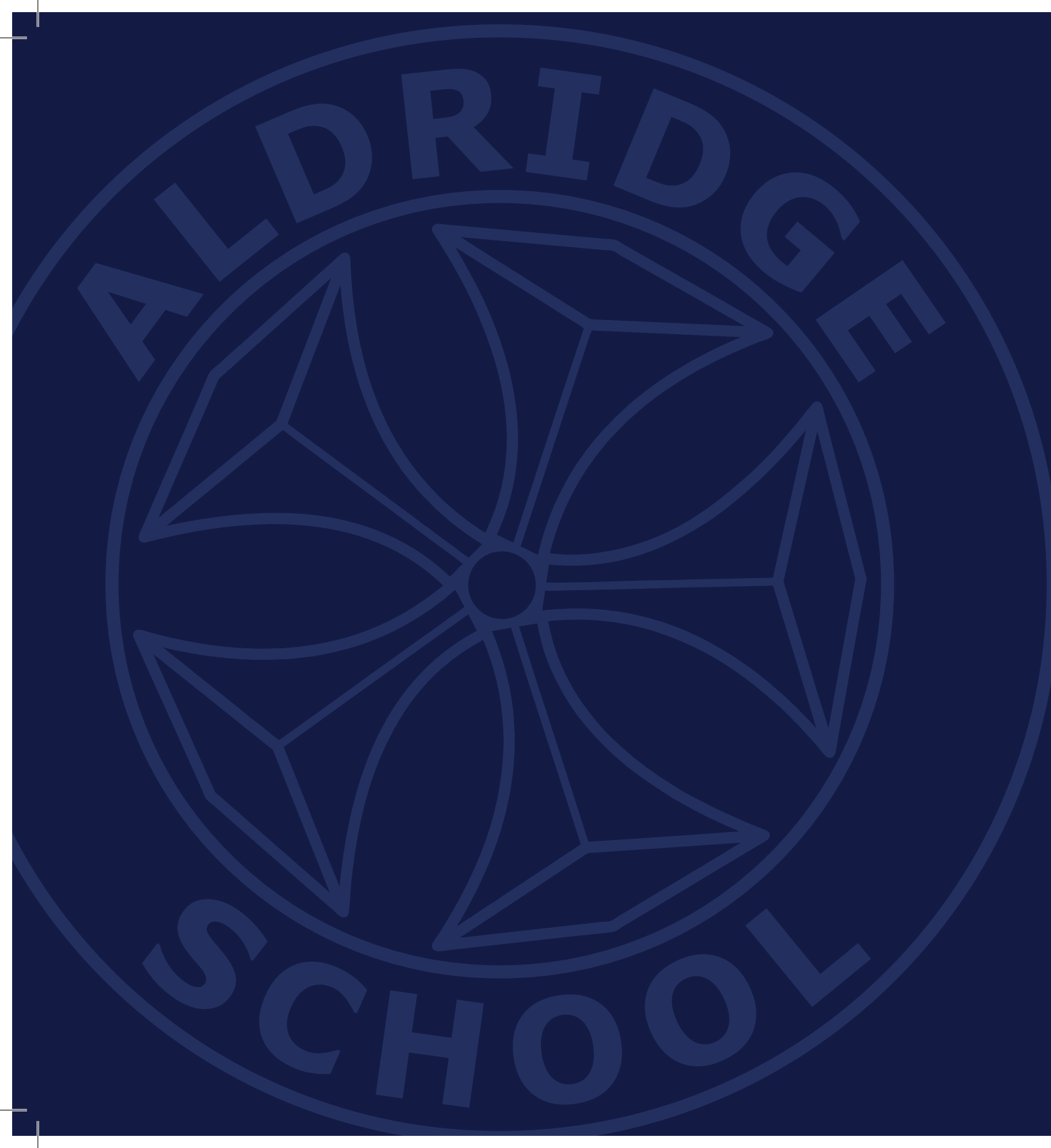


Prospectus 2021



Founder Academy of the
Mercian Trust



Your Child's *Education*



Welcome to Aldridge School. I am delighted that you are considering entrusting your child's secondary education to us. I believe that as a comprehensive school it is our responsibility to work to meet the needs of every individual, challenging them to achieve their best, supporting them to become responsible young adults and preparing them for their next steps into the world of work or further education. Our aim is to develop young people who are Respectful, Responsible, Resilient and Ready to Learn.

Aldridge School has a dedicated, talented and conscientious team of staff who work together to provide a high standard of teaching, excellent pastoral care and professional support services. Our broad curriculum is designed to meet national expectations, be relevant and interesting, support our students in achieving the best possible standards in external examinations and equip them with the skills they need to be successful in adult life. Students at Aldridge School are friendly, polite and respectful. Strong relationships between staff and students contribute significantly to ensuring that students are happy and feel safe.

Aldridge School is a good school. It is a school which is proud of its traditions and successes which have been achieved through hard work and high expectations. If your child joins Aldridge School I believe that they will enjoy seven happy and successful years of secondary education.

If you would like to find out more, please contact us to arrange a visit to see our school at work. We look forward to meeting you.

