

16 to 19 study programmes

Good

- The leadership of the sixth form is good and the 16 to 19 study programmes are well organised. Leaders have high ambitions for students' academic attainment and their personal development.
- Most students make good progress across a range of academic courses. In the most recently available information, progress in most subjects at A level was at least in line with the national figure and improving. Progress in most applied subjects was in line with the national average.
- The sixth-form provision is inclusive and student numbers are rising. A significant number of students are studying courses at level 2, alongside retaking English and mathematics GCSE. This is indicative of the underachievement at the end of Year 11. In their resits, most students improve their English and mathematics GCSE grades.
- Students have a good understanding of the university application process because the school provides an effective programme of tutorials, visits and assemblies on this subject. Students engage in work-related learning, including work experience, in Year 12. All students secure places in higher education, employment or training when they leave. Careers education and work-related learning in the sixth form are strengths of the school.
- Overall, therefore, the requirements of the 16 to 19 study programmes are well met by the school's sixth-form provision.
- Relationships between students and their teachers are strong. Students hold their teachers in high regard. They recognise the care and commitment of their teachers, and this motivates them to work hard. Teaching in the sixth form is of much more consistent quality than in the main school, and the most able students are challenged more academically.
- Students' attitudes to study are good. They enjoy their study programmes. Consequently, they behave well and attend regularly. A high proportion of students continue to Year 13 to complete their qualifications and those that do not are helped into suitable pathways.
- Students feel safe and well looked after at school. Through the enrichment programme, sixth-form leaders ensure that students know how to keep themselves safe in a variety of situations. Even so, many students at present are not fully aware of the risks they face from people attempting to spread extremist ideologies.
- Although there is a programme of mental health education in place, students in the sixth form expressed disappointment at the lack of information they receive on mental health issues. They also felt that there was a lack of extra-curricular activities other than in sport.