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## SMITH'S WOOD ACADEMY INFORMATION PACK

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PART OF THE FAIRFAX MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST



WELCOME TO SMITH'S WOOD

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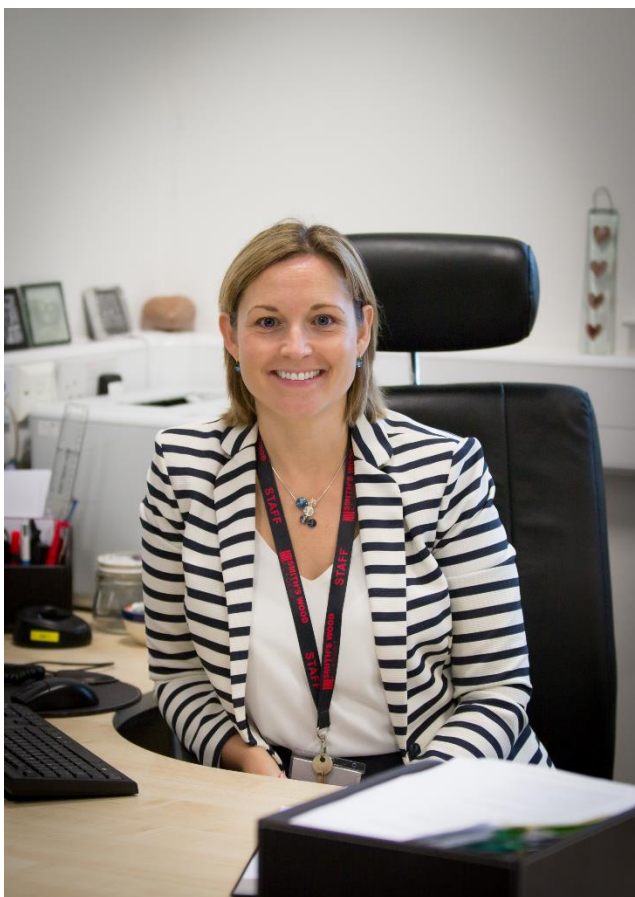
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“At Smith’s Wood we do things *the Smith’s Wood Way*. We are a unique school whose ethos is very much built upon traditional values.”

## WELCOME TO SMITH'S WOOD

### MRS K CRAIG - HEAD OF ACADEMY

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Smith's Wood Academy is a special place to learn and work. Students that choose to study with us and colleagues that choose to work with us tell us what an incredible school this is.

At Smith's Wood we do things *the Smith's Wood Way*. This means that we strive for excellence in all that we do; we are dedicated and ambitious for ourselves and each other. We truly believe that there is dignity in hard work and effort and we believe in taking a traditional approach – manners, courtesy and respect are integral to our work. We believe in being open and transparent and in working with absolute integrity. I am proud to say that this is a school where staff and students support each other and take collective responsibility.

Our aim is to prepare each and every student to succeed in the next stages of their career, education and training and to have the skills and competencies to do this. Smith's Wood's traditional curriculum and traditional approach to teaching and learning underpins our ethos and our drive to mastering the basics; reading, writing, communicating and mathematics.

As Head of Academy, I am incredibly proud of our Academy and its community. Equally proud are our staff and students.

I am relentless in my drive and ambition to improve the outcomes for all who choose to join us on our journey. I hope that you like what you read and that you choose to take the first steps in joining the Smith's Wood Team.



**MRS K CRAIG**  
**Head of Smith's Wood Academy**

# WELCOME TO SMITH'S WOOD

## CONTEXT

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Smith's Wood Academy is located in the north of Solihull. There are approximately 1100 students on roll. The Academy is in a strong position in that it is the school of choice for the local community and has been so for a number of years.

Solihull is a broadly affluent borough in both the regional and national context, with generally above-average levels of school performance and low crime rates compared with the West Midlands key characteristics. Solihull is also the most polarised borough in the country, challenged by a prosperity gap of which Smith's Wood, located in the north of the borough, falls within one of the most deprived areas in the country. The community and children that we serve deserve to have the highest standards of educational provision and the best and most committed teachers and support staff in order to secure for them the most positive life chances.

Smith's Wood converted to an academy on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, working in partnership with the Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust (FMAT) – already this partnership is highly effective in bringing about real and sustainable changes to the school and its community. The newly established leadership team is making important and rapid gains

in terms of school improvement. We absolutely need to keep this momentum going and hope that you choose to join us as we move forward.

The potential opportunities that will be afforded to our children, staff and the local community will be second to none as this partnership continues to grow and develop.

People that know us, are clear that we have an unrivalled commitment to inclusion. We demonstrate, in all that we do, our belief in the importance of providing tailored support for young people and their families – our pastoral care and guidance is a real strength of our school.







