



Willenhall E-ACT Academy

Prospectus



Contents

3/4	Message from the Head of School
5/6	An Enriched Curriculum
7/8	Enrichment Opportunities
9/10	Extra Curricular Timetable
11/12	Proud to be a Pixl Academy
13/14	The Brilliant Club
15/16	The Library
17/18	Supporting our Students
19/20	The Academy Life
21/22	Core Values
23/24	Serving our community
25/26	Admissions



Message from The Head of School



It is a great privilege to be the Head of School of Willenhall E-ACT Academy and to be given the opportunity to work with such an outstanding group of students, staff and parents.

Our vision is to see these students flourish and succeed.

At Willenhall E-ACT Academy we offer a vibrant learning environment with excellent up-to-date teaching and learning practices, together with a strong academic challenge.

I am please to announce that we have recently launched our Willenhall E-ACT Academy 'Passport to Learning'. This new initiative enables all new Year 7 students to have the chance to carry out a range of activities, whilst at the Academy, that will lead to them gaining the Willenhall E-ACT Academy passport. These activities include:

- Gaining at least 8 GCSEs at the required target grade
- Taking part in an overseas visit
- Representing the academy at sport
- Taking part in a drama or musical event
- Taking part in outdoor activities or a residential visit
- Involvement in a charity campaign in or outside the academy
- Taking part in a community event assisting others

I hope that you will visit us in the near future to learn about the excellent environment and facilities for learning that the academy has to offer, with engaging and exciting lessons and excellent pastoral care. It will also give you an opportunity to see our biggest and best assets, our students!

If you wish to attend one of our many academy events that are advertised on the website and require any further information, please contact the academy.

Jenn Willmitt

Head of School



An enriched curriculum



Curriculum

Allowing individual learners to flourish is at the heart of what we do, and there are alternative pathways for students of all abilities to choose according to their preferences, strengths and individual learning style.

Students in Year 7 and 8 are taught in ability banded sets. There is an emphasis on ensuring that they develop the literacy, numeracy and personal learning and thinking skills needed to achieve success in the years that follow.

In Years 9, 10 and 11 we offer a range of qualifications and pathways including GCSEs and high quality vocational qualifications. All students study for GCSEs in English and Mathematics and there is a rigorous focus, throughout the curriculum on the core skills of Numeracy and Literacy. Students also follow courses in Science and PE or Dance where a variety of qualifications are available alongside other traditional subjects.

Willenhall E-ACT Academy offers the English Baccalaureate pathway or Ebacc for short. This pathway involves certification at 9-4 grades in English, Maths, Science, History or Geography and a Foreign Language.

The English Baccalaureate contains all the subjects relevant for academic excellence and future achievement. The English Baccalaureate stretches and challenges and offers a more traditionally academic route of education.

All the courses studied in Key Stage 4 lead to qualifications that are awarded by examining groups outside the academy. They are recognised by employers, colleges and universities and provide students with a range of opportunities for further student and future employment.

The curriculum on offer is very flexible and students are able to study a mixture of GCSE and high quality vocational courses.

GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education)

These qualifications mainly involve studying the theory of a subject, combined with some investigation work. Some subjects also include practical work. All GCSEs have a significant examination element.

BTEC and Vcerts

These level 2 vocational courses lead to work related qualifications and are available in a wide range of subjects. Many have been designed in collaboration with industry and so can equip students with the skills and knowledge that employers are looking for.

Timetable

LESSON	START	FINISH
Lesson 1	8.40am	9.40am
Lesson 2	9.40am	10.40am
Tutor Period	10.40am	11.10am
Break	11.10am	11.30am
Lesson 3	11.30am	12.30pm
Lesson 4	12.30pm	13.30pm
Lunch	13.30pm	14.00pm
Lesson 5	14.00pm	15.00pm
Lesson 6 (Intervention)	15.00pm	16.00pm



Enrichment Opportunities (an enriched curriculum)

Aim Higher



The academy is involved in a wide range of initiatives and programmes designed to stretch and challenge students, and broaden their educational experience giving them new skills and developing their sense of ambition and self-esteem.

