

# Prospectus for Entry September 2024



## Mary Webb School & Science College

Bogey Lane  
Pontesbury  
Shrewsbury  
Shropshire  
SY5 0TG

Tel: 01743 792100  
Fax: 01743 792110

Email: [admin@marywebbschool.com](mailto:admin@marywebbschool.com)

Website: [www.marywebbschool.com](http://www.marywebbschool.com)

Headteacher: Mr P J Lowe-Werrell

Chair of Governors: Mr R Douglas



Mary Webb School &  
Science College



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# Working Together to Ensure Success for All

The values we share support our ethos of working together to ensure success for all, and guide us in our decision making. These values are:

**We are supportive** – we value achievement in all its forms and encourage all members of our school community to develop their independence and resilience

**We are respectful** – we show kindness, fairness and empathy to all

**We are honest** – we trust all who are part of our school community and expect everyone to conduct themselves responsibly and with integrity.

*“Pupils feel safe and happy in this inclusive and supportive school. Staff care for pupils’ well-being. Pupils want to work in this calm and purposeful environment.”*

**Ofsted, 2023**

At Mary Webb School & Science College, we are focused on **opening the minds** and **widening the horizons** of all those who are part of our school community.

In order to achieve this, our vision is to:

Inspire and encourage all members of our school community to have high expectations and achieve personal goals.

Provide care, guidance and support which enables all members of our school community to have their individual needs and aspirations met.

Provide an inclusive, innovative and creative curriculum which prepares members of our school community for active participation in a diverse and complex world.

Maintain a culture which values and nurtures individual character and worth in our school community underpinned by mutual respect, personal responsibility and honesty.

Create varied opportunities to develop communication skills and learning in contexts that are challenging, relevant, enjoyable and exciting; supported by an active STEAM agenda.

*“Expectations for behaviour are high. Pupils know right from wrong. Pupils know, understand and follow clear rules.”*

**Ofsted, 2023**



# Headteacher's Welcome

Mary Webb School and Science College is situated in a particularly beautiful location in the village of Pontesbury, just a few miles south of Shrewsbury. The site, surrounded by hills and woodland, provides an ideal setting for a school that aims to provide an educational experience firmly rooted in a rural context. We seek to open minds and widen horizons by ensuring that all our students are prepared for the challenges of life in the twenty-first century.

As a relatively small community secondary school of over 700 students, staff and governors, we feel that the school has a number of distinctive features that makes it a little bit special. We aim to provide an environment in which each and every student can develop and flourish, and where the pursuit of excellence, in terms of personal development and academic achievement, is the aspiration of all.

Care and safeguarding for students, as individuals, is at the centre of all we do. As a relatively small school we are able to ensure that we know every student. Through the welfare system, built around the form tutor and house system, we aim to provide the support and guidance necessary to ensure a happy and successful school life for all our students. Where required, we work closely with a range of agencies to support students and families.

The curriculum at Key Stage 4 is based around a core GCSE offer. We believe that this provides students with robust qualifications that support transition to post-16 education, training and employment. GCSE examination results at Mary Webb School and Science College are above the national average across the curriculum.

English is at the centre of our rich curriculum, with student's expected to read in depth in all subjects. Curriculum innovation in science, mathematics and technology provides the students with exciting, challenging, creative and relevant opportunities. This is further supported by strong curriculum provision in humanities, languages, creative and performance subjects, including physical education. The school's wide and increasing range of enrichment activities e.g. clubs, sports teams, creative arts opportunities, trips and visits, is something we are very proud of.

