Academy Prospectus

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Shenley Academy. I am extremely proud to be part of Shenley Academy's journey and to have the opportunity to work in collaboration with our staff, students, parents and the wider E-Act community to ensure we achieve the very best outcomes for each of our students.

Our aim is to provide the very best learning and personal development opportunities and we strive to nurture a caring and supportive atmosphere in which each student is recognised as an individual, actively encouraging their participation in our wider school activities. We believe that all students should have the opportunity to participate in an enrichment activity and we offer an exceptional range of extra-curricular activities.

We have the highest expectations of all our students and staff, encouraging a continuous development of learning and a drive for knowledge placing a strong emphasis on behaviour and standards. We aim to develop confident young people who aspire to continually improve and who are well prepared for the next steps in life. Our teaching aims to inspire young people to develop a passion for their subjects and we hold effort at the heart of our rewards system.

Our partnership with parents and carers is very important to us, and we will work closely with you throughout your child's time with us to nurture their aspirations, their learning and their achievement.

I am immensely proud to have the opportunity to work with you all and I recognise the great privilege I hold as Headteacher in shaping your children's future.

A very warm welcome to Shenley Academy.

Dr Jayne Bartlett, Headteacher
We offer places at Shenley Academy in line with our published criteria.

As an academy we operate as an independent admissions authority, but our admissions criteria are aligned to those of Birmingham local authority schools and we follow the Birmingham scheme for co-ordinated admissions. Parents/carers should use the Birmingham local authority form for admissions to Shenley Academy.

**Visiting Shenley Academy**

We welcome visits from prospective students and their parents/carers during designated open evenings and mornings. Details of these can be found on our website.

In addition we are happy to show you around our academy by prior arrangement. Staff will be available to answer any questions which you may have. Please contact us through our enquiry form on the website.

**Uniform**

In accepting a place at Shenley Academy parents/carers and students support and keep to the academy uniform policy. All students in years 7 to 11 wear the full Shenley Academy uniform as detailed on the academy website, including a plain black outside coat. Training shoes of any kind are not acceptable and please note that coats must be taken off before entering the school building. We also require all students to wear uniform sports clothing for PE.

The high standards which we expect from our students when they wear their school uniform is also supported by restricting students from wearing make-up and jewellery, and from having patterned hair or unnatural hair colourings. Students who do not comply with the jewellery or hair colourings may be placed in isolation.
Young people who are inspired by their school will go on to achieve greatness and be happy. We know that the foundation of this inspiration can be found in our classrooms through high quality teaching.

Education at Shenley Academy extends beyond the school day and classroom and our sports and performing arts make the academy an exciting and vibrant place to be.

Our performing arts provision has been awarded the prestigious Artsmark Gold status, recognising our excellence in and commitment to the arts. All students learn music, music technology, dance, drama and art at KS3 and can specialise in one or more of these art forms when they choose their optional GCSEs.

Extensive enrichment opportunities and partnerships with leading arts organisations in Birmingham, such as the CBSO and Birmingham Rep give additional opportunities to students:

We aim to give our students as many different experiences during their time at Shenley Academy as possible. Whether that is trips abroad, field trips, visits to colleges and universities, or cultural visits to museums and the theatre, no day at the academy is the same and life is incredibly busy!
• The CBSO: We have a partnership extending over seven years with the orchestra which continues to offer our students extraordinary experiences of working with professional artists and visiting and performing in world class venues including Symphony Hall.

• The Birmingham Repertory Theatre: We offer a weekly drama workshop, open to all students, which culminates in a performance in a professional setting.

• Music Tuition: We believe that it is important for every young person to have the opportunity to learn to play an instrument. We currently offer a range of contemporary and classical instrumental lessons including strings, woodwind, brass, percussion and guitar. Our music tuition is provided by Birmingham Music Service, and we operate a waiting list for all instruments. We expect those students who participate in music tuition to commit to attending lessons, extra-curricular activities and practice.

Sport is a real strength in the academy. Our committed sports staff are dedicated to making sure that students get the most out of physical activity, whatever their aptitude or ability. We offer a variety of sports and our teams often compete at district and county level. Our taught PE curriculum currently includes football, netball, rounders, indoor rowing, table tennis, basketball, indoor and outdoor athletics, softball and badminton as well as a successful sports leadership programme. We are the lead school for the local sports network and are proud of the awards which we have gained for the quality and inclusive nature of our sports.
We have created a confident and inclusive community at Shenley Academy, where everyone is valued and feels safe. We want all our students to succeed personally, academically and professionally in their futures, being prepared to navigate the various challenges of life with integrity, morality and kindness.

