

Wymondham College Profile

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Wymondham College

Golf Links Road

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<http://www.wymondhamcollege.org>

Local Authority:	Norfolk
Age range:	11-18
Number of pupils:	1217
Head teacher:	Mr Melvyn Roffe
Chair of governors:	Mr Peter Rout

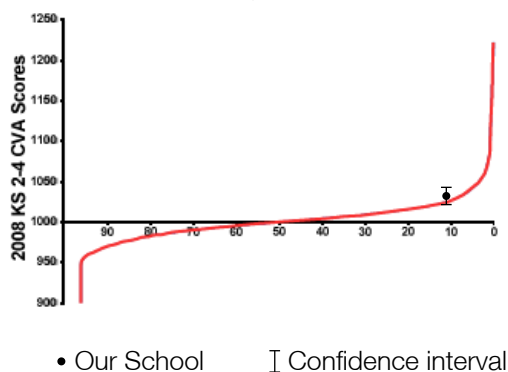
What have been our successes this year?

- Progress from KS2-3 in core subjects was very good as measured by recognised standards
- Results at GCSE are consistently excellent with 99.2% of students achieving 5 or more passes at A* - C in August 2009
- Excellent A level results with 68% of all grades at A and B in August 2009
- Students with Special Educational Needs make excellent progress
- We broadened our provision for Gifted and Talented students
- We opened our new sixth form boarding facility
- We were awarded a third specialism, Leadership Partnership School, in recognition of our status as a high performing specialist school
- We developed our international links and started an exchange programme with a German, a French and a Czech school

What are we trying to improve?

- the way in which we gather the views of parents and students
- our boarding policy and practice
- the sharing of good practice with educational partners
- our links with international schools
- the way in which we encourage students to have a say about their education in the College
- our medical centre provision
- the appearance of the College uniform
- attendance policy and practice
- the way in which we teach students lifeskills
- the way in which departments collaborate with each other to provide cross curricular learning experiences for our students
- How we provide food and educate students about food and nutrition (based upon a major consultation with students and parents)

How much progress do pupils make between 11 and 16?

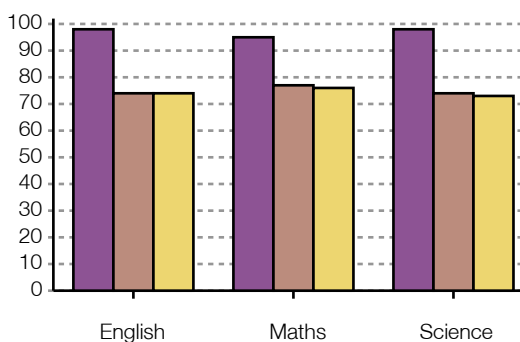


The chart shows our school's contextual value added (CVA) score relative to that of other secondary schools. CVA is a statistical means of assessing how effective a school is, by measuring pupils' progress using their test and examination results. The confidence interval shows the range within which we can be confident the score (calculated on the results of only one year group) represents the overall effectiveness of a school. The percentile rank shows the percentage of schools with a score equal to or higher than ours.

The graph shows that we are easily within the top fifteen percent of all schools in the country when measured by the amount of improvement our students make in their attainment between when they join us aged 11 and when they take their GCSEs at 16.

The graph showing the Contextual value Added for Summer 2009 will be added to the profile by the DCSF.

How well do our pupils achieve at age 14?

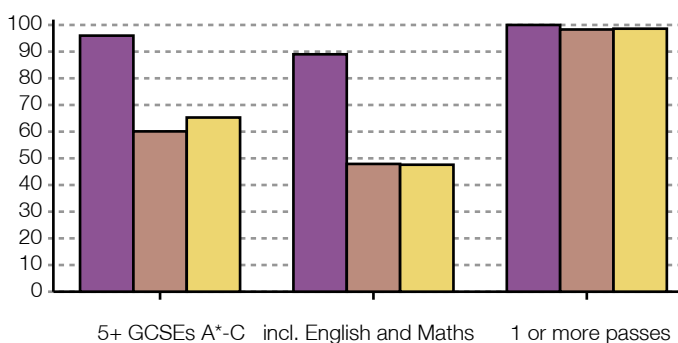


This shows Key Stage 3 results for 2007. It shows the percentage of pupils eligible for KS3 tests (usually 14 year olds) who achieved or exceeded level 5.

■ Our school ■ Local schools (Local Authority) ■ All schools

The above graph will be updated by the DCSF. However, it should be noted that National Curriculum Tests in Key Stage 3 no longer take place. The College is currently looking at how it will measure progress from KS2-KS3.

How well do our pupils achieve at age 16?



This shows the percentage of pupils (who were at the end of Key Stage 4) who in 2008 achieved 5 or more GCSEs (and equivalent) at grades A*-C, 5 or more GCSEs (and equivalent) at grades A*-C including English and mathematics GCSE, and one or more GCSEs (and equivalent) at grades A*-G.

