



New Mills School



A very warm welcome to New Mills School



Our core purpose is to ensure that students of all abilities and backgrounds have high aspirations and achieve their potential.

At New Mills School we are committed to providing our students with the education they need to take their place in the demanding world of the 21st century. Through the provision of high quality learning opportunities both in the classroom and outside, we are determined to create active, healthy and well informed citizens of tomorrow.

We aim to strike the right balance between challenging our students to perform to their best and aspire to be even better, to act with respect and dignity, to learn to behave appropriately and support others.

We believe it is important to inspire students with the belief that with hard work and endeavour, they can improve, they can enjoy and they can achieve.

We are a caring, friendly and strongly inclusive school. We believe that all our students can achieve well and that everyone has something to contribute to the School and the wider community.

Our core purpose is to ensure that students of all abilities and backgrounds have high aspirations and achieve their potential.

It is our intention to equip our students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for them to take a successful and enjoyable role in our increasingly complex society.

We have a very enthusiastic and committed team of staff and a wide range of modern, purpose-built facilities which enable us to offer our students a stimulating variety of experiences and activities, both in and out of the classroom. As a small school with a calm working atmosphere and plenty of space we are also one of the High Peak's best kept secrets - come and see!

Debbie McGloin
Headteacher



Our School

New Mills School serves a defined local community within the High Peak and draws students from its designated feeder primaries in New Mills, Hague Bar, Thornsett, Furness Vale, Newtown and Hayfield. A growing number of students each year also opt to join us from surrounding areas such as Marple, Disley, Mellor, Whaley Bridge, Buxworth and Chinley, drawn to our small size.

The heart of the school building, a solid stone quadrangle enclosing an impressive dome which houses the library, dates back to 1912 whilst the rest of the school is modern and purpose built, much of it within the last ten years.

The school is an 11-18 mixed community comprehensive; the Sixth Form enjoys its own facilities in the middle of the site. Class sizes are kept deliberately small – typically around 28 students in KS3, often much smaller in KS4. As a small school we enjoy a calm and purposeful working environment.

Many of our parents have taken part in the Ofsted Parent View Survey. Parent View gives parents the chance to tell Ofsted what they think about their child's school. Below are some of the results of the survey.

95% of parents strongly agreed and 5% agreed with the statement '**would you recommend this school to another parent**'. 63% strongly agreed and 33% agreed with the statement '**my child is happy at school**'. 65% strongly agreed and 33% agreed with the statement '**my child feels safe at school**'. 66% strongly agreed and 29% agreed with the statement '**my child is well looked after at the school**'.



Our Curriculum

At New Mills we offer a curriculum tailored to the needs of all our learners. Students are constantly challenged to improve and develop their knowledge and skills in a supportive, caring environment. Success is celebrated within and beyond the curriculum so students develop confidence and a sense of achievement.

We aim to equip all our students with the essential knowledge, attitudes and skills for life and for work in an ever changing 21st century environment.

The curriculum is designed to provide both breadth and balance in a relevant and flexible way enabling everyone to become a successful, independent learner irrespective of ability or individual needs.

Our students study the National Curriculum in years 7, 8 and 9. Students then choose from a wide range of option courses to study in years 10 and 11. We have combined the traditional features of an established, high-achieving school with a responsibility to respond to the needs of a rapidly changing society.

Our curriculum at KS4 offers the range of courses to meet the needs of all our learners. For example, the English Baccalaureate is available to all students at GCSE but it is not compulsory. We also have a purpose-built 'Construction Centre' which enables students to learn basic skills in the 'trowel trades' – bricklaying, plastering, dry-stone walling, etc.

Learning is what the school is fundamentally all about and we know it works best with a strong and supportive relationship with our parents and our community.

“The range of subjects taught offers breadth and balance.”
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Passion for Learning

The value of high quality teaching and learning is recognised by all at New Mills.

We are committed to changing lives through education and so teaching and learning is at the heart of everything we do. We continually look at ways in which we can motivate, inspire, challenge and support our students.

