



1.1 Introduction

William Brookes School is a Shropshire Council co-educational 11-18 comprehensive secondary community school, with approximately 925 students on roll during 2010-2011, of whom more than 110 are members of the Sixth Form. There are approximately 60 teaching staff and 60 support staff.

The school was founded in January 1953 as Much Wenlock County Secondary School. In 1970 the school received its first comprehensive intake and was renamed William Brookes School. This was in recognition of the life and work of Much Wenlock's Dr William Penny Brookes, who was a public spirited man, influential in the launching of the modern Olympic Games through his contacts with Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

The school serves a wide and essentially rural area, stretching from the South of Telford, including Broseley, to the Corvedale. There are eight main partner primary schools and a large number of the students travel to and from school by bus.

The school is situated in an attractive setting on the edge of the small, historic town of Much Wenlock, 12 miles from Shrewsbury and a few miles south of Telford and Ironbridge. In 2006 we were delighted to be selected as Shropshire's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) *One School Pathfinder* school. This has enabled us to develop plans for a school that provides a much wider range of learning and personal development opportunities and meet the challenges of 21st century education.

The new Much Wenlock Leisure Centre and the new Edge Arts Centre are both situated on our school campus and they will provide a wide and exciting range of additional facilities and opportunities for William Brookes school students, as well as the wider community.

As a '*High Performing Specialist School*' we have two specialisms, Performing Arts and Maths & Computing.

We are also a '*Coubertin School*' and work in partnership with an international network of Coubertin Schools across Europe and beyond, as well as with the Wenlock Olympian Society. This offers our students additional opportunities related to the worldwide Olympic movement, including representing Britain at the biennial International Youth Forum.

We are working closely with a range of organisations involved in the programme for the London 2012 Olympic Games. For example, we have already been involved in the launch of the London 2012 Mascots, *Wenlock* and *Mandeville*, the launch of the '*2012 Community Games Toolkit*' and the '*2012 Olympics Young Roots Project*'. Students meet regularly with high profile representatives from the Olympic movement.

1.2 School Aims

5 key transformational themes are woven through the body of the educational principles that inform the vision for our *pathfinder school*:

OLYMPISM

- Grounded in the historic legacy of William Penny Brookes and the founding work of Coubertin, Olympism draws on the pursuit of personal excellence.

INNOVATIVE TEACHING, PERSONALISED LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT

- A sustained focus on innovative teaching and learning, harnessing the benefits of the new technologies, developing the practice of the school workforce and providing opportunities via learning pathways, for all to progress and achieve in an outstanding school.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- Active pursuit of the 5 outcomes of *'Every Child Matters'*, allied to the fundamental principles enshrined in the Olympian ideal of a 'healthy mind in a healthy body'.

COMMUNICATIONS

- At the heart of the everyday practice, to meet the needs of students and the community, to provide breadth of access to the curriculum and to exploit the benefits of e learning, thereby encouraging the further development of citizenship and personal development.

EXTENDED COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- An extension of the foundation of success, partnership working will strengthen relationships with and between all the communities served by the school, through opportunities in learning, sport, arts and culture.

1.3 Arts College Aims

- To extend curriculum opportunities in the performing arts subjects, including cultural, creative expressive and technological enrichment.
- To increase take-up of, and interest in, the performing arts subject courses, particularly post-16.
- To work in partnership with a wide range of school, business and community groups in the William Brookes School community and with Shropshire Council and community arts groups to provide an increased number and range of high quality learning opportunities through sharing specialist facilities and resources (including specialist teachers/artists in residence).
- To develop and disseminate good practice to share with our 8 partner primary schools and the secondary schools in the South East Learning Forum (SELF).

1.4 Maths & Computing College Aims

We are committed to developing a visible and distinctive mathematics and computing ethos within the school, communicating this to our local community, including industry and businesses.

