



Silverdale
School

Joining our school community

For admissions up to September 2021



Chorus Education Trust

Welcome to Silverdale School



Our school ethos is **'Outstanding Achievement for All'** – which embodies our ambitious, yet inclusive, approach. We go to great lengths to ensure that every student can achieve beyond expectations, so that they can get the very best start in life.

As you will read in these pages, we achieve this by recruiting and retaining some of the very best teachers, who work extremely hard to engage and inspire our students through high quality teaching.

Whilst our exam results are consistently some of the best in the city – and frequently within the wider region – we believe education is about so much more. We have fought to retain the broad range of subjects we offer, as we believe that students should receive a rounded education – covering science and technology, humanities and the arts, languages and sport.

Our extra-curricular activities are as diverse and varied as our students. We have national sporting champions within our student body, as well as poets, performers and artists, award-winning scientists, geographers and mathematicians. Our students travel the world but also contribute to our local community.

We want our students to become positive, engaged members of society. So our teaching ensures that they develop a global view, founded on tolerance and respect for others, along with the skills to question and actively make a difference.

We also want to equip them with the emotional resources needed in today's fast-moving and demanding world. We do this by providing pastoral support at every level in school, with staff dedicated to supporting our students – and specialists who are there when additional help is needed. This is balanced with clear expectations about acceptable behaviour and a sanctions and rewards system that is fair, clear and consistently applied.

For any school to maintain consistently excellent academic outcomes in a time of huge change in examinations and course content, is an excellent achievement. Silverdale offers children the opportunity of a great education in the best comprehensive tradition.
Parent Power, Sunday Times

We are a diverse community, with over 50 languages spoken by staff and students. Please watch our online videos and browse our website, so you can see for yourself that this is where our strength lies. We have wonderful, resourceful students who bring a whole range of views, talents and experiences into our school community. I am extremely proud of them all and hope you will consider joining us soon.

Sarah Sims

Mrs Sarah Sims, Head of Silverdale School

Chorus Education Trust

Silverdale is the founding school of Chorus Education Trust, which also includes Westfield School and Hope Valley College. We believe there is strength in us working together, whilst recognising and valuing the unique character of each school.



Outstanding Achievement for All

A track record of outstanding results

Our school has a proud record of consistently outstanding exam results, both in terms of Progress 8 (at GCSE level) and A-levels.

What is Progress 8?

GCSE results are now judged by a calculation called Progress 8, instead of the old 5 A* to C grades. This measures not just the achievement of students, but the progress they make from the end of primary school to the end of secondary school. Progress 8 is based on students' performance in eight qualifications: English, Maths, up to three EBacc subjects (science, languages, history or geography) and the students' three highest scores from a range of other qualifications.

The average Progress 8 score of all secondary schools nationally is 0. A positive score means students in a school on average do better at Key Stage 4 than those with similar prior attainment nationally. A negative score means students in a school on average do worse at Key Stage 4 than those with similar prior attainment nationally.

What is Silverdale's Progress 8 score?

In 2019 our confirmed Progress 8 score was **+0.58**, which means that students of all abilities in a range of subjects made outstanding progress. This was also the highest Progress 8 score in the whole of Sheffield. The 2020 student outcomes maintained this high performance.

HIGHEST
PROGRESS 8
SCORE
in South Yorkshire
2018

HIGHEST
ATTAINMENT
8 SCORE
in Sheffield
2019

Students of all abilities and backgrounds make outstanding progress from their individual starting points as they move through the school.
Ofsted

A-level results

Students in Silverdale Sixth Form achieved the highest A-level results in Sheffield in both 2017 and 2019.

HIGHEST
A-LEVEL
PROGRESS
SCORE
in Sheffield
2018

HIGHEST
A-LEVEL
RESULTS
in Sheffield
2019

In 2018 our students made the highest level of progress in the city. The 2020 results maintained this high performance.

Sixth forms are given an annual Alps score. In 2019 we achieved an **Alps 1 score**, which places us in the top 1% of sixth forms in the country!

Rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted

Silverdale is proud to have been judged to be an **Outstanding School** in our most recent Ofsted inspection (October 2014). The overall effectiveness of the school was rated as Outstanding, as was Leadership and Management, Behaviour and Safety, Quality of Teaching, Achievement of Pupils and Sixth Form Provision.



Students celebrating outstanding GCSE and A-level results, summer 2019.

A broad and balanced curriculum

At Silverdale we have refocused our curriculum to meet the needs of the 21st century learner.

