



Standish Community
High School



Prospectus

Welcome to Standish

On behalf of the governors and staff, may I thank you for considering Standish Community High School as the next school for your child's education.

Standish Community High School is a thriving 11-16 school, set on an extensive and well-resourced campus in Standish, Wigan. We are a vibrant, caring and forward-thinking school, where the academic achievement and personal development of each student go hand in hand. We are committed to the highest levels of academic achievement, personal growth and lifelong fulfilment. Our motto 'Be Outstanding' captures our determination and belief that all of our students deserve the very best education and opportunities that enable them to flourish and grow in confidence, developing skills and expertise, and to be happy, well rounded and successful individuals.

As Head of School, I am privileged to lead a team of skilful teachers and members of support staff who are highly professional and equally ambitious for all students, irrespective of background or ability. I believe that the very high levels of attainment and progress that are achieved each year is clear demonstration of the many successful and professional relationships in school. It is the belief in the focus on 'every student, every subject and every grade' that lies at the heart of our ambitions to meet the particular needs of every individual. The impressive GCSE results in 2018 bear testament to the commitment of all members of staff who 'go the extra mile' with our students.

Standish Community High School is a values driven school and these behaviours are a constant in what we expect of ourselves, our students and our families; 'we care, we aim high, we achieve together and we lead the way.' Over the five years, our students make considerable strides towards adulthood.

Leaders' expectations of what every student is capable of achieving are very high.

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Three chief aims we have for them:

- To become successful learners
- To become confident individuals
- To become responsible citizens

All the decisions we make as a school have these aims in mind. We want our students to be multi-skilled and successful, problem-solvers, creative thinkers and adaptable learners.

We offer an outstanding curriculum tailored to students' needs. It is built around the development of knowledge, skills and understanding, which is preparation for promising destinations at college, apprenticeship or future employment. In addition, we believe our curriculum also develops our students into caring and community-minded members of society who look to the interests of others as well as themselves.

In addition to the systems already in place for parents/carers to communicate with the school, I offer a termly drop-in for parents/carers where you will have the opportunity to meet myself and members of the Senior Leadership Team, to ask any questions or raise any issues that you would like the school to reflect on or address.

Thank you for taking the time to read more about Standish Community High School. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us for further information. You may also be interested in a personal guided tour. This can be arranged when you contact the school.

I look forward to meeting you.

Lindsay Barker
Head of School



On behalf of the Members and Trustees of the Mosaic Multi-Academy Trust, it gives me great pleasure to recommend to you Standish Community High School as a potential school of choice for your child.

The Trust was formally established in 2017 to enable two schools to work, through partnership, to achieve outstanding outcomes for students, irrespective of background or ability. Before legal ratification our work began three years ago, and during that time achievement figures for both schools have, either risen dramatically, or maintained the already high levels of attainment and progress.

I believe these outstanding results have been achieved by sustaining across The Trust, a culture of excellence and endeavour in terms of leadership, teaching and learning.

Our aim is for your child to become a successful learner, a confident individual and a responsible citizen, ready and ambitious for the world that lies within and beyond the field of education.

I hope you have all your questions answered in this prospectus, however, please do not hesitate to contact the school should you wish to discuss any matter further.

Andy Pollard
Executive Headteacher



Vision and Values

Our vision

We seek to be recognised as a school that secures excellence in academic achievement, personal growth and professional development. We focus on the needs of the individual through a commitment to every student, every subject and every grade. We believe that there should be no ceiling on ambition and that potential can be realised in all our students, irrespective of background or ability. We aspire to place a deep sense of care and support at the heart of our school.

Our aims:

- To ensure our students become conscientious and resilient so that they thrive as learners
- To prepare students for 21st century adulthood through the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum
- To be recognised as a centre of excellence for teaching and learning
- To flourish as an inclusive school that prepares our students to be responsible citizens
- To ensure that all pastoral structures and systems of support are designed to help students be confident with high self-esteem
- To recognise leadership at all levels and across all areas of school life
- To equip our students to have the skills and emotional intelligence to be able to adapt and succeed in an ever-changing society.

Students particularly appreciate the lengths the staff go to support them so that they can 'be the best they can'. Students take pride in their school and dress smartly.

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OUR MOTTO
Be Outstanding

A Curriculum for the 21st Century

At Standish, through our broad and balanced curriculum, we offer our students well-planned lessons where teachers teach and promote active learning. Through incisive feedback our students are given 'next steps' information with built-in time to improve. Monitoring and tracking students' current performance is something we take very seriously. Our students have challenging yet attainable targets and are routinely informed of the current state of play.

Key Stage 3, Years 7-9

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 study a wide range of core subjects; these include: English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, French or Spanish, History, Geography, Technology, Computer Science, Art, Music & Drama through Performance, RE and PE. In addition, students also learn about Personal and Social Development and IT skills. A series of wider enrichment activities outside of the normal curriculum are also provided. These are intended to enhance the overall learning experience for all students.

