



OSSETT ACADEMY

PROSPECTUS

2023/24



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On behalf of pupils, staff and governors, I am delighted to be able to welcome you to Ossett Academy.

Our academy has gained a reputation for excellence that is best evidenced in the outcomes that pupils achieve across all aspects of academy life. Our strong tradition of success is built on a firm foundation of personalised pastoral care, ensuring a climate for learning that is calm, well ordered and secure. We recognise the hard work and efforts of pupils in their lessons and their learning.

Academic success is only one part of our story. At Ossett Academy we have an excellent track record of high levels of pupil achievement in the context of a broad and balanced curriculum. Here at Ossett we offer and actively encourage our pupils to engage in a wide range of enrichment activities, from creative writing workshops to becoming sports leaders, there really is an explosion of

opportunity at the academy. We believe that pupils who regularly participate in enrichment opportunities go on to be well rounded individuals who are supported to lead enjoyable and fulfilling lives.

Whilst supporting our pupils to be the very best learners is our primary focus, the development of our community is also an extremely important feature of our work. It is Ossett Academy's key priority to ensure that we have very positive relationships with parents and carers in order to fully support the learning of all young people.

We understand that partnership and collaboration is an important aspect to the on-going development of schools and academies and with this in mind, we continue to play a key role alongside our primary pyramid as a member of the Education Ossett Community Trust (EOCT), striving to provide world-class opportunities for the community of Ossett, and supporting young

people aged 3 to 18 to develop a lifelong passion for learning, across a range of experiences.

To further formalise our partnerships and collaborative work with other schools, we work alongside Horbury Academy, Horbury Primary Academy and Middlestown Primary Academy as part of the Accord Multi Academy Trust. This remains an exciting development for the academy and the vision of our partnership is that the Accord Multi Academy Trust will enhance both our practice and knowledge of learning across primary and secondary education, whilst also providing access for pupils and staff to an even better range of opportunities in order to achieve excellence.

I am extremely proud to lead Ossett Academy and to work alongside such a talented body of pupils and staff, who are fully committed to working as a team. This really is a fantastic place with unlimited

potential, and I am certain that when you visit, you will undoubtedly be impressed.



SAMANTHA BROOME
PRINCIPAL,
OSSETT ACADEMY



LEARNING AND CURRICULUM

Key Stage 3

Ossett Academy has a broad and balanced curriculum providing an educational experience for pupils to equip themselves with the skills and competencies for lifelong learning. The curriculum offers three years' study at key stage 3 for pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9; this is designed to support the transition from junior schools and to enable pupils to become independent learners. All pupils in these year groups study English, Maths, Science, a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish), Humanities, Physical Education, Visual and Performing Arts, Technology, and Computer Science. In Life, part of the Humanities curriculum, pupils study a wide range of subject matter including topics relating to personal, social, health and economic education and Religious Studies. We believe that this range of subjects allows our youngest pupils to develop their inquiring and creative minds, setting important foundations for their future education whilst developing key literacy and numeracy skills and creating a passion for learning.

Key Stage 4

Our pupils begin studying key stage 4 (KS4) from Year 10. The curriculum at key stage 4 aims to maximise opportunities for success and personalisation. There are a number of routes or Pathways possible and these offer a range of accredited qualifications at Entry Level, GCSE and BTEC. KS4 pupils and parents/carers are supported by academy staff offering specialist information, advice and guidance to select their choice of subjects. Pupils are able to choose from a number of options, including (but not limited to) specialist subjects such as Photography, Product Design, Health & Social Care, Hospitality and Catering, and Business. We strongly believe our offer provides opportunities for pupils to learn beyond the boundaries of individual subjects and the confines of the classroom.



