



# Prospectus



**Copleston**  
**High School**

Part of GIPPSWYK COMMUNITY  
EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Achieving success together

# Principal

I believe that Copleston High School is an excellent learning environment with a real community spirit. We provide students with a high degree of challenge combined with excellent support and as a result our examination outcomes are currently very strong. Our staff share a commitment to delivering interesting and engaging lessons and to raising attainment. Relationships between staff and students are excellent and discipline is very good. We treat one another with respect and understanding.

We have a genuinely comprehensive intake and we work hard to meet the needs of all our students, from those who come to us with exceptional talents and abilities to those who require additional support to succeed. Students of all ages and abilities make outstanding progress because of the rich curriculum we offer, along with the excellent care, guidance and support we provide. Copleston provides fantastic academic, creative, sporting, linguistic, and personal educational experiences, alongside a real emphasis on personal skills and the development of values that all young people need to be successful. Our school motto '*Achieving Success Together*' underpins all that we do here at Copleston and our mission is simple: to ensure that no child is left behind.

Our curriculum consists of a rich blend of academic and vocational qualifications, all supported by fantastic learning resources including outstanding sports and fitness facilities, generously equipped classrooms, workshops and laboratories. All areas are served by excellent ICT facilities.

At Copleston students are expected to work hard and to show dedication and commitment to their studies. We demand respect from our students for their teachers, their classmates, and their community. In return we respect them and encourage them. We keep pushing them on to achieve their best, even when they may want to give up; especially when they want to give up. I went to a comprehensive school myself and have always believed that with persistent effort and patience, amazing things can be achieved. I want to make sure that the children of Copleston have that same self-belief so that the doors of opportunity remain wide open.

At Copleston we have very high expectations of everyone who is involved with the school - from students and staff to parents and governors. Our goal is to see all students become highly-skilled learners, achieving excellent standards and leading fulfilling and exciting lives.

Mr Green, Principal



Students and teachers alike enjoy lessons, which make for a positive and purposeful atmosphere throughout the school. Our commitment to equal opportunities is reflected in all aspects of school life and we welcome young people from all cultures, backgrounds and beliefs. We aim for our students to leave Copleston as well-educated, knowledgeable, confident and well-rounded individuals.

We aim to build a love for learning and promote a thirst for knowledge in all our students. We believe that by modelling behaviour, and by recognising and rewarding effort and achievement, we provide an environment where students are proud to present their work and strive for the highest standards. All students can expect to have their efforts and successes recognised and celebrated on both a personal and public level. This ranges from individual praise to certificates, postcards or letters home and awards at whole-school celebration events.

We are a school with enormous strengths. Through the continuous hard work and co-operation of staff, students, parents and governors, we have built a reputation for academic success, as well as an excellent standard of pastoral care.

MR GREEN, PRINCIPAL



# Leader of Learning – Year 7

Miss Bradshaw,  
Leader of Learning



“There was not a single pupil who would not recommend the school to a friend moving to the area”

OFSTED, JANUARY 2018

Our purpose is to develop our youngest students into independent, reflective and able learners. By providing a varied curriculum we aim to build upon the skills and experiences that our students bring from primary school by offering them a wide range of opportunities to enrich their outcomes inside and outside the classroom. We aim to prepare students for lifelong learning within a nurturing, yet mature framework.

Year 7 have their own pastoral area within the school, where the Head of Year 7 is based. This area works as a hub for our youngest students, a place they can come to during social times. We are also lucky enough to have a number of designated rooms solely for Year 7 students to use during break and lunchtimes to complete homework, meet with friends and relax knowing this area is specifically for Year 7 students only. These rooms are all supervised by Student Leaders and members of staff. We understand that moving up from primary school can be an exciting time for any student and the pastoral area provides them with the security of somewhere familiar and supportive whilst they get used to being part of a bigger community.

The pastoral team is wholly committed to providing the support and care that your child needs to develop as a young person and learner. Leaders of Learning Years 7 & 8 are non-teaching members of

staff and this gives us a greater opportunity to work with individuals in our year groups with relation to academic, extra-curricular and personal issues. Oversight of Year 7 & 8 lies with the Assistant Principal, Henry Palmer.

