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**Being part of the RSA  
Family of Academies**

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**RSA Fellows  
and the RSA  
Academies**

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**RSA**  
Academies



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# Introducing RSA Academies

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RSA Academies is a small and dynamic group of schools set up as a charitable company by the RSA in September 2011. The schools are in Birmingham, Coventry, the Black Country and Worcestershire with plans to work with further clusters of schools, including one in Bedford.

Our mission is to provide an inspirational and creative education which relates pupils' learning to the wider world and provides experiences that broaden horizons, enabling them to develop the skills needed for success and personal fulfilment. Working with the RSA offers schools opportunities to participate in research and innovation, access networks that bring benefits to pupils and teachers, and increase profile and influence.

We will achieve these ambitions by securing:

- Excellence in learning
- Pupils who are creative and turn their ideas into action
- The development of skills and networks for the future
- Creative, resourceful teachers providing challenging and stimulating teaching
- Increased impact, locally and nationally

For more information about RSA Academies please visit [www.rsaacademies.org.uk](http://www.rsaacademies.org.uk).



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# An invitation to be involved

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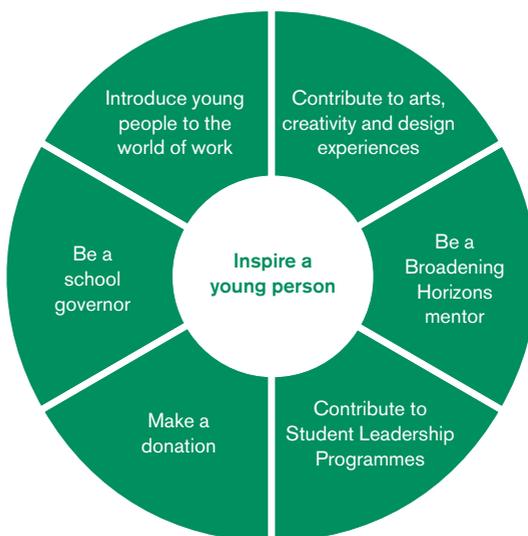
We invite you to find out more about the ways in which, as a Fellow, you can positively influence the lives of the young people at the RSA academies. We want to encourage more RSA Fellows to inspire our young people and share skills and life experiences, offering insights and networks that are otherwise unavailable to them.

Fellows find that the joy of giving time and knowledge is met with time spent with fascinating and impressionable young people.





There are six main ways in which you are invited to get involved with the RSA schools:



Whilst we can't pay RSA Fellows for their time, reasonable travel and other out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

To register please visit [www.rsaacademies.org.uk/getting-involved](http://www.rsaacademies.org.uk/getting-involved).

Thank you very much for your support.

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# Introduce young people to the world of work

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One of RSA Academies' strategic objectives is to enable pupils to develop a wide range of skills and an understanding of the world beyond the school gate to enable them to thrive in their continuing education, the world of work, and in society. An important part of our approach is partnerships with colleges, universities and training providers, with businesses and other employers, and with RSA Fellows, to give pupils the confidence and contacts that will help them to succeed in their chosen field and get a sense of the university, college, and work opportunities that might be open to them.

The importance of school links with the world of work is recognised in international research. The Gatsby Foundation's influential report 'Good Careers Guidance' puts forward 'encounters with employers' and 'experiences of workplaces' as key to the success of preparing students to become work-ready.

## **Careers in the Classroom**

RSA Academies is pioneering a speakers' programme from September 2016 called 'Careers in the Classroom'. We invite RSA Fellows to contact us if they would be interested in visiting one of our schools to talk about their career.

Chelsea Roffey, an RSA Centenary Young Fellow and the first female to umpire the Australian Football League Grand Final, visited RSA Academy, Tipton to give a talk to a group of 35 students who were potentially interested in a career in sports.



*“Chelsea thrilled her audience of 35 specially selected recipients of a ‘golden ticket’ – awarded to recognize commitment, enthusiasm and participation in sport – this morning and gave them an insight in how she became an umpire as well as a quick run-down of the rules, followed by a short demonstration of throwing technique. The students really enjoyed their session with Chelsea and asked many questions.”*

Navneet Chahal, Media Technician, RSA Academy

### **Opportunities to connect with the world of work**

In Summer 2015, Year 12 students at RSA Academy, Tipton worked with RSA Fellow, Nigel Barton, and his team from Wyrd on a creative employability project. Wyrd invited students to enter a film-making competition to produce a film exploring key employability skills such as resilience, knowledge networking, business etiquette, interviewing and how to use Linked-In.

One of the videos produced by the students in the category of ‘resilience’ made it through to the grand final

of the competition, the team were invited to the Google Campus offices in London. It was a proud moment when the RSA Academy team were announced winners of the resilience category and received £100 each.

