



HYDESVILLE TOWER SCHOOL

#Hydesvillefamily

NURSERY



PREP



SENIOR



An independent day school for boys and girls aged 3-16.



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Welcome

Welcome to Hydesville Tower School; it is my privilege to be the Headteacher of such an exciting place of learning. As parents and carers, we all want the very best for our children. It is crucial that they are encouraged to fulfil their academic potential; but of equal importance is their preparation for the ever-changing world beyond education, a world presenting both challenges and opportunities. Here at Hydesville Tower School, we are a happy community in which everyone can do and be their best. We pride ourselves on providing a breath-taking array of opportunities, not only within our traditional academic curriculum but also throughout our extensive extra-curricular and enrichment programmes.

We nurture pupils' development through high aspirations and small classes, so every child experiences personalised learning, enabling them to not only reach but maximise their potential. Outstanding pastoral care gives support to every child and so they develop and mature into remarkable young people. This gives them the confidence to flourish in music, sport, creative and performing arts, all of which are valued at Hydesville.

Children are guided in their Hydesville journey by teachers who are experts in their respective fields, and who are committed to delivering the very highest standard of learning across a broad, balanced and innovative curriculum.

We pride ourselves on our close relationship with parents and place great value on personal contact. Friendliness and willingness to listen are the starting points for effective collaboration and these you will find here. It would be a pleasure to welcome you in person to our school, so you can experience for yourself what a Hydesville education offers your child.



Raj Samra BSc (Hons), Headteacher



I am unique

"The things that make me different are the things that make me." A. A. Milne

We are resolute in our commitment that every Hydesville pupil, from Nursery to Year 11, will achieve the best academic results they are capable of. In fact, overachievement within the context of each child's potential is our intention and this is accomplished through personalised learning.

Our approach is inspired by the uniqueness of each child and at its heart is our ability to understand precisely where every pupil is on their own learning journey. Through regular assessment, accurately reported to parents, we gain an understanding of each pupil's abilities and use this knowledge to set relevant targets, highlight areas of the curriculum which need more focus and apply challenge where a child excels.

Our classes and year groups are kept deliberately small to support this proven approach, enabling teachers to build individual relationships

with each pupil so they can effectively differentiate in all lessons.

We welcome any child we believe will thrive in this environment and that has been the school's commitment since opening in 1952. Studious, creative, musical and sporting children learn from and inspire one another; together they create a bright, happy and productive atmosphere in which each pursue their unique talents and interests within a meaningful framework of learning.

Excellence in the classroom, sports field, on stage and artistically is celebrated through the rigorous Hydesville scholarship programme, designed to nurture individual talent and cultivate role models across a spectrum of subjects and specialisms.

This is a unique school, full of unmistakably brilliant pupils being taught in a way that encourages their rainbow of talents, personalities and ambitions atop a foundation of traditional values.





I love to learn

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." William Butler Yeats

Inspiring teachers delivering creative lessons in well-equipped, comfortable classrooms is the least we can provide for pupils with a thirst for knowledge.

Children at Hydesville have an unequivocal desire to learn; they demonstrate commitment, dedication and application in every aspect of their education and they reap the rewards in their 11-Plus and GCSE examinations. Our impressive results are a good barometer of the strides our mixed ability pupils make and testament to the child-centred approach we take to education.

The love of learning that permeates this school year on year is no coincidence. The special atmosphere here is created and fuelled by the enthusiasm, expertise and energy of our teaching and support staff. Our highly-skilled practitioners consistently deliver top quality teaching that lights fires in the minds of pupils from three to sixteen years old.

Course topics and class projects outgrow the confines of a text book through creative thinking and debate, initiated by teachers keen to

encourage pupils to develop their opinions, reasoning and discussion skills. Engaging and stimulating displays inspired by school work adorn corridors and classrooms to consolidate learning and generate further thought on a particular subject.

Teaching and learning are supported by modern day tools of the trade, thanks to ongoing investment in classroom-based and roaming technology, including interactive white boards, laptops, iPads and Wi-Fi throughout. Technology converges with tradition at Hydesville where, in the oldest parts of the school which date back to 1901, beautiful period features including stained glass windows, original floor tiles and an imposing staircase bestow a character that makes this an exciting and distinctive school for pupils, staff and visitors.

While keen to retain this charm, a significant portion of the school's later additions have recently been refurbished to create a series of spacious classrooms. Rejuvenating the learning environment in this way ensures the setting contributes positively to the learning journey of pupils.



