

September 2016

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

## **CHOOSING BRINE LEAS**

### Introduction

Brine Leas School is situated in a wide semi rural catchment area. It stretches from the centre of Nantwich to Audlem and from close to Cheerbrook Farm to Wrenbury. For more detailed information check the Local Authority website ([www.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk)) and follow the links, or alternatively call into the school.

The school is both very popular and successful. In 2016 we were oversubscribed due to the large number of siblings. We had 244 first choice applications for 215 places. Following the Appeals process, a total of 220 students were admitted into Year 7 in 2016. Against the backdrop of ever more stringent marking and changes to examinations, our results go from strength to strength, both at GCSE and A Level. The 2016 results maintained a high level of performance that has been sustained over a long period of time. For many families, the choice of school is automatic and there is very little decision to be made. However, choosing a secondary school can be very daunting for some and it can be a period of anxiety.

Within this newly updated prospectus pack you should have:-

- Key Admission Dates
- Ofsted Report 2008
- Intake Arrangements Booklet
- Curriculum Guide Booklet
- Student Services Care Booklet
- Examination Results Booklet
- School Admissions and General Information Booklet

A separate prospectus is also available for our Sixth Form.

### Academy Status

The school has been an Academy for six years and converted to Multi Academy Trust status in August 2016. As such we enjoy more freedoms and also an increase in funding that finds its way directly to our children. Across the county there are now more Academies than High Schools, however, our Admissions Procedure is virtually the same as the Local Authority's.

### Process

Please do not simply apply to the school if you have not visited us. You are welcome to come around the school on Open Day or Open Evening.

Many parents also come around the school on a normal working day. This visit can be accompanied by students and, to be quite frank, they are the true ambassadors for the school and will tell you, with honesty, what it is like to be part of the school. You should receive an application pack via your child's primary school or you can go online at <http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/admissions.aspx>. Do ensure that you complete the application form and return it in good time (by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 at the latest). Simply because you live in the catchment area does not guarantee you a place at the school and the form does have to be filled in. There is NO additional information required by the school even though we have Academy Status.

### Reasons for Applying

The school has a very good reputation locally. For many years we have consistently enjoyed examination success. The last OFSTED report confirmed that we were an outstanding school. In 2016, our GCSE headlines are 75% for 5 or more GCSE's at A\* - C; 69% for 5 or more GCSE's at A\* - C including English and Maths; 24% A\* - A. However, the school is not simply an examination factory and one of the key factors in all of the surveys that we carry out is that the overwhelming majority of students enjoy coming to Brine Leas School and are happy here. They have opportunities to shine in many different ways and the House system plays an enormous role in this. The House System is the bedrock upon which the school rests.

### Facilities

The school is constantly being updated and improved. Over the last few years there have been numerous improvements to the school's sports facilities, a new specialist ICT Language room has been completed and many parts of the school have been redecorated and upgraded with computer projectors. There have also been continuous improvements to outside social areas and recreational facilities – shading gives welcome shelter from both the rain and sun, and donations from the PSCA have seen additional seating areas around the school site. The canteen and kitchens have been recently upgraded along with the Library. The DfE have given BLS, as an Academy, additional funding resulting in a refurbished Drama Studio and new windows throughout the school (the front of the three storey block was completed in June 2014). A new 8 classroom block was built in 2012 and in 2013 we opened a new Laboratory, 2 refurbished English rooms, new SEN facilities and Learning Enhancement Centre. The Main Hall Foyer has also been extended and remodelled to provide more circulation space. In addition, security fencing and access controls have also been installed. We are currently planning a bid to further improve facilities in 2017.

### Our staff

There are 186 members of staff at Brine Leas School. They are all employed in order to ensure that your child gets the most out of their secondary education. A school building would be useless if the team of staff employed had no commitment to children. This means that in the canteen over seven hundred meals are served daily and the children know that the meals will be good and the welcome friendly. In lessons staff prepare interesting and stimulating work and, as I frequently walk around the school, I am privileged to see staff and students enjoying an excellent working relationship. This is a school where we try to allow children to develop and learn, both in and outside the classroom. We still have a wide range of visits, both in the United Kingdom and abroad and we all benefit from seeing each other out of the classroom.

### Conclusion

If you wish your child to come to Brine Leas School, I hope that they receive a place. Based on the current numbers of Year 6 children in partner primary schools, we should be taking students from outside of the catchment area again. I believe that the school has much to offer and that our students are prepared for their future lives and make life long friends. Nearly all of our students do better in examinations than their intake information would suggest. This is simply because they enjoy being here, roll up their sleeves to get involved in school life and are very well taught.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Cliffe  
Headteacher