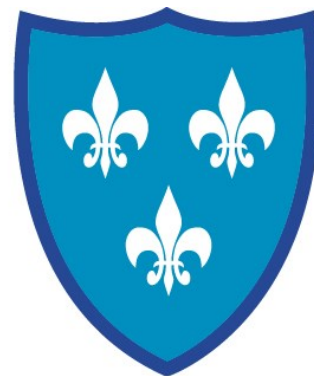


Soham Village College

Achieving Excellence with Care



Prospectus 2019 - 20

Staploe Education Trust
Excellence through partnership



Message from the Executive Headteacher of Staploe Education Trust



Staploe Education Trust is a multi-academy trust serving part of East Cambridgeshire. We are a strong, local partnership looking after the learning and wider interests of young people in our community from age 2 to 16.

All of our schools share a commitment to provide outstanding learning, opportunity and care for the communities they serve. The Trust works to ensure that each and every young person receives an outstanding education and is helped to become an effective and successful member of society.

Our schools are very different, but each of them make a positive and distinct contribution to the strength of our Trust.

In our schools you will find staff and young people with high expectations for behaviour and achievement. You will find a culture of collaboration and respect where relationships are very good and create an environment in which young people and our colleagues flourish. Do come and visit: we very much look forward to welcoming you.

Dr Carin Taylor
Executive Headteacher
Staploe Education Trust

Staploe Education Trust

Excellence through partnership



Message from the Headteacher

I am delighted to welcome you to Soham Village College.

Although this prospectus provides a flavour of our school, please consider visiting one of our open events to see learning in action.

Soham Village College is a delightful place to learn and to work. Our buildings are set in grounds of 40 acres which, together with well-resourced classrooms, help foster a harmonious and positive learning environment.



We have skilled, committed teams of teachers and associate staff who help create a supportive working atmosphere. Relationships between staff and students are a strength of the school and students have highly positive attitudes to learning. Students clearly enjoy their learning and good teaching motivates students well. As a result, behaviour is good in classrooms and during social time.

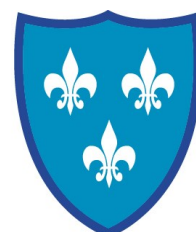
We pride ourselves on the wide range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities which we offer to our students. We strive for excellence in and out of the classroom and we have been delighted by the successes of our students of all abilities and interests.

Our GCSE results have been consistently strong with excellent progress being made across English, maths, science and the wider curriculum. Ofsted described the school's "academic excellence" in their most recent report.

We hope that you will want to be part of our school community and look forward to welcoming you in the near future.

Jon Hampson
Headteacher
Soham Village College

Soham Village College
Achieving Excellence with Care



Ofsted

Ofsted most recently inspected our school in December 2016 and wrote “through their relentless insistence on high standards, leaders have created a culture of academic excellence. The high-quality care and welfare that permeates the school provides a nurturing environment that supports pupils extremely well.”

Inspectors found that “pupils like their school and are proud to be members of the school community.” The full report is available from the school website.

Soham Village College, a good school with outstanding features

- *Ofsted, December 2016*



Lucy Fraser, MP and Paul Brooker, the Regional Director for Ofsted, visited the school in March 2017 to celebrate the school's success.



Many aspects of the school's provision are regarded as outstanding;
'The way in which the school promotes pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding.'

'The work to support pupils, including the most vulnerable, is outstanding.'

'Teaching is good, with areas of outstanding practice.'

- Ofsted, December 2016

Curriculum

We aim to provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which enables our students to develop the skills and understanding they need for further study and adult life.

We try to make learning a satisfying and enjoyable experience and aim to challenge and motivate all students so that they are able to achieve their full potential.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum ensures there is progression from the primary school curriculum. Subjects taught in this key stage are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- French
- Geography
- History
- ICT
- Art
- Drama
- Music
- Design and Technology
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Citizenship

In addition, some students are given the opportunity to study Spanish or German.



At Key Stage 4 all students continue to study English, mathematics and science. Students additionally choose options in accordance with their individual talents and aspirations.

Subjects currently available include:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Physics
- French
- German
- Spanish
- Geography
- History
- Art
- Business Studies
- Citizenship
- Dance
- Drama
- Electronics
- Food
- Graphics
- Health and Social Care
- ICT
- Leisure and Tourism
- Media Studies
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Resistant Materials
- Statistics
- Textiles
- Vocational Studies

Teaching and Learning

Teaching and Learning is at the heart of the school. The achievement of our students, whatever their ability and interests, is our goal. We have high expectations for our students and we believe there is no ceiling on what a student can achieve.

