

Enjoy being the best you can be

The Ockendon Academy





Welcome To Our Academy

The Ockendon Academy is a welcoming, ambitious and creative place to learn, where students feel secure and happy. In an ever-changing world, in education and beyond, our priority is to prepare our students to lead happy and fulfilling lives. Our role is to enable and inspire all students to achieve the very best they can academically, and to help them develop the transferable skills needed to build successful futures.

We are committed to providing your child with the highest quality learning experiences to broaden their horizons and to support them in being the best that they can be. We aim for excellence and expect our students and their families to do the same.

Our students take great pride in their school. They recognise the high quality education they receive and the rich programme of extra-curricular opportunities they have. Staff and governors, likewise, recognise what a special place this is. Our educators are of the highest calibre, experienced and often stay at the Academy for many years.

Our students come from a wide range of backgrounds; we celebrate our diversity and welcome the opportunities it gives us to learn from each other.

We recognise that choosing the right school is one of the most important decisions you can make. This prospectus should start to give you a sense of the exceptional opportunities offered to all students at our Academy. However, we strongly encourage you to visit us, either at an Open Evening or on my more informal morning tours. This will give you a first-hand opportunity to speak to our staff and current students as well as to see our superb facilities.

I look forward to welcoming you to our Academy.



Ms Jo Rainey
Principal

The Ockendon Academy is dedicated to doing its best for every student. Entrusting your child's education to us is a responsibility we take very seriously. Our priority is to ensure your child receives the very best learning, care, support and opportunity through:

- **Encouraging all students to “Enjoy being the best they can be”.**
- **High quality teaching and personalised curriculum that supports every student to achieve their very best.**
- **Staff who challenge and stretch students to think for themselves, encouraging students to take responsibility for their own learning.**
- **Strong support systems to ensure every student succeeds and becomes responsible and caring members of society.**
- **A very wide choice of extra-curricular clubs and educational visits to broaden our students' minds and enable them to pursue particular interests.**
- **A strong commitment to inclusion.**

“The personal conduct shown by students is impeccable. They support each other and work effectively with their teachers. Students are safe and exceptionally well cared for.”

Ofsted

Enjoy Being The Best You Can Be

The Ockendon Academy's motto is "Enjoy being the best you can be" which succinctly captures our ambition for academic excellence in an environment where students are encouraged to develop their interests and talents in all areas.

We aim to develop resilience in our students, and the ability to be tenacious in their quest to be the best they can be in all aspects of their lives.

We draw out their individual talents, celebrate their personal achievements and praise their individual contribution.

As leaders of tomorrow, every student completes the "Be The Best You Can Be Programme" which develops students' leadership, coaching and life skills.

The Academy places a great deal of emphasis on student responsibility and all are encouraged to be involved in academy life.

There is a vibrant academy council consisting of student representatives from each year group who meet regularly to discuss aspects of academy life and are fully involved in academy improvement.

We know students have an infectious pride in their Academy and value its unique ethos.

"Students are proud to be members of a community in which they are treated as they treat others - with respect and courtesy."

Ofsted



Supporting Our Students

The Ockendon Academy prides itself on its warm atmosphere and strikes a perfect balance between academic excellence and a caring, supportive environment.

Every student has a tutor that they meet twice daily who monitor and support their students' personal, academic and social progress to regularly offer thoughtful guidance.

Tutor groups are arranged in a vertical structure equally comprising of students from Years 7 to 11. Older students are trained to be leaders and mentors for the younger students, creating positive cross-age relationships.

Each year group has its own Head of Year, assemblies and celebration events which students benefit from by being part of a smaller unit while still gaining from the opportunities of being part of a larger academy.



“Students of all ages are enquiring, resilient and determined to make progress towards their targets in all subjects.”

Ofsted



Additional Support



Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

We are committed to ensuring all students make excellent progress. This may involve providing some additional small group or individual support focusing on individual needs. We offer a warm and nurturing learning environment. The Ockendon Academy is fortunate in having an excellent student support team comprising of a trained counsellor, speech and language support team, teaching assistants and social workers who offer additional support to our most vulnerable students.

Achievement and Positive Behaviour is Rewarded

The Academy recognises that effort, self-discipline and achievement are the keys to success. At The Ockendon Academy, every opportunity is seized to recognise and celebrate students' achievements in their learning, behaviour, attendance and contribution to academy life. Rewards at the Academy include: credits, certificates, trophies, participation in special off-site activities, celebration assemblies and afternoon tea with the Principal.

Homework

In order for all students to achieve their academic potential and demonstrate independence, there is an expectation that all students complete homework activities. Parents and carers are asked to support the Academy and their child by ensuring all homework is complete by the deadline set. The Academy uses The Learning Gateway to set homework tasks; your child may also use their personal planner for recording homework activities.

