

Details of John Spendluffe Technology College

We are a popular rural and mixed 11-16 Technology College, becoming a Converter Academy in August 2011. There are around 550 students on roll and as a result of parental choice being exercised, we take from a wide geographical area.

The school is situated in Alford, a small market town at the foot of the Lincolnshire Wolds about 7 miles from the coast and approximately 35 miles from Lincoln. It draws young people from over 15 primary schools mostly from a rural location. Students flourish in an atmosphere which is purposeful but also warm and friendly.

The school, originally built in the 1930's, has enjoyed extensive remodelling; over £1 million has been invested in the last couple of years to ensure our students have the excellent facilities they deserve. This has included a new teaching block, redeveloped English and Humanities centres and an upgrade in Science facilities, along with an updated and extended canteen. We have also installed a new floodlit Astro-Turf and, thanks to a grant from Sport England, updated our Sports Hall. This has added to our existing facilities which include a heated outdoor swimming pool, a Technology wing and a purpose built Performing Arts Centre.

The school is a supportive place to work where discipline is firm but fair and where we receive outstanding support from parents. We have focussed efforts on academic rigour, establishing high expectations of students and providing an extensive range of additional activities that have had a significant effect in raising attainment in national tests and at GCSE level over the past few years. Results are consistently strong and in 2015 headlines were :-

50% 5 A*-C including English and Maths

66% 3 levels of progress in GCSE Maths

75% C grade or above in GCSE English

Standards are rising against the background of consistent success. We have been judged as good and outstanding by Ofsted for well over a decade. Our success in teaching and learning was illustrated at our last inspection when every lesson observed was judged to be good or outstanding. We have received national recognition from the Department for Education for our results and over the summer were reported in the top 10 schools of any type across Lincolnshire for the value added and progress our students make.

The school has a proactive approach to curriculum innovation, development and review. In Year 7 and Year 8 students are involved in the Opening Minds programme to develop their learning skills and to raise aspiration and achievement. Our policy and implementation for More Able and Talented students raises and celebrates the high expectations we hold for our students here and we have been awarded the Potential Plus Award in recognition of this. We have a commitment to developing our students' talents in all areas.

At key stage 4 a wide range of GCSE, BTEC and other vocational courses are offered. We introduce cultural diversity through organised school visitors and displays, trips and visits and extra-curricular activity. Our House system endorses the importance placed on community cohesion.

We have addressed workforce remodelling issues so that teachers are focussed on leading learning and healthy numbers of learning support assistants and administrative support allows creative and innovative approaches to learning from each teaching and learning team.

As one parent wrote: "My child is making good academic progress but just as importantly he has grown in self-confidence and self-belief. I believe the school genuinely cares about individuals, valuing all their talents and achievements."

Our success has been recognised by national awards including Healthy Schools and International Schools. In August 2011 we converted to academy status. As the school was already successful our ethos and values did not change.

We welcome and value your interest in us.