Lawrence Sheriff School
Aims of the School

The school aims to create an educational community which enables all of its members to be happy and to fulfil their true potential. We emphasise the pursuit of academic excellence whilst working with the students to foster their spiritual, moral, physical and emotional development. The school sees itself as an extended family and like all good families it seeks to combine encouragement and support with fairness, constructive guidance and honest advice. As part of this process we encourage our students to show understanding and respect to others, and promote a collective sense of shared responsibility and care.

Peter Kent
Headteacher

Buildings and Facilities

Like many other schools with a long tradition, Lawrence Sheriff has a collection of classrooms from different periods which have been added over the years. Over the past fifteen years, a series of refurbishments, modifications, and new facilities has completely modernised the school.

The Griffin Centre, Sports Hall and Studio was opened in 1996 and is frequently used by local sports groups as well as the school community. The Studio is fully equipped for drama, with excellent lighting and sound facilities, although full-scale drama productions tend mainly to be staged in Big School, where larger audiences can be accommodated.

In September 2001 our Sixth Form Centre opened, providing dedicated facilities for sixth form study and research. The centre comprises a huge sixth form common room and quiet study area, whilst upstairs there are six classrooms and two flexible computer rooms. In October 2008 the Learning and Resources Centre was opened, consisting of a new library with lecture and research facilities and a suite of classrooms for the teaching of mathematics and computing. At the same time our playing fields at Hart Field were upgraded, including the provision of an all-weather pitch and new changing facilities. Since then the school also been able to significantly upgrade its facilities for music, design technology, art and cookery. Alongside these new buildings, the school has continued to invest in the quality of its existing infrastructure. Six science laboratories have been re-fitted, we have provided eight fully networked computer rooms and every classroom contains data projectors and internet connectivity.

The Governors have invested over £12m in new buildings for the benefit of students over the past fifteen years and they remain committed to providing students with the best possible facilities.
Admissions

Lawrence Sheriff School welcomes any enquiry from parents or students about admission. Boys are admitted on the result of the local authority’s 11+ selection tests, and parental choice. The school’s published admission number is 120 for Year 7. The number of applicants for the Year 7 places each year is in the region of 400. Further information about admission to the school can be obtained from the school’s Admissions Policy (available on the school website) and from the Warwickshire County Council website. Entry to any year group which already has at least the published admission number of pupils will depend on the results of an appeal to an independent panel.

Applications to join our existing pupils in the sixth form are welcomed from students from other schools. As of September 2018, girls as well as boys will be admitted to the Sixth Form. The entry requirement is eight GCSEs, 4 graded at C/Grade 5 and 4 graded at B/Grade 6 or above, including a B/Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature and a C/Grade 5 or above in Mathematics. The school has a sixth form open evening in November each year. Around 95% of sixth formers go on to Higher Education courses after leaving school. There is a separate sixth form prospectus containing curriculum details, including the specific GCSE requirements for individual subjects and the date of the school’s sixth form open evening. We would be happy to discuss entry to the sixth form with pupils or parents at any time.

Academic Results

In 2008, and 2010 and 2011 DFE performance tables showed Lawrence Sheriff achieving the highest GCSE results in the country (based upon total points score per student). As well as achieving an exceptional points score per student, 100% passed five or more subjects at A*-C including English and mathematics. Over recent years we have continued to be highly placed in national performance tables for both progress and attainment.

In recent years 100% of students have achieved grades A*-E at A Level, with around 70% gaining passes at grades A*-B, a strong performance for our non-selective sixth form.

Inspection Outcomes

The high standards within the school have been recognised by successive Ofsted reports. During our last inspection the school was found to be outstanding in every category, with no key issues.