Significant work has been undertaken to ensure that each new Year 7 cohort builds on the latest developments in Key Stage 2 and starts the journey of preparation for GCSE with pace and enthusiasm. Some subjects use Year 9 as a springboard for Key Stage 4, whilst others actually embark on the GCSE specification in this year.

Key Stage 4, Years 10-11

Students in Years 10 and 11 prepare for public examinations. Most students study GCSE specifications but some students follow BTEC courses or Vocational Awards. The core curriculum consists of: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Double Science or Triple Science (Physics, Chemistry and Biology), RE, Technology, PE and a bespoke Personal and Social Development programme which includes Work Related Learning.

In addition, students opt for a further two subjects that will prepare them for their next step after Standish Community High School. Every subject has its own extra-curricular programme designed to provide a wider experience beyond the classroom. Students have the opportunity to excel in the subjects that they study in a caring yet challenging environment. Each individual is encouraged throughout the curriculum, to reflect on the opportunities that they have in life and to learn a measure of tolerance and understanding of others, as they learn to live in a diverse and digital world.

The leadership of teaching is strong.

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Student Services

Additional support is given to students through Student Services. We have a dedicated building where specialist help is given, either in lessons or outside to help students with emotional or subject-specific needs. Booster classes for literacy or numeracy, specific need interventions, along with lunchtime clubs, are all arranged on an assess 'plan-do-review' basis or within the weekly timetable. Additionally, we hold a regular coffee morning for parents to attend, for school and student updates.

Independent Learning

We offer our students a vibrant, exciting and stimulating environment to develop their learning skills and opportunities. All students are encouraged to be resilient, think critically, ask questions confidently and research independently. We strive to equip our students with the skills required to persevere to succeed, challenge themselves and to take responsibility for their own future.

Homework is set and assessed regularly throughout the year and tasks can vary from short 'fact-finding' activities to more detailed, personalised research activities. Many subject areas provide Homework Clubs and every teacher is available to provide extra support for individual needs. Students are encouraged to use the Library Resource Centre which provides a calm, reflective and supportive area to study.

At Standish we take pride in ensuring all of our students are prepared for their individual journeys as they leave our school.

The school's student support service provides a very good level of support to any student experiencing difficulties.

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Starting well at Standish

Successful Transition

Standish Community High School recognises that the transition from primary to secondary school is an extremely important and sensitive time in a child's life. For transition to run smoothly and effectively, we aim to make sure all our students are known and made to feel both welcome and excited at the prospect of starting at our school. Many of our teachers, representing an array of disciplines, along with a team of dedicated support staff, work closely and regularly with our 'feeder' primary schools to ensure the communication of information is effective and thorough between all schools. Our open day and evening, an induction evening and taster days along with dedicated form tutors and easy to access points of communication, help to provide the very strongest start to life at Standish for Year 7 students. We are particularly proud of our comprehensive transition programme including a summer school for Year 6 students before they start at Standish in September.

Standish is a welcoming, happy school for pupils and parents and encourages all the children to set their aspirations high. The dedication of the teaching staff, and fantastic organisation has allowed these targets to be met and often exceeded throughout the school, ensuring that the pupils have a very bright future ahead of them.

PARENT



Partnership

As a successful community school we are founded on very strong relationships with parents and carers. We are active in securing many opportunities for parental involvement through regular, written communication, parents' evenings, face to face events and progress reports. However, we recognise that parental engagement is also important to our work. Over the five years there will be many opportunities for our parents and carers to work with and support their children. Regular reports about responding to feedback and taking the next learning steps strongly feature in our work to help support studies at home.

High Expectations

In our latest Ofsted inspection, comments made by the inspection team gave a consistent message of our culture of high expectations, aspirations and success. We have the highest set of expectations for our students which ensures a very purposeful and productive learning environment. We value high standards of appearance, attitude, conduct and courtesy around school and we expect a developed sense of personal responsibility. We have clear and robust systems in place to challenge students if they forget these values in any way.

Community Life

Teachers take the fundamental role of form tutor very seriously. Form time is a key part of the school day that should set the correct tone. Form tutors make time to discuss with students, school and community issues, recognise and celebrate individual achievement and constructively challenge the progress they're making. Meeting daily in this way helps to foster a great sense of belonging and identity within every form group.

The school's work to keep students safe and secure is outstanding. It goes to great lengths to support all students. Students feel very safe.

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Aspiration and Ambition

Challenging Targets

Students are set Outstanding Progress Targets (OPTs) in every subject and, with parents and carers, are kept informed regularly throughout the year about the progress they're making. We are very clear about our expectations and routinely offer feedback and 'next-steps' advice for all subjects.

Our progress and attainment results each year demonstrate the great success we have as a result of our systems for target setting. It is very gratifying to receive commendation at national and local level for our hard work.

One of the top 100 non-selective state maintained schools in England for attainment in the 2015 GCSE results.

- Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Schools

Exceptional Outcomes Award 2015 in student attainment.

