



Idsall School

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IDSALL SCHOOL



Prospectus

Dear Parents/Dear Prospective Student

As Headteacher, I am very pleased to welcome you to our school.

Idsall School believes that every student should reach their full potential. By setting high standards - not only in academic study but in all aspects of our school community - we seek to inspire students in everything they do.

We are proud of our excellent reputation for the high quality of our teaching and learning, our overall high as well as our friendly and caring approach.

Our students have a fine reputation for outstanding behaviour, courtesy and respect which is regularly commented on by visitors to our school. Our highly-committed staff team, including teaching and non-teaching staff, put in many extra hours to ensure that our students get an excellent all round education in order that they may achieve their very best and become outstanding citizens.

We offer a wide range of subjects including Law, Psychology, Sociology and Business at A Level and we are particularly proud of the huge number of after-school and extra-curricular activities on offer at the end of the school day. For example, we offer the opportunity to study other academic subjects after school. Additionally, in a typical week, we might offer the following and more:

- ◆ Academic subjects
- ◆ Football (girls and boys)
- ◆ Badminton
- ◆ Gymnastics
- ◆ Table-Tennis
- ◆ Rugby
- ◆ Cross Country
- ◆ Trampoline
- ◆ Dance
- ◆ Duke of Edinburgh Award
- ◆ Library (internet/private study)
- ◆ Netball
- ◆ Rowing Club
- ◆ BMX Club
- ◆ Karate and Self-Defence
- ◆ Fitness Training in our state of the art fitness suite
- ◆ Rock School and String Group
- ◆ Cello Lessons and Show Band
- ◆ Golf

We have had external validation by OFSTED that we are a high performing school. Idsall was described by OFSTED as a good and improving school where students achieve well and leave the school with results that are above the national average. All judgements were good.

This is clearly an exciting place to learn. However, we would like to build on our strengths to ensure that all students continue to gain outstanding examination results as well as developing the social, personal and interpersonal skills that will help them become outstanding citizens.

Pete Bourton
Headteacher



An Exciting Place to Learn

We have a well-deserved reputation for high standards in teaching and academic achievement. At Idsall School we aim to provide a great variety of opportunities; academic, social and cultural, in order to challenge or students to develop and achieve their personal best.

We ensure that every student gets the best possible opportunities and education allowing them to succeed and flourish. Learning is at the heart of all we do.

Through high quality teaching we ensure every students talents and abilities are catered for, allowing them to not only excel academically but also to allow them to become independent in their learning and prepare them for the next stages of their life.

"In all lessons teachers create a positive climate for learning where all students feel comfortable offering their opinions, knowing they will be listened to by adults and one another with respect."

- Ofsted

We offer outstanding care and support to our students. We encourage them all to do their very best, to grow in confidence, to enjoy learning, to respect others, to take part in new and challenging activities, and to have high ambitions for their own achievement. We value and strive to develop both the academic learning skills and personal skills of our students so that they can be a positive member of the local and global community. Our teachers and support staff are highly skilled in understanding the needs of every child, and are committed to providing each of them with the very best learning experience in an environment where they feel secure and happy.

We hope that this brochure will help you to decide that Idsall is the kind of school you would like your child to attend. However hard we try to convey what we think is of value, the words and pictures in this are really no substitute for a personal visit. Please contact us if you would like to see the school in action on a normal working day. We would be glad to show you around.



About

Idsall School

Idsall is a large successful 11-18 mixed comprehensive school with about 1300 students. The school occupies extensive and attractive grounds on the edge of the market town of Shifnal bordering on open countryside.

Lying close to the boundary with neighbouring authorities, Idsall attracts students from outside its designated admissions area - some from Telford and others from Staffordshire.

Our school buildings are well-maintained and provide large airy work spaces which are well-equipped to support delivery of exciting lessons. We have completed extensive redevelopment over the last two years adding state of the art learning environments in Art, science, technology and ICT. New canteen facilities and upgraded toilet facilities have transformed our school. Classrooms are fitted with electronic whiteboards and multi-media projectors and have full access to broadband internet resources and a school-wide computer network. All our teaching staff have been equipped with lap-top computers to facilitate delivery of high-quality lessons.

"Teachers know the students' abilities, and plan lessons so that they meet the needs effectively of different groups including disabled students, those with special educational needs and those supported by pupil premium"

- Ofsted

An attractive feature of the school is our large modern Library and Resource Centre which is a focus for many learning activities and private study both during and after the normal school day.

