

STUDENTS FIRST



**WIGSTON
COLLEGE**

Prospectus 2023/24



I am delighted that you are considering Wigston College. We are proud of our track record of success that enables students to make the best choices for higher education or career progression.

We offer a broad range of subjects to meet individual needs alongside the highest level of support and guidance provided by experienced staff who understand how to make the most of students' abilities and talents.

Sixth form is a time of enrichment when students complement their academic studies with other activities that broaden their minds and their circle of friends. We place a very high value on sport, music, clubs and activities. Students are encouraged to be involved in the local community. We understand the value to young people of contributing to society.

At Wigston College we believe that students learn best when they are excited and engaged with their subjects, where their learning is tailored to individual needs and where expectations are high. Students enjoy coming to Wigston College Sixth Form

where they are supported, stretched and challenged in order to achieve their personal best.

The sixth form is an exciting time in a young person's life and we will work with you to provide everything needed for future success and the best possible outcomes.

I look forward to meeting you.

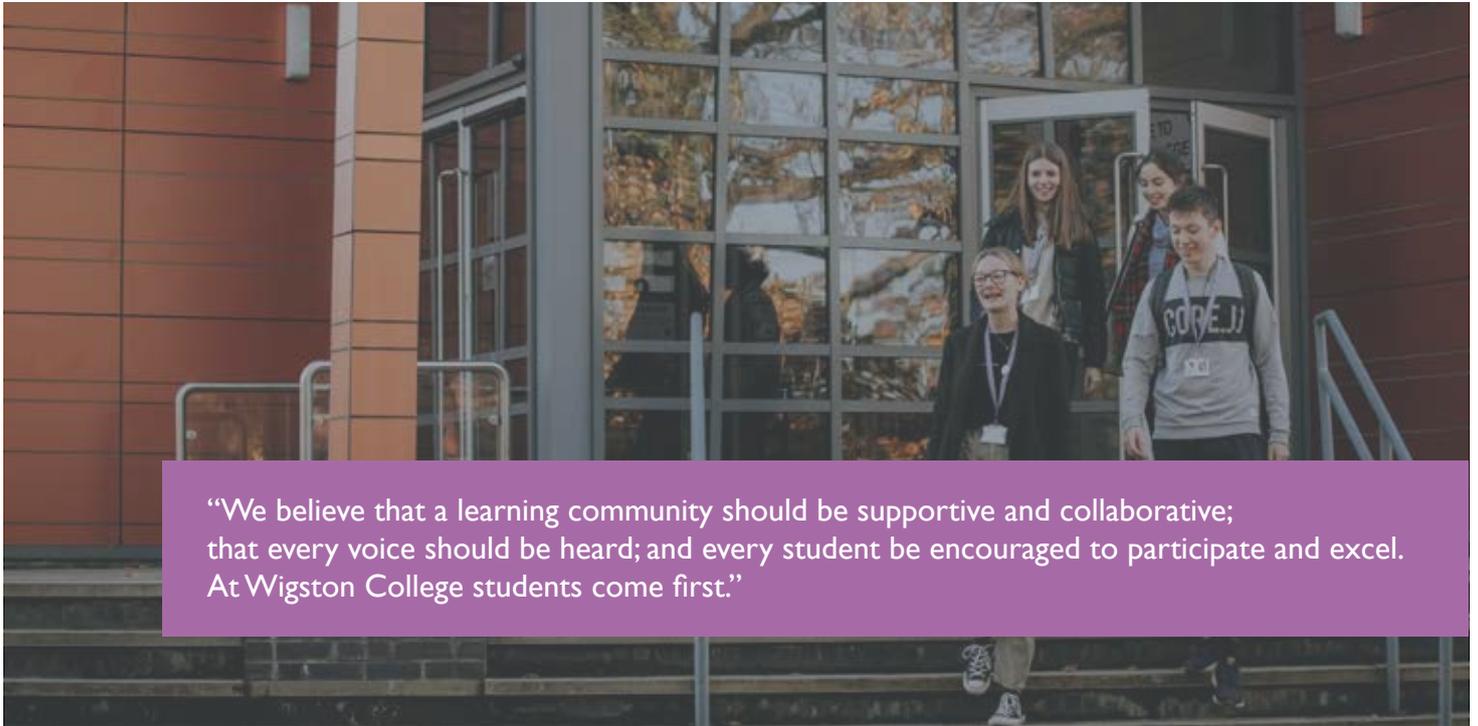
Mike Wilson
Headteacher



“Students come first in this happy and caring community. Students feel well looked after by staff who know them well. Students know that staff are there when they need them.”

