



Sharple's

SCHOOL

Prospectus

‘Pupils rise to the extremely high academic expectations that the school sets. Learning is central to all their experiences, and their engagement in lessons is exceptional.’

Ofsted 2025

Our School Ethos

Learn

We will:

- provide high quality personalised learning using pedagogical expertise and curriculum innovation alongside the development of essential skills, knowledge and understanding, underpinned by a ‘growth mindset’ approach in all we do;
- use our expertise in teaching and learning to develop quality CPD opportunities for our own teachers and those in our partnership / MAT.

Dream

We will:

- promote a high expectations and no limits culture to raise aspirations and nurture ambition;
- develop creativity and use our science and STEM expertise to promote opportunities within the global community;
- encourage all our learners to ‘aim high’, and challenge the most able by extending links with the SFC, FE, HE, employers and other agencies to galvanise students’ ambition;
- strengthen our multicultural heritage and community by modelling the ‘4Cs’ and British Values throughout our school.

Achieve

We will:

- secure the best possible outcomes for all students by maximising opportunities, from those with SEND to the most able;
- use resources creatively to enhance strategies and secure sustained, improved outcomes over time so that all students make at least expected progress and increasingly, above and well above expected progress;
- offer cultural experiences via trips and visits to broaden horizons and encourage learners to achieve and follow their dream.

‘The curriculum is expertly designed to meet pupils’ needs and interests. Pupils thrive and achieve highly.’

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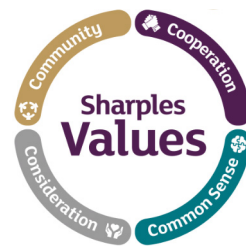
‘Teachers use their expert subject knowledge to break learning down into small chunks.’

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Welcome to Sharples School



A Science Specialist College



Choosing a secondary school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. This prospectus is aimed at providing you with as much information as possible to help you make this decision.

My name is Caroline Molyneux, and I am very proud to be the Headteacher of Sharples School. I have been at Sharples for over 10 years and I am privileged to be given the opportunity to lead the school through its next chapter.

Our motto is 'Learn, Dream, Achieve' and it is a motto that we live by each day at Sharples. We have high expectations for our pupils and aim to nurture in them a self-belief that will enable them to achieve their best and realise their dreams and ambitions through hard work and involving themselves fully in what school has to offer them.

Our focus is on high academic standards and providing a first-rate, all round education for children of all abilities. Each year our results place us in the top 10% of secondary schools nationally and we are always striving to improve. Teachers are highly qualified subject experts, and our facilities across the school are excellent.

Our most recent Ofsted report (May 2019) stated that Sharples is a good school. The inspectors witnessed what I see every day, which is that Sharples is a caring, inclusive learning community where pupils achieve well. The Ofsted report also recognises that the school motto 'Learn, dream, achieve' lies at the heart of everything we do and that our staff go the 'extra mile' to support all students. Staff and pupils are proud of the school and our aim is to be an outstanding school. In December 2023, Sharples School was recognised as the Secondary School of the Year at the Pearson National Teaching Awards, an accolade that was testament to the hard work of staff, students and the Sharples community.

The school's ethos is friendly, caring and disciplined, focused on the school's values of Courtesy, Consideration, Co-operation and Common Sense.

In addition to their academic studies, we offer pupils a huge range of extra curricular activities, for example:

- **STEM Clubs** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).
- **Sport** - from traditional sports to the more contemporary, e.g. Futsal, cricket and swimming.
- **Music** - we offer a range of subsidised instrumental lessons and our choir and Samba band are both highly acclaimed, making frequent performances across Bolton and further afield.
- **Drama** - regular productions, participation in the annual Shakespeare in Schools festival and frequent workshops with local primary schools.
- **Enrichment clubs** including jewellery making, 3D printing and darts.

We believe education should be a challenging and enjoyable experience, where hard work and a desire to achieve the very best bring their own rewards. We support our pupils to gain the qualifications and the experiences they need for further education and life after school.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your family to Sharples School.

Ms C. Molyneux
Headteacher



‘Pupils’ learning and achievement are enriched by a wide range of experiences that support them to develop a sense of responsibility and confidence’

Ofsted 2025

‘Subject curriculums are meticulously designed. In all subjects, teachers ensure that pupils are extremely clear about the important subject knowledge that they need to know and the order in which they are learning it.’

