Haberdashers' ABRAHAM DARBY
Confident - Calm - Caring

Introduction to Haberdashers' Abraham Darby 2017-2018

Abraham Darby Academy opened on 1st September 2008 replacing the predecessor Abraham Darby School for the Performing Arts. The Academy was the 'sample project' in Telford & Wrekin's 'Building Schools for the Future' programme. Having been based in the existing school buildings during the construction phase of the project, the Academy moved into its new state of the art, technology rich accommodation in July 2012. It provides 1,100 places, 900 for pupils aged 11-16 (PAN of 180 in each year group) and 200 in the Sixth Form and sits at the centre of the Abraham Darby Learning Community, which also includes Woodlands Primary School and a Leisure Centre.

Haberdashers' Abraham Darby is sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers' and is a member of the Haberdashers' Adams' Federation, which is a federation with Adams' Grammar School (a convertor Academy). There is one Board, chaired by the Chair of Governors, with several committees covering both academies and all governors are governors of both academies. Each school, however, has a separate local governing body.

The ethos and culture of the Academy is rooted in values, standards, positive relationships and aspirations. The result is a warm, welcoming and generous environment where pupils who are increasingly ambitious for themselves, enjoy being challenged to improve upon their previous best and recognise their responsibilities as role models as they progress through the year groups. There is a shared purpose in our journey to become outstanding.

Our House system is the lifeblood of the Academy. It fosters competition, participation, belonging and student leadership. Each member of staff also belongs to a House. Throughout the year we enjoy all school inter-house competitions in rugby, netball, cross country, swimming and the Arts.

The Abraham Darby music department has a very successful music tradition, which goes back well over 40 years and has ensured that the Academy has become one of the country's leading education establishments for musical opportunity for its students. It has a high reputation within the youth music world. Both the Academy's Showband and Jazz Band have performed in the Schools Music for Youth Proms at the Royal Albert Hall in 2016 and 2017 and the Showband is the highest ranked school wind band in the UK.

The education of the 'whole' child is a priority and has resulted in the development of an extensive informal curriculum. There is a substantial range of curriculum enrichment and extra-curricular experiences with which pupils are actively encouraged to engage. It is an expectation that all members of staff contribute to this programme.

Progress to Date

- ⇨ The Academy opened with 678 pupils in September 2008. Pupil recruitment has significantly increased such that Years 7 to11 are now full. We are always oversubscribed for the New Year 7 intake places each year and for the first time this year we were oversubscribed on first preferences. 196 families put us as their first preference and we officially have 180 places in Year 7. In total over 500 families chose us either their first, second or third choice.
- ⇨ The Sixth Form opened in September 2009. We have nearly 180 students studying a range of A level and Level 3 vocational qualifications. 100% who applied for university places last academic year were successful in gaining places.
- ⇨ A Section 5 OFSTED inspection in June 2015 judged the overall effectiveness of the Academy as 'GOOD' with outstanding feature