# WELCOME TO SMITH'S WOOD

## LEARNING AND CURRICULUM

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Our aim is to develop both staff and students to ensure all students excel in lessons and achieve the highest outcomes.

As a school we have adopted the mastery approach to the curriculum and to curriculum delivery. This allows our children to succeed in an The curriculum for every department is knowledge rich and emphasises the development and securing deep knowledge prior to the development of skills. Teachers and students alike, plan learning around carefully compiled *Knowledge Organisers*. Our curriculum is designed to provide a flexible, personalised education - knowing that one size does not fit all and preparing students for their future lives.

Teachers at Smith's Wood are asked to adopt the mastery style of teaching. The Mastery approach is based on **6 key principles**;

- Explanation
  - Deliberate practice
  - Modelling
  - Questioning
  - High quality feedback (in the lesson)
  - High expectations

Smith's Wood aims to support every member of staff in becoming an outstanding teacher. A varied professional development programme is provided that caters for teachers at all stages in their career; teachers are encouraged to share their ideas and learn from each other. Our Coaching Programme has been well received by staff and is highly effective in terms of developing teaching and learning.





*Knowledge is power. Information is liberating.*

Kofi Annan

At Smith's Wood Academy, we believe all students, whatever their background, are able to become **experts** in the disciplines that they study.

Their expertise will be achieved through quality teaching and the dissemination of deep knowledge by highly skilled and knowledgeable subject experts. The Mastery approach to teaching will prevail – in every classroom, every lesson, every day.

Our students have the right to be introduced to **deep knowledge** and a **wealth of information** from the spectrum of subjects that they study. They will be introduced to, and understand, theories and principles that have influenced, continue to influence, and will influence in the future, the world in which they live. They will be prepared to fully engage in academic discussion about their learning.

This learning will secure a successful place in society for our students. They will go further than they ever thought possible.

**To support teachers in delivering this vision the Academy;**

- does not require teachers to mark classwork; they focus instead on *live in-lesson feedback* and on providing students with individual and whole class *deep feedback*;
- training and support in delivering lessons using the mastery approach to teaching and learning;
- a whole school, structured approach to Study (centrally set homework) – again the Academy does not require this to be marked, instead feedback is woven into the fabric of the lesson;
- has developed a rigorous approach to behavior management which ensures that *teachers can teach and students can learn* at all times.

## WELCOME TO SMITH'S WOOD

### **OUR COMMITMENT TO STUDENT WELFARE**

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The pastoral care and support for our students is a priority for the Academy. We have a strong pastoral support network to ensure that no child is forgotten and that we effectively meet their pastoral needs.

