

EXCELLENCE, CARE & OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL



OUR VALUE



RESPECT



RESPONSIBILITY



COMMUNITY



ASPIRATION



DETERMINATION



PRIDE

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Sharnbrook Academy is a very successful 11-18 comprehensive school located in North Bedfordshire, with a longstanding reputation for high student achievement. We pride ourselves on our rigorous academic standards, good behaviour and excellent teaching and learning.

As one of the newest members of the Meridian Trust, Sharnbrook is part of a successful family of regional schools with shared values, a track record of achievement, and a wide network of support and expertise.

We believe that all students can achieve, and we encourage them to become lifelong learners, challenging and supporting them to realise their potential. As a result, our students regularly attain excellent examination results at the end of Key Stage Four. Our students' GCSE results are well above the national average which is testament both to the hard work and attitude of our students, and the tireless efforts of our expert teaching staff.

At Sharnbrook, we appreciate that there is much more to school life than examination grades. As a large school, we are privileged to have great facilities. Sharnbrook offers a large and impressively equipped campus that enables our students to enjoy opportunities and experiences that are not available elsewhere.

Our curriculum is broad and rich, and extensive extracurricular opportunities are available. Students are encouraged to participate and collaborate with one another during academy-wide events, competitions and challenges through the house system which was relaunched in 2022-23.

Sharnbrook is a school where effort, hard work and success is expected, encouraged and celebrated, and creativity is nurtured. Our tutoring and pastoral systems provide a very high level of care and support for all students and allow them to develop a sense of belonging to the academy community.

We want our students to feel safe, happy and enjoy school and this aim is reflected in everything we do. Our ambition is that our students leave school having fulfilled their academic potential and, just as importantly, that they have developed into thoughtful, responsible citizens who are ready to make a positive difference to the world around them.

I hope this prospectus will give you a snapshot of what the school is like and of the excellent education that we offer.



Clare Raku
Academy Principal

CURRICULUM

We believe that every student is entitled to an excellent education, and we are very **proud** of the broad, rich curriculum offer at Sharnbrook.

OUR CURRICULUM VISION

Our mission is to ensure that all students achieve their academic and personal potential to reach destinations of purpose and choice. Our motto of 'excellence, care and opportunity for all' encapsulates our approach to this aim. Our students experience a broad and balanced curriculum across the full range of national curriculum subjects including all of the arts. At the heart of our curriculum is reading, with all students supported to become confident and fluent readers. We teach students to approach their learning with determination and take pride in their work. Our academic curriculum includes the development of study habits, with students expected to become responsible learners through preparation and consolidation of learning beyond the classroom.

KEY STAGE THREE

All of our students study the full National Curriculum in English, maths, science, geography, history, religious studies (including citizenship and PSHE), computing, modern foreign languages

(French and Spanish), DT, PE, music and art. We passionately believe that students are entitled to learn a full range of expressive arts, so students also learn dance, drama and media studies throughout their Key Stage Three experience.

KEY STAGE FOUR

Students build on the solid knowledge base of their previous two years, having had the opportunity to deepen their understanding across a broad range of subjects. Our core Key Stage Four National Curriculum pathway of English language, English literature, maths, separate sciences, PE and religious studies is then balanced with four guided option subject choices. Students all choose between a humanities subject of geography, history, or both. Students are encouraged to continue to study a modern foreign language in order to achieve the EBacc, alongside either two or three further guided choices which enable students to pursue their interests across a wide range of challenging subject disciplines.

Years 7 and 8	Years 9, 10 and 11
English	English
Maths	Maths
Science	Science
Humanities (Geography, History, Religious Studies & PSHE)	Religious Studies & PSHE
Modern Foreign Languages (French & Spanish)	Physical Education
Physical Education	Plus 4 subjects selected by
IT	guided choice
Design Technology (Food, Textiles & Design Technology)	
Art	
Music	
Expressive Arts (Dance, Drama and Media Studies)	



TEACHING & LEARNING

We believe that students should be supported and challenged to take responsibility for their learning, to enable them to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Lessons are taught by subject specialists, who are the experts in the classroom. All lessons follow 'The Sharnbrook Way', and students are expected to make 'every second count' so that no learning time is lost.

HOMEWORK

Homework is an important part of secondary school life, and something that grows in significance as students progress through the years. The type of homework set varies according to the specific needs of each subject and is linked to the curriculum. To help students and parents keep track of homework and deadlines, we use an online system called Edulink.

Homework will be set weekly on Edulink, which can be viewed by parents, and students are expected to complete it by the deadline set. We appreciate parents' help in supporting their children to focus successfully on their studies at home. For students requiring a quiet space to complete their homework or additional support, we offer an after-school homework provision in the library each day.

