



Walsall Academy



A different choice of school





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'Teachers provide just the right level of support in class. This enables students to attempt problems for themselves first' Ofsted 2019

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Inspiring Achievement

Celebrating Success

Welcome from the Headteacher



During the challenging times nationally and globally of 2020 and 2021, I could not have been prouder of the resilience, determination and collaboration that staff and students of Walsall Academy showed to embrace change and work in a way that, in my lifetime in education, had not been seen before. This demonstrates what I believe is the strongest feature of Walsall Academy: our togetherness. It's the community spirit that one feels when walking around our building, talking to our students or watching us perform on the sports field and on the stage. Our staff will educate to the best of their abilities to get the most important outcome possible: A happy and employable child with the skills and qualifications to succeed in life.

In our most recent Ofsted inspection in November 2019 we continued to be a good school, with an abundance of positive attributes. The first comment made in the inspectors' report is

'Pupils are happy and well cared for in this welcoming school.'

This quote accurately reflects why I feel so privileged to be the Headteacher of Walsall Academy, because we are a happy and inclusive community.

We are extremely fortunate to be a part of the Thomas Telford Multi Academy Trust and have had the support of The Mercers' Company for a number of years and without this provision I sincerely doubt that Walsall Academy would have become the successful school that it is today.

We are not an exams factory, but the students' achievements are nonetheless fantastic. We are proud to retain our place amongst the top performing non-selective schools in the local area and are especially pleased that we offer a most diverse curriculum, as shown by the number of students we enter every

year for accreditation in EBacc subjects, creative subjects and vocational subjects. In an area of Walsall with much deprivation, we can certainly hold our heads up high.

We invest heavily in our curriculum and firmly believe that 'The World is Wider than Walsall', so we strive to increase the range of extra-curricular and super-curricular visits, guest speakers and opportunities year on year. We have enjoyed hugely successful expeditions to Nepal, Ethiopia and we believe we were the first state school to reach Base Camp of Mount Everest. We have a longstanding partnership with the Outward Bound Trust and our students access the range of programmes on offer from the very first term in Year 7. We also enrich our students' experiences with visits to France and Germany for MFL, CERN in Geneva for Physics, The Belgian Battlefields for History and Disneyland Paris for Business and Travel and Tourism, as well as our annual Ski Trip to Europe or North America.

One of our Year 13 Student Council representatives, who is now studying at Oxford University commented:

'To me, Walsall Academy means a community of wonderful staff and students that has enabled me to reach my academic potential, pursue my passions and interests, and develop myself as a person, allowing me to achieve what I had never thought I would and preparing me for the future.'

This prospectus serves to give you a snapshot of all that we are, but please, don't take my word for it. Come and see for yourself!

Simon Rogers - Headteacher



'Sixth-form provision is a strength. It helps students to be successful, independent learners' Ofsted 2019

Our aims

At Walsall Academy, we aim to educate to the best of our abilities to get the most important outcome possible : a happy and employable child with the skills and qualifications to succeed in life. Safety in our school is paramount and we have high expectations both academically and personally of what we hope our students will achieve. We view our school as a micro-society, preparing our young people to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens, who make a valuable contribution to their communities and the wider world. The more we expect of our young people the more they will achieve and we will celebrate their success in every way possible.

‘Pupils feel safe and enjoy attending school’

**‘Staff and governors have high expectations of all pupils’
Ofsted 2019**

***‘Walsall Academy provides a stimulating learning experience for all and brings learning to life!’
Year 12 student***



Our environment

We are incredibly fortunate to have a striking building with state-of-the-art facilities to support our students' broad and engaging curriculum. We have recently extended our provision to include a brand-new Science laboratory, a new Learning Base and several new study rooms. We offer a range of learning environments designed to afford our students with a diverse range of learning experiences; from open plan learning bases, independent learning centres, open plan laboratories, CAD/CAM suites, a business studies suite, a music technology suite, dance and drama studios and a training kitchen. The students perform an annual musical in our contemporary theatre, which is also used for many other purposes across the year, including; dance, drama and music showcases, as well as weekly assemblies and achievement presentations.

