

# RSA Academy

Transforming learning, transforming lives

Prospectus 2008





## My Academy

“I am very excited about the new Academy. Not many people have the opportunity to learn in a new multi-million pound building with all the latest equipment. It usually only happens on TV, not to me. The new academy will be very different to what I have been used to, not just new buildings, also...”

- The school day will be longer with only two sessions so I don't have to keep moving around and won't be interrupted when I am in the middle of something.
- I will have a new way of learning called 'Opening Minds' which teaches us new skills. It will be fun and active so I won't learn from textbooks all the time.
- I will be able to take my exams when I am ready so I will have more chance of passing them and being successful.
- My parents will receive a report about me at the end of each of the five terms.
- I will be a member of a House and tutor group with students from all years. This will be like a real family. We will be able to have inter-house competitions and sports teams.
- I do not need to leave when I am 16, I can continue learning at the Academy until I am 19. Even after that I will be able to use all the facilities as part of the community.

I can't wait!

**Megan Heather**

Year 7

“What am I looking forward to? Twice a week we will be given time to develop our own interests and even learn new ones – and I'm excited that I can carry on with my learning at home using the new intranet.”

“My personal tutor will be there to help and guide me – I hope they are nice!”



## Welcome

“As Principal, I am delighted to welcome you to the RSA Academy. I am very proud and honoured to be leading such a new and innovative school, one which will be a centre of excellence and will truly serve our local area. Our mission is to ensure that the Academy meets the needs of all learners within the community, providing access to the latest hi-tech environments which will deliver the skills, knowledge and expertise necessary to be successful in an ever-changing world.”

### What should a parent get from this prospectus?

“I think I must emphasise that our Opening Minds curriculum will challenge and prepare students to better understand and learn. In this way the RSA Academy will be unique and a fantastic start to your child's life.”

“I want to raise the aspirations of all our students. The Academy will provide them with opportunities they have never had before.”

Our five term year means we can focus on learning and really extend the opportunities available for all students. Five reports a year will keep parents fully informed about their child's progress.

“I firmly believe that the partnership created between parents, students and staff will be the key to a successful, enjoyable and highly valued education.”

Every student has a personal tutor and will be supported by other staff and students both within their tutor group and through the house system.

As a parent, I want my children to be challenged by new and exciting learning experiences and have their personal skills and abilities extended. At the Academy, we strongly believe that this combination is essential in ensuring that all students achieve at the highest level possible and develop a real sense of belief in what they can do.

So, is the RSA Academy the right choice for you and your child? We believe so.

As an independent school, our expectations are very high – attendance, behaviour, uniform and attitudes to learning should be excellent and we will demand the very best from all students. In return, we offer the highest quality of teaching and learning from very committed and highly skilled staff. Students and staff will be using specialised and innovative facilities and participate in a range of additional experiences which will significantly enhance and enrich their learning. It will be second to none.

The Academy provides a safe, secure and enjoyable environment – your child will be cared for; their self confidence nurtured and mutual respect developed. Our prospectus can only provide an indication of what we have to offer – we would strongly encourage you to visit us and find out for yourself.

I look forward to meeting with you.

### Michael Gernon

Principal

## Supporting learning

All students should feel safe, secure and happy within the Academy. Every student will have a personal mentor who will monitor and discuss progress with them as well as being available to talk to at any time. In addition, the care system is organised through three Houses, which are then further divided into small tutor groups of mixed age students.

Older students will support younger students and vice-versa – this aspect is very important and will help to ensure that any concerns that students may have, there is always someone there to listen and help them. In addition, we have a dedicated team who will work with students, parents and carers to ensure that all individual and special educational needs are met.

### Our expectations

We have very high expectations of behaviour, attendance, uniform, attitudes to people and work. In meeting those expectations, students need to be clear that they must not disrupt other students or prevent them from working. The Academy environment is designed to ensure that students are motivated and enthused in their learning and, as a result, should make the most of the opportunities provided for them. Equally, bullying in any form is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

All students are expected to be dressed in full Academy uniform, which includes a blazer and tie. We expect all our students to be proud of the Academy and our uniform creates the identity and sense of belonging to the Academy community.

### Partnerships

We firmly believe that the partnership created between parents, students and staff is the key to a successful, enjoyable and highly valued education. We will work closely with you to ensure that your child achieves their very best in all activities within the Academy. Information on progress will be provided through a written report every term and offers the opportunity to discuss any issues which may arise. Your involvement in your child's education will make a significant difference – we are committed to helping you achieve this.

### Sally Weale

Vice-Principal



### What particular challenge am I looking forward to?

“Well, it's making sure we hit our high achievement target – while at the same time also creating an atmosphere in the Academy where risk taking and innovation are seen as the norm and underpinning the learning process.”

On entry to the Academy, all new students will take part in an Induction Week to ensure that transition is as smooth as possible.

The Academy will provide extensive help and support for students to ensure that they feel part of a caring and friendly community.

A full copy of the discipline code will be available for all parents and students during the induction process.

A full uniform and sports kit list will be provided to parents.

