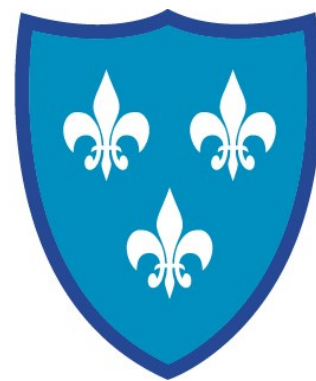


Soham Village College

Achieving Excellence with Care



Prospectus 2023 - 2024

Message from the Executive Headteacher of Staploe Education Trust



Staploe Education Trust is a multi-academy trust serving part of East Cambridgeshire. We are a strong, local partnership looking after the learning and wider interests of young people in our community from age 2 to 16.

All of our schools share a commitment to provide outstanding learning, opportunity and care for the communities they serve. Our family of schools work together sharing ideas and expertise to ensure that each and every young person receives an outstanding education and is helped to become an effective and successful member of society.

Our schools are very different, but each of them make a positive and distinct contribution to the strength of our Trust.

In our schools you will find staff and young people with high expectations for behaviour and achievement. You will find a culture of collaboration and respect where relationships are very good and create an environment in which young people and our colleagues flourish.

Do come and visit: we very much look forward to welcoming you.

Dr Carin Taylor
Executive Headteacher
Staploe Education Trust

Staploe Education Trust
Excellence through partnership



Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to Soham Village College.

This school is a delightful place to learn and to work. We have skilled, committed teams of teachers and associate staff who help create a supportive working atmosphere. Relationships between staff and students are a strength of the school and students have highly positive attitudes to learning. Students clearly enjoy their learning and good teaching motivates students well.



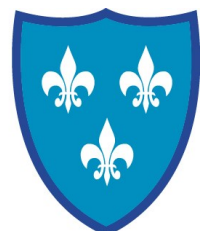
We pride ourselves on the wide range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities which we offer to our students. We strive for excellence in and out of the classroom and we have been delighted by the successes of our students of all abilities and interests.

In their inspection, earlier this year, Ofsted noted about our students that 'in addition to learning the curriculum and achieving highly in examinations, they become active, considerate, and resilient young people.'

We hope that you will want to be part of our school community and look forward to welcoming you in the near future.

Jon Hampson
Headteacher
Soham Village College

Soham Village College
Achieving Excellence with Care



Ofsted

Ofsted visited the school most recently in March 2023. The full report is available from the school website:

[Soham Village College - Ofsted Reports \(sohamvc.org\)](https://sohamvc.org)

'Pupils are very proud to attend this school. Pupils understand that teachers have high expectations of them and want them to be the best they can be. Pupils respond positively to this challenge and work very hard to succeed.'

Ofsted, March 2023



Members of the Senior Team and Mr Hampson celebrate the latest Ofsted report 2023



‘Departmental teams plan and work together to ensure that the curriculum is rigorous and is delivered as they intend. Teachers use consistent pedagogical approaches across the curriculum. For example, they build in structured activities that pupils use to go over previous learning and to make links to new topics. This helps pupils know more and remember more’

Ofsted , March 2023

Curriculum

We aim to provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which enables our students to develop the skills and understanding they need for further study and adult life.

Our teachers make learning a rewarding and enjoyable experience and aim to challenge and motivate all students so that they are able to achieve their full potential.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum builds on the foundations laid in primary school and goes on to develop these core subjects further as well as introducing new subjects taught by specialists to broaden students' experiences of learning.

Subjects taught in this key stage are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- French
- Geography
- History
- ICT
- Art, Design and Technology
- Citizenship
- Drama
- Food and Nutrition
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education

In addition, some students are given the opportunity to study Spanish or German.



At Key Stage 4, all students continue to study English, mathematics and science. In addition, they can choose four subjects from a large range of options. We encourage students to choose subjects in accordance with their individual talents and aspirations and which prepare them well for the future.

Subjects currently available include:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Computer Science
- French
- German
- Spanish
- Geography
- History
- Art, Craft and Design with Photography
- Art: Fine Art
- Art: Graphic Design
- Business Studies
- Dance
- Drama
- DT: Product Design
- Film Studies
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Health and Social Care
- ICT
- Media Studies
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Statistics
- Travel and Tourism
- Vocational Studies



Teaching and Learning

Teaching and Learning is at the heart of the school. High achievement for our students, whatever their ability and interests, is our goal. We have high expectations for our students and we believe there is no ceiling on what a student can achieve. All lessons are underpinned by our research-informed 'Soham Teaching and Learning Foundations'. These ensure teachers are planning for progress and excellence, and students are always working towards fulfilling their potential.

