

Frequently asked questions

Bolder Insights

The logo for Bolder Academy is a white, rounded rectangular shape with a large, stylized letter 'B' on the right side. The text 'Bolder Academy' is positioned on the left side of the white shape.

**Bolder
Academy**

Bolder Academy is born out of passion, innovation and need. As Hounslow's school age population increases and with the borough's need for a non-religious mixed gender school, experienced and dedicated headteachers have taken positive action — they have created a Bolder, brighter future.

Here we would like to share some Bolder insights to those frequently asked questions we're being asked by parents and guardians.

The logo for Bolder Academy is a large, black, stylized letter 'B' shape. Inside the bottom curve of the 'B', the words 'Bolder' and 'Academy' are written in a white, bold, sans-serif font, stacked vertically.

**Bolder
Academy**

QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Q. How will we know that the school will provide an excellent education?

Ofsted will inspect the school prior to opening. Furthermore, Bolder Academy is led by a successful and experienced Principal who is also an Ofsted inspector. This provides a secure foundation. The governing body has real strength: many of the governors are well-established headteachers who provide strong educational practice within their own schools. We know what excellence is and how it is achieved.

Q. What subjects will my child study?

Bolder Academy will be following the National Curriculum subjects. These include Maths, English, Science, History, Geography, RE/Citizenship, PSHE, Modern Foreign Languages, Art and Technology and PE.

Q. How do you envisage teaching PE and other sports?

During Phase 1 of the opening, we will use existing local sports facilities. For example, the Old Isleworthians Rugby and Football Club have said that they are happy to host Bolder Academy students.

The new building and Phase 2 will provide extensive PE and sports facilities. There will be three multi-use games areas, which we can use all year round, plus five-a-side football pitches. There is plenty of green space which also includes an archery strip.

Q. How will you teach specialist subjects such as Science and Technology?

The staffing plan and budget provide us with the ability to recruit highly experienced teachers in these specialist areas; teaching will therefore be strong. We will ensure that students have the appropriate equipment needed to meet the demands of each of these subjects.

Furthermore, Bolder Academy is dedicated to making learning purposeful – making it connect to life beyond school. Students will be given a clear understanding of where certain subjects can lead to in terms of careers or research. We will supplement the specialist subjects such as Science and Technology with masterclasses and enrichment activities.

Q. My child is very academic – what will you do for them?

We will get to know your child's strengths by working with the primary schools in the summer term before your child joins Bolder Academy. The traditional and academic curriculum as well as our high-quality teaching will stretch and challenge your child.

Bolder Academy is also fully committed to working with the top universities and businesses to ensure your child has every chance of success when he or she leaves us. A Bolder future truly awaits.

Q. Will you take students with special needs?

Yes, we welcome children with special needs and will support them with a qualified Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO).

Q. How will you attract staff when the school will not be at its full capacity at the time of opening?

There will be a core of highly qualified full-time teaching staff. The Principal has already been appointed, with a year's planning time, and other appointments will be made in the spring to ensure high standards of teaching and learning. We will also build Bolder Academy's capacity by working closely with other local schools so that we share specialist teaching staff. The staff body will build progressively as the school grows, with rigorous and robust recruitment processes in place.

TOPICAL QUESTIONS

Q. What makes Bolder unique?

You and your child have a unique opportunity to join Bolder Academy, to be the 'history makers' – the founders of the school. This means that you can help shape and build the school as it grows.

The school has also been set up by all of the local primary and secondary headteachers in the borough of Hounslow to meet the demand for school places and in response to parents wanting more choice. The fact that we are a mixed school, welcoming children of all faiths or no faith, already makes us unique.

Q. How are you working with local businesses?

We are working with local businesses, including Sky, to enrich students' experiences at school and equip them with the key life skills and attributes that businesses look for.

Sky say: *'As the only school immediately adjacent to the Sky campus in Osterley,*

we can see exciting opportunities to be a good neighbour: for example we can draw on volunteers from the huge diversity of our 7,000 professionals in Osterley to support lessons and after-school clubs.'

Q. What are the school's values?

Our core values: belonging, excellence, courage and creativity are central to everything we do. This means that as a school community we will live and breathe these values. For example, Bolder Academy behaviour systems and structures will emphasise celebration and rewards. The school will promote a strong sense of community in which all students, parents and staff are welcome. We will all know each other very well; that is the Bolder way.

WORKING TOGETHER

Q. How can you get involved?

We are looking to future parents and students to develop certain aspects of the school. For example, what do you think the houses in the school should be called? Could you write the school song? Are you a technological whizz who could design an app to help track enrichment and community service? If so, please do get in touch: www.BolderAcademy.org. You can follow us on Twitter and retweet us @bolderlondon

Q. What is the uniform and will it be expensive?

We do believe in a school uniform. Our uniform will be smart and will set the tone for the school. We want our students to feel very proud of their school and part of the Bolder community. Our students, in our uniform, will be our greatest ambassadors.

We do recognise that it is important to parents that school uniform is affordable, and we have followed the Department for Education's guidelines with regards to this.

We are beginning to think about the design of the uniform, though we haven't yet decided on the exact colours. We do very much envisage a school blazer/jacket and tie.

Below are two examples of designs we are currently considering; however, we really want our future parents and students to get involved and we will be setting up some focus groups to discuss this further. If you are interested in joining a focus group, please do get in touch:
www.BolderAcademy.org.

