

2019 2020

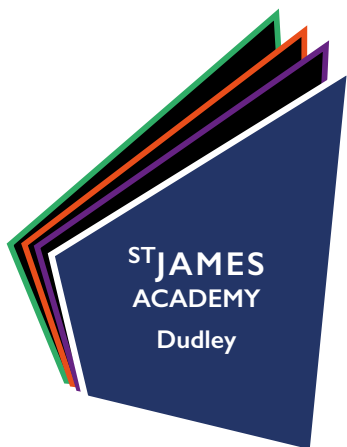
ST JAMES  
ACADEMY  
Dudley

St James Academy  
Prospectus 2019-2020

St James  
Academy  
Dudley







# Welcome

## Welcome from Ian Moore – Acting Principal

St James Academy is a truly comprehensive school embracing the talents of all its students.

We are determined to become a centre of excellence for young people who live in central Dudley and all the surrounding areas of Dudley and Sandwell. The philosophy is simple: we will ensure the success of all our learners through outstanding teaching and positive behaviour.

There is also a strong caring ethos here, which ensures high levels of support for students and creates an atmosphere of mutual respect throughout the school. Our students are challenged to extend their interests through a wide programme of extra-curricular activities, sports teams and enrichment activities.

I like to know the names and personalities of all the children in the school, and St James is small enough to do that. There's a bit of a buzz about our academy and a feeling of warmth and friendliness. That's not to say that we aren't strict on discipline, we are! But we are also passionate about rewarding learners who make an extra effort, show kindness, display great teamwork or achieve beyond expectations.



St James Academy makes a real difference to young people and is a great place to be! Come on one of our tour dates to see the school as it really is; I look forward to meeting you in the very near future.

# Welcome to Dudley Academies Trust



**Dudley Academies Trust is a relatively new organisation set up to help transform secondary education in Dudley. We want all of our young people to have a high-quality education that will give them the foundations they need for a fulfilling life and a rewarding future career.**

The Trust is not just a group of schools that are stronger together and help each other. We have a large and experienced Central Team that supports each academy with its leadership, teaching, building programmes, sports and activities, financial management, staff training, IT and – most importantly – the progress and wellbeing of your children.

With the backing of our sponsor, Dudley College of Technology, we have already achieved much to be proud of. We have recruited numerous excellent staff to our academies and made some outstanding appointments to their leadership teams. Our Central Team is successfully supporting the teachers in each academy, sharing best practice and helping them to set higher and higher standards. We have introduced a proven system of rewards and behaviour management that has changed the culture of our classrooms, accompanied by a raft of new approaches to teaching. Many £millions have been invested in improving the buildings, facilities and computing equipment of our academies, and this work continues apace.

I am confident that St James Academy will make great strides forward over the next few years, and that your child will find every opportunity to flourish there and to enjoy everything that the school has to offer.

We very much look forward to your child joining us and working together with you to help them succeed in their learning and develop as a rounded and confident young person. We want your child to 'Dream Big' and to know that a variety of positive life choices are within their reach. Working with you, we will do everything in our power to make that a reality.

Our learners are a fantastic group of young people who tell us they feel happy, safe and well cared for in our schools. We are delighted that you have taken the time to read this Prospectus and we encourage you to visit one of our open events and meet some of our learners, or book a personal tour of the academy, so you can see for yourselves what we have to offer.

**Jo Higgins**  
**Chief Executive**



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## About our sponsor

The Trust's sponsor, Dudley College of Technology, is one of the most successful further education colleges in the UK, providing a wide range of education and training programmes across the West Midlands, enrolling some 12,000 students each year across 4,000 academic and technical programmes, on both a full and part-time basis. The college supports nearly 4,000 apprentices and is the lead partner in bringing an Institute of Technology to Dudley.

Ofsted rated as "outstanding", the college has significantly developed its curriculum offer and estate over the last decade. It has built a £9 million state-of-the-art Centre for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Technology, Dudley Advance I, which opened in 2013, followed by a £12 million investment in a Centre for Advanced Building Technologies, Dudley Advance II, completed in summer 2017.

The college has a dedicated A level provision under the banner of Dudley Sixth, with learners studying 36 different A level programmes with an overall pass rate of 98% in 2018, which is above the national average.

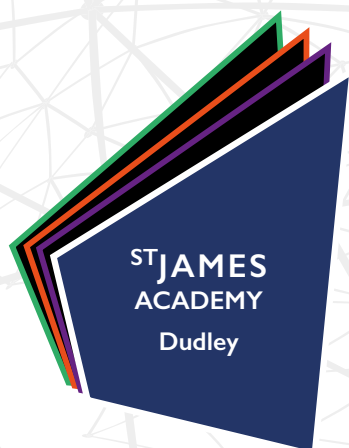
The college actively assists Dudley Academies Trust with a variety of support services, sporting activities, careers events, facilities, management expertise and governance.

