

Prospectus

2018/2019



TOOT HILL
SCHOOL



WELCOME

A very warm welcome to Toot Hill School—an ‘Outstanding’* 11–18 secondary school situated in the market town of Bingham, Nottinghamshire.

Toot Hill School is a happy, caring, thriving and inclusive school where all students aspire to and achieve their full potential. From their first day students will be engaged, motivated and challenged by high quality teaching and so develop a life-long love of learning.

Students, in partnership with school and home, will become more active, independent and resilient learners who acknowledge their responsibility for their own learning and embrace the school’s ‘Work Hard, Be Kind’ ethos.

With the support of exceptional pastoral care and guidance, enrichment activities and strong community links, every child has the opportunity to develop fully into well-informed, confident young adults equipped to make positive contributions to society.

Sandy Paley

Head of School

The ethos at Toot Hill School places student well-being and achievement at the very heart of our approach to learning. It is this set of ideals coupled with our hard-working students and dedicated staff that has seen Toot Hill ranked as one of the top-performing secondary schools, both locally and nationally, over recent years.

Our ethos and values make a clear statement that the traditional qualities of hard work, honesty, good manners and consideration for others sit at the very heart of Toot Hill School.

Ashfaq Rahman

Executive Head Teacher

*Ofsted, January 2012



ETHOS

WORK HARD | BE KIND | TAKE PRIDE

Toot Hill School has a very clear and distinctive ethos. We believe that through continually reviewing and reflecting upon every aspect of our work, we provide students with the very best educational opportunities.


We encourage staff to be creative, independent and ambitious. We expect them to challenge and inspire our students, providing them with the motivation and support necessary to achieve their full potential.

We value commitment, independence and courtesy from all who work and learn with us. We demand the very highest standards from all our students and, in return, we value and respect their ideas and opinions. Through our Prefects, Ambassadors, Diplomats and the Student Voice committee, pupils at Toot Hill School have an active and important role in developing and improving their school.

All this is summed up in our school ethos:

- We have high expectations of students and staff
- We believe every student can succeed
- We ensure barriers to learning are challenged and overcome
- We expect teaching to be well-planned, varied and stimulating
- We expect learning to be active, focused, social and engaging
- We insist on high standards of behaviour at all times
- We want our students to ‘stand out from the crowd’, not only as a result of outstanding examination outcomes but also as a result of the wider investment in themselves through our extensive enrichment programme
- We aim for all students to leave Toot Hill School as ‘rounded and grounded’ citizens





“There is outstanding progress at KS4. Achievement and progress are excellent overall, including for students with special educational needs and/or disabilities.”

Ofsted
January 2012

ACHIEVEMENT

At Toot Hill School we believe that examination success allows our students to make the very most of their lives and student achievement is at the heart of everything we do.

We have developed a curriculum designed to challenge and engage students, offering them the very best preparation for examination success and the skills and confidence required to make full use of those qualifications. Exciting, engaging and inspiring lessons lie at the centre of our curriculum and as a school we constantly strive to provide your child with the very best educational experiences. Should a student require additional support, Toot Hill provides a range of services that will ensure every student's success, whatever their individual educational needs.

Examination results provide a good indication of how well a school is serving its students. At Key Stage 4, student achievement is outstanding year-on-year, placing Toot Hill as one of the highest performing schools in Nottinghamshire and nationally. The vast majority of students achieve a good pass (grade 5 or above) in English, Mathematics and all other subjects at GCSE. The number of students achieving the highest grades (7, 8 and 9) is also significant and continuing to grow each year.

Students from Toot Hill College regularly gain places at Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group universities. The college also has an excellent track record in helping students secure places in a wide range of universities, higher education colleges and employment.

“Toot Hill is an outstanding school with high aspirations for all pupils, underpinned by the highest learning standards.”

Ashish Modi
School Leader

PASTORAL

At Toot Hill School we pride ourselves on the quality of care, guidance and support given to individual pupils. At the core of this provision is a year system led by a Head of Year and supported by an Achievement Co-ordinator, Tutors and the Student Services and Learning Support teams.