To prepare students in Years 7 & 8 as independent, able and reflective learners, we have carefully designed our curriculum to give them the best start to their secondary education. Students will have termly individual learning reflection opportunities, which will allow them to consider their progress over time and to review and set new targets to help them to make as much progress as possible.

Extra-curricular activities for Year 7 are wide ranging. Sports activities are available most lunchtimes and subjects also offer their own opportunities for students. For Year 7 we also run 'WOW!' or 'Whats on Wednesday', which is an opportunity all year 7 students get involved in. On Wednesdays the school day ends early to allow students to take part in 'WOW!'. A wide range of activities are on offer including rock climbing, nail art, first aid, baking, drama and sports. Students are able to access a number of different activities throughout the year, with the option of changing to a different activity each half term.



# Copleston's curriculum

At Copleston High School our curriculum equips our students with the knowledge, skills and attributes to become confident and proficient life-long learners. Not only does our curriculum provide a solid foundation for progression to Post-16 and Higher Education, it offers our students a wide range of opportunities to develop a real love for learning. There are a range of enrichment opportunities and a very strong focus on acquisition and mastery of the key skills of literacy and numeracy. Our curriculum also actively promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our students. In addition, our students gain a clear understanding of the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect for, and tolerance of, those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

The curriculum is broad and balanced with personalised pathways that will enrich and prepare students for adult life.

The curriculum structure is driven by Copleston High School's commitment to delivering educational excellence by providing a wide range of subjects and opportunities that will create a desire for learning.

The schools' curriculum follows statutory requirements and the requirements of the National Curriculum. 65 minute lessons provide pace and challenge across the curriculum areas. Students are taught in a combination of sets and ability teaching groups. All students follow the National Curriculum core and foundation subjects. Students will spend two years in Key Stage 3 and three years in Key Stage 4. The curriculum is flexible and is able to support personalised pathways.

During the first term in Year 7, students are assessed regularly and comprehensive, continued monitoring and assessment ensures that appropriate needs are identified and addressed. With a clear focus on literacy and numeracy across the key stage, the curriculum and timetable provides a degree of flexibility to accommodate individual needs. An embedded PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) is delivered through timetabled lessons at Key Stage 3. Additional English support, and additional Maths support, is also provided to those students requiring "catch up" in these areas.

Most students will learn one language from a choice of French or Spanish.

“Throughout the inspection, we saw teachers who plan lessons well, and pupils who work hard because they are given a variety of challenging activities that fire their imagination.”

OFSTED, JANUARY 2018

Home learning and homework provide our students with opportunities to develop valuable independent learning skills. The home learning tasks are varied and include: questions to check understanding and consolidate learning; research-based activities, and individual/group projects. Home learning tasks are not set weekly and parents are encouraged to take an active interest in these. Students will be issued with a planner which will enable them to record all homework tasks that are set. This planner must be taken to each lesson, and homework must be entered on the relevant page. Parents are asked to look at the planner and to sign it at the end of each week.

Our students are also offered a wide range of extra-curricular activities. In addition to after-school clubs in curriculum subjects such as Science, Drama and Music, we offer a wide range of sports clubs such as netball, football, rugby and basketball. We also offer a unique What's On Wednesday (WOW) programme where our students can undertake enrichment opportunities between 2.10-4.10pm every Wednesday afternoon. These sessions are very varied ranging from gardening clubs to many types of sports activities. Further to this we also run a nationally renowned Basketball Academy where our students are trained by professional basketball coaches. The Head Coach has just been named the National Basketball League Division 2 "Coach of the Year".

We have a fully equipped gym and fitness suite which our students get to use regularly. We are also fortunate in having a school garden and allotment with greenhouses, polytunnels and raised beds for growing vegetables.

Our students take part in a wide range of competitions such as debating, music and drama productions and also go on numerous trips within the country and beyond.

Our school motto '*Achieving Success Together*' underpins all that we do here at Copleston. *Effort* and *determination* are two qualities that we value above all others. We will reward our students for showing these qualities and we will support them to become as successful as possible.



