



Walsall Academy

Information
for
Prospective
Applicants for
Teaching
Posts



“Staff’s strong subject knowledge helps students to achieve well.”

Ofsted 2022



“Students in the sixth form benefit from a high-quality curriculum offer.”

Ofsted 2022

Welcome from the Headteacher

I feel very privileged to have the responsibility as Headteacher at Walsall Academy and have enormously enjoyed getting to know the school since starting in June 2023.

We are very fortunate to be able to call on a dedicated and talented staff; a respectful and enthusiastic student body; and supportive parents and local community. I relish the challenge of leading the Walsall Academy community in the years ahead.

Walsall Academy provides an array of opportunities for students in the wider curriculum, in particular our partnership with The Outward Bound Trust; this involves students immersed in outdoor adventure activities at Ullswater and Aberdovey learning key skills of leadership, teamwork, communication and resilience. This learning is then transferred back to the academic environment to help support students to succeed in their studies. Regular trips and visits are organised abroad, which this year included students venturing to Lille in France, Cologne in Germany, Ypres in Belgium and most recently to Borneo, Indonesia.

Everyday students are well cared for and well-being and emotional resilience is supported in numerous ways including daily support from the Personal Tutor, a full time Nurse on hand, mental health champions and counselling on offer for those that might benefit from additional support.

Student outcomes matter and every child is supported in maximising their potential to secure the best grades they can. In turn, students respond positively and work hard towards achieving a range of qualifications.

‘Pupils enjoy school and work hard.

Leaders expect pupils to achieve well.’

Ofsted 2022

Student destinations are extremely impressive, with a dedicated careers team ensuring that all children are guided expertly onto University courses, apprenticeship schemes, further training and into the world of work. The profile of destinations is first rate with students going on to study at top universities, on highly competitive apprenticeship schemes and with nationally recognised employers.

My job over the next few years is to build upon Walsall Academy’s undoubted strengths; to focus on developing a three year Key Stage 3 programme in line with the recommendations from Ofsted and to have a positive impact on academic and vocational progress for all students.

We are extremely fortunate to be a part of the Thomas Telford Multi Academy Trust and have had the support of The Mercers’ Company for a number of years and I appreciate the support and guidance on offer to help Walsall Academy achieve its goals.

Come and see for yourself!

Mr Simon Topper

“Students value the quality and precise feedback they receive.”

Ofsted 2022



A different choice of school

Inspiring Achievement. Celebrating Success

In September 2003, Walsall Academy opened its doors for the first time as the first sponsored City Academy in Walsall. This state of the art school is supported by Thomas Telford School and The Mercers' Company. The trustees have made a significant investment and support the Academy through strong governance. In 2017, Walsall Academy became a founder school in the TTMAT.

The Academy is an all ability school offering places for children aged between 11-18. The Academy is heavily over-subscribed and currently has almost 1400 students on roll including a Sixth Form of almost 350 students.

Our mission is 'to raise educational standards through effective practice and to share them with the wider community'. The school prides itself on being innovative and offers exciting opportunities for teachers to help to shape the future of this Academy. Underpinning this creativity is the commitment to provide the best possible education for children of all abilities and backgrounds and to develop a love of learning. Students are encouraged to achieve their best and to develop their talents to the full. This includes academic, sporting and artistic achievements and personal, moral and social developments.

Walsall Academy welcomes teachers who thrive on achievement and who have an appetite for creating life opportunities for our students.



Positivity and an ability to inspire others with your subject knowledge are essential prerequisites for a post here.



Curriculum

The curriculum is delivered through six modules of approximately 6/7 weeks duration. Each module is planned to secure the very best learning and teaching opportunities for students and staff using a wide range of resources available in the school. Every teaching venue is fitted with an interactive electronic whiteboard; staff and students can access the curriculum remotely using SharePoint.

At the end of each module students receive a short report from which they are able to set targets for the next module's work. Parents also receive the report and are encouraged to comment on the general standard of work and homework.

