



SOUTH WIRRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Where Every Student Matters & Every Student Thrives

An Education That Offers More



WELCOME FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Here at South Wirral High School we are proud of the excellent reputation we have in the local community, as a result of a record of success in all aspects of school life. We are ambitious for our students, committed to providing learning experiences which are challenging and exciting.

We want our young people to be:

- successful learners
- active citizens
- happy and confident individuals

To be successful learners our students need to have an outstanding attitude to learning. That is why academic progress and good behaviour are vital. It is why we put so much emphasis on home learning, in partnership with parents. It is why, as teachers, we set the highest standards for our own professional development. Our LORIC Pledges give students the experiences and responsibilities to develop into active citizens. We are a happy school, full of confident young people of whom we are immensely proud.

“Staff share
[the headteacher’s]
vision for improving the
life chances of pupils and
students in the school.

Staff enjoy working at the school
and their morale is high.”

- Ofsted, 2022

Our success has been recognised by a number of Quality Standards which demonstrate our commitment to ensuring the quality of school experiences for our students.

Mr S. Goodwin, Headteacher



A SCHOOL WHERE...

We Achieve, Reflect and Improve

South Wirral is changing and you join us at a very exciting time. Recent arrivals in our leadership team have helped the school go from strength to strength. This is shown by strong improvements in our results year on year and a harder focus on attainment.

We believe that a good school is founded upon three core elements:

- Excellent behaviour
- Academic rigour
- Outstanding pastoral support

We have recently introduced many new exciting initiatives such as our “Aspire to Higher” programme, which works with our highest attaining students to ensure they are ‘Russell Group Ready’ after a 7-year journey at South Wirral.

We have also embarked on a new partnership with the Rugby Football Union further developing our sports offer to students with expert coaching and sports visits. These two programmes show that whatever your interests or ability, at South Wirral you can excel.

ASPIRE TO HIGHER

At South Wirral High School we run an exciting programme of enrichment for high attaining students that supports them in becoming ‘Russell Group Ready’. The Russell Group are the 24 best Universities in the UK that we expect our students to be prepared and ready to go to after 7 years at South Wirral.

The programme includes:

- Personal skills development of workshops
- Inspirational speakers
- University visits
- One-to-one mentoring

AN EDUCATION THAT
OFFERS MORE

A SCHOOL WHERE...

We Can Succeed

South Wirral High School offers a broad and balanced curriculum to meet the needs of all our students. Students are encouraged to be active learners who can be independent but also work cooperatively with others. We challenge students to be the best they can be, encouraging them to ask questions, take risks and be proud of their achievements.

In Year 10, In addition to English, Maths, Science and the non exam subjects of PE and faith and philosophy; students will select four GCSE or vocational qualifications that they are interested in deepening their knowledge and understanding of. The curriculum is developed in partnership with the school, learners and parents - each students is provided with independent information, advice and guidance on what subjects may support them most on their journey to becoming successful learners, confident, inspired individuals and aspiring responsible citizens.

In Year 9 we offer students the opportunity to choose some of the subjects they will go on to study at GCSE level. We offer students four free choices from a range of subjects. If your child is more creative they can choose a combination including Dance, Drama or Art. If they prefer technology subjects, they can choose a combination of Design & Technology, Computer Science or Digital Photography. This helps equip them with the skills they need for careers in the 21st century. We feel that no one offers better choice than South Wirral High School.

We have an ethos based on high expectations; we expect high standards of behaviour, excellent attendance and positive attitudes.



“Leaders and governors have an ambitious vision for the school. They have created a well-considered academic curriculum.”

- Ofsted, 2022





“Teachers have secure subject knowledge. They provide pupils and students with opportunities to revisit prior learning. Teachers... check what pupils and students know and to spot any misconceptions that they may have.”

- Ofsted, 2022



We want our students to be creative and flexible thinkers, with high self-esteem and an awareness of the needs of others. In addition we hope to foster a love of academic work for its own sake.

Learning should be enjoyable. Small class sizes help teachers to focus on the needs of every student.

Learning is designed to be stimulating and challenging. Our teachers are energetic and innovative in their approach and are dedicated to educating children rather than simply teaching their subject. Children acquire and sharpen the skills necessary for independent learning, ensuring that academic progress is supported and monitored at every stage. We regard it as a privilege to provide high quality comprehensive education for all our students.



“Pupils say that staff are approachable and considerate of their emotional and physical well-being. The support services provided by leaders are wide-ranging and meet pupils’ requirements.”

