



GREAT WYRLEY PERFORMING ARTS HIGH SCHOOL

Great Wyrley is a well established 8 form entry community high school. The school is consistently over-subscribed and has a strong Sixth Form.

The Old School, originally built in 1939, was extended in two phases in the late sixties and early seventies: the extensions provided Gym, Library, six Laboratories, Staff Room, Administrative Block, Swimming Pool, Lecture Theatre, Music Areas, Craft Block and Youth Centre as well as general teaching rooms. In September 1998 a new four laboratory Science block was opened. A further six-classroom block was built in October 2005 and more recently a new Performing Arts Centre and refurbished Sixth Form Centre opened as part of our Specialist School work.

This is a calm, happy school, serving the villages of Great Wyrley and Landywood. We are situated in an agreeable neighbourhood within a few minutes drive of open country and the Cannock Chase Country Park. Great Wyrley is on the one hand close to mid-Staffordshire, Shropshire and Central Wales, and on the other to the facilities of the larger conurbation of Wolverhampton, Walsall and Birmingham. Housing is varied and plentiful.

The staff are experienced and lively, and it is part of this school's policy to maintain excellent well-being among students and members of staff. Despite the changes and pressures brought to bear externally, the School continues to develop vigorously internally with a fine range of extra-curricular activity.

Every encouragement is given to Subject Teachers to develop their particular disciplines and interests to "A" Level where there is a healthy tradition of success. There is a strong academic element in the school's work. A good proportion of the Upper Sixth goes on to Higher Education every year.

The school opened a new suite of rooms to accommodate Performing Arts. Included are a Media Suite, Drama Studio and Recording Studio. A new Sixth Form Centre was also part of the refurbishment. The school also runs its own mini-buses for linked courses and for various out-of-school activities. (The School Association donates the funds for the lease of one bus and supports the school generously each year through its fund-raising activities.)

The school has modified and equipped six rooms as Computer Resource Areas and our Specialist School developments have enabled wide use of interactive technologies that are making a very positive impact on learning and teaching.

The school has engaged in student exchanges with Marl (Germany) and Limoges (France) and has had strong involvement in the International Exchange Scheme. Trips and visits (including to the continent) are very much part of the school's curriculum.

Colleagues are given full encouragement to develop their own interests with, and for mutual benefit of, students. The school has thriving musical and drama interests with annual productions, a wind band, singing group and other performance groups. Our environmental projects and initiatives in the community won us the Schools Curriculum Award and they as well as PE and Sport and business enterprise schemes continue to flourish.

Our OFSTED report (January 2008) recognised that we are an improving school with many good features. The quotation we like best is the one where a student told inspectors that "choosing to come to Great Wyrley is the best decision I have ever made."

I was appointed as Headteacher here in September 2004 and I want to work with people who care about education and who have genuine empathy for the lives and preoccupations of young people in our community.

We are now a well established Specialist Performing Arts College looking to our next phase of growth and development across the curriculum, it will be a time of challenge and excitement for the next five years and beyond. If you would like to be part of all this we would like to hear from you.

Chris Leach
HEADTEACHER