



# Sandwell Academy

## Curriculum Intent

This document has been superseded by the Academy Review May 2022

### Background

Sandwell Academy opened in 2006 and serves all six towns of Sandwell.

### Vision and objectives

The general aim of Sandwell Academy is to maximise student performance in all its forms. The aim is not limited to academic performance but extends to wider achievements in sports, the community and personal endeavour.

Sandwell Academy specialises in Sports and Business Enterprise. We offer a broad curriculum, which includes the National Curriculum and is enhanced by additional opportunities in Physical Education and Business.

In the Post 16 phase, we provide a wide range of vocational and academic opportunities for students of all abilities. Throughout their studies, students benefit from substantial careers advice and guidance from a team dedicated advisors to ensure they have a clear destination upon leaving the Academy.

The Academy has a clear set of objectives that permeate throughout the curriculum.

- To improve attendance to that above local and national average by ensuring that the curriculum is engaging and provides the right balance of stimulation and challenge; this is achieved through the inclusion of wider experiences and activities.
- To develop qualities of enterprise, self-reliance and responsibility through the inclusion of enterprise projects in Key Stage 3, by placing the onus on students to take responsibility for their own behaviour and attitude to learning, and by setting high expectations for students' self-reliance.
- To involve, as fully as possible, the wider community, including industry, business, commerce and parents in the education and training of the students. The Academy looks to achieve this through the engagement of local businesses, charities and parents' groups, in order to enhance the curriculum opportunities for students. Such engagements allow students to have extended work experience placements, guest speakers from industry and the active participation of parents.
- To operate a longer school day. Sandwell Academy's lessons are 2 hours and 40 minutes in duration giving students time for greater reflection and to build a deeper understanding. The Academy's week also includes after-school lessons (Session 3), which students can access up to four times a week. As a result, students at Sandwell Academy have up to 30% longer in structured sessions each week compared to their peers. The additional time allows the Key Stage 3 curriculum to be delivered more effectively over Years 7 and 8.
- To develop students as independent learners, preparing them for lifelong learning. We aim to ensure all students are work ready and well positioned to cope with the demands of modern society when they leave the Academy. We also ensure all students receive expert careers advice and guidance. Nil NEETs (Not in Education Employment or Training) is a core target and one where we have a near 100% record of success

- To ensure that all students obtain their educational entitlement, irrespective of gender, religion or special need.

### Three Year Key Stage 4 Curriculum Rationale Statement

The Academy's decision to run a two year Key Stage 3 and three year Key Stage 4 is based around our vision, values and objectives. Our aim is to maximise student performance in all its forms and is not limited to academic performance but extends to wider achievements in sports, the community and personal endeavour.

The Academy runs a longer school day with longer lessons. This enables students to complete their full national curriculum entitlement at Key Stage 3 in subjects that are taught discretely as well as engaging in a broad extra-curricular entitlement through the Session 3 programme. Students are challenged and engaged throughout the entirety of Key Stage 3 and outcomes at the end of Key Stage 3 are above age related expectations.

The Academy specialises in Sports and Business Enterprise, which is a reflection of the needs of the local community to address employment and increase physical activity. As a result, students are able to access additional opportunities in these areas.

A fundamental element of our provision is our three year Key Stage 4 curriculum which is appropriately broad in coverage, includes all statutory areas and aims to have 70% of students completing an EBACC programme of study. The curriculum offer enables progression through to Key Stage 5 in all areas. As a result of the new Key Stage 4 programmes of study and assessment requirements, a Year 11 student sitting all their exams in their options and core in the same year would experience up to 30 exams in one summer. Data from 2015 demonstrates Sandwell Local Authority has the highest rates of mental health disorders in the West Midlands and the third highest in the country. A three year Key Stage 4 curriculum gives students the potential of entering some exams after two years and a longer Key Stage 4 enables us to embed the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in the examinations and thus enhances our ability to support students' mental health and wellbeing.

### Curriculum Provision - 8.30am until 3.20pm

#### Year 7 and 8

- |                      |                     |                      |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| • English Language   | • Geography         | • Drama              |
| • English Literature | • Religious Studies | • Music              |
| • Mathematics        | • Spanish           | • Computing          |
| • Science            | • Technology        | • Physical Education |
| • History            | • Art               | • Business           |

#### Years 9 to 11

Sandwell Academy offers a balanced curriculum of academic and vocational qualifications. All students study Mathematics, English Language, English Literature and either double award or triple Science. All but a small number of students study either Geography or History, and the majority of students study Spanish. In line with the government's ambition, an increasing proportion of students study for the Ebacc

(67% in 2019). Students also study short courses in Religious Studies, Sex and Relationship Education and Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education.

Students can choose to study up to three qualifications in the following subjects:

- |                       |                     |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| • Art                 | • Food Nutrition    | • Music             |
| • Business            | • Health and Social | • Performing Arts   |
| • Computer Science    | Care                | • Religious Studies |
| • Design & Technology | • Media Studies     |                     |

At Key Stage 4, students will most commonly study for 10 qualifications.

### Sixth Form

The Sixth Form provides for up to 350 students with a wide provision of academic and vocational courses. Students have the choice of studying three or four A levels, BTEC programmes (equivalent up to three A levels) or a combination of A levels with BTEC programmes.

Sixth Form students are supported by strong careers and education guidance, providing a road map for every student and preparing them for the next stage of their life whether it be University, employment with training or an apprenticeship.

As with all students at the Academy, Sixth Form students access additional learning support and enrichment through Session 3, either individually or in small groups. University visits, the Duke of Edinburgh Award up to Gold standard and a wide array of sports are amongst the many extended curriculum opportunities available to students.

No student will leave the school without a clear career plan. To support students to reach this goal, they commonly receive an enhanced work experience in Year 12 to aid with career planning.

### Session 3 - 3.40pm to 5.10pm

A full and varied Session 3 timetable runs weekly, Monday to Thursday from 3.40pm until 5.10pm, with the exception of the first and last weeks of every term, and all staff (including SMT) commit to delivering at least one Session 3 per week. Students across all year groups have the opportunity to opt in to a variety of different types of session including sporting, academic, music tuition and performing arts as well as other practical sessions such as cooking. A typical day will see upwards of 50 plus extra-curricular sessions being offered for students across all year groups ranging from the academic to sporting and musical. Student participation across the year groups is excellent with 95% of students attending at least one Session 3 last academic year. This high level of participation is reflected across the individual year groups.

## Curriculum Aims

	Aims – cross ref to context					
	Build resilience, self-reliance and perseverance	Raise aspirations and promote “self-challenge”	Experience a broad range of subjects and learning opportunities	Increase the “cultural capital” of students	Support Mental Health and Wellbeing	Develop deeper understanding and a love of learning and self-development.
Features						
Longer Lessons	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Session 3	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
3 Year KS4			✓	✓	✓	
House System	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Careers Service		✓				✓
Sports Specialism	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Business Specialism			✓	✓		✓
Charitable Work		✓		✓		
Inclusion, mentoring and curriculum support	✓	✓			✓	✓
Sports Facilities	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Promoting Achievement		✓			✓	✓
Enrichment activities		✓		✓		
PT System Vertical Groups	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pastoral System	✓				✓	
Multi-cultural		✓	✓	✓	✓	
IT facilities, MCAS, OLC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