This system provides your child with the care they need whilst allowing them to nurture friendships and develop a strong sense of community.

Tutors play an active role in ensuring that students are happy, well-supported in making the right decisions and fully engaged in school life. Tutors also serve as the first point of contact between school and home. You will also receive regular updates of your child's progress through termly reports, online data, twice-yearly parent consultation days and a Parents' Evening.

As your child progresses through Toot Hill School, their attainment and well-being will be closely monitored, ensuring that students are recognised and rewarded when they succeed and supported when things are more challenging.

Toot Hill is a very caring community and the health, happiness and well-being of students underpins our overall ethos and philosophy.

“There are incredible teams working together to make sure that each student is supported during their time at Toot Hill. Parents can be assured that student well-being is of paramount importance to us.”

Jen Gray
School Leader

CURRICULUM

Our curriculum follows National Curriculum guidelines and aims to provide a broad and balanced learning experience for every child.

At Key Stage 3 our two-year programme covers all the National Curriculum subjects. Students are taught in ability groups in the majority of subjects, ensuring that every child is taught at a level that matches their ability.

During our three-year Key Stage 4 programme most students study the English Baccalaureate core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanities subject such as Geography or History.

A wide range of optional subjects including Visual and Performing Arts, Technology, Sports and ICT courses supplement the core curriculum. We expect all our students to achieve at least eight passes at grades A*–C, including the English Baccalaureate subjects.

Toot Hill College offers a range of pathways for students to continue learning with us during Key Stage 5 (16–18 years). We pride ourselves on our A-Level provision and promote the highest aspirations for all our students. This approach has seen students from Toot Hill College regularly secure places at some of the top universities in the country, including Oxford and Cambridge.

“Our curriculum is aspirational for all and follows National Curriculum guidelines. We aim to provide a broad and balanced learning experience for all students.”

Chris Eardley
School Leader





ENRICHMENT

ACTIVITIES, CLUBS & SOCIETIES



ENRICHMENT

Our aim is to provide a broad and balanced educational experience that combines rigorous academic study with a diverse range of character-building enrichment experiences. Pupils are offered a rich and varied range of activities through the many clubs and societies that are available through the Extended Study programme—in class, at lunch, after school and in the community. Both recreational and competitive opportunities are available in sports such as football, rugby, hockey, cricket, netball and athletics. Pupils regularly represent the school and our teams have a strong tradition of success in local, regional and national competitions.

Music and the performing arts are very much at the heart of Toot Hill. All pupils are encouraged to take up or continue playing a musical instrument and to join one of the many bands provided by our music department. Pupils are encouraged to develop their creativity by attending artistic workshops and to aspire to perform in our hugely successful annual dramatic show. The annual performances are produced and directed by our drama team, star Toot Hill pupils and are staged in external theatres. Performances include *West Side Story* in 2015, *Little Shop of Horrors* in 2016, *Grease* in 2017 and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 2018. The pupils will next be staging a production of *High School Musical* in 2019.

Departments operate a wide range of visits linked to their curriculum; from European foreign exchanges and scientific research expeditions to historical tours and cultural experiences. Our annual Activities Week, charity fundraiser 'T Festival' and the 'Adventure8' residential visit are particular milestones on our calendar. Our Army Cadets detachment parade every Tuesday and offer challenging activities and adventure in abundance.

Toot Hill offers the bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Year 10, which concludes with a two-day self-sufficient expedition into the rolling Belvoir countryside. Silver and gold training can then be undertaken at Toot Hill College. All Year 11 pupils are encouraged to take part in the government's flagship youth programme, the National Citizen Service (NCS), once they have completed their GCSE examinations.

Toot Hill Torchets is our way of recognising and rewarding the incredible achievements our pupils make. These are recorded online using bespoke software and collated to form the basis of pupils' CVs.

