

# **WALSALL ACADEMY**



## **INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS TEACHER OF ENGLISH**

January 2010

# **Walsall Academy**

## **A School for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

In September 2003, the Walsall Academy opened its doors for the first time. This state of the art City Academy is sponsored by Thomas Telford School and The Mercers' Company. They have worked with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to create a centre of learning excellence in Bloxwich.

The Academy is registered as an Independent School and its specialism is Science, Technology and Performing Arts.

The mission statement of the Academy is 'to raise educational standards through effective practice and to share them with the wider community'. The school is a test bed for new ideas and methods and offers exciting opportunities for teachers to help to shape the future of this major Academy.

Underpinning this creativity is the commitment to provide the best possible education for children of all abilities and backgrounds and to develop a love of learning. They will be encouraged to achieve their best and to develop their talents to the full. This will include academic, sporting and artistic achievements and personal, moral and social developments.

## **Curriculum**

The curriculum is delivered through ten modules of approximately 3/4 weeks duration. Each module is planned to secure the very best learning and teaching opportunities for students and staff using a wide range of resources available in the school. Every teaching venue is fitted with an interactive electronic whiteboard and the curriculum is available on-line.

At the end of each module students receive a short report from which they are able to set targets for the next module's work. Parents also receive the report and are encouraged to comment on the general standard of work and homework.

Student performance is monitored closely and regular meetings are held to agree goals and individual action plans.

Individualised support is provided for students with special requirements such as express groups for able students.

There is a longer school day to enable students to take full advantage of the National Curriculum and to spend extra time on a wide range of subjects and to develop an understanding of industry and commerce.

The curriculum offers a breadth of opportunities both vocational and academic and in Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form, a wide range of courses are available.

A sophisticated Information Technology network provides the opportunity for all students and staff to use ICT as a tool and resource for teaching and learning.

## **Extra Curricular Activities**

The extra curricular programme gives all students a choice of opportunities to compliment and extend their education. These range from sports and hobbies to community work and form an integral part of the timetable.

## **Pastoral System**

There is a vertical pastoral system, with each personal tutor group consisting of a small number of students from each year group. All members of teaching staff are personal tutors and are supported by Senior Managers responsible for the Key Stage.

## **Facilities**

The facilities of the Academy are state of the art for a new school of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. They include:

### **Performing Arts**

- Theatre with tiered seating for 400
- Dance Drama studio with sprung floor and full length mirrors
- A Music Technology suite equipped with keyboards and supporting technology

### **Physical Education**

- Sports Hall with Fitness Centre
- Extensive outdoor facilities
- Suite of Classrooms

### **Science**

- Two major suites of laboratories, most of which can be 'double' or 'single' laboratories, depending on the curriculum requirement
- Two large preparation rooms

### **Technology**

- CAD/CAM suites and technology areas fitted with modern equipment
- Open plan Art and Design studio

### **Learning Bases/Study Rooms**

- Open plan learning areas to deliver non-specialist subjects supplemented by more traditional study rooms

### **Independent Learning Centres**

- Three independent learning centres fitted with PCs to provide access for students and staff for independent learning

### Library and Careers Resource Centre

- An extensive Library with resources to support the curriculum
- A careers and industrial links centre

### Restaurant and Hospitality Suite

- A restaurant furnished to provide breakfast and lunch for students and employees
- Hospitality Suite for the delivery of Hospitality and Catering

### Nursery

- A nursery for children aged 6 weeks – 4 years with availability for staff childcare

## **Routines**

Students are taught for a longer school day. Teaching commences at 8.30am and the normal teaching day finishes at 4pm. There are two main sessions each of three hour duration, allowing students to work without interruption.

The Academy remains open for Session 3 which offers a wider range of academic and recreational activities.

## **Admissions**

The Academy is an all-ability and inclusive school. There are currently 1,150 students on roll across all three key stages.

## **Professional Development**

This is a unique opportunity to work with staff of the Academy to help shape the Walsall Academy. All members of staff will benefit from a well structured supportive professional development programme which includes provision for newly qualified teachers.

Successful candidates will enjoy the benefits of working in a new school, in an environment of developing curriculum initiatives which should lead to future professional opportunities.

## **Standards**

In an Ofsted Inspection in January 2009, inspectors reported that the overall effectiveness of the Academy including the Sixth Form is outstanding, awarding a Grade 1.

## **English Area of Experience**

The English curriculum area comprises of four classrooms and a learning base which provides the opportunity for team teaching to take place when used as an open plan resource. The area is well stocked and resourced. The English team currently comprises of seven specialist teachers supported by three learning support assistants and two teachers of literacy.

At Key Stage Three English is taught to mixed ability classes enabling the use of a differentiated approach to curriculum management. The curriculum is written in-line with the National Curriculum using resources developed within and is available online. Student achievement at Key Stage 3 is excellent with outcomes consistently in the high 80 percentile.

In Key Stage Four all students follow AQA English Language and Literature and for a few these might be reduced to Language supported through ALAN. The curriculum area has successfully implemented early entry for English Language in Year 10. Results at Key Stage Four have shown year on year improvement and in 2009 64% of students achieved an A\* to C grade in English Language.

At Key Stage Five AGCE English Literature and English Language are offered with good numbers of students following AQA syllabi. Outcomes usually result in a 100% pass rate with most students achieving grade C or higher.

This position offers the successful candidate the opportunity to join a strong team which is continually evolving as it strives to be an excellent curriculum area. You will be expected to bring enthusiasm for the subject and contribute your ideas to the development work that is ongoing.

The successful candidate would be expected to take up post in September 2010 or sooner if possible. All posts are subject to the usual pre-employment checks and are subject to the satisfactory completion of an Enhanced CRB Disclosure.