



CARISBROOKE HIGH SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE AND THE COMMUNITY IT SERVES



Carisbrooke High School and Sports College is an oversubscribed, 13-18 mixed comprehensive school, situated on a pleasant site with views to Carisbrooke Castle. As part of the current three phase system on the Island, Carisbrooke is one of 5 High Schools, receiving students according to clearly designated priority areas in Newport, West and South Wight. It is a large catchment area – mixed semi-urban and rural in origin, with a large proportion of students dependent on buses. We have 3 main feeder middle schools, one of which is an Aided Church School and also draw from many other schools across the whole Island. There is a Sixth Form of over 272 students. Several phases of a major building programme have been completed, including a new staff room opened in December 2001, the refurbishment of our Art building in July 2005, followed by two purpose-built Languages and Communications blocks, a new Science laboratory and functional Painting & Decorating Suite in 2008.

Carisbrooke High enjoys a long-standing reputation for academic success and strong community links. In November 2003 we were recognised by OFSTED as a “good and effective school which values and promotes achievement in all of its work” and where the “the quality of education provided is very good”. The School is dynamic, innovative and committed to continuous improvement.

We have sustained a consistent level of examination results and are seeing a marked improvement in “value added”. We now achieve over 69% 5 A* to C at GCSE with our fully comprehensive cohort of students. In the summer of 2008 we achieved the best 5 A* – C GCSE results of any of the LA schools on the Island beating both local and national targets by an improvement of 11%.

We aim to move forward by:

- Expecting high standards in all that we do
- Making effective learning the most important purpose of the school
- Developing our partnership with parents and the community
- Providing a stimulating and purposeful environment
- Developing the skills for lifelong learning
- Preparing students to be active participants in a changing world.



Staffing

The School has a full time equivalent of over 80 teaching staff, with a balanced profile of more experienced staff and those in their first years of teaching. Non teaching staff include technicians, who work in the laboratories and workshops, a full-time librarian, first-aiders, learning support assistants, administration and other support staff. Since Easter 2000 we have had a Student Support Centre with a Behaviour Support specialist teacher and support teachers. Under Workforce Re-modelling we now have four Cover Supervisors; non-teaching invigilators and a range of non-teaching staff who hold flexible contracts for a range of TA and administrative duties. From September 2006 the school has been restructured into Learning Areas to support our central purpose of “Raising Standards through more Effective Learning”.

Building and Accommodation

The buildings are in three main areas, with separate blocks of accommodation for the dining rooms and art and design. The newer Languages and Communications areas are purpose-built suites of six rooms each, housed in pleasant re-furbished separate buildings.

Other specialist areas include a Learning Resources Area and Flexible Learning Unit (LRA), a music suite, a drama studio, a large Sixth Form Common Room and an Autistic Spectrum Resource Centre (ASRC) which is a resource for the whole Island for a maximum of 12 students aged 13-18. All subject areas have access to computer network rooms and the technology resources of the LRA are extensive. There are also very generous playing fields. The School's

Carisbrooke High School is a non smoking school. Smoking is not allowed on any part of the school site. Staff are expected to move away from the immediate vicinity of the school before they begin to smoke.

The Curriculum

Each related department area is grouped together and workrooms provide space for informal meetings and the preparation of material. The curricular structure at Carisbrooke High School has attracted a good deal of interest nationally over the years and our 14-19 curriculum is now well in line with the national agenda and recognised by OfSTED as “very good” and “very well matched to students needs.” We have extensive collaborative links 14-19 in the Island’s “western hub” of provision with two neighbouring High Schools, the Isle of Wight College and local Training Providers and work closely on vertical progression within the Carisbrooke cluster of primary and middle schools.

From September 2006 as part of the national “workforce reform” initiative, we remodelled the school into six Learning Areas. Each of the Learning Areas is under the direction of a Director of Learning who is a member of the Leadership Team. The Learning Areas are led and managed by Learning Area Leaders. These posts carry with them a subject leadership responsibility. Where necessary, additional subject leaders will be appointed. The Learning Areas provide academic and vocational courses across all levels.

Pastoral Structure

The pastoral work of the School is based on Vertical Tutor Groups led by a Progress and Achievement Leader who, supported by a Pastoral Team, leads a team of Group Tutors, and enjoys a very large measure of delegated responsibility eg. in dealing with disciplinary matters and in relationships with parents. The qualities of any applicant for a teaching post at Carisbrooke High School are measured against the person’s likely contribution in pastoral and extra-curricular activities, as well as the academic work of the School.

The Organisation of Classes

On entry to the School, students are registered in mixed ability vertical tutor groups but wherever possible, subject setting is actively encouraged.

In Years 10 and 11 the range of courses allows for four optional courses beyond the core curriculum. Almost all courses lead to external examinations. The school is reviewing the Year 9 curriculum in order to provide a better foundation year for the 14-19 phase as middle schools take over responsibility for a two year KS3.

Our Sixth Form have taken up all the opportunities of Curriculum 2000 with a full range of AS studies, together with opportunities for enrichment studies and a developing Level 2 programme. There is also a new opportunity to study vocational BTEC courses in collaboration with the local College. Everything possible is done to provide for all those who wish to continue full time study after 16, whatever their level of attainment and we now work in close collaboration with other high schools and the Isle of Wight College to enable access for all students to the full range of provision Post 16 on the Island.