I am part of a community

"I had come to a place where I was meant to be." Pat Conroy

An education is just one of the gifts given by a school. Children must feel a connection, a sense of belonging and share common ground in order to fully enjoy their school days. When alumni look back on their time here, the memories they cherish most will likely be momentous social occasions, significant sporting events, adventures overseas or a standing ovation post performance. While academia is the foundation of this school, it is a sense of community that binds the many parts together.

Ours is a thriving and happy, bustling community of pupils, parents, wider family and staff. In addition, we are an active part of the Walsall community and part of a global community through the Cognita group of schools, to which we belong.

Music and drama, trips and sport bring children together and all play an important role here at Hydesville. We make full use of the excellent facilities at the Walsall Campus Sports Centre, part of the University of Wolverhampton, a short distance from school and field teams for inter-house competitions, Cognita-wide tournaments and against other schools. It is not unusual for our pupils to represent the county in athletics, swimming and other sports.

Music and performance are hugely popular pupil pastimes and appetite for these pursuits is fed all year round with a combination of elocution, extra-curricular clubs, seasonal productions and timetabled lessons. The

opportunity to perform to an audience of family members or at public events, from speech and drama festivals to cathedral recitals, sparks much excitement among pupils who relish the chance to showcase their talents.

Great importance is placed on the school's partnership with parents and home and we plan events that bring families into school over and above the usual progress and information evenings. Weekly coffee mornings, assemblies, sports days and fixtures, swimming galas, concerts and plays are a fantastic opportunity for parents to socialise with each other and speak with school staff in a more relaxed setting. Parent engagement meetings take place typically twice a year to give parents a dedicated forum in which they can discuss specific school-focused topics with each other, in the presence of the Headteacher who considers all comments made.

We endeavour to contribute positively and actively to the local community, whether through a visit to a nearby senior citizens' home to sing carols at Christmas or by donating items to a charity food bank: activities such as these benefit both the recipients and pupils who learn good citizenship. Exclusive projects between the school and local organisations, including Walsall New Art Gallery and Walsall Leather Museum, are not uncommon.





I know no limits

"Where there is an open mind, there will always be a frontier." Charles Kettering

School is a place for learning but also for beginning lifelong friendships, exploration and self-discovery. Broadening horizons and gradually establishing independence are important rites of passage for children that we not only advocate but make possible.

Residential trips - both in the UK and overseas - are part of the fabric of life at Hydesville and excursions are carefully planned to combine education with adventure. It is always our aim to complement the academic timetable by providing a rich variety of opportunities and memorable experiences for pupils, from hill walks to woodland camps, pond dipping and star gazing. Forest School allows the youngest pupils to learn outside the classroom on a regular basis.

In addition, being part of Cognita, the world-leading international education group with schools across the UK, Europe, Latin America

and South-East Asia, provides our pupils with access to camps and exchanges that help develop linguistic, social and cultural skills - and are great fun to boot.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award and bespoke Hydesville Challenge encompass elements of citizenship, enterprise and the all-important expedition, to name but a few aspects of these popular and hugely worthwhile programmes. Meanwhile, day trips to places of national interest, historical significance or artistic inspiration, for example, are timetabled to bring learning to life.

Through a weekly timetable of before, during and after-school extra-curricular clubs, we encourage pupils to try a new sport, learn a language, musical instrument or dance style or indulge an interest such as chess.



Welcome to Hydesville Nursery

Every child deserves the best start in life. From the moment children arrive in our learning Nursery we take every care to foster a spirit of enquiry and exploration and to provide a safe and stimulating, home-from-home environment in which they will flourish.

We believe it is very important to lay a firm foundation for each child's development and future learning at this crucial stage and so our children are taught early literacy and numeracy. Nursery Practitioners deliver imaginative lessons, with clearly differentiated work, to small groups ensuring every child is taught at their own pace. Nursery pupils also enjoy child-led play sessions. A variety of indoor and outdoor

activities support key areas of learning including communication and language, physical, social and emotional development.

All activities in Hydesville Nursery contribute to a learning journey, unique to each child, which charts their progress in preparation for a smooth transition to our Prep School, which most children move into.

Hydesville Nursery is open 38 weeks a year. In addition we offer Holiday Fun Clubs to support working parents. Join us for a complimentary stay and play session, open to parents and children aged from 30 months, to experience our delightful and successful Nursery.





Introducing Prep School

Our Prep School comprises Reception through to Year 6 and is characterised by the busy, happy, well-mannered and engaging children growing, learning and enjoying their school days.

