

# Shelley College

a specialist centre for science

[excellence and enjoyment]

# Welcome to Shelley College



**“The quality of relationships throughout the school is very good, both among students and between students and staff, and this makes a very positive contribution to the quality of students’ learning with, in many cases, lessons conducted in a spirit of good humour and trust.”**

OFSTED REPORT

Welcome to our school. We hope you find this brochure interesting and that it answers your questions about Shelley College. If there is anything else you would like to know about our school, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Shelley College is a special place – a forward-looking and caring school which provides the time, space and opportunity for students to flourish and develop their talents. We take our responsibility for educating young people very seriously. We set out to help them develop confidence and self-esteem and we are proud of all that our students and staff achieve.

We aim for excellence in all that we do. We maintain high educational standards, high standards of discipline and we do all that we can to ensure our school is a safe and happy place in which to learn. We believe in hard work, in rewarding students’ successes and in celebrating all their achievements. As a result we are very popular with both students and parents.

We are proud of our record and our standing in the community we serve. Shelley College is an exciting place at which to be educated and we welcome your interest in our school. We very much hope you will decide to make it your school and that this is the start of a long and successful partnership.





# What is Shelley College like?

**"Standards ... are higher than average at all stages. The school has been operating consistently at a high level of performance since the last inspection."**

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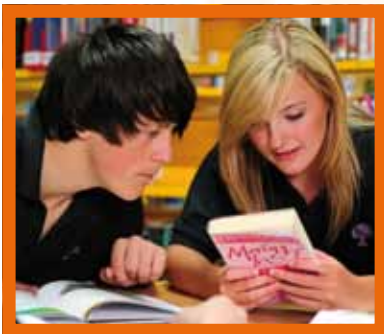


Shelley College is a modern, 13-18, comprehensive school set in rolling countryside to the south of Huddersfield. Over 1400 students are on roll, including a Sixth Form of well over 300, and they are helped in their education by ninety highly-qualified teachers and a very strong team of support staff. Ours is a successful school which enjoys a very good reputation amongst parents, employers and the local community. Students are very happy here. They learn well and achieve success in many areas of life.

There is strong liaison with our two middle schools and sixteen first schools. The headteachers work closely together and aim to provide continuity of education 3 - 19 for over 4000 children living in this area.

Our students gain excellent academic results year after year, well above national averages both at GCSE and post 16 level. Results from national tests at the end of Year 9, GCSE examinations and at the end of Year 13 are always amongst the very best in Kirklees. We are very proud of our students' excellent academic achievements. Over 70% of students continue their education post-16, the vast majority of them choosing to stay on into our Sixth Form from where large numbers of the Upper Sixth go on to Higher Education and degree courses all over the country, including the most competitive courses and institutions.

# What do we expect of our students?



**“The good attitudes, behaviour and relationships demonstrated by students at the time of the previous inspection have been sustained over the past five years and continue to make a positive contribution towards the creation of a relaxed, good-natured community for learning.”**

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We have high expectations of students, not only academically, but also socially. We believe good discipline is essential in order for students to learn, to make progress and to feel secure in school. It also helps in the creation of a purposeful working atmosphere which encourages students to want to do well, to improve their skills and to become more self-disciplined as they grow older.

Good discipline is built upon high expectations, support and guidance and recognition of effort, improvement and achievement. These are the cornerstones of our approach to working with students, and as a result praise and rewards are built into our teaching.

Visitors to Shelley frequently comment on the calm and orderly atmosphere of the school and the conduct and attitude of our students. At all times we aim to instil in students a sense of responsibility as well as caring attitudes to others in the community as a whole. As a general principle we aim to be firm, positive and constructive in our approach to discipline and to treat the students, as far as possible, as young, responsible adults.





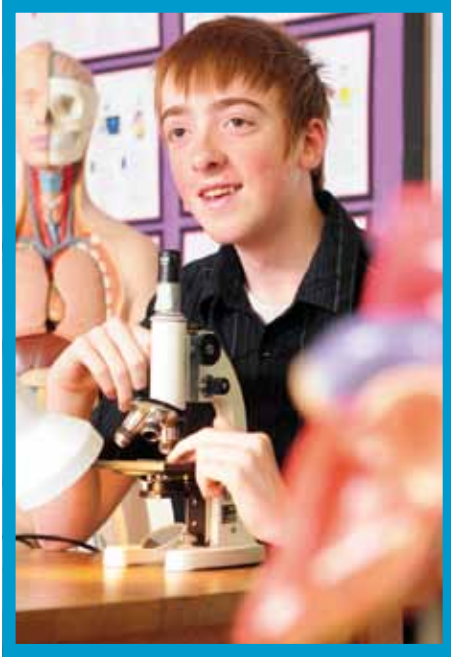
## What do we value in our students?



We place a strong emphasis on the education and development of the whole student. We aim above all to help to develop confident young citizens who will achieve success in their own lives as individuals, parents and members of the local and wider communities.

We aim to involve students in the running of the school through the Year Councils, the School Council and the Sixth Form Management Group. In recent years we have changed our school uniform, our lunch arrangements and our approach to recycling as a direct result of suggestions from our students.

# How are our students looked after?



We work hard to ensure that ours is a community where students feel safe and confident. We believe that respect is the key to effective care and support and we demonstrate it in our daily work with students. We also encourage it at all times in our students.

Students are placed in all-ability tutor group when they arrive at our school and they meet with their form tutors every day. The form tutor is the first and most important link with home and deals with most routine problems and queries.

Year groups are led by a Student Manager and Assistant Student Manager (both full-time pastoral staff) who, working with teams of form tutors, guide every student in a year group through the school. We aim to provide support for all our students and to identify and deal with any problems quickly. An effective partnership between staff, students and parents is central to our success.

