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# Meadowhead School Academy Trust

a member of  
**The Meadowhead Community Learning Trust**



## Information for candidates 2023-4



# Introduction

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We would like to take this opportunity of offering you a warm welcome to Meadowhead School. At Meadowhead we see the education of young people as a partnership between pupils, parents and school where each partner is clear about the contribution that is expected of them. We look to appoint teachers and support staff who share our philosophy and are wanting to **make a difference** to our school community.

Meadowhead School moved into new purpose built accommodation in 2007. The Meadowhead Community Learning Trust (MCLT) was set up in 2009 in partnership with six feeder primary schools, Sheffield College, Sheffield University, Sheffield Hallam University and a number of local and national businesses. This charitable trust is now known as Meadowhead Together and actively works to enhance the learning experiences across the family of schools. In August 2012, the school became a converter academy and we remain a stand-alone academy trust.

We house our own Sixth Form currently teaching A level courses and level 3 courses to over 292 students. We opened our new purpose built Sixth Form Centre in November 2017.

Our expectations at Meadowhead are clear and easily understood. We expect a high standard of performance in all aspects of school life: in behaviour and attitude, in effort and attendance, in achievement and commitment, and in determination to make the most of individual ability. We care about progress and achievement, whether it is academic, creative or sporting. Above all our concern is to ensure that we provide the right conditions and opportunities for our pupils to enjoy their educational experience and to do their best to achieve their full potential and have the skills and confidence to make successful progression beyond school.

There is a relentless and uncompromising drive for school improvement at all levels.

All at Meadowhead are in pursuit of excellence. There is a focus on every child and a belief that every child matters and that every child will achieve and make progress. We look to achieve this by developing:

- high quality teaching, learning and assessment that engages and meets the needs of all learners;
- a staffing structure that allows school leaders to focus on the strategic direction of the school and allows teachers to focus on teaching, learning and assessment;
- a high quality CPD and staff support programmes that support staff pedagogy and practice resulting in strong recruitment and retention;
- a broad, balanced and engaging curriculum that challenges every student and allows them to follow the pathway that is most appropriate for them;
- strong links with industry, higher education and the community that allow students to contextualise their learning;
- outstanding support, care and guidance through a well-trained and highly skilled pastoral team;
- excellent relationships with and amongst staff and students;
- strong lines of communication to ensure that staff and student voices are heard and listened to;

- a wide range of extra-curricular activities and student leadership programmes to enrich the learning experience;
- a positive contribution to and relationship with the community;
- a supportive working partnership with home.

In our most recent OFSTED inspection in June 2022, we were judged to be a 'Good' school.

The key areas the school has focused on during the last three years have been:

- To strengthen the quality of teaching, learning and assessment to improve students' progress levels
- To further develop student personal development to improve skills, resilience, attitudes and behaviour
- To improve attendance levels to at least 95% for all students
- To strengthen the curriculum so that it better meets the needs of all learners post COVID
- To improve students' literacy levels
- To accelerate rates of progress for all disadvantaged learners.

The school's drive to raise standards is evident in our significant improvements and these were detailed in our most recent OFSTED report. We enter our next phase in our development with optimism and excitement knowing that our school is stronger as a result of the changes we have introduced.

This is an exciting time to join Meadowhead and we are determined to provide the best possible education for all students. We believe that this is best achieved by well lead, well trained staff who are confident, enthusiastic and talented, working in partnership with parents and the wider community.

To find out more about Meadowhead School and please see our school website at [www.meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk](http://www.meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk)

# Meadowhead School Academy Trust

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This document gives information about Meadowhead School for prospective job applicants. Further information about can be found on our website at [www.meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk](http://www.meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk).

At Meadowhead our vision is to **make a difference** to the lives of our young people. Through excellence and continual improvement, we aim to be the best we can possibly be for our current and future students. We are determined that all our students achieve their full potential and leave us as confident, compassionate and articulate individuals to grow and prosper in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We work in partnership with others to equip students with the skills, attitudes and qualifications needed to lead fulfilling lives and to become responsible adults. Through a skilfully planned curriculum, enrichment experiences, high standards in teaching and pastoral care we fully prepare our students for entrance to further and higher education, high quality employment and the future careers of their choice.

