



# PROSPECTUS 2018-2019

Founder Member of

## INVICTUS

Education Trust



**Inspiring** students  
to be the very **best**  
they can be





# Welcome



At Ounsdale High School students are at the centre of everything that we do and we aim to give them the self-belief and opportunity to achieve even more than they think is possible. We encourage our students to be ambitious and empowered young people who are happy and committed to being the best that they can be.

We are proud of our students and visitors to the school frequently comment on their confident, friendly approach and their enjoyment of learning. Our academic standards are high and we recognise the importance of good examination results for our students' future success. However, we know that education is not just about examination results and we offer an enriched curriculum that enables each child to develop their personal and employability skills through visits, competitions, clubs and memorable learning experiences.

As a founder member of the Invictus Education Multi-Academy Trust, Ounsdale High School is part of a carefully planned collaboration between six self-selecting, highly successful schools. Within the Trust each school retains its own separate identity, but all members are totally committed to working together to ensure that each of our students receives the best possible education. Through combining our efforts, we have extended and enriched the opportunities available in order

to give our students access to the best possible outcomes in terms of both examination results and wider educational experiences.

We are committed to continually improving the learning environment for our students and after submitting a bid earlier this year to the Education Funding Agency, Ounsdale has been awarded just under £3 million to rebuild the teaching block. We are very excited about this opportunity to transform the appearance of the school and further details, including impressions of what the building might look like, will be available on Open Evening.

We welcome applications from students within and outside of our catchment area, particularly those living in Dudley and Wolverhampton. Admissions are dealt with via the Staffordshire School Admissions Service and details of how to apply for a place can be found on our website ([www.ounsedale.co.uk](http://www.ounsedale.co.uk)). Parents who wish to enquire about a place at other times during the year should contact the school directly.

Choosing the right secondary school is one of the most important decisions that you will make for your child and I hope that you will visit Ounsdale High School to see the exceptional opportunities we offer.

**Christine Brown, MA, MBA**  
**Principal**







# The Curriculum

The curriculum here at Ounsdale High School provides a broad and balanced learning experience that inspires pupils to learn and achieve. During their five-year journey from Year 7 to Year 11, students will be working towards achieving the best possible results in terms of attainment and progress in at least 8 subjects. We want our students to experience a range of subject disciplines that help them to acquire knowledge, understanding and skills in all aspects of their education, including linguistic, mathematical, scientific, technical, human and social, physical and artistic learning. We also aim to ensure that students have access to subjects that will help prepare them for further and higher education and employment.

We value the key subject disciplines that have always been found in good schools including the core subjects of English, Maths and Science, as well as; the main Humanities subjects, Modern Foreign Languages, Physical Education, Technology and a range of creative subjects such as Art, Drama and Music. We also offer specialist subjects such as Business Studies, Computing and Psychology, alongside vocational provision: Health & Social Care, Digital Media and Business.

Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and, within this, the promotion of British values, are important aspects of the school's work and are addressed through the curriculum and wider experiences that students have in

school. We also provide opportunities for students to learn the importance of developing a strong work ethic, good behaviour, taking responsibility, resilience, physical, mental and personal well-being and keeping themselves safe.

Our aim here at Ounsdale is to create confident, well rounded young people who are ready to take their place and be successful in society. This means that we seek not only to provide a broad and balanced range of subject disciplines, alongside key cross curricular skills, but will also develop the qualities necessary for our students to be confident and employable young people who are able to adapt to the ever-changing demands of the world in which they live.





## Years 7 to 9

Years 7 and 8 provide a challenging and enriching learning experience that builds upon each child's primary school experiences and develops strengths, aptitudes and interests. This gives students a wealth of opportunities to identify subjects that they are good at and enjoy in preparation for curriculum specialisation in Years 10 and 11 and in the Sixth Form.

Our curriculum has a clear focus on the core subjects of English, Maths and Science and we also offer; Art; Computing/ICT; Design Technology; Drama; Geography; History; Modern Foreign Languages; Music, Physical Education and Religious Education. This broad and balanced provision is, we believe, a perfect curriculum to prepare our students for examination success and helps them to develop a thirst for knowledge and love of learning.

In Year 8 students have the opportunity to choose which language (French or Spanish) and which Humanities subject (Modern/Ancient History or Geography) they wish to continue with in Year 9. This gives students the chance to study in more depth the subjects they are best at as well as more time and better preparation for these courses in Years 10 and 11.

Throughout Years 7 to 9 student progress is tracked to ensure that all students have the opportunity to fulfil their potential. This includes those who require stretch and challenge and those who need additional intervention, particularly in literacy and numeracy, to catch up with their peers.

