Walsall Academy

A different choice of school

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A different choice of school

Inspiring Achievement. Celebrating Success
Welcome from the Headteacher

It is a great privilege for me to serve as the Headteacher of Walsall Academy. I have seen the Academy go from strength to strength as confirmed by our Ofsted Inspection in 2016, where we were rated as good overall with outstanding leadership & management and behaviour & safety of students.

My favourite quote from the HMI Inspector’s report was; “pupils enjoy coming to school”.

This accurately reflects my feelings about Walsall Academy; that we are a happy inclusive community.

One of the recent Year 9 candidates for Head Girl encapsulated this sentiment perfectly in her nomination speech when she said, “Happiness, Respect and Passion...we as a team, pupils, teachers and parents will strive for the best, the very best.” Without these three qualities at the heart of all that we do and all that we are, Walsall Academy would not be the happy, inclusive, aspirational community that I am so proud to lead.

We are not an exams factory, but the students’ achievements are nonetheless fantastic. In 2016 we were the top performing non-selective school in Walsall, maybe because we put a great emphasis on other qualities that students can develop at Walsall Academy such as communication, problem solving, team work, leadership and resilience. In addition, we were the only school in Walsall in 2016 that had a positive Progress 8 score for disadvantaged students. In an area of Walsall with much deprivation, we can certainly hold our heads up high.

We have been extremely lucky to have the support of The Mercers’ Company and Thomas Telford School for a number of years and without this support I sincerely doubt Walsall Academy would have become the successful school it is today.

On the stage the students excelled in the fabulous ‘Disco Inferno’. On the sporting front, we made the National Finals in rounders and basketball and won the District Cup in several age groups for football and rugby, as well as being crowned overall champions in the Walsall Schools Athletics Competition.

Our trips and visits list gets longer with the highly successful expeditions to Nepal and Ethiopia as well as; German trip to Munich, History trip to the Belgian battlefields, Ski trip to Canada, Tourism, Business and French trip to Paris and Physics trip to see the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, Geneva. More children than ever are also completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award, the National Citizen Service and courses at Outward Bound.

We are extremely proud of our achievements and all that we have to offer young people. Come and see for yourself.

Simon Rogers
Headteacher
“Pupils enjoy an impressive range of opportunities that nurture their wider skills and ensure that they have high aspirations.”
What do we want to achieve?

**Aims**
The key aim of Walsall Academy is to give students the opportunity to achieve their ‘personal best’. Students of all abilities are welcome to become part of the culture where excellent attendance and behaviour are the hallmarks of Academy life.

We want all our students to develop as:

- **Successful learners** who enjoy learning, make progress and achieve
- **Confident individuals** who can live safe, healthy and happy lives
- **Responsible citizens** who are well prepared for life and work

**The Academy**
We have designed a school and curriculum which make learning and teaching stimulating and enjoyable.

Our Sixth Form is thriving and we provide a wide range of academic and work-related courses for students of all abilities.

Most of all we aim to make sure our young people are employable.

The Arts and Sport play an important role in the life of the Academy. We want to give our students different opportunities to develop the confidence to express themselves and ignite the all important spark for success.

“The personal development of pupils is fostered extremely effectively through an outstanding range of opportunities that feature as an integral part of the curriculum during 'session 3'.”

*Ofsted 2016*

The more we expect of our young people the more they will achieve.

We promise to celebrate their success in every way possible.

“Pupils value the support and encouragement of their teachers, who they say help them to do their best and challenge them to achieve well.”

*Ofsted 2016*
“The academy is a calm and cohesive community in which pupils and teachers are focused purposefully on learning and improvement.”

Ofsted 2016
What we offer

The Building
The striking building has an all glass reception area allowing visitors to view the Technology suite and see students at work.

In Science there are modern double open plan laboratories and the high tech Theatre is an excellent facility for Performing Arts.

Facilities
Electronic Whiteboard in every teaching area
Music Technology Suite
Theatre with tiered seating
Dance and Drama Studios
Library and Careers Centre Suite
CAD/CAM Suites
Conference Centre
Hospitality Suite
Medical Room
Open Plan Learning Bases
Independent Learning Centres
Sports Hall
Playing Fields
Tennis, Street Soccer and Netball Courts
Open Plan Laboratories
Business Studies Suite
Training Kitchen
Restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and light snacks
Millfields Nursery is also located on the Academy site.

Timing of the School Day
Monday to Thursday
Session 1 (including breakfast)
8.30am to 11.30am
Personal Tutorial
11.30am to 11.50am
Session 2 (including lunch)
11.50am to 3.15pm
Session 3
3.15pm to 5.00pm

Students are not allowed to leave the school premises at break time.