CURRICULUM PRINCIPLES

The aims of assessment within Accord are:

- 1 To prepare pupils for the opportunities and choices they will face in future life
- 2 To ensure all pupils are able to achieve their potential no matter what their starting point
- 3 To engage pupils, raise their aspirations and instil a love of learning in all aspects of the curriculum



Within the Accord Multi Academy Trust, we believe that all pupils have a right to acquire powerful knowledge and skills within a broad and rich curriculum. The types of knowledge that builds cultural capital and the access it provides to a meaningful world. The knowledge and skills within each subject are valued and given high status; the detailed knowledge we want all pupils to acquire is made explicit, sequenced and builds on prior learning. Knowledge and skills are taught to last and be applied in a variety of contexts.



We strive to enable our pupils to develop the literacy skills they need to thrive as confident and successful adults. This includes:

- Developing active and able readers who learn from sources beyond their immediate experiences and confident writers who can sustain and order thought
- Developing a broad vocabulary of subject specific language and high frequency/multiple meaning words
- Developing confident speakers who are able to discuss, critique and debate



CHARACTER VIRTUES

The Accord Character Virtues are a set of qualities all pupils aspire to. These virtues help pupils set a high moral standard, do the right thing, and succeed in whatever they do.

Pupils learn the meaning of these virtues and understand how to apply them in their lives. Our character virtues are integrated into all that we do so that pupils can actively cultivate them, respecting themselves and doing good for others.



AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

Every opportunity is taken to ensure the curriculum provides pupils with real and authentic experiences that bring subjects to life and allow pupils to make connections with the world around them. During lessons pupils connect their learning with the 'big picture' to see how it fits in with the domain they are studying. Pupils regularly take part in experiences that build character and create memories they will remember for the rest of their lives.



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING

Pupils learn to become resilient, independent and confident learners who are both physically and mentally healthy. Pupils learn to become respectful and responsible citizens who value their wider community and environment. The curriculum prepares pupils for the challenges they face as young adults.



OPPORTUNITIES AND CHOICES

Across the curriculum, pupils learn about the opportunities and choices beyond formal education. Pupils will learn to manage their own lifelong learning and career pathway, connecting with a range of education and employment providers. They will understand what is required to achieve their ambitions with the confidence and belief to make them a reality. Pupils learn about what is possible and are encouraged to have the aspirations to achieve their potential.



OUR CURRICULUM

Maths

At Ossett Academy, we have adopted a mastery approach to maths in Year 7, and this will be the starting point on the journey that leads to your child's GCSE. Maths lessons are four times a week, and pupils will be taught by one of our departments' sixteen specialist teachers. We cover a variety of topics from the four main areas of mathematics; Algebra, Number, Data Handling and Shape and Space, regularly checking your progress to ensure that pupils have a good understanding of the topics.

Depending on the topic, pupils may need specialist equipment from time to time, some of which we will provide, but it is essential that a ruler and a scientific calculator are brought to every lesson.

All pupils are given access to online support tools such as Hegarty Maths.com and the PiXL Maths App, and every Thursday, we run after school sessions, where all pupils are welcome to come for help with any aspect of the subject.

English

In Year 7, pupils will enjoy a broad and varied English curriculum which builds on the skills they have developed at primary school. Pupils are introduced to a literature based curriculum through which they experience a range of different literary styles from Shakespeare's plays and Victorian novellas through to contemporary plays and poetry. Pupils will be encouraged to ask questions and develop their own points of view on literary texts and, at the same time, learn how to vary their own use of language for different purposes and audiences. Throughout their studies, pupils will begin to learn and understand the skills that lay the foundations for their GCSE studies as they move through the school. In addition to our classroom-based curriculum, pupils will also have opportunities to work with our librarians in our Learning Resource Centre, join our creative writing club, join our KS3 book club, or visit our film club.

Science

In Science we try to follow Charles Darwin: 'A person who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life.'

Pupils will have three one-hour lessons per week in Key Stage 3 with a variety of teachers covering the three disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

In Year 7, topics such as Cells, Reproduction, Particle Theory, Acids and Alkalis, Forces and Energy build upon the knowledge pupils have developed through Key Stage 2. In Year 8, topics include Healthy Diet, Microbes and Disease, Earth Structure, Metals and their Properties, Light and Sound and Energy Transfers.

