



Bloxwich Academy

Prospectus

'Be The Best You Can Be'

2023 - 2024



Dear Parents,

At Bloxwich Academy we strive to 'be the best we can be' each and every day. The Academy provides all of our pupils with the opportunities to succeed in life. Ofsted recognised this and have rated us 'Good' in all aspects of the school. Our pupils continue to achieve fantastic grades in Year 11 and Post 16 and many of them continue their education at University in some of the top red brick universities in the country.

We believe that all pupils play a significant part in their own development and we insist that they come fully equipped, each and every day, in full uniform with equipment and planner and complete the necessary homework set.

Our 'Bloxwich Values' that was driven via Student Council are aimed to ensure all pupils develop both academically as well as becoming well respected members of the community.

If you want your child to 'be the best they can be' and support our values and commitment to high standards then I look forward to meeting your child in September as a Year 7 pupil.

Mr A Seager | Headteacher

'BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE'





A PROUD MEMBER OF MATRIX ACADEMY TRUST

Education Without Exception

I am very proud to be the CEO of the Matrix Academy Trust. It is truly a privilege to work with like-minded, hard-working colleagues who are all focused on delivering the Trust's vision.

Our vision is simple: every child deserves an exceptional education. We make this happen by doing the things which really make a difference. Working smartly means we have staff who want to work here. It ensures we have the capacity to care for every pupil, providing them with the best possible education – without exception.

A great school is one people want to work at and one parents want to send their children to. No matter how great our schools might be, we never rest on our laurels. We are restless in our efforts to keep improving and we instil this in our young people.

Welcome to Matrix Academy Trust.

Lynsey Draycott



ADMISSIONS.

The number of intended admissions in September 2023 will be **180.**

Pupils will be admitted at the age of 11 years without reference to ability, aptitude, race or religion.

Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied.

1. Children in Public Care (looked after children) & previously looked after children. A Looked After Child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions.
2. Where a child has an older sibling currently attending the school when the application is made and who will be still attending the school in Years 8 – 11 in September of the relevant year. Siblings of Sixth Form students qualify for a sibling claim.
3. Where there are essential medical or social grounds for admitting the child.
4. Where a member of staff has been employed at The Academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage / or the member of staff has been seconded to support another school within the Matrix Academy Trust.
5. Proximity of the child's home to the school, with those living nearest being accorded the higher priority, the distance being measured in a straight line



Visit the school website for a full breakdown and descriptions of our admissions criteria.

APPEALS.

Parents whose children are refused admission to the school have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel. The necessary forms and information should be obtained from the Appeals Board, Bloxwich Academy, Leamore Lane, Walsall, West Midlands WS2 7NR to whom completed forms are returned. Please mark the envelope Admissions-Appeal.

Appeals, in respect of Year 7 intake for September 2023, should be lodged by Friday 14th April 2023.



WAITING LIST.

Until 31st August 2023 parents may enquire about their child's position on the Waiting List by contacting the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team on 01922 710 257.

INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS.

In the Autumn term, Year 7 parents will be invited into school for a settling in evening. During this evening there is an opportunity to meet Form Tutors, Heads of Houses and the Leadership team to discuss the transition of your child from primary to secondary school. We are always keen to see parents/carers about any aspect of a child's education. It is vital that appointments are made to ensure that you see the appropriate person. Whenever you contact the school, please give the name of your son's/daughter's Form Tutor, Form group and Head of House.

PROGRESS EVENING.

One Progress Evening is arranged for each year group during the school year. You will have the opportunity to make an appointment with your child's teachers. You will be informed of the dates and they will be published on the school's website. It is expected that all parents will attend Progress Evenings.

REPORTS.

Effort, homework and attainment grades are issued termly to parents to keep them informed of their child's progress. A summary report is sent home at the end of each year. If, on any occasion, you do not receive a report, you should immediately let your child's Head of House know.

MOST ABLE.

