



# DREAM BIG



Discover more



Prospectus 2022-2023



# DREAM BIG

“ The Academy offers a rounded education that will open young people’s eyes to the opportunities available in the wider world if they study hard and give themselves something to aim for. ”



# Welcome

## Welcome from Sukhjot Dhami – Principal

Having joined as a newly qualified teacher and worked here for 16 years, I know how special this academy is. Now, as the Principal of Beacon Hill Academy, it is clear to me that our academy is on an upward trajectory.

For several years running, our GCSE results have shown improvements in both the attainment and progress of our learners. The marked rise in the proportion of learners achieving Grade 5 or higher in both English and Mathematics is a very good indicator of the advances made across the academy. We have the skills, experience and dynamism in the team at Beacon Hill to ensure that the academy continues to go from strength to strength.

We want learners to enjoy their time here, to feel safe, to feel supported and to make excellent progress as a result. Both my staff and I passionately believe that every young person matters. Every learner has a wide array of talents, which we will identify, nurture and promote. As a large school, we have a strength and depth of teaching staff and extensive learner support services. We also have an emphasis on rewarding effort and achievement, with weekly and termly celebrations of our learners' accomplishments.



As a member of Dudley Academies Trust, we are supported by a wide range of senior teachers who are experts in their subjects and a team of professional staff who assist us with the everyday running of the academy. Over the past four years, we have invested a significant sum of money into brand new computers and networking. At the same time, the Trust has made a big investment in the fabric of the school, and much more is planned in this area for the future.

The large number of GCSE subjects that we offer means that every learner will find something that genuinely interests them. Learners are also able to participate in many additional activities including engineering, art, science, dance, the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and a variety of sports. The Academy offers a rounded education that will open young people's eyes to the opportunities available in the wider world if they study hard and give themselves something to aim for.

You are very welcome to come and see the academy in full flow and I look forward to meeting you.



# Welcome to Dudley Academies Trust



**Dudley Academies Trust was established to ensure a first rate education for the young people of Dudley and the surrounding areas. It is important to us that all our young people have a high-quality education that will give them the foundations they need for a fulfilling life and a rewarding future career.**

In the last five years, we have made a big difference to the prospects our learners have. All four of our secondary academies have significantly raised their GCSE results, with major improvements in attainment and learner progress. Both primary schools have achieved SATS results at or above the national benchmark for expected progress and Blowers Green is significantly above for the 'greater depth' measure. We are confident that our learners in all phases will continue to flourish in the coming years and achieve excellent examination outcomes.

*Our learners are a fantastic group of young people who tell us they feel happy, safe and well cared for in our schools.*

We are able to accomplish these and many other advances because we have a large and experienced Central Team that supports each academy with its leadership, teaching, building programmes, sports and activities, financial management, staff training, IT and – most importantly – the progress and wellbeing of your children.

We have recruited numerous, excellent staff to our academies and made some outstanding appointments to their leadership teams. We have introduced a proven system of rewards and behaviour management that has changed the culture of our classrooms, accompanied by a raft of new approaches to teaching. Many £millions have already been invested in improving the buildings, facilities and computing equipment of our academies, and much more is being spent this year.

At the beginning of 2021, we welcomed Blowers Green Primary, judged 'Outstanding' by Ofsted twice in a row, as the first primary school to join the Trust. This year, Kates Hill Primary, a consistently 'Good' school, also joined us. We believe that having a large, thriving and mutually supportive group of primary schools within the Trust will be vital to achieving our aim of transforming the prospects of young people in Dudley.

I am confident that Beacon Hill Academy will continue to make great strides forward over the coming years and that your child will find every opportunity to thrive there and to develop as a rounded and confident young person. We want your child to 'Dream Big' and to know that many positive life choices are within their reach. Working with you, we will do everything in our power to make that a reality.

Our learners are a fantastic group of young people who tell us they feel happy, safe and well cared for in our schools. We are delighted that you have taken the time to read this prospectus and we encourage you to visit one of our open events and meet some of our learners, or book a personal tour of the academy, so you can see for yourselves what we have to offer.



