



National Teaching School

The True Essence of Being a Teaching School

You will be aware that Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form is a 'National Teaching School' but what does this actually mean?

Firstly, it means that our current work has been judged as outstanding in all areas. A school cannot be awarded Teaching School status unless this criteria has been met. There are other criteria including the experience of the Leadership Team and the capacity of the school to undertake this important work.

We did not apply for Teaching School status without being totally convinced that this would bring benefits for the young people of our community, whose education we are entrusted to deliver. Having convinced ourselves, we applied, were critically assessed and granted the status in September 2014.

Our best comparison for this relatively recent initiative of Teaching Schools is the highly successful teaching hospitals which exist across the country. They have to deliver the very best of patient care, whilst seeking to lead research into improving practice. This leads them to attracting the very best practitioners who want to work in this environment of constant improvement. We believe this will be the same for us as a Teaching School and will benefit our young people and their learning.

Whilst, as a National Teaching School, we lead this work, we are building a very strong partnership of other schools and professionals within our formal alliance. Again, we see this as a strength of what this development will offer. Equally, we are committed to our work and ethos being of benefit to the practice of every member of our school team with everyone committed to constant improvement.

As a Teaching School we are charged with delivering on six areas, to improve not just our own school but also other schools throughout the region. The areas are:



Our priority will always remain to our students, their parents and the community we serve. Through the Teaching School we will become even better at this whilst having a commitment to raising standards:

- within our community through the Thorpe St Andrew Educational Partnership
- alongside other Partners, spread across the County, through our Teaching School Alliance
- across Norfolk, through a partnership of all teaching schools (currently five) and Norfolk Children's Services
- more widely across East Anglia, as a member of the regional Teaching School Network.

Our Teaching School is named Norfolk Teaching and Leadership Excellence Centre (NTLEC). More details of our work and programmes can be found on our website www.ntlec.org.uk