



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 with over 1500 students on roll (250 in Sixth Form) and became a converter academy in July 2011. The school serves a wide area; with about one third of students travelling from North Leeds. Our students come from a wide mix of social backgrounds and we have a small but increasing percentage of students from minority ethnic backgrounds (10%). The percentage of students entitled to FSM is below the national average which is indicative of the relatively good employment opportunities in Harrogate. We have 53 students identified as SEN (according to the guidelines from the SEN Code of Practice 2014).

We have achieved Healthy Schools Award, Sportsmark, Artsmark Gold, Dyslexia Quality Mark, and the Stephen Lawrence Award. In September 2010 we became an enhanced mainstream school (EMS) for SpLD (Dyslexia).

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 and is a very pleasant place in which to work; the grounds are attractive, the buildings, although quite old, are well kept and clean. A Sixth Form extension was completed in 2000 and an additional teaching block of eight specialist rooms plus 2 new science laboratories in 2002.

Over the last few years we have benefitted extensively from extra sources of funding and considerable amounts have been spent on improving facilities. September 2013 saw the refurbishment of our reception area as well as many other refurbishments including a new Year 7 dining area, replacement windows, a new boiler house with multiple boilers and solar panels to increase our energy efficiency. In May 2014 we saw the completion a new block of six classrooms – The Hunter Building.

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

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 few 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.

The enhancement of teaching and learning through ICT continues to be a major priority. In April 2012 we invested in iPads for all teaching staff so that they could develop and extend their use of new technologies. More recently we have further transformed teaching and learning with the introduction of our iPad 'One to One' scheme which allows all students access to an iPad mini.

We have an interactive learning platform (Realsmart) and use Google Docs to collaborate with staff and students.

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 Adult Education 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. Over 4,000 visitors per week on one site calls for particular care to provide all with a good quality of service.

Rossett 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 develop the Rossett's 3Rs Culture of Learning (Responsibility, Resilience and Reflectiveness) to ensure that they are independent learners for the 21st century.

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