



Weobley
High School





Welcome

Welcome to Weobley High School. I am incredibly proud to be Headteacher of this small, yet perfectly formed school in the heart of the beautiful Herefordshire countryside. Our size allows us to know our pupils extremely well and we work hard to ensure that every individual feels valued and is offered the best possible educational experience.

We are passionate about teaching and learning and we offer an enormously diverse curriculum tailored to the needs and aspirations of our pupils. This takes place within a vibrant, yet caring school community where each individual's strengths and talents are allowed to flourish.

Key to our success has been a focus on developing a positive, inclusive ethos where children are fully engaged in their learning and ultimately, happy. This is an exciting place to learn and we are justifiably proud of our achievements and those of our pupils.

Our success and unique ethos has been highly praised by OFSTED and you will find a number of quotes from the most recent report peppered throughout this prospectus to give you a flavour of the exceptional work which takes place here. You will also find information which will give you an insight into how we work and our high expectations. Despite our success, we are constantly looking at how we continue to improve and develop. We have set our sights on becoming one of the best schools in the country and we are well on our way. Our pupils deserve no less!



Working Together

Weobley is an 11-16 mixed comprehensive school in rural Herefordshire. We serve a geographically large area to the North-West of Hereford City, including primary schools in Credenhill, Dilwyn, Canon Pyon, Staunton-on-Wye and Weobley itself. Indeed Weobley Primary School is adjacent to the high school and both schools are under the executive leadership of one Headteacher. We work closely with our feeder schools both at an operational and strategic level to ensure a high-quality education for all the children across the schools. We also have an increasing number of families who choose to send their children here from further afield; currently we are accepting children from over 20 primary schools across Herefordshire.

We are regularly approached to support other schools throughout the country. This is a recognition of our success and entails sharing our expertise and experience. In addition, the school plays a key role in a number of local and national networks focussed on sustaining outstanding provision in all aspects of our work.

Our links with all Further Education providers and colleges in the area are historically very strong. With the overwhelming majority of our pupils continuing their education post-16 and many continuing to university, we proactively maintain these relationships so our pupils are well-prepared for life after Weobley.

“Students show very positive attitudes to their learning”

OFSTED



Creative Curriculum

All pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum throughout their time at Weobley. We adhere to the National Curriculum however we have been creative in our approach to curriculum design so that the pupils' provision is enhanced and enriched at every opportunity. Due to the flexibility of our provision we are able to offer an incredibly wide range of courses which become much more specialised as pupils progress through the school.

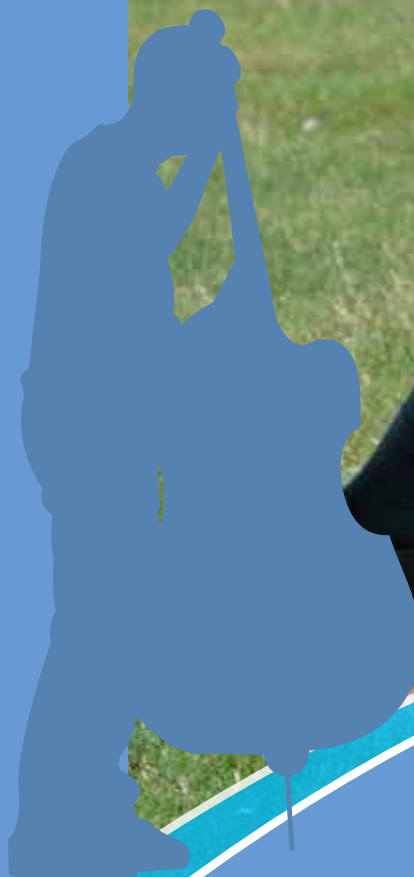
Whilst pupils are in Year 9, they have an interview with the Headteacher in order to identify learning pathways which will ensure that they are able to fulfil their potential and can fully engage with learning through to their GCSEs. We call this approach a 'tailored curriculum' and this allows us to design a curriculum each year based on the needs and aspirations of every child. As soon as the Key Stage 4 curriculum is designed, pupils begin their courses. This takes place in June, rather than waiting until the traditional September start.

