



TOOT HILL SCHOOL





“Toot Hill provides a transformational school experience for all students, so they achieve more than they thought possible. With honesty and integrity at the heart, staff, students and their parents are wholly committed to working together as we strive to enable all students to become the very best version of themselves. Hard work and kindness are celebrated within our vibrant school, where aspiration and optimism thrive.”

Sandy Paley
Executive Head Teacher

Work
Hard

Be
Kind

Take
PRIDE

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

Year 9 pupil



Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to Toot Hill School, an ‘Outstanding’ 11–18 secondary school situated in the market town of Bingham, south Nottinghamshire.

I am privileged to be the Head of a thriving, inclusive, happy and caring school where both our students and staff work hard to achieve their full potential. We celebrate diversity and treat everyone in our community as we ourselves wish to be treated.

Students will be challenged, engaged and motivated by the highest standard of teaching in the classroom. In addition, we teach the value of exceptional behaviour and manners that enable our students to flourish in society. Our students develop into kind, confident, well-informed, responsible young people who are intellectually curious

and have a thirst for life-long learning; furthermore, they are accountable for their own actions. They grow into independent thinkers, capable of challenging the status quo and creating new knowledge.

We relish the strength of the partnership between our school and home. Along with the support of exceptional pastoral care and guidance, enrichment activities and strong community links, every student can leave Toot Hill School as proud and active members of society that contribute positively to the wide community as well as lead full, rewarding and balanced lives.

Dr Chris Eardley

Head Teacher



Ethos

At Toot Hill School, we believe every student can succeed and make a positive contribution to society. By working together as a learning community where every stakeholder has an active voice, we continually review, refine and improve all aspects of our work to deliver an exceptional learning experience for every one of our students.

We achieve exceptional student learning by setting the highest of expectations and standards for both our staff and students. Our expert teachers collaboratively plan engaging, creative and ambitious lessons where every student is challenged and inspired, providing them with the motivation and support to achieve their full potential. To facilitate such learning, we insist on the highest standards of behaviour at all times.

As well as prioritising the intellectual development of students, our whole school experience supports their physical and mental development, spiritual and cultural awareness and nurtures all to achieve their true potential within our 'Work Hard, Be Kind, Take Pride' ethos.

Our ethos encourages our students to take pride in themselves, their actions, their school and their community, developing the following traits and qualities within their unique personalities:

- **Sense of PURPOSE**
- **Sense of RESPONSIBILITY**
- **INTEGRITY**
- **DETERMINATION**
- **EMPATHY**

All interactions within our school have these qualities at their core and we are all committed to fostering their growth in everyone within our school, staff and students alike.



“Our ambitious curriculum is carefully crafted and sequenced by our subject experts to ensure that all students secure high levels of subject specific knowledge and expertise within an exciting and broad curriculum experience.”

Tom Garner

Deputy Head Teacher

Curriculum

Every student at Toot Hill School will learn about worlds beyond their own experience, see the previously unseen and forge high level connections to create flexible knowledge.

We expect students to learn facts and figures through deliberate practice in order to form a solid foundation of information on which to draw from when considering more complex concepts. In doing so, they grow into independent thinkers, capable of challenging the status quo.

Our curriculum is coherent and purposefully sequenced so that new knowledge and skills build on what has been learned. It affords effective transitions between Key Stages 2, 3, 4 and 5 and enables all students to develop their potential, achieve and experience success.

Personal Development Curriculum

At Toot Hill School, we deliberately teach a Personal Development Curriculum to ensure that our students are well informed, thoughtful decision makers who feel secure and safe in their personal identities, and are able to positively and articulately connect with all members of our community, with respect and compassion.

We challenge students to reflect upon and think critically about the world around them, whilst supporting them to develop the self-belief and bravery required to leave a legacy within our ever-evolving world.

It is intricately and holistically woven into all aspects of school life and the building of character is explicitly taught and reinforced through our PRIDE ethos. Through this, our students are encouraged to develop their unique personalities and perspectives, grounded in knowledge and confidence.

The Personal Development Curriculum is broad and designed to encompass six key themes which enable our students to be reflective and deepen their knowledge of emerging trends:

- **Keeping yourself safe and happy**
- **Health, well-being and relationships**

- **What do I stand for?**
- **My future**
- **My scholarship**
- **The world around me**

The structure of the Personal Development Curriculum encompasses our expert-led Active Tutoring Programme, complimentary assembly programme, subject-specific contributions and weekly personal development lessons for all year groups, as well as our daily extra-curricular and enrichment programme.

Our students are also encouraged to be an active part of our school by sharing their views through our Student Voice Programme and being part of a reiterative legacy where students 'leave our school better than they found it'.



Achievement

At Toot Hill School, we believe the quality of education our students experience empowers them to determine their future and leave their legacy. We believe every student can achieve their potential and such achievement transforms their lives and maximises their opportunities.