In addition to the five reports each year, parents will be able to access the Academy intranet via home to check on information and contact key members of staff if necessary.

**A state-of-the-art building**  
will provide state-of-the-art teaching



## What is an Academy?

The RSA Academy is an independent school sponsored by the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA), who are a charitable organisation with a long-standing involvement in education. The Academy is a new school with a very distinctive ethos and housed within a multi-million pound state-of-the-art building.

ICT is at the very heart of our vision with students having access to a wide range of computers, interactive and personal devices including direct access to the Academy's intranet from home. All students will store their work digitally and develop extremely high levels of competence using ICT.

### How will the RSA Academy be different?

The Academy replaces Willingsworth High School, which closes at the end of August 2008, and will offer a unique experience including:

- Different ways of teaching and learning through our Opening Minds Curriculum
- A longer day, longer learning sessions and extra opportunities for every student
- Support, care and guidance with every student having their own personal tutor
- Students taking exams when they are ready and not when their age group dictates
- Post 16 teaching offering a wide range of qualifications and progression to university, college or employment
- A modified academic year – 5 terms with two week holidays at the end of each one and a four week summer holiday
- Five reports a year for parents to monitor the progress of their child
- A residential experience for every student
- A new uniform with all students required to wear blazers and ties
- Open for the community every evening and weekend to use the most up-to-date resources and facilities

Students will be provided with breakfast with staff sitting down to eat with them – there are huge advantages in terms of learning and social development. Students and staff will see each other in a different light.

Our uniform will symbolise the Academy and draw everyone together with a sense of pride, ownership and identity as a learning community.

## Being a part of the Academy

"I look forward to being in a group of mixed age students for tutor time. I hope I can be a good role model for the younger ones."

"Being part of the new Academy will offer me the chance to continue my education in a place I am familiar with but will offer me a whole range of new challenges and it means I will not have to catch two buses!"

"The design of the new building is in itself enough to encourage me and my friends to stay on into Post 16 and the range of academic and vocational courses on offer should be able to meet the needs of many of my year group."

"The different day and terms sound interesting. I often feel bored by the end of the six week holiday so I think this arrangement will work better for me. I am interested in the enrichment programme as I feel these are the types of activities which will help me to develop as a person and offer me the opportunity to get involved in the local community."

"I am told most employers not only want good qualifications but also want people who can show skills such as problem solving and working as part of a team, these are the skills that the academy also see as an important part of the curriculum. Being sponsored by the RSA with their many contacts all over the world could provide us with a range of work and residential experiences that is far beyond our imagination!"

### Alex Hudson

Year 11

"The ICT facilities sound incredible. It can make such a difference to the standard of work if you have the most up to date equipment to help you research and produce coursework. It can also make learning in the classroom much more interesting and real, knowing that this is the type of equipment we are likely to use in the workplace."

"My ambition is to go to university and I believe that being part of the new Academy can help me achieve this by offering a range of AS and A2 courses. I look forward to learning with staff who are well qualified and trained to meet my needs. It will be helpful that some of the teachers will know me and how I like to learn so I am likely to progress faster."

"I like the idea of the longer learning sessions, it will give me time to develop and implement my ideas just as I would in real life and work situations. I think the specialisms of health and citizenship will be very helpful. It is important that we all know how to develop a healthy lifestyle. I also look forward to being a member of the school council where I can contribute my ideas and opinions to help make the academy a successful and enjoyable place for everyone."

### Amy Hemus-Stokes

Year 11

### Student council meeting

chaired by Amy and Alex

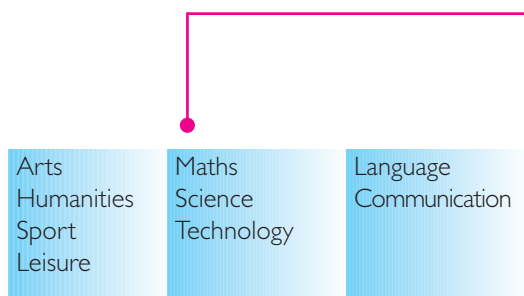


# Transforming learning

The RSA Academy will be a centre of excellence. Our aim is to provide the highest quality education for all our students, raise their aspirations and attainment and build on their individual needs, talents and abilities. Our vision is innovative and far-reaching – we will have established links with a number of education partners both at home and abroad for the benefit of all our students. We want all our students to experience a rich and varied curriculum which fully prepares them for life within the C21st.

In doing so, the Academy will focus on:

- Providing a safe, supportive and caring environment for students
- Nurturing tolerance, understanding and respect for all members of the Academy community
- Developing greater self-belief, responsibility and confidence in all our students
- Raising aspirations, attainment and motivation through a positive work ethic and stimulating environment
- Promoting very high expectations of behaviour, attendance, uniform and attitudes to learning



## 3 schools within the Academy

### What is Opening Minds?

Our approach to teaching and learning at the RSA Academy is unique and is based on our Opening Minds curriculum – a set of competencies and skills which challenge students in their ability to think, to learn, to manage people, information and situations, all of which will lead them towards being good citizens who are capable of influencing and changing the world in which they will live. Our curriculum is designed to meet the individual needs of all students, build on their strengths, improve their areas of development and ensure that they graduate from the Academy with the highest levels of qualifications possible.