- To create a visible mathematics and computing/ICT ethos that inspires and motivates, raises attainment and improves post-16 participation in the specialist subjects.
- To develop a mathematically and computing/ICT rich curriculum.
- To address the needs of future citizens, as well as those of future mathematics and computing/ICT specialists.
- To develop a rich repertoire of teaching and learning strategies to enrich provision for our own students and those in our partner schools.
- To develop and disseminate resources and good practice to be shared with other schools and the wider community.
- To work with relevant businesses and industries to establish high status vocational courses and work-related opportunities, to ensure that all students have access to appropriate pathways.

1.5 The Edge Arts Centre



The Edge Arts Centre, which opened originally in 2003, serves both school and community. It has been re-created as a key element of the new school and will include a performance hall (with retractable seating for 250), dance and drama studios that provide a “black box” facility with seating for 100 and a lecture theatre/cinema with seating for 90, all of which are fully equipped for theatre, film and music, with dressing rooms and full technical support. There is a large concourse area, linked to art exhibition space, a small café (with a licensed bar) and further dining facilities. The music area completes the Arts Centre facilities, with a music technology suite, a recording studio and a number of practice and ensemble rooms. These specialist areas of the school will provide a venue for an extensive range of music, dance, drama and other Arts events throughout the year.

Separate fliers give full details of the programme for school and the wider community. More details can be obtained by contacting the Box Office, 01952 728911, by emailing manager@edgeartscentre.co.uk or by visiting www.edgeartscentre.co.uk

1.6 Much Wenlock Leisure Centre

The new Much Wenlock Leisure Centre forms an important part of the new school campus. Its facilities are used extensively by the school during term time and also by the public, mainly during evenings, weekends and school holidays. During public use time it will be managed by Shropshire Council Leisure Services.

The Leisure Centre has a full range of indoor and external facilities, for a variety of sporting and recreational activities that include archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, cricket, fencing, football, gymnastics, hockey, martial arts, rugby, tennis, trampolining, swimming, volleyball and more. A number of the clubs who use these facilities have had substantial success, locally and on the national stage.

The new Centre includes the following facilities:

- 4 court sports hall (including 4 lane cricket nets)
- activity hall/gymnasium
- fitness suite
- 25m 6 lane indoor swimming pool
- a 200 metre polymeric running track, with 100 metre straight
- astro turf pitch for hockey and football
- multi-use, floodlit games area for tennis (4 courts), football, netball and basketball
- grass football/rugby pitch

The neighbouring Gaskell Recreational Ground has additional facilities for community use which can also be available for school use.

The Centre will run swimming programmes with a wide range of sessions available for swimmers of all abilities, as well as sessions for club use (e.g. by Northgate Swimming Club).

The BeActive leisure scheme is open to all residents, visitors, clubs, groups and organisations and is available at all Shropshire Council leisure facilities. By becoming a BeActive member you can receive discounts of up to 15% on most activities at our Leisure Centres. BeActive members will also be able to take advantage of advance bookings, with online booking available at some facilities.

More details can be obtained from Much Wenlock Leisure Centre by telephoning 01952 727629 during evenings, weekends and holidays, by visiting www.shropshire.gov.uk or emailing muchwenlock.leisure@shropshire.gov.uk

1.7 '*Coubertin School*' Links

Being a *Coubertin School* is very important to the school. Pierre de Coubertin, who is heralded as the creator of the modern day Olympic Games, was inspired by a visit to Much Wenlock in 1890 as the guest of Dr William Penny Brookes.

Coubertin was a French philosopher who believed in educating the whole body and mind. He had heard of the work of William Penny Brookes and, in particular, the Olympian Games that he organised in Much Wenlock each year. He decided to visit England and come and see Dr Brookes and between them they discussed plans to revive the ancient Olympic Games. Later Coubertin was to say, "...if the Olympic Games that modern Greece has not yet been able to revive still survive today, it is due not to a Greek but to Dr W P Brookes. It is he who inaugurated them 40 years ago and it is still he, now 82 years old but still alert and vigorous, who continues to organise and inspire them". Sadly, Dr Brookes died just before the first modern day Olympics in 1896 and therefore was unable to see his dream come true. Juan-Antonio Samaranch, while he was president of the International Olympic Committee, visited the grave of William Penny Brookes in Much Wenlock and said, "I have come to pay tribute and homage to Dr Brookes, who really was the founder of the Olympic Games."