### **How RSA Fellows can get involved:**

- Deliver a ‘Careers in the Classroom’ talk at one of our schools
- Offer a student work experience or work shadowing – this could range from one day to two weeks
- Host a workplace visit for a small group of students
- Attend a careers fair at one of our schools – this could involve giving a talk, providing a one to one or small group session with students or representing your place of work at a stall



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# Be a Broadening Horizons mentor

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Contrary to popular belief, research shows that young people from all walks of life rarely suffer from a lack of aspiration; the problem is that disadvantaged students lack access to the influential people and networks that are fundamental to achieving their aspirations. Our aim is to use the wealth of knowledge and skills within the RSA Fellowship to provide RSA academies' students with critical friends who will support and challenge them as they think about their transition to adulthood.

Our Broadening Horizons mentoring project supports RSA academies' students to broaden their experiences and explore the different opportunities available to them. This project supports 13–17 year old students to work with RSA Fellows to share their experiences, provide careers guidance and act as a critical friend, helping students consider a range of future options and to question where they want to head and how they can get there. Mentors are recruited in April and May each year. They are asked to attend safeguarding training in the summer term, and then have 6–10 meetings, either face to face or by skype, with their mentee over the course of the next school year.

*“Being a mentor is a privilege. To have the opportunity to discuss, one to one, a young person’s future plans is exciting. If, as a result, that young person feels more confident and empowered then it is time well spent.”*

Liz Gemmell,  
Broadening Horizons  
Mentor at Arrow  
Vale RSA Academy  
and RSA Fellow

## Work experience as a chef

“I have been working with a Year 10 boy to help him with his career progression. He would like to become a chef. So I bought a book for him by Gino D’Acampo (his favourite chef) and set him the task of cooking two meals from the book per month, then photographing them

*“My mentor has helped me to get a visit to an independent restaurant, I was able to see how a professional kitchen operates and meet a real chef! It has inspired me to go to college and study Catering.”*

Daniel Langhorn,  
student  
at Whitley Academy

so that we could discuss how he got on with each recipe: what he learnt and what he might do differently next time. The idea is to help him start thinking like a chef rather than someone who’s just interested in cooking.

He has since made numerous meals for his extended family. As a reward, I arranged some work experience in a Mediterranean restaurant. When I arrived to meet him and his step-mum there, I discovered that he had arrived half an hour early and was already gutting fish for the lunch bookings. He had bought himself a chef’s uniform and the restaurant provided an apron. He then made pizzas, cooked mussels and finally, cooked a lunch for me, his step-mum and himself. Each was different, but they all tasted delicious. He was so proud. As were we.”

Andrew Maiden, journalist and RSA Fellow



### How RSA Fellows can get involved:

- Register your interest and we will get in touch with the schools on your behalf
- Attend a training day in July
- Start mentoring the following October

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# Contribute to our Student Leadership Programmes

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*“The whole experience has helped our development as individuals, building confidence and developing skills relevant to us both as student leaders and in our future careers.”*

Andrew Watts,  
former Head Boy,  
RSA Academy,  
Tipton

The RSA8 Student Leadership Programme is a bespoke programme designed to run across all of the academies as an opportunity for Year 8 students to interact with each other, and come together under a common leadership framework. The aim of the programme is to generate an interest in leadership, especially for students from a disadvantaged background, from a young age, with a view to inspiring these young people to become the leaders of the future.

Each session takes place in a different RSA academy, with students visiting each academy for a different leadership skill element of the programme. With the training completed, a residential weekend at the University





of Warwick takes place in order to put together a social action project to test their newly gained skills and have a wider impact in their own school community.

Through support from RSA Fellows who have delivered workshops, over 90 students have benefited directly from the expertise offered on just this one project. Last year Ipsley CE RSA Academy encouraged more students to participate in drama and performed at their local theatre; RSA Academy, Tipton held a slam poetry competition promoting oracy and encouraged Year 7 students to speak publicly resulting in 100 students taking part; Whitley Academy led a campaign to bring music into school by starting an after-school club; and Holyhead School encouraged more students to participate in enrichment clubs.

### **RSA Engage catalyses support**

At an RSA Engage event in Birmingham, the Head Boy and Head Girl from RSA Academy, Tipton pitched for help with developing skills as a leader, blogging, finding public speakers, debating and teamwork. From this,



Lorna Prescott, an RSA Fellow from Dudley, delivered a blogging session. Paul Monaghan, RSA Fellow, delivered a fantastic session entitled FIRST BEST LOUD PROUD encapsulating the importance of body language, speech, awareness of persona and how to display themselves publicly as a leader. Eleanor Bernardes from LKMco, another RSA Fellow, facilitated debates on important topics.

