



The Ockendon Academy

Prospectus September 2018



The Ockendon Academy is a welcoming, ambitious and creative place to learn. Ofsted graded us as ‘Good with Outstanding features’ in February 2014. In recognition of our consistently high standards of outstanding leadership, behaviour and safety.

Our students both achieve and enjoy their time at the Academy. We are committed and focused on providing the highest quality learning activities and experiences so that we can be the best that we can be. We aim for excellence and expect our students to do the same.

We are really excited about the future of The Ockendon Academy; we are always looking forward. As part of our on-going commitment to our students’ learning, we are very pleased to be able to offer post-16 courses within our Studio School sixth form.

Please join us and share that ambition for your future.

Welcome

“Enjoy being the best you can be”



**Mrs Barbara King
CEO/Principal**



**Mr Christian Berry
Head of School**



**Mr Lee Aitken
Head of School**

The Ockendon Academy is passionate about making sure we do our best for every student in our care. Entrusting your child's education to us is a responsibility which we take seriously; we will strive to ensure that they receive the very best learning, care, support and opportunity possible.

Stock Market Challenge



Sporting Achievements



'Up For Debate' competition



Academy Aims

For all students to “Enjoy being the best they can be”.

To provide a broad, balanced high quality curriculum to every student in a stimulating environment they can enjoy.

To prepare every student for becoming responsible and caring members of society and preparing them for the world of work.

To enable all students to achieve their full potential through high quality, effective teaching.

Year 7 Student Induction

We have a rigorous transition process which starts with a team of teachers visiting local primary schools to meet all students who will be attending the Academy. The transition team's focus is to introduce the Academy, its ethos & structure. This is also a good opportunity for staff to answer any questions or concerns. The team also speak to primary teachers to discuss any specific needs early, to ensure a smooth transition for all.

Towards the end of the academic year, we host a transition week for Year 6 students who will be joining us in September. The aim of this week is to ensure Year 6 students are fully inducted and feel confident for when they begin their academic career with us.

Year 6 Transition Week



Overview of School Day

8.15am	Students arrive
8.30am	Registration or Assembly begins
10.30 - 10.45am	Break
12.25 - 12.50am	Lunch
2.30pm	Registration
2.40pm	End of day

It is an expectation that all students participate in at least 2 enrichment activities after school per week (Studio 7).

Vertical Tutor Groups

The Ockendon Academy prides itself on its warm atmosphere. Strong pastoral care is at the heart of the supportive community that staff and students value. Tutor groups are designed in a vertical system with students from Years 7-11 in the same tutor group. Form Tutors see students twice daily to provide any care or support they may need and will remain with them as they move through the Academy over the next five years. Students also complete an ASDAN qualification and Be The Best You Can Be programme, which looks at a range of skills including leadership, team work, citizenship, coaching and life skills.

Additional Support

The Student Support Team assists students in a variety of ways. We have a trained counsellor, speech and language support, teaching assistants and two social workers who offer students support through any issues they may have. Each year group has its own assemblies and celebration events, ensuring students enjoy being part of a small unit while still benefiting from the opportunities provided by a larger school.

We are proud of our high standards at the Academy. This has been achieved by working with students and parents to set high standards. We strive for the best, which is evidenced in our inspirational building and facilities which we continue to develop and expand to offer the best possible learning environment for our students.

This gives ample opportunity to celebrate and reward. The Academy recognises that effort and achievement are the keys to success. Outstanding attendance and excellent behaviour are expected at all times. Students who meet, or even exceed our high expectations, are rewarded through a system of credits, certificates, trophies and other awards. These are a range of positive activities on top of those offered through the normal curriculum. Although these change every term, last year's offers included a wheelchair basketball session and outdoor activity session provided by Grangewaters. The very highest award winners are also invited to Afternoon Tea with Mrs. King (CEO/Principal) or Heads of School.

Students participate in a range of activities and competitions with outside organisations such as Jack Petchey, the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, the Royal Opera House Trailblazers project, the Brilliant Club and the Children's University.

Parents are invited to Celebration Assemblies. Each year group has two Celebration Assemblies a year. In addition to this we also have an annual Awards Afternoon in the Summer Term for the whole school. Students can receive badges, trophies and prizes such as bicycles and kindles.

Inspiration

Raising aspiration and increasing motivation.