A colourful kaleidoscope of activities is always on the Prep School timetable: the curriculum has impressive breadth and depth in order to continuously captivate, stimulate and challenge our pupils. The academic goal is to exceed expectations, without exception and to achieve this we deliver personalised learning to suit the needs of our children. This approach is based on excellent teacher-pupil relationships, differentiated teaching to support varying rates of progress within small classes, and streaming in the core subjects of maths and English.

The focus for many is the 11-Plus examination to gain entry into a grammar school and we are adept at identifying those children likely to excel in this type of academic environment. As part of our curriculum all pupils are taught verbal and non-verbal reasoning from Year 2 to the end of Year 5 with booster sessions to accelerate progress as they draw near to taking this examination.

The rigorous academic curriculum we deliver in the Prep School enables every child to have the best possible chance of admission into their secondary school of choice - whether this is our own excellent Senior School, a grammar school or another alternative. The strong

foundations that are to be gained from our Prep School prepare the children for success in the next phases of their education.

Though academic studies naturally sit at the heart of the timetable, we are in no way blinkered to other pursuits that offer pupils benefits away from their text books. Indeed, we believe it our responsibility to help these remarkable young people discover their many talents and interests so that they develop into well-rounded, interesting and multi-talented individuals. Outings, residential trips, sporting events, musical concerts, class assemblies and dance shows are all part of the regular and excellent experiences on offer to our pupils.

Our enrichment programme allows pupils to choose an activity every term such as photography, construction, music, badminton, cookery, dance and musical theatre, as well as the vast array of after-school clubs which they can attend. We pride ourselves on being a highly creative school and we teach self-expression and appreciation of the arts which in turn are showcased to our school visitors. The pastoral care of our children is our top priority and we take pride in listening to their needs through our Pupil Voice representatives, enabling their ideas to be considered.

Top quality education, high quality pastoral care, opportunity, aspiration and developing a love of learning defines our Prep School.



Focus on Senior School

Our Senior School takes eleven-year-old children and develops them into impressive young adults; academically accomplished, confident, independent and well prepared to tackle the challenges beyond school.

A broad and balanced, traditionally academic curriculum is central to maximising the potential of each individual pupil. Our aim is to provide each pupil with the essential intellectual skills needed for later study, including the ability to think critically and logically, whilst still capturing the imagination and allowing for diversity of interests.

Our motivational and inspirational teachers, have an excellent understanding of how our pupils learn. A personalised approach to learning, ensures that in small classes, our specialist teachers are responsive to how individual pupils learn best. They know our pupils' capabilities and challenge, support and encourage accordingly, allowing each individual child to progress, achieve and excel.

Key to our strong track record of academic results is our practice of tracking pupil progress. Data are used to generate individual targets for every pupil and we monitor progress frequently, report regularly and intervene in a timely way to ensure a clear pathway to success. The results of our targeted learning support and mentoring systems ensure our pupils make good progress. Consequently, we achieve strong outcomes in public examinations.

Trips, residentials, extra-curricular and enrichment activities are an

integral part of life in Senior School and we are fortunate to have staff with a wide variety of interests and enthusiasms to share. We encourage pupils to try out new activities, as well as improving and expanding existing talents, so they broaden and deepen their interests. Our extensive co-curricular programme gives our pupils endless opportunities to find a real passion, whether it be creative, sporting, intellectual or community-based and enables them to have experiences that they will remember with fondness for the rest of their lives.

As they progress through their schooling, pupils are provided with opportunities to develop self-esteem, confidence and scope to exercise leadership. We harness this proactively by creating positive role models within the student body – head boy, head girl, prefects, form captains and Pupil Voice representatives.

Committed pastoral care is a proud characteristic of our Senior School. Strikingly positive relationships between the pupils and their teachers, both within the classroom and beyond, make a significant contribution to the quality of the pupils' academic and personal development.





Joining Hydesville

We are delighted you are considering Hydesville Tower School for your child and would take great pleasure in showing you around.

While a prospectus and website can give useful factual information, there is no substitute for a personal, guided tour. The magical atmosphere you will experience within the classrooms and corridors cannot be adequately conveyed on paper, likewise the charm and character of the Victorian parts of the school building must be encountered first hand. Seeing teachers and pupils in action in the classroom setting is absolutely necessary when making such an important decision. Your child will join us for an individual taster day which includes an informal assessment of their ability, attitude



