

SANDWELL ACADEMY



Sixth Form Prospectus and Application Pack



**2019
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 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

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 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 2019. 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

SANDWELL ACADEMY 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.

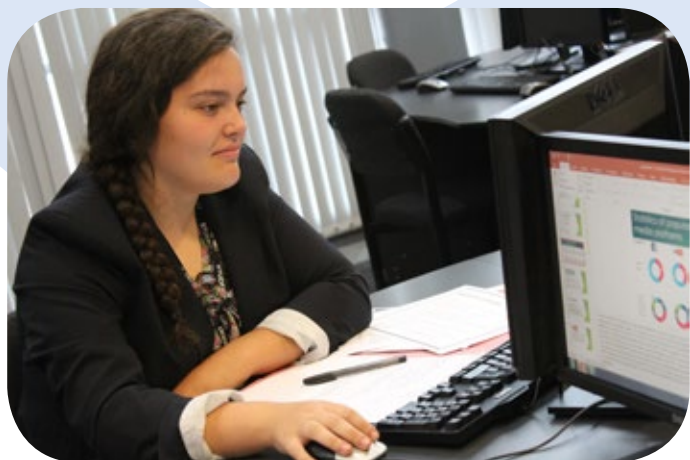
A no-smoking policy operates throughout the Academy buildings and grounds. This applies to all personnel.

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 2019:

- 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

SANDWELL ACADEMY 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 each year 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 spell out 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 80% 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 degree level apprenticeships with BMW and BT.



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

SANDWELL ACADEMY ACHIEVEMENTS 2018

Academic

2018 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, 26% of all grades were at grade A or above and 75% were at grade C or above.

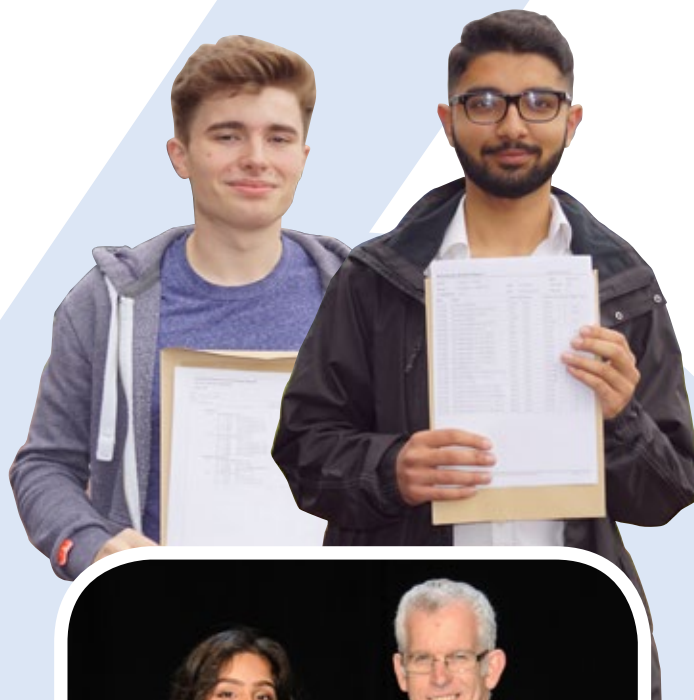
Destinations

In 2018, we had outstanding destinations for our Sixth Form leavers.

80% 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 2018

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

- Study Trip to CERN
- 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.

■ David Hunt

Career pathway:

Following on from Sandwell Academy I took full time employment with the NHS. Then a few months later, the opportunity to enrol on a brand new (BSc) Fire and Rescue degree at the University of Wolverhampton presented itself. I had the correct A Level qualifications so I enrolled while staying at the NHS on a part time basis. In the summer, I was able to fulfill my ambition and began Fire Fighter training starting on station in October 2014. I look back with pride and fond memories especially when I graduated in 2014 with honours.



■ Stephanie Wootton

Career pathway:

When I left Sandwell Academy, I completed a three year degree in Dance and Physical Education at the University of East London.

During my degree, I completed a number of different modules which covered many aspects of dance. Additionally I had a number of placements working in primary schools, secondary schools, a centre for mature adults and a Youth Group within a church. These allowed me to gain some experience working with different age groups.

At this stage I was still unsure as to whether I wanted to become a teacher so I spoke to staff at Sandwell Academy and they advised me to get some more experience in working with a specific age range. It was then I saw an advertisement on the Sandwell Academy website for a Teaching Assistant for which I applied and was offered my first role at the Academy. After two years, I progressed and was given extra responsibility as a Learning Mentor. I now work in the Careers Department at Sandwell Academy as an Independent Careers Advisor.



■ 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 13 November 2018	7.00pm
Wednesday 30 January 2019	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 8 or Tuesday 9 July 2019) 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 22 August 2019 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



www.sandwellacademy.com

Sandwell Academy, Halfords Lane, West Bromwich, West Midlands, B71 4LG | Tel: 0121 525 1700 | Fax: 0121 525 0025



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Thomas Telford Multi Academy Trust
Registered Office: Thomas Telford School, Old Park, Telford, Shropshire, TF3 4NW
Company Number: 04798185 (England)