



**A
colourful
world.**

Ryburn Valley High School

Our core purpose is to inspire a generation of high performing, joyful students with a love of learning, a zest for life and a genuine confidence to excel in a colourful world.



creativity

extra

wellbeing

values

collaborate

community

future

strive

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Ryburn Valley High School, where educational excellence and character development are at the heart of everything we do.

At Ryburn, we are committed to providing a nurturing environment where every student can thrive. Our dedicated staff members are amazing, in both the relationships they forge and the incredible range of opportunities they make possible. They are here to support you, ensuring that you receive the best possible education. It is with us that you will discover your passions, develop your skills and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Our core values - Respect, Honesty, Kindness, and Endeavour - are not just words on paper; they are the principles that guide our actions and interactions every day. We believe that these values are the building blocks of strong character and contribute to creating a positive school community. Our unique Identity curriculum explicitly develops traits such as resilience and empathy, which we consider to be essential for you to lead happy and successful lives.

Student leadership is extremely important to us. Our ambassadors, and subject, sports and charity leaders contribute immeasurably to life at Ryburn, both within the school and its community. We encourage all of our students to embrace the many opportunities on offer. Ryburn is a place where you can explore your interests, develop your talents, and realise your dreams. Your time with us will shape your young lives, and we are excited to provide you with magical learning experiences.



We are proud to welcome you into our team. We can't wait to see all the wonderful things you will achieve during your time with us.

Once again, welcome to Ryburn, where everyone matters, and every dream counts.

Donna Watkins
Head of School

A young boy with blonde hair, wearing a black school uniform with a white shirt and tie, is standing next to the word "hello" written in large, bold, orange lowercase letters. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a solid blue color.

hello

Welcome to the strong, bright and friendly community of Ryburn Valley High School. Discover our thriving school and a generation of students filled with kindness, character and the splash of colour our future needs.

collab

When schools collaborate, incredible things happen.

As a founding member of the Together Learning Trust, we are at the heart of a close family of local schools, including Honley High School, the Brooksbank School and sixth form, Ryburn Sixth and three primary schools. Working together brings huge benefits to our schools, staff and students, supporting us all to be the best we can be.

Ryburn is committed not only to collaborative learning within the classroom but also as a school. Through the professional development of leaders and staff, effective curriculum development, robust quality assurance, mutual support and great governance, by working together we demonstrate meaningful and sustainable



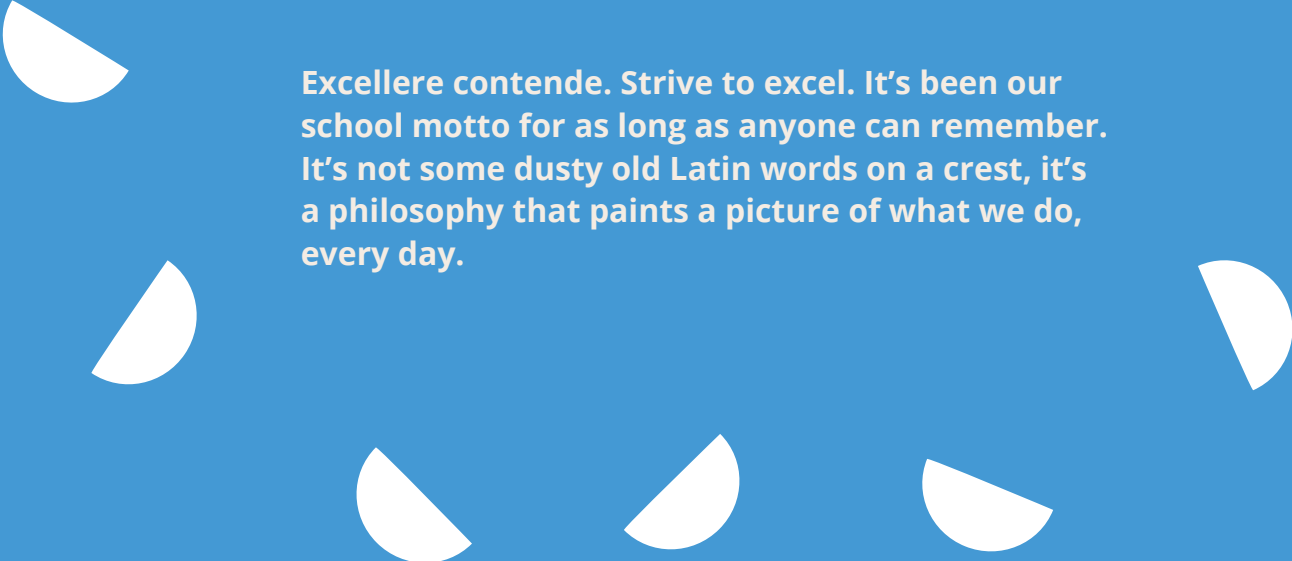
improvements in our schools. Our aim is to become the best at getting better. Being part of a vibrant trust brings plenty of opportunities to students as well, such as coaching and supporting younger students, competing in inter-school events or sharing ideas with student leaders from other schools. We are stronger together.

