

SANDWELL ACADEMY



Sixth Form Prospectus and Application Pack



**2020
Entry**



SANDWELL ACADEMY SIXTH FORM

Sandwell Academy provides a curriculum which offers considerable breadth and depth for students through a range of Vocational and Academic Level 3 courses.

We are an excellent choice for students wishing to study a combination of academic and vocational courses leading directly to the opportunity to study at university. Other courses will be offered if there proves to be a sufficient demand and courses may be offered via a range of ICT applications. Students without a Level 4 in GCSE English or Maths will have to retake these subjects until a Level 4 is achieved.



Our most able students will receive additional preparation for applications to Russell Group and/or Oxbridge universities.

We expect students to demonstrate a high level of motivation and have the capacity for hard work. Sixth Form work is demanding and students are encouraged to take increased responsibility for their own progress through Independent Learning.

All Sixth Form students will have the opportunity to develop leadership skills as they become actively involved with our younger students and assist with the day-to-day organisation of the school.

For the latest information and updates regarding Sixth Form Admissions, please check our website: www.sandwellacademy.com



OUR SUBJECTS

We offer a range of advanced Level 3 courses that include:

A Levels

- Art and Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Geography
- History
- Maths
- Media Studies
- PE
- Physics
- Product Design
- Psychology
- RE
- Sociology
- Spanish

BTEC

- Business
- Health and Social Care
- ICT
- Performing Arts
- Science
- Sport

T Levels

- Digital T Level

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list and new courses are frequently added. If you do not see the course you are interested in, please contact us to discuss.



The Digital T Level is a new course for September 2020 which is equivalent to three A levels. The course combines theory, practical learning and industry placements of around 45 days. The two year course has been developed with employers which ensures the course content will prepare students for the world of work. The Digital T Level will enable students to move onto highly skilled employment, higher education or a higher apprenticeship.

The information that you provide on your application form will help us in the development of a flexible curriculum model.

GCSE Results Service

The Academy will offer a comprehensive advice service for students in August 2020. Once GCSE results are known, students will be required to finalise course choices. For some, it can be an anxious time if help is not available. Senior staff will be on hand during this time to answer queries and discuss possible courses with students.

The last inspection report (January 2014) judged the progress students made in the sixth form as outstanding. Published 2016 results, data about destinations, and the school's evidence about the achievement of current students leaves no doubt that this is still the case.

OFSTED, June 2017

ACADEMY LIFE

Dress and Code of Conduct

We aim to create the environment of a large city office. Our practices mirror those found in the world of industry and commerce. Many students will be working alongside employers both in school and out on work placements.

Smart office wear should be worn to conform to the highest standards found in the modern workplace. The rule is simple: **Expect to be interviewed for a job at any time and dress appropriately:** suit with shirt and tie for boys and either trousers or skirt suit for girls. Financial support is available for students who qualify.

A no-smoking policy operates throughout the Academy buildings and grounds. This applies to all personnel.

Excellent Working Conditions

The Sixth Form has specially equipped areas for studying the various courses on offer. There is easy access to the Library, Careers and Independent Learning Centres.

A self-service restaurant is open for breakfast and lunch.

The Academy opens from 7.30am until approximately 5.15pm Monday to Thursday. The Academy closes at 3.30pm on Fridays.



Work Placement Opportunities

All students are given the opportunity to experience a work placement. Our close links with the business world mean that the Academy is kept fully informed of all the latest developments in industry. With employers actively involved in the full life of the Academy, students have the opportunity to work alongside industrialists on site and in the work place.

Courses are designed to be flexible; some students may even be able to go out to work on a weekly basis whilst pursuing a course of study.

ACADEMY LIFE

Leisure and Sport

An important feature of life at Sandwell Academy is the Sixth Form options programme. Everyone needs time to relax and develop new hobbies, try new leisure activities or pursue different sports. Students are positively encouraged to 'have a go' at something new or challenging. The options, which provide a wide spectrum of choice, are all offered on a Wednesday afternoon during Session 2.

Here is a flavour of the choices that may be available in 2020:

- Duke of Edinburgh
- Self Defence
- First Aid
- Golf
- Martial Arts
- Football
- Hockey
- Basketball
- Badminton
- Fitness Training
- Indoor Rock Climbing
- Sports Leadership Awards
- Choir
- Dance
- Independent Study at School

Personal Advice and Guidance

Each Sixth Form student has a Personal Tutor. The Personal Tutor is expected to develop a close working relationship with the student and offer support and guidance throughout the course. There are frequent meetings during the week where progress will be discussed, targets agreed and timescales negotiated.