- Ofsted, 2019



A SCHOOL WHERE...

We Feel Happy And Enjoy Ourselves

YEAR GROUP SYSTEM

The Head of Year monitors your child's whole educational experience, ensuring that the individual needs of students are met. They morally, spiritually, socially and culturally help to educate all students in their care, throughout their time at South Wirral. Parents of Year 7 students are invited into school to meet pastoral staff a short time after the start of the school year, and will act in partnership to ensure your child is supported and encouraged at each stage of their development.

Parents are warmly welcomed to the school to meet the Head of Year to discuss any matter or review any difficulties or concerns that their children may be experiencing. It is important to us and your child that parents and Heads of Year work in partnership to help raise achievement and promote development.

Each student is also allocated a 'house' from their very first day, with each house named after local families - Laird, Wilson, Stanley and Mayer.

STUDENT SERVICES

Our Student Services Hub provides a single place students can go to for any pastoral support they may need.

Assistant Head of Year are available throughout the school day to ensure students are prepared to learn to the best of their ability.

"Leaders have established high expectations of pupils' and students' behaviour.

Staff tackle any reported incidents of bullying swiftly and effectively."

- Ofsted 2022



SEN

We have high expectations of your child, whatever their ability. From the beginning of their time with us, careful attention is given to identifying and assessing special educational needs by the Code of Practice. The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator works closely with primary schools to ensure continuity of support for children who have particular learning difficulties which have already been identified at Key Stage 1 & 2.

Programmes are set up for students with Special Needs targeting their individual problems. Teachers are responsible for responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all the pupils they teach. High quality teaching is the first step in responding to students who have SEN or emerging SEN needs. All children, regardless of need, learn alongside their peers wherever possible. Our curriculum is ambitious for all students - we do not differentiate it, we adapt it, to ensure equity.

We make the following adaptations to ensure that all students' needs are met. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list, but a flavour of what students will receive in every lesson across the curriculum:

- 1 By carefully thinking through our seating plans to ensure SEND students have equity of access.
- 2 By understanding individual needs and understanding how to adapt our subject teaching for ASC, ADHD and dyslexia: our three main areas of SEN need.
- 3 By deploying Teaching Assistants effectively, following our "Principles for TA deployment".
- 4 By adapting our teaching resources and teaching environment for neurodiversity.
- 5 All lessons are planned utilising the South Wirral Way structure:

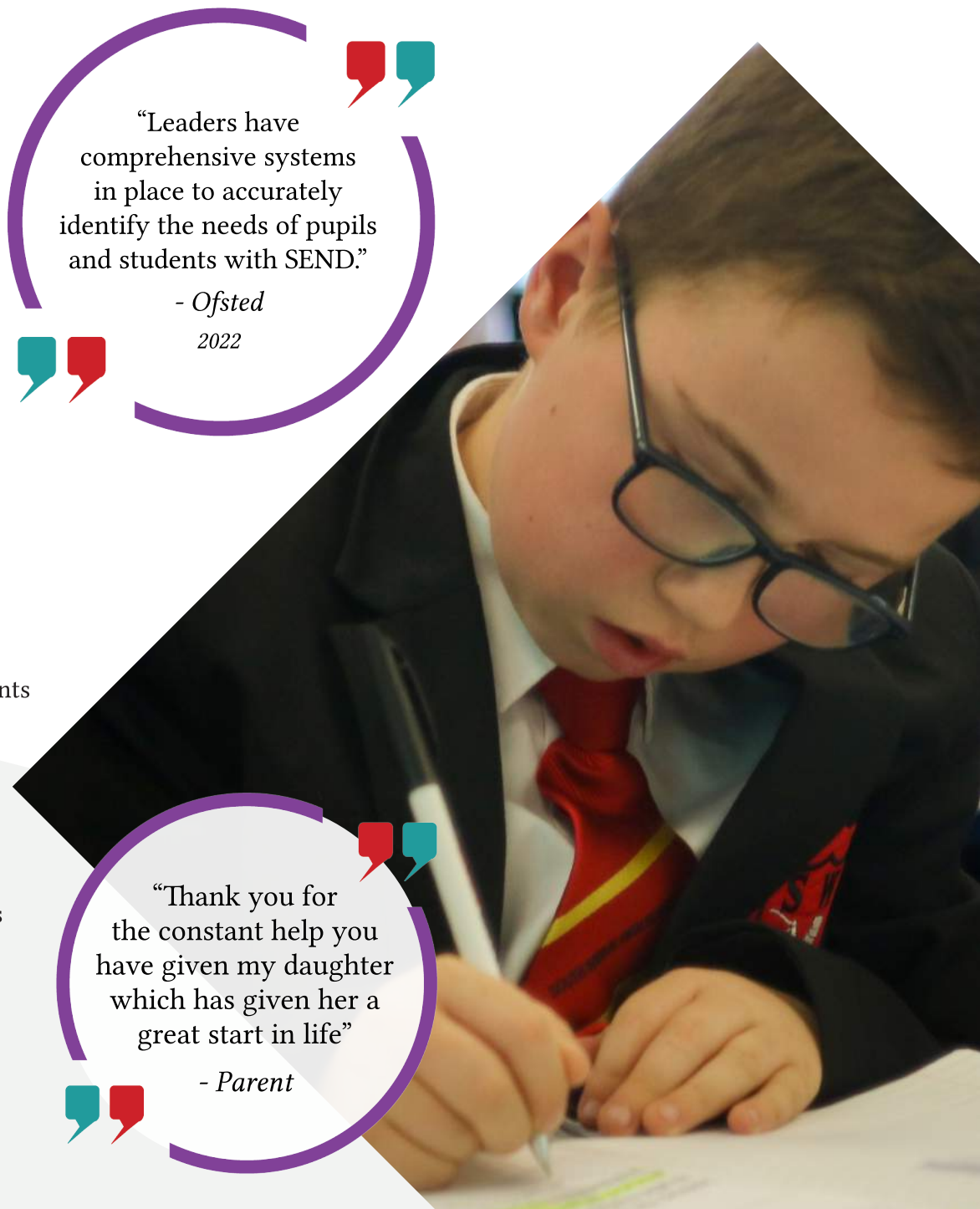
Routine practice recall I do We do You do Review

