



The Weston Road Academy

Aspiring and Believing to Achieve the Extraordinary



*A center of educational
excellence, respected
and trusted by our
community to deliver
outstanding education
for our pupils*

Welcome to The Weston Road Academy

We are extremely proud of our academy 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, high expectations, community and pride in our appearance. 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. This is supported by our vision to be an outstanding academy, at the heart of the community, enabling our pupils to deliver the extraordinary across all areas of the curriculum and beyond.

It is our pleasure to invite you to be a part of the exciting future of our academy. We are not just an academy recognised by Ofsted as Good, 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.



Curriculum and Assessment

We provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum but we know also that pupils' interests and needs change as they grow older, and so our curriculum becomes increasingly flexible. We match work to pupils' individual abilities and aptitudes 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 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 also help pupils to 'learn how to learn' by teaching them a range of skills connected with learning and study, we call these strategies our 'thinking hard skills'.

We are passionate about delivering a challenging, inclusive curriculum. To help us achieve this objective, teachers will pitch the level of learning and tasks high and provide targeted and supportive scaffolding to help all learners achieve their full potential.

Assessment of pupils' work, whether through marking or through internally set 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 very best. We regularly inform parents of all pupils' level of work and progress. Where a pupil falls behind, we have a range of intervention measures and retrieval tasks 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. In Key Stage 3, pupils follow a homework calendar that includes a mix of both regular, shorter tasks and longer extended projects.

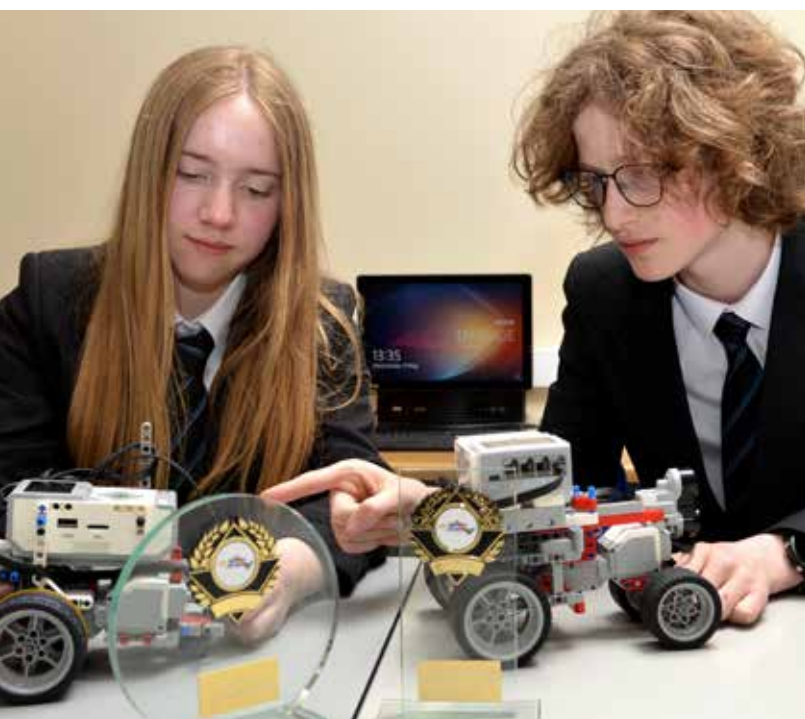
The academy subscribes to a live online homework calendar that is accessed by teachers, pupils and their parents. Parents can also assist greatly by showing an interest in homework (and exam revision) and by providing a quiet place in which to do it. We have a well-attended Homework Study Club before and at the end of the academy every day where staff support pupils and have access to online resources. We place great emphasis on developing our partnership with parents.

More Able and Talented

Every pupil has the right to fulfil their potential. We therefore strive hard to make sure our more able and talented pupils are stretched. Such pupils are identified on entry and their progress monitored closely. We involve our more able pupils in a programme of challenging events and offer visits to regional universities to ignite their interest in higher education.

Rewards

At the academy we recognise and celebrate pupil achievement through certificates, prizes and celebration events.



Pastoral Care

Community and care are important to us

Tutors guide pupils through from Year 7 to Year 11, under the supervision of Pastoral Leaders. The Tutor and Pastoral Leader will build a close partnership with parents to support pupils' academic progress and well-being.

Weston Road's system of pastoral care is based on the view that guidance and prevention are at least as important as response. We are strongly committed to helping pupils to be healthy, safe, happy and confident about the future direction of their lives. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our pupils. Parents can feel confident that procedures are in place to ensure that all staff and volunteers are suitable to work with children.

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 all members of the academy community. 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.

Behaviour Policy

Weston Road 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 rules rather than memorise scores of these:

- Ready
- Respectful
- Safe



Uniform and Appearance

Our smart and practical academy uniform helps pupils to bond as a community and ensure their appearance is acceptable for the learning environment. Wearing our academy uniform with pride, pupils feel a sense of identity and want to achieve the extraordinary. By ensuring that pupils arrive at school 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.

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 programme we focus on team building; health, safety and wellbeing; preparation for university life and much more.

At The Weston Road Academy pupils can extend themselves in sport and physical education through several teams and clubs. Practices are held at lunchtime and after school. Our strength in this area is such, that we have pupils representing 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, ski and outdoor education activities.



Special Educational Needs

Our Learning Support Team work with pupils identified as having special educational needs. We support pupils with their learning and help them progress and achieve in their curriculum subjects. Working closely with class teachers and teaching assistants we develop detailed and tailored support programmes to meet the needs of the pupil, liaising with parents and external support agencies throughout their secondary school journey.

The Learning Support Department aims to increase access to the curriculum and the environment by making reasonable adjustments for pupils as required. We embed the principles of the National Curriculum and reduce barriers to enable all

pupils to progress and reach their full potential. We deliver special educational provision and a tailored curriculum to those pupils who require additional support, with focus on the four areas of need: Communication and interaction; Cognition and learning; Social, mental and emotional health; Sensory/physical.

With our dedicated team of staff and our specialist curriculum learning HUBS we are able to provide a comprehensive learning space for those with additional needs to ensure that pupils learn and receive the appropriate support to succeed. We aim to provide fully inclusive opportunities for our pupils to access and engage with all academy activities.

Sixth Form

A high proportion of our students continue to study at the academy in our Sixth Form. Sixth formers have their own dedicated study and recreation facilities and, as a member of the Stafford Sixth Form Partnership, our students can access a marvelous range of courses: a vast range of A levels and a number of vocational courses. All key A level subjects are offered at the academy, whilst collaboration with other centers provides students access to other A levels and the opportunity to learn alongside students from our partner schools, a good stepping stone towards the experience of higher education.

We are the academic specialists in Stafford. Students have a personalised careers and enrichment programme, with regular one to one tutorials with a dedicated and experienced tutor. Most Students continue their journey to higher education gaining places at a range of universities including the elite Russell Group institution.

Facilities

The Weston Road Academy is an attractive building encompassing two internal courtyards a wildlife area as well as extensive playing fields. Each department has its own suite of rooms with interactive white boards. In addition to normal specialist classrooms, we have a 200-seat theatre, sports hall, gymnasium, eight hard playing courts, drama/dance studio and specialist rooms for music, science, design and technology, art and ceramics and computing. The academy has recently extended its dining room, built three outdoor shelters and has new fencing and electronic gates for additional security.





Since opening in 1979, The Weston Road Academy has continued to deliver excellent secondary education.

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.



Contact Details

Blackheath Lane
Stafford
ST18 0YG

01785 413600
office@westonroad.staffs.sch.uk

www.westonroad.staffs.sch.uk

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