





Point

What is your point?
Summarise your point.

Evidence

Present the evidence
Support your point.

Explain

Link

A03
Skills

Welcome

Welcome to The Weston Road Academy. We are extremely proud of our school and new pupils, staff and visitors are always struck by the friendly, positive and hard-working atmosphere.

Our ethos is built on traditional values such as respect, hard work, community, pride in our appearance and high expectations. We work together to instil an enjoyment in learning and strive to support each child. We work hard to develop their confidence and skills to be the best they can be and to reach their full potential.

It is our pleasure to invite you to be a part of the exciting future of our Academy. We are not just a school recognised by Ofsted as Good with Outstanding pupil behaviour, we are also welcoming and caring, with the staff, ideas and a drive to continually improve. Our pupils leave us well qualified and proud of their achievements. We guide them to be mature, highly skilled and successful learners equipped for the fast paced modern society they will eventually join.



Since opening in 1979, Weston Road High School has continued to deliver an excellent education to pupils of all backgrounds and abilities, valuing the well-being of each pupil. Serving the community of East Stafford and nearby villages, our Academy is an ideal size – not so big that it is impersonal but large enough to offer a wide variety of courses and extra-curricular opportunities.

On 1st October 2011 we proudly became Stafford's first academy. As a converter academy, The Weston Road Academy is answerable directly to the Department for Education and has used its freedoms to develop an innovative curriculum and pastoral care system.

Inevitably, this prospectus cannot convey the inspiring atmosphere and vibrancy of the Academy and we invite you to visit us to find out first hand, why so many parents choose The Weston Road Academy as the preferred choice for their child's secondary education.



Curriculum and Assessment

We provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum but we know that pupils' interests and needs change as they grow older, and so our curriculum becomes increasingly flexible. We differentiate pupils' work to match their individual abilities and aptitudes, relate it increasingly to the world of work, and offer a wide range of subjects for all levels of ability. In the Sixth Form we offer an extensive choice of qualifications through our partnership with four other Stafford schools.

Our curriculum is forward thinking in that it prepares pupils for life in a rapidly changing, innovative and technologically sophisticated world. Yet we help pupils to 'learn how to learn' by teaching them a range of skills connected with learning and study. Pupils may have a preferred way of learning and we cater for this by varying activities and ways of working. We make lessons as active as possible and include a lot of practical work and study visits.

Assessment of pupils' work, whether through marking or through internal tests and exams, helps to promote high attainment. It allows us to see whether pupils are progressing at the rate required in order to achieve their targets. We inform parents each half-term of all pupils' level of work and progress compared to what is expected. Where a pupil falls behind, we have a range of intervention measures to support pupils in catching up. We pride ourselves in never leaving any pupil behind.



Homework

Homework is an essential complement to lessons, allowing pupils to reinforce their understanding or practise important skills such as research and extended writing. Pupils' success is closely connected with the quality of homework, and we want the teacher's marking and feedback to relate to the pupil's best efforts.

Homework planners are provided and the Academy subscribes to a live online homework calendar that is accessed by teachers, pupils and parents. Parents can also assist greatly by showing an interest in homework (and exam revision) by providing a quiet place in which to work. We have a well-attended Homework Study Club before and at the end of the Academy day where staff support pupils and have access to online resources.

Gifted and Talented

Every pupil has the right to fulfil their potential. We therefore strive hard to make sure our most Gifted and Talented pupils are stretched. Such pupils are identified on entry and their progress monitored closely. We involve our most able pupils in challenging events at regional universities to ignite their interest in higher education.



Facilities

The Weston Road Academy is an attractive building encompassing two courtyards and a wildlife area as well as extensive playing fields. Each department has its own suite of rooms. In addition to normal specialist classrooms, we have a 180-seat theatre, sports hall with weight training room, gymnasium, eight hard playing courts, drama/dance studio, and specialist rooms for music, science, design and technology, art and ceramics, computing and IT. The Academy has interactive white boards in all classrooms to make lessons more stimulating. The curriculum ICT network comprises over 300 laptops, computers and iPads with high speed internet access. More and more pupils access our Virtual Learning Environment from home to find resources and revision materials, or to submit homework.