The International Youth Forum

There is a network of *Coubertin Schools* around the world; it started in Europe and therefore there are many schools in this continent but recently there have been schools co-opted in Tunisia, Kenya, Cameroon and Australia, as well as Beijing. Many schools are brought into the Coubertin family because they are specialist sports schools; however it is our special history that enables us to be a part of the network.

As a *Coubertin School* we are invited every two years to an International Youth Forum, each held in a different country. The first was in Le Havre, where Coubertin lived for most of his life, the second here in Much Wenlock, and subsequently in Lausanne (the home of the IOC), Genova-Arenzano, Radstadt, Tábor and Olympia. The 2011 Forum will be held in Beijing. Each time we are invited to take 7 – 10 Sixth Form students and during the week they have workshops and discussions on different Olympic principles, social events that encourage interaction between the different countries and sporting activities. They also have to compete for a *Coubertin Award*, which has four elements:

1. Community service (that has to be undertaken in advance)
2. Olympic knowledge test
3. Sports tests
4. An arts presentation involving a performance to all participants during the Forum
5. Olympic values

Students always leave the Forum having learnt a great deal about Olympism and its relevance to today's world. Friendships begun during the Forum, with people from all over the world, have developed into on-going contact, visits and wide-ranging shared activities and interests.

Now that London 2012 is a reality, and with London 2012 mascot *Wenlock* firmly rooted in our community's Olympian traditions, our students have helped launch the '*2012 Community Games Toolkit*' in Much Wenlock, with Olympians Jonathan Edwards and David Moorcroft. This draws on the inspiration of Dr William Penny Brookes' original concept for the Wenlock Olympian Games and we hope that our Olympic heritage here in Much Wenlock will now get the wider recognition it deserves and Dr William Penny Brookes will become a national hero!

Jonathan Edwards, Deputy Chair of LOCOG Nations and Regions and Vice President of the Wenlock Olympian Society says: "Seeing the heritage of the Much Wenlock Games being taken to the streets across the West Midlands through the Community Games is very exciting. This is what the 2012 Games are all about – inspiring people with the values of the Olympic and Paralympic Movements and encouraging greater sports participation. Given my involvement in both the 2012 Games preparations and the Wenlock Olympian Society, I am particularly proud to support the Community Games."

1.9 The School Year

Autumn Term 2011:

Term starts

Tuesday 6th September Y7, Mentors & Y12
Wednesday 7th September Y8, Y9, Y10 & Y13

Half term

Monday 19th September Y11

Professional Development Days (school closed to students)

Monday 24th to Friday 28th October (inclusive)

Term ends for staff and students

Monday 5th September

Friday 16th December

Spring Term 2012:

Term starts

Wednesday 4th January

Half term

Monday 13th to Friday 17th February (inclusive)

Professional Development Days (school closed to students)

Tuesday 3rd January & Thursday 22nd March

Term ends for staff and students

Friday 30th March

Summer Term 2012:

Term starts

Monday 16th April

May Day Bank Holiday

Monday 7th May

Half term

Friday 1st to Friday 8th June (inclusive)

Term ends for staff and students

Friday 20th July

1.10 The School Day

For the 2011/12 School Year the school day will include the following pattern:

08.50 Period 1 – 1 hour

09.50 Period 2 – 1 hour

10.50 Break

11.10 Period 3 – 1 hour

12.10 Period 4 – 1 hour

13.10 Tutorial Period/Lunch/Clubs/Social Time

14.30 Period 5 – 1 hour

15.30 End of main school day, departure of regular school buses

15.45 Period 6 activities, clubs, including Homework Club in Library (Mon-Thurs), practices, sports matches, arts, etc.