Teaching School Status

The DFE designated Lawrence Sheriff a National Teaching School in April 2012. As a result the school plays a key strategic role in initial teacher training, professional development and school to school support at a regional and national level.
The Curriculum

The curriculum is aimed not only at the acquisition of knowledge but also the development of skills and values. We strongly believe that the curriculum should be personalised to the needs of each student, allowing them to progress when they are ready rather than because they have reached a particular age. Developments such as vertical tutor groups and the introduction of enrichment periods have facilitated this developing emphasis within the school. The school has operated a three year Key Stage Four for a number of years and this has enabled students to focus their energies upon the crucial academic milestones facing them at the ages of 16 and 18.

English

English is taught in purpose-built facilities. All students study English and English Literature from Year 7 through to Year 11, sitting GCSEs in both subjects. Our work within the classroom is supported by a wide range of trips and visits from poets, writers and drama groups. Large numbers go on to take A Level English Literature and English Language.

Mathematics

All students take Mathematics from Year 7 through to 11, with the great majority of lessons being taught in our Learning and Resources Centre. Nearly two thirds of the students entering the sixth form choose Mathematics or Further Mathematics as one of their subjects and large numbers of students go on to take a mathematics related degree. We also offer Mathematical Studies which provides an excellent alternative Maths qualification to support other A level subjects.

Science

The Science Faculty enjoys excellent resources, with two general laboratories and six specialist labs. All are equipped with class sets of apparatus to enable practical work to be undertaken, mainly in pairs. Extensive use is made of ICT, with computer suites for simulations and word processing, laptop computers for laboratory use, data logging using remote sensors and internet access in all labs. Teaching is delivered as ‘Science’ in Years 7 and 8, but as separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics from Years 9-13.
Languages

French and German are studied by all boys in Years 7 and 8 and they are spoken to, and are encouraged to respond, in the target language at every opportunity. In Year 9 modern languages are compulsory and boys may opt to continue with just one modern language or both. Our language laboratory, with its multi-media facilities, contributes significantly towards students’ prowess in modern languages. Trips and exchanges further add to the boys’ language development. Both French and German remain popular A-Level options.

Humanities

Two periods of History and Geography are taught in Year 7 and 8, and both subjects are available as choices within the GCSE options system. Field trips form a staple and popular part of each department’s work up to GCSE Level and beyond. At A Level, in addition to History and Geography, students can choose from Economics, Business Studies and Politics.

In Religious Education a wide range of biblical and spiritual themes are explored throughout Years 7 to 11, with all students completing a GCSE in RE in Key stage 4. Key to the aims of our RE teaching is an understanding of, and respect for, the beliefs of all. For this reason, although Christianity is at the centre of students’ learning, other faiths are studied in detail. In addition, students complete units of work relating to citizenship, health and personal development.

Computing

Computing is taught throughout the school (with curriculum pathways that allow students considerable choice in the direction they take). Our IT Facilities are regularly updated (both in the library and in computer rooms) and offer students an excellent range of opportunities. Considerable numbers in the sixth form choose an A Level course in Computing.

Music

All students take Music during their first two years at the school. Thereafter, it is an optional subject, along with Music Technology, at both GCSE and A Level. Peripatetic teaching is available in a wide range of instruments.
Design Technology and Art

Design and Technology enjoys excellent facilities at Lawrence Sheriff School. At Key Stage 4 the school offers GCSE Design and Technology, covering aspects of resistant materials, electronics and textiles, this is delivered using the most up-to-date resources available such as Computer Aided Manufacture, Computer Aided Design, simulation software, Reverse Engineering and high-level graphical communications, the department has recently purchased a 3D printer helping to ensure innovative project work. The post-16 course in BTEC Engineering is also popular and the department has numerous outside links.

The Art and Design Department aims to recognise and develop every student’s creative potential through a variety of tasks set in Years 7 and 8. At Key Stage 4 students may opt to study the subject to GCSE examination level, and in Years 12 and 13 those who choose the subject are entered for AS and A Level Art and Design. Our Art Foundation course allows students to undertake a qualification that is normally offered to first year undergraduates by universities and colleges. Many continue on to Higher Education courses in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Transport and Product Design, Graphic Design and Fine Art.

