



Open Evening gives prospective parents an opportunity to ask questions that may not be covered on the School website or by the School Prospectus. We have tried to cover the most frequently asked questions below:

1. *What makes Shipston High School special?*

- Our student centred caring ethos with strong sense of community life
- Excellent examination results
- High expectations of our students
- Celebration of student achievement and success
- Positive staff and student relations

2. *How well do your students do in their GCSE examinations and how do your results compare to other schools?*

- Our students consistently achieve excellent results in their GCSEs and other examinations.
- Our Progress 8 figures show achievement well above local and national averages and students of all abilities do exceptionally well
- Performance measures show that Shipston students make excellent progress across all subjects. Particularly pleasing is the number of students who achieve success at the highest grades.
- We are a fully inclusive school, serving the needs of all the children in its community. Making comparisons between schools can be misleading as any two schools are not the same

3. *Does the school teach a wide range of subjects and are they taught by specialist teachers?*

- The academic curriculum is well planned and sequenced across a variety of subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Modern Foreign Languages, History, Geography, Computing and a range of Technology and Creative Arts subjects.
- During Year 9 students select their options for GCSE study.
- Students study in small classes with specialist staff.
- Ofsted observed that 'teachers strong subject knowledge encourages pupils'.

4. *How well do you provide for students who are the most able?*

- We encourage the highest aspirations in all our students
- Targeted learning enables students to fulfil their potential, with all departments developing clear teaching strategies for the most able students.
- Careful monitoring and tracking of every student's progress
- Additional enrichment opportunities within and outside the curriculum

- Ofsted observed 'questioning is rigorous, requiring pupils to solve problems and apply their knowledge'.

5. *How will you make sure my child has a successful start at your school?*

- A Senior member of staff oversees a smooth transition.
- Where possible a visit to the child's primary school from a member of staff is arranged.
- An Induction day with us in the Summer term takes place prior to the September start.
- Each new Year 7 student is given support by their Form Tutor and Head of House
- Invitation issued for parents to meet with tutors during the first term

6. *What rewards systems do you have to make sure my child is motivated and wants to achieve his or her best?*

- Students are awarded "merit points" for good work and effort in lessons and around school as well as a wide range of other activities.
- Letters and postcards are sent home to parents to share successes.
- Celebration assemblies take place every term.
- A formal annual Awards Evening is held in the Autumn Term.
- "The Shipston Values Award" is offered for Years 7, 8 and 9

7. *Is there much to do outside of lessons?*

- After school activities include Sport, Music, Creative Arts, Science, Technology and Public Speaking
- Inter House competitions
- Participation in County and National competitions
- Homework clubs for most subjects
- Ofsted 'There are many opportunities for pupils to develop leadership skills'.

8. *How will I find out about my child's progress in school?*

- All parents will have the opportunity to attend a Parents' Evening for their child to discuss their child's progress
- Regular progress reports are sent home
- Parents are invited to contact the school if they have any concerns.
- Parents are contacted if there are any serious concerns about a child.

9. *What sort of support does the school provide for children with special educational needs?*

- Excellent Learning Support department run by an experienced and well-qualified Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator
- Dedicated team of Learning Support Assistants.
- The Learning Support Department works closely with other areas of the school and with relevant support agencies to ensure all students can achieve.

10. *What is the behaviour like in the school and do you have any bullying?*

- High standards of behaviour are continually reinforced through a clear behaviour policy
- Incidents of bullying are rare and addressed with quick and decisive action
- Ofsted described the conduct of our students as 'excellent' and 'a credit'.

11. *Where do your students go after the age of 16?*

- Students mainly progress to local sixth form providers and colleges for A level and post 16 courses and then on to higher education and university

- Apprenticeships are now proving very popular
- The school consistently sees every leaver securing a place in education, employment or training, well ahead of national averages

12. *Does the school have any plans to increase in size and are there plans for a Sixth Form?*

- Shipston High School is regularly oversubscribed. Whilst we have increased the intake for Year 7, we frequently have a waiting list for places.
- Any increase in size of the school will be done sensitively and gradually to protect the community feel that currently makes the school so special.
- There are no immediate plans for a Sixth form. South Warwickshire is well served by existing Sixth forms, allowing Shipston High School to focus on our 11-16 curriculum. Year 11 students take on senior student leadership roles, advancing their personal development.

13. *Who administers the whole Admissions process?*

- Admissions are handled by the Warwickshire local authority.
- Visit our website for details of the process as well as the Admissions criteria used to prioritise places.

14. *I live outside the school's priority catchment area so what are my child's chances of getting a place?*

- The school is regularly oversubscribed across all year groups however in previous years we have accepted students from many primary schools in Warwickshire as well as in Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire.
- Our best advice to parents who wish to choose Shipston High School is to put the school as first-choice. Although this will not guarantee your child a place it may help to move his or her name up the admissions list. Please understand that we are unable to guarantee any child a place at the school for September 2021.

15. *I have already decided that Shipston High School is the right school for my child. If I just put Shipston High School down in my choice of schools am I guaranteed a place?*

- No, you should always select several alternative options should a place at Shipston not be available.
- Failure to do this could result in your child being offered a place outside of your preference area but which is the nearest school with spare places.

16. *My child has taken the 11+ examination. If my child doesn't get a place at Grammar School will they automatically be offered a place at Shipston?*

- The first named school after your Grammar school choices will become your "new" first choice and treated accordingly.

17. *If my child passes the 11+ examination but we decide we want them to come to your school instead, can they just transfer over?*

- No, as all school places are allocated at the same time it is likely that there will be no spare places on offer day. Your child will therefore be placed on a waiting list.

18. *How do I arrange transport for my child to get to school?*

- Simply contact Warwickshire County Transport Operations on 01926 412929 or e-mail educationtransport@warwickshire.gov.uk