## Years 10 and 11

In Years 10 and 11 all students study Mathematics, English Language and English Literature and will sit GCSE exams in these subjects at the end of Year 11. Students in Science follow one of two pathways. Our most able scientists study three separate science GCSEs whilst our other students follow the more traditional double science pathway that covers the three subject disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Years 10 and 11 offer students a further degree of flexibility in their choice of subjects and in addition to the subjects offered in Years 7 to 9, the options pool also includes; Business Studies, Food and Nutrition, Product Design, Health and Social Care and Digital Media. The majority of courses studied by students lead to GCSE qualifications but we also offer BTEC and Technical qualifications in Business, Sport, Health and Social Care and Digital Media.

We recognise the importance of all students achieving good results in the key subjects of English and Mathematics and a small proportion of students follow a core curriculum pathway that devotes more time to these subjects rather than the study of a modern language to GCSE.

## Next Steps

Preparing students to take the next step is an important part of our provision and this includes information and guidance about subject choices for Year 9 and 10, the options available to students at the end of Year 11 and support with Higher Education, Level 1-4 Apprenticeships and careers. Expertise is available within school through our careers specialist, externally through our independent careers advice programme and on-line. This helps to raise aspirations and student awareness of what courses and careers are available.





# Learning and Achievement

## Teaching and Learning

We are extremely fortunate to have a talented team of highly qualified, specialist staff who believe that learning should be exciting, challenging and rewarding. Staff are encouraged to be ambitious in the classroom and are constantly exploring how they can improve and enhance learning through active lessons and effective use of technology.

Through our membership of Invictus Education Trust, staff are able to share good practice, develop courses and access high quality training alongside colleagues within our partner schools.

We welcome students of all abilities and backgrounds into our caring and challenging learning environment and through our highly skilled and compassionate team of staff, seek to create an exceptional learning community where each can excel. We recognise that not all students are the same and staff will differentiate learning for students with different needs including those who are gifted and talented, have SEND or are disadvantaged. This can be seen through our additional provision for students who require more support to develop their literacy and numeracy skills and through the extended learning opportunities provided for gifted and talented students during their lessons.

Our experience has shown that in order to be successful students have to take responsibility for improving their own learning and performance and so we seek to develop their learning skills as well as their subject knowledge. These skills, which include a positive work ethic, independent learning, perseverance, resilience, team work and communication, are designed to be transferrable across subjects and into the world of work.

## Achievement and Progress

We are committed to ensuring that each child fulfils their potential and through the design of our curriculum, student groupings, the quality of teaching and learning and our approach to assessment, are able to support and challenge each individual student to be the best that they can be.

We monitor each student's progress throughout their time with us through assessments and tests and should a student be identified as performing below where they are expected to be, staff will intervene to bring them back on track. We have an extensive range of strategies and programmes across all year groups to support student achievement and these include a homework club, catch up programmes for reading, literacy and numeracy in Years 7 and 8, study skills and revision programmes and gifted and talented opportunities to stretch our most able students across all year groups.

Students and parents have access to WISE, the Trust's on-line virtual learning environment, that contains a wealth of information on courses, assessments, homework and progress. Through WISE, parents and students can track the work that needs to be completed in each subject during each term and check progress towards meeting these requirements.

## Building Exam Skills

Recent changes to national examinations require students to be increasingly effective in revision skills and examination technique, particularly given the increased emphasis on terminal examinations rather than coursework or practical assessments when determining students' final GCSE grades. We believe that it is important for students to build their skills throughout their time at the school so that they are confident and prepared for their final examinations. Therefore the development of exam skills is incorporated into each subject for each year group as part of our work on supporting student success.



Talented, **specialist** teaching to  
**unlock** the **potential** of every child.





Invictus Senior Prefects 2017-2018

# INVICTUS

## Education Trust

Invictus Education Trust was created in March 2015 by a group of like-minded schools: Crestwood, Ellowes Hall Sports College, Kinver High and Ounsdale High. Leasowes High School joined us in Autumn 2016, which has strengthened an already thriving Trust. Pedmore Technology College will join us later in the year.

The name 'Invictus' is carefully chosen; the dictionary tells us that it means 'indomitable or unconquerable' and this is the spirit we want to grow in our schools and students. 'Invictus' may be best known as the title of a poem by W E Henley (see opposite).

