

WALSALL ACADEMY



INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS TEACHER of DANCE

September 2009

Walsall Academy

A Different Choice of School

In September 2003, the Walsall Academy opened its doors for the first time. This brand new state of the art City Academy is sponsored by Thomas Telford School, The Mercers' Company and Tarmac Ltd. 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 will be 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/carers 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 21st 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

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 over 1000 students on roll across all three key stages and the Academy will reach maturity in September 2009 with 1150 students.

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.

Performing Arts Area of Experience - Dance

Performing Arts is taught in Key Stage 3 to all ability groups allowing a differentiated approach to curriculum management. Dance is taught to teaching groups in alternate modules rotating with Drama. Music is taught weekly. At Key Stage 4, Dance, Music and Drama are taught to GCSE and BTEC level, Dance is very popular. At Sixth Form students have the opportunity to study AGCE Dance, Theatre Studies and Music although it is the intention to introduce a BTEC Performing Arts course in the future.

A lively Session 3 programme is run within the Performing Arts area of experience which is well attended by students and is an important aspect of Academy life and curriculum.

Students enjoy the Performing Arts subjects and numbers of students pursuing studies into Key Stage 4 are high. This is due to the enthusiasm and professionalism of current staff in delivering exciting and progressive curriculum.

The facilities are purpose built and include a Theatre, Drama Studio, Dance Studio, Theatre and Music Suite including a Music Technology room. All well equipped and benefiting from Interactive Whiteboards to support curriculum delivery.

The Performing Arts team of staff are led by a Deputy Head who has overall responsibility for all aspects of curriculum, staffing and development within the Area of Experience. It is essential that the successful candidate can work well within a team environment and has a passion and enthusiasm for the Performing Arts that is communicated to students and sets and achieves high standards for themselves and their students.

This is a part time temporary position to cover maternity leave.