



George Spencer Academy

Information For Potential Applicants



INTRODUCTION

The George Spencer Academy is an oversubscribed 11-18 mixed comprehensive school of over 1400 students, including almost 300 in the 6th Form. It is situated close to the M1, six miles west of Nottingham City Centre and is easily accessible by road and rail networks. From its humble beginnings as a small 11- 16 secondary school it has evolved into the current high performing lead school in The Spencer Academies Trust, a medium sized trust of local primary and secondary schools. George Spencer has a continuous track record of excellence and a plethora of accolades which include:

- National Teaching School, and the lead school in the George Spencer Teaching School Alliance
- Lead School for the East Midlands West Maths Hub
- The George Spencer SCITT leads a network of schools offering schools direct and provider-led routes for primary and secondary teacher training
- Licence holder for Leadership Development Programmes including the NPQH qualification for aspiring and working headteachers
- Link and partner school for the Institute of Physics
- Lead school in the network of excellence in Computer Science teaching
- National Hub Lead for Challenge Partners
- Partner school for Whole Education
- Leading Edge School
- Healthy Schools Gold Award
- Investors in People status (re-designated in 2014)
- International Schools Award (2011)
- The Chief Executive of The Spencer Academies Trust, Dame Susan Jowett, is a National Leader of Education
- The Principal, Fraser Mitchell, is a National Leader of Education.

Our last OFSTED inspection in May 2015 was our second consecutive 'outstanding' judgement. Students are quoted in the report, saying 'We are extremely lucky to come to this school. We feel like we've won the golden ticket!' The report is clear about the strategic leadership of the academy - *"The Principal and Executive Principal are driven by a strong moral purpose to improve students' life chances. They are relentless in their quest for continuous improvement, and provide outstanding leadership in this school"*.

The supportive atmosphere that pervades was captured throughout the report:

“ Leaders and teachers are excellent role models for young people, because they value students as individuals and treat them with courtesy and respect ... relationships are typically warm and trusting...”
Consequently, “students’ behaviour around school and in lessons is exemplary. They attend well and work hard, and show their pride in their academy by their smart appearance and their courteous and welcoming attitudes.”

Above all, the report notes the impact of excellent teaching:

“ Teachers are experts in their subjects and are highly skilled in ensuring that learning is well planned to secure outstanding progress.”

The Academy was previously inspected in April 2010, when it was also judged as 'outstanding'.

Our Leadership, Management & Organisation

The school has very supportive Governors, and distributed Leadership which provides a clear vision and direction for the school. There is a Leadership Team of 6, including the Principal, Head of School and Vice Principals. The whole school organisation is team based and 'total quality' aligned. We are responsive to the flexibility needed to manage change. All staff expect to be involved in the identification and removal of 'barriers to progress'.

Collegiate practice is effective and achieved in teams by discussion and by research and development models. Such a participatory decision-making process can only work effectively if all staff accept the personal responsibility this brings. The demands on staff are considerable, in the classroom; in preparation and marking; in attending meetings and committee work; in out-of-school activities; and in parent-teacher contact. These demands are perceived to be the normal professional requirements of accepting a post in this school. Performance management is carried out and includes an annual salary statement and review for all staff against performance indicators. This has been long-standing accepted practice at our school.

Our Commitment - A Quest for Excellence

We are one staff with a commitment to the quest for excellence. Our single aim "achieving excellence through innovation and individualised learning" drives everything we do. Our purpose is to develop students to their highest possible potential and to have them all learn effectively and achieve success whatever their ability or background.


We acknowledge and encourage both the rights and responsibilities of our pupils, their parents, our staff and Governors and the wider community. We seek a spirit which enables individuals to achieve personal success - we welcome the accountability this brings.

We want quality to count in every aspect of our School, in our care for children; in our relationships between people and the way we communicate with others; and in our use of resources, buildings and grounds. We believe that seeking quality involves continuous review and development, which leads to change. This is part of everyday life at George Spencer.

Staff Development and Training

As an Investor in People, Teaching School, Maths Hub and Licensed Leadership Programme provider, we believe that teachers and support staff are our most valuable resource. We therefore provide a very comprehensive programme of in-service training and development to enable staff to maximise the skills they have and develop new ones to reach their potential.

We are recognised as a provider Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) and we are able to confer qualified teacher status on successful trainees (OFSTED, April 2010).

A person in a blue shirt is seen from behind, writing on a whiteboard. The whiteboard is covered in hand-drawn diagrams and text. A large green speech bubble overlay is positioned in the foreground, containing a quote in white text. The quote reads: "A really positive experience which has challenged my thinking and made an impact on my teaching." Below the quote, it says "- Improving Teacher Programme".

“ *A really positive experience which has challenged my thinking and made an impact on my teaching.*

- Improving Teacher Programme

Our Curriculum

Our curriculum structure is based on Faculties, each with a Curriculum Leader and responsibility holders. We follow a two-week timetable with 50 lessons.

As a Leading Edge school we are at an exciting stage in curriculum development and innovation. Curriculum plans are being implemented to help transform secondary education and have become the focus of national interest in effective student learning.

