

OPEN EVENING 24th September 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



GENERAL / PASTORAL / ETHOS FAQs

How long have you been Principal?

I have been Principal at Walton since September 2020, however I have been at the academy for twelve years and have been in the leadership team for five years prior to taking on this post.

Are you going to offer any tours of academy site?

Due to current COVID 19 guidance we are not able to offer any tours around the academy. However, we do have a virtual video tour which is available to view on our website.

What are the timings of the school day?

Our school day begins at 08:45 and ends at 15:35. We ask all students to be on site and in their Tutor Rooms for 08:45.

The school day has six 50 minute lessons each day. We have a morning break for 15 minutes together with a 45 minute lunch break.

Students can come onto site in the morning from 08:00.

What is the most important thing we ask in people?

We ask our whole community to try to be the 'best they can be' every day and to be kind to themselves and each other.

How many students are in the school?

We currently have 819 students on role and this includes our Post 16 students.

What is your current Ofsted rating?

Our last inspection in 2019 was a one day inspection and inspectors were looking at whether we had maintained our 'Good' status. The inspectors concluded that we had certainly remained 'Good' but they wanted to return to carry out full inspection as they felt that we were now 'Outstanding'. We now await their return to the academy to confirm this outcome.

What are your rules about mobile phones?

We allow students to have a phone with them during the academy day. As soon as students come onto site in the morning their phone needs to be switched off and put away. Students are allowed their phones at 15:35 when the final school bell goes as they may need to contact parents at this time.

OPEN EVENING 24th September 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



We do use mobile phones as a learning aid in some lessons i.e. to access learning apps – expectations are clearly set by the classroom teacher i.e. any misuse will result in the phone being confiscated.

We believe it is important for students to have time away from the internet and social media hence the reason we do not allow them during the school day; however, it is equally important that we educate students on how their phones can be a great learning aid to them.

Are tutor groups in mixed age groups or year groups?

We have had vertical tutoring at Walton with students in mixed tutor groups from Year 7 to 10, Year 11 then have their own dedicated tutor team to ensure they get all the support needed in preparation for their exams.

Currently we have students in horizontal tutor groups due to the current situation with COVID 19 - this is allowing us to meet guidelines but also provide wrap around care and support. We will be reviewing this when guidance is relaxed with regards to what is best for our students moving forwards.

How successful has it been welcoming the boys into Walton?

We have seen great success in our first two co-educational cohorts. Our high expectations, standards and culture have not changed. Curriculum and facilities have been adapted, added to and changed where needed to ensure we cater for all students. The boys are as much part of the community as the girls are and we look forward to them now moving through the academy.

How many students are in each year group?

In the current Year 7 and Year 8 we are full with 180 students. In our older year groups we have on average 120 students. In Post 16 we have just over 100 students.

How do you deal with bullying?

We have an extensive pastoral team at Walton and we pride ourselves on the wrap around support and care we offer to our students. Students should report any concerns, issues or worries that they have to a member of staff - this might be their tutor, class teacher, duty staff etc. As soon as it is reported, it will be dealt with either by that member of staff or passed onto the Head of House/Year Leader to ensure issues are resolved quickly.

How is it decided which form you go into?

We try to keep students together with at least some students they know from their primary school. As part of our transition process we ask for information from your primary teachers and this also helps us to make our decisions. Students will find out their tutor group and House group prior to starting with us in September.

Do the buses come directly to school?

We have a number of buses that come directly to the academy and some pull into the school car park at the start and end of the day. Further information about buses can be found on the Lincolnshire County Council website under the transport section.

ADMISSIONS FAQs

How are students selected if you are over-subscribed?

The Local Authority (LA) deals with all of our admissions. Once the application deadline has passed the LA will begin to allocate places to children across the county based on their preference. The LA will always try to place students in their preferred choice of school.

When an academy becomes over-subscribed their oversubscription criteria is used to decide who will get a place at Walton. Walton's criteria is listed below:

- Children who have an Educational Health Care Plan
- Looked after children and previously looked after children
- Children who have a sibling at the academy
- Children of staff at Walton Academy who have been employed for at least two years
- Distance from the child's home to the academy

Do you take 50/50 boys and girls?

The local authority deal with our admissions and students are allocated places in line with parental preference and our over-subscription criteria. We do not take in a certain number of boys and girls. Currently, in our first two co-educational cohorts, we have a fairly even split with around 60% girls and 40% boys.

What happens if you move into the area after October 31st?

You would need to contact the Local Authority through the Lincolnshire County Council website. If you go to the admissions page you will be able to submit a late application.

