

Meadowhead School and Sixth Form



Information for Candidates

**This is a document of Meadowhead School and Sixth Form.
Meadowhead School and Sixth Form is a Foundation School
and a member of Meadowhead Together**

Introduction

We would like to take this opportunity to offer you a warm welcome to Meadowhead School. Our school is a large comprehensive school that serves communities in the south and south-west of the city of Sheffield as well as North Derbyshire. We look to appoint teachers and support staff who share our philosophy and are wanting to **make a difference** to our school community.

Meadowhead currently has nearly 2000 students on roll. Our size – as the largest school in Sheffield – brings many benefits including the diversity of our curriculum and our very expansive enrichment programme. While we have close relationships with our seven feeder schools (Abbey Lane, Bradway, Greenhill, Lowedges, Lower Meadow, Norton Free, Woodseats), our size also means students from other primaries in Sheffield and North Derbyshire can join the school as a direct result of parental preference. The excellent reputation of our Sixth Form means we also welcome a significant group of students from other secondaries to join our school at the start of Y12.

The school was founded in 1987 from the merger of Jordanthorpe Comprehensive School and Rowlinson School. The school's logo of a phoenix represents this merger. The school utilised two buildings (North and South) until the new school building was built in 2007. From 2001, the school was a specialist language college and while such designations no longer exist, the school continues to offer a uniquely broad language curriculum of French, German and Spanish. The school achieved 11-18 status by opening its own Sixth Form in 2014 after a period of shared provision with Norton College (its site is now St James' Retail Park). A £2.4 million pound Sixth Form extension opened in 2017. In the most recent Ofsted report (2022), the school achieved a good rating in all categories. The school has been a convertor academy since 2011. This means that the school's governing body is solely responsible for the direction of the school and all decisions are taken locally in the best interests of Meadowhead families. All funding is invested directly into the education the school offers. Since 2018, the Headteacher has been Kam Grewal-Joy. Kam is the school's fourth Headteacher since 1987.

The school's charitable arm, the Meadowhead Community Learning Trust (MCLT), was set up in 2009 in partnership with six feeder primary schools, Sheffield College, Sheffield University, Sheffield Hallam University and a number of local and national businesses. This charitable trust is now known as Meadowhead Together and actively works to enhance the learning experiences across the family of schools.

The school's motto is "At Meadowhead, we make a difference". The school's houses are named after inspirational figures who have made a difference in their chosen field or discipline and have a connection to Sheffield. These figures are Helen Sharman, Sue Pearson, Harry Brearley and Frederick Douglass. These figures emphasise the values of the school: to combine a strong academic education alongside fostering young people who can use such specialist skills and knowledge in a proactive and positive way.

We are never complacent and aim to continuously seek out opportunities for improvement. Nevertheless, we are able to celebrate the following strengths of our school:

- A broad and balanced curriculum that allows all students to flourish – combining a rigorous and demanding curriculum in "traditional" subjects with strengths in sport, the arts, music and performance
- An impressive record of academic success at GCSE and A-Level. For example, we were the top performing state Sixth Form in Sheffield in 2022.
- High expectations of behaviour, conduct and uniform ("Pupils behave very positively" - Ofsted) which sits alongside a well-deserved reputation for high levels of support and pastoral care. As Ofsted also wrote, our students are "confident, lively, interested and kind".
- Expert, specialist teachers who go the extra mile. The school is a popular place to work and many of our staff spend their whole or almost all of their careers at Meadowhead – this stability allows for success to be built on year after year.

- The success of our Meadowhead Phoenix sports teams and our support for individual athletes is an attraction for many families. We offer a ground-breaking girls football scholarship programme alongside our well-established boys programme.
- Our state-of-the-art building offers specialist facilities in drama, dance, music, sports, design and the arts. The school's light and sizeable atrium, the Rosling, is an impressive heart of the school where flags hang from countries that are part of our students' personal and family histories.
- We build strong relationships with our community and as such we have very high levels of student and parent satisfaction: 97% of students would recommend the school to a friend (A-Level Leavers Survey 2022) and 98% of parents (Y12 Parents Evening 2024) would do the same.
- We build a sense of belonging with each student a member of a house. As part of Sharman, Douglass, Brearley and Pearson Houses, students earn reward points to contribute to the annual Cook Shield named after our founder Headteacher, Ken Cook. Students also compete in houses for the Sports Day trophy as well as other competitions.
- We maintain very strong connections with our alumni who regularly return to school to support its work. While not every Meadowhead alumnus reaches space as our most famous former student Helen Sharman did, our current students benefit immensely from the wisdom, advice and networks that our alumni share with us.
- Our careers service is seen as a flagship in the locality and region. Rates of progression into employment or further education are very high. The careers programme is very strong and includes mock interviews, work experience and our annual Futures Week.
- We are a school with student leadership at its heart: students are expected to make a difference through leadership roles. The Head Student team in Y11 and Presidential Team in the Sixth Form are elected in an annual ballot and play a crucial role in shaping our school. As Ofsted observed, "students have a voice at this school".
- A personal development programme ensures Meadowhead students develop the key skills and attributes to "Make a Difference" in their community. For example, in 2022-23 Meadowhead students raised nearly six thousand pounds amount for a diverse range of charities.
- A rich and diverse offer of after-school clubs, trips and events. For example, during the academic years 2022-23 and 2023-24 the school ran overseas trips to Washington DC, Iceland, Sicily, Cern in Switzerland, the WW1 Battlefields in France and Belgium, Villarreal, and Canada. There are over a hundred clubs that take place each week after-school. We also offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award to both Y10s and Y12s.