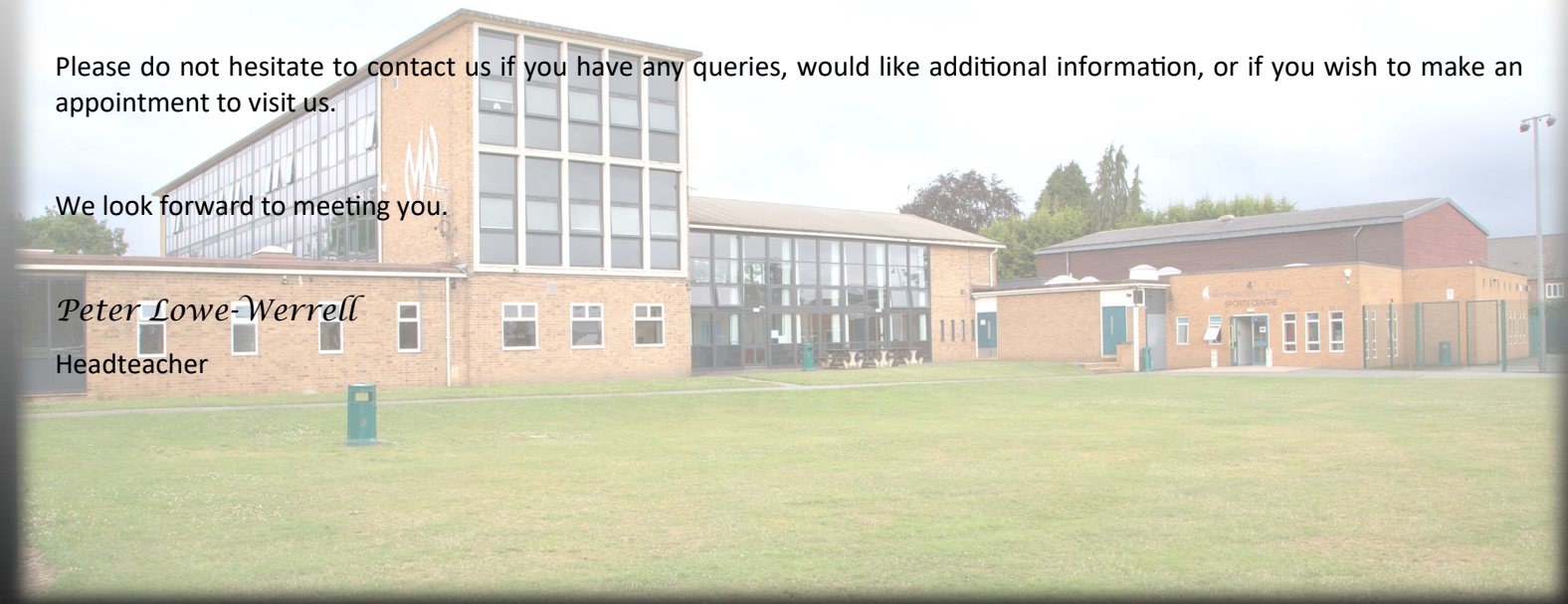
Students achieve their best when school and home work together. We are working with families to develop this partnership and have introduced a range of workshops to support parents in working with their children at home. Throughout the year we maintain regular contact through consultation evenings, the annual student report and progress reviews.

We recognise that no brochure can provide a complete picture of the opportunities and complexities of a modern secondary school and so we would encourage students and families, thinking of joining us, to come and visit. Our students love the chance to show visitors their school. Our website, [www.marywebbschool.com](http://www.marywebbschool.com) will provide you with further information.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries, would like additional information, or if you wish to make an appointment to visit us.

We look forward to meeting you.

*Peter Lowe-Werrell*  
Headteacher



# Stepping Up: Your Transition Journey

Transition at any part of a student's education is very important, whether moving up to secondary school from primary school, changing schools, entering a new Key Stage or moving on to post-16 education or training. Working together to ensure success for all relies on good communication from the start. We look forward to working with you and your child on their journey through Mary Webb School and Science College.

We pride ourselves on our well-established transition programme that makes this journey as smooth as possible. We recognise that your child will experience a range of emotions: excitement and happiness will hopefully be top of the list, but they may also feel overwhelmed, anxious and nervous. Experience tells us that students settle into Mary Webb School and Science College quickly and they benefit from the outstanding care, guidance and support given to them by our Assistant Headteachers, Heads of House and our experienced team of Form Tutors.