Musical and dance productions, design competitions, charity events and much more, bring the academy community together and encourage a vital sense of competition and citizenship.

The sports specialism affords students the chance to develop their talents and many go on to compete at a national level. There are numerous clubs which take place after the academy day, as part of the extended curriculum.

Leadership opportunities

The academy has a strong culture of enabling students to lead their own learning and become independent, critical thinkers. Within each class there are student leaders who encourage others and all students have the chance to contribute to the teaching and learning strategy at the academy.

At Willenhall EACT Academy we highly value the student voice and encourage Key Stage 4 Pupils to become part of the Student Leadership Team. Performing roles within the academy that encourage our Student Leaders; enabling them to develop their personal skills in commitment, integrity, trust, enthusiasm, confidence, dedication and optimism.

The development of the 'Student Voice' is a key feature of Willenhall E-ACT Academy, Students develop their leadership skills through participation in a wide range of daytime and extended activities.

All students have opportunities to engage in broader programmes, where the emphasis is on the development of leadership and team working skills, self-reliance, an awareness of the needs of others and being a Student Ambassador. Some recent programmes include:

- Involvement in the democratically elected Student Forum, Activity Leaders, Academy and other student based forums
- Contribution to the LPPA (Leading Parent Partnership Award)
- Involvement in the Beacon Ambassador Programme
- Leading in lessons
- Peer mentoring
- Leading in sporting, artistic and creative events
- Working with people with disabilities
- Involvement in environmental projects
- Working with younger children

The academy uses nationally recognised schemes, as well as leadership and coaching qualifications. The academy offers out-of-hours opportunities through the academy community and leisure department where students have a voice in shaping the offer.





Extra Curricular Timetable



Extra- Curricular Timetable

LUNCH TIME	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Library	Library	Library	Library	Library
	KS4 Football Astro	Dance– All years Dance Studio	KS4 Football Astro	Dance– All years Dance Studio	KS4 Football Astro
	Orchestra Club Music	KS3 Football Astro		KS3 Football Astro	

AFTER SCHOOL	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Library	Library	Library	Library	Library
	GCSE Drama Club Drama Theatre	KS4 BTEC Sport Catch up IT2	Science Revision	Art Club (alt. Thursdays) A5	KS4 Art Club A5
	Science Intervention	Science Intervention	Science Intervention	Science Intervention	Science Intervention
	Drama Club SS2/Dance Studio	KS3 Geography Club H4	STAFF TRAINING	Music rehearsal Peter Pan Cast Dance Studio	Hockey– All years Astro
	English English Department	Year 7, 8 and 9 Netball		KS4 BTEC Sport Catch up IT2	Year 11 French Intervention
	Year 7 and 8 Football	Year 11 French Intervention		Year 11 French Intervention	Week A: Sport and ICT Week B: MFL, Art, DT KS4
		Music rehearsal Peter Pan Cast Dance Studio		Week A: Humanities Week B: Performing Arts KS4	
		Maths KS4		KS4 History H3	
				KS4 BTEC Sport Catch up IT2	
				STEM Club	



Proud to be a Pixl School



Willenhall E-ACT Academy is proud to be a PiXL school. We are currently working closely with PiXL to ensure that the students that attend our academy have a better future and a brighter hope.

The PiXL Club values are underpinned by the 3Cs: currency, character and culture which as an academy we have adopted in order to give our young people the best chance of success both in and out of the academy environment.