"Leaders have comprehensive systems in place to accurately identify the needs of pupils and students with SEND."

- Ofsted
2022

"Thank you for the constant help you have given my daughter which has given her a great start in life"

- Parent



A SCHOOL WHERE...

We Support Each Other

Carefully selected small tutor groups are at the heart of our pastoral system. Our tutor groups are developed with a strong focus on structured registration time - tailored to the needs of each year group.

YEARS 7 & 8

Tutors can get to know each student and their family well; they provide individual support and guidance, monitor academic progress and enthuse your child to try something new. Students take part in spelling tests and quizzes, helping with the continuous improvement of literacy and numeracy skills.

YEARS 9 & 10

Discussions in Year 9 & 10 turn to topics such as GCSE options, future aspirations and students' favourite books.

YEAR 11

Many of our Year 11 student groups are led by the faculty leaders of English and Mathematics. This allows students to gain additional support in the lead up to examinations direct from the Head of Faculty every day. The structure allows targeted interventions to take place in a much more strategic way.

STUDENT PLANNERS

We have student planners for all students at South Wirral. This is one of the many initiatives designed to improve our school and is an additional way of communicating with parents allowing you to keep up to date with home learning tasks being set. We ask parents/carers to look at the planner once a week and sign it as part of our 'Home School Agreement'.

"There is a calm and purposeful atmosphere in school"
- *Ofsted, 2022*





A SCHOOL WHERE...

We Excel Through High Quality Teaching and Support



"Teachers are well trained. They have the appropriate knowledge and expertise to deliver subject curriculums skilfully. Using the 'South Wirral Way'

- Ofsted, 2022

SOUTH WIRRAL WAY

At South Wirral High we ensure all students have high quality teaching in all lessons by using a universal structure. This structure is based on the most up to date pedagogy and neuroscience. We call it the South Wirral Way, it's flexible enough to work in all curriculum areas and key stages, and rigorous enough to ensure a consistent high-quality education for all.

RETRIEVAL PRACTICE

At the start of the lesson teachers will ask questions about what has been learned before

I DO

This is where the teacher explains the new knowledge for the lesson, they use stories and analogies to help them.

WE DO

This is where the teacher and the student work together to ensure the student understands the work, there will be some examples or models to help.

YOU DO

This is where students work independently, they are set a challenging task which make them think hard, we call this the 'learning pit' because this is where students use their knowledge and understanding to solve problems and answer questions on their own.

FEEDBACK

Students receive regular feedback on their work in a variety of ways. Students will receive lesson by lesson verbal feedback both individually and as a whole class. They will also have regular written feedback which gives bespoke targets and actions for individuals. Students are asked to use their feedback to improve their work in purple.