In addition to our Opening Minds curriculum, all students will access a number of qualification pathways which will provide success and progression through the 13-19 age range. A key feature of our approach is that students will be able to take their exams when they are ready rather than by age.

### What will students be learning?

Students will be taught through the Opening Minds Framework in Years 7 and 8 which will provide exciting, motivating and challenging themed experiences across all subject areas. Through this approach, all students will also study English, Maths, Science and ICT and will be entered for their Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) at the end of Year 8. The Academy is organised into 3 'schools' each with a distinctive identity. Within these schools, all students will experience the Opening Minds curriculum moving to more specialised qualification pathways from Year 9 onwards. Every student will have access to vocationally based qualifications in a number of areas, as well as GCSE and BTEC qualifications in all subjects. Through this approach, we expect all students to gain at least 5 A\*-C grades (GCSE/BTEC or Level 2 equivalent) which will enable them to access high quality Post 16 programmes on offer at the Academy.

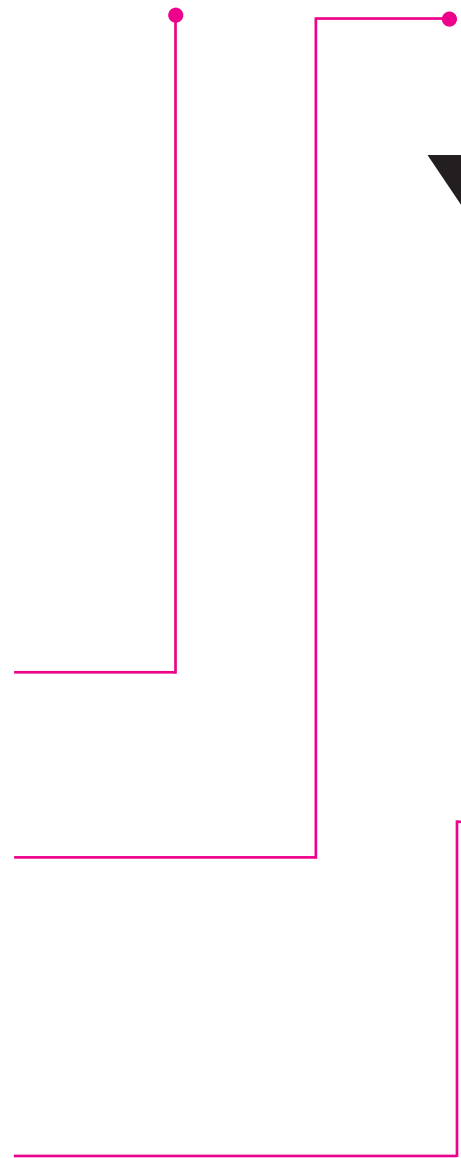
### Themed pathways



### Qualification pathways



### Post 16



## Transforming lives

The quality of teaching and learning experiences will be exemplary. We are firmly committed to providing the highest standards of teaching and have developed proven, innovative approaches to learning which maximise students' ability to succeed. Our lessons are longer and provide more opportunity to study in depth, ensuring a much fuller understanding of key concepts and skills.

### Post 16

The Academy will operate its own unique Post 16 provision which will build from the previous qualification pathways. Students will be able to access a wide range of Level 2 (GCSE/BTEC) and Level 3 (AS/A2/VCE/BTEC) courses which will allow them to progress into further education, higher education or training. A separate P16 Prospectus which details the relevant courses and entry requirements is available on request.

### Enrichment

Students learn in many ways and our role is to ensure that they experience a wide range of activities both within and beyond the classroom which extends their learning into new areas. Within the Academy, all students will access our Enrichment Programme, which takes place during the day and will offer everyone the opportunity to follow interests in sports, leisure, arts, science, technology and outdoor activities. This is a central part of our approach to the curriculum and provides enhancement and enrichment for everyone within the Academy.

In addition, we are also committed to providing every student with a residential experience during their time at the Academy and will be encouraging all students to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

### Does the Academy have any specialisms?

The Academy will offer a broad and unique curriculum which will be underpinned by our dual specialisms of Health and Citizenship. We will focus on healthy minds in healthy bodies, embedding the values and skills which will enable our young people to grow into citizens who can participate, contribute and lead within the local community. Health will be promoted throughout the curriculum encouraging and enabling students to develop and maintain healthy lifestyles. Our focus on Citizenship will begin within the Academy but will always look outwards. Students will have a voice within the decision making processes through a Student Council where they will learn to listen to the views of others, present ideas and discuss issues. It will also encompass the local community with students having the opportunity to work with local policy makers, debating real issues which impact on themselves and their families.