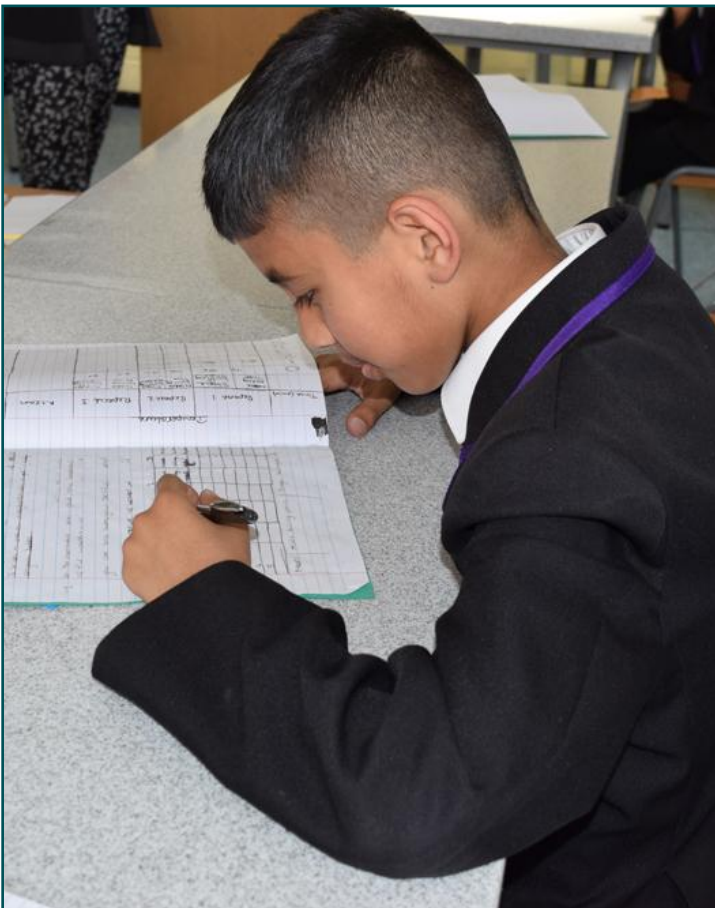
Currency is the exam results that students achieve at the end of Year 11 that will allow them access to further education. Our team at the academy are committed to providing students with the skills they need to access the curriculum as well as the final examinations in Year 11 and to achieve to the best of their ability.

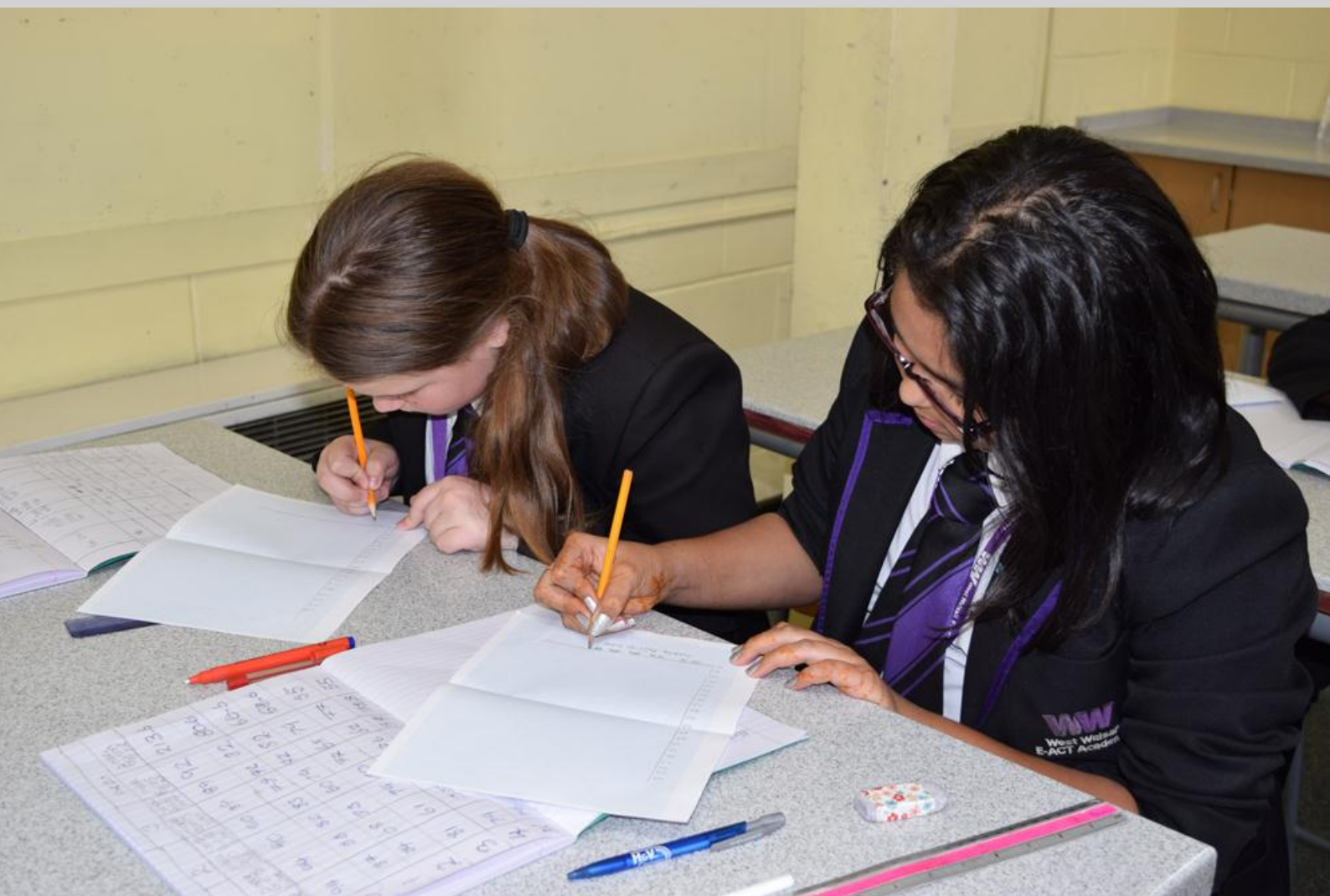
Character is our commitment to ensuring that we develop 'character' in our young people. From organisation and resilience to developing initiative and leadership qualities, our students will leave the academy ready for the world that awaits them.