Session 3 programme is generally held on Monday to Thursday afternoons from 3.15pm onwards.

“Leaders encourage the innovation of new pedagogy in order that teachers can better meet the needs of pupils, and they have been at the forefront of a number of new initiatives. This work makes a significant contribution to the good quality of teaching, leadership and, as a consequence, the academy’s capacity to deliver sustained improvements.”
Ofsted 2016
“The academy’s success is demonstrated in pupils’ very positive attitudes to learning, their high attendance, their well-above-average attainment on leaving the academy, and extremely high rates of progression to employment, education or training on leaving the main school or the sixth form.”

Ofsted 2016
What we offer

**Curriculum Organisation**
The curriculum is divided into 6 modules throughout each Key Stage. Each module lasts for 6-7 weeks.

At the end of each module parents/carers receive a short module report on their child’s progress.

“The high proportion of pupils who secure the English Baccalaureate further reflects the successful impact of the academy’s curriculum.”
*Ofsted 2016*

Most subjects are taught in 2 hour 45 minute sessions with the exception of Modern Foreign Languages and Physical Education. The students recognise how the longer lessons help to embed their learning and help with developing a longer concentration span.

“Learners benefit from a broad and balanced curriculum that meets their needs, aspirations and interests. This is reflected in the high numbers of learners who complete their studies in the sixth form. Those who do not, take up high-quality training or employment opportunities that often evolve from work-experience placements facilitated by the director of careers.”
*Ofsted 2016*

**Special Education Needs**
The Academy is a comprehensive school and admits students from across the whole range of ability. Students with special needs and disabilities will be offered maximum access to the curriculum.

The building has been designed to provide excellent access to facilities for mobility impaired students.

**Extra Curricular Activities**
In Session 3 an exciting range of cultural, sporting, musical and performing arts activities are available for all students. Students have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument.

Field trips, foreign excursions and adventurous residential visits are a regular feature at Walsall Academy and there is a strong Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

**Homework**
Students receive homework in line with the Academy’s Homework Policy. It is all available to see online.

Parents are encouraged to discuss homework and enable their child to meet completion dates.
Challenging and fun

“Your vision is that pupils achieve their ‘personal best’ through their academic accomplishments and through their acquisition of the skills and aptitudes that they need to become successful learners and responsible citizens on leaving the academy. You are going a long way in realising these ambitions and are well supported by a capable leadership team and your staff.”
Ofsted 2016

“There is a rich focus on ensuring that pupils develop a range of employability skills…”
Ofsted 2016
“The achievements of pupils are celebrated and communicated through multimedia platforms such as the academy’s newsletter and ‘broadcasts’.”
Ofsted 2016
“Pupils have very positive attitudes to learning. Pupils are keen to learn and aspire to do well. They are able to reflect thoughtfully on their learning and progress because they understand how well they are progressing in learning and know what they need to do to improve.”

Ofsted 2016
Pastoral Care
Each student has a Personal Tutor whose role is to look after the students in their group and to monitor their work.

The tutor group is made up of students from Year 7 – 11 and Sixth Form.

The Personal Tutor is the first point of contact at school for parents and carers.

As a school we will take any reasonable action to ensure the safety of our students. If there are any concerns staff will follow the Academy’s Safeguarding Policy.

“There is a real togetherness of the students in the Academy.”
Year 12 Student

To comment on their child’s progress on each report.

The Academy will:
- Provide six reports a year giving information about the students’ progress.
- Provide news about what is happening at the Academy.
- Make contact as soon as possible if there are any concerns.

“Many parents value the regular reports they get on their child’s progress, which are enabled by the close checks that leaders keep on pupils’ progress in the academy.” Ofsted 2016

Parental Partnerships
The parental partnership with the Academy is central to establishing a successful working relationship. The home-school agreement outlines the commitment of the Academy to its provision of education for the students and the expectations of support from parents. This includes an acceptance of the ‘Standards for Students’ which outlines the Code of Conduct expected from all students.

“Parents are encouraged:
- To be fully involved in school life.
- To contact the school immediately if there are any concerns.

Parents
Parents are encouraged:
- To comment on their child’s progress on each report.

“...parents are confident that the academy keeps their children safe.” Ofsted 2016

“I like seeing what everyone else does when we watch the weekly broadcast together in PT. It’s good to see what the older ones do so you can decide if you want to do that subject in the future.”
Year 10 Student
“Learners develop a good range of employability and personal skills ... The impact of this and of effective careers education, information, advice and guidance is reflected well in learners’ above-average progression rates to higher education, including to a range of Russell Group universities.”

Ofsted 2016
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