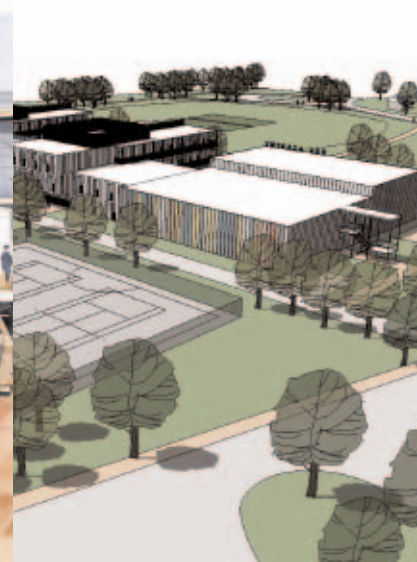
### ICT

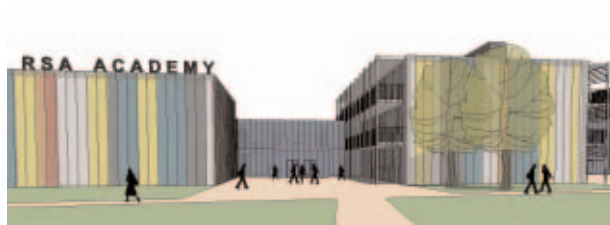
As you would expect, the Academy will be equipped with the latest technology to support high quality teaching and learning. Each classroom will be enabled to provide students with immediate access to research facilities, interactive devices and the latest touch-screen technology. In addition to this, specialist areas in Media, Music, Art, Technology, Science, Food and ICT will ensure that students are using the latest industry standard technologies to fully prepare them for life in the C21st.

**Fieldwork**  
with hand-held technology



The building transformation has already started. Our students have been working with the architects as part of the design process. Acting as a client team, they have been thinking carefully about how they like to learn and if they had a perfect school day what would it be. It became clear that the team disliked 'sitting still and reading from a book'. Similarly, 'teachers writing stuff on the board and having to copy it down' were also disengaging. The client team began to shape the architects thinking by taking them around their existing school and highlighting problems and opportunities from the student perspective. The client team then annotated architectural drawings to show the designers what class