There is an enviable range of qualifications on offer at the school; many of which run with very small group sizes. Nevertheless our belief that you get the best out of pupils when they are happy and engaged justifies our investment in this.

Here are some of the courses currently available:

- Mathematics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Drama
- French
- German
- Art & Design
- Religious Studies
- Dance
- Combined Science
- Physics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Child Development
- History
- Geography
- Information Technologies
- Computer Science
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Design Technology
- Music
- Sport Studies
- Physical Education

“The curriculum has been successfully developed to meet the needs of all learners”



Ambitious Aims

Our primary aim is simple: to be the best school we can possibly be where outstanding provision is the norm. We are clear in our values and expectations and believe that through providing high-quality teaching within a supportive, yet challenging learning environment, pupils will receive the best possible education at our school.

In order to achieve our aim we have six objectives which encompass our approach to school improvement:

- To ensure that children are able to learn and achieve in a challenging and stimulating environment in which they feel safe, supported and well-prepared for their future as well-rounded citizens.
- To ensure that the work of all staff within the school is of the highest quality and that staff are able to develop in a supportive and creative environment.
- To ensure that the curriculum is broad, balanced and engaging so that it meets the needs and aspirations of every pupil in the school.
- To ensure that the school site is developed fully as a learning resource and that it provides a secure, stimulating and ecologically sustainable environment for teaching, learning and personal development.
- To ensure that the school is led and managed effectively so that the needs and aspirations of all members of the school community are met.
- To ensure that we maintain a collaborative and innovative approach to our work to the benefit of the members of our school and wider community and to that of our partner schools.

“All students are extremely well prepared for their future”

OfSTED



First-Class Facilities

We are situated in large, impressive grounds surrounded by breathtaking Herefordshire countryside on the edge of Weobley village. We believe that our school should be welcoming and well-maintained and have invested heavily in developing our facilities so that the learning environment is stimulating and purposeful.

As well as carrying out a rolling programme of classroom refurbishment, the school boasts an impressive range of facilities for the pupils to use. These include:

- A professional standard Performing Arts / Dance hall
- An impressive sports centre including a state-of-the-art fitness suite
- A new self-contained music block with specialist facilities
- An extended and refurbished Drama studio

- Increased and improved covered outdoor recreation areas
- A network of over 300 computers including a whole-school Wi-Fi system
- A modern and well-equipped library with its own ICT suite
- A newly designed Learning Inclusion Centre
- A number of specialist ICT and multimedia suites
- The most up-to-date design equipment including a laser cutter and 3D printers
- A specifically-equipped specialist learning facility
- Interactive high-definition touch screens in every classroom

“Students’ enjoyment of school makes a significant contribution to the quality of behaviour shown”



Caring Community

We have received national recognition for the quality of pastoral care within the school and standards of behaviour are exemplary. There is an experienced and effective pastoral care team in place with all adults in the school committed to ensuring that pupils feel safe and happy.

This focus on 'the happy learner' has had an incredible impact on how pupils respond to school and their sense of personal responsibility. Our pupils want to be in school and our attendance figures reflect this. Moreover, pupils are able to develop into mature and responsible young adults as they feel that they have a voice in the school and that they will be listened to.

As we are a small, friendly organisation we know our pupils and their families very well. We are therefore able to be proactive in how we deal with any issues which may arise. This means that things are 'nipped in the bud' before they become real issues and consequently we are able to focus on our core purpose of teaching and learning.

Key to this approach has been the introduction of a highly-qualified and effective Inclusion Manager based in our specialist Inclusion Centre. This means that pupils always have somebody to talk to and somewhere welcoming to go. This unique and innovative provision has been fundamental to our rapid improvement as a school and the exceptional behaviour displayed by our pupils.

Another aspect of our pastoral care is our commitment to working in partnership with families for the benefit of their children. We have various systems in place such as an online Parent Portal, Parent Consultation Days and Parents' Surgeries throughout the year in order to encourage a constructive dialogue between home and school on a proactive and ongoing basis.

“Students’ behaviour is outstanding and they flourish within a caring and supportive environment”

OFSTED



High-Quality Teaching

Much of our success as a school is founded on what takes place in the classroom day in, day out. We are fortunate to have in place a very dedicated and talented team of teachers who work tirelessly to ensure that they deliver consistently high-quality lessons.