We recognise that transition can be especially challenging for students with Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities (SEND) and therefore, we offer a bespoke support package to ensure a successful start. This includes attendance at Annual Reviews in Year 6, additional SEND transition days, engagement in our Stepping Up Support Programme and additional school visits to reduce anxiety.

We believe that the most successful transitions happen when the child is at the centre of all communications and planning. We work closely with our families, young people and their previous school to gather a detailed picture of each child before they start with us.

The transition journey will start with an invitation to visit our Open Evening or one of our Open Morning events. This will allow you to experience the school in action and get a feel for life at Mary Webb School.

We look forward to welcoming you on your journey.

## The road to a successful transition...



***“Pupils are keen to learn because their teachers get to know their needs. Pupils want to succeed.” Ofsted, 2023***

# Learning: Within the Classroom

*“Leaders have created an innovative curriculum. They want pupils to be ready for the jobs of tomorrow and inspired to think ‘great things’ about their futures.”*

**Ofsted, 2023**

Standards and main school performance measures at the end of Key Stage 4 have consistently been above the national average for the past five years and are again this year. This includes the proportion of students gaining five or more GCSE passes including English and Mathematics. We really believe that every child matters; all students have individual targets to aspire to and we are proud of all students who go on to realise their potential. Every student leaves Mary Webb School and Science College with GCSE passes which support and enable their chosen post-16 progression choice.

High quality teaching and learning lies at the heart of what we are striving to achieve. As a teaching staff we aim to provide stimulating, active lessons where students are engaged and making good and often outstanding progress. Effective assessment drives teaching and learning. Knowing our students, and providing them with opportunities to demonstrate their abilities, enables staff to monitor progress and identify the next steps in their learning.

Lessons are designed to meet the needs of all students, including those with SEND, and our most able. We know that all students are on a personal journey and so it is very important that achievement at all levels is celebrated. Our team of dedicated teaching assistants, led by the school’s SENCo, work to ensure that our students with SEND receive support and make good progress.

As staff, we have a commitment to promoting challenge for all students including the most able and as such we work under the National Association for Able Children in Education (NACE) framework. Activities provide challenge that moves learning forward. Learning is supported so that students feel safe to take risks and ask questions. Homework is used to extend and enrich learning. Progress is monitored and shared with the students and their parents/carers.

As a staff we invest time in keeping ourselves up to date with the current best practice in teaching and learning. This includes regularly seeking feedback from students as part of an ongoing review process. We know what outstanding teaching and learning looks like and so do our students. Students enjoy lessons and achieve well.

*“Leaders have clear ambition for pupils with SEND to access the same curriculum as their peers. They have clearly identified these pupils’ needs.*

*This enables teachers to shape tasks so that the vast majority of pupils with SEND thrive.”*

**Ofsted , 2023**



# Our Curriculum: Key Stage 3



*“Leaders place English at the centre of this rich curriculum. They expect pupils to read in depth in every subject.”*

**Ofsted, 2023**

The school curriculum is designed to ensure that all students:

- ◆ Have access to the same broad range of challenging and motivating learning experiences
- ◆ Enjoy learning and come to see education as a life-long process
- ◆ Acquire the skills, knowledge and experiences which will enable them to develop a greater understanding of themselves and the society in which they live.

Over the recent years, the curriculum has evolved to ensure all students are provided with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need in order to meet the demands of the new 9-1 GCSEs. Individual subject content ensures challenge and support are focused on individual needs.

## **Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9)**

Throughout Key Stage 3, all students follow the same broad and balanced curriculum, in which all areas of the National Curriculum are covered. On entering the school, students are carefully placed into mixed ability tutor groups to ensure that each group is balanced. In Year 7 most subjects are taught in mixed ability groups, with setting gradually introduced in some subject areas.