Student performance is monitored closely and regular meetings are held to agree goals and individual action plans.

Individualised support is provided for students and there are express groups for able students.

There is a longer school day to enable students to take full advantage of the National Curriculum and to spend extra time on a wide range of subjects and to develop an appreciation for the world of work.

A breadth of opportunities, both vocational and academic, in Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form courses are available.

A sophisticated Information Technology network provides the opportunity for all students and staff to use ICT as a tool and resource for teaching and learning.



Extra-Curricular Activities

The Session 3 programme gives all students a choice of opportunities to complement and extend their education. These range from sports and hobbies to community work and form an integral part of the timetable.



“Staff have positive relationships with pupils. This helps to create an environment that is conducive to learning.”

Ofsted 2022

Working Environment

The facilities of the Academy are state of the art for a new school of the 21st Century. They include:

Performing Arts

- Theatre with tiered seating for 400
- Dance Drama studios with sprung floors and full-length mirrors
- A Music Technology suite equipped with keyboards and supporting technology

Physical Education

- Sports Hall with Fitness Centre
- Extensive outdoor facilities
- Suite of Classrooms

Science

- Two major suites of ten laboratories, most of which can be ‘double’ or ‘single’ laboratories, depending on the curriculum requirement
- Two large preparation rooms

Technology

- CAD/CAM suites and technology areas fitted with modern equipment
- Open plan Art and Design studio

Learning Bases/Study Rooms

- Open plan learning areas to deliver English, Mathematics and Humanities subjects supplemented by more traditional study rooms

Independent Learning Centres

- Three Independent Learning Centres fitted with PCs to provide access for students and staff for independent learning

Library and Careers Resource Centre

- An extensive Library with resources to support the curriculum and Sixth Form Independent Study
- A Careers and Industrial Links Centre

Restaurant and Hospitality Suite

- A restaurant furnished to provide breakfast and lunch for students and employees
- Hospitality Suite a training kitchen for the delivery of Hospitality and Catering

Wellbeing

- A nurture area to support students' wellbeing
- An on-site bespoke counselling service



“An impressively high proportion of pupils and students move on to appropriate further education, training or employment.”

Ofsted 2022

Professional Development

Applicants have a unique opportunity to work with the staff of the school to help shape the future of Walsall Academy. All members of staff benefit from a well-structured, supportive professional development programme which includes bespoke provision for early careers teacher. Every early careers teacher receives a mentor to provide practical help and guidance through completing the programme. Those on the early careers framework also have a personal coach who supports the mental health and wellbeing of our new teachers. Personal coaches ensure staff establish a healthy work life balance.

We calendar 10 professional development days per year. Our membership of the Teaching Schools Initiative hosted by our sister school Thomas Telford in Shropshire provides further opportunities to develop as Middle and Senior Leaders. Our staff are encouraged to participate in Masters programmes.

Online professional development has increased recently and staff benefit from the autonomy of self-directed CPD through Academy TED Talks.

Successful candidates will enjoy the benefits of working in a successful, forward thinking school, in an environment where developing curriculum initiatives can lead to future professional opportunities.



“Pupils, parents and carers value the wide range of activities offered that broaden pupils’ personal development.”
Ofsted 2022

Routines

Students are taught for a longer school day. Teaching commences at 8.30am and finish times are staggered between 3:10pm and 3:20pm. There are two main sessions each of three hour duration, allowing students to work without interruption.

The Academy remains open for Session 3 which offers a wider range of academic and recreational activities.

Pastoral System

There is a vertical pastoral system, with each personal tutor group consisting of a small number of students from each year group. All members of teaching staff are personal tutors and are supported by Senior Leaders responsible for the Key Stage.

“Leaders provide pupils and students with high-quality careers guidance. This helps to prepare them well for the next stage in their education. As a result, an impressively high proportion of pupils and students move on to appropriate further education, training or employment.”

Ofsted 2022