"I like the retrieval practice because all lessons start the same way and the questions help me remember"

- Student

I Do

"I like the 'I do' part of the lesson because the teachers break up the information into small parts so I don't get overwhelmed"

- Student

We Do

"I like 'we do' because you can get help from the teacher, they show you what a good one looks like so you know what you need to do"

- Student

You Do

"I like the 'you do' part of the lesson because the teacher supports me if I get stuck, but they never give me the answers, they help me to work it out for myself which feels good when I succeed"

- Student

SOUTH WIRRAL READS

Here at South Wirral we have a strong reading culture where every student is encouraged to read for their own pleasure as well as for knowledge acquisition. Students who have gaps in reading skills have access to quick, intensive reading interventions which range from phonics to small group reading, the path a student takes is bespoke to their needs.

We ensure that reading is enjoyable, fosters house spirit within school and increases students' chances of being successful in life. We have a brand new library which houses the most recent book releases and is updated regularly.



"Pupils, and students
in the sixth form, feel happy
and safe at South Wirral High School.

They are proud of their school.

They appreciate their peers' friendship
and the support and care that they
receive from staff."

- Ofsted, 2022



A SCHOOL WHERE...

We Aspire To Be The Best Version Of Ourselves

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

South Wirral High School students are exposed to a range of opportunities, developing them into well-rounded individuals. With such a large number of clubs and activities available - academic, sporting, musical, dramatic, creative, charitable, adventurous - the challenge for students is to decide just how much they are able to fit into a school week. Everything our school does is geared towards helping students set and reach their own targets for successful and fulfilling lives. Recent highlights from our extra-curricular offer include our Debating Society who have met with local politicians, and our LORIC Players Drama Club who won a national competition to perform at the National Theatre, London.

To see a sample of the clubs and activities on offer to our students - visit our website or pick up a copy of the Extra Curricular Activities booklet from our main reception.

“Pupils and students also benefit from a wide range of clubs and activities.”

- Ofsted 2022

ENRICHMENT





A SCHOOL WHERE...

LORIC Pledges

LEADERSHIP, ORGANISATION, RESILIENCE,
INITIATIVE AND CHARACTER

We Shape Our Futures

As well as providing an extensive array of courses and learning opportunities within the academic curriculum, we want all of our students to be confident, independent, self-disciplined, participators, performers, communicators, creators and culturally educated.

Providing our students with an enriched curriculum and broad extra-curricular programme of activities, to fully equip them with the skills necessary to be active and successful members of the wider community, is at the heart of our school ethos.

To ensure students receive high-quality enrichment activities and cultural experiences throughout their seven years at South Wirral through key stage 3 to key stage 5, we have written our own LORIC pledges which have been created to ensure all students have access to an all-embracing range of learning experiences outside of the classroom.

Each pledge represents a LORIC standard which signifies Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative & Character.

Over each key stage, students will be expected to complete at least 5 elements of each LORIC standard. A minimum of 25 pledges will be achieved at each key stage.

The LORIC pledges will form part of the registration activity once a week and tutors will be responsible for recording the accomplishment of each pledge. This will be recorded on Arbor and achievement of these pledges will be celebrated during house assemblies, led by an Assistant Head of Year.

Evidence of each pledge achieved will also be recorded and documented in a student progress folder.



“Pupils and students benefit from a strong personal development programme, including that for relationships and sex education and health education. There is a strong safeguarding culture across the school.”

- Ofsted 2022

South Wirral students performing at National Theatre, London
Photographer: Helen Murray



Students in years 8-13 can volunteer to be Sports Leaders.

Sports Leaders will assist in running extra-curricular PE clubs, with a specific focus on supporting Unified Sports Club.

Sports Leaders will also have regular opportunities to work with primary school pupils as we visit local schools to deliver inclusion sports and when we host sports festivals at our school.

Sports Leaders will also be called upon to support events across the Wirral and Merseyside, working with partner providers to deliver quality events - including, Panathlon disability festivals and the Wirral School Games inclusion festivals.

Sports Leaders gain value life skills and achieve all of their LORIC Pledges through this volunteering, furthermore, it is a great way to achieve sections of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Sports Leaders are involved in delivering programmes from the Youth Sport Trust including, Active in Mind, Healthy Lifestyle Champions, Your Time and Girls Active. 6th Form Sports Leaders will gain the Level 3 Qualification in Sports Leadership.



A SCHOOL WHERE...