*Ofsted rated as "outstanding", the college has significantly developed its curriculum offer and estate over the last decade.*

Our values are shared amongst all of the Trust's academies. These were shaped by the student leaders from each of the schools and reflect the kind of ethos and culture they want to be a part of.

### Our Values:

Dreaming big  
Rewarding effort  
Leading together  
Respecting each other and our world  
Learning that inspires



## Why St James Academy?

### **As part of Dudley Academies Trust, we benefit from:**

- Support from a team of Outstanding Practitioners – teachers who are experts in their subjects who work with our teachers and your children
- Help with recruiting exceptional teaching staff
- Shared best practice in the classroom
- Shared resources
- Shared learner support
- An excellent Careers Programme
- Investment in our buildings, IT and facilities
- The latest available learning technologies
- A tried and tested model of how to improve behaviour and motivate learners
- The resources and expertise of Dudley College of Technology.

### **In addition, St James Academy offers:**

- A friendly school with a positive feeling in the class rooms and the corridors
- A relatively small school community with a caring ethos
- A Literacy for Life programme that acts as a bridge between primary and secondary school
- A broad range of extra-curricular clubs, teams, activities and trips
- A central location in easy reach of Dudley bus station, but away from the noise and bustle
- Large playing fields and good facilities for sport and drama
- The determination that your child will progress with us and leave with a bright future ahead.





*St James Academy offers  
The promise that we will encourage  
and help your child to be the best  
that they can be.*





## **Transition:** ***settling in and getting set up for life***

We place great emphasis on ensuring that the transition from primary to secondary school is as smooth as possible and an exciting and happy experience for your child.

Firstly, they will receive a booklet telling them about everything that will happen before and after they start with us. Our staff then go out to all of our main feeder schools to say 'hello' to the children, talk to their teachers and learn all about them and their abilities and needs. Any extra support that is needed will be noted so that it can be in place when your child comes to us. SEND staff will also make contact where appropriate.

Then, in July, there will be induction events that will enable your child to meet their new teachers and classmates. They will come to an induction evening and have a tour of the school. There will also be a meeting for all new parents and carers which you are strongly encouraged to attend. Most importantly, all new learners will come to a block of taster days, where they attend lessons, make new friends, get to know their teachers, get used to the behaviour and rewards system, and begin to feel at home in the academy.

Pastoral support is one of our strengths. Every child who joins us will clearly know who to talk to if they have things on their mind. That support is with them throughout their school career.

### **Year 7: A Springboard into Secondary School**


Literacy for Life (L4L), our Year 7 programme, is a special feature of our academy. It acts as a bridge between primary and secondary school, helping your child to make a success of secondary education and a great start in life.

Here are some of the things that make L4L special:

- It's run by a small team of teachers who really get to know the learners and how to help them progress
- It teaches skills that learners can use across all of the different subjects – skills that they will use for many years to come
- It tracks the progress of each individual learner, so that teachers can give you an exact picture of how your child is getting on
- It gives children an enthusiasm for learning by teaching a series of interesting 'themes' or topics that children can relate to
- It uses an artificial intelligence programme to help children achieve their best in all aspects of literacy.

So, how does L4L work? It's the themes that are the key. Themes include such topics as Planets, Journeys, Robots, and Water. While studying each of these themes, your child will be getting to grips with skills such as reading, writing, understanding, mathematics, oracy (speaking confidently and expressively) and the use of technology. Literacy, the most important skill of all, is reinforced at every stage of the programme, with Year 10 students helping to run Book Clubs.



A photograph of two students in school uniforms. On the left, a girl with long brown hair is looking towards a sculpture. On the right, a boy with glasses and a blue tie is looking at the same sculpture. The sculpture is a black bust of a woman's head with a large, colorful headdress made of yellow, orange, and red paper or fabric. The background shows an art classroom with a brick wall, a rainbow flag, and a drawing of a face on the wall.

*We place a lot of emphasis on Collaborative Learning. Learners will usually be seated in groups rather than rows, and ideas, thoughts and opinions will be discussed in a structured way followed across all lessons.*



# Helping your child to succeed

In Year 9, learners progress to study GCSE courses. They study the core subjects, English, Mathematics, Science and PE, plus others that they choose themselves. Our learners are supported by a highly-committed teaching and support staff including the Trust Central Team of Outstanding Practitioners. Each member of our staff is passionate about empowering our learners to aim high in all that they do.