Whilst other schools have had to narrow their provision, we are proud to offer a curriculum that goes beyond the EBacc suite of subjects, valuing the arts and humanities just as much as science and languages.

In years 7 to 9, students study: English, maths, science, modern foreign languages, history, geography, religious education, physical education (P.E.), music, drama, art, computer science, design and technology and PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education).

When students progress into Years 10 and 11 we also offer the choice of some new subjects, which include: business studies, health and social care, dance, iMedia, hospitality and catering, food preparation and nutrition, photography. Students

can also choose to take a qualification in their home language.

Students who stay on in our Sixth Form can choose from even more new subjects, including: media studies, psychology, sociology, philosophy, applied science and further maths.

I really like that we do lots of creative lessons, like art and drama, and lots of sport too. It makes the days really interesting.
Year 7 student





As a family, we knew that Silverdale was the right choice for our children because the school recognises that each of them is different. Whether their talents lie in academia or the arts, sport or science, they are given the support and opportunities they need to flourish.

Parent of Silverdale students

This year we are introducing 'Attitudes to Learning' to support outstanding achievement for all our students.

RESILIENT

READY TO LEARN


Chorus
Education Trust

RESOURCEFUL

Respectful

Reflective

Beyond the classroom

We offer a huge variety of activities for students to get involved in – before, after and during school – as well lots of trips, both in the UK and abroad.

School life at Silverdale is about so much more than just academic achievement. Our staff work tirelessly to provide enrichment activities that truly broaden our students’ experiences.

Our annual school musical sees students perform on stage, as well as contribute to the live band, and every student who auditions is guaranteed a part. Elections take place every year for our Student Council, who then raise students’ issues directly with the school’s leadership team.

Every year we run a Masterchef competition for Year 9 students, where local chefs (and the occasional Bake Off star!) come and judge the meals. Our catering students have also run a Fine Dining event in partnership with our PTA, to raise funds for the school.

Students can work towards all levels of award in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. Or they can take part in one of the

many clubs we run, which have included: the debating society; choir; the Dice (tabletop games); psychology; films; drama; Christian Union; parallel problem solving; Chinese language and culture.

We also run regular revision sessions for GCSE and A-level; and we provide a breakfast club and after-school homework club, so our students can call upon continued support from staff.

Our sports department oversee a phenomenal amount of activity throughout the week. As well as the regular football, netball, hockey and rugby clubs, they also run ones for: badminton, table tennis, fitness, volleyball, trampolining, cross country, basketball and athletics.

Students also get the chance to join the various sporting teams and we have strong track record of accomplishments – in Sheffield, the region and nationally.



Local Bake Off star, Howard, at our Masterchef competition.



Year 8 students in Normandy, France.

I have joined lots of sports clubs in my first term – volleyball, table tennis and football. Everyone’s been really friendly and helpful, and I’ve made even more friends.
Year 7 student



Students on their Duke of Edinburgh expedition.



Bake Off winner, Rahul, visited science students.



Last year we had over 50 different trips and visits planned! These included:

- Year 9 trips to Spain, Germany and France.
- A ski trip to Austria.
- Numerous field trips for geography and biology – from exploring the local area to visiting both the Peak and Lake Districts.
- Business studies trips to Cadbury World, Jaguar and Alton Towers.
- Visits to local universities to explore a range of subjects.
- Trips to theatres and museums.
- Careers and apprenticeship fairs.
- The annual Maths Challenge tournament.
- A climbing weekend.



School trips include the annual ski trip (above), field trips in the local area (bottom left) and language trips to Europe (bottom right).



Preparing students for life

As well as providing our students with a strong academic foundation, we ensure they have the skills, knowledge and connections that will help them take their next steps in life.

Our Careers Advisor provides a range of support for students, including one-to-one interviews when they are considering their options post GCSE and A-levels. She also arranges careers fairs, where students can meet employers and find out more about potential career paths. Many employers also offer our students mock interviews and mentoring.

In Year 10 students undertake work experience, to develop an insight into the world of work and to build on skills developed in the classroom.

Every year our students take part in Sheffield's 'Big Challenge' enterprise competition. In 2018 our Year 10 students won the overall prize with their webhosting business – resulting in a trip for them to Copenhagen! We also run an annual Enterprise Fair, where students run stalls to raise money for charity.

Throughout their time at Silverdale, students have opportunities to present their work, both within class and to the wider school community, helping them refine their presentation and communication skills.

Students at Silverdale come from a range of backgrounds and the teachers really open their minds to the world. It has certainly helped my children look outside the bubble of their lives.