Our facilities for sports and physical education are outstanding. We have a very large multi-purpose sports hall as well as a separate gymnasium which was refurbished in 2016. Our Sports Centre has a large, state-of-the-art fitness suite with new fitness-training machines. Outside, we have a floodlit all weather sports area and floodlit tennis courts. There are extensive playing fields for football, rugby, cricket, athletics, hockey and rounders.



Vision and Values

Our school comprises a community of students, staff, governors and parents. Our motto reflects our belief that we want everyone within our School to reach their full potential.

As a school community we value :

- ◆ Each other, ourselves and our differences
- ◆ Kindness, honesty and respect
- ◆ Hard work and determination to be the best we can be
- ◆ Independent learning, organisation and self-reliance
- ◆ Courtesy and good manners

As a school we aim to :

- ◆ Be a school where everybody feels safe and happy
- ◆ Be a school where students work hard to achieve their maximum potential
- ◆ Deliver high quality teaching and learning that is valued and enjoyed
- ◆ Monitor and assess progress regularly to improve performance and produce a positive culture of high achievement and celebration
- ◆ Offer students activities and opportunities that develop a sense of self-worth, healthy well-being, enjoyment and belonging

We will not accept :

- ◆ Bullying in any form
- ◆ Behaviour that hinders the learning of others



Learn

and Develop

In Years 7 to 9 Idsall School offers a common curriculum that broad and balanced. This curriculum is aimed at developing our students personal learning and thinking skills as well as encouraging their resourcefulness, resilience and teamwork. English, mathematics and science are complemented by physical education, the arts and humanities, modern foreign languages, design and technology and ICT.

Teaching at Idsall School is constantly developing to ensure that all students are supported to achieve their personal best. We have consistently high expectations of both ourselves as teachers and our students. We maintain high levels of student engagement through the use of stimulating and imaginative learning strategies that develop resilience, confidence, collaboration and curiosity.

Regular checks are made to track each student's progress against their own personal learning targets. Students receive regular feedback on their work and progress. This feedback is designed to support the student to recognise what they have done well and need to do again, and what they could improve on to achieve the next steps in their learning.

Progress is discussed by students with tutors and the results are reported termly to parents in a clear format showing strengths and identifying areas for improvement. Additionally, when work is marked, teachers will identify how well a student has done and importantly, how that work can be improved. We thus constantly strive to ensure that a student reaches his or her full potential.

Students are placed in ability groups for most subjects based on prior attainment levels and grades achieved in progress tests completed during the year.

In Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) the range of subjects and courses available to students opens up to allow each student to make choices which they find interesting and relevant to their future careers. An options booklet provided during year 9 sets out details of all the courses on offer, and students make a guided choice to construct their personal programme of study in full consultation with parents and staff.

The opportunity to progress to 'A' level studies in our own successful Sixth Form is a tremendous advantage for Idsall students, and is a stimulus for them to aim for the highest grades at GCSE. Sixth Form students make a valuable contribution to the life of the school, helping to run clubs and organise charity events, and supporting children with special educational needs.

"For the past three years, a higher proportion of students than seen nationally leave the school with five good GCSE's, including English and Maths."

- Ofsted

Extra

Enrichment and Opportunities

An outstanding feature of student life at Idsall is the fantastic range of opportunities for students to join in extra activities that will enrich their learning and enjoyment of school life. These include music, drama, theatre visits, gallery visits, trips abroad, residential experiences, outdoor and adventurous activities such as climbing and kayaking, links with students in France and Germany, STEM activities such as LEGO club and astrology and film clubs.

'Session Six' is our extensive afternoon activities programme - available each weekday afternoon from 3.15 to 4.15. It is a meeting time for our school band, vocal, drum and keyboard groups. Every day there is a huge range of different sporting activities to choose from. The Library and Resource Centre (LRC) offers Studyzone when students can use Apple Mac computers and access the internet and paper based resources to help with homework, or just enjoy a quiet place to read. The school provides late transport home to most areas at the end of Session Six. All after school activities are provided free of charge, but students are asked to pay towards the cost of late transport if they make use of it.

Many of our older students choose to take up leadership or coaching awards in sport, and high numbers are involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Our drama and music productions are very well represented by students from all year groups and always attract full audiences. Recent productions of Jesus Christ Superstar, Disco Inferno and Bussy Malone sold out. Students can also display their creative talents in the annual Idsall's Got Talent show. There are also many opportunities to learn a wide range of musical instruments.

Students can also participate in expeditions where they mature, broaden their outlook, develop resilience and teamwork, improve their fitness and communication and help people and communities who are less fortunate. The recent expeditions to Venezuela and Peru were incredible experiences.

"Students take part in a wide range of good quality activities after school."

