



Sir Jonathan North

Community College

A specialist college
in visual arts, science and mathematics
with vocational learning

Quality

The College is friendly yet purposeful. Our emphasis is on preparation for an ever changing modern world and a lifetime of learning. We use a wide range of teaching and learning methods including practical work, discussion, individual research, group work, off-site visits and use of modern technology.

In years 7 to 9 students are taught mainly in sets based upon their ability. All students follow the Key Stage Three curriculum in English, mathematics, science and health, information technology, design technology, French, citizenship, careers, geography, history, religious studies, physical education, art, drama, dance and music.

Students are encouraged to join a wide range of activities at lunchtimes and after school. We are proud of our sporting tradition. There is a very popular programme of competitive sporting activities offered. We have an extensive programme of production and performance opportunities for students.

There are many day and residential visits in all year groups. Events, clubs and competitions range from film-making to Amnesty International meetings. Many older students volunteer to guide new students, listen to reading and coach sports.



We are a learning community



OFSTED

The College was inspected by OFSTED in 1995, 1999 and 2005. Inspections have identified our strengths: academic standards, the quality of teaching, staff and student relationships and the College's capacity to improve. Information to parents was commended. The students themselves have been recognised as one of the College's strengths.

'Students' attitude and behaviour in class are very good and they speak warmly about the college, their teachers and their lessons.'

'Students enjoy their learning, maintain their concentration and work well.'

'Students feel secure and know where to seek help if they have any problems.'

'The College offers a good quality of education with many outstanding features.'

OFSTED 2005



Leicester's first visual arts college



Innovation

At the College we seek a balance between maintaining traditional approaches and values and keeping up to date with new ideas. We seek to take advantage of projects and opportunities which will add to the learning experience of our students.

Teaching and Learning

We aim to be at the leading edge of developments in teaching and learning. The latest approaches in educational practice and ICT are being used within the classroom.

Specialist College

The College is designated as a Specialist College for visual arts, science and mathematics and vocational learning. This allows us to provide specialist teaching at a high level. Our students have an enhanced range of experiences available to them. These range from summer schools that ease the transition from year 6 to 7, to master classes for our students and for students from The Lancaster School.

Facilities

Our facilities are excellent including our Digital Arts Centre and large drama studio based in a new building that was completed in 2003. This is one of four distinct buildings spanning the life of the college from 1937 to the present day.

We have specialist resources for the Arts, Design Technology, ICT, Science and PE as well as extensive classroom accommodation and a learning resources centre. All classrooms have access to the internet.

An indoor tennis centre shared with The Lancaster School opened in January 2007. This will be a resource both for students and for the local community.

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Community

Everyone counts at Sir Jonathan North. Every student meets their tutor twice a day and maintains that relationship from years 7 to 11. The tutor tracks both the academic and personal development of each student and provides an invaluable link with parents. They are supported by year team leaders, learning mentors, learning development staff and senior staff who are attached to specific year groups. We are able to offer the opportunities of a large school with very effective systems to ensure that students are well known and cared for as individuals.

At Sir Jonathan North, we believe that all students have a right to equal opportunities so that they can achieve their full potential. The learning development faculty, in partnership with parents and other agencies, carefully assesses the special needs of students and provides support. The College has a thriving programme of activities and events for gifted and talented students.

The College has strong links with the community. Work with local primary schools is well developed. There are close links with The Lancaster School. There is a very popular programme of adult education classes where enrolment is high. Local employers support our careers programme and all students complete two weeks of work experience.

Students are able to take work related courses in years 10 and 11, including programmes based at Leicester College.



Broad and balanced





Achievement

We achieve highly and examination results have been consistently good for many years. Students of all abilities achieve well including students with special needs. We aim to improve these results, with the awareness that students need support and guidance in managing the pressures of competition and challenge. We encourage students to be ambitious in their personal and academic goals. We work closely with parents to support our students and as a staff, we reward effort and achievement by creating a climate in and out of the classroom where individual initiative is recognised and team spirit is valued.

Students who are gifted and talented are identified on entry to the College. Their progress is monitored closely and a programme of enhancement and enrichment activities is offered. The percentage of students achieving A* and A GCSE grades is high. Teaching of students working at this level is challenging and planned to prepare them for further study. Most students continue their education at one of the local FE or Sixth Form Colleges. We take a keen interest in the progress of our students when they leave. In recent years students from the College have been offered places at Oxford, Cambridge, London and other universities.

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Tradition

The College is proud of its unique and distinctive ethos as the only girls' state secondary school in Leicestershire, and as a specialist college.

We regard our student body as a major strength and take great pride in both the success and diversity of our student intake. We give students a voice in the College and we listen. We value courtesy, politeness, honesty and effort. We accept that we all make mistakes from time to time and we aim to learn from our mistakes. We are inspired by excellence in all forms including academic, creative, practical, physical and personal achievements.

We set high expectations for both staff and students and work closely with parents. We believe that it is the responsibility of the College to educate our students to become responsible members of the community and to respect others. Our experience is that students achieve high standards because they are set challenging targets, provided with interesting opportunities to learn in different ways and given support where they need it. Students are expected to wear College dress.

Visitors to the College often comment on the attractive environment, the quiet and orderly approach in lessons, and the positive welcome which they receive.







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