. In 2017 the GCSE results were even better and the overall Progress 8 score was +0.17. In 2018 results improved again and the Progress 8 score was +0.69. Progress for last year (2019) showed superb results again with a Progress 8 score of +0.79. Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, Centre Assessed Grades replaced GCSE exams in 2020 and results were just as impressive as the previous year's results.

The school is situated in the pleasant rural area of North West Leicestershire on the edge of Charnwood Forest. The nearest community is Thornton village, about 1 mile away. At roughly the same distance is Junction 22 of the M1, while Coalville is 5 miles away. Pupils come from a fairly wide area, with about half from the nearest villages of Markfield, Stanton, Thornton and the surrounding area, and half from Leicester Forest East, approximately 8 miles away. We also attract pupils from outside our catchment area due to the popularity of the school. Because of distances involved, nearly all pupils travel in by bus.

The main building is set in extensive and attractive grounds. The original building dates from 1935, but over the years several extensions have been added to meet rising numbers. In 2001 a Mathematics and Science block was opened comprising four Maths rooms, four Science laboratories and an integral I.C.T. room, and August 2003 saw a completely rebuilt Art, Design and Technology block being used for the first time. This also included a refurbished Food Technology room. In July 2005 a new reception area and administrative office was opened. In the summer of 2007 a new modular building housing the English Department was opened. Also in 2007 the girls' toilets were completely refurbished and in 2008 we opened our superb new girls' changing room and embarked on a refurbishment of the boys' changing room which is now complete. In 2009 we converted the former girls' cloakroom into a new suite of offices and conference rooms. In 2010 a pond was created in the school grounds. In 2014 a new dining facility and event centre was completed. In the summer of 2015 a new four classroom Humanities block was built at the school. An extension to the girls and boys changing room was completed in February 2017. The school received planning permission and funding from the Football Foundation for the construction of a new, full size, artificial, floodlit playing surface and building was completed in August 2019. This summer we have completed an extension to our Maths/ Science block and have also finished refurbishing the former caretaker's house as well as resurfacing the staff car park. A new pupil toilet block was completed in October 2020.

In September 2020 our admission number will be approximately 870 with 6 tutor groups in all years. At Key Stage 3 the school is presently organised into mixed ability tutor groups following a common curriculum. Setting takes place in Years 7 – 9 for Maths and in Years 8 – 9 for Science A.D.T. and Modern Languages. There is also some setting in PE. All other subjects are taught in tutor groups.

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In Years 10 and 11 the school offers a variety of GCSEs which are predominantly academic. Having said that, the school does have a comprehensive and mixed-ability intake and has made provision within its Key Stage 4 options for less able learners.

The school operates a two-week, 25 period timetable with 5 x 60 minute lessons per day. The school day is from 8.35am – 3.15pm. However, at present the school is operating an interim timetable and Year groups are in 'bubbles' because of the coronavirus restrictions.

The year group teams are led by Heads of Year whose main priority is to monitor the academic and social development of the pupils in their year group and, working with their team, intervene when necessary. Heads of Year are supported by a non-teaching Pastoral Support Assistant. The school has a well-defined system of rewards and sanctions.

The school employs approximately 45 teaching staff along with 14 full or part time Learning Support Assistants and Teaching Assistants. There are 11 clerical and technical staff members including the Business Manager who is part of the Senior Leadership Team.

The well-motivated staff team at the school is a mixture of youth and experience ranging from recently qualified teachers to those who have been here longer than they care to remember! The middle leaders are a pro-active and dynamic group who contribute greatly to the success of the school.

All staff are encouraged to play their part in formulating school policy, via staff, departmental and year team meetings. Governors are fully involved in policy review and the school actively values their participation.

South Charnwood is a school which cares. We have high expectations of pupils regarding achievement and behaviour and we aim to make learning challenging yet enjoyable. We work hard to ensure that pupils fulfil their academic potential; they are given many opportunities to exercise responsibility and to participate in, and contribute to, the work of the school. We strive for excellence in all aspects of education, in a supportive environment which is conducive to learning. We aim to develop pupils who are tolerant and responsible citizens without prejudice, who have high self-esteem.

Our most recent inspection was in June 2019 and the report described South Charnwood High School as a 'Good school' and described both the Quality of teaching, learning and assessment and the Outcomes our pupils achieve as 'Outstanding.'

June 2021

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