We believe that everyone should aspire to achieve as highly as they can. To this end, although pupils are stretched at Bloxwich Academy regardless of their academic potential, some activities are targeted specifically at more able pupils, including competitions, stretch activities, visits to and talks from university staff.

The school has links with the full range of universities including many in the Russell Group such as Oxford and Birmingham. Highly able pupils are offered alternative curriculum provision through a range of extension opportunities.



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY PROVISION.

Bloxwich Academy provides a broad and balanced curriculum for pupils of all abilities. Whatever ability, each child is encouraged to reach her/his potential.

Recognising that some children may require extra support, there is a range of provision on offer to match individual children's needs. The SEND Coordinator has the responsibility of ensuring the Code of Practice is implemented. All staff take responsibility for meeting the additional needs of the pupils that they teach. Parents are fully involved in the process of monitoring their child's progress. The school encourages active involvement of parents in the learning of all children, understanding that regular communication plays a vital role in the success of each individual. Pupils with additional needs experience a range of teaching strategies including reading withdrawal, small group work and in-class support.

LEARNING SUPPORT.

Provision is made for those pupils with learning difficulties or additional needs by the Learning Support Team. This occasionally may take the form of extraction from some lessons for additional help in literacy and numeracy. At other times specialist staff will support teachers in the classroom, or provide materials to supplement the teacher's work. Where special needs of a registered disability are identified, every effort is made to make special provision for pupils within the resources available. Children with specific learning needs may be invited to attend a range of clubs both before and after school to boost weaknesses in areas as specified by the Code of Practice. Wheelchair access is currently only available on the ground floor, except in the Sixth Form block.



PASTORAL CARE.

The pastoral organisation of the school is dedicated to the development of pupils' social skills, attitude, academic progress and their personal welfare. All staff are involved in this work. In particular, Form Tutors are directly responsible for the progress of their tutees and work closely with Heads of House who lead the teams of Form Tutors within each House group. We expect pupils to do well and to 'be the best they can be' at Bloxwich Academy and there is a positive reward system for academic achievement and effort.

The school's first priority, over and above all other responsibilities, is the welfare of pupils. If staff are concerned about the welfare of any pupil, parents are usually the first to be contacted. If the concerns are sufficient to suggest that there is the possibility of abuse, then staff will contact the appropriate Child Protection Agency, usually Children's Services.

If the school has any concerns regarding any pupil with reference to safeguarding, we will always make a referral to Children's Services.

The school is aware that this occasionally causes problems in relationships with parents. But if the school is concerned about a pupil there are procedures which we have to follow to ensure their safety. All matters of concern regarding the welfare of the pupils are recorded in the school files and these are available to be seen by parents.

We do share information as part of our multiagency agreement with Health Services, Police, Children's Services and other agencies where appropriate.

SCHOOL SECURITY.

We aim to keep all our pupils safe. There are CCTV cameras around the school. CCTV images may be used from time to time to ensure the safety of pupils, visitors and staff and the protection of Bloxwich Academies grounds and contents.

Parents are asked to contact school first if they wish to make an appointment to see a member of staff, and on visiting school report directly to Reception. We will act to ensure Bloxwich Academy remains a safe place for pupils, staff and other members of the community. People who threaten or assault anyone in the school, or persist in abusive behaviour, will be asked to leave the premises and we will request that the Police prosecute.



DISCIPLINE.

In any large organisation there have to be rules and regulations. These are kept to a minimum, but at all times there should be courtesy and consideration for the needs, convenience and safety of other people. The school rules are set out in the school's behaviour policy. Discipline is firm and consistent on the basis that children respond to the high expectations placed upon them. When punishment needs to be administered it usually consists of a reprimand, detention, referral to Head of Department, referral to Head of House, Senior Pastoral staff or a warning letter. We operate a no notice 20 minute detention to support behaviour and learning.

On rare occasions, a senior member of staff is involved and parents may be invited to the school to discuss particular problems. A variety of strategies are used to improve behaviour. However, in serious or persistent cases of indiscipline, exclusion from school will result.