**Jo Higgins**  
**Chief Executive**

NB: No schools league tables were published by the government for 2020. Existing league tables are therefore out of date and do not reflect the progress being made by our academies.

# About our sponsor



**The Trust's sponsor, Dudley College of Technology, is one of the most successful further education Colleges in the UK and a major contributor to the development of the economy in The Black Country and beyond. The transformational leadership that has propelled the development of the College is a driving force behind Dudley Academies Trust.**

The College provides education and training programmes across the West Midlands, enrolling some 12,000 learners each year on 4,000 academic and vocational programmes, including A Levels, T Levels, skills-based courses and apprenticeships.

Ofsted rated as "outstanding" in the most recent 2017 inspection, the College has success rates for learners across all programmes that are on or significantly above national benchmarks. A very high proportion of Trust learners go on to benefit from the College's high-quality education, inspiring facilities and access to world-leading technology.

On the College's technical and vocational programmes, over 95 per cent of 16-18 year-old full-time learners move on to higher/ further education or employment. Of those who study A levels at Dudley Sixth, 80 per cent choose to continue to university, with many more moving on to the College's own higher education courses.

Specialist centres at the College are equipped to provide a technical education unsurpassed in the region; they include Dudley Advance I, a state-of-the-art Centre for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering & Technology, and Dudley Advance II, a Centre for Advanced Building Technologies.

Every year, the College supports thousands of apprentices, a very high percentage of whom progress to higher apprenticeships and degree level programmes.

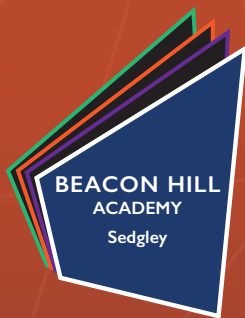
Dudley College is the lead Further Education institution in the Black Country and Marches Institute of Technology (IoT), a major new development based at the heart of the Black Country. The IoT offers a wide range of high-quality technical education programmes with clear pathways to skilled jobs in Advanced Engineering & Manufacturing, Modern Methods of Construction and Medical Engineering & Healthcare.

In February 2020, the college was awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education in recognition of its contribution to the economy of the West Midlands through large-scale advanced vocational and technical education. Its Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Assured (STEM) ® status is also recognition that they are delivering high-quality education and training in all of these areas.

The College sponsored the creation of Dudley Academies Trust and actively assists it with a variety of support services, sporting activities, careers events, facilities, management expertise and governance.

“Ofsted rated as “outstanding”, the college has significantly developed its curriculum offer and estate over the last decade.”





# Why Beacon Hill Academy?

## As part of Dudley Academies Trust, we benefit from:

- Support from a team of subject directors and subject coaches – teachers who are experts in their subjects and who work with our teachers and your children.
- Help with recruiting exceptional teaching and support staff.
- Shared best practice in the classroom.
- Shared resources.
- Shared learner support.
- An excellent Careers programme.
- Large-scale investment in our buildings, IT and facilities.
- The latest available learning technologies.
- A tried and tested model of how to ensure positive behaviour and motivate learners through Values Driven Expectations.
- The resources and expertise of Dudley College of Technology.

## In addition, Beacon Hill Academy offers:

- All the benefits of being a large school, with a strength and depth of teaching staff and extensive learner support services.
- A broad range of GCSE subjects giving learners a very wide choice of what they study.
- New computers and a new IT network.
- Collaborative Learning in the classrooms, so that every learner joins in, gains confidence and learns from the learners around them, as well as the teacher.
- A big emphasis on rewarding effort and achievement, with weekly and termly celebrations of what our learners have done.
- A broad range of extra-curricular clubs, teams, activities and trips.
- Large school grounds and playing fields.
- An academy with a mission to give each, individual learner a choice of ways forward in life.