We are united in our aim to deliver extraordinary education - for every child, every day.

Together
Learning Trust



strive



Excellere contende. Strive to excel. It's been our school motto for as long as anyone can remember. It's not some dusty old Latin words on a crest, it's a philosophy that paints a picture of what we do, every day.

Achieve excellence

Ryburn is known for the quality of our teaching, for putting creativity at the heart of learning, and for our confident, successful students. Our staff are outstanding, both in the incredible range of opportunities they make possible, and in the relationships they build as a solid foundation.

Our curriculum is broad and balanced, carefully designed to develop long term knowledge, skills and understanding which can be effectively transferred to new opportunities. It promotes the personal, social, physical, spiritual, moral, and cultural development of our students and prepares them for the opportunities,

responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Explore our curriculum and subjects in depth at www.rvhs.co.uk/curriculum.

Everyone matters at Ryburn, and when you give students a safe and encouraging environment, amazing things can happen. We excel at core subjects at GCSE and at A-Level. Students flourish and achieve top grades throughout our diverse curriculum. They leave Ryburn with self-belief, drive, resilience, and the skills they need to achieve anything they set their minds to.

Don't take our word for it, you can find all of the results data on our website www.rvhs.co.uk/performance.



Ryburn Valley High School provides a strong, vibrant and welcoming community. Pupils swell with pride when they talk about their school. They told inspectors about the opportunities they get to develop their confidence and resilience.

- Ofsted Report 2022





creat



creativity

Creativity is the beating heart of our school. Creative arts at Ryburn are recognised at the highest level by our Platinum Artsmark Award. Our student's achievements in art, dance, music, media and drama are outstanding, providing opportunities to develop key skills that are valuable to their bright futures.



Art has motivated me to reach my full creative potential, and discover a love of photography.

- Rahimah, Year 8

Skills for life

Creative work gives students a unique opportunity to develop essential soft skills such as resourcefulness, communication and emotional intelligence which are about more than gaining knowledge.

Embracing creativity helps us to solve problems, feel brave and fulfilled, and to adapt and thrive. Most importantly, it enables students to explore and paint their own identities, follow their passions and enjoy a colourful life.