Ofsted May 2022

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“We believe that a learning community should be supportive and collaborative; that every voice should be heard; and every student be encouraged to participate and excel. At Wigston College students come first.”

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Tia Archibald and Daniel Flynn, Student Presidents

“Wigston College is an absolutely wonderful community of deeply passionate teachers and students. When I was here my teachers went out of their way to answer my questions about the material and give me guidance about my future. The staff are also really communicative and work so hard to enrich the experience of those who study here”

**Andrew Clarke, University of Warwick,
reading Mathematics**

Wigston College has a warm, passionate, and enjoyable learning environment. There is a great community of students all striving to achieve to the very best of their abilities, within a diverse sixth form where everyone can be themselves. We are both honoured to have been appointed as Student Presidents for the next academic year and look forward to welcoming all new students.

Our College has a great community spirit and support network, which we as students are proud of. The relationships that are built between staff and students allow open communication and help us to achieve our full potential.

Due to the size of the College everybody gets to know one another and you are therefore valued as an individual. In this environment students are able to develop both academically and personally.

In terms of Post 18 choices students are supported fantastically well by staff. The College helps us make informed choices and supports us through any application processes for our next steps, be that university, apprenticeship or employment.

The Sixth Form Team ensure that students feel comfortable and supported throughout their College journey as well as encouraging them by doing all they can to help students

achieve their full potential in a safe, positive and constructive learning environment.

As well as the academic opportunities Wigston College has to offer, there is also a wide variety of super and extra-curricular activities for students to get involved in. These include a highly regarded enrichment programme, mentoring, clubs and more. Enrichment is a great way to gain experience beyond the classroom and helps to build transferable skills for later in life. Enrichment can be anything from going to the gym to volunteering in the local community. Taking part in this is something which is encouraged by the Sixth Form

Team. There are several clubs and extra-curricular activities that students can take part in including football, badminton, Wigston Academies Trust productions and many more. We are very happy and excited that you are considering Wigston College as an option for your Post 16 studies and we would be delighted to welcome you into the College and our community. We genuinely believe that Wigston College will allow you to flourish, to achieve your absolute best and become an excellent student and a well-rounded individual fully prepared to take your next step in life.

**Tia Archibald & Daniel Flynn,
Student Presidents**

01 ABOUT US



Wigston College is a specialist Sixth Form Learning Centre.

We provide a learning programme which tests students' capabilities and supports their ambitions.

Facilities, teaching and support are focused on A Levels and other Level 3 courses. Students will benefit from being in a learning environment geared to Advanced Level/ Level 3 studies, whilst benefitting from the close links with Wigston Academy and the community, which allows us to offer an extended range of enrichment and volunteering opportunities.

Students are able to access a range of study spaces throughout the College day to suit their preferred learning style. The Common Rooms are open all day for students to use as an informal study and social area.

Many departments provide independent study space for students in subject classrooms and in addition to timetabled teaching lessons, staff provide one-to-one support, small group sessions and advice and feedback via email. Choosing to study at Wigston College has significant benefits. We are large enough to offer

a wide variety of courses but small enough to provide you with the network of support required for you to make the successful transition from GCSE to A Level and Level 3 studies.

We offer a full package of pastoral support; form tutor, mentoring and external counselling services. The Sixth form Team monitor and track student performance and well-being, intervening to offer support whenever required.



“Staff have high expectations of every student. Staff know about students’ aspirations for the future. They know their strengths and the things that might get in their way. Staff work with students and their families to make sure that students aim high. They provide high levels of support for every student. Staff help students to find solutions for themselves.”

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Admission Requirements

(See website for details)

For admission to **Advanced Level** programmes of study, students are expected to achieve a minimum of 6 GCSEs at 9 – 4 or equivalent (including 4s in English Language and Mathematics). Students must also meet all **individual subject entry criteria** as stipulated on our website. If students have the grades to take specific subjects but have a grade 3 in English Language or Mathematics or both,

resit classes will be available. Students can take a combination of A Level and other Level 3 courses (e.g. BTEC) if they so wish.

For students who have studied vocational courses along with GCSEs, a Merit or Distinction is required to progress on to A Level/Level 3 courses, unless otherwise stated on the course information pages of our website.

Students will be expected to have a proven

track record of a positive attitude to learning and a good record of attendance at Key Stage 4.