Culture is about helping our young people to understand the importance of demonstrating kindness, showing respect and living without harm not just to those people who are like them but to people who are not like them: how we relate to people who don't think the same way as us, or believe the same things, is a crucial skill that needs to be taught.

By working closely with Pixl, we are able to compare the progress of students in our academy to the progress of students in other academies. By identifying gaps in student knowledge sooner we are also able to implement effective therapy to allow students to plug gaps in knowledge and therefore accelerate their progress.

Over the course of their school careers, students will be exposed to a large number of strategies and initiatives such as 'thinking harder' as well as strategies in 'independence' that are all intended to assist them in making the best possible progress.





The Brilliant Club



The Brilliant Club has been active at Willenhall E-ACT Academy for the last two academic years. It is available for all Key Stage 3 students.

The aim of the Brilliant Club is to recognise outstanding students and to inspire them academically, so that they realise that a university education is achievable. Students are invited by the academy to participate in this programme of study. Our selection process is simple; it is one informed by those students achieving above their target grades and those who would give one hundred percent dedication to the Brilliant Club.

Last academic year students from the academy were invited to a formal 'Graduation Ceremony' at the University of Sheffield where they were awarded for successfully completing the Scholar's Programme. The Programme involved a PhD tutor teaching university-style tutorials to the students for 6 weeks and at the end of the programme pupils complete a final assignment of 2,500 words entitled 'Connectivity: The Unsung Hero of our Time'.

The Graduation Ceremony is a fabulous experience for any pupil. This day involves students receiving a full tour of the university, a study skills session, a question and answer discussion with university students, a careers and student finance session and then a presentation ceremony by the University Vice Chancellor. Willenhall E-ACT students achieved some exceptional scores for their assignments gaining 1st and 2nd class grades. Students were highly commended for their approaches to learning, social skills and mature attitudes by the University staff and the Brilliant Club team.

Our students demonstrated huge improvements in their ability to think explicitly about their learning (meta-cognition), which improved by 9% during their time in the Brilliant Club, a figure all the more outstanding when we realise that nationally there is only a 3% improvement during this course. In regards to how motivated they were, not only were all of their projects handed in on time, but there was a noticeable improvement of 11% in regards to pupil engagement over the unit of study. Again, compared to a figure of 0% nationally.