Successive OFSTED inspections have praised the excellent quality of teaching at the school, most recently recognising the 'inspirational' teaching evident throughout the curriculum.

As well as recruiting outstanding teachers we ensure that they are able to develop their creativity in the classroom. Staff constantly seek opportunities to share ideas and best practice both across the school and in collaboration with other schools. In addition we invest in high-quality professional development and support for our staff so that they can continue to be leaders in their profession.

“Students are taught well by a team of dedicated teachers who are fully committed to supporting their learning”

OFSTED





High-Quality Learning

An innovative curriculum, first-rate staff and a supportive environment have allowed us to establish an exceptional climate for learning. There is a strong work ethic amongst the pupils and they apply themselves well so that they achieve their potential both academically and personally.

In order to ensure that learning is highly effective we ensure that the classroom environment can be as productive as possible. Class sizes are kept to a minimum and a team of specialist support assistants and intervention tutors are in place to work with pupils on an individual or small group basis. In addition there is an 'Express' teaching group at Key Stage 4 who follow an accelerated programme of study up to GCSE, sitting extra qualifications and aiming for the very highest grades. Many of our pupils also sit 3 separate Science GCSEs.

In order to tap into the learning styles of all pupils, teachers ensure that their classroom practice includes a whole range of the most recent and innovative teaching methods. Learning is both active and interactive as well as allowing pupils to develop independent study skills and high order questioning. Consequently pupils enjoy their lessons and engage fully with their learning.

The result of this creative and rigorous approach to learning is that pupil achievement is excellent. Pupils are set challenging targets in all subject areas which are monitored closely by teachers as well as a team of Learning Co-ordinators. The outcomes speak for themselves: the progress of pupils in terms of GCSEs is in the top flight nationally and pupil attainment is well above the national average.

“Students show real enthusiasm for learning and are determined to do their best in lessons”

OFSTED



Moving Up

The transition to high school can be a nervous time, even when moving to a small school like Weobley. We are very aware of this and so work hard to ensure that our new pupils are comfortable and prepared for this important step.

We maintain close relationships with all our feeder primary schools. Once a family has selected Weobley as their secondary school, a senior member of staff visits every pupil to get to know them and to allay any concerns. During this visit the member of staff also meets with the child's teacher and all relevant information is transferred to the high school in good time for the September start.

We start the transition process early on with a Year 5 Taster Day towards the end of the summer term. We hold an Open Day and Open Evening in September and then there is a full transition day for Year 6 in the summer term. This is followed by an Induction evening for pupils and families to meet the high school staff and in particular, their new form tutor.

As every child may respond differently, we are also happy to meet with families individually if there are any particular concerns and to arrange additional visits for pupils if necessary.

“Their curiosity and their excellent attitudes to learning demonstrate a lively and spontaneous need to learn”

OfSTED



High Challenge, High Reward

There are many aspects to a fully-rounded educational experience and we ensure that our pupils are able to develop and achieve in a whole range of ways. Characteristics such as pride, integrity and honesty are nurtured as well as focusing on key skills such as teamwork, problem-solving and communication. Key Stage 3 pupils also have an enrichment session once per week to nurture their love of learning outside the curriculum. As well as this there are a huge variety of clubs, trips, teams, competitions, concerts and activities for pupils to get involved in.

Most pupils take part in a number of sports teams and activities including football, cricket, rugby, hockey, golf, athletics, table-tennis, tennis, basketball, badminton, trampolining, netball and rounders. These are introduced as part of the curriculum as well as further opportunities to represent the school such as our School Equestrian Team.

There are also a number of activities which allow our pupils to develop their creativity. These include orchestras, bands, dance clubs, art club, drama club, photography club and school productions.