Examples of modern and traditional uniforms:



Modern

Traditional

BEHAVIOUR, SUPPORT & CARE

Q. What are the expectations about behaviour at school?

Bolder Academy has exceptionally high expectations of our students in terms of behaviour and conduct inside and outside the school. We expect our parents to support our high standards. We know that by working in close partnership with students, parents and staff we will ensure excellent behaviour and learning and future success.

The school will not tolerate poor behaviour of any kind; we strive for excellence. Behaviour expectations will be explicitly clear to all students and parents. Our students will be expected to speak up against wrongdoings and have the courage to learn from mistakes.

Q. How will the school deal with bullying?

Bullying will not be tolerated. Bullying goes against our values: belonging and courage. Any incident of bullying will be dealt with swiftly and effectively.

Bolder Academy's tutor time, PSHE programme and assemblies will teach our students about the importance of being part of and belonging to a community. Diversity and difference will be celebrated. We know that sometimes students may need to be supported in being more courageous in expressing themselves. We want our students to feel secure about speaking up, sharing their feelings and asking for help. We will use different ways to encourage this and deal sensitively with conflict. These methods will be very much personalised to each child.

Q. What will the school day look like?

Bolder Academy will offer students an extended (longer) day to enable them to access a wide range of subjects, as well as an extensive extra-curricular activity programme and 'prep'. We see prep (homework supported by staff in school) as vital to encouraging students to get into good study habits. The extra-curricular programme will also provide our students with important skills such as effective communication, an ability to work with others and the confidence to engage with members of the school community, as well as the wider community such as business or university mentors or people from the charity sector.

Q. My child will always be the oldest in the school; this concerns me.

We know that the first year group will always be the oldest; they will be the 'history makers' at Bolder Academy. They will be in a very privileged position, joining a secondary school of only 150 students in September 2018. This means that they will get extra special care and attention. However, we also recognise that in order to develop strong interpersonal skills, it is vital that our first year group work and engage with older students. We will ensure that this happens through our partnerships with other secondary schools and also through our enrichment activities, such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

We know that our history makers will also benefit by developing leadership skills and confidence and by becoming role models.

Q. Will you be providing hot meals?

We will be providing hot food at lunchtimes. A healthy diet and lifestyle are fundamental to the care we will show all of our students at Bolder.

LOCATION & TRANSPORTATION

Q. Where will Bolder Academy be located?

Phase 1 of Bolder Academy will be located in the Isleworth area, within very close proximity to Isleworth train station and good bus routes.

Phase 2 of the school, if the planning application is successful, will be located next to Osterley Tesco. The planning application has been submitted and we hope to hear back by the end of the summer / early September 2017.

Q. How will my child travel to school?

During Phase 1 of the opening, your child will be able to access the school easily using the following buses: 117, H37, 235, 237 and E8. Bolder Academy (Phase 1) will also be within easy reach of Isleworth train station.

Phase 2 of Bolder Academy will be accessed via Syon Lane train station and buses H91 and H28.

Q. How will you ensure my child is safe travelling to school?

Bolder Academy has a travel plan and this takes into account all of the local traffic issues. Hounslow Council is looking at road crossings and traffic-light systems to ensure the safety of our students is paramount; they will also aim to minimise the impact on local residents. Bolder Academy will work

closely with the council, other schools in the area and local residents to find the best solution.

We are also planning to work closely with Transport for London and the other secondary schools in the areas to ensure that transport is easily accessible and roads are safe to cross.

As experienced school leaders we recognise the importance of being visible at the start and end of the day near school entrances, exits and bus stops. We will be teaching our children how to keep themselves safe.

THE TYPE OF SCHOOL

Q. What type of school is it?

Bolder Academy is a mixed secondary school in which students of all faiths or no faith are welcome.

Q. What is a free school?

A free school is an independent state-funded school. Free schools can be set up by members of the community (parents, charities, businesses or other schools). Bolder Academy has been set up by the 'family of schools' in the borough of Hounslow: all the primary and secondary schools in the area. These headteachers have put time, money and resources into setting up Bolder Academy. As one of our local primary headteachers said: 'It is like a new state community school, set up by local heads for local children.'

Q. Funding: who pays for the school to be built? Who pays for the school to be run?

The Education Funding Agency is paying for the building and the Department for Education funds the school directly for its students. In the same way that these

bodies are investing in expanding existing secondary schools, they are also providing money to develop a new school and building – Bolder Academy. The aim is to ensure that every secondary-aged student in Hounslow gets a school place.

Q. Who will run the school once it is open?

Bolder Academy will have a governing body, like any other school in the borough. Already appointed to the governing body are: a very experienced chair of governors, who was previously the chair of governors at another local secondary school and also runs national training for school governors; three highly experienced headteachers from Hounslow primary and secondary schools; and the Principal. Over the coming year, Bolder Academy will be looking for parents and other members of the community to join our governing body. These governors will be carefully chosen to ensure that the governing body has the wealth of skills required to support our school. If you are interested in becoming a school governor, please do get in touch:
www.BolderAcademy.org

Whether you're the parent or guardian of a primary school child looking for a secondary school place, or an aspiring teacher seeking new exciting challenges — contact us today to become part of a Bolder, brighter future.

www.BolderAcademy.org

 @BolderLondon

**Bolder
Academy**