Assessment and Reporting

The school uses a secure reporting system that allows parents and students access to daily attendance and behaviour statistics, and subject-specific assessment information such as target grades and current academic performance. Further information about your child's progress is shared each term either by written report or during a consultation at Parents' Evenings. We have a very experienced team of staff who are able to provide additional guidance and support should any of our students experience difficulties in meeting their targets.

Home Learning

Our aim is high quality learning for all students, enhanced by home learning and the support of parents and carers. Home learning offers extra opportunities for each student to organise their own time and study, becoming more self-reliant. Skills, confidence and motivation for lifelong learning are all enhanced by home learning.

Outcomes for our Students

In 2018 our students once again achieved excellent results with 74% of our students achieving higher passes in both English and maths, well above the 2017 national average of 59%. A third of all entries resulted in A* - A (or equivalent) grades.



The progress made by Year 11 pupils from their different starting points was significantly above average.

- Ofsted, December 2016



Students receiving their GCSE results on Results Day 2018



Buildings and Facilities

Soham Village College stands in beautiful and attractive grounds that students can use during their social time at break and lunch. A range of older and newer buildings are spread over the campus, reflecting its popularity and growth over the years.

The school is organised around faculties:

- Our science block is fully equipped and serviced by a well-stocked and well-staffed prep room
- Our technology rooms include equipment for computer aided design, textiles, wood, metal, plastics and electronics
- The Library is a light and airy space with books, magazines, newspapers and computers. After school, the Library provides a calm and well-equipped area to work
- Our Fitzwilliam Arts Lab houses a dark room for photography and a kiln for pottery and sculpture work
- We have a Performing Arts Centre with a central theatre space and a mirrored dance studio with barre, along with several practice rooms
- The Music Department has a range of instruments and offers individual instrument and singing lessons which are very popular
- As well as ample outdoor space the school has its own gyms and daily use of the Ross Peers Sports Centre which is situated on the school campus
- There are 15 computer rooms at the school including a suite of Apple Macs which are ideal for our music, design and media students



Beechurst Building - housing the maths and English departments



The purpose built
Performing Arts
Centre (left) and
The Fitzwilliam
ArtsLab (right)





Learning Support and Inclusion

Our ethos is to provide for the full spectrum of individual needs within an inclusive environment. We aim to recognise diversity and to promote equality throughout the school. We work closely with colleagues from our partner schools and with parents to ensure that students with additional needs are able to make a smooth transition to the school.

The Hub is our specialist area offering support and respite to students with a wide variety of additional needs. The building is in the heart of the school providing students access to a safe, calming and caring environment throughout the school day on a needs basis.

All students with an Educational, Health and Care Plan have a support provision which varies depending on the need of the child. We pride ourselves on the flexible programme of support on offer, which allows our students to access the mainstream curriculum. The students are regularly monitored and their progress is tracked to ensure that the most appropriate and beneficial help is offered.

Other provision includes Teaching Assistant support in our craft and games clubs, promoting social interaction in a safe and friendly environment. Help is also on hand with home learning during lunchtime to enable students to work in a quiet and supportive atmosphere. Students with motor co-ordination and organisational difficulties may enjoy the after school physical skills group designed to boost self-esteem and confidence.

'The School caters very effectively for the welfare and personal development of vulnerable pupils through the Hub and the different learning programmes it offers'

- Ofsted, December 2016

English as an Additional Language

Soham Village College is committed to making appropriate provision for students for whom English is an additional language. Through an initial assessment process and continued monitoring, we identify and respond to individual student needs and celebrate the skills and variety they bring to the school community. Support is supplied through the provision of a Specialist Language Assistant in targeted lessons, a withdrawal facility for students and a special morning intervention programme to target English levels. Where possible, students are also offered the opportunity to complete a GCSE in their own language. In addition to this, trained peer mentors specialising in supporting EAL students offer new and recently arrived students social and practical support settling in to the school.

Most Able Students

We want to meet the individual needs of all our students, including those who are more able. Alongside the stretch and challenge in all lessons for more able students, there are a range of enrichment experiences on offer as extra-curricular activities. These activities are designed to provide advanced opportunity and offer additional and different experiences in a variety of areas.

Our hope is that every student will get the opportunity to excel whilst they are at the school.