The subjects followed at Key Stage 3 are:

**Art & Design**

**Computing**

**Design Technology**

**Drama**

**English**

**French**

**Geography**

**History**

**Maths**

**Music**

**Physical Education**

**PSHCE**

**Religious Education**

**Science**

**Spanish**

*“Pupils are keen to learn because their teachers get to know their needs. They give pupils challenging work, which encourages them to think hard and remember important knowledge. “*

**Ofsted, 2023**



# Our Curriculum: Key Stage 4

*“Leaders have created an innovative curriculum. They want pupils to be ready for the jobs of tomorrow and inspired to think ‘great things’ about their futures.”*

Ofsted, 2023

## Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

At Key Stage 4, our curriculum is designed to provide students with a number of pathways, leading them towards a wide range of post-16 education and training opportunities. Assisted by a programme of guidance in Year 9, students have a degree of choice in the courses they can study during Key Stage 4. This enables students to personalise elements of their own curriculum. All students are guided through this process to ensure that they follow a broad and balanced range of subjects, leaving doors open for their future. Mary Webb School is committed to giving every student the best possible start in life. As part of a whole school commitment to raising aspirations and supporting all students to make positive career choices and transitions, Mary Webb School and Science College has a high-quality programme of careers events and activities.

Students get the chance to take part in a wide range of careers and enterprise activities during their school journey, including a range of PSHE activities, visits to the world skills and apprenticeship shows, use of the interactive Xello programme, attendance at our school careers fair, 1 to 1 careers guidance, visits to universities, and much more.

*“Leaders have crafted a high-quality careers programme. This helps pupils to reflect on their talents and future interests. They are prepared well for their next steps.”*

Ofsted, 2023

All students follow courses in:

- ◆ English Language & Literature
- ◆ Mathematics
- ◆ Science
- ◆ PSHE - Personal, social, health and citizenship education
- ◆ Physical Education
- ◆ Religious Education

In addition to our core offer, students can select four further subjects to study at GCSE level or equivalent.

These are currently chosen from the following list of subjects:

|                     |                              |                     |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Art                 | Food Preparation & Nutrition | Religious Education |
| Computer Science    | French                       | Spanish             |
| Construction        | Geography                    | Sports Studies      |
| Dance               | Health & Social Care         | Statistics          |
| Design & Technology | History                      | Triple Science      |
| Drama               | Music                        |                     |

Some additional GCSE courses are available to students by attending classes after school.

These currently include:

**Astronomy**



# Supporting Our Students

***“Teachers’ delivery of the wider personal development curriculum enriches pupils’ well-being.”***

**Ofsted, 2023**

Ensuring that students feel safe and valued is the first, and most important step in securing success for all our students. As a relatively small school, we pride ourselves on knowing each and every student as an individual.

At the heart of the care, guidance and support is the form tutor. The form tutor will usually be the first point of contact for students and parents. It is the form tutor who, through their knowledge of individual students, will be able to guide and support students in both pastoral and academic matters. They will also be the member of staff best placed to liaise with other staff and to follow up any general queries you might have. In addition to tutors we have Heads of House. These members of staff are also available to support our students in their academic and pastoral journey.

Form tutors work as Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) and Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) teams with an Assistant Headteacher co-ordinating their work. The Assistant Headteacher has the oversight of the students in their Key Stage and play a crucial role in monitoring the progress and development of students. The Assistant Headteachers are always available to discuss any matter that is causing you or your child concern.

***“Some pupils work as volunteers. Others train as mental health ambassadors and help younger pupils. These experiences have a positive impact on others’ welfare and these pupils’ self-esteem.”***

**Ofsted, 2023**





# Learning: Beyond the Classroom

We offer an extensive Enrichment and Engagement programme at Mary Webb School and Science College. The key aim is to offer all students a broad variety of activities and clubs that they can access during lunchtime and after school. Whether they are sporty, musical, artistic, dramatic or would like further subject support, this programme will provide students with the opportunity to learn and develop new skills, discover new interests or unlock hidden talents in an inclusive, fun and relaxed learning environment.

The Enrichment and Engagement programme is shaped by the voices of our students. We are always open to new and different suggestions and we encourage and welcome any students to come forward and share their ideas. We are working to build links with our local community and we are pleased to welcome organisations which deliver activities that enhance the offer to our students.

We have been a Duke of Edinburgh licensed provider since 2019, with over 60 students from Year 9 and Year 10 participating each year in this rewarding and challenging award scheme.

