



ERASMUS DARWIN ACADEMY
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL



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WELCOME

I am delighted that you are considering Erasmus Darwin Academy as your child's secondary school. It is my belief, founded on our strong values and our dedication to developing the 'whole child', that Erasmus Darwin Academy provides a first-rate education for young people aged 11-18 years. Situated on a pleasant site, Erasmus Darwin Academy is a successful, mixed school of approximately 1000 students. We are the first choice of secondary school for parents of children from more than 20 different primary schools over a wide local area that, in addition to Burntwood, includes Heath Hayes, Cannock and Gentleshaw.

Since becoming an Academy, this school has gone from strength to strength. Our students achieve high academic standards, and we are committed to ensuring that all students make excellent progress during their time with us. Furthermore, a great deal of time is spent nurturing the qualities that our students need to succeed in their studies at university or college and in the workplace. Our students are given every opportunity to learn the value of teamwork and to have the highest aspirations as they grow to become independent, confident, well-balanced young people.



Mark Maydew Principal

I hope that you enjoy reading about our Academy; please feel free to contact us if you have further questions.



A UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

Erasmus Darwin Academy offers local parents and their children a unique educational experience that blends the best of modern approaches to teaching and learning with a strong ethos, traditional values and very high standards. At Erasmus Darwin Academy, we have the highest expectations of students in terms of their behaviour, uniform, attendance and punctuality. We understand the importance of establishing good relationships and of showing mutual respect, so our school is a happy place to work and to study. We are fortunate to employ highly-skilled staff: well-qualified teachers who can inspire young people with their passion for their subjects, and exceptional support staff, who provide excellent care and guidance for our students.

Our Academy is made up of four 'Houses', and all students and staff are assigned to a House for the duration of the time that they spend in this school. Each House is led by an Assistant Principal, who has overall responsibility for the academic progress, personal well-being and social development of individual students in their House. Within a House there are eleven 'Tutor Groups' of approximately 23 students led by a 'Tutor' who stays with the group for the duration of a child's school experience. A Tutor Group has a number of students from every age group in the school, from Year 7 to Year 13. Consequently, each student has a 'family base' in their Tutor Group, from which they gain the personal support that they need to develop as a well-rounded individual. Our House System also encourages team loyalty and a healthy sense of competition, providing real benefits for the individual student and for the school as a whole.



THE COMMUNICATION WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE ACADEMY HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING. WE HAVE FELT INFORMED AND SUPPORTED THROUGHOUT THE TRANSITION PROCESS, AND OUR DAUGHTER CANNOT WAIT TO START IN SEPTEMBER.

Parent of a Year 7 student



THE THREE-YEAR GCSE CURRICULUM WAS A HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE REASON FOR MY SON JOINING THE ACADEMY.

Parent of a Year 7 student

OUR ACADEMY CURRICULUM

We offer a varied and balanced curriculum which allows our students to achieve beyond expectations in a stimulating and supportive environment. Careful attention is paid to the needs of individual learners: our multi-pathway curriculum is designed to meet the needs of all students, from the most able students destined for top universities to those who require specialist help and encouragement.

The 'Development Stage Curriculum'

In Years 7 and 8, students follow a broad-based curriculum, consisting of a wide range of different subjects. All students enjoy a rich mix of English, Mathematics, Science, Modern Languages, Geography, History, Design Technology, ICT and Computing, Art, Music and Drama, Physical Education, Religious Education and Personal Social and Health Education. All students start at the Academy by studying one foreign language in Year 7, with many students taking up the opportunity to study a second language in Year 8.

The 'Qualifications Stage Curriculum'

In Years 9, 10 and 11, students follow a three-year course in their examination subjects. All students follow GCSE courses in English Language and English Literature, Maths, Sciences and Religious Studies. The great majority of students at the Academy also continue to study a Modern Foreign Language and either History, Geography or Computing (EBacc Subjects). All students choose to study additional courses, which can include further EBacc subjects or other GCSE subjects such as Art, Business Studies, Drama, Music, Design Technology in Graphics/Resistant Materials/Food/Textiles and Physical Education. Some BTEC qualifications are also offered in specific subjects.