We have a new condensed Key Stage 3 curriculum for Year 7 & 8 students, which constitute the rPhase where we develop the students' readiness for learning. They follow core attitudes, skills and knowledge based courses in English, Mathematics, Modern Languages, Social Sciences, Science, Technology, Creative Arts, Social and Personal Education, ICT, Religious Education, Sport and Health.

These National Curriculum subjects are enhanced by a discrete course in Learning to Learn for one period per week. Our 'Learning to Learn' curriculum is based on the work of Guy Claxton. We use his original 3R's - resourcefulness, resilience and reflectiveness - to develop the learning power of our students. Students learn the techniques and skills for improving their learning and they develop a language about learning and metacognition for dialogue with teachers.



The next phase of learning is called the iPhase where we try to provide opportunities for learners to develop independence and autonomy. This phase incorporates Years 9 – 11 and the 6th form, Years 12 – 13. In Years 9 – 11 students follow a full range of GCSE and vocational courses. There is a core curriculum of Mathematics, English, Science, Technology, ICT, PE and PSE. Students are guided into appropriate subject choices, as the emphasis changes towards more individualised learning pathways. We offer an extensive range of advanced courses at A2, AS level and some vocational post-16 courses for students in Years 12 and 13.

All pupils follow units of work concerned with the world of work and practise self-evaluation and target setting in their Social and Personal Education programme.

Our Sixth Form

We now have our own George Spencer 6th Form College which has become very popular since it was opened in 2004. We have nearly 300 students taught on site in spacious, purpose-built accommodation. We offer 30 different Advanced Level courses and a broad range of enrichment activities. All courses are enhanced by on-line delivery through our Intranet. Each student is closely monitored by a personal Learning Manager, and progress in all academic areas is tracked by SCANS and Learning Reviews.



Our Students

– support, achievement and development



The majority of our students come from three local 'feeder' schools, Fairfield, Bispham, and Chetwynd Road.

Our pastoral care guidance and support is outstanding. There are Directors of Learning and Achievement and teams of Learning Managers and Learning Partners for all year groups. All staff are involved in the pastoral system.

The Directors and their Learning Managers are also supported by Pastoral Support Assistants who do not have teaching commitments and who are able to respond quickly to behavioural, personal or welfare issues.

The combination of an individualised curriculum appropriate to the needs of the learner and personal support from a Learning Manager creates excellent conditions for learning for each student to realise his or her potential.

We know this works for our students because of the excellent track record of results and the personal achievements of the students and staff across a broad spectrum of sporting and cultural activities, including good citizenship and service to the school and community. Some of our sporting stars have taken part in national and international competitions.

Our Buildings and Resources

George Spencer Academy has excellent compact, modern buildings which are located on both sides of the A52 road, connected by a pedestrian bridge. The “southern” site buildings are modern, semi-open-plan equipped with a Resource Centre, designed to facilitate resource-based learning. Dance, Drama and Music teaching takes place within this building.



There has been a programme of new buildings, the most recent are a new Maths Building, Sports Hall and an Inclusion and Training Centre which were finished in 2013 and 2012 respectively. Our 6th Form centre has excellent facilities for learning and socialising and a relatively new building which has extensive ICT and 6th Form

facilities. All buildings have had the support of national and local sponsorship from industry.

Facilities on the upper site include a modern Resource Centre and an Art, Food Technology and Textiles Suite. The Technology facilities have been refurbished and are first class. The computer network extends to this site via a fibre optic cable.

There are over 700 computers for student use. The school is networked with industry-standard hardware, software and CD-Roms and access to the computerised library system is available through the network, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Wireless technology is being introduced, progressively. There are 3 Resource Centres with computers; in addition most Faculties have either their own suite of computers or access to mobile laptops.



Our Wider Activities

The school enjoys active parental support through its Governing Body. George Spencer Academy offers a wide range of clubs and societies which give the school a rich life which it shares with the local community. Close links have been established with a wide range of businesses and Higher Education Institutions.

Many pupils engage in Community Service during their time at the school. The variety of engagement is wide and has included the development of a conservation area; partnership with the Borough Council in maintaining a public area; helping to “Keep Stapleford Tidy”; social activities such as carol singing, distributing harvest gifts, and school band performances; and care for the community for instance in working with disabled people, sick children in hospital, old people, and young children in our 'feeder' schools, nurseries and playgroups. Considerable sums of money have been raised for nominated charities, including support for children and schools in Africa and India. The school is developing the international dimension. Exchange visits and trips to Germany and France take place regularly and there are links with schools in Italy, India, Africa, China, Australia and New Zealand.

📍 How to find us



Driving

If you are using a SATNAV use postcode **NG9 7JA** for correct entrance for parking.

GEORGE SPENCER ACADEMY
ARTHUR MEE ROAD
STAPLEFORD
NOTTINGHAM
NG9 7EW

Train Stations

Attenborough	1.9 miles (3km)
Long Eaton	3.8 miles (6.1km)
Beeston	4.1 miles (6.6km)
Nottingham	7.1 miles (11.4km)
Derby	10 miles (16.1km)

For more information about train services
call National Rail Enquiries: **0845 7484950**

Bus Services

- i4 Nottingham/Stapleford/Derby**
(15 min walk to school)
- i5 Nottingham/Toton/Derby**
(30 min walk to school)

George Spencer Academy

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