



OLDBURY ACADEMY

Learn Today LEAD TOMORROW

PROSPECTUS



Contents

- 3 Welcome
- 4 Stour Vale Academy Trust
- 5 Ofsted Says
- 6 Form Groups & Curriculum
- 7-9 Subject Curriculum
- 10 Transition & Our School Day
- 11 Uniform
- 12 Pupil Premium & SEN
- 13 Pastoral & Junior Leadership
- 14 Safeguarding & Attendance

Welcome

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Oldbury Academy. I am extremely proud to be Headteacher, I hold a strong and uncompromising belief that education has the power to change the lives of young people. Every child at Oldbury will receive excellent teaching and plentiful opportunities to succeed.

At Oldbury, we are committed to ensuring the highest possible academic standards for students and are relentless in our ambition to achieve this. Academic excellence is a priority and we are unwavering in placing huge importance on making sure that teaching and learning is the beating heart of our school.

At the same time, we recognise that each child brings something different to our school and we are dedicated to nurturing their personality, talents, and interests. All students will leave Oldbury Academy ready to make a positive contribution to our society.

Students at Oldbury demonstrate the highest standards of care, respect, tolerance and co-operation, and we take great pride in our community. Our ethos of CARE underpins every decision we make and students are always at the centre of everything we do.

Students who make good choices will be recognised, rewarded and celebrated, whilst we will support and challenge those students who fail to meet our high expectations.

I am very lucky to lead a talented, well qualified and committed group of staff, all of which will go the extra mile and beyond to help your child succeed at our school. The recruitment and retention of high-quality colleagues has been a priority for me and it is a pleasure to work alongside them.

We have outstanding relationships with our parents and carers, and together, our partnership with you will secure the best possible outcomes and success for your child. We communicate with parents and carers regularly and my team are always available to answer any questions, queries or concerns that you might have.

I hope you find the information in this prospectus useful and we look forward to the opportunity of meeting you and showing you our school. We are rightly proud of everything associated with Oldbury Academy and look forward to sharing this with you in the future.

Mr P. Shackleton



Headteacher



#CARE

Celebrate Together

Rewarding those who consistently 'get it right' in all aspects of school life.

Every person being active in their contribution to our community.

Working together to shape a brighter future.

Achievement for All

Creating opportunities regardless of background and abilities.

Shaping exceptional citizens, well equipped for the wider world.

Supporting young people by offering a wide range of valuable educational pathways.

Respect Each Other

A culture of tolerance, diversity, understanding and equality.

An environment where everyone feels safe, secure and included.

All members of our community being independent and making positive, well informed choices.

Expectations to Succeed

High levels of challenge, expectation and accountability. Developing a culture of success, positivity and happiness.

Aspirational 'thinking and doing' to reach and exceed your own goals.

Stour Vale Academy Trust

Stour Vale is a cross-phase multi-academy trust and currently has seven member schools, namely: Newtown Primary School, Northfield Road Primary School, Oldbury Academy, Olive Hill Primary School, Redhill School, Ridgewood High School and The Earls High School. This is an exciting time as we continue to grow.

Our aim is to achieve the excellence in teaching and learning which enables all of our learners to succeed. This 'commitment to excellence' is underpinned by strong collaboration within and between schools, which in turn provides our staff with many opportunities to develop professionally and to contribute to the continuous development of all Stour Vale schools. All that we do in our schools reflects the Trust vision and values and high expectations are fully matched by the level of support and encouragement that schools in the Trust provide one another. Nothing makes us happier than seeing all members of our Stour Vale community flourish.



As a successful family of schools, delivering high-quality education for the communities we serve, Stour Vale values its diversity. Each school brings their own distinct character, community, history and identity. We celebrate the uniqueness of member schools, recognising that there is a great deal to learn from education in different contexts. This is also the reason why we remain outward-looking, committed to learning from research and excellent practice across the education system.



Ofsted Says

In December 2021 Ofsted graded Oldbury Academy as "Good" in all areas. The report, written after a two day inspection on December 7th and 8th December 2021, judged the overall effectiveness of our school as "good". The following areas were all "good": quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership and management. The report highlights a number of areas of strength. The outcome is recognition for all of the hard work that has taken place at Oldbury Academy and is a testament to our high standards and expectations.

We are immensely proud of our pupils and visitors to our school often comment on our positive learning environment. Our children should be very proud of the way they conduct and apply themselves on a daily basis. The inspection team found that "their behaviour in lessons and around the school site creates a calm atmosphere". Our C.A.R.E ethos of celebrate together, achievement for all, respect each other and expectations to succeed were also recognised as "pupils understand the school's values and what is expected of them. They respond positively to these expectations".