READING

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum at Sharnbrook. All students in key stage three are enrolled onto the Accelerated Reader programme, and reading

for pleasure forms part of the English curriculum. Students in all year groups follow the Tutor Time Reading Programme, accessing literature from a diverse range of texts covering themes relevant to the experiences of our students.

INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

Sharnbrook is committed to providing an inclusive environment where the needs of all students are known and addressed. We are ambitious for all of our students and our ultimate aim is for everyone to reach or exceed their potential.

The provision of high quality teaching and learning is at the heart of our approach, and makes the most substantial difference to the outcomes and experiences of all students. Lessons are scaffolded to ensure that the curriculum can be accessed by all, and students are challenged to achieve their very best.

We make sure that those students who join us with special educational needs and disabilities are known and well supported by classroom teachers and our Individual Needs team.

Teaching Assistants are deployed by the SENDCO to support students both individually and through small group interventions including Breakfast Club, Rapid Readers, Homework Club and a wide programme of specialist interventions designed to meet the needs of students who require additional support.



HIGH EXPECTATIONS

We believe that **respect** should underpin every aspect of our school community, so that all students are able to learn in a safe, happy environment.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

To ensure that all lessons run effectively, free from interruption, we expect students to:

- ▶ Be prepared for excellence – dressed smartly, on time and well equipped.
- ▶ Be polite, respectful and make positive choices – demonstrate care for themselves and others.
- ▶ Participate in opportunities – engage fully in academy life and take personal responsibility for their own development.

PRAISE & RECOGNITION

Students receive achievement points for exceeding our high expectations in class or around school. Parents can view achievement points through Edulink. Students are nominated weekly to receive the Student of the Week awards, and each week those students who achieve the highest number of achievement points meet the Principal for 'Hot Chocolate with the Head.' Half termly celebration assemblies highlight the great efforts of our students in each house, and our annual Awards Evening is the highlight of the academic year.

BEHAVIOUR & CONDUCT

At Sharnbrook, we pride ourselves on providing a safe, happy atmosphere in which students are able to thrive.

Good behaviour is essential in any school, and our behaviour policy is known by all and consistently applied. We do not tolerate disruption to learning, and any conduct which falls short of our high expectations is recorded, challenged and corrected at the earliest opportunity.

STUDENT PLEDGE

Each year, all students sign our Anti-bullying, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Pledge, underlining our whole school community's commitment to challenge and eradicate any form of prejudice or discrimination.

A significant number of our students are trained Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, and members of our Sixth Form community are trained to deliver student mentoring to those who require additional peer guidance or support.

BREAK AND LUNCH SUPERVISION

Starting secondary school might feel daunting, especially at break and lunchtime. Students in each key stage have designated dining halls and recreational areas which are well supervised by highly visible teams of senior leaders, teachers and support staff.

Students benefit from having the peace of mind that there will always be someone close to hand should they need some help.





GUIDANCE & SUPPORT

We believe that all students in our school **community** should be known, valued and supported. Our pastoral system ensures that we are able to care for every aspect of our students' needs.

TRANSITION

At Sharnbrook, we strive to make our new students feel confident about the transition to secondary school. We understand the importance of making them feel welcome, and ensure that they are a valued part of the school community.

We liaise closely with all sending primary schools to ensure that we have a detailed understanding of the needs of all who join us. Our curriculum is carefully planned to develop and build on students' learning in the primary phase.

We have a comprehensive transition programme in place to make sure that students beginning with us settle in quickly. In the summer term before joining us, students have the opportunity to visit the school for two days. This enables them to start making friends and to know what to expect when they start in September.

HOUSE SYSTEM

All students across the academy, including the

Sixth Form, are allocated to one of five new houses.

Each house is led by a Senior Tutor who works closely with the dedicated Student Support Assistant for each house to make sure our students receive the right support when they need it most.

Our houses, new in 2022-23, chosen by the students, take their names from mythology but also constellations, and reflect our value of **aspiration**, epitomising our belief that if students reach for the stars, anything is achievable.

OUR HOUSES

Delphinus
Ursa
Pegasus
Cygnus
Phoenix

TUTORING

Students joining the school will be placed into the same house as their siblings.

Students are allocated to a tutor group which is made up of around 27 students from years 7-11 within the same house, providing an established network of older students who, guided by Form Tutors, will offer advice and assistance to younger students.

Our sixth form students will also work with younger students in their houses at key times throughout the year. Students in year 11 have a fortnightly assembly and planned drop down sessions to ensure access to bespoke provision appropriate for their stage of education.

Form tutors have daily contact with each of their tutees and know them individually. Tutors are skilled in easing the transition to secondary school, and they will make contact with parents of new students early in the first term to establish the home school partnership we regard so highly.