An integral part of the course is to allow pupils to develop their hands-on skills through practical lessons and investigations. Enquiring minds are at the heart of Science and the Science Department strives to encourage this.

Geography

In Geography, we learn about the world in all its wonder!

We will have lessons twice a week in Y7 and once a week in Y8. During our lessons we will learn about the Natural World such as 'Extreme Environments' in which we study life in deserts and rainforests. We also develop our understanding of Human Geography, for example "Who wants to be a billionaire?" where we examine development across the world. We will also enable our pupils to become global citizens by focusing on real problems in which pupils can make a difference, through the investigation of current issues such as plastics pollution and recycling.

Pupils will not need any special equipment, other than a good imagination and an interest in the planet on which we live!

History

Life

Modern Foreign Languages

BICTE (*Business, ICT and Economics*)

Performing Arts - Drama

Performing Arts - Music

History at Ossett Academy is varied and interesting. In year 7 pupils will look at the Battle of Hastings and the Norman invasion to understand how much England changed in a short period of time. The Black Death is also about significant changes; how did it change the countryside, people's lives and the laws? In Year 7 pupils will also study the Break with Rome; why did Henry VIII decide to set up his own church and start a religious conflict that would go on for years? Towards the end of year 7 pupils will also study the English Civil War and consider the motives of both sides and consider the consequences of one nation turning on itself.

History is about finding the answer to the 'why', so pupils will need to come equipped with an enquiring mind and determination to investigate the complicated history of our shared past.

Year 7's Life curriculum covers the three monotheistic religions, Islam, Christianity and Judaism, allowing pupils to study their rich history and beliefs. We also begin to study some philosophical and ethical ideas. At the end of the year, pupils will have the opportunity to get involved in some creative expression through our spirited arts project.

In Year 8, pupils study some 'alternative beliefs'. This will allow pupils to explore and discuss some fascinating topics and beliefs, such as life on other planets and mythical creatures. We will also study some Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism before exploring some philosophical and ethical ideas.

In Year 9, we will explore religious and cultural festivals around the world, look at some of the world's smaller religious beliefs and discuss some philosophical and ethical issues.

The Life curriculum at key stage three is sequenced so that it is a diverse mix of religious, cultural and alternative beliefs as well as ethics and philosophy.

In year 7 pupils study either Spanish or French for 2 hours a week. Pupils will follow a scheme of work based on key grammar concepts and language skills and cover three main topics: family, school and food. Pupils will be given a knowledge organiser for each term which includes all of the key vocabulary and structures they will need for the topic. Homework is set frequently in year 7 and usually takes the form of vocabulary learning.

During their time at Ossett Academy pupils will have the opportunity to develop their language skills and cultural knowledge by taking part in trips abroad to either France or Spain. There is no specialist equipment required for language lessons, but if pupils want to have a dictionary at home a basic school level dictionary will be more than enough.

The vision of the BICTE department is to ensure all pupils reach their potential across the host of subjects on offer in the BICTE faculty. This can be through the use of practical, taught and real life experience. Pupils will be supported throughout their learning journey by caring, supportive teachers who will guide them towards success.

At Key Stage 3, pupils commence the year focusing on the safe use of IT and completing a series of lessons based around E-Safety. During year 7 and 8, pupils will be introduced to a range of exciting and engaging topics, including basic programming, games development, website creation, control, DTP, spreadsheets and graphics. The learning undertaken will provide the platform for KS4 IT and Computer Science.

Explore, imagine and create in Year 7 drama! Pupils will develop their skills in performance, devising and understanding, with many opportunities to be creative. From working in large groups to monologues, everyone will have the chance to release their inner star. Our drama facilities are equipped with a full lighting and sound rig to enhance performance and challenge pupils' skills across all area of performing arts.

Ossett Academy also has a number of extra-curricular opportunities. At Ossett Academy we challenge pupils on an individual basis to be who they aspire to be. We cannot wait to see your child making the most out of everything the department has to offer!