Ian Bryant
Headteacher



Your Child's *Learning*

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum, which progressively promotes understanding of our world and how to live and work successfully within it. This is at the heart of all we do.

Students pass through the three national 'key stages', each of which is designed to promote personal development and opportunities to acquire fresh knowledge and skills, including the capacity to become increasingly independent learners. We are constantly developing our programmes to be: exciting, interesting, relevant, supportive and challenging. We aim always to enable our pupils to become increasingly competent and resilient.

Our curriculum aims to:

- Continually reinforce the messages of the 4 Rs
- Encourage students to improve on previous best by completing 'Follow Up' after assessments.
- Sustain study of a wide range of subjects' including arts, technology and humanities, which are available to all students regardless of individual abilities and needs.
- Guide and prepare students for adult life, teaching them to stay safe, live independently and contribute positively to society through discretely taught Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education lessons and assemblies.
- Enhance students' capacity to live in harmony with others in our religiously and culturally diverse society, in accordance with 'British Values'.
- Enable students to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities through Flexible Fridays.
- Prepare students for future success in education, employment or training.



“

The curriculum is broad and balanced. At key stage 4, the school provides a good range of subjects and qualifications to meet the needs of pupils.

OFSTED

”



Supporting *Your Child*

Student Development

We will never leave a student behind, whatever their needs or circumstances. Our Student Development department offers a full complement of additional educational services for students who need a helping hand or some personal focus to help them achieve their full potential.

Staff

We have a Learning Support teacher on site who also functions as the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. We also have a team of Teaching Assistants and Higher Level Teaching Assistants, who provide in-class support, as well as booster sessions and intervention lessons for students with additional or special educational needs

Support

Social club: we offer a wide variety of support services, including a lunchtime social club, which gives vulnerable students a safe and nurturing environment in which to play games and connect with other students.

Pragmatics: our pragmatics group supports any student who may have speech, language or communication needs, and is visited regularly by a member of the Speech and Language Therapy Service.

Booster sessions: if your child does not have special educational needs, but is having difficulty achieving expected progress in core subjects.

SEN interventions: if your child has special educational needs regarding cognition and other learning difficulties, we can amend their timetable to support them with a personalised programme for numeracy and literacy.

Your Child's *Pastoral Care*

High quality pastoral care and support for all students is our priority. Our house system helps your child to settle in quickly to life in a large, exciting environment like Aldridge School, and builds a family-style community of support, trust and care during their time with us.

Aldridge School takes the care of students seriously. We have a team of experienced staff whose sole responsibility — along with a dedicated form tutor — is to look after the welfare of every student and to keep in regular contact with you regarding this.

Our strong ethos of care and welfare has been praised by OFSTED, who commented that students are safe in school and students overwhelmingly say that they feel safe. They value the work of safeguarding team based in the Hub who listen to their concerns and take action when necessary.

Our rewards structure is linked to the house system and aims to encourage team work and a sense of responsibility. A wide range of events take place to promote community spirit and healthy competition between the Houses.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

Aldridge School recognises the importance of education in its widest context and as such deliver a comprehensive programme of Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE). PSHCE is delivered via form time, assemblies, event days and the formal and informal curriculum. We cover all statutory content including Relationship and Sex Education and Health Education as well as most topics suggested by the PSHCE Association and ensure local issues are reflected. Our aim is to facilitate and encourage the 4Rs by motivating our students, contributing to improved examination results and developing core employment capabilities providing students with the best possible preparation for adult life.



· BARR HOUSE ·

— Bravery, Integrity, Boldness —



· LINLEY HOUSE ·

Loyalty, Pride and Courage



• DANIELS HOUSE •
With Strength and Honour, We Soar



• SCOTT HOUSE •
Imagine, Believe, Achieve

Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance

Our careers education helps to prepare your child for adult life. We provide them with the knowledge and skills to manage their journey through learning and training to satisfying and fulfilling employment.

All students follow a Careers Education programme that includes enterprise days, visits to universities and one-to-one interviews with an independent careers advisor.

Safeguarding

The safety and welfare of your child is paramount at Aldridge School, with all staff and volunteers sharing in this commitment. We have a qualified and experienced team who are dedicated to child protection issues. The safeguarding team is led by Mr Eaton.

These staff members should be your first point of contact for any child protection concerns. We deal with all matters in the strictest confidence and we also have external expert help available. You can read the full Safeguarding Policy on our website.

Inclusion

The primary aim of our inclusion services is to work closely with students, parents and staff to facilitate personalised programmes of support and create an enjoyable and successful educational experience for all. We have specialist staff working across a range of areas to ensure that the needs of every child are met.

Our support ranges from help with organisation and life skills to alternative curriculum arrangements for gifted and talented students who need an enhanced timetable to pursue their specific interests. Our specialist staff also support students with any social, emotional or behavioural issues.

We have access to a diverse selection of professional agencies outside of school which includes Youth and Family Support Services, CAMHS and health services. The inclusion and pastoral teams work together to ensure every student receives the right level of support. Students' academic and personal progress is regularly reviewed so that support can be provided and students continue to grow and flourish as individuals.