Our curriculum provides pupils with the **knowledge and experiences** which will **interest and empower** them to **thrive in the workplace** and make informed contributions to our **democratic society**.



YEAR 7 - 9.

Following close liaison and consultation with primary schools, and some baseline testing, pupils (on entry to the school) are allocated to a tutor group in one of four forms. Each form belongs to one of four houses - Brindley, Stephenson, Telford and Watt Pupils will study the full range of subjects offered in the National Curriculum including English, Mathematics, Science, French, Geography, History, Religious, Education, Art, Drama, Textiles, Resistant Materials, Food, Computing, Music, Dance, Physical Education and Personal Social and Health Education. In order to offer a curriculum appropriate to all needs, some pupils will follow a course in Literacy and Numeracy. Pupils are allocated to a teaching group commensurate with their ability. The school operates a one-week timetable of 25 teaching hours. Each lesson lasts 60 minutes.

In Year 9 part of the Personal Social and Health Education curriculum is used to prepare pupils for the career and educational implications of the subject choices they will be making during the year to study at Key Stage 4. Further information is given by means of our Options booklet and a meeting held for parents during the year. Parents and pupils may discuss the choice of their option subjects with a member of the Leadership Team if required.

YEAR 10 - 11.

All pupils continue with a broad-based educational programme, including the core of English, Mathematics, Science and Personal Social and Health Education which is a non-examination subject. Personal Social and Health Education deals with vocational guidance as well as moral, economic, citizenship and health issues. Pathways choices will include a small number of vocational courses and GCSE subjects. Pupils follow a Science course which will include all three Sciences and will result in 2 GCSE's (there is an opportunity for most able children to opt to take the Triple Science equating to 3 GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately). Opportunities to experience Citizenship, RE and STEM activities will occur throughout the year for all year groups.

We do not believe any child's ability is fixed. Pupils who work hard will never be held back at Bloxwich Academy. If anyone is achieving consistently at the top of their set, their performance will be reviewed and, where possible, we will move them to a more appropriate group. Similarly, if a pupil is really struggling and would benefit for a different approach, we will ensure they receive the support they need, changing their group if necessary.

BLOXWICH VALUES.

At Bloxwich academy we have our own brand of 'Bloxwich values' which are underpinned by the British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs. These values were constructed by our school council and Head boy and Head girl after canvassing ideas from pupils across the school.

BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE

LAW ABIDING

OPEN-MINDED

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

WE ARE A TELLING SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT

CARING & UNDERSTANDING

HELPFUL & RESPECTFUL



UNIFORM.

All pupils are expected to wear full school uniform at all times and their appearance should be appropriate to a working environment. Shirts must be tucked in, top buttons fastened and ties tied so that 6 stripes are visible underneath the knot. Coats are not to be worn around the school building. Our ties and badges are stocked by Clive Marks at their Schoolwear store.

Pupils are permitted to wear a wristwatch and one pair of plain studs in the lower earlobe. Piercings must be taken out prior to all PE lessons and sporting activities. Any other jewellery worn may be confiscated and placed in the school safe for collection at the end of the day.

Make-up in years 7 and 8 is not allowed. Make-up in years 9, 10 and 11 is to be discreet and natural-looking if it is to be worn at all. False eyelashes are not permitted, nor are fake tans.

Natural nail varnish is permitted but false nails are also not allowed. In the event of a make-up/nail varnish infringement, pupils will be asked to remove their make-up and or nail varnish in their house office.

Extreme Hair colour and high fashion cult hairstyles are not permitted. Shaved heads (grade 2 or shorter) and shaved eyebrows are not permitted. Any cult and other extreme hairstyles or body marking/piercing is banned.

SCHOOL UNIFORM.

- Black blazer with school badge
- White polyester/cotton shirt
- School tie (House Colours)
- Black school trousers (not skinny fit or 'drainpipe' style)
- Black school skirt (knee length)
- Black tights (not patterned)
- Black school shoes (no canvas pumps or trainers)
- School bag large enough to fit an A4 file

PE KIT.