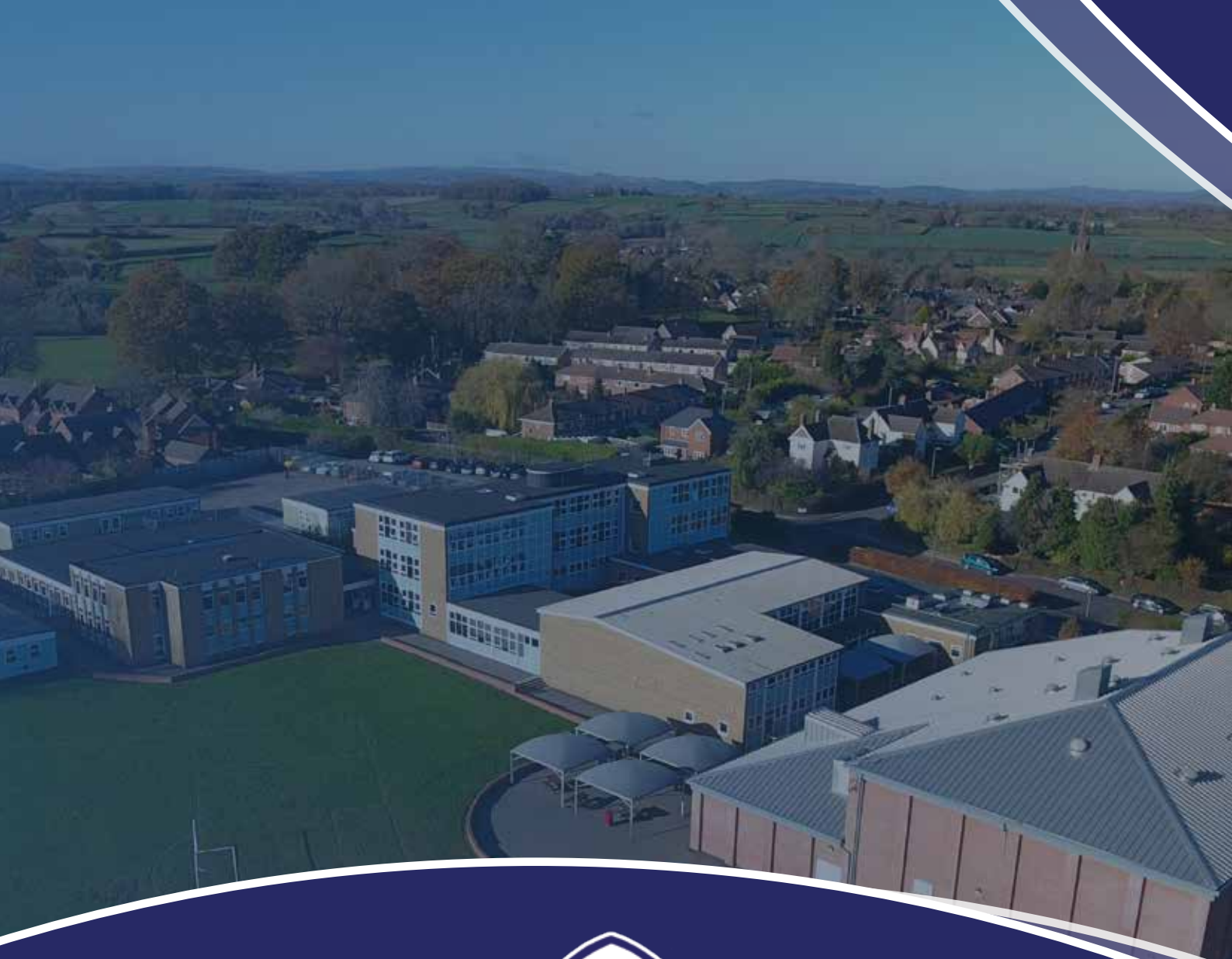
During a pupil's time at Weobley there will also be numerous opportunities to take part in a whole range of trips and visits. These may be abroad, to destinations such as Paris, Berlin/Krakow, Iceland and PGL in France as well as trips throughout the UK. There is also a wealth of opportunities locally to enrich the curriculum and pupils regularly find themselves on geography field trips or theatre visits across the region.

We strongly believe that the five years of secondary school is a precious time where children are growing up and many of these life experiences mould the adults they are to become. We are committed to making this a time they will remember and which will hold them in good stead for life beyond school.



“Students take tremendous pride in their achievements”

OfSTED



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