We actively participate in regional and national events including the CREST Awards, the National Science and Engineering Fair and National Science and Engineering Week.

Our sports teams regularly compete against local schools and enter County, Regional and National competitions in a variety of sports. Recent successes include our U13 Boys Football Team who are current runners up of the English Small Schools Cup, with our U13 and U14 Girls teams being semi-finalists in the County Cup.

***“Pupils enjoy extra-curricular activities. These include gardening and archery. Recently, Year 8 pupils reached the national finals of the English Schools’ Football Association small schools’ trophy competition.”***

**Ofsted, 2023**



# Enrichment and Engagement



We have an active “Student Voice” where students are given the opportunity to participate in whole school matters. This ranges from participating on interview panels during staff appointments to participating in policy-making.

Our Curriculum Days provide the opportunity to focus in depth on various cross-curricular themes. Activities include a Business Enterprise Day where Year 10 students develop an insight into the mechanics of what makes a successful business. Visits to places such as the National Arboretum, Cambridge University and Warner Brothers Studios take place throughout the year, broadening and enhancing students’ experiences.

Residential opportunities include Arthog and the ski trip. Within specific subject areas, our historians visit the First World War Trenches, a Modern Foreign Language trip visits Europe and there is an annual specialist college trip, which in recent years has taken in the science and mathematics of London.

Through the arts subjects, we offer students the opportunity to participate in staging school productions and also our highly successful drama and music “Showcase” events. Students also benefit from watching productions by professional theatre groups.



# Mary Webb School Community

As a school we understand the importance of establishing effective partnerships with students and their families. We know that by working together we will ensure success for the young people who attend the school.

## Working with Students

We work hard to ensure that students are involved in their own school and are given the opportunity to contribute to developments and changes within the school. Student Voice is a very important aspect of this collaborative work. We provide opportunities for students to discuss issues about school that are important to them. These meetings are led by students and the results fed back to staff. Providing opportunities for leadership is central to the school's work with students. A few examples are given below:

- ◆ Students from all year groups were involved, along with staff, governors and families, in developing and reaffirming the school's vision and establishing the values which underpin our ethos.
- ◆ Senior students regularly attend governing body meetings.
- ◆ Students from all year groups are busy co-ordinating and organising fundraising for a number of charities.
- ◆ Sports captains help the PE department organise and run sports teams and extra-curricular activities. Many of our Year 10 and 11 students are involved in sports leadership.
- ◆ The Science department develops leadership skills for students through the Science Leader programme. Science Leaders work closely with students from our local primary schools.

***“Pupils are respectful to each other and to staff.”***

***Ofsted, 2023***



## Working with families

We believe that a positive partnership between school and home is essential in ensuring success for all.

- ◆ Come and visit us. We welcome you visiting the school and talking to us about how we can best support your child in school.
- ◆ Telephone and speak to us directly. If staff are not immediately available, they will get back to you at a mutually convenient time.
- ◆ Look at our weekly newsletter published on our website.
- ◆ Look at the calendar and latest events information on the website, including recent letters.
- ◆ Read our termly magazine, written by students, that contains a wealth of information about what students are doing in school.
- ◆ We use ParentMail texting and e-mail service to send key information directly to parents/carers.

## Keeping you Informed about progress


In order to keep you up to date about your child's progress in school, we provide a point of contact each term. Across a year, you will receive:

- ◆ An annual report on progress.
- ◆ A progress review, providing a snapshot of progress against targets.
- ◆ A consultation meeting with subject staff - this is an exceptionally important evening to support the partnership between student, school and home. Year 11 students have an additional parents consultation evening.
- ◆ For parents of students in Year 7, we also hold a 'Meet the Tutor' evening in the Autumn Term. This meeting with your child's tutor is an opportunity to review transition from primary school and ensure that they have settled into Mary Webb School and Science College.

## Supporting your child in school

As a school we know how important it is to keep parents and carers informed about what students are doing in school; not just about what students are learning, but also the way in which they are learning.