**Our values are shared among all of the Trust's members. These were shaped by the student leaders from each of the academies and reflect the kind of ethos and culture they want to be a part of.**

## Our Values:

Dreaming big  
 Rewarding effort  
 Leading together  
 Respecting each other and our world  
 Learning that inspires



*Beacon Hill Academy offers  
all the benefits of being a large  
school, with a strength and depth  
of teaching staff and extensive  
learner support services*





# Settling in and getting set up for life

## Transition

**We ensure that the transition from primary to secondary school is as smooth as possible and an exciting and happy experience for your child.**

During May and June, we will contact your child's primary school to learn all about their academic progress so far. Our staff then go out to all of our main feeder schools to say 'hello' to the learners, talk to their teachers and learn all about them and their abilities and needs. Any extra support that is needed will be noted so that it can be in place when your child comes to us. SEND staff will also make contact where appropriate.

Then, in July, all new learners will come to taster days, when they will attend lessons, make new friends, get to know their teachers, get used to the behaviour and rewards system, and begin to feel at home in the academy. There will also be a meeting for all new parents and carers which you are strongly encouraged to attend.

Pastoral support is one of our strengths. Every learner who joins us will clearly know who to talk to if they have things on their mind. That support is with them throughout their school career.

## Years 7 and 8

In Years 7 and 8, learners benefit from an engaging curriculum which is competency based. It's deliberately not too big a change from primary school teaching, so that learners can use methods that they already understand to start tackling new

subjects. There is a particular emphasis on literacy, numeracy and digital literacy – the foundations for highly effective learning in future years.

We place a lot of emphasis on Collaborative Learning. Learners will usually be seated in groups rather than rows, and ideas, thoughts and opinions will be discussed in a structured way followed across all lessons. This ensures that learning is active and thought-provoking. It also ensures that all learners are engaged in the learning process and not just a few who might be asked questions by the teacher.

The impact of collaborative approaches on learning is consistently positive. Learners sit in mixed-ability groups of four and work together to solve problems and work out answers. Effective Collaborative Learning requires much more than just sitting pupils together and asking them to work in a group; the lesson is carefully structured by the teacher, with well-designed tasks that lead to the greatest learning gains. Approaches which promote talk and interaction between learners are particularly important. Learners gain hugely from the other children who work with them, as well as from the teacher, who is constantly involved.

Collaborative Learning is just one of the factors that contributes to our emphasis on communication skills. In the classrooms, the learners have to constantly communicate with each other and the teacher; we ensure that there are many other communication challenges to develop their abilities, from poetry recitals to student leadership and mentoring roles at every level of the academy.







We place a lot of emphasis on Collaborative Learning. Learners will usually be seated in groups rather than rows, and ideas, thoughts and opinions will be discussed in a structured way followed across all lessons.



# Helping your child to succeed

**In Year 10, learners progress to study GCSE courses. They study the core subjects, English, Mathematics, Science and PE, plus others that they choose themselves. Our learners are supported by our highly-committed teachers who are themselves supported by subject directors and coaches from the Trust Central Team.**

**We aim to accelerate the progress of every single learner by:**

- Building on areas of strength to improve outcomes for all learners.
- Quickly identifying and dealing with any areas of weakness.
- Accelerating learner attainment.
- Increasing the levels of outstanding teaching in the academy.
- Raising learner confidence, developing their future career aspirations and increasing their knowledge of career options.
- Ensuring that all learners, irrespective of their differing abilities, achieve their maximum potential.

We have a strong emphasis on English and Mathematics skills as the foundation for academic success, and we have introduced exciting new ways of teaching these critical subjects. These teaching methods are focused on encouraging communication, getting every learner in a classroom to join in with the lesson and helping the learners to solve problems in teams and to learn from each other. The key to success is making learners want to

learn, giving them goals that motivate them (Dreaming Big) and approaches to teaching that keep them engaged, focused and making progress in every subject (Learning that Inspires).

One area where the Trust has invested is in state-of-the art learning technologies which we use for Mathematics, English and a range of other subjects. These software programmes can be used at school or in the home.

Parents and Carers often think that the performance of their children is only reviewed once a term when Parents' Evenings are held. At all of the secondary academies within Dudley Academies Trust, the performance of each learner is recorded and actively monitored on a week-by-week basis.