'The most able pupils make good progress across many subjects. In 2016, in English, science, modern foreign languages and humanities the progress of most-able pupils in Year 11 was significantly above average'

- Ofsted, December 2016

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We offer an exciting programme of extra-curricular activities at lunchtime and after school.

There is a full list of clubs and activities offered on the school website. This includes sports clubs, hobby activities and academic interest groups. Students could train for the football team, learn to dance, join the chess club, pursue an interest in creative writing or take a statistics course.

The table below gives an idea of a typical programme of extra-curricular activities that the school runs.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime				
Badminton	Indoor Rowing	Circuits/Fitness	Robotics Club	Boys' Football
Netball	Girls' Football	Science Club	Saxophone Group	Wellbeing Club
Maths Club	Woodwind Group	Bingo!	String Ensemble	Table Tennis
Drama Club	Choir	Girls advanced Choir	Ukulele Orchestra	Chess Club
After School (3 – 4.30pm)				
Hockey	Creative Writing Club	Sports fixtures	Girls' Rugby	Airfix models club
Rugby	KS3 Art Club	Orchestra	Duke of Edinburgh	Key Stage 4 Art Club
Music Recording/ band work	Music Theory Lessons	Tennis	School Production Rehearsals	Maths Club

Educational Visits and Other Opportunities Beyond the Classroom

One of the school's special features is a wide and lively range of educational visits and events. Students of all ages are encouraged to participate in as many opportunities as possible. These activities 'beyond the classroom' bring a different aspect to learning: they are enjoyable and stimulating, and often help students to become more independent, sociable and enthusiastic about their learning. In every year, there are opportunities for students to learn outside the classroom, to visit new places and to gain new experiences. There is truly something for everyone!

India trip with year 11 students, July/August 2018



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

We want our students to grow into resilient, responsible adults who are able to honour their commitments and face up to challenges. Participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme allows students to develop many aspects of their personalities. At both Bronze and Silver level, students are required to complete three independent sections of the award – volunteering, skills and physical, as well as completing an expedition in a group. The school is one of the biggest providers of the scheme in the county and we encourage our students to get involved.

Personal Development

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

Our PSHE programme gives students the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active, responsible citizens developing good relations and respecting the differences between people.

‘The school’s work to promote pupils’ personal development and welfare is outstanding’.

- Ofsted, December 2016

The House System

All staff and students at Soham Village College are members of one of our five houses – King, Mandela, Radcliffe, Churchill and Turner. The House system provides every student with a democratic voice within the school. Each House has a House Council which meets every half term. The House Councils send representatives to the College Council, which includes students from all year groups.

House spirit is thriving. House points are awarded for all sorts of positive actions, including such things as exceptional work and community involvement. All of the houses choose charities, which they raise money for throughout the year. There are a number of opportunities throughout the year for houses to compete in sporting competitions culminating in Sports Day towards the end of summer term.



Churchill
House
students
on Sports
Day

The Cultural

Experience at

Soham Village College

We are strongly committed to cultural entitlements and partnerships for children and young people. Soham Village College has signed the Cultural Guarantee in support of the Cambridgeshire vision for the delivery of outstanding cultural provision for our students, one of a handful of secondary schools in Cambridgeshire to do so.

The school attracts students from a wide geographical area; many of these students want to be part of Soham Village College because of its strong reputation and educational involvement with arts and culture. Embedded within the curriculum is a wide spectrum of Arts opportunities; the standards are high and the use of professionals from the world of music, drama, literature and media are a regular occurrence at the school.

We believe that students should have exceptional opportunities to appreciate their own heritage, to participate in a range of artistic opportunities and to explore, appreciate and understand the cultural diversity within the global community. Our students gain opportunities to develop their imagination, self-discipline and creativity through a range of activities that run throughout the year both within and outside of the curriculum.

‘Pupils treat each other with courtesy and respect, and are tolerant of others’ ideas and viewpoints. Pupils have a clear understanding of British values’ -

Ofsted, December 2016

Soham Village College has a longstanding strategic partnership with the



Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge University.

This project provides enrichment and aims to enhance cultural understanding and raise aspirations. This is a long term project, during which we have so far built a sustainable and enduring partnership to provide a stimulus for learning and cultural engagement for our community for years to come.