Assessment and Reporting

The school uses a secure reporting system that allows parents and students access to attendance and behaviour statistics which are updated daily. Subject-specific assessment information such as target grades and current academic performance are available and updated regularly. Further information is shared each term either by a report or during a consultation at Parents' Evenings. We have a very experienced team of staff who are able to provide additional guidance and support should any of our students experience difficulties in meeting their targets.

Home Learning

Our aim is high quality learning for all students. This is enhanced by home learning with the support of parents and carers. We want our students to develop the skills required for success in later life, such as how to work independently, organisation and an appreciation of the importance of deadlines. These skills take time to develop and we provide a structure that helps students to achieve this as they progress through school.

Outcomes for our Students

Our students consistently achieve excellent results with all measures well above national averages. In 2022, the progress added measure between Key Stages 2 and 4 placed the school comfortably in the top 15% of all schools in the country. The 2023 results showed further improvement with over a third of all GCSEs being awarded at the highest grades of 7-9 (equivalent to A*-A).



'The school's motto is 'excellence with care'. As such, leaders and staff are ambitious for all pupils to succeed, and all support them to do so.'

Ofsted, March 2023



Students receiving their GCSE results
on Results Day, August 2023

Buildings and Facilities

Soham Village College stands in beautiful and attractive grounds. A range of older and newer buildings are spread over the campus, reflecting its popularity and growth over the years.

The school is organised around faculties:

- Our science block is fully equipped and serviced by a well-stocked and well-staffed prep room.
- Our technology rooms include equipment for computer aided design, textiles, wood, metal, plastics and electronics.
- The Library is a light and airy space with books, magazines, newspapers and computer area. After school, the Library provides a calm and well-equipped area to work.
- Our Fitzwilliam Arts Lab houses a dark room for photography and a kiln for pottery and sculpture work.
- We have a Performing Arts Centre with a central theatre space and a mirrored dance studio with barre, along with several practice rooms.
- The Music Department has a range of instruments and offers individual instrument and singing lessons which are very popular.
- Our new Film and Media suite includes a green screen, computer suite and teaching space.
- As well as ample outdoor space the school has its own recently refurbished gyms and daily use of the Ross Peers Sports Centre which is situated on the school campus.
- There are 15 computer rooms at the school including a suite of Apple Macs for specialist work in our music department.



The purpose
built
Performing Arts
Centre (left)
and The
Fitzwilliam
ArtsLab (right)



The Film and Media Suite



Beechurst - housing the maths and English departments



Learning Support and Inclusion

Our ethos is to provide support for the full spectrum of individual needs within an inclusive environment. We aim to recognise diversity and to promote equality throughout the school. We work closely with colleagues from our partner schools and with parents and carers to ensure that students with additional needs are able to make a smooth transition both into the school in Year 7 and when they leave in Year 11.

The Hub is an area offering support and respite to all students, with specialist support for a wide variety of additional needs. The building is in the heart of the school, providing students access to a safe, calming and caring environment throughout the school day.

All students with an Educational, Health and Care Plan have a support provision which varies depending on their needs. We pride ourselves on the flexible programme of support on offer, which allows our students to access the mainstream curriculum. The students are regularly monitored and their progress is tracked to ensure that the most appropriate and beneficial help is offered.

Other provision includes Teaching Assistant support in our craft and games clubs, promoting social interaction in a safe and friendly environment. Help is also on hand with home learning during lunchtime to enable students to work in a quiet and supportive atmosphere. Support is also offered to students experiencing mental health difficulties via a dedicated Wellbeing Team, who work in collaboration with the Hub staff.

‘Leaders and teachers have high expectations of all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).’

‘Where needed, additional personalised support for learners with SEND is provided at ‘The Hub’ and through the ‘Foundation Learning Tier’. Consequently, these pupils make excellent progress.’

Ofsted, March 2023

Soham Village College is committed to making appropriate provision for students for whom English is an additional language. We identify and respond to individual student needs and celebrate the skills and variety these students bring to the school community. Where possible, students are also offered the opportunity to complete a GCSE in their own language. In addition to this, new and recently arrived students are offered social and practical support settling in to the school.

Most Able Students

We want to meet the individual needs of all our students, including those who are more able. Alongside the stretch and challenge in all lessons for more able students, there is a range of enrichment experiences on offer as curricular and extra-curricular activities.



‘Teachers know the needs of pupils well, and adapt the work set for them accordingly.’