Our enthusiastic and dedicated teaching team, create a passion for learning by making lessons fun and challenging. We believe you get the best out of children through praise, encouragement and reward.

The individuality of students is recognised and celebrated. A personalised approach to learning is used to ensure students are fully engaged, inspired and independent in the learning process.

Activities are differentiated to accommodate individualised needs; independent learning is encouraged throughout the curriculum and students take responsibility for many aspects of their work.

Written and verbal feedback is consistently provided to direct student learning. Strengths are highlighted and 'next steps' are clearly explained to help students improve.

Students are expected to act upon the feedback and therefore make progress.



Assessments and Progress

Our job is to ensure all students achieve their potential. We set aspirational targets which are based on the best progress in schools nationally.

They are regularly reviewed and provide a baseline against which progress can be measured.

Parents will be given assessment data every term relating to their son/daughter every term during the academic year for KS3 and every half term for KS4 and KS5.

All students will receive a full written report from all their subject teachers once a year.

In our parent view survey, 51% of parents strongly agreed and 40% agreed with the statement; “I receive valuable information from the school about my child’s progress.”





Extra Curricular

Stretching students' capabilities and interests beyond the classroom is an important element to life at New Mills. The wide range of activities, events and trips plays a key role in the development of students as well as being great fun too!

All students have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities and clubs at lunchtime and after school.

Sport, Music and Drama provide students with the opportunity to express themselves, learn new skills and enjoy a real sense of achievement. House Sport Competitions bring out the best in our students whether competing for their House Team or enthusiastically supporting their friends.

We organise many trips ranging from day trips to art galleries or museums in London, to overseas visits, often taking advantage of our involvement in Comenius Projects to benefit from links with schools throughout Europe.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is a fantastic opportunity to take part in independent learning that will raise self-esteem by developing responsibility, cooperation and communication skills.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme is popular at New Mills even if our regular trips to Kinder Scout are often wet and muddy!





“Students have great pride in their environment; evident in the absence of litter and the beautiful gardens maintained by students.”
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Sport

Sport and Physical Education are key features of every student's experience of school life. The role of sport in developing every student's self-respect, confidence and physical ability is enormously important to us.

Two hours PE a week allows students to experience a wide range of sports including both traditional team sports such as football, rugby and cricket for boys and netball, dance and rounders for girls alongside gymnastic and athletic activities. Our qualified and dedicated staff have the skills to develop and fulfil every student's sporting potential.

Leadership is an important feature of our sport provision and students are encouraged as coaches and umpires to take an active role in their own and others' development.

We encourage all students to experience a variety of sporting extracurricular provision. Our school teams regularly compete in local, county and regional competitions with some notable success at all levels including national competitions.





Most Able

We believe that all students should be inspired to achieve their best and the school is committed to helping all students achieve their full potential. We also recognise that we have more than our fair share of truly outstanding and gifted students.

We set challenging academic targets for our more able students making both staff and students aware of the standards they should achieve on their way to attaining the top examination grades and ensure that students are constantly stretched.

The curriculum supports the more able students with demanding courses such as Triple Science, the ability to study two foreign languages to age 16 and setting where appropriate.

Each year we run a programme of 'Gifted and Talented' extra-curricular activities, often in conjunction with our primary and Peak 11 colleagues. Peak 11 schools also co-operate to disseminate research and teaching approaches for the more able.

Within our own school we are also committed to the national universities' "widening participation" agenda (encouraging students whose families have no experience of degree level education). We have enabled our students to access summer school programmes at Cambridge and Nottingham via the Sutton Trust and through bi-lateral co-operation between New Mills and Sheffield and Manchester universities.

We work hard to enable all students to access study opportunities at universities as they arise, for example taking students to conferences at Oxford and Cambridge, and Year 10 & 11 Salters' Chemistry Camp.

"The most able students make good progress."
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The Sixth Form

Situated at the centre of the school lies our successful Sixth Form block. Those progressing onto Advanced level study enjoy the benefits of Sixth Form facilities such as the Sixth Form IT suite, the Sixth Form Coffee Bar and the Sixth Form Study Room.