“Students complete activities that are interesting and varied; teachers remind them of their individual targets and how to meet them. Teaching assistants are used well to support students.”

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A Broad and Stimulating Curriculum



At The Ockendon Academy, we encourage intellectual curiosity and a life-long love of learning. We want our students to have imaginative, questioning and active minds. Wherever possible, students work with teachers and each other through collective discussion, debate, problem-solving and experimentation. We know that active engagement in lessons makes learning more enjoyable, deepens understanding and leads to greater examination success.

The Ockendon Academy operates a “fast track” two-year Key Stage 3 curriculum, building upon Key Stage 2 and equipping students with skills and knowledge to embrace more demanding GCSEs at Key Stage 4.

First and foremost, it is essential that students master core academic subjects. In the early years, this means students can expect a focus on literacy and numeracy. The curriculum centres on the essential academic subjects including maths, English, sciences, humanities and languages. At the same time, with first class sporting, arts and technological facilities, the Academy encourages students to expand their horizons.

Literacy

Every teacher is a teacher of literacy at The Ockendon Academy. Every child is expected to read for pleasure for at least 30 minutes per evening.

Studio 7

The Ockendon Academy places a great deal of emphasis on enrichment activities as well as on the academic content of the curriculum, and the enrichment and aspiration that such opportunities provide. To enable our students to gain as much as they can from the wide range of opportunities on offer, the Academy operates **Studio 7** - an enrichment programme of learning and practical activities. It is expected that students participate in at least two enrichment activities per week. Examples include: Eco-club, elite sports, Children’s University, The Brilliant Club, Duke of Edinburgh’s Award and academic catch-up sessions.

We are committed to developing extended school activities and building strong links with external organisations. Currently, students participate in enterprise programmes with leading companies such as Coca-Cola and Barclays as well as taking advantage of Thurrock’s Next Top Boss and Soap Box Challenge.



“Teachers often ask students to read aloud during lessons. They do so with confidence and without hesitation. Teachers successfully encourage students to read widely.”



“The academy places student welfare at the centre of all that it does. Those who the staff know to be vulnerable are looked out for and their welfare is checked.”

Ofsted

Ockendon Studio School

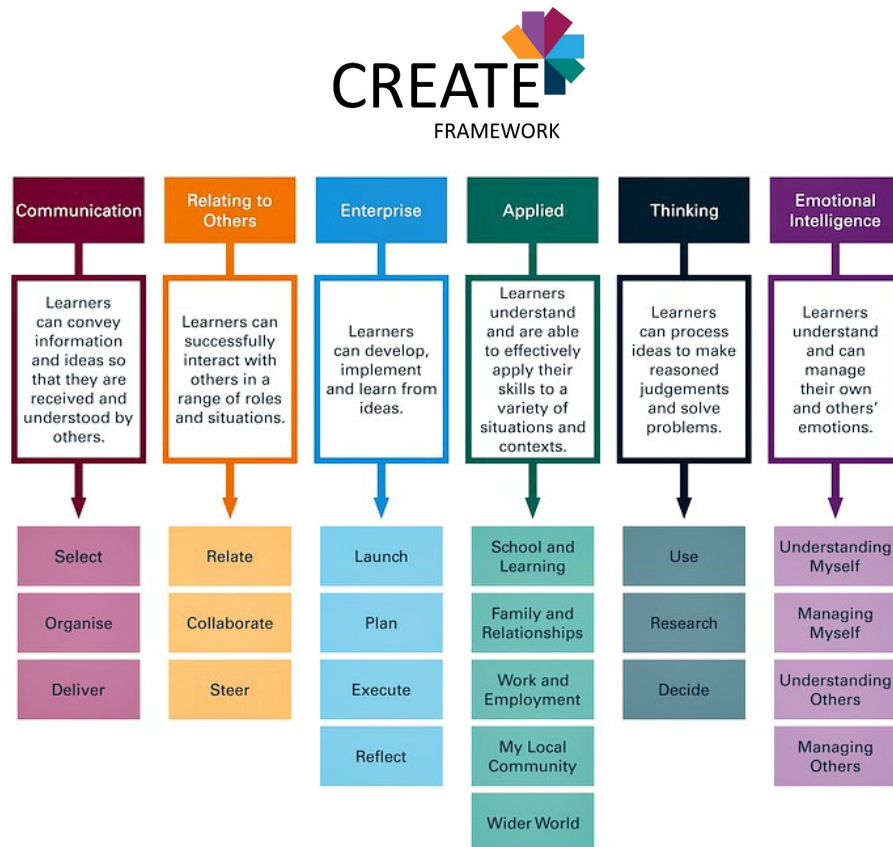
Studio Schools address the growing gap between the skills and knowledge that young people require to succeed, and those that the current education system provides. Students at the Academy will have the option to choose Studio School from Year 10 or 12.