## **We aim to accelerate the progress of every single learner by:**

- Building on areas of strength to improve outcomes for all pupils
- Quickly identifying and dealing with any areas of weakness
- Accelerating pupil attainment
- Increasing the levels of outstanding teaching in the academy
- Raising pupil confidence, developing their future career aspirations and increasing their knowledge of career options
- Ensuring that all pupils, irrespective of their differing abilities, achieve their maximum potential – supporting those with learning difficulties.

We have a strong emphasis on English and Mathematics skills as the foundation for academic success, and we've introduced exciting new ways of teaching these critical subjects. These teaching methods are focused on encouraging communication, getting every learner in a classroom to join in with the lesson, helping the learners to solve problems in teams and to learn from each other. The key to success is making learners want to learn, giving them goals that motivate them (Dreaming Big) and approaches to teaching that keep them engaged, focused and making progress in every subject (Learning that Inspires).

One area where the Trust has invested is in a state-of-the-art learning technology called 'Century', which we use for Maths, English and Science. Century is an artificial intelligence platform that can be used at school or in the home; it looks at how each child learns and sees what they know or don't know, then it feeds them work that is suited to them personally. It also tells their teachers exactly how well they are doing so that the teachers can help them, and it continually challenges them to improve.

The Upgrade Mission is an initiative that has been designed to support all of our Year 11 students and prepare them for their forthcoming GCSE exams. In Year 11, an extended school day gives learners the best chance of doing well in their GCSEs. There are practice papers throughout the year, extra revision lessons, study skills kits and a wide range of rewards to make sure they stay focused on their goals. A range of outside organisations help us to motivate the learners to achieve beyond themselves. All learners are encouraged to aim for the highest grades.





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# Beyond lessons: learning for their lives ahead

## **Student Leadership and Learner Voice**

All learners in every year group have the opportunity to participate in student leadership activities, at the heart of which is our Student Leadership team. This highly impressive group of young people supports key school events across the Trust and works with the entire student body to ensure that our core values are put into practice. Members of this team regularly report to our Principals' board, the Local Advisory Committees and our Trust Board. Our young leaders genuinely play a central role in shaping the direction of the Trust and putting learner voice at the heart of our decision-making processes.

In the academies, young leaders help to organise school events, guide people on tours, speak in assemblies, work on 'staying safe' initiatives, discuss issues and suggestions with the Principal, organise sports teams, run charity events and contribute to the recruitment of staff.

## **Dreaming Big: careers advice and making the right decisions**

In every year, learners benefit from high quality impartial careers advice and guidance. A Trust-wide team ensures that all learners can understand the relevance of their education to their later choices and we encourage them to plan for their future.

Our Careers Strategy also includes fostering direct links with employers, taking part in Chamber and other business events, entering entrepreneurial competitions, exploring post-16 options and taking part in work experience.

As part of our Careers Strategy, all learners will visit Dudley College of Technology, the Academy's sponsor, and take part in several days of "Taster Activities" in the College's industry-standard facilities. This allows them to explore many and varied career options and understand better the nature of A level and vocational qualifications. Central Sixth at Dudley College offers our learners the opportunity to experience its wide range of exciting A Level subjects, with a large proportion of our learners choosing to study in its modern and well-equipped building.

## **A richer childhood and a more rounded child**

As part of Dudley Academies Trust, we can offer a very wide range of sporting and extra-curricular activities.

Sports include cricket, rounders, netball, football, basketball, tag rugby, rugby football, athletics, gymnastics and many more. Dudley College of Technology has hosted and supported tournaments and sports coaching, while the Trust is putting a plan for sports development in place for the future.

Recently, our learners have participated in a public speaking competition, an opera they helped to write with Welsh National Opera, dramas, musicals, dance, STEM competitions, entrepreneurship competitions, business networking, public debates, foreign trips, field trips, charity events, community activities and many other interesting and worthwhile additions to their studies.





*We strive to ensure our learners have opportunities to flourish beyond their academic studies and to give them the confidence they need to succeed in every aspect of their life beyond school.*





# *Your child: safe, happy and motivated*

Dudley Academies Trust is fully committed to Values Driven Education.

This means we all live by our 5 Core Values:

- **Dreaming big**
- **Rewarding effort**
- **Leading together**
- **Respecting each other and our world**
- **Learning that inspires.**

Above all, we are a highly supportive community.