Ofsted 2025

‘Teachers rigorously assess and revisit precisely what pupils know and understand so that they can skilfully support pupils to fill in any gaps in their knowledge’

Ofsted 2025

‘Reading is prioritised and promoted so that pupils are encouraged to read regularly for pleasure, for example, in the school library and as part of competitions.’

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A caring school

Every child matters at Sharples School. We are committed to providing an inclusive learning environment in which diversity is encouraged and celebrated and every child is valued. We will support your child on their learning journey as they grow and develop as a unique individual. Supporting the development of your child into a confident, well rounded adult underpins everything we do at Sharples School.

Inclusion

We believe in fair access to a broad and balanced curriculum for all learners regardless of ability. The learning experience at Sharples School is child-centred, flexible and consistent in co-ordinating high quality support. We are focused on helping all our learners to develop, achieve and participate fully in the life of the school.

Pupil Voice

Student Affairs Committee

The views of learners are integral to the learning experience at Sharples School.

Our energetic Student Affairs Committee makes a vital contribution to the learning environment and works tirelessly to ensure learners' views are heard and acted upon. Learners are actively encouraged to become involved with the work of the Student Affairs Committee which has representatives in all year groups. Our student body is also proud of our school leaders who wear their 'gold ties' to identify them as positive role models for their peers to emulate.

'The 'Student Affairs Committee' regularly organises school and charity events. It actively instigates and contributes towards the school's aim to bring about positive changes for pupils.'

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Community

Our aim is to place Sharples School at the heart of our community to work together in partnership for the benefit of all.

We work hard to establish and maintain our strong links with the local and wider community. We are continuously seeking new ways to involve the community in the Sharples learning experience and to enable our learners to play an active role in the community. We encourage our learners to see themselves as important members of local, national and global communities.

'Pupils behave with respect and proudly celebrate their own achievements as well as those of their peers.'

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To develop community links, Sharples has:

- Enhanced transition activities with all our local primary schools
- Provided our learners with access to a wide range of additional resources to further broaden their curriculum with external partners such as The Ogden Trust and the Royal Astronomical Society
- Regularly hosted charity events including fairs and non-uniform days
- Developed strong links with different sixth form and further education colleges to ensure the best match for learners' post-16 needs
- Formed partnerships with local universities to enhance and enrich



Transition

A successful transition is an important first step in helping your child achieve their full potential. At Sharples School we aim to provide a structured and well planned transition in order to ease pupils through this exciting phase of their lives.

We aim:

- To make sure each child is happy when they move from their primary school to Sharples;
- To support parents in preparing for the move from primary to secondary school;
- To encourage each child to become more independent;
- To ensure that any relevant information from the primary school or outside agencies is acknowledged and acted upon.

We use a range of strategies to help ease the transition process and ensure it is successful. These include:

- An open invitation for parents to come in and tour the school;
- Taster days and activities for Year 5 and 6 pupils;
- Enrichment programmes for Year 5 and 6 pupils delivered by our staff;
- Live virtual transition events online
- Regular visits to primary schools by members of staff;
- English and Maths masterclasses and science shows for primary schools, delivered by our specialist teachers;
- Two transition teachers who are qualified to teach from year 5 to year 9;
- Free invitations to our annual production;
- Open evening and open days for potential new pupils and their families;
- Unique graduation activity from Year 6 to 7, featuring The Tie Ceremony;
- Freshers' Week led by our prefect school leaders to assist new pupil with the settling in process.
- We are always happy to discuss with parents/carers additional support any child needs in order to ensure transition is as successful as possible.

www.sharplesschool.co.uk/key-stage-2-to-3

A comprehensive programme of careers information, education, advice and guidance ensures that pupils are fully prepared for their next steps in life.

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Academic Success

Achievement and progress are central to the vibrant learning culture at Sharples School.

We have very high expectations for pupils and staff alike at Sharples. Academic success is at the heart of everything we do. There is an ethos of hard work and no excuses, as we encourage pupils to be the best they can be in our '100% classrooms'.

Rigorous assessments are carried out in all subjects to ensure pupil progress is carefully tracked from Years 7 -11 to secure improvement. Early identification of underperformance allows for immediate intervention to ensure all children achieve their full academic potential.

Our inclusive, learner-centred curriculum has been designed to support our pupils in their development as successful lifelong learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

Literacy, numeracy and computing are central to learning at Sharples. The development of these core skills, combined with exciting, engaging lessons leading to a broad range of qualifications, will ensure your child is equipped to succeed, whatever pathway they choose on leaving Sharples.

