



Walsall Academy

Information
for
Prospective
Applicants for
Teaching
Posts



“Staff and governors have high expectation of all pupils”.

Ofsted Report 2019



“Parents and carers tell us that personal development opportunities are strong Pupils say these sorts of opportunities boost their self-confidence”.
Ofsted Report 2019

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 - 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 the welcoming school.’*** This quote accurately reflects why I feel so privileged to be the Headteacher at Walsall Academy, because we are a happy and inclusive community.

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 are extremely fortunate to be a part of the Thomas Telford Multi Academy Trust (TTMAT) 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 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 were the first ever 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 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.’***

Do come and see for yourself. I look forward to meeting you.

Mr Simon Rogers

“Pupils are happy and well cared for in this welcoming school. Pupils feel safe and enjoy attending school.”

Ofsted Report 2019



A different choice of school

Inspiring Achievement. Celebrating Success

In September 2003, Walsall Academy opened its doors for the first time as the first sponsored City Academy in Walsall. This state of the art school is supported by Thomas Telford School and The Mercers' Company. The trustees have made a significant investment and support the Academy through strong governance. In 2017, Walsall Academy became a founder school in the TTMAT.

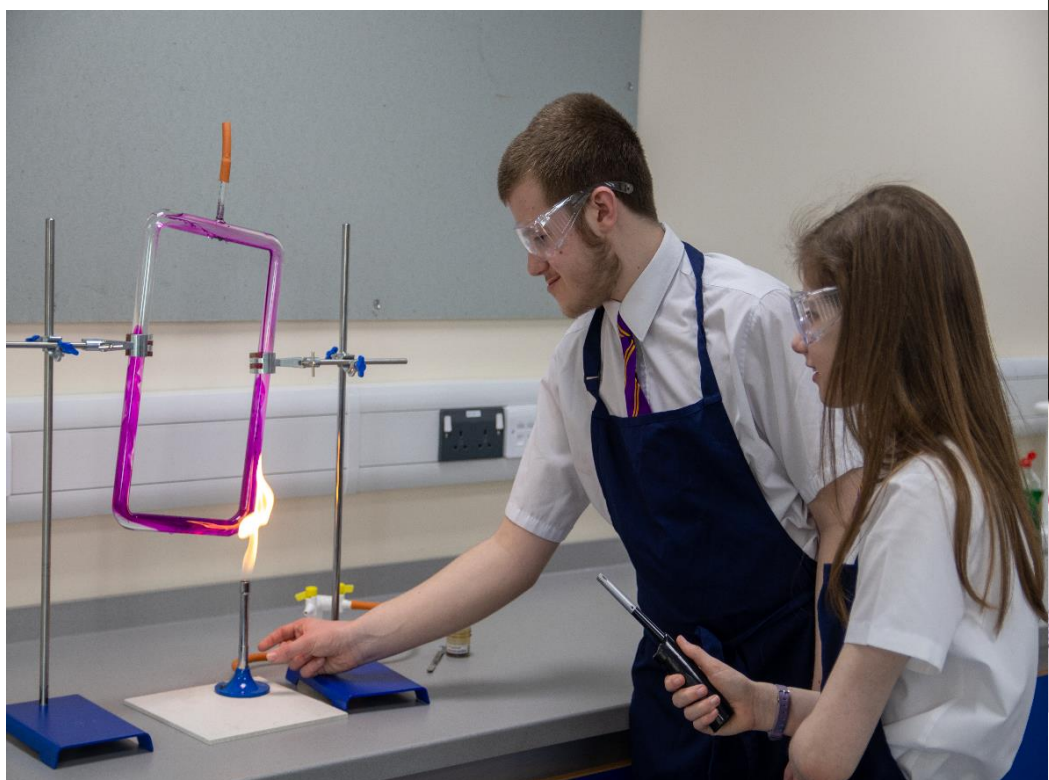
The Academy is an all ability school offering places for children aged between 11-18. The Academy is heavily over-subscribed and currently has 1350 students on roll including a Sixth Form of 320 students.

Our mission 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 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. Students are encouraged to achieve their best and to develop their talents to the full. This includes academic, sporting and artistic achievements and personal, moral and social developments.

Walsall Academy welcomes teachers who thrive on achievement and who have an appetite for creating life opportunities for our students.



Positivity and an ability to inspire others with your subject knowledge are essential prerequisites for a post here.



Curriculum

The curriculum is delivered through six modules of approximately 6/7 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 online.

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 and there are 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.

A breadth of opportunities, both vocational and academic, in Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form 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 Session 3 programme gives all students a choice of opportunities to complement and extend their education. These range from sports and hobbies to community work and form an integral part of the timetable.



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

Working Environment

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 studios with sprung floors 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 ten 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 English, Mathematics and Humanities 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 and Sixth Form Independent Study
- A Careers and Industrial Links Centre

Restaurant and Hospitality Suite

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



“Pupils participate in an exciting range of extra-curricular activities These experiences help to broaden the pupil’s horizon”.
Ofsted Report 2019

Professional Development

Applicants have a unique opportunity to work with the staff of the school to help shape the future of Walsall Academy. All members of staff benefit from a well-structured, supportive professional development programme which includes bespoke provision for early careers teacher. Every early careers teacher receives a mentor to provide practical help and guidance through completing the programme. Those on the early careers framework also have a personal coach who supports the mental health and wellbeing of our new teachers. Personal coaches ensure staff establish a healthy work life balance.

We calendar 10 professional development days per year. Our membership of the Teaching Schools Initiative hosted by our sister school Thomas Telford in Shropshire provides further opportunities to develop as Middle and Senior Leaders. Our staff are encouraged to participate in Masters programmes.

Online professional development has increased recently and staff benefit from the autonomy of self-directed CPD through Academy TED Talks.

Successful candidates will enjoy the benefits of working in a successful, forward thinking school, in an environment where developing curriculum initiatives can lead to future professional opportunities.



“Parents are positive about the school, and say the school is supportive and helpful”

Ofsted Report 2019

Routines

Students are taught for a longer school day. Teaching commences at 8.30am and the normal teaching day finishes at 3.15pm. 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.

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 Leaders responsible for the Key Stage.

“School leaders have improved teachers’ working conditions.

Leaders have reduced the number of assessments and the amount of marking required of teachers.

Teaching staff told us that they appreciate this lightening of their workload.”

Ofsted Report 2019