Most students study 3 subjects at A Level/Level 3 and personalised learning programmes are discussed at enrolment.

Where appropriate, students will be encouraged to take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) alongside their A Levels/ Level 3 courses.

02 ADMISSION



Please note that all A Level courses run for a duration of 2 years, with the public examination taking place at the end of Year 13.

To move automatically from Year 12 to Year 13 in any subject a student will require:

- A minimum of a grade D in their end of year assessment or Pre Public Examination or a Pass in coursework.
- A good level of attendance during Year 12.
- Students will also be expected to demonstrate a positive attitude to learning.

Wigston College realises the importance of, and prides itself on, the level of support we are able to offer our students. Academic support is available through our mentoring programme, one-to-one subject support or peer-to-peer support. Additional intervention classes within each department are also available. Any support offered will be done through consultation and in partnership with students, parents and carers.

Courses

A Level Courses

Art and Design

Biology

Business

Chemistry

Computer Science

Dance

Drama and Theatre

Economics

English Language

English Literature

Film Studies

French

Further Mathematics

Geography

Government and Politics

History

Law

Mathematics

Media Studies

Music

Music Technology

Physical Education

Physics

Psychology

Sociology

Spanish

Please be aware that some courses may not run in Year 12 if numbers interested are very low. However the courses listed have been developed to minimise the prospect of this occurring.

Applicants will be contacted if combinations of subjects chosen clash on the timetable.

Other Level 3 Courses

Applied Science (BTEC Extended Certificate)

Criminology (WJEC Diploma)

Extended Project Qualification (AQA)

Health & Social Care (Cambridge Technicals Extended Certificate – Single Option)

Health & Social Care (Cambridge Technicals Diploma – Double Option)

Information Technology (Cambridge Technicals Extended Certificate)

Performing Arts (BTEC National Diploma - Double Option)

Sport & Physical Activity (Cambridge Technicals Extended Certificate – Single Option)

Sport & Physical Activity (Cambridge Technicals Diploma – Double Option)

For all of our individual subject entry criteria please see the course pages available on our website.

How to choose your courses

- Choose subjects that you enjoy and play to your strengths!
- Look at university websites to check A Level/Level 3 entry requirements for specific degree subjects.
- Some universities, such as Oxford and Cambridge, produce lists of preferred A Level subjects.
- Certain careers require particular A Level/Level 3 subjects.
- Look at higher level and degree apprenticeship websites.
- Refer to our subject information sheets available on our website.



03 THE COURSES

Our successful Performing Arts Faculty inspires students to achieve their potential in the arts. The teaching skills of our staff, along with small class sizes, ensure each student has every opportunity to realise their aspirations.

Our students gain impressive results with many moving on to further their education at top performing arts schools such as Laine Theatre Arts, London Contemporary Dance School, LAMDA, RADA, LIPA, Royal Central, Laban and many more.

"It has been a privilege to be a member of the Wigston College Performing Arts faculty. The vast range of opportunities, dedication of staff and excellence of teaching have enabled me to be where I am today; allowing me to pursue the career of my dreams."

Zac Peachey, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, reading Music



04 FINANCIAL SUPPORT



Leicestershire Post 16 Bursary Information

If a student needs financial support to help them stay in education after the age of 16 they can apply to us for the 16-19 Bursary. The 16-19 Bursary is targeted towards those young people considered most in need of financial support. The Government has identified a priority group of young people and has asked that schools and colleges give priority to this group first and offer

them a guaranteed Bursary. After this group has been considered the College has a limited amount of funding available for other young people in need of financial support.

The College has set eligibility criteria to ensure that the funds go to those who are seen to need it most. Any young person who meets these eligibility

criteria can apply for a Discretionary Bursary. These funds can support students with the costs of transport, books, educational visits or other course materials or equipment required to participate.

“The College has helped me in so many ways in my two short years. Its welcoming and close community of staff and students have fostered confidence I didn’t have before in everyday life. Teachers have covered the syllabus extraordinarily well while encouraging the independent learning needed for any path you may take. Events organised by the Sixth Form Team have given great insight into potential future prospects and opportunities. These reasons among many others are why I can wholeheartedly recommend Wigston College.”



Ben Holmes, University of Nottingham, reading Physics

Careers Guidance

All students are supported as they make important decisions about their future beyond level 3 study.

Professionally qualified staff can advise about Higher Education, Apprenticeships (including Higher

and Degree Level Apprenticeships) and employment opportunities, and representatives from external agencies visit the College to provide further impartial advice and guidance.