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain black shorts
- Plain black tracksuit trousers or leggings
- Plain black jumper
- Socks
- Green and black rugby shirt

DANCE KIT.

- Plain black t-shirt
- Plain black jogging bottoms or leggings

The Headteacher's decision on uniform (including hairstyles, makeup, nail varnish and jewellery) is final.





ATTENDANCE.

We expect your child to attend at all times. If a child does not attend school they will not learn. All parents of a pupil who will not be attending school through illness, etc are required to telephone the school office before 9.00am to give the reason. If no valid reason is shared, then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. By law only the school can authorise an absence. Pupils are registered at 8.50am every morning.

The Local Authority's Educational Welfare Service investigates unexplained absences. It is essential that pupils attend school regularly. We believe that school attainment and success are closely linked with regular attendance. Dental or medical treatment should be arranged after school, or during school holidays. If your son's/daughter's attendance is below 90% they will be monitored by the Education Welfare Service. If, for very exceptional circumstances, you need to request absence from school for your child during school time you should apply to the school, 8 weeks prior to the known absence, by letter. Once this has been returned to the school, the school will confirm whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised.

We do NOT authorise holidays during school term time. Research has found that two weeks absence can seriously affect examination results. By taking time off school for holidays parents are encouraging their child to fail. Cheap holidays will reduce the academic achievement of your child.

EXPECTATIONS.

At Bloxwich Academy, the expectation for our pupils in both behaviour and achievement is extremely high. We expect pupils to be polite, orderly and considerate of others and of property.

High standards of behaviour are expected in and out of classrooms. This ensures all pupils can learn effectively and maximise their progress. No one has the right to spoil other pupils' learning. A positive, caring atmosphere based on an ethos of mutual respect provides a working environment where youngsters can reach their full potential. We need your support to ensure that we work in true partnership to support your child.

HOMEWORK.

All pupils will be expected to do homework. The amount set will be appropriate to the age and different needs of pupils. Homework will be logged in pupils planners so parents can monitor weekly tasks.

SPORT.

Sport is a very important and vibrant part of pupils' lives at Bloxwich Academy. The school's philosophy is to provide opportunities for all at a level appropriate to pupils' abilities in a wide range of sporting activities. Our intention is that all pupils enjoy their Physical Educational experience and develop self respect, teamwork, confidence and the sporting competence they need to participate in physical activity out of school hours and in later life.

EXTRA CURRICULAR.

All pupils are encouraged to develop an interest and participate in the wide range of activities which take place outside the normal school timetable. We encourage all pupils to actively involve themselves in extra curricular activities. We expect every child to be involved in at least one extra curricular activity. A copy of the Extra Curricular Programme is available on the school's website. This programme is updated each term.

A wide range of clubs and activities take place after school. There are many sporting activities in which the pupils may participate and the school takes part in competitions with other local schools. Supervised Homework Clubs run every night from 3.00pm to 4.00pm. Summer Schools, Weekend trips and Holiday Schemes are also available.

In Key Stage 3 pupils follow a broad and balanced curriculum from the areas of games, gymnastics, swimming, athletics and outdoor adventure activities, whilst also following a course in health related fitness.

During Key Stage 4 pupils are able to select the activities they wish to pursue including traditional competitive team games and fitness and health based activities.

Bloxwich Academy operates an extra curricular sports programme including a range of competitive and non-competitive activities in which all pupils are encouraged to participate. We encourage competition in sport and regularly enjoy success in a range of sporting activities at district levels. We hold an annual Sports Day (weather permitting) in summer term.

When a pupil regularly attends extra-curricular activities they may have the honour of being selected to represent the school. To achieve success in sport, and all areas of life, it takes dedication and commitment. This is something Bloxwich Academy strives to instil in its pupils through sport.

OUR FACILITIES

- Gymnasium
- Multi-purpose Sports Hall
- 20m Swimming Pool
- 2 Football Pitches
- Dance Studio
- Fitness Suite



CCF.