How many places do you have for September 2021?

Our pupil admission number is 180.

CURRICULUM FAQs

Do you set in Year 7?

We do look to set students in the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. This is based on their key Stage 2 SATS data, the data we receive from their primary schools and initial base line testing that we do.

OPEN EVENING 24th September 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What languages do you offer?

We offer French and Spanish and all students study both languages from Year 7. Students then have the choice to take one or both languages at GCSE.

What GCSE subjects does the academy offer?

At GCSE we offer a wide and broad range of subjects to students as below.

Core subjects:

- English Language/Literature
- Maths
- Combined Science

Optional subjects:

- History
- Geography
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Fine Art
- Photography
- Dance
- Drama
- Music
- IT
- PE
- Spanish
- French
- Triple Science
- Health and Social Care

Over the next few years we are looking to expand our offer in design and technology and STEM subjects.

Will there be any new design or engineering subjects taught?

We intend to expand our curriculum over the next few years. Graphic design is now taught to all students in Key Stage 3 and we hope to expand this further. Engineering and design and technology is an area we want to expand to allow subjects to be studied at GCSE.

What dance classes do you do?

Students study performing arts in Key Stage 3 and they study a range of dance genres including:

- Ballet
- Hip hop
- Jazz
- Rock and Roll
- Musical theatre

Students can then opt to take the subject at GCSE and we also have Musical Theatre in Post 16. There are many school sports and dance clubs that students can also get involved in during the year.

Do you teach the sciences as separate lessons?

Yes, students from KS3 will have lessons in biology, physics and chemistry; this then continues into KS4 and students can then choose to take the separate Sciences in Post 16.

How many students on average are there in Key Stage 4 classes?

This all depends on what options students wish to take; some groups will naturally be larger or smaller than others. On average there is around 20 – 25 students in each option subject. In core subjects and humanities some classes may be larger i.e. up to 30.

Do students get to choose subject in Year 7, 8 and 9 or is it a set curriculum?

Students have a set curriculum in Key Stage 3 and this is in line with the national curriculum to ensure students receive a broad and rich curriculum offer. Students will choose their option subjects for GCSE in Year 9.

Is performing arts a compulsory subject?

All students study performing arts in Key Stage 3; they have one double lesson a week. They can then choose to take dance, drama or music for GCSE.

How many GCSE subjects do students take?

The majority of students will take nine GCSEs; some will take more if they decide to do triple Science; we also review the number of GCSE for students who may need some additional support.

OPEN EVENING 24th September 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What exam boards do you use?

This depends on the subject area but some of the main exam boards we use are listed below:

- Maths, English and Science = AQA
- BTEC and technical subjects = Pearson

Other GCSE and A level subjects are then either AQA, Pearson, OCR or WJEC.

How much homework will Year 7 students get?

Students will receive one piece of homework per week in each core subject (English, Mathematics and Science). In other subjects students will receive one piece of homework once a fortnight. Students will have homework explained by their teacher and will be given appropriate time to complete it. All homework tasks are recorded by students in their planners.

EXTRA- CURRICULUM FAQs

Do you offer any extra-curricular activities?

We offer a whole range of clubs and activities at Walton during the academic year. Some of these opportunities take place at lunchtime and some are after school. Every faculty has something to offer and some examples are listed below:

- Sports clubs and teams e.g. netball, football, hockey, athletics, gymnastics
- Photography Club
- Dance company
- School Choir and Orchestra
- Musical Theatre Club
- STEM Club
- Computer Programming

Do you offer music lessons at the school?

In Key Stage 3 all students will study music as part of their curriculum, they will have one lesson a week with our specialist music teacher. We also offer peripatetic music lessons through Lincolnshire Music Service, students can have individual lessons on string, brass, woodwind, piano, percussion or the voice. There is a charge for these lessons.

CAREER FAQs

Do students have any careers guidance or work experience?

At Walton we have a dedicated career adviser, Mrs Etherington. All students receive careers and next steps guidance and education through the tutor programme, PSHRE curriculum and Life Skills and Choices Days (LSC). Students will experience different sectors and careers through visitors we have in and through our platform Uni Frog. In Year 11 all students will receive an impartial 1:1 careers meeting where they will be able to discuss their options for their next steps. Post 16 students complete work experience in Year 12 and some courses require work experience throughout.

How many leavers go to university?

We have great success with our next steps after Post 16. Many of our students go to university and we have now had several successful students gain places at Russell Group universities and Oxbridge. We do also have students that successfully go onto apprenticeships and the world of work; we are very proud to support students on their journey and individual pathways.