*YEAR 8 CHALLENGE WEEK
GAVE ME MORE CONFIDENCE
IN EVERYDAY LIFE. I DID THINGS
THAT I NEVER THOUGHT
I WOULD EVER DO.*

Year 8 student

LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Erasmus Darwin Academy offers all students an enriching learning experience beyond the daily classroom timetable. Our definition of an excellent education incorporates all the additional activities that any parent could wish that their child might experience during their school life. The Academy has an outstanding reputation for the highest levels of achievement in the performing arts, in the visual arts and in sport. Our annual production brings staff and students from all these areas together as they create memorable performances enjoyed by friends, family and the local community. At concerts and on other occasions, our bands and choirs are a showcase for musical talent. Our specialist P.E. staff ensure that our teams are highly successful in a range of sports from football, rugby and handball to tennis, netball and rounders, and we strongly encourage all students to participate in such extra-curricular activities.

Outdoor education and educational visits are a regular feature in the Academy calendar. All students in Year 8 are invited to participate in an amazing 'Challenge Week' at the Outward Bound Centre at Aberdovey in North Wales. The Ski Trip is a must for many youngsters, while visits to Europe are also very popular, whether it's Paris, Strasbourg or Cologne. The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is increasingly popular with students from Year 10 onwards. We have organised two educational visits to China, enabling Academy students to meet their peers at our partner school in Shanghai.

We teach the value of community service and charitable fundraising by providing our students with opportunities to be actively involved in making a real difference! As a result, we are able to donate thousands of pounds annually to local and national charities, and we offer welcome support to the elderly and disadvantaged.





I HAVE BEEN AT THE ACADEMY SINCE YEAR 7; I HAVE HAD SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO BE A STUDENT LEADER AND HELP OTHERS, AS WELL AS HELP MYSELF. THE LATEST OPPORTUNITY OF BEING A PREFECT IS MY CHANCE TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO THE SCHOOL, AND BE A GOOD ROLE MODEL TO YOUNGER STUDENTS.

Year 11 student



DEVELOPING FUTURE LEADERS

Erasmus Darwin Academy provides young people with many different opportunities to develop their skills as future leaders. In Years 7 and Year 8 we recruit 'Peer Buddies' to support Year 6 students on entry to secondary education. In the summer of Year 10, we appoint 'Prefects' to serve as positive role models and ambassadors in the Academy community. Prefects will often act as hosts at official functions, be present at Open Evening and support major Academy Events, such as the Annual Production.

When a student moves into our Sixth Form, the opportunities for leadership become more diverse. Our Head Boy and Head Girl represent the pinnacle of the Student Leadership system; they address the students and staff in assemblies, speak publicly for the Academy in events such as Open Evening, and promote the school generally as part of their role. Every Sixth Form student at the Academy is also responsible for working closely with their tutor, often taking the initiative and leading tutorial tasks in tutor time as well as serving as young leaders in a variety of other situations.

Our Academy Council enables elected members of the student body to represent their peers in half-termly meetings, led by the Head Boy and Head Girl. The Academy Council is supported by four 'House Councils', comprising at least one member from every Tutor Group in the Academy. This system ensures that the voice of every child is heard and that our student body is actively involved in decision-making within the Academy.



WORKING WITH OUR STUDENTS

We recognise that every child is different, and that each individual is likely to require some extra support at some time in their school life. We are privileged to work with young people at the most formative phase of their development, from 11-18 years. We take our responsibilities for their well-being very seriously, and our staff are always ready to support our students with any problem, great or small. Our highly-trained Student Support team is proactive in addressing a range of issues and its members are very experienced at dealing with the challenges of adolescence. By working in partnership with parents and other agencies, we aim to ensure that our students enjoy a safe, happy and settled time within our Academy community.

THE STUDENT SUPPORT STAFF OFFERED LOTS OF SUPPORT TO MY CHILD, AND WE ARE KEEPING IN TOUCH ON A REGULAR BASIS.