Our ambition is to develop and nurture young people to become well rounded individuals with the characteristics to contribute fully to society with a strong sense of civic responsibility. We want to ensure that our students are equipped with the knowledge, understanding and skills to influence change and to improve their own lives, their local community and the planet. We aim to inspire young people to live sustainable lives and develop the green skills to tackle both the causes and the impact of climate change resulting in better futures for all.

## Meadowhead Vision Statement

### Introduction

Meadowhead is a popular and successful 11-18 school on the southern edge of the city of Sheffield, which serves, amongst others, the communities of Batemoor, Beauchief, Bradway, Greenhill, Jordanthorpe, Lowedges, Norton and Woodseats. The school was created out of the amalgamation of two schools, Rowlinson and Jordanthorpe, in 1988. Currently we have 1927 students on roll including 292 in the Sixth Form.

We continue to be a single academy trust but have strong partnerships with local schools, MATs, universities and local businesses through the Meadowhead Community Learning Trust. Further information about the MCLT and the benefits it brings to the wider community can be found on our website.

### The Building

In January 2007, under PFI initiative, we moved into a purpose built, single site school designed to meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. All curriculum areas have specialist accommodation in their own wings with well-equipped rooms and offices grouped together. There is a large central courtyard at the heart of the new building with the specialist teaching wings leading off from this. The ICT infrastructure facilitates the increased use and development of ICT throughout the school and all classrooms have interactive whiteboards and multi-media technology.

There are eight curriculum areas:

- The MFL area has additional facilities including two fully equipped language laboratories.
- Maths, English, Humanities and Science all have fully suited ICT rooms. The Science wing has eleven science laboratories and lecture room.
- In the Art, Design and Technology area there are facilities for Food Technology, Art, Textiles, 3-D Art including two kilns, an ICT suite and Design & Technology workshops with specialist equipment.

- In Physical Education, there is a full size sports hall, two activity rooms, a fitness suite and extensive playing fields including floodlit Astro turf facilities and multipurpose activity areas.
- Performing Arts has music rooms, practice rooms, recording studio, and drama studios linked to the main hall, which has a fixed stage for performances.
- There is a Learning Resource Centre, which includes a library and careers suite.
- There is also a specially designed Learning Support Centre encompassing learning, behaviour monitoring and mentoring. Support takes place in 1:1 and small group situations as well as within the classroom and the support units.

## **The Curriculum**

The Meadowhead curriculum is designed to cater for all learners with knowledge at its heart.

The content is structured to allow for the development of core skills, the enrichment of knowledge and the broadening of experience across a wide range of subjects. We seek to develop a student's cultural, literary, historical, scientific and artistic knowledge.

Literacy and numeracy skills are embedded across our curriculum. Students are exposed to word-rich environments with opportunities for reading and extended writing. Numeracy skills are required across a range of subjects and, therefore, we place emphasis on mastery and practice. Additional support for some students is provided through our reading programmes, literacy catch-up and numeracy development on the Bridge.

The curriculum has been built as a progression model allowing students to explore key concepts and ideas whilst embedding core knowledge. There are progression routes for all learners; we offer academic and vocational pathways with a range of GCSE, A-level and BTEC courses. We also provide opportunities for students at KS4 to do work-related learning.

As part of a student's personal development, they all study Ethics, which incorporates PSHE and religious education. Within the Ethics curriculum students are encouraged to debate, explore and study ethical issues to help them understand the wider world. Students can opt to take this as a GCSE qualification at key stage 4.

We run a three-year Key Stage 3 (year 7-9) where students study:

- English, mathematics, science
- Geography and history
- A language (German, French or Spanish)
- Health, Fitness & Well-being
- Ethics
- ICT
- Drama and music
- Art and technology

All students have a 25 minute personal development/reading each morning led by form teachers.

## **KS4 runs over two years (Year 10 and 11).**

The school is committed to providing a diverse and inclusive curriculum with a range of guided choices. All students study:

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Health, Fitness & Well-being (non-examined)
- Ethics (non-examined)

The guided choices we offer are:

- Languages (Spanish, German, French)
- History and geography
- Triple Science
- BTEC Sport, BTEC Health / Social Care and GCSE sport
- BTEC Business, ICT media and Computer Science
- Art general, textiles, and photography
- Product design and BTEC construction
- GCSE music and BTEC music
- BTEC in performing arts (dance or acting)

All students have a 25 minute personal development / Study time each morning led by form teachers.