Celebrating and rewarding success.

Developing and showcasing excellence.



Grangewaters activities



Awards Afternoon winners



Reward - wheelchair basketball

We are fortunate to have a great team of teaching and support staff at the Academy, who are dedicated and determined to ensure that learning is inspiring, interesting and relevant to the real world.

We offer amazing enterprise experiences and opportunities to our students including working with companies such as Coca-Cola and Barclays. We also give them the chance to take part in Thurrock's Next Top Boss, Soapbox challenge, Funky Lunch as well as many other competitions.

The innovative curriculum is designed to support learning and the needs of all students. Some students choose a traditional academic route at GCSE level, whilst others choose a more vocational path. Increasing numbers of students are choosing the English Baccalaureate suite of qualifications.

Enterprise

Preparing students for the world of work

Seeking innovative and creative ways of working to improve quality.

Supporting challenge to make a positive difference.

Linking learning to the real world.

Thurrock's Next Top Boss Winners



Artist delivers a photography workshop



Lions International Peace Poster contest



We place the upmost importance on the care and support we provide and have created a safe and nurturing environment for all of our students.

The Academy places a great deal of emphasis on student responsibility and students are actively encouraged to become involved in every aspect of Academy life. Students play key roles in important events such as Awards Afternoon, showing visitors around and supporting each other in their learning as Class Ambassadors.

There is a vibrant Academy Council, consisting of representatives from each year group. A variety of issues are addressed during the Council meetings, ranging from fundraising to what should be delivered as part of the curriculum.

We have extensive links with the local community and local businesses. Ockendon Studio School opened its doors in 2012, with the first cohort of Year 12 joining in September 2013. Here, we connect education with employment, through our focus on enterprise-based learning, with business and community partners at the core of our practice.

Respect

Recognising, valuing and celebrating difference.

Being open, honest and sensitive.

Working cooperatively, safely and responsibly.

Being green and eco-friendly.

Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge



Learning how to handle animals



Students volunteering at our Careers Fair



The breadth of our curriculum means that students can explore a range of subjects. Encouraging students to apply their knowledge, be creative and challenged is a key aim in every subject area, as is the development of independent learning.

The Academy operates a fast-track, two year, Key Stage 3 curriculum for all students, promoting a skills and knowledge based curriculum to build upon Key Stage 2 and equip them for their GCSEs. This allows for a richer and more flexible approach to students' Key Stage 4 and Post 16 studies. The Ockendon Studio School is at the forefront of the educational landscape and offers exciting opportunities for students in Year 10 and upwards.

We believe learning is a collaborative two way process and regularly encourage and develop student voice.

All teaching staff meet regularly for training and professional development, participating in borough wide events, ensuring curriculum developments and needs are met to the highest standard.

Teaching & Learning

GCSE - Summer 2017

Outstanding subjects:

English 64% 9-4

Maths 63% 9-4

IT 100% A*-C

Textiles 91% A*-C

Business and Finance 73% A*-C

17 of our GCSE students achieved 3 or more grades at A/A*.



GCSE Results Day 2017

A-Level - Summer 2017

19 courses had a 100% pass rate which is a fantastic achievement.

Our top achieving students all had at least 2 or more subjects at A/A*.



A-Level Results Day 2017

Studio 7

Studio 7 is an enrichment programme which enhances the school day comprising of extended programmes for learning and practical activities for students. Students can attend a wide variety of activities such as the Eco-club, literacy and numeracy, sports, ICT, and homework clubs. By 2020, it is our aspiration that Studio 7 will be seven periods a day, seven days a week and will include seven weeks of holiday activity.

Children's University

Students are issued with a passport which records their extended learning achievements. This will be signed each time they attend an after-school club in Studio 7. To gain the Bronze Undergraduate award, your child needs to attend a range of different Studio 7 activities totalling 30 hours of extended learning.

The Brilliant Club

The Scholars' Programme supports students to develop the knowledge, skills and ambition needed to progress to a highly-selective university. The programme focuses on academic development through university trips, in-school tutorials and challenging independent assignments.

The Brilliant Club also provides age-appropriate support including information, advice and guidance to support university choices. This includes sessions delivered by university partners and access to an online virtual learning environment. Students also attend trips to top universities such as Cambridge.