Toot Hill School's production of *Grease*
Palace Theatre, Newark (2017)

CAREERS ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) at Toot Hill School starts in Year 7 and continues through until Year 13. It is our vision that all students on leaving Toot Hill School at the end of either Year 11 or 13 will have the skills, attitudes, qualities, behaviours and self-confidence to plan their future careers. Students will follow the career pathway that best suits their individual needs and aspirations and allows them to fulfil their true potential. All students are provided with independent and impartial guidance from a variety of sources. Their learning will be progressive and they will link their subjects to a variety of careers. Students will work with tutors/mentors on enhancing their personal development and setting individual targets.

The CEIAG programme is aspirational and personalised for every student and delivered through Active Tutoring. Careers education is also disseminated through all subject areas and in weekly PSHE lessons for Years 7 and 8. Years 9–11 have calendared PSHE days to cover a wide range of subjects including CEIAG. Employers play a part in these days either as guest speakers or to conduct one-to-one interviews with our students in Year 10.

Work Experience in Year 11 and 12 and visits to colleges, universities and employers all take place throughout the year to raise the aspirations of all students. Inspirational guest speakers regularly come into school. A Careers and Networking Fair with a range of providers is held in school for all students in Years 11–13.

Students across the whole school have a focus on Careers for one week each term during Active Tutoring. These workshops are based on the current Labour Market Information (LMI) and a range of career pathways are discussed. Students also have a Career Booklet each year to work on during Active Tutoring. The CEIAG programme is evaluated and designed by the students and Year 7–11 Career Ambassadors lead on this work.

The link with Toot Hill stays strong after leaving through the continual development of the Alumni. Former students come back into school to speed network with our current students and share their experiences.

“My interviewer was inspiring, I got so much out of the experience on Mock Interview Day.”

Year 10 student



TRANSITION

We understand that the transition from primary to secondary education can be both an exciting and challenging process for both students and parents. Our transition arrangements are carefully planned to ensure that students are ready for a successful and enjoyable Year 7. Arrangements for transition start in Year 5 and build up to a full school visit in the summer term of Year 6.

If you have any questions regarding transition at any stage of the process, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our staff are always available to answer questions at the various events or you can email the school at any time.

Toot Hill is increasingly popular and has become the school of first choice for students from a wide range of primary schools. As well as visiting our linked primary schools, we regularly run information evenings for out-of-catchment parents.

We always welcome visits to the school from prospective parents and students. If you would like to arrange a visit or if you have any questions, please contact the school by phone or email.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to Toot Hill School.

Step One: Summer Term, Year 5

A member of the Leadership Team will meet prospective parents at their child's current primary school. A short talk will be followed by a question and answer session.

Step Two: Autumn Term, Year 6

Students and parents are invited to an open evening to look around Toot Hill School and meet members of staff in all the teaching departments.

Step Three: Spring Term, Year 6

Data will be collected from the primary feeder schools to help arrange admissions.

Step Four: Summer Term, Year 6

A member of the Pastoral Team and the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator will visit primary schools to talk to students and staff.

Step Five: Summer Term, Year 6

Year 6 students will visit Toot Hill School with their classmates for a 'Taster Day' to allow them to familiarise themselves with the school. Students with Special Educational Needs may well have additional visits.



SUMMARY

We are immensely proud of Toot Hill School. At the heart of our learning community is the belief that every child matters and that every child will succeed.

We promote ambition, commitment and independence.
High standards are set in the knowledge that hard work and discipline secure life-long achievement.

Toot Hill School will support your child with care, consideration and understanding and we promise to always challenge, motivate and engage.

“Attending Toot Hill School has had a really positive impact on my life. I have made lots of friends and found the teachers to be really supportive. I feel really at home here at Toot Hill.”

Year 9 student

“A common strength of all lessons is the way that teachers plan on three levels—the knowledge that they expect students to learn, the understanding that they expect students to develop and the activities that they will undertake in order to acquire this knowledge and understanding.”

Ofsted

January 2012





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