"Students relish the opportunity to hold positions of responsibility"

- Ofsted



Care

Guidance and Support

The high quality of care, guidance and support for students is a particular feature of Idsall School, and contributes greatly to the positive ethos and climate for learning.

Staff visit the local primary schools and students can attend a taster day in the summer term. We welcome Year 7's exclusively on the first day of the school year to help them settle in; each student is assigned to a tutor group when he or she joins the school, and will stay with this group, usually with the same group tutor and learning manager, through the next five years. The tutor group meets every morning for registration and once each week has a lesson together covering all aspects of individual development and Citizenship. The course is taught by a team of teachers with a special interest in this area. It covers a wide range of topics and issues that are essential in developing the knowledge, understanding and personal and learning skills needed to enjoy and succeed at school as well as prepare for adult life. Tutors monitor student welfare, ably supported by a key stage manager for each of the three phases – KS3, 4 and 5. Our young people also have access to a counsellor whilst staff liaise as required with external agencies.

Careers education and guidance is provided through ID lessons and one to one interviews with a personal advisor. The school holds a quality mark for particularly high standards in this part of our work.

Our Learning Support Team provides specialist help to students with special educational needs and has been rated outstanding at our last two inspections. The team has a learning base that offers a welcome to students at breaks and lunchtimes with activities to support the development of basic skills in literacy and numeracy. Students supported by the team generally work in mainstream classes with short term withdrawal when individual support is needed. Gifted and talented students are identified early in their school career and we try to ensure that they are challenged and given every opportunity to develop their talents.

The school Access Plan aims to improve accessibility to the school for disabled students and adults. Recent developments include the provision of ramps and disabled toilet facilities.



Idsall

School Admissions

Admissions procedures for Idsall School are managed by Shropshire LA. Full details of these procedures are set out in the LA's booklet "Secondary Education in Shropshire - A guide for Parents". Copies are held in school for reference and are available from the Education Department, The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ.

When school places are allocated for the start of Year 7, priority is given to families living within the designated admission area for the school. The LA booklet explains how this works and how subsequent places are given. The LA Admissions Officer is usually available during our Open Evening in October to speak with parents about the admissions procedure. We are happy to deal with general enquiries about admissions if you telephone the school at other times.

For the last ten years, the number of applications for Idsall has been significantly higher than the number of places available in the school. Many applications come from families living outside our immediate admissions area. Although we have not been able to provide places to all those wishing to join us, we have had enough vacancies each year to offer some places to new families living outside our admissions area. The LA admissions policy defines how these are allocated. This is outlined on a separate page in your folder and is explained in more detail in the LA Guide.

"Students are very welcoming to visitors, and are polite, respectful and articulate in their interactions with one another and adults."

- Ofsted

Under new national procedures, parents are required to submit a single application form to the education authority responsible for the area in which they live. All out of area application forms that include Idsall School in the list of preferences are passed on to Shropshire LA for consideration by the admissions team.



Focus

On Sport

PE and Sport play a huge part in life at Idsall School. We aim to use PE and Sport to promote healthy living and a positive outlook. We use PE and Sport as a vehicle to build self-esteem and to develop leadership skills, giving our students the confidence and self-assurance to aim for a higher standard in all that they do. We are convinced that this has helped us to raise standards at GCSE and A Level.

PE and Extra-Curricular opportunities in our 'Session Six' programme are outstanding. Every year group has access to a wide range of sports, specialist staff and excellent equipment and resources.

Throughout the Year Idsall competes in tournaments against local schools in many sporting activities. We are current champions in the following sports:

- ◆ Under 16 Indoor Girls Football
- ◆ Year 10 / 11 District Football
- ◆ Year 8 / 9 Girls District Football
- ◆ Elite Gymnastics
- ◆ Year 7 Boys 12 a' side Rugby
- ◆ Year 8 Boys 12 a' side Rugby
- ◆ Year 9 Boys Rugby
- ◆ Year 10 Rounders
- ◆ Year 8 Rounders
- ◆ Year 9 Athletics Combined
- ◆ Year 10 / 11 Cross Country
- ◆ U16 Girls Individual Elite Trampolining
- ◆ U16 Girls Individual Novice Trampolining
- ◆ U13 Girls Individual Novice Trampolining
- ◆ Junior Boys Swimming

Some of our students are nominated to attend talent inspiration residential experiences where they meet Olympic athletes who share their elite experiences and give advice on how to train effectively, mental preparation and nutrition.

Much of our focus involves outreach work in other schools, offering expert help and support to partner primary and secondary schools. This support has once again paid off this year with a 7th Shropshire Summer Games title.





"Many students participate in the wide range of sporting activities offered and have an excellent understanding of how these activities improve their health."

- Ofsted