'Pupils appreciate the many events and activities that the school offers'
Ofsted 2019

'Walsall Academy affords us a wealth of opportunities and experiences. We have a diverse range of subjects and extra-curricular opportunities available to us, which you simply cannot find in other schools nearby'
Year 12 student

'Pupils' personal development is strong'
Ofsted 2019



Wellbeing


Our students' wellbeing is at the heart of all that we do at Walsall Academy. Ofsted commented that **'Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) enjoy their lessons.'** They also said, **'Leaders make sure that staff are trained appropriately to look out for, and raise, any welfare concerns about pupils.'** We have a robust pastoral system, where every student is allocated to a vertical tutor group and supported by their Personal Tutor as a first point of contact for all matters in school, as well as being the primary liaison with home. Each year group is led by a Head of Year and a Key Stage Deputy. We have a dedicated mental health team and Wellbeing Champions to look after students' mental health, as well as a bespoke Place2Be counselling service on site. We have a number of whole-school events over the course of the academic year, designed to boost students' self esteem and equip them with the skills they need to be the best that they can be.

'Parents and carers tell us that personal development opportunities are strong... these sorts of opportunities boost [their] self-confidence'
Ofsted 2019



Sport plays an important role in Academy life and we have sporting teams in all year groups who compete at local and regional level. Our facilities include a Sports Hall, extensive playing fields, tennis courts and netball courts. Students are encouraged to take part in Session 3 Sport and also regularly compete in their school houses.

'I love the great sporting facilities that we have and that we have many opportunities to compete at different levels'
Year 11 student



'Most sixth-form students
achieve well and go on to
university or successful
employment'
Ofsted 2019

Securing our students' futures

At Walsall Academy we take great pride in the support, advice and guidance that we give to students in all careers and employability related matters. We are fortunate to have a team of people that can offer a range of expertise and experience to guide students on the right path to fulfil their ambitions. We encourage all our students to come and speak to the Careers team about any topic in relation to their future, and although we inevitably have a lot of discussions with older students and their parents, we believe it is never too early to start thinking about your future. Our key aim at Walsall Academy is to ensure that our students make well-informed decisions about their future and have the skills to succeed in whatever pathway they've chosen.

We offer a range of events to support students in the school careers journey. This can include research workshops when looking at GCSE options in Year 8, joint parent and child sessions in Year 10 when starting to work on post-16 choices, careers fairs and sector specific talks. Students in Sixth Form have a comprehensive package of guidance in the first year centred around gaining work experience, followed by regular guidance and advice in finding the right destination once studies are complete.





*'Walsall Academy makes me
feel like I become a better
person every day!'
Year 11 student*

Praise and Reward

We work hard and we play hard! We take great pride in our achievements as individuals and collectively and relish celebrating success. Each student and member of staff is allocated to one of the six houses in the school, each with their own colour and led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. House points are awarded by staff to students for a variety of reasons and these are communicated home on a weekly basis. House points are announced on the weekly broadcast (a news bulletin which is played in all Personal Tutorial sessions) to encourage healthy competition and good sportsmanship. The house with the most points at the end of the academic year wins the house trophy and has their name engraved onto it.