In our most recent Ofsted inspection in June 2022, we were judged to be a 'Good' school and would encourage you to read the inspection report. The key areas the school has focused on during the last three years have been:

- To strengthen the quality of assessment to improve students' progress levels
- To improve attendance levels to at least 95% for all students
- To strengthen the curriculum so that it better meets the needs of all learners post COVID
- To improve students' literacy levels
- To accelerate rates of progress for all disadvantaged learners.

This is an exciting time to join Meadowhead and we are determined to provide the best possible education for all students. We believe that this is best achieved by well lead, well trained staff who are confident, enthusiastic and talented, working in partnership with parents and the wider community. You can visit the school's social media pages (on Facebook and Instagram) and the school's website to learn more.

Information about our school

At Meadowhead our vision is to **make a difference** to the lives of our young people. Through excellence and continual improvement, we aim to be the best we can possibly be for our current and future students. We are determined that all our students achieve their full potential and leave us as confident, compassionate and articulate individuals to grow and prosper in the 21st century.

We work in partnership with others to equip students with the skills, attitudes and qualifications needed to lead fulfilling lives and to become responsible adults. Through a skilfully planned curriculum, enrichment experiences, high standards in teaching and pastoral care we fully prepare our students for entrance to further and higher education, high quality employment and the future careers of their choice.

Our ambition is to develop and nurture young people to become well rounded individuals with the characteristics to contribute fully to society with a strong sense of civic responsibility. We want to ensure that our students are equipped with the knowledge, understanding and skills to influence change and to improve their own lives, their local community and the planet. We aim to inspire young people to live sustainable lives and develop the green skills to tackle both the causes and the impact of climate change resulting in better futures for all.

Meadowhead Vision Statement

Our Approach to Teaching

At Meadowhead, teachers are subject experts who share their knowledge and expertise with students. Our approach to teaching and learning is informed by the best available evidence and supported by cognitive science. As a result, our lessons are structured around the explicit teaching and assessment of knowledge, direct questioning, whole class feedback, retrieval practice and silent deliberate practice. We have high expectations of all our students regardless of their background or starting points and we foster a supportive environment for learning, built on good quality relationships with students.

Behaviour and Conduct

We expect the highest standards of student behaviour and conduct which is supported by our system of Behaviour for Learning. This offers positive rewards for the majority of students, where necessary a series of consequences to promote positive behaviour and attitudes to learning. We have clear routines so students develop good habits. We identify and explicitly teach model behaviours in Form Time – especially in the ‘Decisions’ sessions. Our students show a genuine pride in themselves and their school and never fail to impress visitors who are shown around the school. All students wear the Meadowhead uniform that includes a black polo shirt and jumper, black trousers or skirt and black tights, and black shoes.

The Meadowhead Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to be ambitious and challenging, supporting all students to fulfil their potential in the world beyond school. We aim to build students’ cultural capital within each subject area giving them a foundation of knowledge to inspire success and a life-long love of learning. Our selection of subjects is varied and balanced providing students with opportunities to explore different disciplines. Our sequential curriculum is based on the enrichment of knowledge and the development of skills with numeracy and literacy embedded throughout.