A dedicated Sixth Form tutor is on hand to provide careers education advice and to help prepare you for the next steps beyond schooling. That tutor is also responsible for writing references for you for either Higher Education or for the world of work or apprenticeships. At New Mills we pride ourselves on the close and supportive relationship that exists between tutors and their tutees

External speakers are also invited to school to provide impartial careers information, advice and guidance as well as to assist in compiling personal statements or CVs.

Our extra-curricular offering also aims to promote and enhance leadership skills as well as promoting involvement in the local community.

Our aim at New Mills Sixth Form is to provide the support and guidance so that students are as well-prepared as possible to fulfill their dreams and ambitions.

Our class sizes average 7-8 students and our 99% A' Level pass rate includes an impressive 54.5% achieving grades A*-B. This confirms the success of the Sixth Form as a supportive and successful environment for students who develop and thrive both academically and socially.

“Behaviour around the school is orderly and calm. Students socialise well and sixth formers speak of enjoying opportunities to mentor the younger students.”

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Developing the Whole Child

Taking Part

We run a 'School Council' and, unique at the moment in Derbyshire, a highly active Young Chamber where students can meet and put into action projects they devise – providing the Young Chamber gives its approval! In so doing, students develop their enterprise skills of team work, initiative, risk-taking and problem-solving. The Young Chamber is actively supported by local businesses and governors.

Keeping Safe

We believe it is the fundamental right of all students to feel safe and secure in their school. We are one of the few secondary schools in the area to participate actively in Derbyshire's ABC scheme (Anti-Bullying Commitment), building on the good work begun in our primary schools. A team of 'Peer Mentors' (trained students from the Sixth Form) offer targeted support to younger students. A professional counsellor is in school every week and available to students.

Staying Healthy

The school canteen offers a balanced and nutritional diet to students and with the aid of our biometric cashless canteen system parents can, if they wish, monitor what their children consume on a daily/weekly basis. The biometric system also removes the need for students to carry money in school and with it, another potential source of bullying. All students engage in 2 hours per week of physical exercise and there is a rich programme of extra-curricular sporting activities on offer every week.

“Students are well-prepared and punctual to lessons. They are polite and co-operate well with each other and with adults.”

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Learning Support

Care and Support.

Your child's welfare and happiness is very important to us and Year 7 students are particularly well supported to ensure their smooth transition from primary school.

They are supported by highly skilled tutors, Pastoral Managers, Heads of House, coordinators and external specialists who work with the single aim of creating aspirational, happy, confident and well-rounded young people.

For those with learning difficulties, we have a highly qualified Special Educational Needs (SEN) team who ensure that every child is supported and encouraged to achieve their maximum potential.

Student Development Centre

As well as running a team of teaching assistants who offer in-class support to specific students with SEN statements and whole classes in general, we have also developed a strong on-site Student Development Centre.

The SDC offers very precise support to a range of students who may spend short periods of time having their skills and confidence boosted by the one to one attention offered within the Centre. The SDC is fully equipped with multi-media computers, a restful working environment and a 'chill-out' room for those moments when perhaps it all gets a bit too much!



Transition

Our Transition Programme sees a variety of joint events throughout the year with the Y6 and Y5 students in our primary feeders. These are designed partly to develop their awareness of the secondary school experience but mainly to stimulate their learning and have fun in so doing. Students in Y6, however, will have a series of planned events to familiarise them with us and our Assistant Head Teacher will tour all schools with students expressing an interest in joining us to speak to them and their teachers. At the end of that tour we use the information gathered to put together blended and balanced Y7 teaching groups, based on working relationships, abilities (academic, sporting, musical, social), gender and wider interests.

When we have published our intended groups, we then listen to parental concerns and adjust our groupings where possible.

A review of all Y7 groups takes place at the October break and further adjustments may then also take place. Our ultimate intention is to ensure that all students joining the school, wherever possible, are happy and secure in their teaching groups by October of their first term with us.

“Students are confident that teachers will support them in their relationships with each other. One Year 7 student said, ‘My form tutor will do anything for me’.”
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