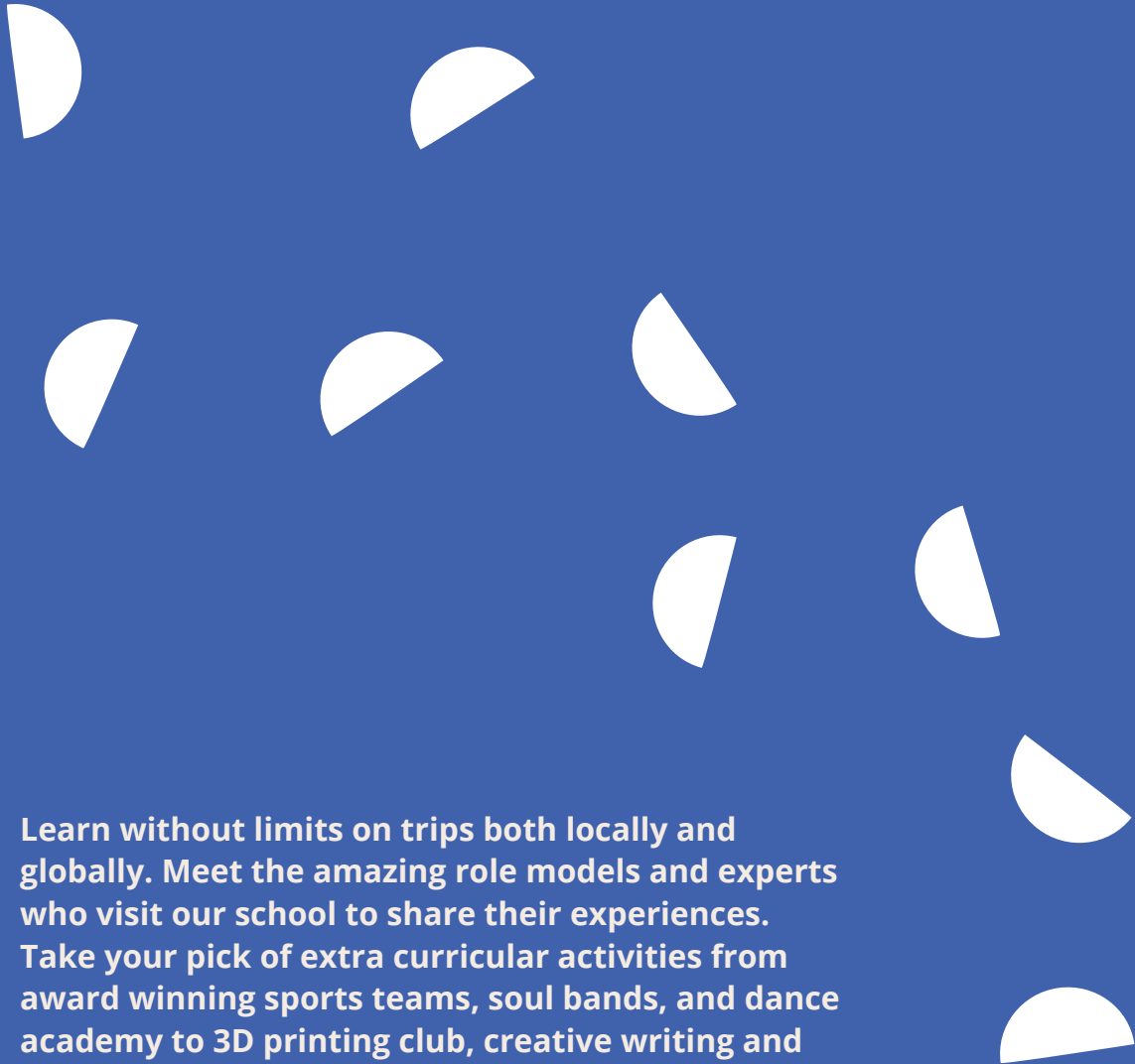
There are countless ways to explore and express your creativity at Ryburn and the quality of our work has twice been recognised at the highest level with the Artsmark Platinum award.

Students work alongside professional artists to create inspiring work for the whole community to enjoy, such as a stunning mural for the children's eye clinic at Calderdale Royal Hospital and lighting up Sowerby Bridge in the Winterlight festival. Our photography and media departments allow students to hone their digital skills and explore how we engage and communicate with the modern world.

Our students excel in performance, taking their place front and centre at Open Evenings, assemblies, concerts, school productions and at our prestigious annual Academy Awards. Ryburn Dance Academy dazzle in competitions and perform internationally, visiting locations across Europe and in the United States. Our music department nurtures talent at all levels, with several bands, choirs and soloists performing regularly.

Our drama students are keen communicators, confident spokespeople and effective problem solvers. Our industry links have helped many students get parts on TV and film. Over 250 students got real-life insight into a professional TV shoot as extras in Channel 4's 'Ackley Bridge' and BBC's 'Happy Valley'.





Learn without limits on trips both locally and globally. Meet the amazing role models and experts who visit our school to share their experiences. Take your pick of extra curricular activities from award winning sports teams, soul bands, and dance academy to 3D printing club, creative writing and board games club. We have something for everyone.


Extra opportunities to shine

At Ryburn, we provide an environment filled with bright possibilities to inspire you. From building actual racing cars to taking tutorials on literary theory with PhD students, from interviewing a Mount Everest explorer to attempting to break a Guinness World Record, the range of extraordinary opportunities for our students is enormous.