In Years 7, 8 and 9, students follow a broad and balanced curriculum with a range of National Curriculum subjects. Our wide suite of subjects provides the foundations for future learning and opens up different pathways for future study. Subjects are taught in both mixed ability classes and groups based on a student's ability. Students in Key Stage Three study:

English	Mathematics	Science	Geography	History
A language (German, French or Spanish)		Health, Fitness and Wellbeing (PE)		Ethics (PSHE, Religious Studies and Citizenship)
Drama	Music	Art	Design Technology	ICT and Computing

During Y10 and Y11, the school is committed to providing a diverse and inclusive curriculum with a wide range of choice. All students study:

English Language	English Literature	Mathematics	Science	History OR Geography
Health, Fitness and Wellbeing (PE) - non examined			Ethics (PSHE, Religious Studies and Citizenship) – non examined	

Students can select three further choices from the following options:

Spanish	German	French	Geography	History
Triple Science	Art	Art Textiles	Photography	Product Design
Sports Studies	Computer Science	Drama	Music	BTEC Music
BTEC Sport	BTEC Health and Social Care	BTEC Business	BTEC Dance	BTEC Construction

GCSE unless stated.

Our Sixth Form

Meadowhead has as an excellent Sixth Form that serves the South of Sheffield and North Derbyshire. We are the Sixth Form of first choice for students in the area and we welcome a large number of students to join the Sixth Form at the start of Y11 from other local secondaries. They join students who have taken their GCSE exams at Meadowhead.

Teaching and facilities at Meadowhead are of the highest quality and these, combined with our outstanding care, guidance and support enable students to thrive academically. Our students go on to gain places at a wide range of universities, including the best in the country.

Our Sixth Form is a vibrant community where students actively run and participate in a number of societies. These societies allow students to pursue their wider interests whilst also helping them to understand the importance of making a difference in the wider community.

Due to our size we are able to offer a wide range of academic and vocational subjects at Key Stage Five:

English Language	English Literature	Maths	Further Maths	Biology
Chemistry	Physics	History	Geography	Philosophy
Sociology	Psychology	Computing	French	German
Spanish	Product Design	Art	Art Textiles	Photography
Economics	Business Studies	Music	BTEC Science	BTEC Business
BTEC ICT	BTEC Performing Arts	BTEC Health and Social Care	Extended Project Qualification	

A-Level unless stated.

We also offer a Football Scholarship for both girls and boys.

Make a Difference Programme

Alongside our focus on an ambitious curriculum, we also place significant emphasis on student personal development. We do not believe schools should choose between developing knowledge and skills: we want our students and alumni to be able to use the subject specific knowledge they acquire. Ultimately, we want students to be able to “Make a Difference”; both in their chosen careers and as citizens. Our school ensures students develop both subject-specific knowledge as well as skills and qualities that enable such knowledge to confidently be practised and used.

Form Time

The role of form tutor is a crucial part of any Meadowhead teacher’s role and each day they will deliver a centrally planned curriculum that supports student’s moral, cultural and academic development. Each student is placed in a form group at the start of Y7 and students remain in this group until the end of Y11. A student’s form tutor plays a key daily role for members of their tutor group; monitoring academic progress, maintaining standards of behaviour and conduct, supporting personal development, and working closely with parents and guardians. The form tutor works alongside the student’s Head of Year, Assistant Head of Year, Pastoral Manager and designated Senior Teacher to ensure all students are well-supported.

Creativity

Meadowhead has a deserved reputation for the quality and variety of the creative element of our curriculum and extra-curricular offer in disciplines such as art, design, dance, drama and music. Key elements include the annual art and design exhibition, open workshops and rehearsal rooms, the annual school production, individual music lessons and regular opportunities to perform.

Sporting Excellence

We emphasise teamwork and collaboration across our curriculum so students are comfortable and confident in working with others in a range of contexts. For example, teamwork is a crucial part of our annual Sports Day and the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Our extra-curricular sports offer combines opportunities for enjoyment alongside participation for our Phoenix teams and athletes in local, regional and national competitions for which we have an excellent record of success.

Staying Safe and Healthy

We provide clear support and guidance in a safe, caring community, enabling our students to feel happy, confident and secure. As part of the Ethics curriculum and in Form Time, students learn about how to manage both their physical and mental health; how to build and maintain successful friendships and relationships, and are helped to avoid potential risks.

Leadership and Active Citizenship

There is an extensive range of opportunities for leadership at Meadowhead so students can develop the skills to make positive change. These include student parliament, sports leaders, reading mentors and eco champion ambassadors. Students regularly discuss and debate global and contemporary issues during In the News sessions during Form Time.

Extending the experience: trips, visits and guest speakers

We offer a wide range of opportunities to extend learning. As well as giving students the chance to make the most of opportunities on our doorstep in Sheffield and in the Peak District, we have an extensive range of international experiences that include trips and exchanges to Morocco, Washington DC, Finland, Germany, France, Italy, Iceland and Spain. We have a proud history of participation in the Erasmus scheme and are now a leading school participant in its replacement: the Turing Scheme.