



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Earls High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

The Earls High School is a 1200 student, 11-16 Academy in the Borough of Dudley. It became a convertor Academy in January 2012 and one of the founding members of the Stour Vale Academy Trust (SVAT) alongside Redhill School, Stourbridge and Olive Hill Primary School in Spring 2017. Founded in 1652, the school has a long and distinguished history of service to the township of Halesowen. We serve a diverse community with significant areas of affluence alongside pockets of deprivation within the Dudley Borough as well as nearby Sandwell and Birmingham. Our school community is genuinely comprehensive in social, cultural and academic terms. Currently 21% of our students are eligible for free school meals, 3% speak English as a second language and 7% are identified as having special educational needs. We aim to achieve KS4 results well above the national average and with significant added value the last three years have shown significant improvement in this goal with results in Summer 2017 showing that students made significantly more progress than would have been expected of them (Progress 8 +0.24). We are committed to our comprehensive status and to achieving excellence for all of our students. As part of this commitment we make extensive use of mixed ability teaching strategies; we believe this to be a key driver in raising student attainment and supporting high student expectations. This ethos is a key reason behind our heavy oversubscription and the active support we receive from parents. Our Ofsted Outstanding rating from October 2011 reflects our relentless drive for improving the quality of the experience we offer students.

Our school motto “Ut filii lucis fiat” is age-old but its values continue to underpin the day-to-day work of a modern school: it roughly translates as “so that you may become the children of light”. It talks to the students about the transformative power of education, about how education can bring enlightenment through the acquisition of knowledge along with the development of self-awareness and goodness. With these attributes comes the satisfaction that will help students go on to lead happy and fulfilled lives. We have a large and experienced staff who commit themselves to this goal on a daily basis. We want our students to experience excellence, feel cared for and care for others and be able to develop effective working partnerships with all people they meet. All our staff work in partnership with students providing both care and challenge to ensure students achieve excellence.

We have a superb range of facilities including: a traditional school hall with stage and tiered seating, new library suite, a music block, astro-turf, three gymnasiums, a gym-dance centre, dance and drama studios. Each faculty area has its own rooms and an office space. The 1908 section of the buildings also boasts some wonderful stained glass windows. The school has excellent ICT facilities housed in four fully equipped ICT rooms and a number of smaller clusters with over 250

PC and Mac workstations that have full internet access. All rooms have projectors, speakers and screens. All teachers have laptops or ipads so that they can present high quality information and activities for students.

We take pride in the range of extra-curricular opportunities on offer. Many subjects also provide curriculum experiences outside the classroom. There are too many to list here but here's a flavour of what we have: samba band, orchestra, flute choir, Little Big Band, trampolining, cricket, football, boccia, chess, debating, film club, craft club. All of our Year 7s visit Birmingham Symphony Hall and The Peak District, there are numerous theatre trips, theme park visits, Harry Potter Studios, performing arts residencies at Ingestre Hall, music tours of EuroDisney and Italy, ski trips, Manor Adventure and football tours. The Duke of Edinburgh is increasingly popular with over 100 students enrolled this year.

In 2012 we became a National Teaching School and work to support a number of other local schools. We provide extensive high quality CPD opportunities for our own and other staff, gaining a significant amount of national recognition for this work. The Earls has an excellent record of partnership work with other schools and providers. Currently this includes work with many local primary schools on transition and primary liaison and a range of community partners. We are the lead school for Science Learning Partnership in this area, again providing focussed development work with both primary and secondary schools.

The Earls is also part of the Halesowen Teaching and Learning Community (HTLC) comprising 19 Halesowen primary and secondary schools. The group is working to identify and spread good practice across all the schools and has run a range of very successful joint training events. There is close local co-operation and a clear intention to develop Halesowen as a beacon learning neighbourhood. In January 2012 the school became an Academy Trust and continues to work in partnership with the Local Authority and other local providers. As part of our partnership work with Halesowen College we launched a Collegiate '6th Form' in September 2009, based at The Earls, whereby students have their pastoral care with us and their lessons at the college. Since February 2017 we have been in the Stour Vale Academy Trust which aims to be a cross-phase trust of local primary and secondary schools with links to local colleges.

The school works hard to seek best practice from schools nationally and internationally. We want to be seen as a school where everyone, staff and students, is expected to grow and nobody expects to be 'the finished article'. Educational excellence is our ultimate goal whereby we drive for the highest levels of progress and personal development deriving from a wide, enjoyable and meaningful curriculum. This makes The Earls an exciting school to work in, where relationships are good and students and staff work in partnership to achieve ambitious goals.