Extra Curricular

DofE

Here at the Academy we run both the Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The programmes are run in Years 9 to 12 and the uptake is phenomenal. Students learn valuable life skills such as team work, communication and problem solving. Specific skills learnt are camp craft, cooking in the outdoors, map reading, compass work and being self sufficient to name just a few. Students thoroughly enjoy the expeditions and camping overnight in the South Downs and remote Essex.

Training occurs throughout the year resulting in a practice and assessed expedition in the Spring/Summer. When all elements of the award are completed, a presentation assembly occurs with parents/carers invited to the Academy to celebrate students' success.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award



The Brilliant Club University Visit



Children's University Graduation



The Academy has excellent facilities and buildings. Each specialist subject area has its own suite of rooms:

- There are carpeted, fully equipped sets of classrooms for all subjects.
- In 2012, a new modern block was purpose built to accommodate the English teaching department, with eight new classrooms.
- The Technology Centre has three workshops, a design studio, three art rooms (refurbished and extended in 2014), two food technology and one textiles room.
- Ten science laboratories with a new build in 2016.
- A drama studio, a large resources area, a music room, eight practice rooms and a fully equipped sound recording studio.
- There are seven fully equipped information technology suites.

The Academy has in recent years completed an exciting £8 million re-development including a new hall, a fitness suite and new changing rooms for the swimming pool and a fully furnished 10 classroom Studio School and Sixth Form centre.

The Academy has unrivalled sporting facilities, with a large sports hall suitable for badminton, basketball, indoor cricket, short tennis and many other games. We also have a well-equipped fitness suite. The Academy is very fortunate to have its own heated indoor swimming pool.

Facilities

Business Centre



The new building for Ockendon Studio School, a school and sixth form within the Academy, provides teaching rooms which are spacious, utilise natural light and are equipped with the latest technology. A large open-plan Business Centre provides space for private study, communication, project work, networking and dining.

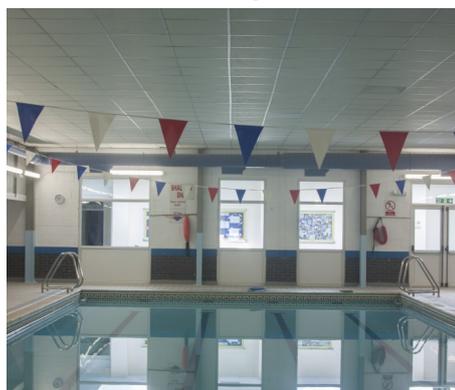
New for 2018 - Sports Hall and Classroom Block

There will be a new state-of-the-art, multi-purpose Sports Hall in conjunction with a modern 6-block classroom for our ever expanding Academy.

Sports Hall



Swimming Pool



English Block



We offer many programmes and initiatives to help students make progress. The SEN department have a focus on developing key skills around numeracy and literacy, using online tools such as Lexia, Lucid Booster and Symphony Maths.

Accelerated Reader is a national programme which aims to develop students' reading skills. Your child will take part in Accelerated Reader in their English lessons where they will be encouraged to read a range of texts for pleasure. We appreciate your support in ensuring this runs successfully.

Special Educational Needs and Disability

The Academy follows the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 2015 and is committed to meeting the needs of all its students. Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) is responsible for overseeing provision for any support with students' learning. The Academy has been designed for, and equipped with, facilities to meet the needs of disabled students. If you have any questions about the Special Needs provision, our SENCO can be contacted via the Academy office. The full policy outlining the provision for SEND students can be found on the school website at www.theockendonacademy.com Please look for 'Meeting the Needs of All Students' Policy.

SEN

Supporting your child

Homework

In order for all students to achieve their academic potential, there is an expectation that they complete homework tasks. You can support your child in this by...

- encouraging them to check their Personal Planner for homework tasks and signing weekly when this is completed.
- encouraging them to access the online Maths and English programmes, either at school or home.
- monitor homework set on the Learning Gateway through the Academy's website.
- use the Personal Planner as a means to communicate with your child's tutor.

Enrichment

The Academy has a range of facilities and clubs that will allow students to develop their interests. You can support your child in this by

- encouraging them to participate in after school clubs.
- discussing their interests and providing opportunities for them to develop.
- encouraging them to read every day and being interested in the progress they are making in Accelerated Reader.



Ockendon Studio School

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