



# Shipston High School

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## *High achieving - Student-centred*

### INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Shipston High School is a non-selective 11-16 mixed High School with a very special ethos and character. Our students are high achieving and increasingly successful. The school itself is located on an attractive green-field site on the outskirts of Shipston-on-Stour in South Warwickshire. Our buildings are spacious and offer a wealth of specialist and general accommodation. Significant development of the site saw a first phase of new classrooms open in 2015 and 2018, with a further development due for completion in the summer of 2024.

Visitors frequently remark on the distinctive ethos of Shipston High School. In particular, they praise the obvious energy and enthusiasm of staff and students, the excellent relations, and the happy and mutually respectful atmosphere. They also express admiration for the unusual confidence and maturity of our students and the way they rise to the challenge of taking on increasing levels of responsibility.

#### Some recent highlights

- The school has year on year been improving its examination results. In our most recent (2022) results over 74 % of students achieved standard passes in both Maths and English.
- Our increasing proportion of extremely able students has led to a rising proportion of GCSE passes at the very top grades of 7, 8 and 9; over 25 % of the cohort in Maths and English.
- In our 2018 Ofsted inspection the school was judged to be good overall with our students seen as 'a credit' to the school.
- The school has achieved positive progress 8 outcomes in the majority of years this measure has been active.
- Owing to its continuing success the school has become increasingly popular and is now regularly oversubscribed. Numbers on roll are rising. We currently have nearly 600 students in the school but plan to expand over the forthcoming few years.
- The school became a new Academy on 1st September 2012 and has developed an imaginative and ambitious project to redevelop the entire school in phases. The first phase, a new £1.6M state-of-the-art teaching block, opened in September 2015, with the second £2.25M building opened in the summer of 2018. A further £10.5 million investment has recently been confirmed

#### Teaching and Learning

We put learning at the heart of everything we do. Staff have high expectations of all students, whatever their backgrounds or abilities, and we expect students to make the most of the many opportunities the school provides. Class sizes are kept as small as possible so that we cater more effectively for every student's needs. We believe firmly in the importance of homework and independent study as important tools to help our students become successful, self motivated learners.

#### Resources for Learning

The range and quality of our facilities ensure that teaching and learning is varied, interesting and successful. ICT facilities throughout the school have been increased and upgraded significantly during recent years. All classrooms are equipped with audio visual technology

and we have an excellent computer to student ratio which is well above the national average; our students are learning in high quality, well-equipped subject environments.

*“The teaching was most enthusiastic and drew interested and involved responses from the students. The oral responses were particularly impressive. How well (the teachers) know their classes!”*

*Visiting Governor*

### **The School Curriculum**

All National Curriculum subjects are taught through both Key Stages 3 and 4. Students are initially grouped by ability in most subjects at Key Stage 3. At Key Stage 4 all students follow a “core” curriculum and then choose from a wide range of options. The curriculum is robust, and fulfills national accountability measures whilst enabling a personalised programme for our learners.

### **Pastoral Care and Guidance**

All students are expected to meet the very high standards of behaviour required of them. There is a very experienced pastoral team based on a House system that looks after the needs of all our students. We also rely on the support of parents to maintain our high standards. We place a strong emphasis on establishing a caring community that encourages growth and confidence in all our students. Each student is assigned to a form and a form tutor whose purpose is to enable youngsters to obtain the best out of all aspects of the school life. The positive relationships that exist with our partner primary schools ensures that we have detailed information about students as they transfer at 11 years old.

During Years 10 and 11 students are encouraged to take on leadership roles by applying to become school prefects. They take on responsible duties and are expected to use their own initiative in helping with the day-to-day running of the school. Senior prefects are appointed annually.

### **Celebrating Achievement**

Our school is founded on the belief that all students have talents and can achieve. We make it our mission to bring out the talents of our individual students and to celebrate their endeavours and successes at all levels. The school takes a proactive stance with regard to rewarding students for good behaviour, achievement, motivation and service to the school and wider community. Our system of rewards is designed to encourage positive attitudes above and beyond normal working expectations.

Some examples of the many ways that we reward achievement include:

- Individual praise
- The award of merit points
- Letters, postcards and certificates sent home
- Celebration in House and whole school assemblies
- Inclusion on our “Success Board”
- Special, end of term “Celebration Assemblies”
- Letter of commendation from the Headteacher
- The “Shipston Award” scheme
- An award at our annual Awards Evening when students receive public recognition for their efforts and achievements

### **Extra curricular Activities**

A wide range of opportunities exist for the students to be involved in sporting, dramatic, computing and musical activities. Our student participation rate is exceptionally high. We regularly compete on the sports field with neighbouring schools and youngsters are involved both locally and with county teams. We have staged many dramatic productions of varying

types, along with regular music concerts. Opportunities also exist for students to take part in a wide range of educational visits to places in this country and abroad.

*“From the first telephone conversation to your school we were met with the utmost courtesy and attention and the boys who showed us round are to be particularly commended. They were truly ambassadors to your school and their knowledge, interest and enthusiasm for the school was clearly obvious to see. The comment from our son afterwards was that Shipston High School was his number one choice.”*  
*Prospective parent visiting the school*

### **Communication with Parents**

We are keen to see parents involved in helping their youngsters to learn. Much of this contact is achieved informally through parents coming into the school or by telephone. On a more formal level, regular consultation sessions take place including termly reports home. We also have a very active “Friends of Shipston High” Association.

### **Post 16 Destinations**

On completion of their GCSEs the majority of our students leave school to follow a wide range of AS/A level and other post 16 courses at local sixth form centres and colleges. Many then go on to university and higher education in order to enter a wide range of professions and careers.