"The school is well led. The headteacher is committed to making sure pupils receive the best education possible. Able senior and middle leaders support him with this aim."

"The school is an orderly environment. This helps pupils to concentrate on their work."

"All leaders in the school share the same ambition."

"Pupils' behaviour in lessons and around the school site creates a calm atmosphere."

"Bullying is not tolerated. Pupils value this support, and this means they feel safe at school."

"Pupils at this school receive a good education."





Our Form Groups

A strong form tutor really can make a difference for students. With 25 minutes together at the start of the day, focusing on key themes such as behaviour, attendance, rewards, British Values, literacy, numeracy and standards of uniform, the start of the day sets the tone for the the learning that takes place afterwards.

Of course, the role of a form tutor goes far further than this. A good form tutor knows the students in their group, knows their families and has positive relationships that support and challenge at the same time to ensure that all students get the most from school.

As a parent, you should expect to know your child's form tutor and hear from them if the need arises. They will be there for you as the first point of call if you need to speak to them.



Curriculum

KS3 At Oldbury Academy, we are proud to be able to offer our students in Key Stage 3 a broad, balanced and bespoke curriculum.

Students will follow a curriculum that suits their own needs, which will ensure they leave us with the best possible outcomes at the end of Year 11.

All students will study English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, Modern Foreign Language, RE, Creative Arts, IT, Technology (which includes Food Technology, and Resistant Materials) and PE. At Oldbury, KS3 is Years 7, 8 and 9.

KS4 As students move into Key Stage 4, they will have the opportunity to make informed choices about the subjects they study.

This will differ from student to student, as students will follow a bespoke educational pathway that allows them to maximise their potential at school. All students will still study English, Maths and Science and they will be able to select from other subjects to complete their timetable.

We will always guide students towards subjects we feel they will excel in. At Oldbury, KS4 is Year 10 and Year 11.

Subject Curriculum

English

We aim to promote a life-long love of English in our students and encourage them to use our subject to challenge and question the world around them. At Key Stage 3 our aim is to introduce students to the thrilling world of reading, writing, speaking and listening; from the exhilarating adventures in Tolkien's 'The Hobbit', to the dark and shadowy secrets of Bram Stoker's 'Dracula', there is something for everyone.

As students move into Key Stage 4 they use the knowledge and skills acquired in their earlier years to study the vibrant works of Shakespeare, Dickens, Duffy and many more. Students also have the chance to experience what it means to be a journalist, a novelist, an actor or a presenter; skills which they can then take with them as they begin their journey into the wider world.



Mathematics

Our Mathematics course focuses on real life scenarios and problem solving to enable students to access the wider world and everything mathematical within it. Engagement in mathematics is key and the faculty have invested in many up-to-date resources such as MathsWatch, Pixl Maths and ActiveLearn to encourage students to work independently and realise that maths is everywhere and affects everyone.



Science

Everything you are, everything you see and everything you do is directly linked to Science. Science gives us the answers to many of life's questions; from the start of the Universe, to the cellular level of the development of the plants and animals alive today. At Oldbury Academy, Science is a journey through a comprehensive and engaging curriculum, to begin to understanding the world we live in. Through a wide range of topics such as cells, atoms, the atmosphere and electricity as well as exciting practicals, we will learn together the complexities of the world around us.



Applied Learning

The Applied Learning and Technology faculty aims to give students the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge in a range of academic, vocational and applied subjects. Through providing a varied and exciting curriculum we hope to build confidence and allow students the chance to grow into creative thinkers and resilient learners. Key Stage 3 follows the National Curriculum in Design Technology and Catering. In Key Stage 4 students may study Hospitality and Catering, Health and Social Care and Child Development.



Humanities

Humanities fires the imagination of all students and the study of Geography, History and Religious Studies throughout Key Stage Three will help them to explain the world around them. They will answer questions such as 'Why do natural hazards happen?', 'How can we manage challenges like climate change and population growth?', 'Crown vs Church - Who had the power?' and 'What makes life valuable?'. All of our humanities subjects are popular options at Key Stage Four, as students go on to specialise in their chosen areas.



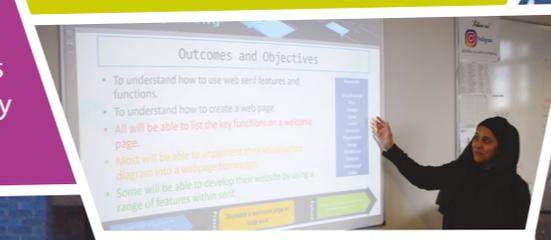
Languages

Guten tag! In an ever-growing global community the study of languages is becoming increasingly important. Languages bring with them so many opportunities to develop skills such as public speaking, problem-solving and general literacy; improving a student's spelling and even their understanding of English. Throughout both key stages, we will develop awareness of all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing), as we look to develop this most important skill in your child.