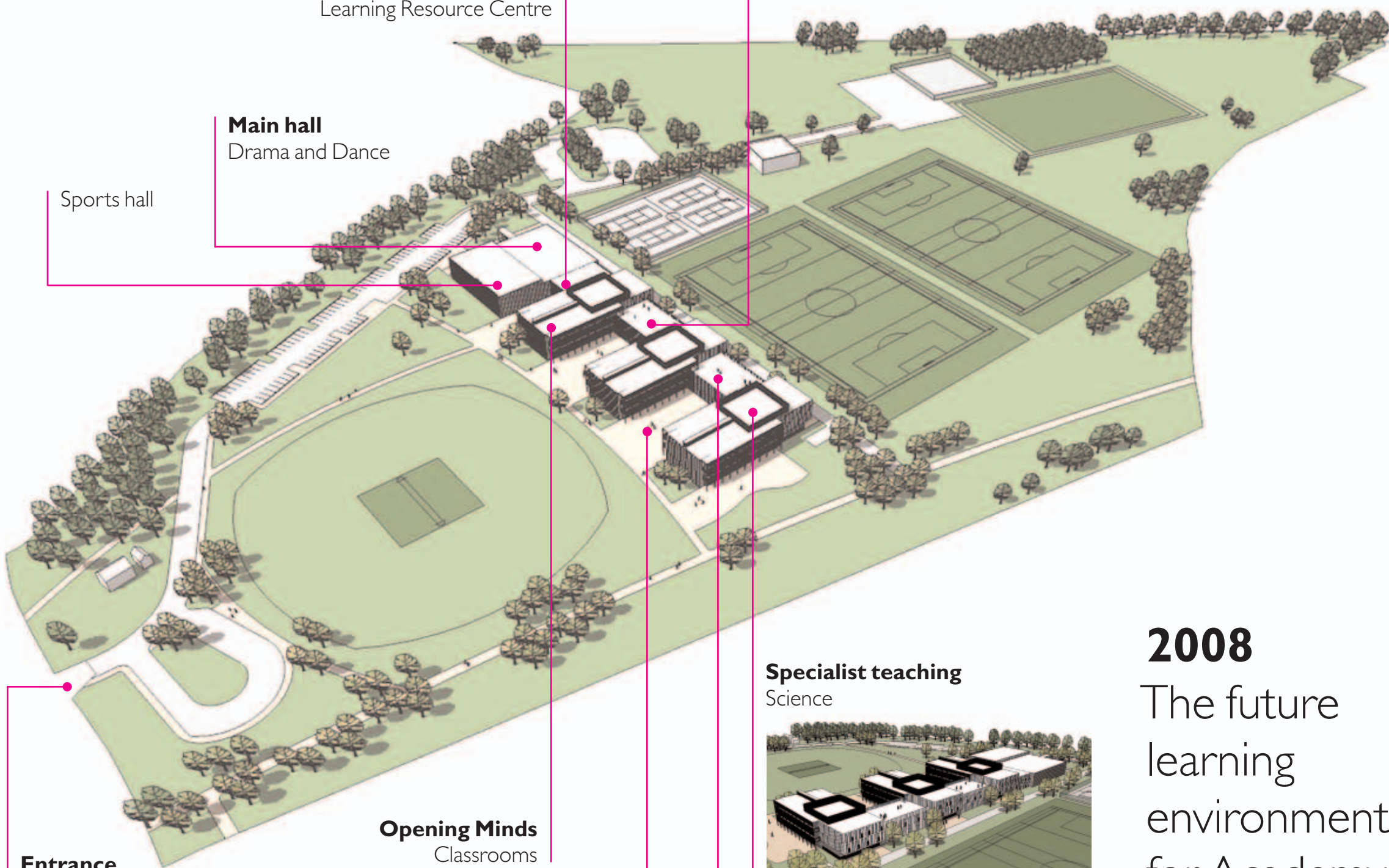


**Reception**  
Learning Resource Centre

**Specialist teaching**  
Arts, Music and Media

**Main hall**  
Drama and Dance

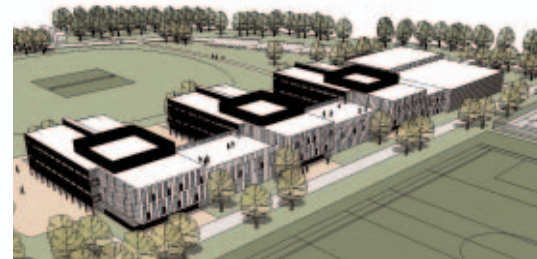
Sports hall



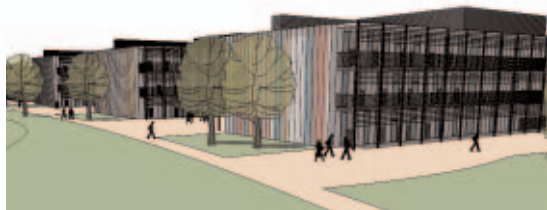
**Entrance**  
Bilston Road

**Opening Minds**  
Classrooms

**Specialist teaching**  
Science



**Specialist teaching**  
Technology



Outdoor teaching areas

**2008**  
The future  
learning  
environment  
for Academy  
students.



rooms were bright, spacious and comfortable to learn in, and places that became overcrowded or blocked. After visits to other new buildings the client team began thinking about materials, colours, light and creating the right setting for learning. Once back in their own classrooms, they constructed experimental models to represent key building design ideas.

Armed with all this information, the architects are continuing to develop an Academy specifically design to meet the students' own desire for a different way of learning, as well as meeting the educational vision of the RSA. Meanwhile, the client teams' enthusiasm for architecture has been fired...



**Learning with the professionals**  
students will be trained by professional chefs

## A different learning environment

The new building is an extremely spacious and innovative design which will provide a genuine C2 1st learning environment. So, what will it be like inside? Let's take a walk...

Into the Reception Area for the first time, you will see the Learning Resource Centre – the very impressive library, ICT and multi-media area spread over two floors which is available for everyone to use from 7.30 am to 10.00pm. To the left you will see the new Theatre, Dance and Drama area – a superb space for productions and concerts as well as hosting the Sandwell Youth Parliament. The 4 court Sports Hall is opposite – students are undergoing fitness trials, gymnastics and trampolining.

To the right we walk into the main building where a group of students are using the Training Kitchen in which they are being tutored by one of our professional chefs. To the right, we enter one of the Opening Minds Classrooms – a very large open plan teaching area equipped with the latest technology and movable walls – where our new students are working on their first competency challenge. Further inside, we enter the Dining Hall where students will be having breakfast and lunch – all very healthy and freshly prepared by Chef! Moving on, we enter Design and Technology where students are involved in a Masterclass with a leading commercial designer using CAD/CAM technology.

First floor level and through into the Arts, Music and Media areas – students are editing a short film about the environment which they will broadcast later this week. Next, we move into textiles, where students are designing a range of fashion accessories for the Academy fashion show, whilst in the Music Technology Suite students are composing, recording and mixing the soundtrack for the show. In the Video Conference suite next door, we have a live link to two partner schools in Germany, where students are developing their language, communication and business skills through their international e-commerce network.

More Opening Minds areas are on the right where 120 students are working on their presentations and ideas for *The Apprentice* – the panel of business leaders are observing how well they work in teams and use the range of skills and resources available to them. Who will win? Who will be fired? We find out later in the day!

As for Science, Arts and Sport – there's just too much to cram into one day!..... exhausted?

Green issues are a very high priority – natural light and ventilation, solar shading, photo-voltaic panels and rain water harvesting are integral to the building design.

At the front of the spine building, courtyards with informal seating areas are formed by contouring the landscape. The spine links the teaching areas, opening out onto these landscaped teaching spaces in between each building 'finger'.

The classrooms will be larger open-plan spaces. Because we're developing a more personalised learning approach, the more flexibility you have in a space, the easier that is to achieve.

The two Art Studios overlook the grounds and extensive sports facilities.

Science is brought life through forensics and renewable energy – they will learn a much wider set of skills and knowledge.

## A different way of working

The Academy has a different pattern of working to other schools in Sandwell and the surrounding areas. We operate a 5 term year which has been designed to maximise the learning opportunities for all our students whilst providing better opportunity to rest and relax before the next term. Each term is either 7 or 8 weeks in duration and has a minimum 2 week holiday at the end of each term, with a 4 week holiday in the summer. As a result, we do not allow parents to take their children on holiday during term-time.