Students are encouraged to identify areas of concern and thus tackle problems positively. The Personal Tutor will have a full profile on each student and always acts as the first point of contact for parents.



Music and Performance on the Stage

The Academy is committed to developing a good reputation in this area of work. Dance, Music and Drama work will culminate in Performing Arts nights and whole school productions. If you have an interest in this area of work you will be able to have an audition.



One sixth former commented, 'None of my friends at other schools have anything like it.'

OFSTED, June 2017

ACADEMY LIFE

Social, Cultural and Spiritual Education

This is seen as an important aspect in the development of students in the Sixth Form. The Academy is committed to the social, cultural and spiritual education of all members of the Sixth Form. The Academy uses a variety of opportunities for delivery combining a broad based curriculum with charity and community liaison. Spiritual education is reinforced through Academy broadcasts and assemblies.

Library and Learning Centres

For a proportion of the week students have the opportunity to work independently on carefully planned work as part of their course in the Library and Learning Centres. This method of learning is part of our strategy to prepare our students to be able to cope successfully in Higher Education and adult life.

Bursaries and Business Sponsorship

Bursaries and Business Sponsorships may be available for our students on a termly basis. These bursaries are awarded to students who are in need of financial assistance due to circumstances outside their control. There may be the possibility that students will secure Business Sponsorship to help them financially through Higher Education and Training.

Student Lunches

The Headteacher and Deputy Heads meet with 14 students from each year group for a working lunch. This provides an opportunity for us to listen to the students' views about life and work in the Academy.



The Headteacher also provides opportunities for students to make recommendations on how the Academy may be improved. These issues are then discussed at Senior Management Team meetings and, where necessary, changes/amendments introduced.

Charter for Students and Parents

There is a Students' Charter and a Parents' Charter which explain the entitlements, responsibilities and expectations for Sixth Form students and their parents. Students are also expected to sign an Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy.



PREPARING FOR LIFE AFTER SIXTH FORM

Careers Guidance

The Director of Careers and Industry Links, through her team of experts, in collaboration with our Independent Careers Advisor, provides careers guidance to all students. Every student will receive an individual appointment and will be given expert advice in preparing a Curriculum Vitae (CV).

University Applications

Students aspiring to apply to university to complete a degree course are given expert guidance. The Academy provides opportunities to visit universities and will prepare a detailed reference to support every applicant. Sandwell Academy actively encourages students from both vocational and academic routes to consider university applications. This year 76% of students took up places at university.



Apprenticeships and Employment

We have created a network of contacts within the business community to enable us to access the full range of apprenticeship and employment opportunities available to our students. The Academy encourages employers to contact us directly to ask us to recommend students for employment. We believe that it is the responsibility of every Sixth Form student to develop the Academy's reputation in the business community. This year, all students who did not pursue university courses, obtained either full time employment or an apprenticeship - including apprenticeships with KPMG, Kier, The NHS and Dodd Group.



The school's curriculum, including its focus on careers education, advice and guidance, and strong industry links, provides a breadth of choice and opportunities for all. In many ways, the school helps pupils and sixth-form students translate their hopes into reality.

OFSTED, June 2017

ACHIEVEMENTS 2019

Academic

2019 marked another incredible year of results for our Sixth Form students with those who followed either an A Level route or BTEC route finding success. With A Levels, 32% of all grades were at grade A or above and 82% were at grade C or above.

Destinations

In 2019, we had outstanding destinations for our Sixth Form leavers.

76% of our students chose to pursue higher education at university, with the majority of students securing their first choice. Every year we have students who go on to Russell Group Universities and study subjects such as Medicine and Dentistry.

All those not attending university have taken up apprenticeships, moved directly into employment or are gaining further experiences on a gap year.

Higher Level Apprenticeships are becoming increasingly popular as a way to gain industry recognised qualifications whilst getting a foot on the career ladder.



ENRICHMENT

Our students benefit from a wide range of Enrichment activities designed to give them a wealth of experience and challenge.

