

## **Sleaford Joint Sixth Form Open Evening 2021** *Choice, Opportunity Success*

### **An introduction from Mr Nick Law, the Executive Headteacher and Mrs Josephine Smith, Head of Kesteven and Sleaford High School**

#### **Mr Nick Law**

Good evening to all of you this evening and welcome to The Robert Carre Trust. My name is Nick Law, Executive Headteacher of the Trust and Head of Carre's Grammar School. I have with me Josephine Smith, the Head of Kesteven and Sleaford High School, and together we are delighted to welcome you to the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form Open Evening. In the next few minutes, we hope to give you a flavour of what studying as part of the SJSF is all about with a little help from those who know best – the students.

Many of you will already know the schools and have picked up a feel for them. For those that have not, tonight is an opportunity to talk to staff and students...find out about A level study, BTecs, CTecs... and ask questions. We want you to leave feeling well informed and surer about what it is you want to do after GCSEs. We hope we can help you find out about the different courses, their entry requirements, and the next steps you need to take if you would like to study with us.

I hope very much that you will be able to fit in time to visit all three schools this evening. If you choose to study in the SJSF you will have access to over 50 courses across 3 sites, which is the broadest offer you will find in anywhere in the county. Across the two schools in the RCT these are mostly A level courses, but we do offer other courses and most of our students will study 3 subjects over 2 years and access 5 hours of teaching time in each subject per week. The Extended Project qualification worth UCAS points and DofE programmes are available and are encouraged. Across the Trust we have had some outstanding results and students who have a fantastic array of skills. We know that universities and employers really value these things, and it is no coincidence that our students go onto some of the top Universities, top apprenticeships, and top jobs.

So what is the Sleaford Joint Sixth Form about?

Firstly it is about **Choice**

- Academic
- Vocational
- Flexibility
- Majority of combinations can be accommodated (e.g. 3 MFL, drama, computing, range of Art, Science, Sports qualifications ...all delivered by specialists)

And then it is about

- **Opportunity**

The students will talk to you about some of the opportunities they have here, but all three schools are absolutely committed to making sure that sixth form

is a time of personal growth, and good fun with lots of chances to discover new strength

And of course the SJSF is about **Success**. And that means **success FOR ALL....**

### **Mrs Josephine Smith**

It is a real privilege to help young people to achieve their aspirations – and we endeavour to help students achieve in whatever forum.....day in day out we help them achieve the absolute best grades of course , but just as importantly we aim to help all our young people find personal satisfaction and pride in what they do.

We are always looking for ways to help SJSF students love learning whether that is in the classroom on the sports field, on stage, as part of a musical ensemble, at work experience placements or taking part in the various leadership roles for which they can sign up.

We are expected to deliver exam success and do for ALL our students. Our academic success places us high in both county and national rankings. We are proud of their achievements.

Typically, over 85% of Robert Carre Trust students go on to university .... the vast majority being accepted into their first choices. Every year we have students who go on to Oxbridge and/or Medicine or Veterinary Medicine degrees. Many select Russell group universities to continue their studies.

The landscape is shifting for young people though and many of our students choose alternative routes, earning a salary whilst they gain professional qualifications via sought after apprenticeships, other enter employment... some even develop their own businesses. We have close local links with the Armed Forces – and our students are placed perfectly for careers in any of the Services. Even in Covid times some of our students have become decorated athletes and women with the most successful looking at scholarships to study in the US next year.

Some of our students choose to travel for a year before studying further– we are here to advise and counsel .... whatever their ambitions... but also, to make sure that doors are kept open, so the world really is their oyster

For many of you this evening those decisions rightly seem a long way off still. Our job is to imagine your future with you and prepare you for it. That means that grades matter; but finding your passions, staying mentally well and healthy and supporting you as you navigate the next two years matters more. We want to help you unlock your potential and prepare you here for life.

Some of you may be sitting here excited about the next challenge beyond GCSEs and rigour of post-16 study, whilst other may be nervous about meeting the criteria for A level study. The beauty of the range of courses

across the SJSF means there is something available here for everyone. Our different pathways and our entry requirements make post 16 study with us attainable for everyone. You will hear Mrs Smith and Miss Chant talk more about that in just a moment.

Some of you may want to find out more about choosing a base school for sixth form. Very simply your base school is where your tutor base will be; staff in your base school will write your references, they will support you through the next two years. Wherever you base however, your studies are likely to be across more than one site and are dependent on the combination of options you choose. Where you study each subject ensures you get the best teaching in the best facilities.

But please do not take Mr Law and my word for it. I am delighted to introduce you to 4 of our Year 13 students, based at both schools in the Trust, who can share their experiences with you.