There are a couple of phrases that particularly call to what we are trying to do: **'Bloodied but unbowed'** - almost all parents will know what it is to be knocked back, to face adversity, to be 'bloodied'. The real virtue is to come back 'unbowed'. Similarly, the final lines **'I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul'**: this illustrates rather forcefully the resilience, independence and confidence that we want for our students.

We know that by coming together as 6 schools we can raise standards to heights we could never achieve alone. The staff are already collaborating to help provide the very highest chances of examination success. We have set ourselves the target of having our students compete with the very best - **be they from State or Independent schools**. We know that all can benefit from being brought together, but this is particularly true of the most able and talented. This need not just be about academic success. Invictus is quite a 'young' Trust but we have already started to find ways for talented musicians to work together, for example, the Invictus Choir has now performed at the Birmingham Symphony Hall and,



last year, at the Royal Albert Hall. Other collaborations include an Invictus Samba Band and an Evening of Guitar Music - these may be less 'highbrow' but they give the students an increased musicality, confidence and even laughter.

If this looks as though Invictus is mostly concerned about the most able, this is not true: we would say that **all students** can benefit from the shared expertise and heightened sense of purpose. In simple terms, we will be providing 'elite experiences' for all.

**A S Griffiths OBE**  
Executive Headteacher





### Invictus Headteachers

Mr Matthew Mynott (Interim) (Leasows High), Mr Chris Rogers (Kinver High), Mr Tony Bowles (Crestwood),  
Mr Alan Jasper (Ellowes Hall Sports College), Mr Andy Griffiths OBE (Executive Headteacher/CEO),  
Mr Gareth Lloyd (Pedmore Technology College), and Miss Christine Brown (Ounsdale High)



We have struck up a very exciting partnership with the Army Cadet Force and now have a Cadet Detachment in four of our schools.  
Left: Ellowes Hall Detachment pictured with Mr Jasper, Headteacher



Sailing on Himley Lake

Other areas of collaboration include: obviously, sports - some as unusual as sailing - and such challenges as the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Possibly the biggest collaborative benefit will be from the newly created 'Invictus Sixth Form'. There is ample evidence across the country that the most successful Post 16 provision lies in Sixth Forms. All Invictus schools are part of the shared Sixth Form.

## INVICTUS

*Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.*

*In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.*

*Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.*

*It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments  
the scroll.*

*I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul.*

- William Ernest Henley



# Student Support

## Joining Ounsdale

We recognise that the move to secondary school can be both exciting and daunting and we have an established and successful transition programme run by a dedicated and experienced team of staff to ensure that every child receives the support that they need during this process.

Each child is visited in their primary school during the summer term and staff will talk to them and their teachers about the move. This enables us to gather academic and social information to help us plan our provision and gives the students the opportunity to talk to us about any questions they have. All students will then visit Ounsdale for a two-day induction which gives them the chance to find out what secondary school involves and to meet staff and other children who will be joining us in Year 7.

We hold a new parents' meeting during the summer term to give parents a further insight into what life at Ounsdale is like and how they can support their child's success. We also have an additional parents evening for Year 7 students and parents in October to review the transition and check that students have settled in.

Through our work with primary partners we are able to identify students who are vulnerable or have Special Educational Needs who may need extra support during the transition process. We have a range of additional programmes which enable these students to spend more time in school before they transfer to help make their transition as successful as possible.

## High Expectations

We are very proud of our students and the positive attitudes that they show. We have high expectations in terms of standards of achievement, behaviour, attendance, appearance and attitude and have a strong pastoral system to support students in meeting the standards set out in our Code of Conduct.

## Praise and Rewards

Our experience has shown us that students respond very well to praise and rewards and we award points to recognise good work and contributions to the school and local community. Students who go 'above and beyond' in their work, attitude or contribution are also recognised. We host an Achievement Awards Evening each summer to celebrate our most able, talented and hard-working students and GCSE and 'A' Level Awards Evenings during the autumn term. We enjoy sharing news of student achievements with parents and others and use praise postcards, texts, emails, articles on the website and newsletter entries to highlight the many successes of our students.

## Supporting Progress

We appreciate that any student may face barriers to their learning at some time during their school career and our Student Support Team, through their regular reviews of student progress and communications with parents, will identify students who are struggling.





We have a range of effective programmes and our dedicated and talented team of student support staff will work closely with children and their parents to address any difficulties that may arise. Support services include; The Hub, which provides additional guidance to students who are vulnerable or struggle to engage with learning, Learning Mentors, who support with improving self-esteem, organisation and revision, an Attendance Officer who assists students with health-related issues and Pastoral Support Workers and Inclusion Assistants who provide support with other issues that may arise during the course of a student's time at the school. The aim of all of these programmes is to ensure that students receive the support needed to enable them to continue their learning and make good progress.