In addition, the structure of the Academy day is also different and aimed at extended learning experiences. We believe that students will learn much more when they have an increased amount of time focusing on one area in greater depth. Students will also be given extended research and development tasks to complete for two days every term, which will coincide with staff training days. The day is divided into two main learning sessions and students will also meet with their Tutor each day.

- 8.15 am Academy day begins
- 8.20 am Staff briefings
- 8.30 am Session 1 (including 15 min breakfast with staff)
- 11.50 Tutor group/House assembly
- 12.10pm Session 2 (including 30 minute lunch at 12.45, 1.10, or 1.35)
- 3.50 pm End of Academy teaching
- 4.00 pm Private study Facility available for students until 6.30pm
- 6.00 pm Adult/community learning
- 10.00pm Academy closes

### Five term year 2008/2009

#### Term 1

1st September - 17th October  
Training days  
19th & 22nd September

#### Term 2

3rd November - 19th December  
Training days  
28th November & 1st December

#### Term 3

5th January - 27th February  
Training days  
30th January & 2nd February

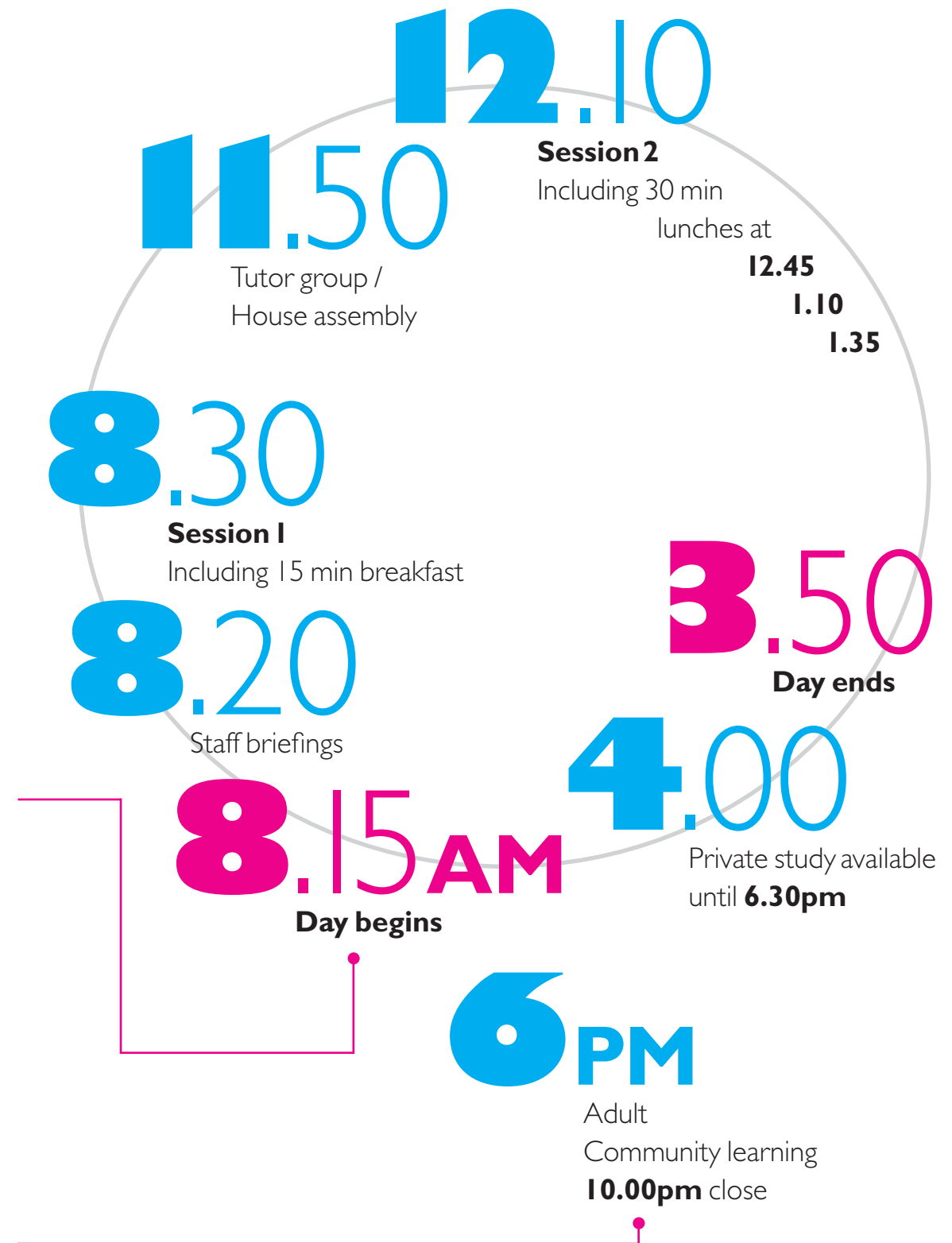
#### Term 4

16th March - 15th May  
Long weekend at Easter  
10th - 14th April

#### Term 5

1st June - 24th July  
Training days  
26th & 29th June

There will be a 2 week holiday after terms 1 - 4 and a 4 week holiday after term 5.