We know almost immediately which learners might need more support and which ones can be pushed on to a higher level of achievement. This is regularly reviewed and discussed by the Senior Leadership Team; every child is known, understood and helped to be the best that they can be.

Upgrade is an initiative that supports our Year 11 learners and prepares them for their GCSE exams. An extended school day gives learners the best chance of performing to the best of their ability. There are practice papers throughout the year, extra revision lessons, study skills kits and a wide range of rewards to ensure that everyone stays focused on their goals. All learners are encouraged to 'Dream big' and aim for the highest grades.





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# Confident and Caring Citizens

**We want our learners to leave us after five years with great qualifications and a good idea of what careers they might progress to. We also want to give them the confidence to succeed in the world and the attitudes and behaviours to make positive contributions to our society.**

In order to achieve this, we run a wide range of programmes focusing on careers, leadership, volunteering, personal and social responsibility, confidence building and personal development. The following pages tell you about these in greater detail. All of them are underpinned by our system of behaviours and rewards.

## Values Driven Expectations

Every school has a behaviour model, but ours is different. It focuses on opportunities for learners to be rewarded.

Of course, there are sanctions for learners who break the rules. Values Driven Expectations cuts out the behaviour that stops learners from learning, that wastes time in the classroom and distracts attention from the subject being studied. In and out of the classroom, learners and teachers tell us that our behaviour model is a massive plus point for our academies.

Our emphasis is on rewarding good behaviour, attendance and punctuality, thoughtfulness and kindness, effort, achievement, participation in academy life and setting a good example.

All adults in school actively seek opportunities to praise and to hand out merit stamps and commendations. Learners who earn a certain number of merits and commendations are rewarded at special celebration events throughout the academic year.

Our Values:

Dreaming big  
Rewarding effort  
Leading together  
Respecting each other and our world  
Learning that inspires

