



**Retford Oaks Academy**  
*Dedicated to Excellence*

Welcome to  
Retford Oaks Academy



Diverse  
Academies



Dedicated to excellence

# Welcome from the Principal

I am proud to introduce you to Retford Oaks Academy, a stimulating and welcoming learning environment, with highly motivated students who strive for excellence in all that they do.

We have extremely high expectations of our students to allow them to flourish and gain the best possible academic outcomes. High quality teaching, within a broad and balanced curriculum, ensures all learners are challenged to meet their full potential.

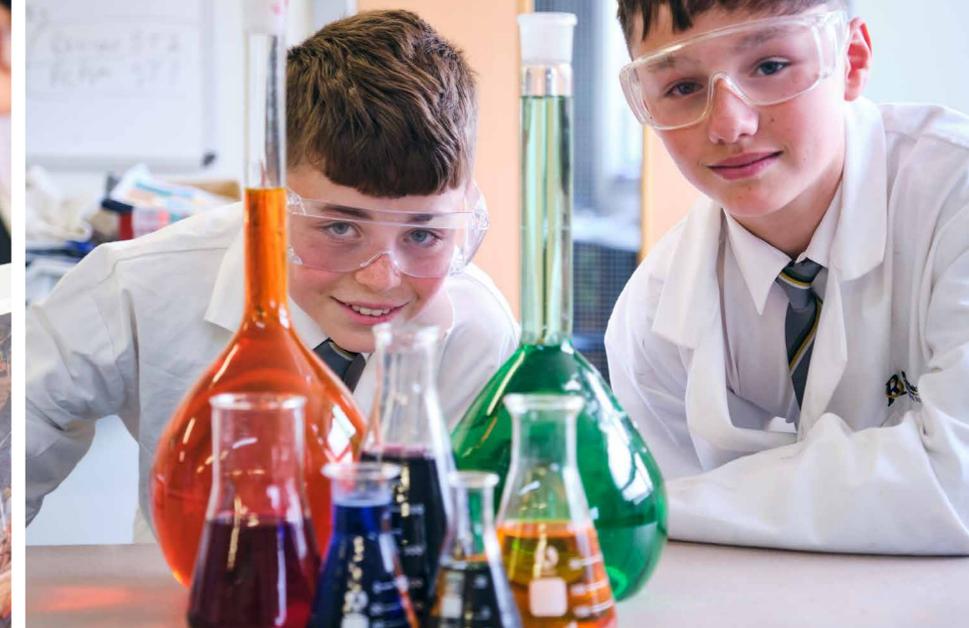
It is equally our aim to enable our students to develop socially and emotionally. Our exceptional pastoral care ensures that students are supported and encouraged whilst pursuing their high academic goals, and our outstanding facilities and diverse range of trips and visits ensure that everyone has the opportunity to supplement their learning with enriching experiences.

We have an open door policy so, if you would like to come and see our academy in action, we would be more than happy to welcome you and show you what makes us 'Oaks and proud'.



*H Widdup*

**Mrs H Widdup, M.Ed.**  
Principal, Local Leader of Education



“We have extremely high expectations of our students to allow them to flourish.”



# Life at Retford Oaks

Every student is encouraged to challenge themselves in all aspects of their development. There is a real drive by all students to succeed, and all individual goals are supported by our staff.

We strive to maximise opportunities for all students by ensuring high quality teaching and learning in an inspiring environment. As well as high academic expectations, we are dedicated to the development of personal skills and ensuring students leave us as well-rounded, motivated and successful young people. Our pastoral system, the student leadership team and our enrichment opportunities all actively contribute toward ensuring this.

To help students to progress during their time at Retford Oaks, we have a defined system of support to enable every individual to reach their potential and feel safe within the academy. We operate a vertical tutor system to ensure full integration and socialisation between students of all ages at the academy.

All students are part of one of four houses and each academic mentoring group contains students from all year groups, with a dedicated academic mentor to provide leadership, guidance and support.

In addition, students can access confidential support through the academy counsellor or our dedicated health related learning lead. Both of these highly-qualified professionals can provide short or long term guidance.

Our personalised learning team also provides tailored learning plans and support to students who have special educational needs and disabilities, as well as to our high-ability students.



Our house system

  
**Sherwood**

  
**Thoresby**

  
**Rufford**

  
**Clumber**



## An engaging curriculum

Students have access to a broad curriculum at Retford Oaks and are supported to make appropriate choices for the future based upon their educational and career aspirations. The diverse range of subjects available enable our students to nurture existing talents and develop new skills, all underpinned by a solid learning of core skills in maths, English and science.



Ensuring that all students have an equal opportunity to access a wide and varied curriculum is crucial to engaging young minds. Hard work, excellent behaviour and a commitment to learning are equally essential requirements. Lessons are developed to be appropriately challenging and are delivered through a variety of methods to engage students with their learning.

Our students work in a number of ways to extend and enhance their learning. Homework is a fundamental part of academy life, and this is always set with a view to developing an understanding of topics.

Optional homework tasks are frequently set to encourage students to take a creative approach to furthering their understanding of a topic, and to foster a love of learning through personal study.

Our curriculum is also supported through a series of learning enrichment days, which cover a wide range of topics including managing personal finances, celebrating diversity within society, understanding and appreciating British values, and developing knowledge about a range of health issues. These ensure that students leave the academy equipped to take their place in the world as active, informed citizens.

