



NOTTINGHAM
FREE SCHOOL



Nottingham Free School is a new 11 to 18 state secondary school opening in September 2014 for year seven pupils. Our school will serve the Sherwood, Carrington, Mapperley Park, Woodthorpe and Mapperley communities.

WELCOME

'I am delighted to be able to introduce you to the Nottingham Free School and the tremendous opportunity this will offer for your child. This is the most exciting development in education I have been involved in during my 35 year career.

The Nottingham Free School is a direct result of overwhelming parental demand for a new secondary school in the Sherwood, Carrington, Mapperley Park, Woodthorpe and Mapperley areas. We will deliver the communities vision of a local outstanding school providing the highest standards of education and care for each child.

We have a proven track record of delivering outstanding education for young people. Our flagship school Toot Hill is currently rated outstanding by Ofsted and is in the top 2% of all schools nationally for pupil progress.

The Nottingham Free School will offer a traditional academic curriculum, delivered by high quality teachers with a track record of success. Our extended school day offers the unique opportunity of an extensive extra curricular programme alongside additional academic support.

With only 90 places initially available it is very important that parents apply quickly. Applications can be made directly to us and further details are available on page 11 of this prospectus and on our website.

We look forward to you and your child contributing towards making the Nottingham Free School an outstanding community school.'

John Tomasevic



ETHOS:

The Nottingham Free School has a very clear and distinctive ethos. Our culture is highly aspirant, centred on our passionate belief that every child can succeed.

- We encourage staff to be creative, independent and ambitious. We expect them to challenge and inspire our students, providing high quality learning experiences that motivate students to be the very best they can. High standards and academic rigour underpin our daily work.
- We value commitment, independence and courtesy from all of our students. We respect the very highest standards and in return we value and respect student ideas and opinions.
- We explicitly promote leadership skills and offer a range of opportunities for students to take an active role in developing their school.

Our extended school day enables us to offer a wide-ranging enrichment programme and opportunities to promote independent learning. Students are expected to learn beyond the classroom and to develop the skills and attributes they need to compete with the very best in the country.

ACHIEVEMENT:

Student achievement is at the heart of everything we do. We believe that academic and examination success provides the foundation that allows students to make the most of their lives and associated opportunities.

Exciting, engaging and inspiring lessons encourage achievement and we constantly strive to provide your child with the very best educational experiences.

Should a child require additional support a range of services are available to ensure every student's success, whatever their individual educational needs.

Our track record at Toot Hill School demonstrates our ability to deliver high levels of achievement. In 2012 82% of all students in Year 11 gained 5 or more GCSE grades A*-C including English and Mathematics, placing Toot Hill in the top 2% of all schools nationally.





CURRICULUM

Our curriculum will follow National Curriculum guidelines and will provide a broad and balanced learning experience for all students.

At Key Stage 3 students will study a two-year programme that covers all the National Curriculum subjects. Students will be taught in ability groups in the majority of subjects, ensuring that every child is taught at a level that matches their ability.

During our three year Key Stage 4 programme all students will study the English Baccalaureate core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanities subject.

A wide range of option subjects including visual and Performing Arts, Computer Science, Technology and Sports will supplement the core curriculum. We expect all our students to achieve at least 8 passes at grades A*-C (or future equivalents) including the English Baccalaureate subjects.

The Nottingham Free School will deliver educational provision at Key Stage 5 that is primarily focusing on A Level courses (or future equivalents).

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Extra curricular activities are an essential part of a balanced and exciting education. We will offer students an extensive range of opportunities built into the extended school day. From 3.15pm until 5pm an extended curriculum will be provided for all students.

Each student will have the freedom to develop his or her interests and skills through the highest quality provision, provided without additional cost. We will offer an extensive programme which will provide creative, sporting, social and academic opportunities throughout the school year.

- We will provide a rich and varied range of creative activities above and beyond the curriculum provision. Drama, dance, music, art and creative writing will be complimented with the opportunity to study formal LAMDA qualifications.
- We will offer both team and individual sports coaching and competition and provide the opportunity to compete against other schools in regular sporting fixtures.
- We will ensure that students have a wider range of social experiences through links with other Torch Academy Schools and the wider community, both locally and nationally.
- We will deliver a comprehensive range of additional educational activities, which will support classroom learning and provide wider intellectual and academic growth. This will include links with universities, external providers and educational trips.



“Particularly good care, guidance and support are offered to students.”

TOOT HILL SCHOOL Ofsted (NOV 2011)

PASTORAL CARE

High quality, student centered pastoral care is an essential element in the success and happiness of every student. At the core of this provision is a year system led by a Head of Year and supported by Tutors.

At the Nottingham Free School your child's tutor will play a key role in ensuring their continuing happiness, well-being and academic success. Tutors serve as the first point of contact between school and home.

You will also receive regular updates on your child's progress through termly reports, online data, parent consultation days and a parents' evening.

As your child progresses through the Nottingham Free School their attainment and well-being will be closely monitored, ensuring that students are recognised and rewarded when they succeed and supported when things are more challenging.

The Nottingham Free School is fully committed to creating a caring school community and the health, happiness and well being of every student underpins our overall educational ethos and philosophy.



TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS

Choosing the right secondary school for your child is a very important decision. We will offer regular open evenings throughout Year 6 allowing you to meet our staff and ask any questions you might have to help you make the correct choice.

Applications for a place at the Nottingham Free School are made independently of the local authority process. This will allow you to select the Nottingham Free School as your first choice school and still select other local schools through the Local Authority Scheme.

Applications to the Nottingham Free School can be made directly on our website www.nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk or you can request an application pack by telephoning 01949 863053.

We understand that the transition from primary school to secondary school can be a daunting prospect for both pupils and parents. Once you have chosen the Nottingham Free School we will provide a comprehensive programme of events throughout the year allowing your child to meet their peers, engage with staff and begin to make lasting friendships.

We will also offer a series of meetings for all prospective parents allowing you to develop a strong working relationship with the school staff and other parents.

THE TRANSITION TIMETABLE IS AS FOLLOWS:

STEP ONE: AUTUMN TERM, YEAR 6

Pupils and parents will be invited to an open evening to discuss the school and address any questions they may have. We will also offer students and parents/carers the opportunity to visit Toot Hill School.

STEP TWO: AUTUMN TERM, YEAR 6

Applications must be submitted to us by the 31st of October and we will announce the outcome of applications on February 14, 2014.

STEP THREE: SPRING/SUMMER TERM, YEAR 6

We will run a programme of 'taster' events designed to help support students as they make the transition from primary to secondary.

STEP FOUR: SUMMER TERM, YEAR 6

Year 6 students will meet with their classmates for a 'Taster Day' to allow them to familiarise themselves with the school. (Building dependent) Students with Special Educational Needs may well have an additional visit.



NOTTINGHAM
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 Nottingham Free School

 NottinghamFreeSchool

Executive Head Teacher:

John Tomasevic

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TORCH
ACADEMY GATEWAY

Toot Hill School is a member of the
Torch Academy Gateway Trust www.torchacademy.co.uk