

South West Wolverhampton Post 16 Consortium of Schools

‘Committed to Achievement, Learning for Life’

Providing Exceptional Post 16 Education

Smestow School, A Specialist Sports College

Aldersley High School

The Kings C.E School, A Specialist Visual Arts and Sports College with Science

Your **FUTURE** with us starts here...

Aldersley High School, Smestow School and The Kings School have a proven track record of 10 years working together. Throughout that time we have succeeded in widening student choice; increasing the number of Post 16 students furthering their education and increasing participants in higher education.

Working as a Consortium means that all schools are in partnership with each other so that all students receive the education and support they need to reach the next level. Through the Consortium students will secure the knowledge, skills and understanding to successfully make the next step forward in their lives, whether it is a move to Higher or Further Education, training or employment in their chosen vocation.

Our partnership works to provide a comprehensive range of high quality courses for students who wish to participate in education at a Post 16 level. Through such collaboration we are able to provide Post 16 students at three schools a choice of sixty academic and vocational courses at both level 3 and level 2. In addition we are part of a wider network of schools and other educational providers within the Wolverhampton Post 16 sector that offers our students even greater choice.

The Consortium Senior Leaders team is comprised of Assistant Head teachers from all three schools. Their weekly meeting has the specific purpose of reviewing and discussing the progress being made across the Consortium with the specific purpose of ensuring the best quality education for all students.

Students in our schools also benefit from broader opportunities to participate in a range of other activities offered as part of the enrichment programme within the Consortium and Wolverhampton. This range of academic and other experience will also prepare learners to be responsible, thoughtful, fully participating citizens ready to take an active role in society through education or employment. Two of the most popular enrichment courses students choose are the **SWIS** programme that involves high level sports provision and training in Coaching, Football, Cricket, Rugby, Golf, Tennis and **CH&SE** a course in which students learn skills to work and interact with people with specific needs such as learning British Sign Language and practical experiences alongside Health and Social care professionals in private, voluntary or statutory settings, to gain an understanding of working with clients, families and other multi-agency professionals

Our **COMMITMENT** to

YOU...

The South West Consortium is committed to achievement through the promotion of excellence within a vibrant, purposeful community which respects the rights and needs of individuals so that all of our students are able to acquire skills for their future.

The consortium has enthusiastic and experienced staff who are dedicated to providing an education of the highest quality for all.

Our aims for our learners:

- To ensure our students are happy and secure within a rich learning community
- To provide a high standard of teaching and learning with a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum suited to the abilities and individual aspirations of all students
- To ensure learning place in a safe and attractive environment
- To develop industrious, inquisitive and ambitious students who achieve the highest standards of which they are capable
- To equip all students for lifelong learning in an evolving world of work
- To develop confident, articulate, caring and compassionate individuals ready and willing to play a full part in the wider community

We are committed to the development of the whole person and seek to provide a broad and enriching set of experiences across the academic, social, cultural and sporting spheres to enhance the quality of time spent with us. We are confident that learners will acquire the values, skills and attitudes that enable them to achieve fully as independent learners with the skills of literacy, numeracy and technological awareness necessary for success in the twenty-first century.

The Consortium objectives:

- The Leadership team will meet every week
- The Pastoral team will meet regularly to deal quickly and efficiently with any issues
- Attendance information will be communicated daily
- Systems to keep parents informed of progress and attendance will be common across all 3 schools
- A full induction programme at each school will prepare students for the courses they have chosen
- Transport arrangements between the 3 schools are fully coordinated and complimentary for all students

Insider INFORMATION...

“Sixth form gives you a sense of independence but support is still available if required, which gives and insight into how you will need to work at university”

Hannah Connop, year 13, Highfields

“I like the independence of working in class with others, using our ideas and having discussions. I feel like my teachers have really helped and encouraged me to take responsibility for my learning”

Claire Williams, year 13, Smestow

“All of my teachers are willing to help me with anything I struggle with. The learning environment is really positive – I feel really happy here”

Penny Hartley, year 13, Smestow

“Being part of the consortium has opened up a range of opportunities for me as there is a wide range of subject on offer. I find my teachers are always helpful and a great source of knowledge and information”

Jemma Phillips, year 12, Smestow

“Learning at other schools means I am able to meet new people 😊”

Jasmine Leslie-Booth, year 13, Smestow

“I enjoy being part of the consortium. All of my lessons go well and help is always there if it is needed. Students treat each other with respect, in terms of socialising whilst maintaining a positive work ethic”

Josh Wythe, year 12, Smestow

“I enjoy the focus on independent learning which prepares you for the future eg, university. I also like that teachers are always willing to help if you have any queries”

Kelly McGuckin, year 13, Smestow

“There are many aspects that appeal to the student population. These include a positive atmosphere and inviting staff and students help and support is always at hand. I enjoy life at Smestow”

Deepak Mach, year 12, Smestow

ADMISSIONS_{and key}

Students who are already at one of the three schools will follow a structured programme to support their application for a place. This will include whole consortium events for example the opportunities evening and the induction week, as well as in house activities such as one to one guidance interviews.