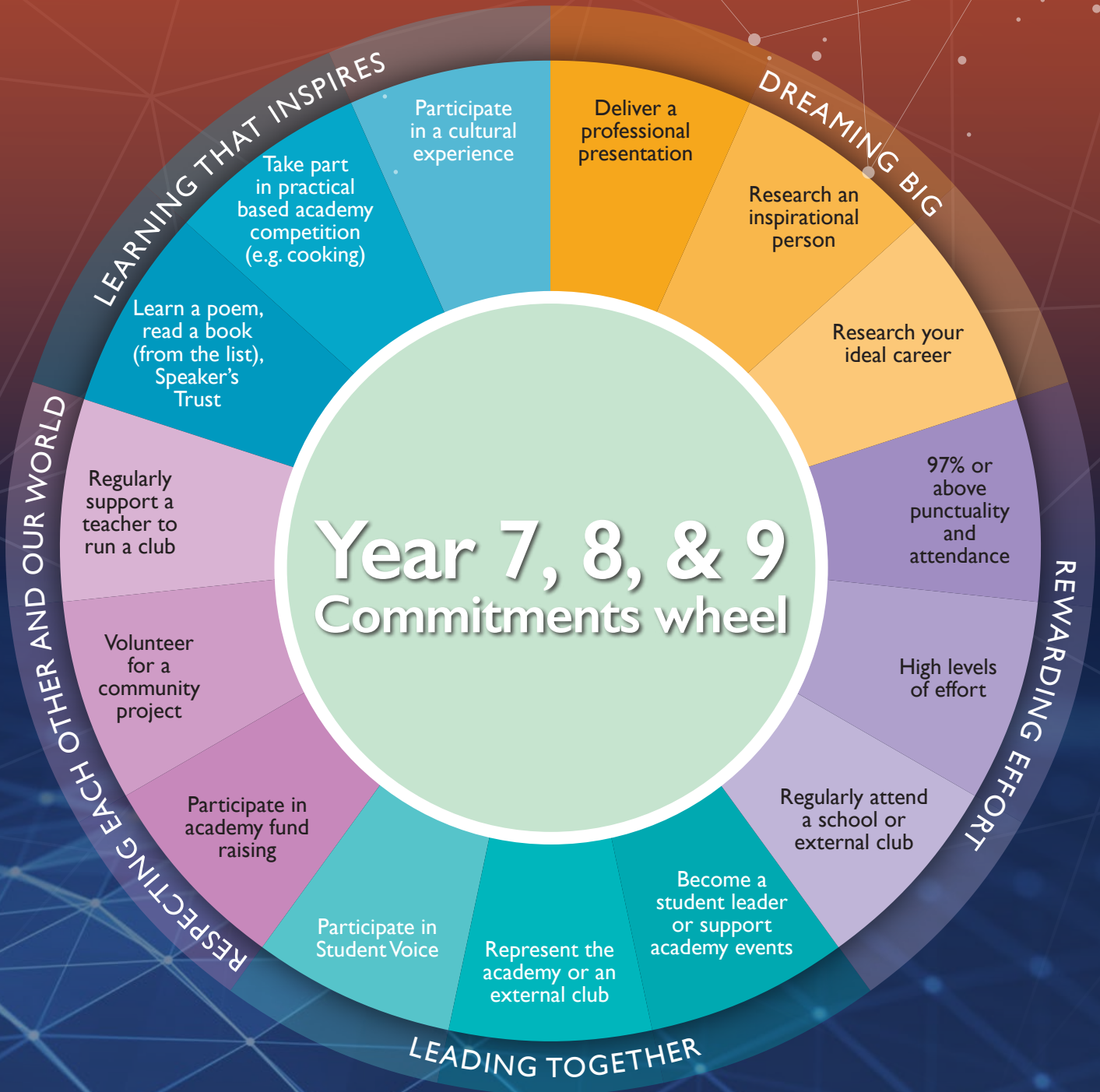




# Commitments

Commitments is a fantastic programme that brings our values to life. It challenges learners to display our values in their behaviour, to think about their futures, to participate in student leadership and to get involved in all sorts of extracurricular

activities. There are rewards for learners who achieve the commitments that they make, but the real reward is that our young people grow in their attitudes, abilities and responsibilities.





# Respecting each other and our world

## Student Leadership and Learner Voice

All learners in every year group have the opportunity to participate in student leadership activities, at the heart of which is our Student Leadership team. This highly impressive group of young people supports key school events across the Trust and works with the entire student body to ensure that our core values are put into practice. Members of this team regularly report to our Principals' Board, the Local Advisory Committees and our Trust Board.

Our young leaders genuinely play a central role in shaping the direction of the Trust and putting learner voice at the heart of our decision-making processes.

In the academies, young leaders help to organise school events, guide people on tours, speak in assemblies, work on 'staying safe' initiatives, discuss issues and suggestions with the Principal, organise sports teams, run charity events and contribute to the recruitment of staff.







*We strive to ensure our learners have opportunities to flourish beyond their academic studies and to give them the confidence they need to succeed in every aspect of their life beyond school.*



# *Learning that inspires*

## *Character education is at the heart of our learners' experience*

As part of Dudley Academies Trust, we can offer a very wide range of sporting and extra-curricular activities.

Sports include cricket, rounders, netball, football, basketball, tag rugby, rugby football, athletics, gymnastics and many more. Dudley College of Technology has hosted and supported tournaments and sports coaching, while the Trust is putting a plan for sports development in place for the future.

Recently, our learners have participated in public speaking and poetry recitation competitions, full-scale dramas, musicals, dance, STEM competitions, entrepreneurship competitions, business networking, public debates, foreign trips, field trips, charity events, community activities and many other interesting and worthwhile additions to their studies.





# *A Mind to be Kind*

The 'Mind to be Kind' programme develops a culture where kindness, without an expectation of reward, becomes a way of life. Rather than focusing on performing acts of kindness for a reward, we focus on how it feels when we are kind. The aim is that giving and receiving kindness becomes natural and normal. This programme is central to ensuring that our academies are safe, happy and calm places where everyone is respected.