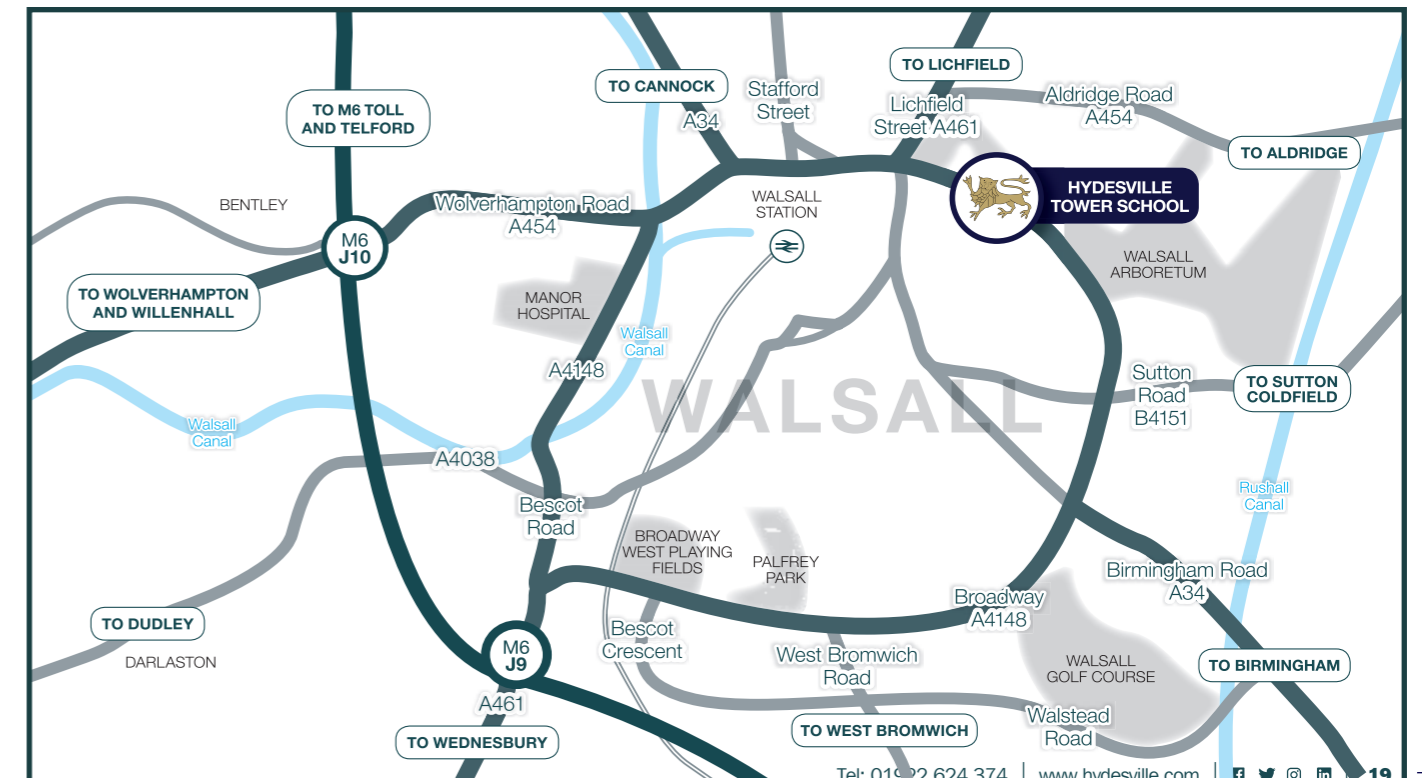
and behaviour. At this time you will also be asked to complete a registration form and pay a registration fee.

As part of the assessment process you will also meet with the Head of Nursery, the Head of Prep School or the Head of Senior School who will conduct the tours as appropriate, providing an excellent opportunity to ask questions in relation to all aspects of the curriculum and school life. Visiting parents will also have the opportunity to meet the Headteacher.

An offer may be made following this and the offer is accepted by payment of a deposit, refunded when the pupil leaves the school. Children can join at any point during the academic year, providing there is a place available.

A limited number of scholarships are available for entry into Year 7 and these are awarded to exceptionally high achievers in English, mathematics, science, art, music, performing arts or sport. In addition we offer a limited number of bursaries to make an independent education accessible to children who we believe can make a positive contribution to school life and who demonstrate a love of learning and high standards of behaviour. All bursaries are means-tested and awarded based on a household's financial situation and subject to the availability of school bursary funds. All bursaries and scholarships are reviewed periodically. A copy of the school fees for the current academic year is enclosed.

School Open Events are held throughout the year. Visit www.hydesville.com to view details or call our Admissions Team on 01922 624374 or email admissions@hydesville.com to arrange your visit and your child's assessment.



Contact Us



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