**Expectations**  
the best opportunities for all students

## Why the Academy?

“Our youngest son now attends the high school and will move to the Academy as a Year 9 student. So, what are our expectations for him and for this superb opportunity he and his fellow students have?”

**We asked parents about their hopes for the new Academy and what they wanted for their children.**

“The RSA Opening Minds curriculum should do exactly ‘what it says on the tin’ – open minds! The teachers, equipment, facilities, whole environment should be the best there is to offer. Modern businesses want people to have the skills and competencies that contribute to their success.”

“We also want high standards of behaviour, support and achievement – we should all demand this so that our own children do not have their lessons interrupted by a minority. People need to be able to get on with those around them and build successful relationships. Through the Health and Citizenship areas, we know that the Academy will enable those skills to be learned and enjoyed.”

“So, our expectations of the new Academy are many. This is a hugely exciting opportunity for Tipton. We will certainly enjoy being part of a community that benefits from this once in a lifetime opportunity!”

### **Mr Darrell Foster**

His son Daniel is in Yr 9

“We hope it will equip all students with the essential skills for life as well as giving them the opportunity to gain a wide range of qualifications to build a rewarding and successful life.”

“The new building will be stunning – stimulating, top notch learning and social facilities for everyone with nothing spared! As our children learn and benefit from the facilities offered, whole families should do so too. We want the Academy to be the hub of high quality learning in Tipton – our children and community deserve the best!”

### **Mrs Jackie Lee**

Her son Stuart is in Yr 8



## Sponsoring the Academy

“As Head of Education at the RSA, I am delighted that we are involved in sponsoring an academy. This is a unique position for us as the Academy in Tipton will be the only one we are sponsoring. With this in mind, we are fully committed to making the Academy the centrepiece of our education work and the education team will be working from the Academy on a regular basis.”

The Academy is hugely important because it is a physical and long lasting symbol of our commitment to education and to the people of Tipton. Our sponsorship of the Academy is designed to help and support the local community and ensure that every young person is equipped with the knowledge and skills they will need to make a success of their lives.

We have been working directly with schools for a number of years, developing and refining our Opening Minds curriculum framework. We want the Academy to be at the centre of an influential network of schools, committed to innovation and developing best practice within teaching and learning. We hope that the Academy will become an important and valued part of the community in Tipton, as well as playing a key role in the Black Country Challenge and supporting a number of developments across the region.

The RSA is looking forward to a successful partnership with parents and the community and I look forward to meeting you at the many events we have planned at the Academy.

**Lesley James**  
RSA Head of Education

“It is accepted that schooling is not just about teaching, but about learning, and not just about imparting information, but about helping young people develop the competences they need to survive and succeed in all aspects of their lives.”

### About the RSA

- The RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce) is an independent charity which is not affiliated to any political party.

- We were established 254 years ago.

- We drive ideas, innovation and social change through an ambitious programme of projects, events and lectures.

- We have a membership of 26,000 – people of influence – the majority of whom are based in the UK, but with significant numbers worldwide.

### Find out more

[www.thersa.org](http://www.thersa.org)

### Preparation for the future

equipping every young person for successful lives



# Questions, questions...

Here we try to answer some of those questions that students and parents like to ask before they select their next school.

## Students

### What will I be doing in Opening Minds lessons?

You will be learning a new set of skills and competencies within different situations and subject areas. The lessons are designed to make you think, learn new ways of working and give you opportunity to develop your skills and knowledge. You will be working with a lot of other students and staff – sometimes in large groups, small groups, inside the classroom or outside. You will have your own laptop to use in lessons as well as using digital cameras and DVD to record and store all your work. All very exciting!

### How long are the lessons?

Lessons are organised in the same way as your primary school – a morning and afternoon session – except they are longer! Each session is approximately 3 hours long with breaks built into them. During the morning session, you will be taken to breakfast (which is free!) and eat with your teachers. During the afternoon session, you will also have a 30 minute lunch-break.

### What happens to students who misbehave?

Every lesson is designed to be exciting and involve every student. If someone tries to stop you from learning, then this is not allowed. Students who misbehave will find themselves removed from the class (so you can carry on with your learning) and placed in detention. Their parents will be informed immediately if this happens and will need to come in to speak to a senior member of staff. If they continue to misbehave, then they will lose their place at the Academy.

### Will I get lost in the new building?

The new building is big but very easy to find your way around. Most of your time will be spent in the same classroom and so you will become very familiar with it. Unlike other secondary schools, you will not have to move around the building as much.

### What about sports and hobbies?

Whatever you are interested in, we will try to give you the opportunity to do it. Twice weekly, the whole Academy will take part in Enrichment sessions which will give you the opportunity for more sport, music, art, science, technology, languages, competitions, interests and hobbies. You will have a list to choose from every term and so it will open up new experiences for you.