### **Sixth Form Courses:**

Due to our size we are able to offer a wide range of academic and vocational subjects at Key Stage Five. We have the highest expectations of our students in all areas of their learning and a lot of care is taken to ensure that they develop into well-rounded young adults who are able to take the next step with confidence and success.

We also work with our Trust Partners, including Sheffield University, Sheffield Hallam University and The Sheffield College, to enable us to personalise the curriculum and offer our students the widest range of courses in the city with excellent guidance and support to progress in the future.

### **Facilities:**

Our new purpose built Sixth Form Centre opened in November 2017 and provides students with a dedicated working environment which is an integral part of the school. The Sixth Form Centre contains teaching rooms, social space with a cafeteria and areas for private study. The centre is fully equipped with the latest ICT and wifi access.

### **Learner Success:**

A personalised learning programme is in place for individual students about suitable courses and qualifications, based on their own interests and ambitions and supported by our detailed knowledge of their strengths and potential. Offers of places on sixth form courses are based on secure evidence with a high degree of confidence that the courses are appropriate for the individual.

As an 11-18 sixth form school, we have been able to offer a curriculum for our sixth form students to enable them to progress further. Currently, our sixth form programme allows students to access A-level and BTEC courses in:

- English (Language, Literature)
- Maths, Further Maths
- Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, BTEC Science)
- Humanities (History, Geography, Sociology, Ethics, Psychology)
- Languages (French, German, Spanish)
- BTEC ICT, Computing
- BTEC Sport
- Art
- Art Textiles
- Product Design
- Economics
- BTEC and A level Business Studies
- BTEC Performing Arts
- Music
- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- BTEC Health and Social Care

We also offer a Football Scholarship in partnership with Sheffield FC.

## **Alternative Provision:**

We offer work-related learning for some students at KS3 and KS4 including foundation courses in Hair and Beauty, Construction, Catering and Motor Vehicle Maintenance. These are taken off-site and all lead to recognised qualifications (these are currently being reviewed).

## **Opportunities**

Meadowhead is justifiably proud of the opportunities it offers to students as extra-curricular activities and is keen to recruit staff who can extend or support this programme. The PE Faculty co-ordinate a whole range of after-school sports and consequently Meadowhead is well known for the quality and extent of its participation in sporting events, competing at all levels of sport with national success.

Equally, the school has a considerable reputation for the quality of its Music and Drama, which find joint expression each year with the July or Christmas School Production - an event which draws upon the energies that occur in a Meadowhead year. There are also talent shows, musical concerts and competitions where pupils get the opportunity to perform.

The school is always keen to encourage additional extra-curricular opportunities. We have a proud record of participation and success in local and national competitions in all curriculum areas.

## **Care of Students**

Meadowhead School is one of the biggest schools in Sheffield. The size of the school means that it enjoys good facilities but can also offer lots of opportunities and can employ highly specialised staff. The school's size, however, places a special responsibility upon all staff to ensure that each individual student feels important, cared for, and part of the school, which is why pastoral care is integral to the social and academic development of every child. Equally, it is why we put such a great emphasis on the part played by their Head of Year, Assistant Head of Year and the Pastoral Manager.

Post pandemic the school has expanded student support teams to meet a higher level of need amongst the student population. The school has invested in the following areas to ensure all students are able to fulfil their potential at Meadowhead: Safeguarding, Attendance, Behaviour, Pastoral, Engagement Centres, Careers and SEND.

## **Opportunities for staff and Continuous Professional Development (CPD)**

We are looking to recruit staff who are wanting to make a difference to the lives of young people at Meadowhead.

We undertake to provide all newly appointed staff with a structured induction programme designed to support their initial year at Meadowhead School. For all staff, we seek to offer opportunities for continual professional development and are proud of the high proportion of staff that have taken advantage of these initiatives. As a large school we have the expertise to offer excellent professional development and guidance for staff at all stages of their career.

We seek to recruit staff who take their job seriously but themselves rather less so. We want people who will support the school and be good colleagues. As important as all this we look for teachers who enjoy teaching and who genuinely like children.