■ Our school ■ Local schools (Local Authority) ■ All schools

The graph showing results for Summer 2009 is not yet available and will be released by the DCSF.

At GCSE, 99.2% of our students gained five or more A*-C grades. 90.1% of our students gained five or more A*-C grades, including English and Maths.

At A Level, 68% of all grades were at A or B. Our overall pass rate in Summer 2009 (grades A-E) was 99.1%.

How have our results changed over time?

- Over the last **five years** our GCSE and Advanced Level results have been consistently excellent.
- The GCSE results (5 or more at A* to C grades) have improved. 99.2% of students gained 5 or more A* to C grades in 2009.
- Including English and Maths, 90.1% of our students obtained 5 or more GCSEs at A* to C in 2009.
- The number of students achieving the top grades of A* and A at GCSE was 43.5%.
- At Advanced Level the pass rate has risen from 94% to 99.1%.
- The proportion of top grades of A and B at A level gained by students has improved with 68% of our students gaining top grades in 2009.

How are we making sure that every child gets teaching to meet their individual needs?

- Prior attainment data and cognitive ability test scores help us to set robust targets and our tracking systems allow us to monitor progress to target.
- Students are regularly issued with progress reviews which clearly show current performance and progress to target.
- Intervention programmes are put into place when students are not on track to reach target grades.
- We have registers for gifted and talented students and those with Special Educational Needs.
- We provide extra classes in learning support for those students who need it
- Students with Special Educational Needs have an Individualised Education Plan which helps teachers to plan appropriate lessons.

- Sixth Form students take part in a paired reading scheme to help students who have difficulty in this area.
- Sixth form Student Subject leaders are available to help students who are experiencing difficulty in curriculum areas.
- Gifted and Talented students are challenged in a range of ways to help them develop still further.

How do we make sure all pupils attend their lessons and behave well?

- Students are valued as individuals with their own gifts. They are treated with respect by staff and there is an excellent rapport between staff and students, not least because of the nature of the College as a boarding school.
- Staff are committed to providing good quality care resulting in learners being well guided and supported.
- Our Behaviour Policy is understood and accepted by all. Clear incremental sanctions are employed and good behaviour and effort is acknowledged and rewarded.
- Our revised Attendance Policy and Leave of Absence Policy encourage parents and students to fulfil their responsibilities with regards to attendance.
- We use electronic lesson-by-lesson registration.
- We have a first day of absence contact system with parents to identify difficulties and discourage absenteeism.
- We work with the Attendance Improvement Officer from Norfolk County Council on cases of persistent absenteeism.
- We provide individual behavioural support programmes for students with challenging behaviour.
- Our students like being at the College. For most it is, quite literally, their home away from home.

What have pupils told us about the school, and what have we done as a result?

- Student Voice, our school council, conducted research on bullying and has revamped our Anti-Bullying Policy.
- House Councils meet regularly to discuss issues regarding boarding. We have introduced 'Big Weekenders' when we organise special activities for our weekend boarders.
- Principal's Council meet weekly with the Principal.
- The Food Group conducted widescale research on meals provided at the College and has been allocated a substantial amount of money to implement their recommendations.
- Students were consulted about the quality and appearance of the College uniform and a new uniform has been designed for September 2010.

How are we working with parents and the community?

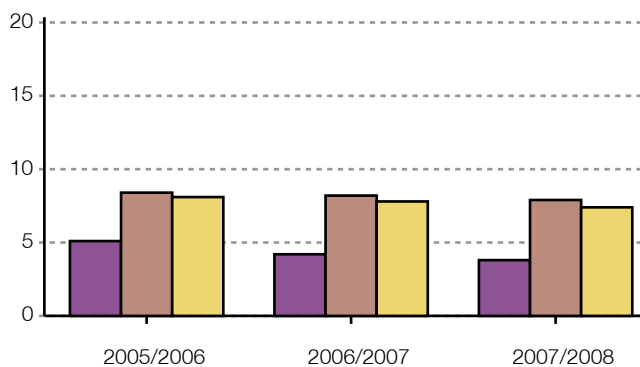
- We are continuing to provide an Annual Governors' Meeting with parents.
- We provide newsletters to parents at least once a month.
- We regularly have 80-90% attendance for parents' consultation evenings. This is especially remarkable given that many students have homes a long way from the College, including overseas.
- We have a very active and supportive Parent Staff Association (PSA) which works hard to raise funds for the College. Grants distributed by the PSA have enabled our students to take part in activities which otherwise would not have been offered.
- We have strong links with two local engineering companies which each provide a Sponsor Governor and many other links as a result of our Technology and Languages status.
- Some of our students visit a local Complex Needs School and work with the students there.
- Our specialisms allow us to provide masterclasses in Maths, Technology, Science, ICT and Chinese for local Y5 and Y6 pupils

What activities and options are available to pupils?