Studio Schools pioneer a bold new approach to learning which includes teaching through enterprise projects and real work. This approach ensures students' learning is rooted in the real world and helps them to develop the skills they need to flourish in life.

Working closely with local employers, we offer a range of academic and vocational qualifications as well as work placements linked directly to employment opportunities in the local area. Students will gain a broad range of employability and life skills, and will have the option to go on to university, further training, and into employment.

Studio School Aims:

- Increased employment chances for our students
- Increased number of our students who display a readiness for the world of work
- Increased number of sustainable education-business relationships for our students and staff to benefit from.

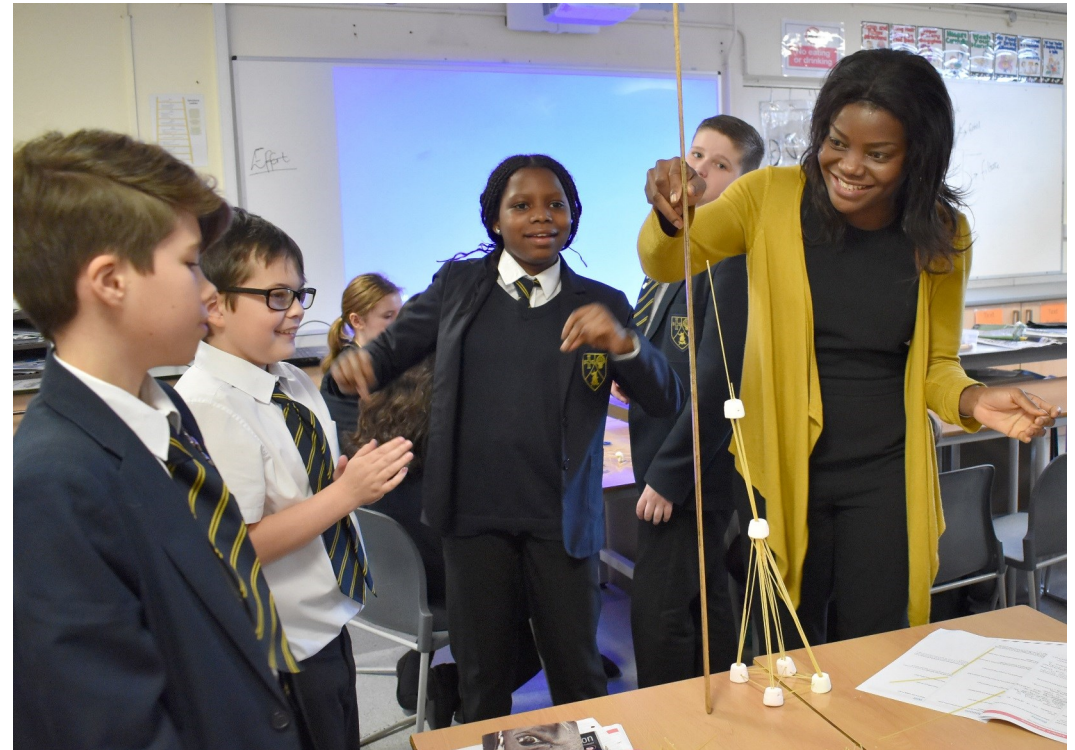


Our Learning Environment

The Ockendon Academy and Studio School has, in recent years, completed an exciting £8 million re-development. It has been specially designed to meet the needs of a 21st Century curriculum. We believe that the Academy and Studio School represents the best of public building in South Ockendon. It inspires local people, our students and their families.

The facilities include:

- **A large open plan Business Centre**
- **Technology centre comprising of three workshops, design studio, art rooms, textile suite and food technology training kitchens.**
- **Elite sporting facilities which includes a heated indoor swimming pool and fully fitted fitness suite with a sports centre and classroom block (new for 2018).**
- **A purpose built English and literacy block (8 classrooms).**
- **10 science laboratories.**
- **7 IT and computing suites.**
- **A drama studio.**
- **A music teaching space with 8 practice rooms and a fully equipped recording studio.**
- **Specialist subject areas with a cluster of fully carpeted classrooms.**



