Sawtry Village Academy

Academy Prospectus



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Welcome from the Principal



I am delighted to be the Principal of Sawtry Village Academy and part of the on-going project to deliver excellent schools for Sawtry, of which the community can be proud.

Sawtry Village Academy has high expectations of all its students and in return offers a high-quality education at the heart of our rural community. We will develop our students into successful, confident, responsible and employable citizens. The school is a supportive hub for its students, their families and the community.

While we are committed to providing the strongest academic experience for our students, we also excel in broader subject areas to provide our students with a balanced and well-rounded education. We consistently achieve highly in media, arts and sport on a local, regional and national stage.

The Academy is supported by the village college ethos and values of the Meridian Trust, described by Ofsted as: 'an absolute belief that every child matters'.
The core of this philosophy is:

- **Achievement for all**
- **Providing a high quality learning environment**
- **The pursuit of excellence**
- **Extending the boundaries of learning**
- **Valuing people**

We expect students to work hard, developing resilience when the going gets tough and together we will celebrate their achievements, whatever their ability level. We know that learning is at its best when staff, students and parents work closely together, so on behalf of the staff, may I say, that we look forward to welcoming you to as many Academy events as possible.

This prospectus provides a useful summary of how we translate these aims into reality for each student. We hope that you will work with us in achieving these aims of knowing and valuing every student to achieve and enjoy their school experience.

Simon Parsons

The Academy Identity

The Academy brand was chosen and created by our students and wider community when we joined Meridian Trust.

The logo is inspired by organic shapes found in nature to reflect our rural setting. The overall triangular shape evokes an oak tree.

The growing shapes that sit within the larger shapes symbolise personal development.

The central element where the three main parts are tied together represent unity with parents, students and staff working together to create a strong partnership.

Uniform

All of the uniform to be worn by students in Years 7 to 11 is available to be purchased from PMG online retailer or Chroma Sports and Trophies in Peterborough. Details can be found on our website.

Years 7-11
Navy Jumper - Dark blue, with Academy logo and house denotation

Polo Shirt - Light blue with Academy logo and house denotation

Skirt - Plain, black, knee length or below with Academy logo. Henley or pleated style only

Trousers - Plain black, full length tailored style
(no leggings, combat or jean style)

Tailored Shorts - with Academy logo

Tights/Socks - Black, white, or grey

Shoes - Black – trainers, boots, sandals, open toed or platform shoes
and other unsuitable footwear must not be worn. Canvas shoes are not permitted

Years 12-13
Black Zip Top - with Academy logo

Shirt/Blouse - Plain white collared

Trousers - Smart plain black tailored, full length

Skirts - Tailored (knee length or below)

Shoes - As detailed above









The Pursuit of Excellence

Meridian Trust

The Academy Trust

Sawtry Village Academy joined the Meridian Trust family in April 2015. The Trust was formed with a simple and clear vision: 'to ensure high quality education at the heart of the community'





The Trust truly values the success of every child and places the sharing of excellent education practice at its core. It is committed to improving the quality of education and life in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and their immediate surroundings. The Trust is dedicated to maintaining its core principles and focus as it grows.

Valuing People

- Appreciating the incredible trust placed with us in educating young people and serving our community
- Valuing the diversity and qualities of our staff and students
- Ensuring that all students and staff feel known, appreciated and supported
- Committing whole-heartedly to collaboration within, between and beyond our academies

A high quality learning environment

- Providing high quality buildings, engaging classrooms and excellent sporting facilities
- Delivering innovative learning resources and materials
- Ensuring a well-disciplined and caring environment
- Exploiting cutting edge technologies to expand the opportunities for students, staff and our community to benefit from learning in a digital age

Achievement for all

- Ensuring that every student achieves their maximum potential
- Maintaining a relentless sense of optimism
- Removing barriers to learning
- Providing a whole education: academic excellence co-existing with an exceptional commitment to activity beyond

The pursuit of excellence

- By expecting this of every person, every day
- Continually striving for the creation of a true meritocracy
- Promoting and celebrating elite performance inside school and in the wider world
- Rejecting outright any sense of complacency

Extending the boundaries of learning

- Providing positive memorable experiences inside and outside of the classroom
- Providing a diversity of experience to all
- Opening up the world to all students
- Securing the very best future educational and vocational experiences for our students

For more information about Meridian Trust, visit our website: www.meridiantrust.co.uk

Valuing People

Sawtry Village Academy embeds Meridian Trust's core values at the heart of everything we do. These initiatives have been developed and proved to be successful at other schools across the Trust.