Physical Education

Our well-equipped lottery funded sports hall together with the huge space and pitches at Hartfield provide the setting for weekly lessons of Physical Education and Games for every student from Year 7 to 11. Both GCSE and A-Level PE are consistently popular options.
Enrichment
Twice weekly enrichment periods offer students the opportunity to take part in a wide range of clubs and activities. Some of these courses lead to formal certification, but the overwhelming majority provide an opportunity for students to develop a broader range of skills and interests. The enrichment handbook is changed on a termly basis but current options include drama, debating, music appreciation, football, basketball, stock market challenge, ultimate Frisbee, robotics, creative chemistry, choir and much more besides.

Special Educational Needs
The school works closely with the local authority’s psychologists, educational social workers and learning and behaviour support service in following the agreed stages of support for any student at this school with an identifiable learning difficulty for which help can be given.

Psychology
A more recent addition to our curriculum, to further increase the breadth of opportunities on offer to our students, is Psychology. This is studied as part of our rotation in Y9 to offer students a taste of this new and exciting subject and they can then take the subject at both GCSE and A level. It is proving to be a demanding, rigorous and popular subject.
**Key Stages Three and Four**

The school operates a two year Key Stage 3 and a three year Key Stage 4. During Key Stage 3 all students take English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Design and Technology, French, German, Geography, History, Music, ICT, Drama, RE and PE. Many of these lessons will be taught in House groups whilst some are taught on rotation in mixed groups, this structure allows students to get to know each other well and provides a supportive environment where teachers and Heads of House get to know the students well.

During Key Stage 4, students study nine or ten GCSE subjects, Mathematics, English, Religious Education, and one modern language and humanity (History or Geography) are compulsory, and all boys take three separate sciences. They will also be able to choose from DT, Art, Psychology, PE, Extended Project, or a second language or Humanity. In Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and the Sixth Form students have the opportunity to complete an Extended Project – a detailed piece of research on a topic of their choice. The research project provides an excellent preparation for Higher Education.

A week’s work experience placement during Year 11 forms part of a programme of careers and enterprise education that is delivered from Year 7 onwards, to enable wise choices regarding courses, careers, and personal finance to be made. The school also offers an extensive advice and guidance programme to sixth form students.
The Sixth Form

Lawrence Sheriff School offers a wide range of A and AS levels, as well as a BTEC in Engineering, to the prospective Sixth Formers of Rugby and the surrounding area. Around a third of our Sixth Formers join us from other schools and most of the Year 11 at LSS stay on to do A levels. Students work towards AS and A Level qualifications, normally studying four subjects to AS Level in Year 12 and converting three of them to a full A Level in Year 13. A yearly open evening is held and our sixth form prospectus contains detailed information about the subjects available to prospective Post 16 students. As of September 2018 the school will admit girls into the Sixth Form. Full details can be found on our website and in our Sixth Form Prospectus.
Sport

The main winter sport is rugby, though in Year 9 and above there are opportunities to play hockey and football. In summer the sports are cricket, athletics and tennis. There is an extensive list of rugby, cricket and other sporting fixtures against other schools at all levels. Several sports tours have been arranged in recent years, including trips to Barbados, South Africa, Canada, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile and Barcelona.

In recent years, increasing numbers of Lawrence Sheriff boys have been selected to play in County and other representative teams. As a recognition of the large number of students engaged in sporting activity and the excellent standards achieved, the school has been awarded the Sportsmark kitemark.