*“Working with RSA8 students on their debating skills was a fantastic experience. I’m always surprised by the motivation and flair that these young people show when they are approaching tasks that force them out of their comfort zones. I left the sessions feeling enthused!”*

Eleanor Bernardes, LKMco and RSA Fellow

### **How RSA Fellows can get involved:**

- Deliver a workshop at one of the student leadership sessions
- Provide one off feedback or mentoring to a group at one of the schools working on their school or community project

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# Contribute to high quality arts, creativity and design experiences

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*“I had the privilege of joining the RSA Pupil Design Award’s judging panel and as one of the judges, I was in the lucky seat. I got to enjoy and be inspired by all the wonderful ideas presented. What I particularly loved was seeing the students’ passion and commitment.”*

Kazz Morohashi,  
designer and RSA  
Student Design  
Award winner

Another of RSA Academies’ strategic objectives is to enable our children and young people to develop their creative capacities and have opportunities to turn their ideas into real and meaningful action at all stages of school, from early years to post 16, and across the full range of subject areas. Students have access to high quality arts and design provision, opportunities for practical and creative learning, and experience of social and commercial enterprise, reflecting the RSA’s historic focus on arts, manufactures and commerce.

## **RSA Pupil Design Awards**

The RSA Pupil Design Awards has been inspired by the RSA Student Design Awards, a 90 year old competition aimed at university students, and as part of our ongoing commitment to looking at the role and purpose of design education. Students are invited to consider one of three social challenges and, through empathy, research and design thinking, to design a solution to the problem they identify.

We are looking to expand the programme beyond the RSA academies and are in search of designers to join the programme as mentors in the classroom.



## Gaining Artsmark

Joy Harris is an RSA Fellow who has supported Arrow Vale RSA Academy through the Artsmark process and is currently helping the RSA Academy, Tipton.

*“The journey to Artsmark began with the creative Arrow Vale RSA Academy. It became clear from the evidence I was collecting that it was an Artsmark Gold school and Arrow Vale achieved Artsmark Gold in March 2015. The sharing of my time through support for Artsmark is small compared to the richness, enjoyment and new, inspiring ideas each academy gives to me in return.”*

Joy Harris, Associate Arts Adviser for Service Children's Education & Panicale Comune Umbria Italy and RSA Fellow

*“I love being a part of the projects that are put in place, like the school musical, the vocal pyramid and drama club because it gives me a chance to learn more about different cultures and different opinions on life. Through the Arts I am able to be expressive and I think this is what makes the school so great to be a part of because everyone has access to something that they love.”*

Ruth Ashby, student at Arrow Vale RSA Academy

### **Jewellery design competition**

RSA Academy, Tipton coordinated a jewellery design competition for the RSA Family of Academies led by two RSA Fellows, Bill Good and Patrick Fuller from the jewellers Weston Beamor. The students’ brief was to design a lapel pin suitable for the principals of the RSA academies to wear. The students participated in a series of ideation and design workshops, and had a tour of Weston Beamor’s workspace in Birmingham’s Jewellery Quarter. Each school had a mentor from Birmingham Institute of Art and Design (BIAD) to support them through the design process.

*“At the time Bill Good was developing events and debates across the region on the theme of making and enterprise. An event at Weston Beamor sparked the idea for this project which was taken further by the RSA and the RSA Academy in Tipton. This project highlighted the energy and generosity that RSA Fellows such as Bill possess. It would not have happened had Bill and Patrick not been open to the idea and enthusiastically given their time to create a challenging real world project for students.”*

Richard Pickford, Regional Manager for Wales/Cymru and East & West Midlands, RSA

*“How does one mark creativity? Without creativity there will be nothing. The computer cannot replace unique art forms. It was a pleasure to judge the art competition between the academies and hopefully the competition will grow to include the whole country.”*

Lee Benson,  
creative, mentor,  
artist, poet,  
musician and  
RSA Fellow



## **RSA Academies Art Prize judging**

The RSA Academies Arts Day is an annual event bringing together all the schools in the RSA Family in a celebration of creativity. Lee Benson, RSA Fellow, agreed to be a judge for the inaugural RSA Academies Art Prize. Students were invited to enter artwork and accompanying writing on the theme of ‘inspiration’.

### **How RSA Fellows can get involved:**

- Be an RSA Pupil Design Awards mentor
- Deliver a ‘Careers in the classroom’ talk
- Offer an idea for a creative project or visit
- Offer creative skills, knowledge and networks to teachers and students
- Be an RSA Academies Art Prize judge

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# Be a school governor

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To deepen the value of the RSA's relationship with our schools, we have a small number of RSA Fellows on the schools' governing bodies. We look for talented Trustees who can demonstrate vision, enthusiasm and have excellent communication skills. The ideal person has a strong interest in education and in ensuring the very best outcomes for children and young people, but does not have direct experience of working in education. Governor meetings take place approx. five times a year, at the school.