House System

Sawtry Village Academy has four main school Houses and one 6th form House:



The Houses provide crucial support and guidance, and the needs of every student are acknowledged and understood by their tutor and senior tutor. The system enables individual progress to be monitored much more closely and the House is the key focus of the relationship between the Academy and families, with siblings joining the same House.

The House offices are a great base for students and parents to find the support and assistance they may need. Each house has a dedicated member of the leadership team, a senior tutor and a student support advisor.

House teams work closely with families, teachers and SEND Department (Willow) to ensure that students with special educational needs and/or disabilities are adequately supported. All students are encouraged to play active roles in school community. We are proud of our inclusive ethos and strive to develop the sense of belonging and empowerment in all students.

Vertical Tutoring

The mixed aged tutor group system is known as Vertical Tutoring. Each tutor group will have a mixture of students from Years 7-11. The sixth form has a specialist team.

The Vertical Tutoring system has many benefits, fostering a family spirit where older students offer guidance and provide support to younger students. It also ensures students have a sense of the whole school picture as the younger students see the older ones preparing for work experience, subject choices and important examinations.

The tutors will follow the students from their first few days to their last at the Academy. This allows them to easily build great relationships with students and their families and ensure they receive the support they need. Each tutor will make regular contact with a child's family in the year to discuss progress and address any concerns.

An encouraging House ethos for students to strive in is developed and strengthened by healthy competition. Students will have the opportunity to compete alongside their House peers in a variety of activities in order to claim victory and win the prestigious House Award.

House System

We believe in an all-inclusive education where every student not only develops academic skills, but also self-confidence, life-skills, and leadership experiences.

In addition to the Pledge programme, there is a wide-range of other whole Academy activities, including:

- ► Inter-House competitions
- ► PLEDGES and Futures week
- ► Charity events
- ► Educational visits and experiences

There are student leadership opportunities to be found throughout all aspects of Academy life – from the informal leadership that is inherent in the mixed age tutor groups, through to the Academy House Captains, and local and national representative groups.



Achievement for All



Curriculum Structure: Key Stage 3 (KS3)

Students in Years 7 and 8 (Key Stage 3) will study the following subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Science
- Creative Arts and Drama
- Humanities (Geography & History)
- Modern Foreign Languages (French or Spanish)
- Technology (covering aspects such as Food, Graphics, Media, Photography, Resistant Materials and Textiles)
- Core Studies covers Religious Education, Citizenship, Personal Development, Careers Information, Advice and Guidance

Curriculum Structure: Key Stage 4 (KS4)

All students in KS4 work towards external examinations in all subjects with the exception of Physical Education.

Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 have some degree of choice but all students will study:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education
- Humanities (Geography & History)
- Core studies which includes Religious Education, Personal Development, Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance

There will be a guided choice based on current government and Ofsted recommendations and sound careers and progression advice. This will include consideration of the significance of an English Baccalaureate route and imposition for some students.

