

The Arnewood School

11 - 18 Technology College



Working Together - Shaping Tomorrow



Welcome

Welcome to The Arnewood School, which has both a local and national reputation for high standards. Our academic record over a long period of time shows us to be a high performing school, with impressive A Level, AS Level and vocational results, good GCSE achievement and very successful Key Stage 3 performance. As a Technology College we continue to raise standards in specialist areas; we encourage diversity and innovation in teaching and learning across all subjects.

We place great emphasis on a healthy balance between academic work and the all-round development of children, with a commitment to very good pastoral care and a wide variety of curricular opportunities to suit individual tastes and needs.

We recognise that words, pictures and statistics will only give you a hint of the warmth, ambition and commitment of a vibrant learning community and we invite you to see us in action. I am very confident that a visit to The Arnewood School will justify your interest in the school as we continue to develop as a centre of excellence in Hampshire and beyond.

Christopher Hummerstone
Headteacher



School Aims

The Arnewood School is committed to excellence in all we do. We encourage innovative teaching and learning in a local, national and international context, using ICT to enhance learners' experience when appropriate. We believe that all students should have a vocational understanding and an awareness of the world of work. As a Technology College and Trust School we continue to raise standards for all through our specialist subjects, in partnership with the New Forest community.

Our aims are to achieve and sustain excellence by:

- Providing a diversity of teaching and learning styles in a positive environment
- Celebrating and supporting all those who respect the values of The Arnewood School
- Encouraging a sense of belonging to The Arnewood School and contributing to that identity in the local community





Curriculum

“Outstanding” - OFSTED 2008

The Arnewood School understands that all children have different abilities but believes they should all have the best opportunities to succeed. The school recognises the importance of academic qualifications and encourages students to have high aspirations. All students are encouraged to develop their all round potential and make the most of the opportunities the school offers.

The Arnewood School operates a policy of generally setting students by ability.

Key Stage 3: Years 7-9 (Aged 11-14)

The curriculum and timetable are designed to allow children to study a wide range of subjects to the level that is right for them. The first stage of the secondary curriculum, Key Stage 3, gives students a broad foundation of knowledge upon which to build. All children study English, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Mathematics, Science, French, Design Technology, Information Communication Technology, Art, Drama, Music, and Physical Education. Able linguists will be offered a second language, usually German. Key Stage 3 is typically three years in length but children who are ready can move on to the next stage in less time than this.

“The curriculum is wholly personalised, which reflects the school’s commitment to care for and guide every individual student into adult life”

OFSTED October 2008

Key Stage 4: Years 10-11 (Aged 15-16)

In Key Stage 4, students may select a number of new, optional subjects that are of personal interest to them. Students are guided in their construction of a personalised ‘Pathway’ that recognizes their individual strengths and aspirations.

By law, all students must study English, Maths, Science, ICT, PE and RS. Subjects studied at Key Stage 4 may, in many cases, be taken to post-16 level in our Sixth Form.

A diverse range of GCSEs, applied courses and diplomas at different levels is offered. Applied courses can be taught at school but may also be taught through work placements and through links with local colleges. Current applied courses offered include: Catering, Construction, Engineering and Hairdressing.

Post 16: Years 12-13 (Aged 16-18)

The Arnewood School is able to offer continuity of education from Key Stage 4 with its own Sixth Form which includes purpose built accommodation as well as specialist resources in the school’s library.

We are proud of all students’ achievements; some will choose to complete a one year course prior to employment, whilst others progress each year from The Arnewood School’s comprehensive intake to universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

As well as specialist support with University entrance, Sixth Formers enjoy support from an experienced tutor team able to meet the needs of older students. A varied citizenship programme, community action and commitment to Charity fundraising provide many opportunities for student leadership.





Individual Needs


Students with Special Educational Needs are identified and supported with additional resources. Students have individual educational programmes, a copy of which is available to parents/carers. The Head of Learning Support is responsible for the organisation of the school programmes and recommendations about individual needs.

The school has very good provision for students, with specialist staff and accommodation. Students with Literacy needs are supported with a dedicated Literacy Programme. There is also a homework club after school.

Gifted and Talented

Students with particular ability are, in discussion with their parents, encouraged to follow accelerated courses. Some complete GCSEs at the end of Year 10 or even earlier. In Year 11 it is possible to embark upon courses for AS or A level preparation.

