



Walsall Academy



A different choice of school





Walsall Academy



'Walsall Academy is a welcoming school. Pupils feel safe and well cared for.'
Ofsted 2022

A different choice of school

Inspiring Achievement

Celebrating Success

Welcome from the Headteacher



I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to take on the position of Headteacher at Walsall Academy and have enormously enjoyed getting to know the school since starting in June 2023.

I have been warmly welcomed by a dedicated and talented staff; by a respectful and enthusiastic student body; and by supportive parents and local community. I am greatly looking forward to leading the Walsall Academy community in the years ahead.

I inherited a school that provides an array of opportunities for students in the wider curriculum, in particular our partnership with The Outward Bound Trust; this involves students immersed in outdoor adventure activities at Ullswater and Aberdovey learning key skills of leadership, teamwork, communication and resilience. This learning is then transferred back to the academic environment to help support students to succeed in their studies. Regular trips and visits are organised abroad, which this year included students venturing to Lille in France, Cologne in Germany, Ypres in Belgium and most recently to Borneo, Indonesia.

I have seen how well students are cared for and well-being and emotional resilience is supported in numerous ways including daily support from the Personal Tutor, a full time Nurse on hand, mental health champions and counselling on offer for those that might benefit from additional support.

Student outcomes matter and every child is supported in maximising their potential to secure the best grades they can. In turn, students respond positively and work hard towards achieving a range of qualifications.

***'Pupils enjoy school and work hard.
Leaders expect
pupils to achieve well.'
Ofsted 2022***

Student destinations are extremely impressive, with a dedicated careers team ensuring that all children are guided expertly onto University courses, apprenticeship schemes, further training and into the world of work. The profile of destinations is first rate with students going on to study at top universities, on highly competitive apprenticeship schemes and with nationally recognised employers.

My job over the next few years is to build upon Walsall Academy's undoubted strengths; to focus on developing a three year Key Stage 3 programme in line with the recommendations from Ofsted and to have a positive impact on academic and vocational progress for all students.

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 I appreciate the support and guidance on offer to help Walsall Academy achieve its goals.

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 Topper - Headteacher



'Students in the Sixth Form benefit from a high-quality curriculum offer. Staff's strong subject knowledge helps students to achieve well.' Ofsted 2022

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 ensure that we celebrate their success in every way possible.

'Staff have positive relationships with pupils. This helps to create an environment that is conducive to learning.'

Ofsted 2022

'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, T Level Health 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.

'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

'Leaders prioritise the personal development of pupils.'
Ofsted 2022



'Pupils, parents and carers value the wide range of activities offered that broaden pupils' personal development.' Ofsted 2022



Wellbeing

Our students' wellbeing is at the heart of all that we do at Walsall Academy. Ofsted commented that **'Leaders provide teachers with appropriate and helpful information to support pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities.'** They also said, **'Leaders at all levels make safeguarding a priority.'** 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 Key Stage is guided by a dedicated leadership team, with Year 7 benefitting from a specialist transition leader to ensure they have a smooth and successful start to Academy life. We have an expert mental health team and staff Wellbeing Champions to look after students' mental health, as well as a bespoke 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.

'Leaders prioritise the personal development of pupils [with a] comprehensive curriculum to support pupils' learning about citizenship, relationships, health and sex education.'
Ofsted 2022



Sport plays an important role in Academy life and we have sporting teams in all year groups who proudly compete at local, regional and national levels. 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



'An impressively high proportion of pupils and students move on to appropriate further education, training or employment.'
Ofsted 2022

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 futures 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 9, 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.

'[Pupils] respect the individual differences of their peers and treat each other fairly.'
Ofsted 2022

'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



'Opportunities such as expeditions, residential trips and theatre visits help pupils and students to build their resilience and character.' Ofsted 2022



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.

'Pupils have many opportunities to celebrate and learn about the diversity of different cultures.'
Ofsted 2022

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





'Staff receive regular training and understand the procedures they should follow if they are worried about a pupil... Pupils are taught how to keep themselves safe. For example, they learn about healthy relationships and how to stay safe online.' Ofsted 2022



'[Walsall Academy wants] every pupil to become a "happy and employable child with the skills and qualifications to succeed in life." Ofsted 2022



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