Students can choose between a range of other subject areas:

- Art
- Business
- Computer Science
- Health & Social Care
- Information Technology
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French
- Graphics
- Media Studies
- Music
- Physical Education
- Resistant Materials
- Spanish
- Textiles

Curriculum Structure: Key Stage 5 (KS5)

We offer a wide range of traditional, highly regarded, creative and academic A Level courses. Students will normally follow a programme of study consisting of four or three A Levels. Alongside this the Academy offers a range of Applied General qualifications. The subjects currently offered are:

- Art
- Biology
- BTEC Applied Science
- BTEC Creative Digital Media Production
- BTEC ICT
- BTEC Health and Social Care
- Business
- Chemistry
- Economics
- English Literature
- Food Technology
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Photography
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Textiles
- 3D Design



A high quality learning environment

Growing our students for now and the future – Striving, Valuing and Adventuring in Learning

At Sawtry Village Academy every student is known, valued and supported to achieve not only for now, but also for the future. We believe in growing the minds of our young people and consider carefully what we value in order to develop this way of thinking in our students. In our classrooms, we believe that three things can make a real difference to students, not only on a daily basis, but also in future life: they are Striving, Valuing and Adventuring.

By nurturing passion, perseverance and stamina we encourage students to never give in when things are tough or hard. We want students to seek out challenges and to stick with them. By developing grit, the next generation will be able to take on the hurdles and obstacles that life brings. Ultimately, a life without challenge is a life of unknown potential. At Sawtry, we value students who don't give up even when failure has caused a setback.

Learning is a journey that continues for life. To be successful on this venture, we encourage our students to be eager to explore new things, to take responsibility, to show enthusiasm and to actively participate in every lesson. We call this striving for learning. We work relentlessly to inspire and open the minds of all those that attend Sawtry Village Academy.



Made in SVA

Every Member of our community is known, valued and supported to achieve in all areas at the highest level to become successful and confident and responsible for the pursuit of lifelong learning.





Session 6

Sawtry Village Academy offers a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities through a timetabled programme over the year. These encompass activities such as sports, encore, music and additional subject support.

The Academy day extends to 4.00pm for those students who wish to stay for after-school activities or additional curriculum assistance – these sessions are called Session 6.

Teachers will recommend sessions that will be useful if a student needs additional support or clarification. Students can also drop into extra-curricular sessions themselves if they are feeling overwhelmed or need assistance.

Academy Rewards

Sawtry Village Academy takes great pride in celebrating and sharing the achievements of its students and staff. We have a comprehensive protocol of rewarding students in lessons through a credit system which recognises hard work, persistence and participation in learning. These credits can be achieved at bronze, silver, gold and diamond level.

Students can be presented with "Character Coins" by any member of staff in the Academy. These rewards are presented to students who go above and beyond expectations. For example, this could be to recognise a student supporting another student without being asked. Quite simply we try, wherever possible, to celebrate positive action and behaviours every day.





Extending the boundaries of learning



Academy Pledges

We have an uncompromising commitment to ensure that every child achieves their academic potential at Sawtry Village Academy. Our curriculum has been carefully designed to secure the best possible outcomes for our students. We also have systems in place for students that need extra support and guidance to achieve.

In order to support our challenging curriculum, we have also developed and invested in a simple but broad set of Academy Pledges. Pledges are an awards system which offer students a range of character-building opportunities that enhance their learning and development.
It is an expectation of every student to complete their Pledges during their time at the Academy.

The Pledges system aims to encourage and reward the development of many important qualities in students, such as responsibility, expectation, intuition and citizenship, all of which are crucial for giving students skills and brighter futures.





Valued member of the community

Sawtry Village Academy is a valued member of the wider community and a source of immense pride.

Drawing upon the village college roots of the Trust, we firmly believe our role is to provide for all members of the community we serve. This means that we open the Academy's facilities to the community and support local events such as the as the Feast Supper and Sawtry Carnival. In addition, we offer facilities for hire and a programme of Leisure Learning classes in the evenings.

Students will be exposed to many opportunities in which they can help their in-school communities. They can take up the position of Form Rep, House Captain or Sports Captain, and in doing so will work towards their Leadership Pledge whilst supporting the "voice" of the student body.

Students may volunteer to help the wider community with consistent opportunities to fundraise for a wide range of charities supported by the Academy.

Establishing close links with younger students at nearby primary schools is important, and we regularly invite them into the Academy to take part in a range of sporting, science and cultural projects.





Sawtry Village Academy

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Part of the Meridian Trust family

Meridian Trust

