

Welcome Information

Dear Applicant,

Welcome to Grace Academy Darlaston, an 11-19 school that serves the community of Darlaston and the surrounding areas in and around Walsall.

In September 2013, we moved into our amazing new £27m building, which has inspired and challenged us all to raise our expectations of what we can achieve together. Our 'state of the art' buildings, sports and play areas provide an outstanding learning environment, both indoors and out. We have first class facilities in each subject department including dedicated ICT suites enable all students to develop their expert independent learning skills. And our central heart space, library, main hall, lecture theatre and breakout spaces enable us to come together collectively with our unique sense of family, teamwork and community.

Whilst our Academy is not a faith school, it does have a unique ethos based upon the following five core values of: *Grace, Respect, Integrity, Excellence and Potential*. We strive to uphold these values in all that we do and we are determined that our attitudes and actions reflect these each and every day. We have high standards in all aspects of learning and set challenging targets, for further development.

Our mission is challenging, but immensely rewarding too. We work tirelessly to provide an excellent education for our pupils, with a focus on community engagement. Together with a range of local partners - including primary schools, businesses, the local authority and church groups, our care, support and provision for pupils prepares them well for the next stage of their lives.

We are well on the way to becoming a typically and consistently 'good' academy. We have strong focussed leadership of learning and an excellent team of staff and pupils keen to make the academy a *'great place to learn, to work and to achieve'*. The quality of our teaching and learning continues to improve with the majority of our lessons judged as good or outstanding during our Ofsted inspection in May 2015.

The successful applicant will join a dynamic and supportive academy staff team that works closely with the Local Governing Body. Leadership of teaching and learning and further development opportunities are provided through internal and external CPD courses and cross-academy training days.

The *life of our academy and teamwork* is very important to us and we hope that you will be able to play a key part in that. We have a focus on learning and fun through a variety of extra-curricular and enrichment clubs, activities, special events and holidays.

We hope this gives you an insight into our academy and look forward to receiving your application.