## Tutor Groups

When joining Ounsdale each student is allocated to a House based tutor group. Tutor groups are made up of students from Years 7 – 10 and help to create a sense of belonging as well as giving students daily access to a Personal Tutor. We also have within each tutor group trained Peer Mentors who provide an additional source of support and advice for students.

## Student Leadership

We value the additional contributions our children make to the life of the school and provide opportunities for them to develop their leadership skills. We have an active Student Council that researches student views and presents their ideas to staff on how the school should be improved. Council members are elected by their peers and meet regularly to discuss issues. Older students who wish to contribute to the running of the school, support with key events and act as role models to their peers can do this by applying to be School Prefects, House Captains or Peer Mentors.

## The House System

To create an even greater sense of belonging and enable each student to be a valued member of a small 'family unit' within the larger community of the whole school, students are allocated to one of four Houses when they join Ounsdale. Students were actively involved in setting up the House System and chose, with staff, to name the Houses after famous explorers;

- Sir Francis Drake (Yellow)
- Sir Ranulph Fiennes (Green)
- Sir Walter Raleigh (Red)
- Robert Falcon Scott (Blue)

Through the House System students have the opportunity to:

- Build their self-esteem and confidence.
- Develop their own strengths within a group.
- Have the opportunity to work with students of different ages.
- Have peer support to combat any bullying.
- Take part in extra-curricular activities.
- Compete and support each other and contribute to the school and wider community through competitions, events and activities.

The House System has been very successful at Ounsdale and has added a new and exciting dimension to school life. Students gather points for their House through their learning and through participation in activities such as fun runs, competitions, quizzes, talent shows and sports events. These points are accumulated during the year to determine which will be the winning House.



# Enrichment Opportunities

We provide an extensive range of opportunities outside of the curriculum for students to build their confidence and explore and develop their talents, skills and abilities. We see these activities as an essential part of a good quality education programme.

## Arts

Ounsdale has a strong tradition of acclaimed drama productions and has successfully participated in the Shakespeare Schools Festival for many years. Visits to theatres are frequently organised and students also have access to the production and technical side of the subject through our theatre standard facilities.

Music is an important part of school life and talented musicians have a wealth of opportunities to perform. Students who wish to learn or continue to play a musical instrument can have lessons from one of our instrumental team.

The school has an excellent reputation for Art and the annual Art Exhibition has been very well received. Students have the opportunity to visit galleries and exhibitions as well as going out into the community to seek inspiration and ideas for their own work.

Opportunities within the Arts are being further developed through the Trust. In addition to having the chance to perform and attend workshops in other schools, high quality experiences are also available. For example, The Invictus Choir has performed at the Royal Albert and Symphony Halls as well as local venues.

## Sport

Ounsdale has an established reputation for sport and PE and an extensive range of sports are available through lessons and extra-curricular clubs. All students are encouraged to get involved as part of our commitment to health and well-being

and our highly qualified and experienced sports staff make very good use of our excellent facilities to cater extremely well for those who play for fun and those who are talented. Students who wish to inspire and motivate others to participate have the chance to train as Sports Leaders and work with staff in school and local primary schools to support with practices and events. We are proud of the school's sporting reputation and students have enjoyed team and individual success in school, county, regional and national competitions.

## Competitions

Competitions give students the chance to compare their knowledge, talents and skills with their peers and opportunities are provided for individuals and groups within and outside of school.

Through the House system students compete to earn the most points, be the best at Sports Day, bake the best cakes, take the best photograph, win the talent competition and raise the most money for charity. The Accelerated Reading scheme encourages younger students to improve their reading ability, complete quizzes relating to the books they have read and compete to gain points and be top of their league.

Outside of school talented mathematicians take part in the National Maths Challenge, able scientists can compete in the Salters Chemistry Competition and creative English students can enter the National Poetry Trials. Through our good relationship with Sedgley and Wombourne Rotary Club, students can also take part in their public speaking, Rotary Young Chef and Rotary Young Musician competitions.





## Trips and Visits

Trips and visits are an important part of school life and help to broaden student experiences of education beyond the classroom. Various trips are organised throughout the year such as study visits (in the UK and abroad), cultural visits (including Rome, Italy, Washington, Paris, Boulogne, Berlin), Erasmus+ programme visits to Europe, foreign exchanges, residential and reward trips.

## Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Ounsdale has been running the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme very successfully for the past 11 years and we are now a Directly Licensed Centre. The scheme has a really positive impact on students and with its challenges and experiences is one of the most well-respected awards amongst further and higher education institutions and employers.