- SSAT Network

Awarded the E4education PiXL Award for outstanding results.

- PiXL (Partners in Excellence)

Winner of 'The Observer Education Awards 2016 Secondary School of the Year'.

- Sponsored by Wigan and Leigh College

Educational Outcomes Award 2016 for exceptional student progress.

- SSAT Network

Educational Outcomes Award 2016 for exceptional student attainment.

- SSAT Network

Winner of 'The Observer Education Awards 2017 Secondary School of the Year'.

- Sponsored by Wigan and Leigh College



Educational Outcomes Award 2017 for exceptional student progress.

- SSAT Network

Educational Outcomes Award 2017 for exceptional student attainment.

- SSAT Network

Highly Commended 'The Observer Education Awards 2018 Secondary School of the Year.'

- Sponsored by Wigan and Leigh College

Highly Commended 'The Observer Education Awards 2018 Career Aspiration Award.'

- Sponsored by Wigan and Leigh College

Highly Commended 'The Observer Education Awards 2018 Inspirational Teaching Award.'

- Sponsored by Wigan and Leigh College

Highly Commended 'The Observer Education Awards 2018 Innovation in Technology Award.'

- Sponsored by Wigan and Leigh College

Winner of 'The Observer Education Awards 2018 Secondary Pupil of the Year.'

- Sponsored by Wigan and Leigh College

Winner of 'The Observer Education Awards 2018 Inspirational Teaching Award.'

- Sponsored by Wigan and Leigh College

Winner of 'The Observer Education Awards 2018 Sports Achievement Award.'

- Sponsored by Wigan and Leigh College

When I think about Standish High School, I think of how this school has built and developed my confidence over the years, I came here alone with nobody else from my primary school but thanks to the way this excellent school is run, I can say I'm a more confident person today than ever before! This school is constantly outperforming other local schools and that's all down to the effort and attitude of the staff.

STUDENT

A World of Opportunities

We are very proud of the rich array of opportunities we provide for our students. This is because we believe that no curriculum should be defined simply by the taught lesson. This enables us to help students with their overall development.

Creative and sporting talents, leadership qualities and life-changing experiences are all facilitated by our after school clubs, day and residential trips.

Many of our students have achieved great success with our Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Residential experiences such as skiing in the USA, Science trips to Iceland and cultural visits to London are just some examples of the opportunities on offer for Standish students. Subject specific trips are also organised, for instance, Modern Foreign Languages trips to Spain and France, Geography field-work weeks, PE trips to Spain and the many day trips to museums, galleries and other places of interest.

We also run end of year rewards trips which are in recognition of the hard work, effort and conscientious attitude which the vast majority of students demonstrate. Students are asked to vote democratically on their choice of venue and are then required to meet a set of expected criteria to be eligible to attend a trip of their choice. Students have enjoyed trips to Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Alton Towers, Crocky Trail, the Cinema and the Zoo in appreciation of their exceptional approach to school life.

The school has some of the finest learning facilities anywhere in the North West and these are used effectively to enhance learning. The school has benefitted from major rebuilding programmes over a number of years to support our commitment to High Quality Teaching. In addition, we have improved the physical layout of the school to provide more facilities and useable spaces for students at lunchtimes.

Successful Destinations

All students are entitled to and receive quality careers advice through our partnership with the National Careers Service. One-to-one interviews with a careers adviser are just one way we help our students receive the information advice and guidance they need. During Year 11, all students are given time to access and use the UCAS website for both college applications and to interrogate the site's rich source of career information.

We hold dedicated days, in September and March for students to consider their futures, explore how to write CVs and receive mock interviews centered on their career intentions. We track the students as they progress to colleges of further education or apprenticeships and receive regular updates concerning their ongoing academic successes. It is always a pleasure to receive news of a former student's successful completion of a university degree.



Our Facilities:

We are proud of our facilities at Standish Community High School and offer our students:

- Innovative teaching, aided by a wealth of updated and enhanced ICT facilities such as interactive whiteboards in all curriculum areas, iMac suites and iPads to support teaching and learning
- A forward-thinking, well-stocked Library Resource Centre (LRC) with specially equipped facilities for students to access independently
- Extensive and impressive sports facilities including an impressive full size sports hall, full size all-weather pitches, additional indoor teaching facilities and multi-gym facility
- Eleven dedicated Science laboratories designed and equipped to support each of the three scientific disciplines
- A purpose built Humanities building incorporating a contemporary Drama studio
- State-of-the-art Design Technology workshops and classrooms equipped with cutting edge equipment
- Modern 'Restaurant' style facilities for break and lunchtimes, with a cashless catering system, to enhance the dining experience
- We offer our students the chance to learn Modern Foreign Languages along our unique languages 'street'
- Ample outdoor seating and sheltered areas for students to relax and socialise during break and lunchtimes
- We understand the needs of all our students and constantly strive to ensure their time at Standish is an enjoyable and comfortable experience. We have passenger lifts, disabled toilets and wheelchair access to all buildings.





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