For our students, learning happens all over the world. Annual trips like the ski trip and the long haul expedition are always popular. Our students travelled to New York and South Africa, and played football at Real Madrid. Subject departments run many interesting trips too, both in the UK and further afield. Every new student has the chance to participate in Year 7 Camp and we have run the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme successfully for many years.

We are incredibly proud of our sports teams and the staff that coach them. Ryburn students have won many championships including West Yorkshire Schools FA Cup, the Yorkshire T20 cricket championship and Rugby League National Championship, and perform amazing gymnastics.

We believe everyone's potential is limitless, and that you don't have to be good at something right away to enjoy it. Join the excitement of one of our major school productions or dive deeper into the colourful worlds of science, engineering, technology and maths in STEM club. Maybe you could be a budding journalist, a sports star, a linguist, a podcaster or make a difference as a Charity Leader?

A photograph of two young boys in school uniforms walking away from the camera on a grassy field. The boy on the right has his arm around the shoulder of the boy on the left. They are wearing dark blue short-sleeved shirts with light blue and white stripes on the sleeves and dark blue shorts. The background is a blurred green field with trees and other people in the distance.

I really enjoy the Bits, Bytes and Bugs Club. It has helped me find new friends and has taught me how to use different techniques in my scripts. Now I look at my hobby in a whole new way.

- Charlie, Year 8



Wellbeing

Wellbeing is the foundation of school life. We promote positive mental health for everyone at Ryburn. Feeling supported, safe and positive allows us to learn and thrive.

Every student, every day

Everyone deserves to have a positive state of mind and body, to feel safe and able to cope, with a sense of connection with people, communities and the wider environment.

We find every opportunity to foster wellbeing across our school community through individual support, explicit teaching of habits and coping strategies, and through events and celebrations. Our brilliant students take a lead too, through student council activities, our LGBTQ+ group and by training as Mental Health Mentors.

We care deeply about each and every student, which is why we have a team of experienced professionals dedicated to student wellbeing and safeguarding. The Heads and Assistant Heads of Year, Pastoral Support Staff and Welfare Officers support individual students and their families when challenges arise. We work closely with specialist local services and are part of Calderdale's Mental Health Support Programme.

Supported learning

Most of the students at Ryburn make expected or above average progress for their age, but a few have difficulties and need extra support. This could include difficulties with communication and interaction; cognition and learning; social, emotional and mental health and sensory or physical difficulties. In all these cases, there are ways we can support students to enjoy learning and to reach their potential. With one of the biggest and best SEND departments in Calderdale, our experienced and expert staff ensure there are no barriers to learning at Ryburn.



YOUNG ADULT

YOUNG ADULT

FICTION

Dead
HOLLY JACKSON

OF ME

PRODIGY

THE CHAMPION

I R STRUCK

ONE OF US IS NEXT

I CAN KEEP A SECRET

THE CODS

Resistance

Declaration

THE PARTY

CONFENDER

THE BRIGHT

THE

OPTIMISTS

OP

DIO SILENCE

OP




va



Values

By developing our own personally crafted curriculum, we seek to embody our core values of kindness, honesty, respect and endeavour. We nurture young people with a moral compass and strength of character alongside their studies.

A young boy with short blonde hair, wearing a dark blue V-neck sweater over a white collared shirt and a dark tie, is smiling at the camera. He is positioned in the center of the frame. The background is a large, out-of-focus crowd of people, many of whom have their arms raised in the air, suggesting a school assembly or a celebratory event. The lighting is warm and focused on the boy.

The school has a well planned approach to personal, social, health and citizenship education. This is a strength of the school. It is highly valued by the school has been recognised for the quality of their work by different awarding bodies.

- Ofsted Report 2022

Identity curriculum

A core part of our mission is to ensure that our students leave Ryburn as confident global citizens, equipped with the knowledge, skills and character they need to succeed personally, and the empathy and understanding of others to help make that future a kinder one.

To achieve this, we have created our own unique Identity curriculum - consisting of iGen, iD and iDays - to deliver PSHCE and more. Our expertise in this area has been recognised by Ofsted and as one of the few schools to achieve the Character Kitemark Plus.

iGen lessons centre around shared reading of literature. By stepping into the shoes of the characters, students explore and discuss a range of key themes in a safe environment with their peers. Our goal is to help students to develop into mature, well rounded individuals who think about who they are outside of the classroom. We're also passionate about the value of reading. Building this time into our regular weekly routine sets up a life long habit and improves literacy.