Your Child's *Core values*

The work of the school is intrinsically linked to our core values. The four simple ideas: "Respectful, Responsible, Resilient and Ready to Learn" perfectly capture the traits that we believe can constantly challenge and encourage our students to "Be the best that they can be".

Respectful

This involves students learning to show due regard for themselves and their community. In school this can be as simple as listening to each others' views, recognising and appreciating that not everyone is the same, learning about diverse cultures and celebrating differences.

Self-respect is developed by adopting a healthy, active and proactive lifestyle alongside the self-discipline that comes from recognition that respect for effort brings rewards.

As a school we respect the views of students and work with the student ambassadors to ensure that they contribute actively to school developments. As a community it is essential that they understand that we value their opinions and thoughts.

Responsible

Our students are consistently shown what it means to be responsible for their own actions and development. They are encouraged to take pride in their school, their environment and their uniform. We remind them that they are ambassadors for their school in the community.

We constantly reinforce to students that we are all individually responsible for becoming the person we aspire to be. As students mature, they understand that personal responsibility extends beyond themselves to being active and responsible citizens of tomorrow.

As students realise that they must take responsibility for life changing decisions, they begin to grasp the degree to which they can, if they truly commit themselves, 'follow their dreams' and how their actions can positively impact both on the quality of their own lives and on others.

Ready to learn

Respo



Resilie

spectful



Responsible

ient

Resilient

Our philosophy in setting standards of behaviour, questioning students in class and setting them work is to expect effort in response to challenge and to praise persistence in learning and achievement that improves on 'previous best'. When we engage students in learning facts, ideas or skills, we focus both on what is to be learned, how it can be learned and then transformed into genuine understanding by being stored in the long term memory.

We make no secret of the fact that the above process involves effort – 'there is no gain without pain'.

Whatever students' standards of achievement on entry, we base our work with them on the stage they have reached, devise lessons that will challenge and improve performance and focus our feedback on what to do to 'improve on previous best'.

As they progress through the school we offer a range of challenges through choice of courses and opportunities to engage in a range of after school activities including sport and music, enabling and encouraging them to extend their learning in booster and support classes.

We thus endeavor to organise school life and work so that there is always an atmosphere in which students are encouraged to give of their best, are rewarded for effort and challenged to try new experiences. We believe that this nurtures persistence, self-confidence and the growth of a 'can do' spirit. They are encouraged to aspire, so that they naturally ask 'Why not?' rather than 'Why?'.

This growth approach is a key characteristic of our school. It is about "bouncing forward". Resilience does not just mean getting back to normal after facing a difficult situation. It means learning from the process in order to become stronger and better at tackling the next challenge – truly 'learning for life'.

Ready to Learn

For a student to get the most out of their education they need to attend as much school as possible. We expect students to arrive at school and to lessons on time every day. A student who is ready to learn rarely has time off school. They are well organised and plan their time to ensure that they are not late and that they bring the right equipment and books each day.

Students who are ready to learn are curious. Making sure they are attentive to detail and observe as much as possible what is going on around them and learning how things are done. They are open to new experiences and get involved. They use their initiative and creativity, give it a go, and get out of their comfort zone.

Play, *Create*, Perform and *Explore*

Opportunities inside and outside the classroom

Our students are given a wide range of opportunities to excel in activities beyond the classroom. These include: the arts, sport, technology, languages, raising money for charity and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award to name but a few.

We want our students to be inspired and open to new challenges and new experiences. To this end, we offer a wide variety of enrichment opportunities in school. We also offer a range of residential trips both in this country and abroad.

Our music and drama productions are always highly acclaimed and our sports teams have an excellent success rate both locally and at county level.

Flexible Friday

There are over 100 extra-curricular clubs and societies at Aldridge School that take place during Friday Form time ranging from America Football to Zumba. Students are encouraged to pursue their interests and expand their passions by taking up one of many extra-curricular activities on offer. Our extra-curricular programme is fundamental to life at Aldridge School as we firmly believe this enriches and broadens the educational opportunities open to our students.

We want everyone to have the opportunity to experience something new at Aldridge School.



Music *scholars*

Aldridge School has a long and proud tradition of outstanding musical teaching, in both our general curriculum and our scholarships, which are awarded to twenty five of our most gifted and aspiring students each year. Aldridge School has an ambitious annual music making programme and your child will have the chance to join one of our many instrument ensembles. We support our music students with exemplary teaching staff, who are supplemented by a group of passionate, high level instrumental tutors.

Music scholars take part in extra studies, which sets them on the path to the highest level of music and academic qualification. Their lessons include performance, Grade 5 theory and exploring different musical styles to develop their composition skills. They could reach as high as Grade 8 on two or more instruments and may even elect to take a performing diploma.

A long line of past students have continued their studies at Oxford, Cambridge, major universities and the Royal Music Colleges. Several will have done so this summer.



“All music teachers are united in their aim to help pupils achieve the highest standards possible. A music scholars programme is a real strength of the school”

OFSTED



Aldridge School
Founder Academy of the Mercian Trust
Tynings Lane
Aldridge
Walsall
West Midlands
WS9 0BG
T: 01922 743988
E: info@aldrigehschool.org

www.aldrigehschool.org