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) at the school offers a wealth of qualifications, skills and opportunities. The CCF is a military based extra-curricular activity and is not aimed at getting young people into the armed forces. It is focused on providing pupils with skills which can be applied in further education and the workplace. The adult volunteers and senior cadets help to run the unit's curriculum alongside the school's curriculum to help cadets to achieve in their academic studies thus giving the cadet confidence and the urge to succeed in life. The Combined Cadet Force has had a wealth of success with our pupils, providing them with leadership experience, teamworking abilities and in recent years, pupils have been given the opportunity to fly a light aircraft.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH.

Here at Bloxwich Academy, we offer our students the opportunity to complete their Duke of Edinburgh's award at Bronze, Silver level and Gold award offered in Sixth form. Students can start the award from the beginning of the year 9 academic year and can start Silver from year 10.

The award challenges students across four sectional areas on physical, skill, volunteering and expedition, where students are required to develop their personal skill set, work together as a team and take themselves out of their comfort zone. There are set time periods for the completion of each section, being either 6 months to 12months depending on previous qualification completion or the level of the award. The award requires full commitment from each individual with all training for expedition provided by expert, qualified, leaders in school as well as allowing students the freedom to build and complete their sections in their own time. There is a small charge for the award, which goes towards administration, award registration and the costs of camping. Additional costs for clothing are required but all students receive a discount card from the awarding body to support with this cost.

Participants undertaking the DofE programme develop the skills and attitudes they need to become fully rounded and confident adults – qualities that colleges, universities and employers are very interested in. They are investing in valuable skills and helping set the tone for a lifetime of achievement. This is a fantastic opportunity to gain a globally renowned award that enhances a CV considerably, as well make life long memories.



EXAMINATION POLICY.

The school enters pupils for GCSE, A Levels and vocational qualifications. Although in a very few cases it may not be considered appropriate to enter pupils for external examinations, it is the school's policy to enter all pupils who have completed the course. We will endeavour to enter any pupil who is fluent in reading, writing, speaking and listening in any language for a GCSE in this language. Year 12 and 13 students sit exams in May and June.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

Religious Education takes place throughout the school and there is a moral education element as a part of Personal Social and Health Education in Year 10 and Year 11. All pupils are given the opportunity to discover Christian heritage and beliefs as well as exploring the central elements of other world faiths, on the grounds of conscience. Religious Education is an important part of the school's cultural and moral education. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of Religious Education and acts of collective worship on the grounds of religious conscience. Contact the Headteacher in writing to request withdrawal.

SEX EDUCATION AND RELATIONSHIPS.

Appropriate and responsible sex education is an important element in preparing pupils for adult life. We strongly recommend all pupils attend these lessons. Parents are the key figures in helping their children to cope with physical and emotional aspects of growing up and in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings.

The teaching offered by the school will complement and support the role of parents regarding this topic. However, some parents may not feel able to discuss sexual matters fully and freely with their children and because of this the school has a clear responsibility to ensure that pupils are adequately prepared for adult life. The physical aspects of sexual behaviour are covered within the teaching of Science. This begins in Year 7 and various aspects are taught throughout the first three years. Emotional and health aspects of sex and relationships are addressed in the PSHE programme for Years 7-11 through lessons.

We work hard to promote e-safety with all our pupils. The disadvantage and advantages of electronic information sharing is covered in lessons and assemblies.

PERFORMING ARTS.

Bloxwich Academy also provides pupils with a wealth of opportunities through Performing Arts. All pupils have dedicated lessons in drama, dance and music at Key Stage 3 which they can continue to study as part of their options in Key Stage 4. The extra-curricular offer is vast with after school clubs available in all of these subjects as well as cheer leading.

Pupils have many opportunities to visit the theatre and other Arts settings where they can be inspired by national and international class professionals. Pupils can also perform in a range of shows including the school musical where pupils take performance, back stage and technical responsibility. The school also has excellent links with local and regional Arts organisations. This includes the 'Start Project' and 'Walsall Arts for All' where over 100 pupils each year work with professional artists and have an adapted curriculum. All of these opportunities are moving the school towards Arts Mark Accreditation.