School Leavers' Destinations

Our Careers policy, strategy and programme aligns with the Gatsby Report's benchmarks; by raising students' aspirations, broadening their horizons, and empowering them to make informed realistic decisions at all key transition points in learning and work. This enables us to maintain our extremely good record of ensuring our students progress onto their chosen pathway of further education or employment with training. Students have a number of colleges and further education providers to choose from, as well as an array of qualifications ranging from A levels, diplomas and International Baccalaureates, to more practical vocational courses and apprenticeship opportunities. The end goal is that all students are equipped with the correct information and guidance necessary to make the right decision for them.

'The school prepares pupils well for when they leave school'

- Ofsted, December 2016



Pastoral Care

Safeguarding Students

At Soham Village College we endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued.

Sex and Relationship Education

Sex and Relationship Education is provided in accordance with the policy available on the school's website.

Behaviour

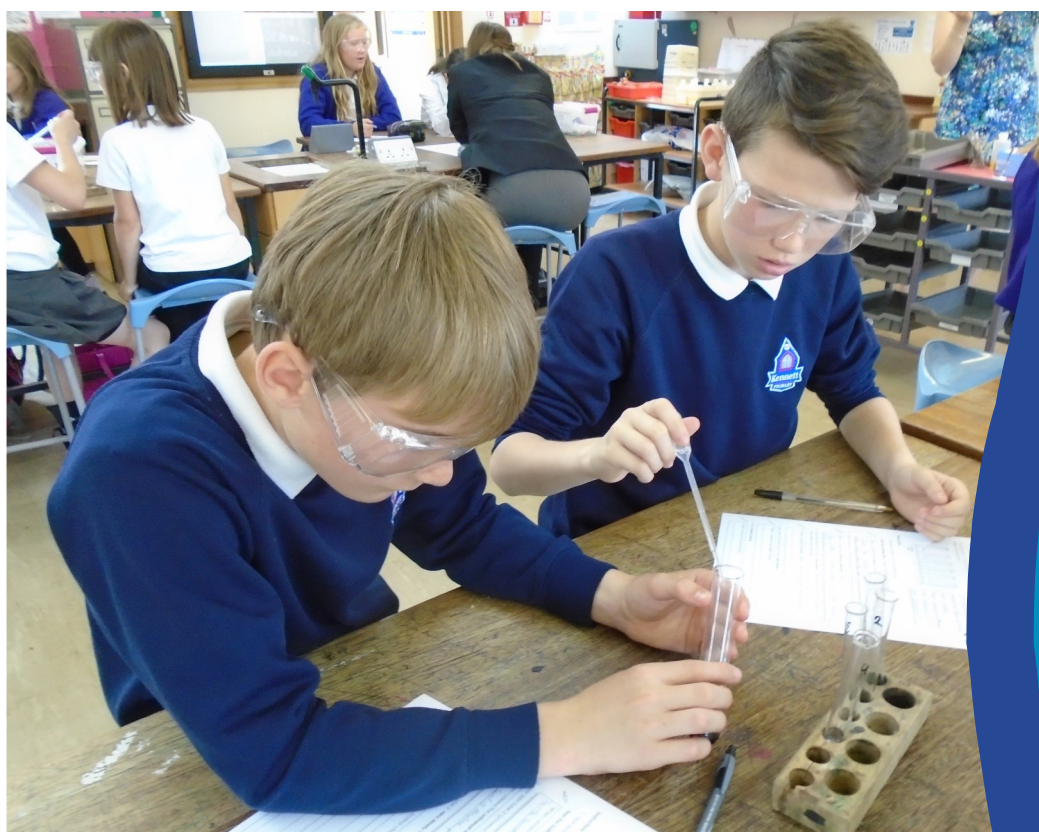
Students at the school behave well and visitors regularly commend our students' behaviour. Bullying is not tolerated at the school, we have a very strong anti-bullying policy and this is detailed in the behaviour policy on the school's website.

Ofsted in December 2016 reported that: 'The behaviour of pupils is good. Pupils feel safe at the school'

Transition to Soham Village College

Year 6 students are invited to spend at least one full day at the school. This main Induction Day gives them an excellent opportunity to meet teachers and peers, and enables them to start to become familiar with the site.

Senior staff visit primary schools prior to the main Induction Day to meet prospective students. This visit, in addition to the many other activities Soham Village College offers to primary schools, helps new students to become familiar with the school prior to starting in September. We arrange extra visits to assist those who are finding the transition to secondary school particularly challenging, working with the Additional Needs department and the Early Help Team as appropriate.



Year 6 pupils taking part in science activities on Induction Day

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