Tutor groups are based in their house zones in different areas of the academy, and each House has its own base called the House Office, where the Senior Tutor and Student Support Assistant can be found. Students are able to visit the House Office during unstructured times to talk through any concerns or issues they are experiencing, and the house team will liaise closely with home as required.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

We believe in the development of the whole student. Our pastoral curriculum is both rigorous and relevant, and we ensure students receive personalised guidance and support towards their **aspirations**.

PASTORAL CURRICULUM

Our carefully mapped tutor time programme supplements the PSHE curriculum taught discretely through Religious Studies lessons. Opportunities for students to work with others across the school and observe or celebrate key events throughout the calendar year are thoughtfully planned.

HOUSE ACTIVITIES

Our house system provides opportunities for students to engage in extracurricular activities and roles of responsibility. Activities include our inter-house tug of war, the inter-form "University Challenge", our annual Christmas charity hamper drive and many more. Throughout the year, there are inter-house sports and a whole-school sports day in July.

In addition, houses nominate a charity each year and hold fundraising events to raise money for their chosen cause. The house system also offers students the chance to take on roles of increasing responsibility.

Each tutor group has its own form captains who organise form activities and run events. Each house boasts a team of house captains, who help with whole school events, such as assemblies and fundraising.

ACADEMIC MENTORING

The progress and achievement of all students is carefully tracked and monitored to ensure students are on course to achieve or exceed their potential. Progress is centrally logged twice annually for every year group. Following this, Form Tutors will meet with their tutees to carry out an academic mentoring session, enabling students the opportunity to reflect on their current achievement and set SMART targets for continued improvement. These targets are then shared with home.

CAREERS

Our curriculum is designed not just to be stimulating, but also to lead to a rewarding career. To help and guide our students as they start to consider their future, we offer impartial careers advice to all year groups delivered through both the curricular and extra-curricular programmes, and one to one meetings with a qualified careers advisor.

COMMUNICATION

We take our **responsibility** for your child's education very seriously and believe in open, honest communication with one another. We aim to share key information with students, staff, parents and the wider **community** as often as possible.



LEADERSHIP AND STUDENT VOICE

Young people deserve to have the opportunity to develop their leadership potential and have their voice heard. At Sharnbrook, students will have the opportunity to take on the role of Form Captain or become a representative of their year group or house as part of our relaunched house system.



BROADCAST

Our live weekly TV broadcast is manned almost entirely by students, both behind and in front of the camera, providing them with the opportunity to develop technical and presenting skills. It also provides the school with a means to share a breadth of experiences and viewpoints with the whole student body, ranging from language exchanges and trips to current affairs and school events.



HOME SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

At Sharnbrook, we highly regard the relationship that we have with parents, and excellent communication is key to making that a success. Parents are encouraged to contact the school whenever they need to, with their child's form tutor being the first point of contact in most cases. Should the need arise for more serious or urgent issues to be addressed, then the relevant house Student Support Assistant or Senior Tutor can be contacted for assistance.

If you are unable to speak to the person you need immediately, then email is available, or we can arrange to call you back. We also use email to contact parents with important information.



Our online system, Edulink, provides easy access to a wealth of information about how your child is getting on at school, available 24 hours a day via a simple login.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Parents receive two progress reports annually, detailing how their children are progressing across the curriculum, and are invited to our virtual parent consultation evenings to meet subject teachers so that they can discuss progress and work together to help their child succeed.



PARENT FORUMS

We also offer regular in-person information evenings, and half termly Parent Forums delivered by the Principal and Senior Leadership Team, where key areas of school life are discussed and developed.



TERMLY NEWSLETTER AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Each half term, we celebrate the successes of students across the academy through our termly newsletter. We also post regular updates of academy life and good news stories on our social media platforms.



EXTENDING THE BOUNDARIES OF LEARNING

We believe that education extends beyond the taught curriculum. We are committed to raising students' **aspirations** and providing opportunities to visit local, national and international destinations to broaden horizons.

We are committed to providing opportunities to develop talents and pursue interests through a diverse range of enriching activities beyond the curriculum. By the time our students leave us, we want them to be ready and able to confidently embrace the challenges of a rapidly changing world, and be prepared to contribute positively to the communities in which they live.

PLEDGES

Launched in 2022-23, PLEDGES is an award system which offers students a range of character building opportunities that enhance their learning and development.

The PLEDGES system aims to encourage and support many important qualities in students such as leadership, citizenship, moral purpose, sense of community and collective responsibility. Many of the PLEDGES criteria have at their core the British Values of: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance.