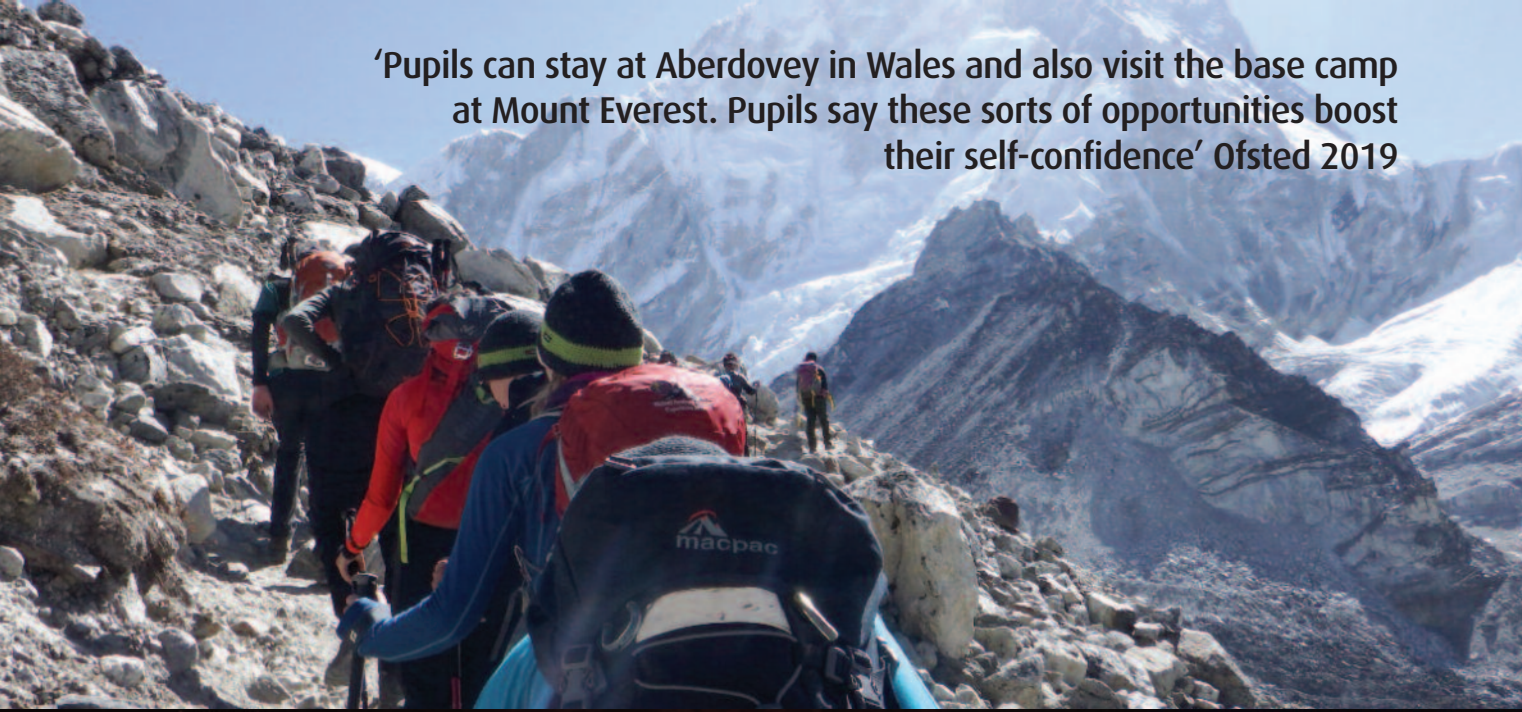
'Most older pupils achieve well in subjects, such as business studies and modern foreign languages, because their teachers regularly go over key knowledge. They structure lessons well and motivate pupils to succeed.'

Ofsted 2019

'Walsall Academy made me feel part of the family straight away as a new student and it's great how we have so many different experiences'
Year 8 student



'Pupils can stay at Aberdovey in Wales and also visit the base camp at Mount Everest. Pupils say these sorts of opportunities boost their self-confidence' Ofsted 2019



Our co-curriculum

We were proud to be named in the Department for Education Character Education Framework Guidance document for the importance we place on learning outside of the classroom. Opportunities such as: residential subject visits, guest speakers, extra-curricular art, music, dance, sport, drama, hobby clubs, as well as Outward Bound courses and Duke of Edinburgh help our young people to explore and express their character by building the skills they need for empathy, resilience and employability.

'The school offers over 200 visits for pupils annually. Pupils regularly visit local employers and universities' Ofsted 2019

'Walsall Academy is an environment for students to thrive and work hard to become the best versions of ourselves'
Key Stage 3 student



'The school pays careful attention to safeguarding. Leaders ensure that pupils are kept safe, in and around the building. Pupils know how to use the internet and social media responsibly. They know who to go to if they have a problem' Ofsted 2019



'Pupils participate in an exciting range of extra-curricular activities' Ofsted 2019



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