## Facilitating learning

Students have access to outstanding facilities in all areas of the curriculum, which help to support their progress and enhance their achievements. Our academy is a positive, vibrant environment conducive to learning and personal development.

Retford Oaks was purpose-built in 2007 and the facilities were designed with students in mind. All classrooms and corridors are light and spacious. Students can move around the building freely and safely. Classrooms are modern, large and make extensive use of technology to support learning.

Creative and expressive arts facilities are of a professional standard with large drama and dance studios, alongside fully equipped music rooms and studios. Sports facilities include a dedicated fitness suite, a sports hall and an outdoor multi-use games area, together with grassed football pitches, an athletics track and tennis courts.

Students interested in technology benefit from working on industry standard machinery and have access to professional design software. Within the same department, our food technology kitchens are spacious and professionally fitted, enabling students to learn cookery, hospitality and nutrition in a safe and stimulating environment.



“ Classrooms are modern, large and make extensive use of technology to support learning.”

## Enriching young minds

Whilst we pride ourselves on our academic excellence, we offer our students so much more. In addition to working hard and striving for exam success, each student is encouraged to develop their personal and social skills. We offer many activities outside of the timetable to enable students to express themselves, nurture their existing talents or try something new.

We deliver an excellent programme of enrichment which includes sport, music and drama, together with a number of learning enrichment days throughout the year.

Involvement in our student leadership team allows students the chance to have their say on matters which are important to them within the academy, and is a great way to develop responsibility, work on leadership skills and improve communication.

Many students also choose to get involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. This gives them a chance to experience new activities, make new friendships and develop as individuals.

Through a mixture of activities – physical, skills-based, volunteering and expeditions – students work towards bronze, silver and gold awards, supported by academy staff and mentors.

Residential trips take place throughout the year and are linked to curriculum areas such as PE, geography, history and modern foreign languages. Previous trips have included visits to France, Spain and Germany, alongside visits within the UK.

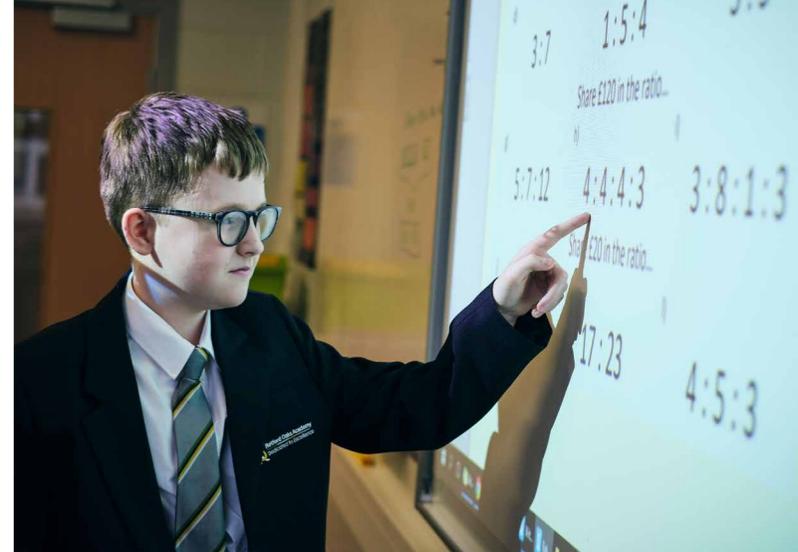
We are also proud of our close links with the British Legion and the role we play in raising awareness of the annual Poppy Appeal. This is just one example of how we embrace and promote British Values throughout the academy.

“ Whilst we pride ourselves on our academic excellence, we offer our students so much more.”





“ Pupils leave the school well prepared for their next stages of education, training or employment.”  
*Ofsted*

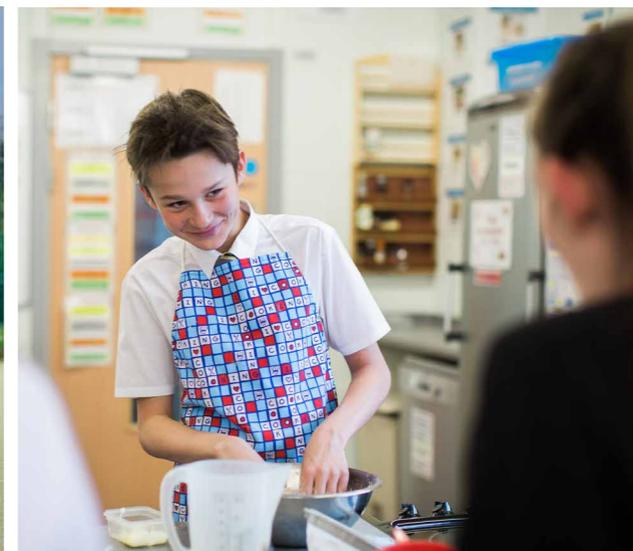


“ Our child has thrived in this supportive and innovative learning environment. This is wonderful to see. We are very grateful to your teachers who obviously go above and beyond all expectations.”  
*Parent*



“ Since she has been at Retford Oaks, our daughter has enjoyed every moment at school. Her daily recounts of her learning are inspiring.”  
*Parent*

“ Leaders ensure that the school's curriculum is effective in providing a high-quality and relevant learning experience for all pupils.”  
*Ofsted*





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