Parent of current students



Students interviewed by BBC Radio Sheffield about the Shell Bright Ideas competition ((below left); winning the Big Challenge 2018 (far below left); presenting a geography project about the local area (below right).

No one left behind

At Silverdale we believe in 'Outstanding Achievement for All' and, as part of this ethos, we are committed to meeting the needs of all of our students.

This means providing support to students, both emotionally and academically. Every student can call upon their form tutor and key stage team for help but we also have two teams that provide additional support.

Our **Learning Support team** helps students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to access their education. They work hard to build positive working relationships with the families of our SEND students, putting the child firmly at the centre of all they do. They are committed to being clear and honest about how we plan to meet a student's needs; they work alongside a wider team of intervention leaders, keyworkers and teaching assistants. However, by far the most important part of our team is the teachers; each of them plays a pivotal role in ensuring that students have access to an outstanding education. Our aim is to ensure that every student is taught by experts who have all the knowledge, skills and support necessary to meet their needs within the classroom.

Our **Student Support team** helps students who may need emotional support, or help with mental health issues. They include an Emotional Wellbeing Support

Coordinator who can provide support to students from our Wellbeing Room and also signpost them to further services.

We also have an Integrated Resource to meet the needs of deaf and hearing impaired students, so you will often see students using sign language around school.

Procedures to keep students safe and secure in the school are exemplary. Students say how very safe they feel and that any rare incidents of bullying are dealt with promptly and successfully by adults.
Ofsted

My daughter went through some major life changes during her time at Silverdale. The staff went well beyond what I expected and treated her with dignity and compassion, ensuring that she still achieved her best whilst offering support and understanding when she needed it.

Parent of former student

Supporting our students during Covid-19

The current situation has been challenging for all schools. We worked hard to stay in contact with our students and their families, setting remote learning via Google Classroom.

We adjusted our approach as the months progressed, listening to feedback from staff, students, parents and carers. This included ensuring students had more contact with staff, whether that was over the phone or via online lessons.

You can find out more and see the range of wellbeing resources we provided on our website: <https://www.silverdale-chorustrust.org/remotelearning>

To prepare for our students returning this year, we have changed the school day to provide separate lunch breaks. Our building has a one-way system and we are providing additional lessons and support for the year groups who have exams this academic year.

Experienced staff who are specialists in their subject

Silverdale's excellent reputation means we are able to attract high calibre candidates every time we advertise a teaching vacancy.

We are extremely proud of the fact that our teachers are specialists in the subjects they teach, bringing with them expert knowledge and skills. Indeed, many of them also train other teachers across the region who want to gain subject knowledge.

Having a sixth form as part of the school is also a big advantage: many of our staff teach A-levels and are able to draw down this learning for younger students, helping them achieve beyond the requirements of GCSEs and preparing them for post-16 education.

We also run one of the largest Teaching Schools in the region, the Sheffield Teaching School Alliance (STSA). This means we are training the next generation of teachers, as well as providing continuing professional development to our colleagues across the region. Our staff are at the cutting edge of educational developments, continually

developing their practice to ensure our students receive the very best education.

Throughout our daughter's time at Silverdale all of the staff have told her to have confidence in her abilities and we're so glad that you all kept on telling her that. Thank you for all the time you've invested in her to help her grow into the daughter we're hugely proud of.

Parent of recent sixth former



Modern facilities in a tranquil location

We are fortunate to have a modern building with excellent facilities to support a broad curriculum.

Our sporting and performance facilities include an athletics track, long-jump pits and built-in throwing areas for athletics, rugby and football pitches, astro-turf pitch, tennis courts, table tennis tables, basketball courts, a playground, indoor sports hall, activity/dance studio, auditorium and drama studio.

Our design and technology workrooms include 3D printers, laser cutters, digital sewing machines, computer suites, wood and metal work equipment.

Our classrooms have interactive whiteboards and include a large number of fully equipped science laboratories. Each corridor includes a student breakout area, with soft seating and computers.

The building also has a restaurant and snack bar, library and sixth form common room.

Our Student Council has produced a 'Park and Stride' map which shows parents where they can drop off students so they can safely walk to school.



I like that it's bigger here than primary school. There's lots to do and good places to play in. You soon find your way around okay.

Current Year 7 student





Online Open Evening for Year 6 students

Tuesday 29 September 2020
6pm to 7pm

You must register in advance to attend. Go to:
www.silverdale-chorustrust.org/joinourschool

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