- ◆ We publish a curriculum guide for each year group. This provides personalised information about timetable as well as details about the courses being studied and the ways in which work is assessed in different curriculum areas.
- ◆ Our Parent Information Evenings provide an opportunity for you to see at first-hand what and how students study.



***“Pupils who struggle to read receive well-targeted support. They read a diverse range of books in lessons and tutor time each day This varied range of reading activities has improved these pupils fluency in reading.” Ofsted, 2023***

# Admissions

## Year 7 Admissions

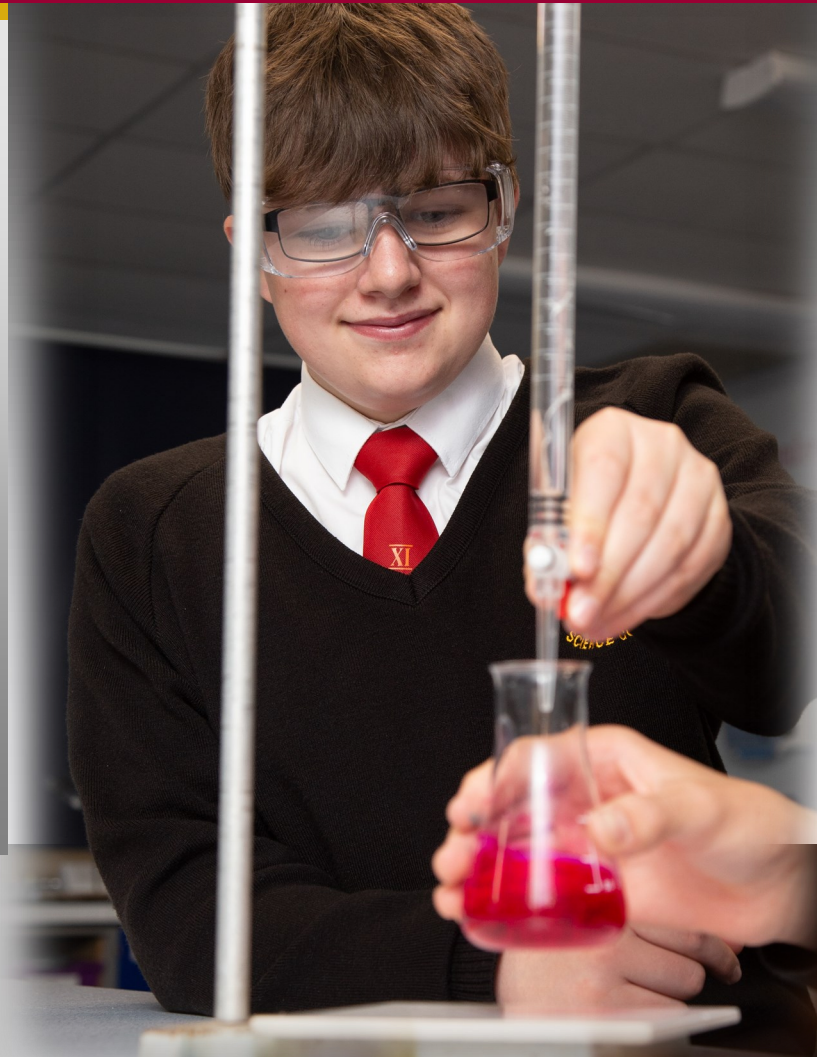
Admissions to Mary Webb School and Science College are managed by Shropshire County Council. Information on this process is available by telephone on 0345 678 9008, e-mail [school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:school-admissions@shropshire.gov.uk) or on the web at [www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/schooladmissions).

Catchment areas can be viewed on LocalView which is on the above website address.

## Mid-Term or In-Year Admissions

Where families move house at other times of the year after the start of Year 7, please contact, Mrs N Murray, Headteacher's PA in the first instance in order to make an appointment to visit the school. If you wish to apply for a school place, you will need to complete a mid-term transfer application form and your application will be considered by the school.

**We look forward to welcoming you to Mary Webb School and Science College.**





**CONTACT US**



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Science College



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