Supporting Transition

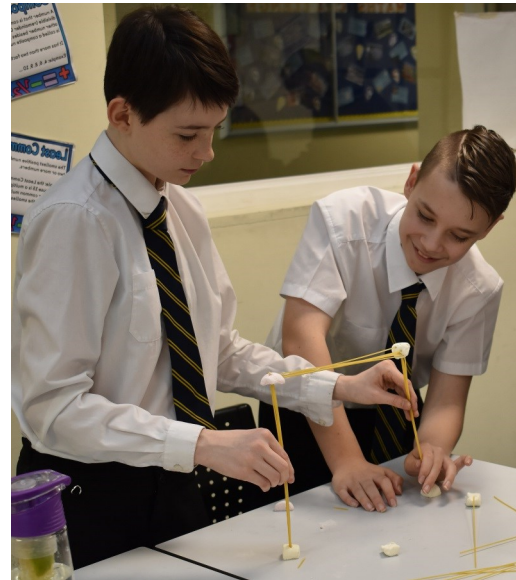
Starting secondary school is an exciting and important part of the educational journey, so we try to give you as much information as possible to ensure a smooth transition. We invite local primary schools, from as early as Year 1, to join us for a range of activities to introduce them to secondary school life and offer them opportunities they may not otherwise experience.

Most Year 6 students join us for our induction week (hosted each July) before they start in September. This helps prepare them for the change at secondary education.

We try to make the start of each child's journey new journey as easy as possible and hope that every student goes on to remember their time at the Academy with fondness.

Once a student starts at the Academy, their tutor is the main point of contact for parents but appointments can be made with individual staff.

We are always keen to hear constructive feedback so we run annual surveys as well as having a feedback box in Reception all year round.



“Relationships between staff and students are excellent and help create a purposeful learning environment.”

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Notes for Our Parents and Carers



Parent and Carer Engagement

We depend on good communication and partnerships with home to ensure that you support and challenge your child to excel.

Parents and carers are expected to attend all parents' evenings and are strongly encouraged to attend Academy events.

The culture and climate at The Ockendon Academy is one of partnership and valuing the family.

Uniform

Impressions do count. We help our students to develop a keen sense of belonging, self-respect and an understanding of the impression they make by the way they behave and dress. We are therefore committed to a strict uniform policy.

The uniform design takes into account durability, cost and identity. It gives students an opportunity to develop feelings of pride, which we hope will stay with them throughout their days at the Academy and beyond.



“Leaders encourage students to take pride in their appearance, to welcome visitors, and to treat the site and all who work within it with respect.”

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Our Governors

The Ockendon Academy has the benefit of a resourceful and effective group of governors, with an exceptional Chair. Collectively, they maintain an ambitious strategy for excellence, ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction. They hold our leaders to account for the educational performance of our students, and the performance management of staff. They oversee financial performance and make sure funding is well spent.

Our governors are active in the life of the Academy and work alongside a hardworking and dedicated team of teachers, staff and leadership. They know we need to improve continuously to ensure that every student feels the benefit of their effort and dedication during their time at the Academy for the whole of their adult life.

“ I am very clear, together with my colleagues on the Governing Body that our role is to work with the Principal and staff to continue to create every opportunity for our students to learn, and mature into confident learners who see no barriers to achievement.

Whilst we regularly celebrate our success, we are ever mindful that challenge is never far away, and so we are very grateful for the wonderful support given by parents, carers and members of the Ockendon community.

Mr Richard Milligan, Chair of Governors



Admissions

Choosing a secondary school for your child takes time and consideration. It is important to look over the information you are given and decide which school is best for your child.

We admit 240 students into Year 7 each September, with numbers continuing to grow. We welcome all students and make sure the correct support is put in place for each student where necessary.

Distance from home to the Academy will be used to allocate places; students living nearer to the Academy will be given higher priority.

Year 6 Open Evenings

Our Year 6 Open Evenings are traditionally at the start of October each year, from 4pm-7pm. Where possible, we aim to minimise clashes with other schools and support parents to be able to attend the open evenings of their choice.

For details on open evenings, please visit www.theockendonacademy.com and view our Term Dates page under the Information tab.



How To Find Us



Erriff Drive, South Ockendon, Essex, RM15 5AY



01708 851661



office@theockendonacademy.com



Ockendon Station is part of the c2c rail service and is a 25 minute walk from the Academy.



The Ockendon Academy is served by the Ensignbus service, route 22, which travels between Grays, Lakeside, Belhus and Aveley. This stops outside the Academy. From Havering, the route number is 370.



We have the following facilities:

- Two lifts
- Wide corridors
- Disabled toilets
- Large on-site car park with disabled parking (both at the front and rear of the site)

If you require information or would like to book our facilities, please contact:
Mrs Jane March, Finance Assistant
E: lettings@theockendonacademy.com

www.theockendonacademy.com

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inspire
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