‘Pupils benefit from many leadership opportunities’

Ofsted, March 2023

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We offer an exciting programme of extra-curricular activities at lunchtime and after school. There is a full list of clubs and activities offered on the school website. This includes sports clubs, hobby activities and academic interest groups. Students could train for the football team, learn to dance, join the chess club, pursue an interest in creative writing or take a statistics course. The table gives an idea of a typical programme of extra-curricular activities that the school runs.



‘Soham Village College offers a vast range of well-attended extra-curricular clubs.’

Ofsted, March 2023

CLUBS

AUTUMN

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before School 8.20–8.50am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brass Ensemble* PAC Auditorium • KS4 Choir P2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orchestra P2 • Y7 'The Future' Group L16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS3 Choir P2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guitar/Ukulele Group P2 • Strings Group P1 • School Food Champions* L14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls' Choir PAC Auditorium • Boys' Choir PAC Auditorium • Y7 Ukulele Group P2
Break	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7&8 Craft/Games/ Homework B14 • Y7&8 Maths Drop-In B21 (Wk A) • Online Games Library • Library Lego 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7&8 Craft/Games/ Homework B14 • Quiet Breaktime Library • Y9-11 Young Carers L6 (Wk B) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7&8 Craft/Games/ Homework B14 • Quiet Breaktime Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7&8 Craft/Games/ Homework B14 • Quiet Breaktime Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7&8 Craft/Games/ Homework B14 • Quiet Breaktime Library
Lunch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7&8 Craft/Games/ Homework B14 • Library Lego • Y9-11 Linguistics Olympiad M13 • Y9-11 Maths Drop-In B21 (Wk B) • Y7&8 Science Club S9 • Y9-11 Podcasting B17 • GCSE Art Club F2 • Y9-11 Debating B4 (Wk B) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7&8 Craft/Games/ Homework B14 • Library Lego • Y9-11 Podcasting B17 • Y7&8 Young Carers L6 (Wk A) • Creative Writing B16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7&8 Craft/Games/ Homework B14 • Library Lego • Y8 Drama Club P3 (Wk B) • Reading Group Library (Wk B) • Bingo! Library (Wk A) • Y7&8 Connect Group F1 • Y7&8 Music Technology Club P2 • Y9-11 Podcasting B17 • Colla Voce* PAC Auditorium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7&8 Craft/Games/ Homework B14 • Library Lego • Y7&8 Sign Language B14 (Wk B) • Y9-11 Podcasting B17 • The '9' Club* B8 (Wk A) • Y7&8 Scrabble B16 (Wk B) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y7&8 Craft/Games/ Homework B14 • Library Lego • Y7&8 Rubik's Cubing Library • Y9-11 Rubik's Cubing Library • Strings Quartet* P2 • Y7 Silly Drama! P3 (Wk A) • Y9-11 Podcasting B17 • Y9-11 Beatboxing P2
After School 3-4pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework Club Library 3-4pm • KS3 Rugby Field • KS3 Badminton Ross Peers • Hockey Lodeside gym • Y9 Duke of Edinburgh*~ • Samba Band P1 3.15-3.45pm • Keyboard Club P2 3.15-3.45pm • Trust Choir P2 3.45-4.15pm • Fitz Youth Collective* PAC 3.00pm-5.00pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework Club Library 3-4pm • Basketball ~ Ross Peers • CATS TBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework Club Library 3-4pm • Y9 Duke of Edinburgh*~ • Dance Club PAC Auditorium • Y7&8 Architecture L1 • Sports Fixtures* TBC • GCSE Statistics* B21 3:10-4:10pm • RC Club <i>EXTREME!</i> L1 • Drama Masterclass* P3 3.00pm-4.30pm (Monthly) • KS4 Natural History Illustration S9 • Gardening Club Garden near BM2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework Club Library 3-4pm • Y9 Duke of Edinburgh*~ • Y7-10 Design & Make! L1 • Y11 D&T NEA* L2 • 'The Future' Group L19 & L20 • RC Club <i>EXTREME!</i> L1 • School Musical Production* PAC 3.00pm-5.00pm • Y7-9 Creatopia Art Club F1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework Club Library 3-4pm • Warhammer L1 3-5pm • Dungeons & Dragons Soham Town Library 3.05-5.00pm • Advanced Badminton* Ross Peers

* SELECTED STUDENTS ONLY
~ PAID ACTIVITY

Please note that extra-curricular clubs are subject to change at very short notice, students should check with organisers beforehand if they are unsure if a club is running. Thank you.



Personal Development

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

Our PSHE programme gives students the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active, responsible citizens developing good relations and respecting the differences between people.



‘Pupils encounter a wide range of visitors, especially as part of the personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum.’