The 'Mind to be Kind' programme is delivered to all learners as a series of short 'Stop and Think' sessions where kindness is explored through three main themes:

- **Acts of Kindness**
- **Living without Harming Others**
- **Respect.**

## *Confidence: Voice 21*

Voice 21 is a structured programme to transform teaching and learning through talk ('oracy'). Oracy develops learners' confidence, articulacy and capacity to learn. It boosts their ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language.

## *Confidence: Speak Out*

Speak Out is a public speaking challenge in which learners compete to persuade other people and hold their interest. It is run by the Speakers Trust, which helps young people to gain the confidence and skills to communicate with clarity, conviction and impact.

## *Confidence: Poetry by Heart*

Poetry by Heart, an initiative supported by the Department for Education, is another confidence-building challenge based around speaking skills. Learners get used to memorising and reciting poems in front of a range of different audiences and compete with each other to enter a national poetry reciting competition. Learners from our schools have reached regional and national finals, with the national finalists having performed in front of famous poets at the Globe Theatre.





# Dreaming Big: a careers programme that fits your child's ambitions

**We all know that if learners are ‘Dreaming Big’ about what they want to do in life, they will work harder, achieve more and be happier.**

This is why Dudley Academies Trust has launched CareerFit, a best-in-class careers programme across our four secondary academies.

Starting in Year 7, every learner will have inspiring careers advice and experiences that motivate them to plan for their future. Learners will have a careers passport in which they will record all of the careers advice and experience that they gain during their time with us. That will include:

- At least one activity in every term of every year.
- High-quality, impartial careers advice and guidance.

- Workplace visits, work shadowing and work experience with leading businesses such as Thomas Dudley.
- Taking part in business events and entering entrepreneurial competitions.
- Outside speakers from business and industry.
- Interview practice with experienced interviewers.
- Taster courses at Dudley College of Technology in their industry-standard studios, salons, IT suites and advanced engineering and building technology facilities.
- Visits to top universities.

By the end of Year 11, our learners will be equipped to understand and take advantage of the opportunities ahead of them. Whether they choose A Levels or college courses and apprenticeships, learners will leave us with a map of where they want to go in life and a passport of knowledge and experience that will help them to get there.





# Trust Careers Journey

We also work with a selection of local business volunteers and professional associations.

Black Country Consortium Ltd



All year groups can become a Student Leader or volunteer for an academy event.



## Year 11



Have an independent and impartial careers interview

Apply for Sixth Form, college or apprenticeship or T level

Application surgeries

Opportunities to visit Dudley College of Technology

Visits to local Universities



CV development workshops

Aspire to HE

Consider the format of GCSE examinations and refine revision techniques

Taster sessions at local colleges

Create a CV

Peter Jones Enterprise: Tycoon programme

Attend and consider the subjects in GCSE options assemblies

Character Education Programme

Visits to local Universities

Communication skills and confidence

## Year 9

Lead charity fundraising

Ensure your attendance is above 97%.

Visit to Thomas Dudley Ltd

Encourage learners to visualise a potential profession. What will their career path be?

Discover a career path and begin to Dream Big!

## Year 8

Participate in Poetry by Heart



Develop good independent study habits

Attend an options interview with your parents with SLT or pastoral lead

Speak Out Loud Assessment

Revise for and sit GCSE mock exams

Embed excellent study habits and get ahead with revision

Develop your wellbeing and relaxation techniques ready for the examination period

Develop an effective revision calendar and put it to use



## Key Contacts

Main school switchboard

0845 155 0411

### USEFUL WEBSITES

Beacon Hill Academy  
Dudley Academies Trust  
Dudley College  
Dudley MBC (Admissions)

[www.beaconhillacademy.org.uk](http://www.beaconhillacademy.org.uk)  
[www.dudleyacademiestrust.org.uk](http://www.dudleyacademiestrust.org.uk)  
[www.dudleycol.ac.uk](http://www.dudleycol.ac.uk)  
[www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/learning-school/schools-and-colleges/school-admissions/](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/learning-school/schools-and-colleges/school-admissions/)

 [www.facebook.com/BeaconHillAcademy/](https://www.facebook.com/BeaconHillAcademy/) 

@DudleyAcadTrust