# Copleston's ethos and vision

If our students are to face the future with confidence, they will need attitudes and values which will sustain them through both personal difficulties and social change. They will need to be resilient. The needs of students to know themselves, to gain self-esteem, to learn how to learn, to develop an understanding of society and, above all, to establish positive attitudes and clear values, will always be necessary. The environment of classrooms, corridors and grounds, the patterns of human contact and the values they demonstrate are important signals to parents and students. It is by the careful organisation, planning and maintenance of all aspects of school life around a shared philosophy based upon the ideal of serving the needs of our students that we at Copleston can ensure the school's continued success.

Our ethos is based upon the principle that everyone is individual and should be allowed to fulfil their potential through the academic, extra-curricular and pastoral elements of secondary education. Our school promotes mutual respect for each other and that everyone is equal. We are a community in which we aim for everyone to thrive and develop into successful, happy and responsible young people who are well prepared for the future.

“Pupils want to do well, and they respect and appreciate staff ... Pupils look out for each other while also being polite, responsible and conscientious. They know you have their best interests at heart.”

OFSTED, JANUARY 2018

School must be a place where students can gain self-esteem. All pupils need to feel that they have gained much that is worthwhile from school. We must, therefore, achieve an atmosphere where all our students can enjoy their learning within a secure and stimulating environment.

We have a wide range of policies that support and promote this ethos, all of which are available on our website.





“You have achieved a fine balance of giving pupils a relevant curriculum, while raising their aspirations, amid a culture of inclusivity and equality.”

OFSTED, JANUARY 2018

# Pastoral care & student progress

At Copleston we believe that it is important that our young people feel happy, supported and cared for in order to achieve their best in the classroom. Our Pastoral System provides the support and guidance that students need from Year 7 right the way through until Year 13.

Our Pastoral Team is made up of both teaching and non-teaching staff. Each morning students meet their Form Tutor for registration and ordinarily, a student's Form Tutor will stay with them as they progress through the school, building a positive relationship. Form Tutors monitor students log books, school uniform, attendance and their overall academic achievement. The Tutor will also discuss behaviour with the members of their form group.

Each year group is led by a Head of Year who coordinates the team Form Tutors, ensuring that high standards are maintained within the year group. They also have an overview of the academic progress made by all students in the year group. If it is felt that additional support is needed for specific students, this is implemented.

Students may be mentored at various times during their school career in order for them to reach their potential; this may be by older students, their Form

Tutor, members of their Year Team, or by Business Mentors, who give up their time to work with our students.

A further important part of Pastoral support is the Attendance Team who monitor absence and punctuality. They also work closely with our Education Welfare Officer (EWO) who comes to the school each week to check student attendance across all year groups.

As well as members of Copleston staff we also have support from external agencies whose staff are specialists in their field. For example, the School Nurse holds a drop-in once a week during lunchtime within the school and we also provide a counselling service on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our counsellor takes referrals from students and their parents as well as members of the Pastoral Team. Counselling is completely confidential, meaning that information is not disclosed to staff, family members or friends. The school also has a Well-Being Consultant that works with individual students, groups of students and families. Copleston is school which promotes a positive, caring attitude amongst its students and staff whilst focusing on effective learning. Students are expected to follow the school rules at all times.

“Pupils, in the main school, and students, in the sixth form, spoke at length about the extra effort that staff make to help them succeed..”

OFSTED, JANUARY 2018



Appropriate attitudes to learning and good behaviour are nurtured by reinforcing and rewarding good behaviour. The school has a strong rewards culture. Termly Achievement Assemblies, Celebration Evenings and Student of the Week presentations provide examples of what the school does to reward its students.

We have very high expectations at Copleston and regular reminders of our behaviour code are achieved through curriculum activities as well as through tutor time and assemblies. An emphasis on active citizenship and personal development is encouraged in lessons and strong, mutually beneficial relationships are nurtured throughout the school. Every student at Copleston has the right to work and socialise at the school and the right to be treated with respect.



At Copleston we realise that there's a lot more to school than just passing exams. Every good teacher knows that, and this is why we offer excellent Pastoral Support for our young people. However, the Copleston vision is that the Pastoral System supports students to ultimately be successful academically because when it comes to future career progression, students need those grades. Good grades open doors and we will strive at Copleston to ensure that doors remain open for your child.



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