Trust-wide, we have developed and invested in a simple but broad set of PLEDGES that students are expected to complete during the course of their time at the academy, at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels in the following areas:

- ▶ Participation
- ▶ Leadership
- ▶ Excellence
- ▶ Diversity
- ▶ Giving
- ▶ Environmental
- ▶ Service



SCHOOL TRIPS & RESIDENTIALS

Sharnbrook has a proud history of widening our students' horizons beyond the bounds of the classroom. We offer a comprehensive range of both residential and day trips designed to develop our students' understanding of the broader aspects of the curriculum, as well as providing enrichment opportunities.

When they join us in Year 7, all students have the opportunity to go on an outdoor education day trip with their tutor group, to develop their confidence and learn new skills which will prepare them for their secondary education.



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

We are justifiably proud of the opportunities our students can experience if they choose to get involved in our Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Whilst the scheme's regulations mean that only students in years 9 and above can take part in the award itself, students in years 7 and 8 can get involved in a series of activities designed to give them a taste of the exciting challenges to come.





CLUBS & SOCIETIES

We believe that extra-curricular opportunities are essential for students' development and enhance academic success. Our extensive offer supports students to grow in confidence and **determination**.

SPORT

Sport teaches students the value of working in a team and aspiring to achieve the best whilst showing them how to cope when things don't go their way. Our PE department is passionately committed to inspiring the next generation to get active through sport.

We offer an incredible range of sports and clubs for students and have the benefit of an on-site sports centre which the students can utilise.



Our sports teams often achieve great success in the many competitions the school enters, and we have a partnership with Northampton Saints.

Clubs include football, rugby, netball, hockey, badminton, basketball, table tennis, athletics, rounders, cricket and tennis.

MUSIC

Music plays a major part in the life of the school. There are regular events throughout the year to showcase our talented young musicians. These include termly concerts for both rock and classical enthusiasts, a Battle of the Bands, music showcases, the Fiddle Fiesta, Christmas concerts and wind and brass days, supported by a strong music team of school staff and peripatetic teachers.

These complement our wide range of extra curricular activities, which include studio

and computer music clubs, the soul band, rock school, choir, wind band, orchestras, string quartet, and our saxophone group. The music teams are always willing to respond to students' talents and needs, creating many opportunities.

DRAMA, DANCE & THE PERFORMING ARTS

Our drama department is incredibly successful and showcases this via regular performances throughout the year, such as the Creative Arts Festival and drama productions.

Innovations School of Dance is an initiative for students interested in dance. Students can join in year 7 and move through the companies: Sparkz, Ignite, Activate and Fully Charged. Fully Charged has gained national recognition for its high end performance standards in dance competitions.

ART

A walk around the school will demonstrate the incredible level of talent of our art students. There are a number of art clubs and trips to local galleries along with visiting artists introducing professional ideas and practices.

The art department aims to have an open access policy at lunchtimes so that students who wish to continue their art work can do so.

LANGUAGES

As a core skill, languages are a valued part of the curriculum. Our highly qualified, enthusiastic and innovative languages teachers offer a range of cultural and linguistic enrichment opportunities, both in and out of school. These include residential trips abroad, theatre experiences, Christmas market trips and a film club. Activities are designed for students to learn language and experience the culture in a relaxed and supportive setting.



THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Sharnbrook Academy joined the Meridian Trust family in 2021, and we work closely with their other schools and share their vision and values.

Meridian Trust was formed with a simple and clear vision: ‘high quality educational provision for all at the heart of local communities.’

We are a successful multi-academy trust founded on our commitment to people and communities. Every child is known, equally valued and supported to achieve their potential in all our academies. Every community we serve benefits from the facilities and services our academies provide. Our staff benefit from strong networks, excellent career opportunities and a human approach.

The Trust now has over a decade of highly successful experience delivering great schools and serving communities across our region.

The Trust and its academies are united by common values.

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



Pursuit of Excellence



Valuing People



Achievement for all



High Quality Learning Environment



Extending the Boundaries of Learning

ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Our core value of ‘Extending the boundaries of learning’ is realised through our innovative approach to embedding the provision and celebration of rich wider learning experiences.

A truly ‘whole’ education nurtures the qualities and aims of PLEDGES and PLACE. They are so much more than an ‘extra’ curricular offer, setting out our aim and expectation that all children benefit from both excellent academic and personal development.

PLEDGES is an award system which offers students a range of character building opportunities that enhance their learning and development. We have developed and invested in a simple but broad set of Academy PLEDGES that students are expected to complete during the course of their time at the college, at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels in the following areas:



PARTICIPATION



LEADERSHIP



EXCELLENCE



DIVERSITY



GIVING



ENVIRONMENT



SERVICE



Achievement
for all



Valuing People



High Quality
Learning
Environment



Pursuit of
Excellence



Extending the
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