In their iD lessons, Year 7 and 8 students learn and practise transferable skills that help them with self-directed study, inspire them to follow different paths and have understanding of others' perspectives and experiences. As a Unicef Rights Respecting School, students learn about the rights of the child and how this applies to them and children around the world.

We continue our focus on personal development right through to Ryburn Sixth. We hold regular iDays for all year groups, when normal timetables are suspended to make way for specialist sessions delivered by teachers, visiting professionals and external agencies in order to provide a variety of experiences.



iGen has helped build my confidence in reading and when discussing important topics about the books we've read. Now I am a Reading Leader for English, assisting younger students with reading.

- Kai, Year 11

commu

Through our diverse curriculum and extra-curricular groups, we encourage our students to look beyond the school gates towards our local and global responsibilities. We are proud of our student leaders who seek to make the world a better place, taking small steps to make a big difference.

unity





Be empowered

We give students the skills to take a lead in every aspect of school life. Our students are our biggest strength, and we are always looking for ways to empower them to get involved in topics that matter to them.

From our Charity Leaders who come up with fun events to help us raise money for those who need it to our Eco Group who make sure that we're all being as responsible towards our planet as we can be.

Our team of Ambassadors and our Student Council make a huge contribution to life at Ryburn. They ensure every student's voice is heard at management level in decisions that affect us all. They have been responsible for creating groups focused on improving elements of the student experience, and have led campaigns to raise awareness about important issues like mental health and body positivity. Through doing so, they develop incredible leadership skills and experience. We are so

proud of these future leaders.

We are a school at the heart of the community, driven by our core values of kindness, honesty, respect and endeavour. We seek to embody these values in everything we do, from touring local primary schools to collecting food hampers, performing for our elderly or vulnerable neighbours, there are so many ways our students show kindness towards others. Everyone here is capable of making a difference.



fruit

wire

It's our job to prepare a generation for a future we can hardly imagine. The world of tomorrow will be very different to the one parents and teachers faced when they left school. What challenges and opportunities will our students face as adults in a rapidly changing world? What can we do to shape the leaders, entrepreneurs, problem-solvers and activists of the future? Quite a lot, actually.

The future is bright

To enable our students to excel in the future, we help them develop skills such as resilience, self-motivation and metacognition (understanding how we think and learn). As a Careers Mark school, we raise aspirations and open doors by creating opportunities to be inspired by or work with professionals in all kinds of fields. Throughout your time at Ryburn, our onsite careers advisors C&K offer comprehensive and impartial advice on options for the future beyond school to help our students choose the right path for them.

We are fortunate to have our own excellent sixth form - Ryburn Sixth - which offers a wide range of A-levels and vocational subjects. At a time when most local school-based sixth forms

have closed, this offers a valuable choice of a high quality and nurturing progression route at 16, and an alternative to large colleges. Students achieve great results. With the support of our Excel programme, many progress to top universities, as well as apprenticeships and employment.

You don't simply stop being a part of Ryburn once you pick up your results, many of our alumni come back long after they have left us to offer valuable advice and guidance to our students. We love to find out what our students go on to achieve and how their time here shaped them. Our alumni work in a variety of fields such as software development, professional sports, teaching and the film and TV industry. Check out the role models page on our website www.rvhs.co.uk/careers



Having careers advisors in school gives me confidence to seek advice about what to do after Ryburn.

- Ellie, Year 10



Your adventure starts here

We hope that this prospectus has given you a flavour of the colourful world of Ryburn Valley High School, and that you are as excited as we are about the journey to come. We would love you to be part of it.

If you'd like to find out more please visit our website where you will find up to date information on our admissions policy, uniform, curriculum and much more.

How to apply

Applications are made via Calderdale Council through their website. Find out more at www.rvhs.co.uk/admissions. The deadline is 31 October.

Ryburn Valley High School

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Ryburn Valley High School is proud to be a member of the Together Learning Trust. Registered address Ryburn Valley High School, St Peters Avenue, Sowerby, Sowerby Bridge, HX6 1DG. A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (company number 9040380)

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