Parent of a Year 10 student



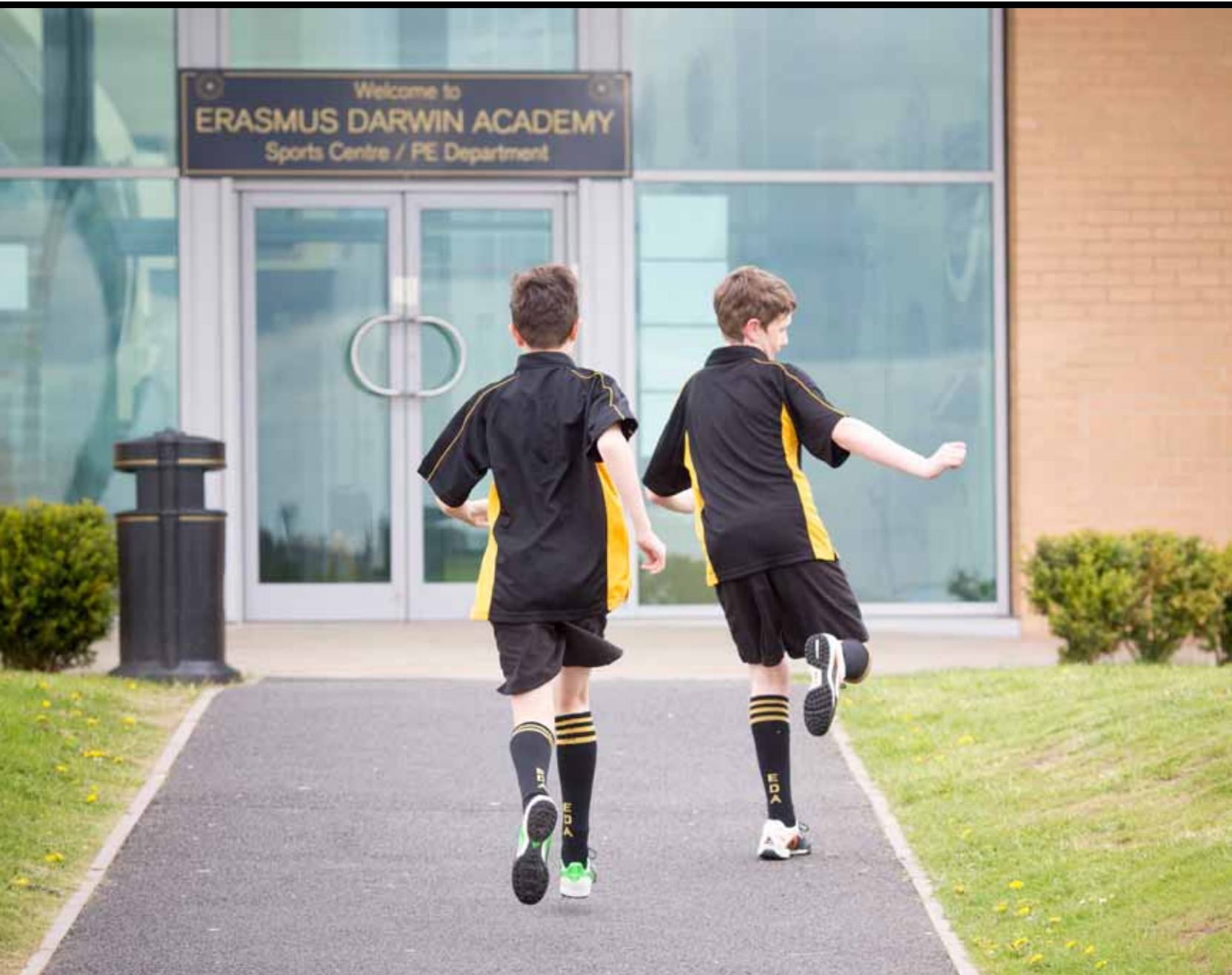
OUR SIXTH FORM

Students who continue to study at Erasmus Darwin Academy in the Sixth Form can access a wide range of courses, including full GCSE A-Levels and BTEC Nationals as well as a variety of non-qualification courses which enrich the students' experiences and develop wider, employability skills. The Advanced Curriculum is organised in consultation with students, and it includes tutorials, sessions to improve personal and study skills, careers education and guidance, assisting students in applications for higher education, training or employment options. In addition, our Sixth Formers take advantage of opportunities to extend their learning through work experience, community service, Duke of Edinburgh or other worthwhile extension activities. We are proud of the exceptional contribution that Sixth Formers make to the wider life of the Academy: they are superb role models for younger students, wonderful young leaders who give back so much to our school.



OUR DAUGHTER JOINED THE SIXTH FORM IN YEAR 12 AND HAS SETTLED SO WELL, AND MADE LOTS OF FRIENDS. IT'S AS IF SHE HAS BEEN THERE SINCE YEAR 7!

Parent of student in Year 12



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FURTHER INFORMATION