*“I jumped at the opportunity to become a RSA governor at the RSA Academy in Tipton in 2014, becoming Chair of Finance and General Purpose Committee in 2015. The journey and challenge is enormous – all the governance of a multi-million-pound business mixed with the educational and welfare demands of an Academy.*

*But the opportunity to contribute to the shaping of the future of RSA Academy is tremendous. The value of supporting RSA initiatives such as the RSA Academies’ Teaching School Alliance and the ‘power to create’ is not something I find in other organisations.”*

Rachel Eade MBE, governor at RSA Academy, Tipton and RSA Fellow



*“On retiring from headship, governance became of interest to me. Having registered a willingness to support the RSA, the invitation to be Chair of Ipsley CE RSA Academy and member of the Redditch RSA Academies Trust enabled me to do something as a pay back to the RSA for all that I had gained from it during my professional life in education.*

*The RSA has so much to offer to the national education debate and it is a privilege to be part of its endeavour to promote distinctive quality schooling.”*

Rev Will Adams, chair of governors, Ipsley CE RSA Academy and RSA Fellow

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# Make a donation

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RSA Academies is a charity set up and funded by the RSA and the schools in the RSA Family of Academies. We are seeking donations to enable us to work with a larger number of pupils and further increase the impact of our work. We would welcome contributions of any size:

- £10 pays for a child to participate in a school trip to the theatre
- £75 pays for a pupil to take part in the Warwick University residential as part of the Year 8 leadership programme
- £300 pays for a group of students to participate in a debating workshop at the RSA in London.

*“The time and financial contribution that RSA Fellows have given to the RSA Family of Academies has already made a big difference to the ambitions and opportunities of pupils attending RSA academies. With your help we can broaden the horizons of even more children and young people. Thank you for your support”*

Alison Critchley, Chief Executive, RSA Academies

Please visit [www.thersa.org/support-us/giving-to-the-rsa/](http://www.thersa.org/support-us/giving-to-the-rsa/) or contact the Fundraising team on 020 7930 5115

# Who is part of the RSA Family of Academies?



## 1 RSA Academy, Tipton, Sandwell

RSA Academy, Tipton is a secondary school for pupils aged 11–18 (Years 7–13) which opened to students in September 2008.

## 2 Whitley Academy, Coventry

Whitley Academy is a secondary school for pupils aged 11–18 (Years 7–13) and joined the RSA Family in July 2011.



## 3 Arrow Vale RSA Academy, Redditch, Worcestershire

Arrow Vale RSA Academy opened its doors in September 2012. The school is a high school for pupils aged 13–18 (Years 9–13).



## 4 Ipsley CE RSA Academy, Redditch, Worcestershire

Ipsley opened as an RSA Academy in January 2013 and is a middle school for pupils aged 9–13 (Years 5–8).



## 5 Holyhead School, Birmingham

Holyhead is a secondary school for pupils aged 11–18 (Years 7–13) and joined the RSA Family in September 2014.



## 6 Church Hill Middle School, Redditch, Worcestershire

Church Hill is a middle school for children aged 9–13 (Years 5–8) which opened in January 2016.



## 7 Abbeywood First School, Redditch, Worcestershire

Abbeywood is a first school for children aged 3–9 (Reception–Year 4) and opened in January 2016.

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# The future looks bright...

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**Oliver Reichardt**  
Director  
of Fellowship, RSA

The Fellowship is a movement of individuals who share the values, ethos and interests of the RSA. Historically, members of the Society were from “all social classes committed to publick [sic] good”. As the RSA’s vision of the future, based on its past, is an organisation committed to improving society, then it naturally follows that the vision of Fellowship should be based around Fellows who share that commitment.

Our aim is for the RSA to feel like a natural home for all those who believe society can and should be improved – a Fellow’s life should feel different by being part of the RSA. They should feel like they’re part of a movement that is changing the world. It should be exciting, intellectually stimulating, and satisfying.

One way you can get involved with the work of the RSA as a Fellow is to take part in one of our projects. RSA Academies is one example of this, where you have the opportunity of being able to work with young people and share skills, experiences and inspire the next generation.

Please get in touch with us if you would like to find out more: email [rsa.academies@rsa.org.uk](mailto:rsa.academies@rsa.org.uk) or visit [www.rsaacademies.org.uk/getting-involved](http://www.rsaacademies.org.uk/getting-involved).

Thank you for your support. It makes a huge difference.

## Other ways to get involved:

- Help us fundraise
- Join the Innovative Education network: find out more at [bit.ly/1pK4mwQ](http://bit.ly/1pK4mwQ)
- Nominate a Fellow: email [Fellowship@rsa.org.uk](mailto:Fellowship@rsa.org.uk)





**RSA Academies aims to give learners the broad range of skills, qualifications and experiences they need to thrive in their continuing education and the world of work.**



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