Business & Computing

Using our multiple computer suites, students engage with modern and rapidly developing technology as soon as they start at Oldbury Academy. They work through a range of units covering key computing skills and developing their knowledge. Units include - Microsoft Office, Web Design, Programming, and Hardware & Software. At Key stage 4 they have the opportunity to study the BTEC Digital Information Technology course or the BTEC Business Enterprise course as part of their pathways programme.



Computer Science & Creative iMedia

Two of the more specialist subjects provided within the Computing curriculum at Oldbury Academy. Studied in depth at KS4, Computer Science offers students the opportunity to be challenged in terms of their computational thinking whilst Creative iMedia allows for a more creative thinking to be expressed. Both subjects realised through real world concept teaching.



Creative Arts

Our Creative Arts curriculum is inclusive of Art, Music, Dance and Drama. We provide the opportunity to stretch and challenge students' creativity. We stretch the imagination and support our young people in becoming confident, resourceful and independent learners. Our curriculum provides creative experiences to build upon self-esteem, resilience and problem-solving skills. Throughout the school years, we build upon knowledge and skills which will enable our young learners not only to appreciate and access creativity but to be the creative thinkers, the innovators, designers, musicians, actors and artists our world needs.



P.E.

Oldbury Academy has a thriving PE Faculty which promotes an active, healthy lifestyle to the pupils and the community. Key Stage 3 PE lessons are designed to give pupils a broad and balanced experience of sports whilst developing their physical and cognitive literacy skills. Key Stage 4 PE lessons provide the opportunity for pupils to specialise and follow a pathway in either Performance, Competition, Recreation or Personal Training. The PE curriculum is underpinned by the core values of LORIC; leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication and the British Values of democracy, mutual respect and tolerance. The PE Faculty run an extensive extra-curricular programme throughout the year.



Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural

We work hard to make sure that all Oldbury Academy students leave us as well-rounded individuals; ready and able to make a positive contribution to society. We deliver SMSC, PSHE, SRE and British Values through registration periods and an exciting program of guest speakers, workshops, assemblies and collapsed curriculum days. Every week students take part in an interesting topical debate through Votes for Schools - an opportunity not just to develop an understanding of world issues and context but also help shape the work of companies and national agencies through their votes.



Transition

Moving to secondary school is a hugely exciting prospect and a very important period in a child's life.

At Oldbury Academy, we understand how valuable an effective transitional period can be, so we run a series of events to support your child in making a positive move upwards to Year 7. We run two transition days in July where students can take part in our lessons, try the food from our canteen and meet key members of staff, such as their Head of Year and their new form tutor.

We also hold two information evenings for all of our new parents where there will be an opportunity to meet Key Stage 3 leaders in each subject, members of our leadership team and also your child's tutor to ask any questions you might have.

In addition to this, we will visit your child's primary school before they start with us so that we can start getting to know your child as early as possible.

We have a vast supply of resources and videos on our website that will help with all aspects of transition and your child's progression to Oldbury Academy.



Our School Day

Our school day is planned to allow all students to get the most from their education. After starting the day with their form group, our day consists of four 75 minute lessons. A 30 minute lunch allows students opportunities to meet other students, learn new skills and make new friends. Each year group is assigned to one of the below day structures with school starting and finishing at the same time for all students.

School Day A	
08:40am	Pupils Arrive
08:50am	Form Time
09:15am	Lesson 1
10:30am	Morning Break
10:45am	Lesson 2
12:00pm	Lunch Break
12:30pm	Lesson 3
13:45pm	Lesson 4
15:00pm	School day ends, pupils may attend after school sessions

School Day B	
08:40am	Pupils Arrive
08:50am	Form Time
09:15am	Lesson 1
10:30am	Lesson 2
11:45am	Morning Break
12:00pm	Lesson 3
13:15pm	Lunch Break
13:45pm	Lesson 4
15:00pm	School day ends, pupils may attend after school sessions



School Uniform and Personal Appearance

At Oldbury Academy, we maintain the highest standards of school uniform. We believe it helps to give our students a sense of belonging to a community and a feeling of pride in our school. It also helps to teach them the importance of wearing the correct clothes for a particular situation. For these reasons, we insist that students clothing and personal appearance adheres to this policy and action will be taken with regard to non-compliance.