A full annual programme for gifted and talented students, organised by our Gifted and Talented Coordinator, includes extra curricular visits and school based activities which challenge and extend the most able at the appropriate level.



Opportunities

Extra Curricular

Many members of staff give freely of their time in the organisation of extra-curricular activities which take place before school, during the mid-day break and at the end of the school day. These are too numerous to list in full but include competitive sports, Drama and Arts workshops, and clubs developing Languages, ICT, Technological and Science skills.

The range of instrumental Music is a special feature of The Arnewood School. Arnewood offers its students the opportunity to learn a musical instrument in strings, piano, brass, electronic keyboard, woodwind, guitar, percussion and voice.

Numerous school trips, exchanges and visits enrich the school curriculum. These include Geography field trips to Purbeck and Hengistbury Head, German, Russian and French Exchanges to Herdecke, Moscow and Vannes, an annual Ardèche activities break, History trips to WW1 Battlefields, Auschwitz and Berlin, and Art trips to Galleries at home and abroad. Pastoral visits strengthen and develop friendships. Trips abroad, as well as to Calshot and Fairthorne Manor, are popular features of the school calendar.





Parents and Community

We believe that good communication between school and home is essential to realise the full potential of children. Through the school's Virtual Learning Environment and website parents/carers can check on homework set, access subject support materials and keep up to date with school events. Personal email and voicemail are also used for effective communication. Student homework diaries also support communication between home and school in day to day matters.

Many parents and carers comment on the way in which the school seeks to encourage adults of all generations to contribute to school life. In addition to school concerts, fundraising events, Grandparents' Parties, and Parent Consultation Evenings, our Presentation Evenings are welcome occasions when we all share in students' success. We have strong links with the business community in New Milton who generously support us with work study placements for Year 10 students. The local clergy of many denominations frequently lead school assemblies. The School Council meets on a regular basis with New Milton Town Council.

“Effective and imaginative use of information and communication technology (ICT) helps to engage students and support their independent learning.”

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Ethos

School Uniform

The Arnewood School has a distinctive uniform which has been agreed in consultation with the governing body, students and the parent body. Students wear a maroon blazer, black trousers or grey skirt, and white shirt or white fitted blouse. In the Sixth Form students are permitted to wear smart business attire which must include black trousers and jacket together with white shirt or blouse. A school tie is compulsory for all years.

The school uniform is compulsory for all students. Parents wishing to make application for uniform and/or free meals grants may contact the school's Welfare Assistant in confidence. From Year 11 students are permitted to wear discreet make-up; however, extremes of hair fashion, piercings and attention seeking styles are not permitted. Safe school shoes are a requirement for practical lessons, in particular.

Rewards and Discipline

The Arnewood School promotes a clear rewards and sanctions policy, which seeks to praise far more than rebuke. Many commendations are given to students each term for effort, attainment and services to the community.

On occasions, however, students who do not behave themselves must expect there to be consequences. Sanctions may include being placed 'on report' or detention; in exceptional circumstances a student may be excluded from school for a fixed term.

Environment

Accommodation

The Arnewood School is one of the largest schools in this area of Hampshire and possesses excellent resources. These include a Swimming Pool, Sports Hall, Squash Courts, Weights Room, a gymnasium, an extensive hard area for Tennis and Netball and eight grassed pitches. The school has 11 fully equipped Technology work rooms, 9 Information Technology rooms, 11 Science laboratories, 2 Music rooms, including a recording suite, 3 Drama areas and a well stocked library. All classes are taught in permanent accommodation. Breakfast is available from 8.00 – 8.25 a.m in the school canteen.

The school offers an affordable laptop purchase scheme for students who wish to benefit from the use of their own computer during the school day and beyond. We believe it is important to equip students with the skills they will need in the 21st century.

Homework/Study Support

We recognise that homework can be an important feature of effective learning by reinforcing classroom practice and preparing for future student progress. We operate a homework timetable in Years 7 – 11 with students given a homework diary at the beginning of each academic year.

A supervised study support area is available at 3.30 p.m. for pupils wishing to complete homework before travelling home. The Library opens at 8.00 a.m. and closes at 4.30 p.m.



“Students make good progress throughout the school.”

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“Students feel very safe and enjoy coming to school. The support and respect shown by all students for each other is a strong feature of the school.”

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