## Wombourne Cadet Force

We were delighted that the detachment decided to re-locate itself to the school site in July 2016 and have welcomed the opportunity to build a mutually beneficial partnership. Becoming an Army Cadet gives young people the chance to take part in exciting and challenging activities such as field craft, adventure training, first aid, music, sports and shooting, to name but a few. In addition to making new friends, cadets get the opportunity to go on annual camp and may even get to go on expeditions in the UK and sometimes abroad.





## Parents

We place a high value on our partnerships with parents and work closely with them to support the achievement and success of their child. We ensure that parents are fully informed of their child's progress and performance and provide; regular progress reports, parents' evenings and information evenings. Through WISE, the Trust's on-line virtual learning package, we are able to provide up to date information for parents on their child's attendance, progress and attitude to learning. We also encourage parents to contact the school at any time if they have any questions or concerns.

We appreciate that the curriculum, assessment, teaching and learning are continually changing and offer parents a programme of events specifically designed to help them understand the learning that their child is experiencing. Parents have been extremely positive about this programme and have clearly appreciated the chance to update themselves on how school life and learning are developing.

We also ensure that parents are kept up to date through the school website, emails and our text messaging service. We always seek parental views on what we are doing well and where we can improve through our annual parental survey, parents' evening reviews and parent focus groups and see this as an important part of improving our provision.

## Invictus Sixth Form

Invictus Sixth Form offers students the opportunity to continue their education at the school beyond Year 11. Invictus Sixth Form brings together the very best teaching, learning and achievement from the Trust's successful schools. This means there is a fantastic fusion of a familiar secure base and opportunities to meet and study with new people as well as make a wider and new circle of friends.

Invictus Sixth Form provides a high quality, forward looking and caring educational experience which enables all our students to fulfil their potential. A wide variety of advanced level courses are offered and our small group sizes ensure that each student has the support and challenge needed to be successful. We also have an extensive enrichment programme which complements our students' academic studies, providing them with opportunities to develop new skills and settle into Sixth Form life.

Studying at Invictus Sixth Form is demanding and advanced level work can be challenging as well as exciting, rewarding and fun. Students are expected to work independently, manage their own time and balance the many demands placed upon them. Students who find such a prospect attractive are likely to enjoy and gain enormously from becoming a student within Invictus Sixth Form.

Please see the Invictus Sixth Form prospectus for full details of the excellent range of courses and opportunities available.

## Admissions

Ounsdale High School is based in Wombourne in South Staffordshire but welcomes applications from students outside of its catchment area, particularly those living in Dudley and Wolverhampton. Transport is available from these areas.

Admissions for September 2018 are being dealt with via the Staffordshire School Admissions Service and details of how to apply for a place can be found on their website:

**[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions)**

Parents who wish to enquire about a place at other times during the year should contact the school directly.





A wealth of **opportunities** to enjoy learning and be **successful.**



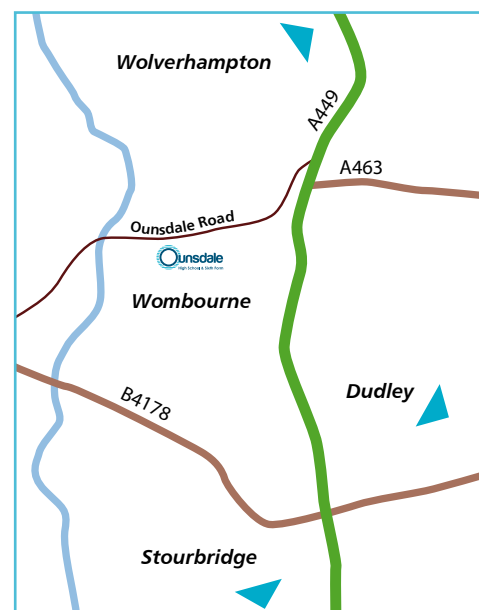


Ounsdale Road, Wombourne WV5 8BJ  
Tel: 01902 504930

office@ounsdaleschool.co.uk  
[www.ounsdaleschool.co.uk](http://www.ounsdaleschool.co.uk)

Principal: Miss Christine Brown, MA, MBA

## Where to find us...



# INVICTUS

Education Trust

Ward House, Himley Park, Himley, Dudley, West Midlands, DY3 4DF  
Executive Headteacher / CEO : Mr A S Griffiths OBE, B.Ed., M.A.  
Telephone: 01384 686586 Fax: 01384 686587 info@invictus.education  
Company Registration Number: 9284368