We want our learners to be well-educated citizens who can make the right choices for themselves and others so that they can contribute to society in many positive ways. A key part of this is a tried and tested model of rewards and behaviour management based on our values.

Our rewards scheme, which was partly designed by our learners, provides a motivational and innovative approach to recognising and rewarding effort. Each term, special reward events take place for those learners who have achieved enough merits. Merits can be earned for attendance, punctuality, effort, achievement, thoughtfulness and kindness, participation in events, leadership and setting a good example.

At the same time, the emphasis on discipline cuts out the behaviour that stops children from learning, that wastes time in the classroom and distracts attention from the subject being studied. In and out of the classroom, learners and teachers tell us that it's a massive plus point for our academies.

## **Safeguarding**

First and foremost, we provide a safe and caring environment where every individual learner can flourish. Bullying and any form of emotional or physical abuse are not tolerated. We also educate our learners about how to stay safe in the digital world.

As an Academy, we are committed to safeguarding and meeting the needs of all young people. No child should suffer harm, either at home or at school. Everyone who works in our Academy has a responsibility to make sure that all our young people are safe. Our designated Safeguarder co-ordinates this work and is always available to discuss concerns.







We want our learners to be well-educated citizens who can make the right choices for themselves and others so that they can contribute to society in many positive ways.



## You and us:

Few children flourish at school without the active support of parents and carers. We positively encourage your participation in school life and we will do our very best to involve you in the education of your child.

You will receive regular updates about your child's progress that will give you an accurate and detailed description of what they have achieved and what they need to concentrate on. We are able to supply this level of information because we have a sophisticated data collection and analysis system that tracks the performance of

every child in every class and subject, enabling our teachers, leaders and parents to know exactly how well they are doing. Parents' evenings offer the opportunity to discuss this in depth.

The other central point of communication will be your child's Planner. The Planner is a diary of every week at school, recording all the merits that learners are awarded and any disciplinary, attendance and punctuality issues day by day. It also records your child's homework and asks you to sign off the work that they have done.

If, for any reason, you wish to come into the academy and discuss any aspect of your child's education or welfare, you are very welcome to do so.

At the same time, we will be keeping you up to date with the life of the academy, it's programme of continuous improvement and the further initiatives being introduced by the Trust, both by newsletter and social media.







*If, for any reason, you wish to come into the academy and discuss any aspect of your child's education or welfare, you are very welcome to do so.*

## ***Inclusion:*** ***Our commitment to inclusion***

All learners are valued at our academy and we strive to meet an individual's needs. To achieve this, some children may be identified as needing more individual support and monitoring. Support in the classroom is a strength of the academy and we also have a strong Pastoral team that works across the academy to ensure that children should never feel that support isn't readily available.

All learners, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), those who are disadvantaged, "looked after" or from

minority ethnic groups, will be encouraged to apply for leadership roles. As a leader they will be expected to recognise, acknowledge and celebrate the achievement of others and to act in a way that is conducive to a culture where success is celebrated, including taking part in assemblies and reward events.

We take a whole school approach to supporting learners with identified SEND needs. The Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) works across all curriculum areas to ensure learners get the right support. This may include in-class

support, individual one-to-one support, or specialist intervention programs. Support will be provided by different people according to need; this may involve a class teacher, learning support assistants, academic mentors, behaviour/emotional mentors or outside agencies.

Learners who have English as an additional language are fully integrated into all lessons and receive in-class support to develop confidence and competency in their language use.

## ***Admission arrangements for 2019/20*** ***Come to see our academy in action***



### **Open events.**

Come in to see for yourself what our academy is like behind the scenes. One of our senior staff will give you a tour of facilities and classrooms while the pupils are in class. You will be able to find out about some of the new and highly successful teaching techniques that we are using, ask questions about life in the school and discuss how pupils settle in when they join.

**Please go to [dudleyacademiestrust.org.uk/come-and-see](https://dudleyacademiestrust.org.uk/come-and-see) to register for a tour and book a place.**





*If you book a tour of our academy you will be able to see our classrooms in action. You will also be able to see the facilities and talk to a senior member of staff.*





## Key Contacts

**Main school switchboard**

**01384 816045 and dial 0**

### **USEFUL WEBSITES**

**St James Academy  
Dudley Academies Trust  
Dudley College  
Dudley MBC (Admissions)**

**[www.stjamesacademy.org.uk](http://www.stjamesacademy.org.uk)  
[www.dudleyacademiestrust.org.uk](http://www.dudleyacademiestrust.org.uk)  
[www.dudleycol.ac.uk](http://www.dudleycol.ac.uk)  
[admissions.cs@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.cs@dudley.gov.uk)**

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