Together, We Achieve More

South Wirral High School is at the heart of our local community both geographically and in the many ways our students get involved with helping local residents. Whether raising money for the Charles Thompson Mission, working with Claire House Childrens' Hospice or entertaining elderly residents with performances, students are encouraged to 'give back' to their community through our LORIC Pledges programme.

Our regular contact with local primary schools reinforces a close relationship - particularly during the transition period 'moving on up' from primary to secondary. We organise visits from our current students to perform to younger children, and invite primary students into our school to take part in sports festivals. Recent STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) initiatives have seen students join us in

exciting and educational activities focused on developing the skills needed for careers in the future. In 2019's 'Space Week' the school provided students with a week of exciting space-themed activities culminating in the launch of a balloon - with payload - into near space.



Students who attended South Wirral High School are also invited in to offer specialist talks to current students to help inspire them on what they can achieve as part of our Alumni network. This includes Shaune Harrison who is now a prosthetic special makeup effects artist and has worked on films such as Harry Potter, The Avengers and Star Wars.



"I work with students across the Wirral from a variety of schools and can honestly say the level of support your students receive is far above any provided at other schools. I would like to congratulate staff on their commitment and efforts to prepare their students"

- Mrs Blessing, Private English & French Tutor



A SCHOOL WHERE...

Communication Is Key

At South Wirral High School we use a number of ways to ensure home school communication is as clear as possible. Our main method of communication is via our school App Arbor. You can download this app or access it on your computer.

Our half-termly 'South Wirral Digest' newsletter allows parents to see what is happening in school and to celebrate our students' successes. This is available on our website and posted on our regularly updated social media channels.

ATTENDANCE

ASSESSMENTS

BEHAVIOUR

EXAM DETAILS

EXTRA CURRICULAR

LETTERS

LORIC PLEDGES

STUDENT PROFILE

TIMETABLE

ARBOR

OUR COMPLETE HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION PLATFORM

Arbor provides a unified platform that allows parents and carers to view a wide variety of day-to-day information about their child(ren) with ease. Parents are able to access information using the Arbor portal and mobile app available on the App Store and Google Play.



"I'm delighted
how well my son has
settled into the school.
He's loving his time spent there.

Thanks to all the staff who helped
the transition from primary go so
smoothly.

I use the app daily,
it's really useful."

- Parent



For more information on our use of Arbor, visit www.southwirral.wirral.sch.uk/home-communication

A SCHOOL WHERE...

There Are No Limits To Our Success

Sixth Form @ South Wirral is a thriving Sixth Form College where students are able to build on their previous successes at GCSE level and get to experience a new approach to learning. This approach, with a focus on independent learning, equips our students for the next steps in their lives whether it is University, Apprenticeships or employment.

Our Sixth Form offers excellence in subject specialism with experienced staff from industry, specialist facilities including ICT suites and access to Google Chromebooks.

Alongside studies, the opportunities are there for curriculum enrichment and the advice and guidance to make decisions on future careers. Students benefit from our new driven programme of enrichment every Wednesday afternoon where they experience community projects, talks from universities and industry.

We encourage all our students to be independent learners, team players and positive contributors to our community.

This ultimately sets them up for their future whether that be going to Russell Group Universities to study subjects such as Bio-Chemistry, to study History at University of Cambridge or begin apprenticeships with companies like Markhams, Unilever and Airbus.

Our staff, guidance and advice will help your child become the best version of themselves.



SIXTH FORM @ SOUTH WIRRAL

Where Every Student Matters & Every Student Thrives





SIXTH FORM CENTRE

**PROMOTING OF INDEPENDENCE, SWIFT
LEARNING AND PROGRESS IN PREPARATION
FOR ADULT LIFE**

**DRIVEN PROGRAMME OF ENRICHMENT AND
PREPARATION FOR STUDENTS TO BE READY
FOR SUCCESS AT THE BEST UNIVERSITIES,
APPRENTICESHIPS OR CAREERS**

**OUTSTANDING CARE, GUIDANCE AND
SUPPORT DURING THE TWO YEAR
PROGRAMME OF STUDY**

**CAREERS, UNIVERSITY AND APPRENTICESHIPS
ADVICE AND GUIDANCE HUBS TO SUPPORT
POST 18 DESTINATIONS**

(100% SUCCESS RATE IN APPROPRIATE DESTINATIONS FOR STUDENTS)

**COMFORTING AND WELCOMING
KNOWLEDGE OF THE SCHOOL AND STAFF**



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