In Key Stage 3 Music lessons, we focus on the key musical skills of performing, composing and listening. These foundation stones support pupils in developing their musical potential through the investigation of a wide range of musical styles; from classical and traditional music to popular and world music. The departmental ethos, 'learn through doing', gives our pupils a wide range of opportunities to experience these musical genres in a variety of practical activities using instruments and music technology. Pupils already learning to play a musical instrument may continue to access tuition at Ossett Academy and there are lots of other opportunities for all pupils, regardless of musical experience, to participate in the department's extracurricular clubs. These include the Orchestra, Ukulele Club, Team Guitar and Choir. Attendance at these weekly sessions provides pupils with opportunities to perform in public performances, such as our annual Carol Service and Music Showcase.

Art

Technology

Physical Education

Pupils will have one lesson a week of Art in Year 7 and will explore many different themes and materials. Our mission is to build confidence and skill in the basic principles of Art and Design through a range of projects. The lessons are taught in engaging classrooms with staff that are experts in this area. The year begins with looking at tone and line and how to make objects look 3 dimensional. This then leads on to understanding colour and finishes and how artists use colour in their own work. The year concludes with a final project that enables pupils to combine all the skills they have learnt in a final piece of their choice based on the skills and styles they have studied.

Our Art teachers love their subject and know that our pupils will love it too.

Textiles: Pupils will learn to add decoration and colour to fabric and make decorative pieces. The skills developed will include; designing, colour application onto fabric and embroidery skills. Pupils will also learn how to use a sewing machine.

Technology works on a termly rotation carousel system that involves 1 lesson per week in 2 different areas, our teachers are helpful and enthusiastic. These areas are;

Food: During these lessons you will learn to make simple products and food preparation skills and how important the Eatwell Guide is for a healthy lifestyle. Some of the favourite products made are healthy homemade chicken nuggets and tuna pasta bake.

3D Design and Technology: Lessons are taught in the technology classrooms where you have the opportunity to work with tools and equipment. Pupils will use the technology to produce a moving vehicle which they will take home at the end of the rotation.

At Key Stage 3, pupils have two lessons of PE per week. During lessons pupils will experience a wide range of activities.

Sporting activities undertaken by boys and girls at Key Stage 3 include; Football, Rugby League, Athletics, Basketball, Netball, Dance, Swimming, Rounders, Cricket, OAA, Fitness, Tennis, Badminton, Ultimate Frisbee, Tchoukball, Hockey, Cross Country, Gymnastics, Trampolining, Fitness Testing, NFL Flag Football and Softball.

Key Stage 3 pupils explore specific topics each year which aim to enhance knowledge and understanding of both healthy and active lifestyles, whilst preparing pupils for potential GCSE PE, Sport Science and Dance examinations.

The Academy will also provide the opportunity to compete in a variety of sports against local schools and will have the opportunity to participate in weekly training sessions from 2.45-3.45.



SEN LEARNING

Students with special educational needs or disabilities also have the opportunity to study a broad and balanced curriculum, alongside receiving the support that they require to reach their full potential. We strive to support students both academically and socially, and to meet their individual needs.

LITERACY SUPPORT

On entry to the Academy, pupils are assessed to ascertain their most up-to-date reading age. Where pupils are identified as below their expected reading age, they will have access to a number of reading interventions.

These interventions consist of:

Fresh Start – a phonics-based package where pupils are supported with phonics fluency.

Literacy Planet – an online programme where pupils develop their spelling, grammar and comprehension skills.

Reading Buddies – an opportunity to increase reading confidence and fluency with the support of older pupils and learning mentors.

Pupils are supported by a dedicated and specialist team of teaching and associate staff. Our staff have high expectations of themselves and of pupils; are enthusiastic and encouraged to drive pupils to aim high and achieve the very best that they can.

We encourage pupils to excel at working in groups and to work independently. Pupils receive regular homework. The aim of setting pupils homework is to improve learning through the experience of self-study, using initiative and building up resilience

The academy will provide opportunities to:

- learn independently of the teacher
- practise skills learnt in the classroom
- complete learning started in the classroom
- experience meeting of deadlines in preparation for Post 16 study and lifelong skills
- re-visit past learning to consolidate knowledge in preparing for examinations.