- Cultural Visits to London and Liverpool
- Build a Nation
- Choir Residential
- Duke of Edinburgh
- School Performance
- Work Experience
- Ride London
- Visiting Artists
- Sports Leaders
- University Visits
- BTEC Sport Residential
- The Voyage
- Business Enterprise



STUDENT ALUMNI



■ Amy Bryan

Career pathway:

After I left Sixth Form in 2013 the Careers department helped me get an apprenticeship with Sandwell Women's Aid. During that summer I also completed a 12 week Prince's Trust team programme. I started in September for Sandwell Women's Aid on my apprenticeship and after nine months they offered me a permanent position. I worked within different roles, refuge support worker, out of hours advice worker and family support worker. In 2017 I wanted to follow a career path working with young people so I returned to Sandwell Academy as Inclusion Administrator.

■ Joshrun Mann

Career pathway:

I attended Sandwell Academy between 2012 and 2014, leaving to study Aerospace Technology BEng at Coventry University. Initially, I was not fully aware of what I wanted to pursue a career in, but I knew that I wanted to join the Royal Air Force prior to attending Sandwell Academy. Whilst at University I obtained a bursary to join the Royal Air Force as an Engineer Officer (AeroSystems), starting officer training as soon as my studies were completed.

I attended Initial Officer Training at RAF College Cranwell, Lincolnshire where I earned my Queen's Commission and progressed onto specialist training as an Engineer Officer. My second phase of training was completed at RAF Cosford, Shropshire in December 2018 as a fully-fledged Engineer Officer. For my first job, I am currently posted into Recruiting and Selection back at RAF College Cranwell. I am one of the officers in charge of selecting the next Officers and Non-Commissioned Aircrew applying to join the Royal Air Force.



■ Alex Round

Career pathway:

After leaving the Academy, I graduated from Birmingham City University with a BA Hons in English Literature and Language. Following graduation, I was referred to a teacher training programme called Schools Direct, in which I trained to become a teacher in the classroom whilst on a salary. I qualified earlier this year, passing with outstanding ranking. I am now studying my Masters in Victorian Literature part time whilst teaching at the Academy. My aspiration is to complete a PhD and become a lecturer in Victorian Literature.

■ Rajbir Thind

Career pathway:

After Sandwell Academy I left with my A Levels and managed to secure an apprenticeship with KPMG. The apprenticeship is a six year course and allows me to gain a chartered qualification at the end of it which is all paid for by the company. Throughout the apprenticeship I will be rotating through different departments: Tax, Advisory and Audit in order to gain valuable experience in all of the different departments. All of this experience will allow me to make a decision as to in which department I would like to further my career.



■ Joseph Eaton

Career pathway:

After Sandwell Academy I left with my A Levels and managed to secure an apprenticeship with BMW Plant, Hams Hall. The apprenticeship was a four year course and has prospects of leading to a permanent skilled job role with a full degree, all paid for by the company. Throughout the apprenticeship I have done additional placements at the other locations such as MINI in Oxford and Rolls-Royce in Goodwood. Opportunities may also arise to study and work abroad with plants in China, Brazil and USA not forgetting the headquarters in Germany. All of this gets sweetened with a new BMW to drive!

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Apply

Complete and return the online application form.

Attend an Information Evening

Book a place at one of our Information Evenings which are taking place on:

Tuesday 12 November 2019	7.00pm
Wednesday 29 January 2020	7.00pm

Places at these events are limited and you must book a place prior to attending by completing the online booking form and returning for the attention of the Sixth Form Admissions Manager. You will then be sent an invitation which you should bring with you. **Attendance at an Information Evening is a compulsory part of the application process and students who do not attend will not be invited for an interview.**

Once you have applied and attended an Information Evening, you may be invited to attend an interview.

Course Confirmation

We will invite you to confirm your final chosen courses and offer you the opportunity to discuss this with senior staff.

Induction Day

Successful applicants will be invited to attend an Induction Day (either Monday 6 or Tuesday 7 July 2020) to enable students to meet their peer group and sample a day in the Academy prior to starting their course in September.

GCSE Results Service

We will ask you to submit your GCSE results during the afternoon of Thursday 20 August 2020 and register for your courses. You will then be given all the necessary information for a successful start to your Sixth Form.

Late Admissions

Following the publication of GCSE Results, it is possible that some places may become available. Further details will be on our website nearer the date.



For the latest information regarding Sixth Form Admissions, please check our website: www.sandwellacademy.com

SANDWELL ACADEMY



FRIENDSHIP
EQUALITY
COURAGE
RESPECT
INSPIRATION
EXCELLENCE
DETERMINATION



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