



ROSSETT SCHOOL

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

OFSTED Summer Term 2010:

- 'Overall Effectiveness – Outstanding'
- 'The school's capacity for sustained improvement – Outstanding'
- 'Rossett School has improved substantially since its previous inspection. This is the result of thoughtful leadership, good teaching and outstanding provision in areas such as the curriculum and pastoral care.'
- 'There is no complacency about already high standards. The school's leaders have identified appropriate strategies to improve comparative areas of weakness and the Headteacher has initiated a debate about how the school might need to change to meet students' developing learning needs in an age of digital technology. This confirms the school's excellent capacity for further improvement.'

Rossett is an 11-19 mixed comprehensive community school with over 1400 students on roll (250 in Sixth Form). The school serves a wide area; with about one third of pupils travelling from North Leeds. Our pupils come from a wide mix of social backgrounds and we have a small but increasing percentage of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds (10%). The percentage of pupils entitled to FSM is below the national average which is indicative of the relatively good employment opportunities in Harrogate. Approximately 31% have SEN (0.35% with statements, 7.5% school action plus and 24% are receiving additional support/mentoring).

We have achieved Healthy Schools Award, Sportsmark, Artsmark Gold, Dyslexia Quality Mark, and are a Young Enterprise Centre. We were selected by NYCC to be part of the enhanced provision for EMS SpLD (Dyslexia) and this provision was operational from September 2010.

At Rossett we value each of our students, recognising their unique needs and aspirations. We are proud of our ability to provide equal opportunities for all young people whatever their ability and our size gives us flexibility and resources to meet these many different needs. Rossett puts special emphasis on preparing young people for the challenges of the modern world by helping them to grow into capable, responsible and independent adults. They are offered a calm and happy environment within which they can grow in knowledge, confidence and self esteem.

Our young people learn to meet the high expectations and challenges not only within the school but also in the outside world. We are proud of our reputation within the local and wider community.

The school was opened as a purpose built comprehensive school in 1973 is a very pleasant place in which to work; the grounds are attractive, the buildings, although quite old, are well kept and clean. A new Sixth Form extension was completed in 2000 and, to finalise a £1m building programme, the school opened a new teaching block of 8 specialist rooms plus an additional 2 new science laboratories in 2002.

Specialist Schools grants in 2006 enabled us to refurbish our Resource Centre and staff room into state of the art ICT teaching spaces. In summer 2008 further ICT suites were completed together with refurbishments in Art, Technology and Drama, 2009 saw additional areas refurbished and in summer 2010 the kitchen area and hall had significant improvements.

Staff and students' relations are excellent and this rapport enables everyone to give of their best.

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OFSTED noted 'Staff have created a caring ethos where all students feel valued ... teachers believe that their contribution to the school is valued and that they are fully involved in what the school is trying to achieve. The school is calm and orderly and students feel safe. Relationships with teachers are mostly very strong and students feel they can talk to teachers. Problems are soon resolved.'

The school has both a monitoring and evaluation of good learning programme that is supportive and development based as well as a 'Tracking Student Progress' process for mentoring and target setting.

True to our philosophy of helping all students, our curriculum is constantly changing and being updated. We have introduced many new courses over the last four years. We have introduced an innovative Key Stage 4 curriculum with students in Years 9 & 10 taking up to 2 GCSEs in one year. Technology, Sport and IT facilities have all been improved in recent years. Most teaching is carried out in specialist rooms. The school has a network of over 650 computers with all students able to access the internet and email.

A broad and balanced education is a high priority. Students are encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities which include foreign travel, sport, outdoor pursuits, music and drama as well as an opportunity for the usual clubs and groups. Charitable fund raising is especially noteworthy with considerable funds being donated to charities of the students' choice.

'Students say that it is a 'fair' school and that staff listen to their opinions and act on them. The curriculum is flexible and innovative, providing a range of options for students as they move into Key Stage 4. Students are happy with the choices available and with the guidance and support provided.' (OFSTED)

The school has a large Extended Schools programme with over 1100 students registered for adult courses. In addition, the school shares its sports facilities in a joint-use arrangement with Harrogate Borough Council Leisure Services, who cater for over 70,000 visitors per year. Over 4,000 visitors per week on one site calls for particular care to provide all with a good quality of service.

The school is seen locally as a school with a strong commitment to the education and care of its students.

We are also supported by a dedicated group of Governors who are positive and clear in supporting our aims. Parental support and evaluation is excellent with recent quality evaluations very strong. (93%, when asked, said that their child was academically and socially fulfilled – 2011. Questionnaire.)

Our aim is to create a genuine learning community in which all students are challenged, stimulated, cared for and supported. Each student is encouraged to take responsibility for their own work and behaviour and to develop habits of self reliance, self discipline and consideration for others.

If you are an enthusiastic and dedicated individual who shares this ethos, we would like to receive your application.