ACCORD CHARACTER VIRTUES

The Accord Character Virtues are a set of qualities that we all aspire to because they help us set a high moral standard, do the right thing, and succeed in whatever we choose to do.

Pupils learn the meaning of these virtues and identify appropriate practices in which to apply them in their lives. Our character virtues are integrated into all that we do so that pupils can actively cultivate them, respecting themselves and doing good for others.

6 KEY CHARACTER VIRTUES

A	AMBITION The desire and determination to achieve success CONFIDENCE - ENTHUSIASM - EXCELLENCE	
C	COMPASSION A showing of deep understanding and care of those who are suffering RESPECT - KINDNESS - EMPATHY	
C	COURAGE Doing what must be done, even when it is difficult or risky INTEGRITY - JUSTICE - HONOUR	
O	OPEN MINDED A willingness to gain new knowledge, try new experiences and accept others CURIOSITY - TOLERANCE - HUMILITY	
R	RESILIENCE A willingness to accept difficulty and keep going when face with challenge DILIGENCE - COMMITMENT - SELF-DISCIPLINE	
D	DUTY The act of working together and doing your part to make a positive contribution to our community COOPERATION - RESPONSIBILITY - GENEROSITY	

*"Ossett Academy offers
focused support; the teachers
really want to help you and
see you succeed"*

KATIE SAVILL

STUDENT WELL-BEING & SAFEGUARDING

Ossett Academy strives to provide a safe and friendly environment for all with a positive and caring ethos. The academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We are focused not only on supporting our pupils in their aspirations and academic goals, but also on their personal well-being and safety.

A highly dedicated and trained team of pastoral staff will work with your child's teachers to ensure that they are supported through their academic career at Ossett Academy. This team comprises Pastoral Year Leaders, an Education Welfare Officer, an Attendance Officer, a Child Safe and Well Officer and a Wellbeing Support Officer. Our recent Ofsted report states, "Quite rightly, safeguarding is a priority for all staff. The leaders entrusted with safeguarding matters act quickly, and with tenacity, to address any issues that arise." Children will be taken seriously and supported if they seek help from a member of staff.

Pupils are supported through a range of bespoke provision within the academy and from external providers. Led by Associate Vice Principal and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Mrs Gayle Rowe, the Safeguarding Team work together to ensure that any concerns regarding pupil safety are addressed swiftly and endeavour to work in partnership with families wherever possible. The academy takes concerns regarding bullying extremely seriously and combats this using a range of strategies.

When your child joins Ossett Academy, their form tutor will continue to support their transition, whilst also reinforcing expectations. We know that bullying is a common concern around pupils as they transition to secondary school, in response all pupils receive education and awareness about bullying and how to respond to it should it occur. We ask that our parents/carers read the academy's anti-bullying policy which explains the steps taken to tackle bullying.



PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP

At Ossett Academy, we strive to ensure that pupils have opportunities to develop and flourish beyond their academic studies, in order to prepare them for success in the future.

We aim to develop confident lifelong learners who are well-equipped to achieve success in all aspects of life after school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their say and be involved in shaping their education, learning and environment. This is through pupil voice and activities such as; being a form representative, becoming part of the Pupil Council, Peer Mentors, Sports Leaders and the Pupil Leadership Team. This means that our pupils have opportunities to take part in the recruitment process for all new staff, are involved in planning menus for the kitchen facilities and offer, and are able to present their development ideas to the Senior Leadership Team and Governors of the academy. We want pupils to feel they have opportunities to have their say, are consulted on key changes or proposals, and are able to see an impact in having done so.