The school uniform/personal appearance requirements are set out below; both are strictly monitored. Parental support is requested to ensure all students maintain these standards.

The majority of uniform items can be purchased from a variety of outlets. School badges and ties can also be directly ordered from the school.

Our Uniform

- Black blazer with school badge.
- Plain white blouse or shirt, suitable for wearing with a tie school tie.
- Black trousers/black knee length skirt.
- Black polished shoes.
- Black or white socks or flesh coloured/black tights (not patterned).
- Optional mid grey V neck jumper.

Appearance

- Makeup to be discrete and of a natural palette.
- Nails are to be trimmed to a moderate length.
- Nail varnish, if worn, must be a pale colour.

Jewellery

- A watch.
- 1 plain ring (no sovereign rings or similar).
- 1 set of stud earrings (no hoops, spacers or dangling earrings).
- No facial piercings.

Religious Items

Items worn for a religious observance should be discrete in size (e.g. cross and chain, kirpan, must be no larger than 2.5cm). In addition evidence of formal initiation/baptism to be provided by parent where pupils wear these items. (Further guidance is available upon request regarding the wearing/carrying of a kirpan.)

Hair

Long hair must be tied back in practical lessons. A student may choose to enhance the appearance of their hair through subtle, natural highlights but the use of bright coloured all over sprays or dyes, or block highlights, are unacceptable and inappropriate for school.

Whilst we are aware that students may want the latest hairstyles or cuts, unfortunately, in many cases, these are not consistent with our overall policy for school

dress. Small, straight, parting lines may be shaved into the hair but no other lines or patterns are acceptable. A shaven head is also unacceptable, except for medical reasons.

P.E. Kit

- Black and blue polo shirt with the school logo.
- Black and blue rugby shirt with the school logo.
- Black hoodie with school logo or plain black hoodie.
- Black and blue shorts or skort with the school logo.
- Black sports leggings or tracksuit bottoms.
- Football socks/socks (black).
- Football boots.
- Trainers.

Plain black sports kit is acceptable if you are unable to purchase the branded school kit.

A combination of the items above to suit personal preference is acceptable, pupils are not expected to have every item of clothing above. Outdoor coats are not to be worn in PE lessons.



Pupil Premium

What is the Pupil Premium?

Pupil Premium funding was first introduced by the government in 2011. It represents additional funding that the government provides to schools to support the education for eligible students, and is completely up to the school to determine how the money is spent.

Why does the Government provide a Pupil Premium?

The government believes that poverty or low income is the single most important factor in predicting a child's future life chances, with many pupils in low-income families having low attainment by the age of 16. The government believes that the Pupil Premium is the best way to address these inequalities between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers by ensuring that funding is used to support the disadvantaged pupils who need it the most.

Who is eligible for the Pupil Premium?

Free School Meals - The most common reason a pupil receives Pupil Premium funding is because they are eligible for, or have been eligible in the past 6 years for free school meals.

Service Children - Children of armed service personnel are also eligible. Service children are children and young people from families where one or more parent is currently in the British armed forces. Pupils attract the premium if they meet the following criteria: One of their parents is serving in the regular armed forces; One of their parents served in the regular armed forces in the last 3 years; One of their parents died while serving in the armed forces and the pupil is in receipt of a pension under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme and the War Pensions Scheme.



SEN Information

We have an excellent reputation for supporting students with additional educational needs. Our recent Ofsted report commented on the excellent leadership of the area, and also noted how students with Special Educational Needs make good progress alongside their peer group. This good reputation comes through our passion and commitment to supporting all students regardless of need. If you would like to know more about our SEN provision or if you have any queries, please check out the SEN Section of our website.



Pastoral Care

Heads of Year

Our Heads of Year play a crucial, strategic role in supporting students in their year group at the academy. They are responsible for the pastoral care of students, ensuring outstanding conduct, levels of appearance and attendance.

Assistant Head of Year

Assistant Heads of Year play a supportive role to ensure consistently high standards across the academy. They support the Head of Year with the pastoral care of our students.

Student Welfare Officer

SWOs support students on a day-to-day basis, offering valuable support for those who may require a helping hand. SWOs will intervene with students who do not attend school regularly, as well as being a central part of our safeguarding, behavioural and attendance processes.

Communication with Home

We communicate with you using a wide range of media. Our weekly newsletter gives you a snapshot of what is going on in school, but you can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We also text you important information where necessary, and of course we are always at the end of the phone if you need us.