Students seeking employment after A Level/Level 3 courses attend Life Skills classes with a particular focus on developing employability skills.

Each year about 75% of Year 13 students go off to universities including those in the Russell Group.

We have a tradition of supporting our most high achieving students in their applications to Oxbridge, and to prestigious medicine and law degrees. All students are guided through the university application process as smoothly and early as possible, with particular assistance given to the writing of the personal statement.

ENRICHMENT

To support students in securing Higher Education places, employment or an apprenticeship, we offer an extensive range of activities which includes a one week work experience placement, career talks, workshops and networking sessions with local employers. This develops students' knowledge of the world of work and employability skills.

We provide extensive advice, support and guidance to students. We have high aspirations and want them to achieve their best. Wigston College is extremely proud of the fact that over the last 6 years every single one of our graduates has found a place in either higher education, an apprenticeship, degree apprenticeship or employment.

The Life Skills and Enrichment Programme broadens the skills of our students beyond the academic curriculum. Both Programmes allow students to gain the necessary skills to be successful in the world of work and make them more attractive to prospective employers. Students contribute to the College and community in a wide variety of ways e.g:

- Supporting KS3 & 4 lessons at Wigston Academy
- Mentoring KS4 students at Wigston Academy
- Supporting in The Hub
- Volunteering in the wider community
- Representing the views of your fellow students as part of Student Government
- Acting as Wigston College Ambassadors at events
- Being part of the Charity, Social, Wellbeing, Environmental or Marketing Committees
- Taking a role as part of the Student Wellbeing Team



"I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Wigston College. Coming from another school I was worried about feeling welcome, but the community there is incredible and I felt at home right away. Through my two years I was challenged, supported and encouraged by my teachers, both academically and outside of the classroom in extracurricular and enrichment activities. I loved that I was supported in finding an enrichment placement at Birkett House Special School which really helped when it came to applying for my degree course. I would always recommend Wigston College to anyone, it truly is a home from home"

Charlotte Watts, University of Derby, reading Education Studies

Student Wellbeing

Student wellbeing is an area of strength at Wigston College, and we pride ourselves on supporting our students not just academically but pastorally as well. We have a dedicated Student Wellbeing Lead as part of our Sixth Form Team.

We have worked hard to develop activities that promote student wellbeing throughout the College. This includes during our tutor time programme where students learn skills such as practising mindfulness, dealing with stress, time management, exam skills and retrieval practice.

We have trained wellbeing peer mentors who are in place to add another level of wellbeing support to our student body. We are also proud to have a dedicated wellbeing committee at the College who work to make the College a place where students can be happy and flourish during their time with us.

“Students benefit from a wide variety of experiences that develop their confidence and resilience. The college prepares them to make a meaningful contribution to society, now and in the future.”

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06 APPLYING

“The college provides high-quality careers education. Students are well informed about the full range of education and employment pathways available. Staff support students well with applications... staff encourage students to aim high, and they do.”

Ofsted May 2022

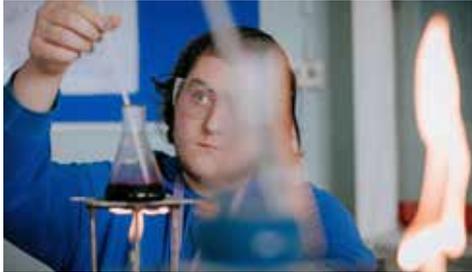
Applications can be made online via Positive Steps at 16 (PS16) an online central admissions service used by Leicestershire schools and colleges, or via the application form available on our website.

If your application is received by 31st January 2023, you will be invited to an interview in February/March 2023.

Conditional places will be offered to successful applicants in writing and you will then receive an invitation to our Induction – in June 2023.

“The staff at Wigston College recognised my potential and went above and beyond in making sure I achieved it. The lessons were really tailored towards my individual needs, and help was always at hand, meaning I felt constantly engaged with my subjects and ambitious to strive to do my best. The enrichment opportunities provided at the college are also something that they excel at. My weekly placement at a nursery and work experience at the Leicester Royal Infirmary not only boosted my application to competitive universities but shaped me into an independent and interpersonal individual. I can confidently say that I feel ready for my next steps in life.”

Ella Foster, University of Birmingham, reading Psychology



All college policies can be found on our website at www.wigstoncollege.org
The details in this publication are correct at the time of printing



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