By Easter all students will have made their option choices and will receive a letter confirming their offer of a place subject to the entry requirements (see Our Curriculum page). Immediately after their GCSE exams we run our induction week, attendance is a requirement of acceptance onto courses.

We welcome applications from students from any school interested in continuing their education with us. As part of the process students will be expected to complete an application form, attend an interview and take part in induction week. Any student wishing to join should first make contact with one of the schools to express their interest. Contact details for all schools can be found on the back of this booklet.

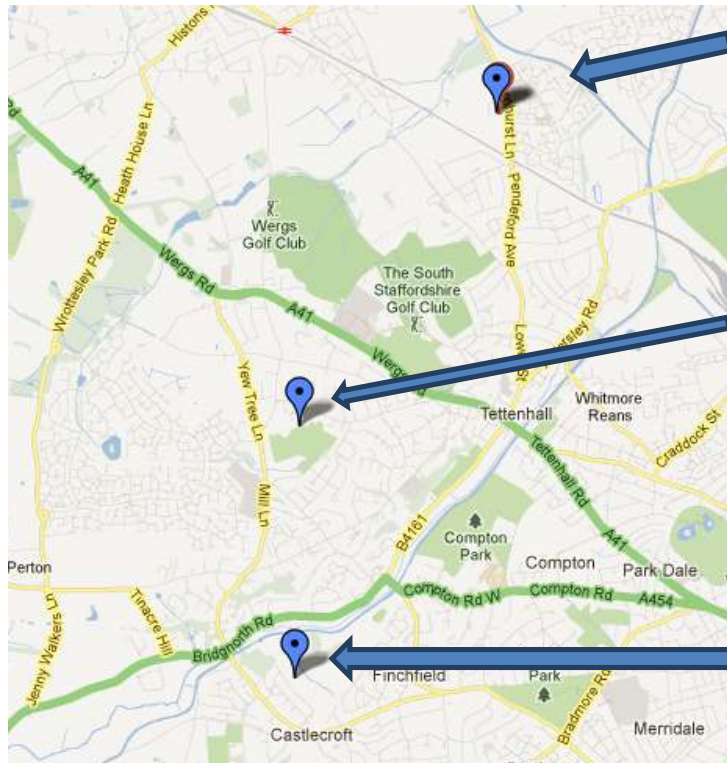
DATES...

The key dates for the September 2013 admissions are as follows:

THURSDAY 22nd NOVEMBER: Opportunities Evening
Held at Dunstall Racecourse from 5.00pm – 7.00pm

A chance for applicants to see which courses are on offer and which might suit their pathway to Higher Education or life beyond Sixth Form.

FACILITIES...



Aldersley High School

Kings C.E. School

Smestow School: A Specialist Sports College

- Facilities across the consortium...
- Dedicated Sixth Form study centres
 - 3 Sports halls
 - 3 Swimming pools
 - BMX track
 - 3 Fitness Studios
 - Dance studios
 - 2 Performing Arts Theatres
 - Tennis Courts

TUTORIAL_{support...}

Tutorial Support:

PSHE and Citizenship will be delivered at tutor time and through the PDC programme and is tailored to students' needs.

The Tutorial system plays a key role in the support of students' pastoral and academic progress. Students will be placed in a tutor group lead by one of our specialist tutor team. Tutors work with students every morning to monitor progress, assist with applications and help solve any problems or difficulties that may be encountered.

Contact with home:

Crucial in our success has been the three-way partnership between the Sixth form staff, students and parents through regular and planned contact with home. Reports on student progress are termly and our parents' evenings help provide feedback on how students are progressing. There is always a point of contact with each school through the Pastoral Manager.

CONTACT_{with} HOME...

What are my **OPTIONS** after

Before students joined year 10, careful decisions were made about which courses and combinations of courses to choose.

Progressions into Post 16 education means students will face these decisions again.

