

TURTON HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA ARTS COLLEGE

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

INTRODUCTION

Turton is a popular, successful and improving 11-18 high school in the north of Bolton. We have a genuinely comprehensive intake with 1680 students of whom nearly 480 are in the Sixth Form. OFSTED 2009 judged us to be:

“a good and improving school characterised by outstanding levels of care and support. It is held in high regard by parents and carers. Comments from parents such as, ‘my son has thrived both as a person and as a student’, and, ‘both of my children have received excellent education and have felt part of a safe and supportive community’, are typical of the views expressed to inspectors.”

This is an exciting time in the school’s development. A £2million building programme provided us with a new Sixth Form Centre and new teaching blocks for History and English. A £1.1million re-wire and refurbishment of the main school has since refreshed all the other departments across the school.

2011 saw record results at GCSE and A level as well as an OFSTED Best Practice Award for Student Welfare and Safeguarding and UNICEF’s Rights Respecting Schools Award. We also received the full International Schools Award in July 2010 in recognition of our work on global citizenship and our extensive programme of links, trips and exchanges. This summer also saw Tmac secure Gold in the SSATs Cultural Diversity Quality Standard, for valuing diversity, cultural difference and promoting equality of opportunity.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and our dual aims of learning and caring underpin everything that we do. Emotional intelligence and resilience are at the heart of all our ambitions as a school community. Compassion is the key to the positive relationships which we seek to build within school. We play an increasingly important role in the wider community, building on well established links and partnerships. We have a dual use Leisure Centre and are currently looking to run our own adult education centre for the local community.

We currently lead the seven schools from the North Bolton Excellence Cluster and 14-19 Collaboration which promote a collegiate and mutually supportive approach to education in the north of the town, raising achievement, supporting inclusion and enhancing curriculum opportunity for all.

There are 480 students studying A levels in the sixth form with an equal balance of our own Turton students and those from across Bolton and beyond. Almost half of all A level passes were at A and B grades. At GCSE 80% of our students achieved 5A*-C grades, 67% including English and Maths.

KEY STAGE 3

Alongside traditional subject areas, the new Opening Minds curriculum and Citizenship programmes aim to encourage personal learning and thinking skills which all lessons will develop. A broad curriculum is maintained through Years 7-9 with flexible organisation to allow departments to group appropriately. There is additional support for those with particular social, emotional and learning needs, extra opportunities for the most gifted and talented and activities aimed at the middle range who can sometimes be invisible in large schools.

KEY STAGE 4

Personalised learning opportunities are extended further from Year 10. Option choices include the full range of GCSE subjects as well as applied learning in the shape of BTEC, NVQ and COPE programmes for those students more suited to this approach to learning.

KEY STAGE 5

The Sixth Form offers a broad and rich range of A level subjects to the majority of our own students who stay on and to the similar number of external students who join us for the college years. 90% of Sixth Form students go on to Higher Education.

PASTORAL CARE

From our feeder primary schools through to university, college or work-based learning, our pastoral system and Student Support Centre nurture all our young people and aim to remove any barriers to learning so that everyone can fulfil their potential.

Tracking and monitoring is robust and rigorous to ensure that all are encouraged to make progress. The students themselves are involved in assessing their progress, reflecting on their learning styles and identifying with staff and parents individual targets for development. As well as group tutors and pastoral leaders, an excellent team of academic, community and behaviour mentors offer additional guidance, support and stability to our most challenged and challenging young people. An extensive Learning Support team nurture those with special educational needs. OFSTED 2009 confirmed:

“Vulnerable and disadvantaged students, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities receive outstanding support and as a result, they, too, make good progress”.

LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

We value our staff highly. Our ethos is one of trust and distributed leadership and all colleagues are asked to contribute to our improvement and development planning, as are students and parents. INSET focuses on emotional intelligence and personal resilience as well as harnessing new technologies and other learning and teaching developments. Staff are well supported and CPD is available to all colleagues, whether offered by in-school experts, through the North Cluster or from leading national and international providers.

We are committed to community cohesion and work hard to ensure that there is no place for racism, sexism or any other form of prejudice in school. We celebrate the diversity of our school community and want every member to have a voice. VOL, our school council and the UNICEF Steering Group both have a significant involvement in our review and, improvement planning.

We pride ourselves on being an open and collaborative school. We encourage parents, governors, neighbours, employers and support agencies to become involved in the school. We welcome visitors and are happy to bring them into the classroom and to have them take part in our INSET and strategic planning work. Our governors are very much involved with the day- to-day operation of the school and they take an active interest in every aspect of school life. We seek to be responsive rather than reactive. Parents know that they can come into school to discuss problems and make suggestions.

Turton is a very hardworking, fast moving and forward thinking school. It will not suit colleagues seeking a leafy suburb or a quiet backwater. However, for those seeking the challenge of providing the very best learning opportunities while nurturing attitudes of compassion, consideration, independence and resilience in the next generation, Turton is an extremely rewarding place to work.

If you find the following details of interest and you feel that you would like to come and make a contribution to our future development, then I will be pleased to hear from you.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your interest and I wish you well in this and any future applications.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Porteous', written in a cursive style.

JOHN PORTEOUS
HEADTEACHER