Each term regular assessments of progress are made in each year group and parents are informed of the results. The School Calendar and the Student Planner, which are issued to all students in September, give the dates when parents are invited to school to discuss their children's progress with their teachers.





# How good is our learning?



*"Students...show politeness and helpfulness towards others. It is a pleasant place in which to work."*

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There are specialist facilities in all areas and provision for all subject areas is excellent. All year groups have their own indoor social areas and we have extensive school grounds. In recent years significant amounts of money have been spent upgrading the entire school. We now have a well-equipped Library and Resources Centre, four 30+ station computer rooms, seven fully-remodelled Science laboratories and five fully-remodelled Design Technology rooms. We opened a new Sixth Form Block and Student Support Centre in 2007 and we have, revamped our kitchens, extended our dining areas and undertaken an extensive painting programme. Further planned improvements will ensure facilities at our school remain of the highest quality.

## Specialist School status

We gained specialist status for Science at the first attempt, in the summer of 2003. Since then we have used the significant additional funding gained from specialist status to support all departments and to raise achievement at all key stages and across the entire curriculum. Our community plan has helped us further improve our links with middle schools and partner high schools, whilst we are forging ever-stronger links with a variety of community groups and sponsors. Our intention is to make Shelley College a centre of excellence in the STEM subjects, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

# What subjects do students study?



**“Shelley has been operating consistently at a high level of performance with GCSE examination results sustained at well above average levels compared to all schools.”**

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## **Key Stage 3:-**

In Year 9 students follow a broad course of study as laid down in the National Curriculum. This includes Mathematics, English, Science, Modern Languages (French, German and Spanish), Humanities (Geography, History, and R.S.), Technology, Music, Art, Drama, Physical Education and Information Communication Technology. Students also have access to Careers Education and Citizenship.

## **Key Stage 4:-**

During Years 10 and 11 students follow a core of Mathematics, English, Science, Physical Education, and Religious Studies. In addition, they develop their ICT skills and they have lessons related to personal and social development, including citizenship. A full range of optional subjects is provided to complete everybody's timetable.

## **Sixth Form:-**

We have a large and very successful Sixth Form and students select courses from an extensive range of subjects. A wide range of A, AS, AVCE, GNVQ, and GCSE courses is available. 'A' level results are well above national and local averages. For full details about our Sixth Form, please see our Sixth Form Prospectus.

Teaching methods in all key stages are varied but we aim to provide variety and stimulus for all students. Lessons ensure that all learning styles are catered for and aim to stretch all abilities. In Year 9 many subjects are taught in mixed ability groups, whilst others are in ability sets. In Years 10 and 11 more subjects introduce ability sets.





# What support

## is there for students with particular needs?

"The vast majority of students behave well for the great majority of the time that they are in school. Lessons always progress without interruption caused by bad behaviour, while students' good behaviour means that teachers can trust them to, for instance, work on their own at particular projects without direct supervision, thus helping them to develop independent learning habits."

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Each individual is important to us and has needs which we do our best to cater for. Staff have worked hard to develop approaches within and beyond the classroom which mean that the learning needs of all students are met.

### Special learning needs:-

The Learning Support Department supports students with a wide range of special education needs, so that they can access all areas of the school curriculum. We recently opened a new Student Support Centre which enhances the work done in classrooms by our team of support assistants.

Staff have worked hard to develop approaches within and beyond the classroom which mean that the learning needs of all students are met.

### Gifted and talented students:-

Students with particular gifts or talents in areas of the curriculum will find opportunities to develop these within their regular lessons. In addition, there are a number of enrichment classes and other opportunities after school which focus on gifted and talented students.

# What goes on outside the classroom?



**“They (students) appreciate the support offered to them by staff and like the range of activities that are available. There is particularly good participation in sporting and dramatic events, and in lessons students settle well, pay good attention and generally get to work with a will, happy to ask further questions, if they are unsure about something.”**

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It is important that all students gain as much as they can out of school. Therefore we provide a full range of enrichment opportunities and extra-curricular activities thrive at Shelley. Students are involved in a host of activities, including sport, music, community work, drama, dance, environmental work and outdoor pursuits. Activities take place at lunchtimes, after school, at the weekends and in holiday time. In addition, there are regular exchange visits and overseas trips, to the Continent, and the USA.

## How do we prepare students for the future?

We aim to give a broad and balanced curriculum to all students, which they will find challenging, demanding and interesting. We also aim to promote their spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development and prepare them for the opportunities and responsibilities of adult life. A full programme of careers advice and education is coordinated across the curriculum and involves subject teachers, form tutors and professional careers advisers.





## Links between home and school

We believe that students will achieve most and be happiest at school when there is a good partnership between home and school. This means good understanding of each other's aims and wishes and good communication between parents and school staff. Our job in helping students to learn well and develop as responsible members of the community is made much easier when we have the backing of parents over routine matters and over any problems which can sometimes arise. If parents and the school work together in a genuine partnership, then students are more likely to achieve their full potential.



## What is our admissions policy?

Admission to our school is controlled by Kirklees LA and it is intended that 342 students are admitted to our school every year. Full details of the LA's admissions policy can be obtained from Schools Admissions, Oldgate House, 2 Oldgate, Huddersfield.

The school itself controls admissions to the Sixth Form and full details of our admissions policy can be found in our Sixth Form prospectus.

Shelley College  
Huddersfield Road  
Shelley  
Huddersfield  
HD8 8NL

Telephone: 01484 868777

Fax: 01484 222945

Email: [office.shelley@kirklees-schools.org.uk](mailto:office.shelley@kirklees-schools.org.uk)

Website: [www.shelleycollege.org](http://www.shelleycollege.org)





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