Pastoral Care

Community and care are important to us. Tutors guide pupils through from Year 7 to Year 11, under the supervision of Progress Leaders for each year group. The Tutor and Progress Leader will build a close partnership with parents to support pupils' academic progress and well-being.

Guidance and prevention are just as important as our response to behaviour issues. This is at the core of Weston Road's system of pastoral care. We are strongly committed to helping pupils to be healthy, safe, happy and confident about the future direction of their lives.

The success of our pastoral care system is seen in the way pupils interact. We think that we are among the best in fostering harmonious relationships between pupils. We are proud of this and think that we are also strong in supporting those who, at certain times, encounter extremely stressful personal and social circumstances.



Enrichment

Our ambition to discover and nurture all talents in our pupils means we offer a wide range of enrichment experiences outside normal lessons. We have clubs, events, competitions and quizzes catering for a variety of sporting, musical, dramatic, recreational and intellectual interests.

Through our enrichment day we focus pupils on: team building, places of worship, health, safety and wellbeing, as well as preparation for university life.

At The Weston Road Academy pupils can extend themselves in sport and physical education through a variety of teams and clubs. Practices are held at lunchtime and large numbers of pupils of all ages are engaged in these. Our strength in this area is such, that we have pupils representing the county, region and country in both teams and individual sports. We also have clubs reinforcing curriculum subjects. In addition to fieldwork and study visits, we organise theatre trips, excursions abroad in Modern Languages as well as a variety of outdoor education activities and a biennial ski trip.



Special Educational Needs

We know that some children have greater and different needs than others, as they may have a learning difficulty or an emotional, physical, sensory or motor difficulty. We evaluate these needs and work with parents to respond and support them.

A team of SEN teachers provides specialist 1:1 or small group tuition in literacy and numeracy, while Teaching Assistants are linked to individual pupils with special needs or to departments. The Academy draws on the expertise of specialist support agencies as appropriate to help to meet the needs of all these pupils.



Sixth Form

A high proportion of our pupils continue in education and enter our Sixth Form at the end of Year 11. We have good facilities for study and recreation and as a member of the Stafford Partnership, we are able to offer a marvellous choice of qualifications including a vast range A Levels and a number of advanced level vocational courses. This collaboration also provides the opportunity to learn alongside students from our partners at other venues – a great stepping stone towards higher education. Students have opportunities to extend their skills through extra-curricular activities such as joining our Governing Body as Student Associate Governors.

In recent years our sixth form students have left The Weston Road Academy to take up employment with key local employers or have continued into higher education at a range of universities and colleges including Cambridge, Oxford, Durham, Warwick, Liverpool, Manchester, Leicester, Nottingham, York, Wolverhampton, as well as Staffordshire.



Uniform and Appearance

Our smart, practical and relatively inexpensive Academy uniform helps pupils to bond as a community and ensure their appearance is acceptable for the learning environment. Our view is that if pupils look smart they are more likely to adopt the mind-set of 'think smart' and give their best effort. By ensuring that pupils arrive at the Academy correctly dressed, parents demonstrate each day that they support the Academy's goal of creating and maintaining high expectations for pupils' appearance and attitude to learning.



Behaviour Policy

The Weston Road Academy offers an environment in which teachers are able to teach and pupils are free to learn. Our Behaviour Policy is based on the notion of respect and consideration for others. We know that young people must learn to make their own decisions about their actions, so we ask them to conduct themselves according to three principles rather than memorise scores of rules:

- Be prepared to learn
- Let others learn
- Respect the rights and property of the Academy and it's community

Rewards

Pupils' achievements are recognised by allocating achievement points. Certificates, prizes and celebration events are awarded to pupils for achieving a high number of achievement points, excellent attendance or outstanding personal performance. These accomplishments are celebrated at weekly assemblies and termly celebration events where parents are invited to share their children's successes.







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