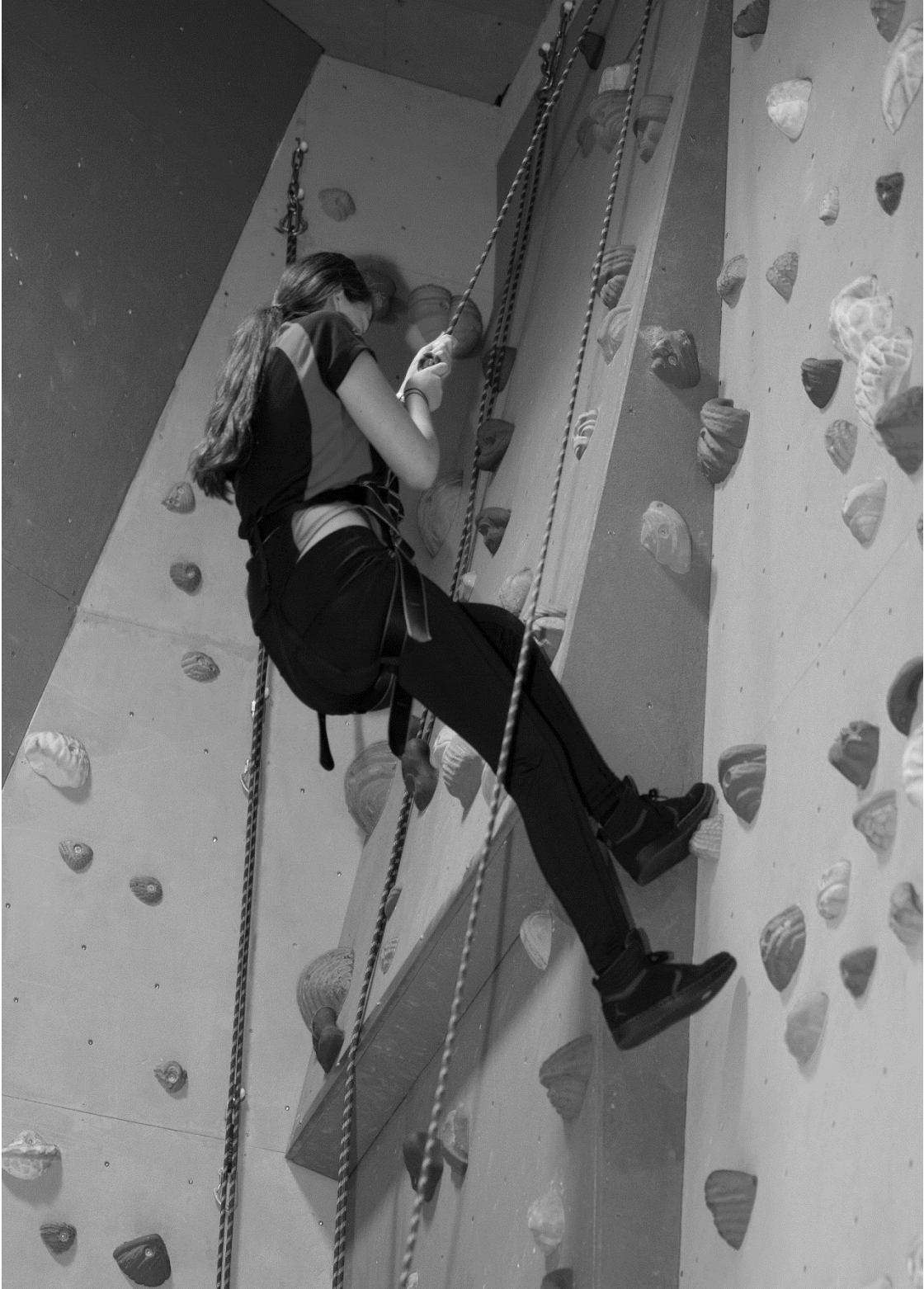
Each student is placed into one of 4 houses; Ash, Elm, Bay or Yew House. Each house is led by a non-teaching Head of House and a Deputy Head of House. The House system permeates most aspects of school life and generates healthy competitive spirit. The quality and range of extra-curricular activities help students to develop the self-esteem and confidence to succeed.

This support network also includes;

- an SEND team comprising a SENDCo, Deputy SENDCo and a team of Teaching Assistants;
- A Behavior Support Team;
- A non-teaching Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and 3 Deputy DSLs;
- A school Medical Advisor (specialising in mental health);
- 2 Child and Family Support Workers;
- Attendance Manager;
- An Outdoor-Adventurous Activities Leader.

Standards of discipline and uniform are high at Smith's Wood Academy. Our students know what good behavior is and they demonstrate this in all that they do.







## WELCOME TO SMITH'S WOOD

### OUR FACILITIES

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We are incredibly fortunate that our Academy was built as part of the 'Building Schools for the Future' initiative. The Academy enjoys first class educational facilities that are well-maintained and conducive to exciting and successful learning opportunities. Staff and students enjoy;

- Excellent sports facilities – gym, sports hall, climbing wall, swimming pool, multi-use games area (MUGA), all-weather sports pitch and a fitness suite;
- A suite of fully equipped science laboratories and specialist ICT, art and design and technology areas;
- Drama studios and music suites;
- Two Learning Resource Centres.

The school benefits from a large outdoor space which is well-maintained. Students benefit from a canopied area, seating areas and outdoor table-tennis facilities for use at social times.

Each teacher is allocated a teaching base that is well equipped and designed to maximize learning. Each classroom has a teacher workstation with a visualiser to support teaching and learning.

An extensive programme of re-decoration, refurbishment and maintenance ensures that our environment is one in which people want to work.

Our facilities may be enviable but we are very clear that it is, of course, the people and the ethos rather than the building that make for a thriving school.



# WELCOME TO SMITH'S WOOD

## CONCLUSION

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Smith's Wood is a great place to work. It is a happy and student-friendly environment which relies on and thrives on the generosity and commitment of staff. There are high expectations and the pace of life is distinctly busy.

Smith's Wood has traditional values and a firm approach to discipline, punctuality and uniform, but embraces the challenges of the 21st Century.

Smith's Wood is currently at a pivotal point in its long history; this is an exciting opportunity to be involved in transforming the future direction of Smith's Wood to make it one of the leading schools in the country.

We welcome applications from ambitious individuals who feel they have the skills, personality and experience to rise to this challenge.

### Further Information

If you require further information about the available post, an informal visit, or any aspect of the school please contact Caroline Schilling, Personal Assistant to the Head of Academy, on 0121 7884103 1288 or at [s215cschilling@smiths-wood.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:s215cschilling@smiths-wood.solihull.sch.uk).









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