CAREERS.

In Year 7 and Year 8 pupils are made aware of the world of work and in Year 9 they receive careers guidance prior to making their option choices through Personal and Social Health Education (PSHE) lessons.

Careers Education continues throughout Year 10 and Year 11 through individual and/ or group careers interviews and discussions. Pupils receive full guidance on the choices they can make regarding further education, training or job seeking at the end of Year 11. The work of the school careers staff includes interviewing pupils in order to ensure an appropriate career path.

In the Sixth Form advice and support for university application begins from their first day and continues all the way through the two years. As a school we focus on university applications from Year 7. We have high expectations for all our pupils. We actively promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) based careers.

SIXTH FORM.

All students have the opportunity to select from more than 20 courses at A Level or BTEC National Award standard. Students choose 3 courses to study from Year 12 into Year 13. Every student who applies to the Sixth Form is given a personal interview with the Sixth Form Leadership Team in order to discuss career aspirations, university choices, apprenticeships and subject options. In this way, the school can personalise the timetable for each student. All students follow a comprehensive PSHE programme that is designed to explore careers, health, university applications, current affairs and matters of citizenship and personal education.

In addition, the Sixth Form offers a wide range of opportunities for students to gain more experience, through conferences to medical schools, work experience placements and higher education courses whilst they study for their Level 3 qualifications.



Visit the Matrix Academy Trust dedicated careers site for more information

www.matrixacademytrust.co.uk/careers



YEAR 12 ENTRY IN SEPTEMBER 2023

Pupils will be considered for entry into Year 12 based upon their academic attainment and/or individual subject grade criteria and the availability and suitability of courses at Bloxwich Academy.

Bloxwich Academy's minimum entry requirements for Sixth Form studies are as follows:

The minimum entry requirement for admission into Year 12 is grade 4 - 9 at GCSE (or equivalent) in four different GCSE subjects AND English (either Language or Literature) and Maths.

Further information can be found on our website.



BYCYCLES.

No cycle may be brought on to the premises unless it is mechanically safe and pupils who cycle will be expected to have attained a satisfactory standard of proficiency. All reasonable care will be taken, but the responsibility for the safety of cycles and accessories will remain with the owners. Cyclists are advised to padlock their cycles. Cycling helmets are recommended. We promote cycling by the provision of a cycle shelter and a cycling proficiency course. Electronic Scooters are not permitted on site or to be used to travel to school as per the law.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS.

Pupils eligible for free school meals will receive funding for their daily lunch. Many other opportunities are provided to support pupils academic achievement and additional learning resources are provided to enable independent access. It is a parent or carer's responsibility to apply for free school meals for their child. If any support is required with this process, please contact the school reception who will be able to assist.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY.

The belief that everyone deserves to be treated equally, including having the same opportunities, is central to everything we do at Bloxwich Academy. There are many events throughout the year to promote the school's culture of equality and diversity.

MENTAL HEALTH.

We work hard to promote positive Mental Health for all of our pupils. We engage in important activities that promote positive Mental Health such as exercise, talking to friends and family and being creative. Our five steps to positive Mental Health are:

- **Connect** – Talk with Family. See friends. Share.
- **Keep Learning** – Read for fun. Teach yourself. Grow.
- **Be Active** – Walk. Cycle. Run around. Keep Well.
- **Take Notice** – Look around you. Listen. Rest. Be.
- **Be Creative & Play** – Draw, Paint, act. play more. Dream.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE.

If you wish to make a complaint about the school, in the first instance, you should contact the Headteacher in writing. Your complaint will be investigated following the Governors' Complaints Procedures, a full copy of which is available at the school and on the school website.

EMERGENCY CONTACT.

Please ensure that emergency telephone numbers (work phone number, mobile phone numbers etc) are kept up to date. Notify any changes of address, telephone, emergency contact, etc to the school office immediately. Schools are required by law to have two emergency contacts per child.



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