We believe that a busy pupil is a successful pupil and to support this the academy has an

extra-curricular timetable which can be found on the academy website. There are opportunities for pupils to get involved on a daily basis; these include sporting clubs, such as football, hockey, trampolining, rounders, and rugby. There are opportunities in music, such as; choir, ukulele group, guitar club, and other clubs including; cookery club, art clubs, drama, ICT clubs, photography, film club, and many more. There is also the opportunity for pupils to use the facilities in the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) at the end of the academy day, during break or lunch times. Every department across the academy offers some educational visits in order to extend pupils learning, and their experiences.



The academy produces a weekly celebratory newsletter, published on the academy website, providing details of pupil successes, activities and news stories. Our aim is to provide opportunities for all parents/carers to learn how best to support their child's education, provide avenues for consultation and feedback, and communication channels to discuss examples of pupil successes and, where required, any concerns.

ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

STANDARDS FOR SUCCESS

Ossett Academy has high expectations in terms of standards of behaviour and presentation from all of our pupils, underpinned by firm policies and procedures which ensure all pupils and staff are aware of the consistent standards required. We expect that pupils behave in a respectful and tolerant way to staff, each other and the local community. We encourage positive relationships, supporting one another and knowing each other well. We often receive excellent feedback from visitors about pupils' conduct and manners, both around the site and on educational visits.

We expect pupils to be smart and take pride in their appearance, demonstrating their respect and readiness to learn as part of the academy community. We expect all pupils to arrive at the academy on time and in line with our standards and expectations; including wearing the correct uniform, demonstrating they have their pupil planner with them and the required equipment every day.

"Ossett offers extra curricular activities and ensures pupils and parents are informed and involved in all aspects of Academy life"

BETHANY STEVENSON



SUPPORTING SUCCESS

The academy rewards pupils for going above and beyond in their studies and pupils are rewarded for their hard work and dedication with a series of events taking place each term. Each 'Rewarding Success' event or activity is different and focuses on a range of aspects of academy life.

We have an excellent careers provision for our pupils, led by the academy Careers Advisor, who works with our pupils throughout all year groups to instil high aspirations throughout their school career, from Year 7 through to Post 16 and beyond. This provision includes; one to one discussions, assemblies, career fairs, external speakers from industry and work and university visits. These all aim to engage pupils in their chosen career paths. Our track record for pupils gaining places at the university of their choice and in employment and training is excellent.





FURTHER INFORMATION

WHAT IF I CHOOSE TO COME TO OSSETT ACADEMY?

There are a range of events and activities throughout the year which aim to support the transition to secondary school for both pupils and parents/carers.

We have our Open Evening in the Autumn term. This provides an initial opportunity to tour the academy and hear from key staff. For pupils joining us in Year 7, we have an experienced Assistant Principal leading on Transition, to ensure that pupils make a positive start at Ossett Academy.

Primary pupils across the Education Ossett Community Trust (EOCT) have a range of opportunities to visit the academy in preparation for transition. Pupils attend sporting events, drama/music performances, pupil conferences, EOCT events and some science lessons.

WILL I GET A PLACE?

Ossett Academy is a hugely popular, oversubscribed secondary academy. Our annual intake for Year 7 pupils is currently 310 pupils.

Once pupils have received confirmation of their place at Ossett Academy, they have a taster experience in the summer term. They will be introduced to their Form Tutor and subject teachers and see what lessons are like.

Full details of our Admissions Policy can be found on the academy website, under 'The Academy' tab, Policies section at www.ossett.accomat.org.

Please also refer to our Transition Guide under the 'Parents' tab of the website for a more detailed insight into the academy's approach to the transition from primary to secondary education and the support on offer.



WELCOME FROM THE ACCORD MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

We are delighted that you are considering an academy within the Accord Multi Academy Trust for your child. The four founding Accord Academies are Horbury Primary Academy, Horbury Academy, Middlestown Primary Academy and Ossett Academy.

You will find that each Accord Academy retains its own unique character, ethos and vision. What unites us in one accord, however, is our shared drive to create an outstanding learning community in each of our academies, for all of our pupils. We believe our cross phase MAT enables us to do that. We hope you agree and we look forward to welcoming you.





OSSETT ACADEMY

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