We have deliberately designed an ambitious and broad curriculum which is designed to challenge and engage every student, offering them the very best preparation for success and the skills and confidence required to make full use of their qualifications. High quality teaching delivered by subject experts lies 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 School 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, Toot Hill School boasts a strong track record of student achievement, placing our school 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 continues to grow each year. Students from Toot Hill Sixth Form College regularly gain places at Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group universities. The College also has an excellent track record in supporting students to secure places in a wide and aspirational range of universities, higher education colleges and employment.



“Toot Hill ensures every student can achieve their true potential by accessing an ambitious and broad curriculum, underpinned by the highest of learning standards.”

Ashish Modi
Deputy Head Teacher



“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
Assistant Head Teacher

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.



Enrichment

Our aim is to provide an ambitious, inclusive and broad educational experience that combines rigorous academic study with a diverse range of character-building enrichment experiences.

All students are offered a rich and varied range of activities through the many clubs and societies that operate as part of our extra-curricular offer. This is designed to both support our students' academic learning and enrich and broaden their experience. To inspire our students, a comprehensive range of sporting opportunities are available including football, rugby, cricket, table tennis, netball and athletics. Students regularly represent the school and our sports 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 School. All students are encouraged to take up or continue playing a musical instrument and join one of the many musical ensembles and bands provided by our Music department. The Christmas and Summer Concerts are a particular highlight of our calendar. Students are encouraged to develop their creativity by attending artistic workshops and to aspire to perform in our highly successful dramatic show. The biannual performance produced and directed by our Drama team, stars Toot Hill

students from all key stages and is staged at a local theatre, with our most recent performance being *High School Musical*.

Departments operate a wide range of visits linked to their curriculum from European visits to Berlin and Barcelona and scientific research expeditions to historical tours and cultural experiences. The English and Drama Departments provide regular opportunities to attend plays and musicals at local theatres to inspire students and encourage their appreciation of oracy. Our Army Cadets detachment parades every Tuesday and offers challenging activities and adventure in abundance.

We are proud to offer the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award in Year 9, which concludes with a two-day self-sufficient expedition into the rolling Belvoir countryside. The Silver award in Year 10 and Gold training can then be undertaken at Toot Hill Sixth Form College. This is an invaluable, internationally recognized, personal development program which supports Toot Hill's commitment to develop students into well-informed, confident and responsible young people. All Year 11 students are encouraged to take part in the government's flagship youth programme, the National Citizen Service, once they have completed their GCSE examinations.



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 the Active Tutoring and careers events throughout the year tailored to each year group. Students have access to the Unifrog careers platform where they can research and explore a variety of careers and pathways. Students have a Careers Book guiding them through Unifrog activities which is relevant to their age. We run a guest speaker programme for all year groups throughout the year as well as a Year 10 Mock Interview Day where students are interviewed by an employer/employee. A weekly Opportunities Newsletter is sent to students and parents on a weekly basis keeping them up to date on opportunities available to their child in addition to the latest Labour Market Information and featuring Career and/or Skill of the Week.

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

Year 10 pupil

Work Experience in Year 10 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.

The Careers programme is regularly evaluated and redesigned by feedback from students, (including Year 10 Careers Ambassadors, Prefects from all year groups), parents/carers, staff and governors. The School has the Quality in Careers Standard - Career Mark Gold in recognition of continuous improvement.

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.



Admissions

We understand that the transition from primary to secondary school can be both an exciting and challenging process for both students and parents/carers. Our transition arrangements are purposely planned to enable students to familiarise themselves with our school so that they are ready for a successful and enjoyable start to Year 7.

We pride ourselves in starting the arrangements for the transition in Year 5 and build up to a full school visit in the Summer Term of Year 6. This allows students to meet their new staff, peers and explore their new learning environment. We also visit our feeder primary schools to welcome our new students to our school as well as offering opportunities for out-of-catchment students to visit.

We always welcome visits to the school from prospective parents and students. If you have any questions regarding transition at any part of the process or if you would like visit please do not hesitate to contact us.

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



Step One: Summer Term – Year 5

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

Step Two: Autumn Term – Year 6

Prospective students and parents/carers are invited to Toot Hill School for our Open Evening where they can meet members of staff and subject departments will provide an overview of our broad and ambitious curriculum.

Step Three: Spring Term – Year 6

Toot Hill School will liaise with our link primary schools to gather information sent out in transition packs to help with the admissions process.

Step Four: Summer Term – Year 6

The Head of Year 7, Assistant Head of Year 7 and SENDCo visit their schools to introduce themselves and share information to welcome them to our school.

Step Five: Summer Term – Year 6

The Year 6 students will visit Toot Hill School for an Induction Day where they will learn how to orientate themselves around the school site and be introduced to our school routines to ensure they make a successful transition to Year 7. We recognise that some students with Special Educational Needs may need additional visits to ensure that feel comfortable in their new school environment.



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