- Ofsted, March 2023

The House System

All staff and students at Soham Village College are members of one of our five houses – Skylark, Osprey, Harrier, Avocet, and Merlin.



House spirit is thriving. House points are awarded for all sorts of positive actions, including exceptional work and community involvement. All of the houses choose charities, which they raise awareness and money for throughout the year. There are a number of sporting and non-sporting house activities for students to compete in, culminating in Sports Day towards the end of the summer term.

Educational Visits and Other Opportunities Beyond the Classroom

One of the school's special features is a wide and lively range of educational visits and events. Students of all ages are encouraged to participate in as many opportunities as possible. These activities 'beyond the classroom' bring a different aspect to learning: they are enjoyable and stimulating, and often help students to become more independent, sociable and enthusiastic about their learning. In every year, there are opportunities for students to learn outside the classroom, to visit new places and to gain new experiences. There truly is something for everyone!



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

We want our students to grow into resilient, responsible adults who are able to honour their commitments and face up to challenges.

Participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme allows students to develop many aspects of their personalities. At both Bronze and Silver level, students are required to complete three independent sections of the award – volunteering, skills and physical, as well as completing an expedition in a group. The school is one of the biggest providers of the scheme in the county and we encourage our students to get involved.

The Cultural Experience at Soham Village College

We are strongly committed to cultural entitlements and partnerships for children and young people.

The school attracts students from a wide geographical area; many of these students want to be part of Soham Village College because of its strong reputation and educational involvement with arts and culture. Embedded within the curriculum is a wide spectrum of Arts opportunities; the standards are high and the use of professionals from the world of music, drama, literature and media are a regular occurrence at the school.

We believe that students should have exceptional opportunities to appreciate their own heritage, to participate in a range of artistic opportunities and to explore, appreciate and understand the cultural diversity within the global community. Our students gain opportunities to develop their imagination, self-discipline and creativity through a range of activities that run throughout the year both within and outside of the curriculum.



'Beauty and the Beast Musical 2023

The Fitzwilliam Museum and Soham Schools Partnership



Cultural Learning for a Rural Community

Soham Village College has a longstanding strategic partnership with the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge University.

This project provides enrichment and aims to enhance cultural understanding and raise aspirations. This is a long term project, during which we have built a sustainable and enduring partnership to provide a stimulus for learning and cultural engagement for our community. All our students take part in activities with the Fitzwilliam Museum.



Pastoral Care

Safeguarding Students

At Soham Village College safeguarding and promoting the well-being of our students is at the heart of everything we do.

‘Pupils feel safe at this school.’

‘Pupils become increasingly reflective and self-reliant.’

Ofsted, March 2023

Relationships and Sex Education

Relationships and Sex Education is provided in accordance with 2021 Government statutory guidance and the policy is available on the school’s website.

Behaviour

Students have a very strong ethos and excellent behaviour for learning. Staff, public and visitors regularly comment on our students’ positive behaviour and conduct. Bullying is not tolerated at the school, we have a very strong anti-bullying policy; detailed in the behaviour policy on the school’s website. This all ensures a climate of belonging and mutual respect for each other within the classroom and school environment.

Pupils treat each other and adults with respect.’

‘They behave very well in and out of the classroom.’

‘Pupils make considerable progress in their learning, free of disruption to lessons.’

Ofsted, March 2023

School Leavers' Destinations

Our careers policy, strategy and programme aligns with the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks as directed through the government's careers strategy; by raising students' aspirations, broadening their horizons, and empowering them to make informed realistic decisions at all key transition points in learning and work.

This enables us to maintain our excellent record of ensuring our students progress onto their chosen pathway of further education or employment with training.

Students have a number of colleges and further education providers to choose from, as well as an array of qualifications ranging from A levels, diplomas and International Baccalaureates, to more practical vocational courses and apprenticeship opportunities. Our extensive careers programme ensures that all students are equipped with the correct information and guidance necessary to make the right decision for them.



'Pupils learn about the world of work as part of a comprehensive careers programme, including outside speakers and visits from employers. This prepares pupils for the next steps in their education and employment.'

Ofsted, March 2023

Transition to Soham Village College

Year 6 students are invited to spend at least one full day at the school. This Induction Day gives them an excellent opportunity to meet teachers and peers, and enables them to start to become familiar with the site.

Senior staff visit primary schools prior to the Induction Day to meet prospective students. This visit, in addition to the many other activities Soham Village College offers to primary schools, helps new students to become familiar with the school prior to starting in September. We arrange extra visits to assist those who are finding the transition to secondary school particularly challenging, working with the Additional Needs department as appropriate.

Year 6 students enjoying a history lesson on Induction Day



Contact Details

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