### What do I do if I don't understand something?

You must ask any of the staff you are working with to explain. All your teachers and support staff are there to help you – don't worry, just ask!

### What happens if someone is trying to bully me?

You should tell a member of staff or one of your friends from your tutor group immediately. Bullying is not tolerated under any circumstances. If someone is trying to bully you, then it must be reported and we can then deal with it.

## Parents

### Is the Academy a local authority school?

The Academy is an independent school managed by a charitable trust and not by the local authority. Even though we are an independent school, there are no fees and no entrance examination. The Academy will work closely with the local primary schools and as part of a 14-19 consortium with other local secondary schools in Sandwell and the surrounding area.

### Who will look after my child?

Every student will have a personal tutor and be part of a small tutor group. You will meet the personal tutor during the Induction stages and they will be your main point of contact with the Academy. The tutor will be able to discuss any issue with you about your child's progress and welfare.

### How do I know what is happening at the Academy?

All key dates and information for parents can be accessed through the Academy website. An Academy news update will be posted each week and provide a wealth of information on events, course details and key dates. If having checked this you are still unsure, then please contact the Academy reception for more information.

### What do I do if my child is unable to attend?

You must contact the Academy attendance office as early as possible on any day of absence and explain the reason for why your child is unable to attend. In this way, we can ensure that the relevant staff are informed. If your child has not registered in the morning, you will be contacted immediately.

### Where do I obtain the Academy uniform from?

Our uniform will be supplied directly through the Academy. In this way, we can pass on any savings directly to you and keep the costs down. For those students who currently attend Willingsworth, a new uniform will be provided, at no cost to you, when the Academy opens. For new students joining in Year 7, a full uniform list and prices will be provided to you once your place has been confirmed.

### Who do I contact if I have any concerns?

If the matter concerns your child, you should contact the Personal Tutor or Head of House. If the matter concerns the curriculum and how it is delivered, you should contact the Director of Learning responsible for the particular school. If you have any complaints, then these should be brought to the attention of the Vice-Principal or Principal. Contact details for each of the above will be provided once your place has been confirmed.

### Can my child leave the site at lunchtime?

No. All students must remain on the Academy site during their lunch break. Lunchtime lasts for 30 minutes and is not fixed at the same time each week. Lunches will be high quality, well balanced meals provided by our own chefs. Students can bring in their own packed lunch if they so wish.

### Can I take my child on holiday during term time?

Permission to take your child out of school for a holiday during term-time will not be given. The academic year is organised to accommodate two week holiday periods at the end of each term. As most are outside the main school holidays, parents are able to access cheaper holidays during these periods.

## Some facts and figures

### Specialisms

Health  
Citizenship

# 5 terms

With two week holidays at the end of each term  
A four week summer holiday

# £2 MILLION

### Sponsorship

RSA contributes to the capital cost of the Academy and will form a Trust that will own and manage the school

### Areas of competence

Citizenship  
Learning  
Information  
People  
Situations

### Park the car!

88% students will walk or cycle to the Academy, saving 482 tonnes of CO2 vehicle emissions

# 900 students

Aged between 11 and 16 and 200 Post 16

### Get walking!

Total walking distance per year for all students will be equal to 7 times round the world

# 35 hours

The teaching week.

Collectively, that's 1.5million learning hours per year

### Each student

Will receive 546,840 minutes of teaching from Years 7 to 13

# £25 MILLION

### For a brand new building

Matched government funding going towards the building and funding of the state-of-the-art premises

### IT access

There will be over 1200 data points around the building

### IT ratio

The Academy will have a student / computer virtual ratio of 1:1

# 135 schools

The Opening Minds curriculum is followed in 135 schools around the country. They report dramatic improvements in student behaviour, attendance and motivation

### National Centre

The Academy will be the National Centre for Opening Minds

## How do I apply?

The Academy is part of the co-ordinated admissions scheme for Sandwell which requires all parents to complete a preference form. In doing so, the RSA Academy **must** be listed as one of your preferences on the local authority form. In addition to this, parents must also complete and submit an **additional information form**. The information form must be completed and signed by the parent or carer and returned **directly to the Academy** by the closing date.

Those who are offered a place at the RSA Academy will be informed in March through the local authority. Parents who are not offered a place through this process have a right to appeal against the decision. An independent appeals panel will be appointed in accordance with the Code of Practice for School Admissions.

### What are the criteria?

- Students who have the Academy named, and agreed, as part of a statement of special education needs or are in public care
- Admission of pupils whose siblings currently attend the school and who will continue to do so on the date of admission
- Admission of pupils on the basis of proximity to the school using straight line measurement from the main entrance of the Academy to the main entrance to the child's home

**NB** If the Academy is oversubscribed, parents will be offered the opportunity to be placed on a waiting list and should vacancies arise within the academic year, be offered places in accordance with the Code of Practice.

### Step 1

Complete your preference form, send to your local authority

### Step 2

Complete your additional information form, send directly to the Academy

### Step 3

Await notification and respond as soon as possible to your offer

### Acknowledgements

Photographs taken during visits to Walsall Art Gallery and the University of Wolverhampton Science Park

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