Choosing the right Post 16 establishments is the next important step. Joining the Wolverhampton South West Consortium will offer a number of advantages:

1. Excellent teaching delivered by staff who already know the students (this continuity will help ensure a smooth transition into Level 3 courses).
2. A local option for students not currently at any of the Consortium Schools to join an 11-18 establishment as a member of the Sixth Form.
3. Facilities solely dedicated to the Sixth Form.
4. The support of a dedicated Sixth Form pastoral team, which places students' well-being and development at the top of its agenda.
6. Teaching groups with lots of individual support.
7. Well qualified teachers with a track record of examination success and high level subject expertise.

GCSE...?

8. An extensive enrichment programme offering volunteering work. Work experience, leadership qualifications and a variety of competitive and non-competitive sport.
9. Social and Community events across the Consortium.

What should I consider?

If you want to continue your studies at one of the Consortium Schools, you should consider the following points:

- How will the Sixth Form be different?
- How are Level 3 subjects taught?
- How are the courses structured?
- Does it matter if I haven't studied those subjects before?
- Do my future career aspirations match my choice of subjects?

Our CURRICULUM...

The Wolverhampton South West Consortium offers an extensive curriculum.

The Level 3 courses available will ensure that students have access to subjects that interest them and all the required combinations to gain a place at University.

Advanced-Subsidiary Level courses:

AS Level – studied and examined in year 12. Most courses consist of two units and some feature a combination of coursework and written exam. Students achieving a strong set of GCSE results will be expected to take 4 AS Levels. Certain subjects have additional minimum grade B requirements at GCSE.

Advanced Level course:

A2 – studied and examined in year 13 following the AS year. The usually follow the same structure as the AS course with two units, some including coursework. Students may decide to continue with all 4 AS Level subjects although most decide to continue with three. A2 marks and combined with AS marks to make the whole A-Level.

BTECs

These are studied over two years, they can be taken as Subsidiary Diploma (the equivalent to one A-Level) as a Diploma (the equivalent to 2 A-Levels) or as an Extended Diploma (the equivalent to 3 A-Level Courses). The style of this course is very different from A-Level, it consists of coursework only and would suit a students who prefer a different assessment process to examinations. Like all Level 3 courses, independent study skills are vital.

Entry Requirements for Post 16 Courses

Level 3 Academic programme of study (i.e. FOUR AS level courses):

- Minimum of 5 GCSE grades A*-C in five different subjects including English and Maths
- An average points score in excess of 46 (based on performance in all subjects)
- Specific subjects may have additional requirements or require higher grades in core subjects

Level 3 programme of study (i.e. up to FOUR subjects including at least one pre-vocational course)

- Minimum of 5 GCSE grades A*-C including English
- An average points score in excess of 40 (based on performance in all subjects)
- Specific subjects may have additional requirements or require higher grades in core subjects including a C grade or above in Maths

Level 3 Pre-Vocational programme of study (i.e. up to FOUR subjects including a minimum of TWO courses or equivalent are BTEC/OCR National/VRQ qualifications)

- Minimum of 5 GCSE grades A*-C including English
- Students who have studied a BTEC First Diplomas in KS4 must have achieved a merit grade overall to progress to level 3 qualifications
- Students should have an average points score in excess of 38 (based on performance in all subjects)
- Specific subjects may have additional requirements or require higher grades in core subjects including a C grade or above in Maths

STUDENT progress

Careers:

The Wolverhampton South West Consortium aims to be the perfect stepping stone from school to University or Employment.

There is an extensive programme of information, advice and guidance (IAG) offered to students and parents regarding the UCAS procedure and applying for jobs that is delivered through the tutorial programme, PDC and through special dedicated parents evenings run by UCAS.

A variety of external speakers and visits to University open days/taster days are arranged from the start of year 12 to ensure students are given maximum opportunity to consider their options. Students are encouraged to attend all IAG visits, speakers and conferences.

All students are given individual support by the Head of Sixth Form, the Pastoral Manager, the tutor team and the teaching team to ensure any decisions and applications they make are of the highest possible standard and reflect their full potential. Students also have access to the Connexions Careers Service.

Tracking and Monitoring:

We pride ourselves on our reporting and guidance process. This pride is based on the openness of our processes and willingness to discuss any issues at any time.

All students are set targets for achievement based on previous performance national statistics and the professional judgement of staff and the aspirations of the students. We review progress against these targets and other key indicators of performance such as attendance and the ability to work independently every half term. Every student who is off target will be seen and a programme of intervention to realign performance will be undertaken. This helps inform parents of progress and ensure students reach their potential.

Each year we produce a full report that gives more detail about performance and our annual parents evening gives the opportunity to discuss progress with teaching staff.

Any concerns or questions can be addressed by telephoning any of the three schools and we will endeavour to make contact with you as soon as is practicable with any concerns we may have.

Contact Information

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