The College offers a rich and enriching programme for its students. There are over 40 activities, clubs and societies listed in the College calendar and staff give unstintingly of their time to provide outstanding music, drama and sporting opportunities. There is the opportunity to undertake the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and join the Combined Cadet Force. There is a plethora of school visits within the UK and abroad. The College is developing links with schools across the world including New Zealand, South Africa, Europe and China and all students take at least one Modern Foreign Language to GCSE. Students are also able to participate in World Challenge Expeditions. The College is developing its Diploma provision.

There is wide curriculum choice at both GCSE and AS/A level where some 30 traditional and vocational subjects are offered.

How do our absence rates compare with other schools?



This chart shows the percentage of half days missed through authorised and unauthorised absence by all pupils at the school. Information is given for the school, for schools within the local authority and for all schools.

■ Our school ■ Local schools (Local Authority) ■ All schools

We have very low rates of absenteeism. This is partly because over half our students stay at the College overnight. Most of the absence is accounted for by parental holiday leave and the Governors would like to see this reduce in future years. The College adopted a new Leave of Absence Policy in 2009 outlining the circumstances in which absence may be authorised. During the 2008/2009 academic year, our rate of absence was 4.19%. The above graph will be updated by the DCSF.

How do we make sure our pupils are healthy, safe and well-supported?

- We have 5 hours of timetabled PE lessons per fortnight
- We have very high levels of participation in extra-curricular sporting activities. Last year, there were over 700 fixtures played by the College teams.
- We have a Health Education programme in each year group. A survey of student perceptions of this area last year rated it as very successful.
- We have a Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and a training programme for all our staff.
- All staff are appropriately cleared before they can start work at the College.
- We have a team of nurses who provide medical care for our students.
- We work with the Matthew Project and have an excellent Drugs Education Programme in Year 10. Students who participate in this project take part in peer education programmes to educate other young people as to the dangers of drug and volatile substance abuse.
- We have our own counsellors and also work with external agencies from Norfolk County Council to provide support for vulnerable students.
- Our boarding houses are staffed by caring individuals who provide a home from home for our boarders.

What do our pupils do after year 11?

- The majority of our year 11 students decide to stay on at the college and study AS and Advanced Level examinations. Of the rest, some go into employment with training but most go on to further education at a FE College.
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What have we done in response to Ofsted?

- The College has a comprehensive College Development and Improvement Plan. This is reviewed annually and aims to help us become a truly exceptional place to learn.
 - We have introduced an annual survey of parental perceptions and YELLIS and MIDYIS attitudinal surveys in order to help us monitor our provision to parents and students.
 - The Geography Department was inspected in November 2008. Following that inspection we are looking to make our use of data and our tracking systems more robust.
 - We are continuing to implement changes to the curriculum to bring us fully into line with national requirements.
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Information about our sixth form

Our results this year

The examination results of our Year 13 students this year (summer 2009) has, once again, been excellent.

- The pass rate at grades A to E was 99.1%
- The pass rate at top grades A and B was 68% (70% excluding General Studies)
- The average point score per student 888.5, our best ever. In summer 2008 it was 843 and in 2007 it was 815.

How have our results changed over time?

The examination results of our Year 13 students have been consistently good.

- The pass rate at grades A to E was 99.1% this year, a steady increase from 92.6% in 2001
- The top grades pass rate (A / B) was 68% this year (70% excluding General Studies), a steady increase from 38.8% in 2001
- The average point score of 888.5 per student this year has increased steadily. In summer 2008 it was 843 and in 2007 it was 815.

What have been the successes of the sixth form this year?

- 68% of all grades at A level were at grades A and B, representing our best ever results at this level.
- We continued our expansion programme and opened our new boarding facility.
- Most of our students obtained a place at their first choice university.
- Many sixth form students organise clubs and societies, Student Subject Leaders and paired readers provide academic support for younger learners. This sits well with our desire to encourage a leadership and contribution culture within our sixth form.
- We are successfully embedding our '4As' culture, focusing on Attitude, Attendance, Attainment and Appearance.
- We continue to offer over 30 subjects at examination level, alongside a wide range of

What are we trying to improve in our sixth form?

In our Sixth Form we are trying to improve our already good arrangements for stretching and challenging the most able students. We are working to provide even more leadership opportunities for students under our Leadership Partner School scheme and to widen student access to interesting speakers on a variety of subjects.

We are working to ensure that set sizes in the Sixth Form do not become too large as the College expands and we aim to ensure that all teaching and learning in the Sixth Form is outstanding.

What do our students do after leaving the sixth form?

The destinations of our Year 13 students have been relatively consistent over the last few years. The majority of students goes on to Higher Education, usually at selective universities. A small number of students goes directly into employment or into another form of higher education or training.

More Information

If you would like more information about school policies, including our policies on special educational needs and disability, admissions, finance, school food and our complaints procedure, please contact us:

By telephone 01953 609000

Our website <http://www.wymondhamcollege.org>
