

Hope Valley College Prospectus



Welcome to Hope Valley College

As the headteacher of Hope Valley College I am always proud of how we work together as a community to ensure that our young people are the best version of themselves.

Hope Valley College is a school that has the highest expectations for our young people in their academic achievement, behaviour and attendance, as this will help them to unlock doors to their future.

We are a school that is student-focused which enables us to support our young people to be aspirational and want the best for themselves. We have a comprehensive personal development curriculum that not only supports academic achievement, but also develops independence and leadership.

Central to our approach are our high expectations and student-focused environment. Students are expected to have the highest standards of themselves in their behaviour, work and attendance. As a community we work hard to teach these values.



We'd love the opportunity to show you more of Hope Valley College, so please visit our website for more information or contact us to arrange a visit. I look forward to meeting you soon.

Mrs Debbie Petts,
Headteacher of Hope Valley College



Ofsted: a good school

Hope Valley College is a secondary school that offers a positively different approach.

With fewer than 600 students, we have an ambition for each and every one of our young people to be the best they can be. We achieve this through high expectations within a supportive environment. Our uniform is straightforward, practical and affordable, leaving students free to focus on their learning.

Hope Valley College was judged by Ofsted to be 'Good' in all categories in its most recent inspection, in October 2023. Our teachers, who are fair and consistent, deliver an ambitious curriculum during lessons that are calm and orderly. All students, including those with special educational needs and disabilities, feel supported.

A wide range of personal development opportunities complement our curriculum, meaning that Hope Valley students are well prepared for the next stage of their education. Outdoor activities including orienteering, weaselling and mountain biking are provided in addition to plentiful opportunities to develop leadership and teamworking skills through involvement in the student council, sports leaders, student ambassadors and many more.

Hope Valley College has been a part of Chorus Education Trust since 2019. During that time, our students have benefitted from the extra resources and expertise offered by the trust as well as teacher training and development through the South Yorkshire Teaching Hub.



A broad and balanced curriculum

We are proud to offer a broad and balanced curriculum, which combines academic, creative and vocational subjects. Our curriculum aims to provide every student with the opportunity to succeed academically and to continue to be inquisitive, lifelong learners.

Students in key stage 3 (Years 7-9) study a broad range of subjects: English, maths, science (including biology, chemistry and physics), PE, art, design and technology (including resistant materials, systems and control, textiles design, and food), ICT and computer science, drama, music, languages, history, geography, world view (including RE and philosophy) and personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE).

Key stage 4 students are supported in making their choice of subjects to study for GCSE and vocational exams. In addition to the subjects with which they are familiar from their earlier years, they can also choose from subjects such as engineering and hospitality and catering.

Preparing for the next step

At Hope Valley, we help our students to acquire the skills and knowledge to progress to a wide range of destinations.

The vast majority of our students go on to further their education. 50% of our students typically do this at sixth form and move on to renowned sixth forms in the surrounding area including Silverdale School in Sheffield, Lady Manners School in Bakewell and Aquinas College in Stockport.

Around 40% of Hope Valley students usually gain places at colleges where they study A-level and vocational courses at level 3. Destinations have in the past included Cheadle and Marple Sixth Form College in Cheadle Hulme, Buxton and Leek College and Sheffield College. In addition, a number of our students also progress to agricultural colleges such as Reaseheath in Nantwich and Askham Bryan College in York.

Every year we also support students who go on to gain apprenticeships in a host of different careers.

We have the highest ambitions for our young people whatever their chosen path and we support these through high standards in their learning and teaching aspiration and ambition.



School life that goes beyond the classroom

Our staff are passionate about providing our students with unique experiences that broaden their horizons. We want our young people to 'be the best you can be' through taking advantage of opportunities outside the classroom.

Some of our enrichment activities are core to our curriculum, such as our outdoor education programme. But our school life extends well beyond the classroom, incorporating a wide range of clubs and lots of trips and visits.

Around 40% of our students have an individual music lesson with a peripatetic teacher that takes place in school time. Students can also enjoy a wide range of traditional and contemporary sporting activities. Our location lends itself to opportunities for climbing, bouldering and cross country, and all students have access to the school's own bike pump track.

We are embedded in the local community, working in partnership on events such as heart screenings. Our whole school community comes together at the end of the school year to take part in a sponsored walk around the valley which raises money for the heart screenings and other local charities. Our students are proud to keep local traditions alive when they design and create the school well dressing that is displayed as part of Hope Wakes Week.

We run a wide range of trips, carefully designed for each key stage, to ensure that all students have opportunities to take part in experiences out of school. These include trips to the theatre, sporting events and fixtures, science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) activities and our ever popular Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme.

Nothing is too much trouble. The school makes sure that the children don't miss out on anything. Anything they can possibly help with, they will. Fabulous school!

Parent of a Hope Valley College student



No one left behind

When students join Hope Valley, they join a school community that will support them throughout their education.

We go to great lengths to ensure everyone is included and has the opportunity to excel. We have pastoral staff dedicated to supporting students with any issues they may have. Our supportive ethos extends into our teaching. We want our students to have a love of learning, so our teaching aims to be inspiring and inclusive, supporting the progress of all students.

Small enough for every student to shine

We embrace the opportunities that being a smaller school offers. Our focus on 'turn up, take part' encourages all young people to be fully engaged in their learning and to work hard.

Young people themselves have a voice at Hope Valley College. The Student Council can influence the decisions made that impact day to day life at the school. Students on the council have engaged in meetings with, amongst others, the Catering Team and a local MP.

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Hope Valley College helped my daughter in so many ways. Not only did she achieve results that have opened so many doors for her, the college's caring and warm environment helped her to develop socially and really find her talents and interests. It is a fantastic place.

Parent of former student



A stunning location with excellent facilities



We continue to invest in our facilities to provide a learning environment of which we are proud. With the help of Chorus, and of our supportive Parent, Teacher and Friends' Association, we have been updating facilities across the school, both internally and externally, including a new pastoral area, a bright and cheery canteen (which serves food that is loved by our students and staff!) and a calm, comfortable and well stocked library.

Our classrooms have undergone a programme of refurbishment and students' access to technology through an updated IT network, improved online resources and interactive screens is supporting their learning and their enjoyment of learning.

We are lucky to be nestled in the heart of the Peak District, whilst being easily accessible by bus. We make the most of our location; it enables us to include outdoor activities in our curriculum and to provide a wide range of extracurricular and enrichment activities that take advantage of the countryside on our doorstep.



Find out more about joining Hope Valley College

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Chorus Education Trust