Pastoral Structures

The school is arranged into four Houses – Caldecott, Simpson, Tait, and Wheeler – named in honour of benefactors and former Headteachers. Lawrence Sheriff operates a vertical tutor group system. Each house has eight vertical tutor groups made up of students drawn from Years 7-13. Tutors stay with students throughout their seven years in the school, thus ensuring continuity of pastoral support. Heads of Year monitor the progress of each year group, whilst Heads of House monitor the overall development of students during their seven years within Lawrence Sheriff. Our non-teaching pastoral manager is always available to deal with pastoral concerns and to discuss issues with parents.
Music and Drama

As well as occupying a place in the curriculum throughout the school, music has a significant extracurricular profile. Opportunities range from the excellence of the school orchestra, through the energy of the jazz band, to the informal zest of barbershop, rock groups and guitar ensembles. Concerts over the last few years have included pieces composed by students, and concerto performances from students of varying ages. Peripatetic teachers take lessons in strings, woodwind, brass and percussion, and hold ensemble workshops. A small contribution per pupil per lesson is arranged with students who receive instrumental tuition.

Drama Productions in the past few years have included: Into the Woods, Spamalot, Bugsy Malone, Our Country’s Good, The Caucasian Chalk Circle; Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat; A Midsummer Night’s Dream; The Chimes; The Crucible; Murder in the Cathedral; Blood Wedding, Return to the Forbidden Planet and a range of less formal workshop pieces.

The Student Council

The school’s development of student democracy has been recognised in a series of national conferences and publications. Council representatives are elected by each form. The group meets once a fortnight and plays an active role in the decision-making process within the school. All applicants for teaching posts are interviewed by the Council, which also reports on a yearly basis to the Governing Body.
Community Links & Responsibility

The school has close links with a number of community groups and local companies. Recent activities include engineering projects, charity fundraising, old people’s entertainment, and acting as mentors and role models to students in local primary schools.
Links Between School and Home

Homework
For students the most regular link is homework. As a general guide, pupils below Year 10 should expect to spend half an hour each evening on each of three subjects (students are issued with a homework timetable to ensure consistency and regularity in the setting of homework). As 16+ examinations approach students should devote considerably more time outside school to their studies. Fifteen hours each week for an organised lower sixth former would be a reasonable guide. Part-time employment can seriously affect study: we suggest that sixth form students limit themselves to a maximum of eight hours per week.

The Weekly Word
This is a weekly school newsletter, which is emailed to parents. It is also accessible on the school’s website. The Weekly Word is a vital communication link between school and home, containing information about forthcoming events, updates on school policy and a First Word written by Dr Kent. Parents should ensure that the school has their email address so that they can receive this crucial document.

Insight
All new parents will be supplied with login details for Insight which provides valuable live information about their child’s attendance, behaviour, timetable, examinations and assessments and reports.

Reports
These are issued to each pupil in Years 7 to 11 once a year. Students in Years 12 and 13 have two Parents’ Consultations rather than one Parents’ Consultation and one full report.

Effort and attainment grades
In addition to reports, these are sent home twice a year, summarising the progress made by a student during the previous term.

Parents’ Consultations
These are planned on an appointments system once a year for students in Years 7-11 and twice yearly for Years 12-13.
Other Information

Charging Policy
The school may ask, from time to time, for voluntary contributions from parents for the transport and other costs incurred in activities which enhance the students’ experience. However, provision is made for those who may find this difficult. Parents are invited to contribute to the School Fund. This is an enabling fund to provide extras that can increase and broaden options for students.

The Parents’ Association
proudly occupies a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest organisation of its type in the United Kingdom and works unstintingly throughout the year to provide support for the school through various fund-raising activities and events such as quiz evenings, concerts, barn dances and an annual Christmas Fayre.

The Old Laurentian Society
keeps former pupils in touch with the school and each other by newsletter (mailing list of well over 1000) and reunions. It provides prizes and a wealth of support to the school.
Investors in People
The school is committed to the continuing development of all its employees. In 2016 it completed Investors in People re-accreditation for the sixth time and was awarded the IIP Gold Standard for the third consecutive time as a recognition of the quality of its work.

Rugby School
The long association with Rugby School continues. The Rugby School Foundation provides an annual income which has supported the building programme that has so greatly improved the school since the early 1990s.
Lawrence Sheriff School Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 8963659 whose registered office is at Lawrence Sheriff School, Clifton Road, Rugby, Warwickshire CV21 3AG.

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