We know that students who feel safe and happy at school will reach their potential and realise their aspirations. We make sure that every student is known as an individual and this is through a strong pastoral system:

All students are placed into a form group with their peers and their tutor is the first point of contact between home and school. Form tutors see students daily and will monitor welfare, attendance and progress to ensure each student is fully supported. Each year group has a Pastoral Manager and our Key Stages are headed by an Assistant Headteacher Progress.

Students are also placed in a College. We have 5 colleges, all identifiable by the college tie, which are mixed age range with students from year 7 to year 11. We run a programme of inter-collegiate competitions throughout the year over a wide range of fields from bake-off to sporting events. The collegiate link allows our students to mix among year groups and for our older students to support our younger students adding to our community ethos.

Our learning support team lead by our Head of Inclusion will give additional and specialist support when it is identified and needed. Communication between home and school forms an essential part of this relationship. We believe that safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility. We work with parents/carers and other professionals to achieve the best possible outcomes for all our students.
Shenley Academy students are set ambitious targets to achieve throughout their time with us. This is realised through a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes a full range of learning and life skills.

We expect all of our students to aspire to achieve the very best examination results, but we recognise that in order to equip students with the skills that they need to be well-rounded members of society, we need to offer opportunities to develop the skills, attributes and awareness in all subjects.

Students from all year groups are taught for 25 hours per week, with additional time for tutorials.

- In the majority of subjects students are set and taught in groups of similar ability.
- In years 7,8 and 9 students follow a curriculum of English, mathematics, science, ICT, French or Spanish, history, geography, design technology, dance, drama, music, art, physical education and religious education.
- Alongside their core curriculum students choose their optional GCSE courses at the end of year 9, including opportunities to study new subject areas such as Health and Social Care and Sports and Fitness.
- Personal, social and health education (PSHE) is taught across the curriculum and embedded in our tutorial and assemblies programme. Topics are built on British Values, mental health and well being including themes such as safety, drugs education, sex education, health related exercise and lifestyles. Sex education is offered to all students in line with recommended guidance from the Department for Education.
• We provide high quality careers advice and guidance throughout year 7 to year 11. This includes a range of experiences through our partnerships with KPMG and Business in the Community. All students in year 10 take part in work experience. We recognise how important these experiences are in preparing students for life after Shenley Academy. Careers is an integral part of our curriculum and part of our academic and pastoral programmes.

• We set high, but realistic targets in all curriculum areas for students in all years. Sophisticated tracking systems enable us to monitor students’ progress carefully and identify where intervention may be required.

• Parents/carers receive termly progress reports, indicating progress in each subject, and a full written report once every academic year.

• Annual parents’ evenings for each year group provide an opportunity for parents/carers to have detailed discussions with key staff.

• Information evenings take place across the year to provide further information to parents/carers on key topics

**Special Educational Needs:**

Many students will need additional support at one time or another in their time at school. Our Learning Support team works closely with the pastoral and curriculum teams on a process of assessment, intervention, support and reintegration.

Support can be offered in a variety of ways and will always be personalised to the needs of the student. For 2020/21 we are re-locating and renovating our Inclusion Area. It will include a specialist THRIVE zone led by our Head of Inclusion who is an expert practitioner in this field.
Our motto: ‘Building Futures. Changing Lives’ underpins all that we do to support our students to gain confidence, grow and succeed throughout their time with us. Our PSHE programme focuses on British Values: Democracy, the Rule of Law, Individual Liberty, Mutual Respect and Tolerance as well as having a core focus on safeguarding our students and their mental health and well-being.

Mental well-being remains a core priority for us as an academy and we are committed to all our staff becoming trained mental health first aiders.

We expect high standards in all areas from our students and this helps to create the positive attitude and atmosphere which permeates our academy. Our values

Aspiration  Resilience  Respect  Responsibility  Tolerance

are the foundation of this standard and become the tools which our young people will use to achieve success in their own lives.

Mission Statement:

We believe passionately that education opens doors and has the power to change lives. We aim to inspire our students through our curriculum delivering consistently good lessons that empower learning. Each and every day we instil our values and focus on raising the aspirations of our students by providing an outstanding personal development and extra-curricular programme. We encourage our students to aim high and we are proud to celebrate their achievements.

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We believe in celebrating the success of our students and have a rich and diverse rewards programme. We reward students based on their contribution to our academy values: aspiration, resilience, respect, responsibility and tolerance as well as for academic success, effort and attendance.

Success is celebrated through post cards home, certificates awarded in assemblies and our half termly prize draws.

We also hold an annual rewards evening which celebrates success in all areas.

Our students also enjoy the wide range of rewards events that we hold at the end each term and our rewards week involving different activities and trips at the end of Summer term.