



# SOLIHULL

HMC co-educational day school for boys and girls aged 7-18

## Candidate Information Pack 2017-2018



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# Welcome to Solihull

At Solihull, we pride ourselves on ensuring that all pupils realise their full potential. Our central aim is to provide for every pupil as rich a life as possible so that school fosters fulfilment, happiness and success; a preparation for life as a good adult in society. Teaching is excellent and our examination results speak volumes about the progress Silhillians make in their studies.

Our pupils enjoy outstanding facilities and a wide-ranging and comprehensive co-curricular programme. Solihull excels on the sports field, on the stage, in the debating chamber and in the concert hall; pupils benefit from many enriching cultural excursions at home and abroad. Boys and girls are encouraged to develop as individuals in a caring and civilised environment, and our strong pastoral care network underpins the many and varied successes enjoyed by pupils. We uphold traditional values in a global community, emphasising the importance of high moral standards and ethical conduct. Many Old Silhillians have gone on to be pioneers and leaders in their chosen fields and these qualities are developed and nurtured here at school. Pupils are actively encouraged to develop their leadership skills, to take responsibility for others and to serve the local, national and international communities.

Solihull is a beacon of excellence and I hope that the information contained in this booklet and on our website gives you a feel for the character and high expectations that pervade all areas of school life.

***David E.J.J. Lloyd,  
Headmaster***





# Our Aims

## Ambition

Staff and pupils are ambitious and seek to maximise potential in one another. We aim to engender an enduring thirst for learning and a sense of well-being, and all members of the school community are encouraged to extend themselves beyond their immediate interests and perceived capabilities. Doing one's best is uppermost and perseverance is very important in achieving our goals.

**Perseverantia** is our school motto and we are very proud of the tradition it represents. Reflection is ongoing and the genuine belief that we can all be better drives us on.



## Opportunity

We aim to provide breadth of opportunity and inspire depth of achievement. Learning takes place in and out of the classroom, at home and abroad, and staff and pupils are encouraged to balance over 450 years of tradition with innovation and creativity. New opportunities are welcomed and embraced and all are encouraged to take risks and to learn from failure. The curriculum and co-curriculum are of equal importance and learning for learning's sake is a priority. Intelligence takes many forms and the acquisition of experience, knowledge and skills, whether academic or not and whether tested or not, is very important. Education is holistic and independent thought, exploration and fun are essential.



## Community

Christian in our foundation, we welcome boys and girls of all faiths into a supportive and caring environment. We aim to prepare them for adult life as happy, charitable, confident and intelligent people and all come to understand the value of a strong moral compass and global perspective. Pupils learn the importance of winning with humility and losing with dignity, and individuality and inclusivity permeate all areas of school life. Leadership skills are uncovered and developed and pupils lead with pride, compassion and integrity. Happiness and success are recognised as inextricably linked and all members of the school community are jointly responsible for pastoral care. Looking beyond the school gates, all Old Silhillians belong to a life-long community regardless of distance or the passage of time and are actively encouraged to remain engaged with the school forever.



# About Our School

## History and Background

Solihull is an independent day school for boys and girls aged 7-18. The school has been in existence since 1560, and moved to its present 50-acre site in 1882. Originally the Free Grammar School, Solihull became independent in 1946. The school admitted only boys until 1973 when girls joined the Sixth Form. It became fully co-educational in 2005. The school maintains strong links with the former pupils' association; the Old Silhillians and has a very strong Parents' Association.

The school has just over 1000 pupils, of whom around 200 are in the Junior School and 250 are in the Sixth Form.

The school's examination results are excellent; in 2017 80% of A Level grades were marked at A\*-B and 90% of GCSE grades were grades A\*-B. Almost all Upper Sixth pupils go on to their chosen university, and each year the majority of pupils go on to Russell Group universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

## Co-Curriculum

As well as strong academic results, the school offers an outstanding range and standard of co-curricular activities.

We aim to provide as varied a life beyond lessons as we can, so that our pupils not only have exposure to a wide range of activities when they are young, but also find and develop interests which will form part of their adult lives. Co-curricular activities include sport, music, drama, debating, photography, charity work and outdoor education such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. At the last count there were also 23 academic extension societies running; the list of clubs and societies runs to several pages.

The school owns a cottage in Snowdonia that most pupils will visit at least once.

## Future

In September 2015, the school welcomed Sixth Form pupils to the new Cooper Building in the heart of the school site, which provides teaching space, private study and IT facilities, social areas, dining facilities and an external roof garden. We have also redeveloped School House, one of our oldest and most iconic buildings, to include more teaching space for several departments, a new ICT centre and increased social space for the Lower and Middle Schools.

Other current investment projects include more ICT enabled teaching space and additional artificial turf sports pitch. The school has recently joined the Steinway initiative. Involving significant investment in music.

Solihull is innovative and strives for continuous improvement in all areas. All teachers are encouraged to be reflective practitioners, willing to try something new.



## Living in Solihull

In November 2013, a national 'quality of life' survey found Solihull the best place to live in the UK.

The town's motto, "*urbs in rure*" (town in the country) is particularly appropriate given its proximity to the countryside and the ease of access to Birmingham, Stratford-upon-Avon and other towns in Warwickshire. The school is less than 5 minutes walk to the Town Centre and is served by excellent road, rail and air connections.



# Benefits of Working at Solihull

## Professional Development and Career Opportunities

Solihull is committed to maximising the professional development of and career opportunities for staff. The school has a progressive curriculum and co-curricular programme and fully supports staff CPD.

All staff participate in a biennial Professional Development Review in which they are recognised for their achievements and supported in developing their skills, knowledge and training.

The twilight INSET programme is varied and all staff are encouraged to attend and contribute if they have a particular area of specialism. In addition, staff are also welcome to join one or two-year long internally certificated courses; Preparing for Senior Leadership and Preparing for Middle Leadership.

The school facilitates and mentors unqualified teachers through Initial Teacher Training via the King Edward's Consortium or assessment-only route, and welcomes applications from suitably experienced unqualified teachers.

Other employment benefits can include the following:

- ◆ Generous contributory pension scheme
- ◆ Tuition Fee Remission
- ◆ Private Health care
- ◆ Personal Accident Insurance
- ◆ Use of swimming pool and gym
- ◆ Free lunch during term time
- ◆ Free car parking
- ◆ Cycle to Work Scheme
- ◆ Childcare Vouchers
- ◆ Short-term accommodation may be available new newly appointed staff



# How to Apply and Further Information

Solihull is an excellent place to work. It is a nurturing and happy environment which flourishes thanks to the commitment of staff and the support of the wider school community.

We are proud of our impressive history and have very exciting plans for the future. We welcome applications from exceptional individuals who believe that they have the attributes and experience required to join us.

## Further information

If you require further information about an available post or would like to enquire about potential future openings, visit our website at [www.solsch.org.uk](http://www.solsch.org.uk) or contact Hayley Miles, HR Manager on 0121 703 2947 or at [milesh@solsch.org.uk](mailto:milesh@solsch.org.uk).

For further information about Solihull School, please visit the following:

- ◆ Solihull School on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SolihullSchool>
- ◆ Solihull School on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/intent/user?screen\\_name=solsch1560](https://twitter.com/intent/user?screen_name=solsch1560)
- ◆ ISI Inspection Report: <http://www.isi.net/schools/6908/>