Junior Leadership Team

At Oldbury Academy, we are committed to working with, listening to, and supporting our students in making their school a better place. The Junior Leadership Team (JLT) was established in September 2015 to give students the platform to voice their views and opinions on how we can continue our road to success. Staff work with these students in order to focus on specific areas of our school to ensure that students have their say in these key aspects of school improvement.

The JLT has worked on a range of different projects in school, and also supported various charities in raising money for good causes. Community projects have taken place, and different events are led by the students on the JLT to enhance their leadership skills for their future.

We are dedicated to providing our students with the opportunities to make decisions, the courage to speak out, and the motivation to want to support their school. We look forward to giving your child the opportunity to join our JLT.



Safeguarding

The safety of our students is our absolute priority. We have an excellent reputation in the local area for our safeguarding practices and are justifiably proud of this. All of our staff are trained with regards to safeguarding and child protection, and this training is updated on a regular basis. We enjoy very positive relationships with various partners in the local area who support us with our safeguarding and child protection processes and we use specialist services extensively to support our young people. Above all, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we work in partnership with families to ensure the safety of our students.

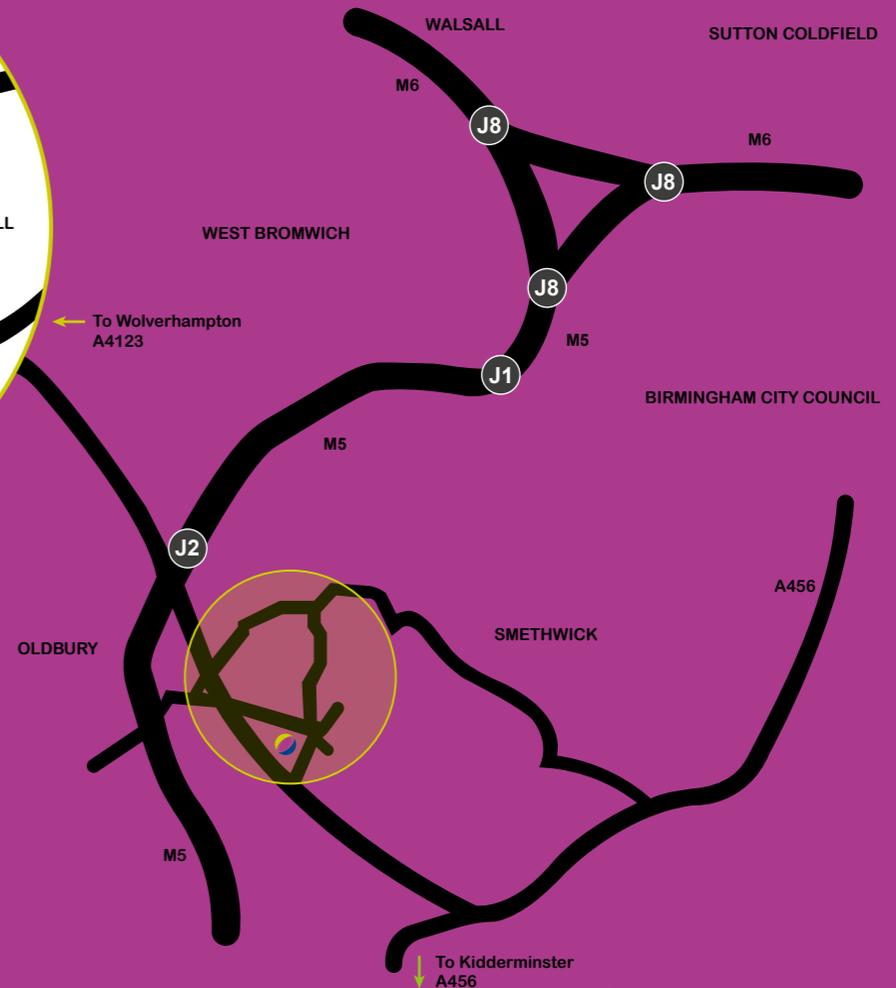


The Importance Of Good Attendance

Good attendance and punctuality are not just important for school, they are key life skills. We do not want any student to miss out on school life; the friendships, the trips and their learning. Attendance is so important to success in education. Our student target for attendance is 98%. Punctuality is equally as important as arriving to school late on a regular basis could result in important messages being missed during registration time or lost learning time from lessons.

Students who attend school regularly on time and have an excellent attitude to learning will be offered opportunities to take part in reward opportunities e.g. visits to local and national sporting events, a day at the seaside, trips to theme parks, visits to the theatre or cinema and many more.

Support will be put in place for those students who do not attend as regularly as they should or are regularly late to school. We work closely with the Attendance & Prosecution Service to ensure students attend school as often as possible.



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