Diversity and choice in the Sharples curriculum promote:

- Academic achievement;
- Creative and critical thinking;
- Community identity;
- Cultural diversity;
- Healthy lifestyle;
- New technologies.

The learning experience at Sharples is enhanced by a broad range of extracurricular learning activities across the curriculum and through our extensive range of visits and activities, many of which will give your child the opportunity to travel overseas, such as our Year 11 revision trip to Barcelona and the History Battlefields trip to France.

“The school ensures that pupils, including those who are disadvantaged, benefit from an enriched programme to support their wider personal development.”

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Science Specialism



STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

Over the last 50 years, we have established ourselves as the leading provider of STEM pathways for young people. Sharples is the only Science Specialist College in Bolton and this status is something that we are very proud of.

Sharples excels in the sciences and other STEM subjects. Our specialist science status means we are able to focus resources and expertise in these areas. With outstanding specialists in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, Engineering and Technology, we have a long-established history of success in the sciences and results improve year on year.

We use the STEM subjects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths as a driving force to raise standards across the school in achievement, teaching and learning, but most importantly we foster a love of learning in our students.

We currently offer the prestigious Triple Award Science alongside the Double Award and Vocational Science; GCSE Astronomy, Maths, Statistics and Further Maths; Computer Science; Animal Care and a range of Design Technology subjects. Our new course in Engineering will see the STEM discipline united and will help to meet the greatly increased demand for engineers in the UK.

Technology, Science and Maths clubs take place in school every week and include our very popular Dissection Club for budding veterinarians and medics!

We have a suite of state of the art laboratories to complement our specialist science status, including our unique Sharples Community observatory to support Astronomy GCSE and the Bolton Astronomical Society which holds star parties at Sharples School.

'In lessons, pupils are
focused and hardworking.'

Ofsted 2025

'Pupils mature and positive attitudes create a learning environment that supports high achievement for all.'

Ofsted 2025

'Pupils are confident and aspirational about their own future plans.'

Ofsted 2025

'Pupils behave with respect and proudly celebrate their own achievements as well as those of their peers.'

Ofsted 2025

'Around school, pupils are polite, respectful and kind to each other.'

Ofsted 2025

'Pupils exemplary behaviour actively upholds and promotes the school's ethos.'

Ofsted 2025

'The school identifies and supports any pupils who have gaps in their reading knowledge, including the use of phonics when needed. This helps them to access the curriculum and to read more fluently.'

Ofsted 2025





The Sharples Baccalaureate

The Sharples Baccalaureate

At Sharples School we believe that a powerful curriculum also provides students with opportunities to develop their character as well as their minds. From those students that aspire to access the best universities to those wishing to take their dream job, a person must have developed the skills that make them stand out from the crowd. Part of this is also encouraging our students to see themselves as a positive influence on their wider community.

We are proud to announce the development of our very own Key Stage 3 Sharples Baccalaureate programme that offers a wide programme of extra curricular activities for students to access. There are societies in Geography, History and other subjects across the curriculum, we have Debating Societies, Polyglot Club (MFL), Chess and Literature Review Clubs to name a few. All of these seek to develop your child's skills in Leadership, Community Involvement, STEM, Creativity and Sports Participation.

As students move up through the school these skills are developed further through the completion of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. This builds on the attributes developed in Key Stage 3 and further develops skills of team building, leadership and community involvement.



The Sharples Baccalaureate



The Sharples Aspiring programme is a whole school initiative that ensures our students that have been identified as excelling, in academic subjects, have access to a wide range of additional opportunities.

The Sharples Aspiring Programme

The programme has been developed to ensure our excelling students have access to challenging curriculum opportunities, additional aspirational events and continuous growth sessions.

Throughout the year, the students identified as the top 10% in each year group, will attend bespoke skills workshops as well as have access to inspirational speakers. Members of staff can also identify individual students as excelling in their subject areas, so that students can have access to these Sharples Aspiring events.

At Sharples, we encourage all of our pupils to challenge themselves and take every opportunity they are offered. The Sharples Aspiring programme is intended to ensure all of our pupils can achieve their very best potential and foster a culture of aspiration for our students.



“The vast majority of pupils enjoy taking part in the extensive extra-curricular offer of clubs and activities. These range from sports, such as football and darts, to other areas of interest, such as robotics and chess.

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Parental Notes