The academic tutor also described how students who previously would not have seen university as an achievable goal for themselves now do. Our students achieved scores for their assessments which were above national average by on average 5%, with the majority achieving either a first or a 2:1 for their assignment. So, to put that into context students in Year 9 who were 14 years old were able to undertake an extended essay normally created by an 18 year old. These assignments were marked by their academic tutor, a PhD student who was amazed by the passion and dedication of our students.





The Library

The importance of Literacy



The academy has recently refurbished its library bringing us one step closer to fulfilling our belief that every student should have access to a great library that forms the heart of the academy.

We have a fantastic range of books to choose from, a computer floor for student use and a new KS4 study area stocked with revision books and key texts from the range of subjects studied in years 10 and 11.

Research has shown that reading for pleasure improves the vocabulary of students greatly and just twenty minutes reading per day will help students achieve their potential grades. With this in mind, we have re-purposed lessons in the library to enhance and improve students' reading strategies and experiences with literature.

In addition to library lessons, the academy continues to use the Accelerated Reader programme which helps teachers manage and monitor students' independent reading, and as the books read are the students own choice based on their interests; that makes the read even more successful and enjoyable.

We have raised our reading aspirations and are encouraging all students to read at least one Accelerated Reader book per half term. In the new academic year, the Library will be showing film versions of our set texts as well as hosting other cinematic events to make full use of the library space and secure its place as social hub of the academy.

We continue to host visits and workshops from published authors who, while sharing their work with our students, inspire and encourage them to have a go for themselves and pick up a pen. Regular competitions encourage students to show off their skills and strengths, in reading, writing and art and showcase their many talents.

The library is open to all students at break time, lunch time and after school for students to access the resources, read, research or get help with homework.

The Library is also home to our school rewards shop where at lunch times, students can trade in their Class Charts rewards points for stationary and other goodies.

Our library is run by our Librarian, Tereasa Mali, with the assistance of Student Library Ambassadors from all year groups, who are always on hand to help other students with their research projects or simply to choose a great read.





Supporting our Students

Care and Guidance



The academy fully recognizes that young people continually need support in many aspects of their lives as they grow and progress. We provide this support centered around same-age form groups, each with a dedicated tutor who focuses on the needs of that particular Year group of students.

This allows for a personalized approach to coaching and mentoring whereby individual students and groups of students can receive targeted support when our student monitoring procedure identifies specific need.

When students join the academy in Year 7 they are placed in mixed ability forms, with a tutor who will support their progress throughout Key Stage 3. The year groups are each further supported by a Key Stage Leader and Pastoral Managers.

As students progress through the Academy they will work with specialist Key Stage Leaders and Pastoral Managers who can cater for their differing needs accordingly.

Entitlement Pledge

This is a promise we make to all high attaining students and students in receipt of the pupil premium. A promise that we will deliver enrichment activities to support the curriculum designed to help raise their aspirations and ensure that “doors are opened to them in the future”. These range from educational visits to outside speakers from the world of business; from residential to university masterclasses.

Careers advice, support and guidance

The academy provides advice and guidance on pathways and career options at all stages of students’ progress. This is especially focused on the

first term of Year 7 and at transition points between key stages when students need to make choices as to which pathways and courses to take. We employ dedicated staff to provide the necessary advice, guidance and support.

SEND

The academy operates with a team of committed SEND professionals who pride themselves on having an excellent rapport with both students and parents. All SEND students have a key worker who supports and monitors progress both within and outside of lessons as necessary. The department liaises with a wide variety of outside agencies to ensure that all students have the opportunity to achieve their personal best.

Students are monitored to ensure that they are making good or better progress. Should any pupil fall below, they may be part of the intervention group that the SEND department run, in particular support for literacy, numeracy and social emotional needs is offered. Parents are provided with opportunities to meet key staff within the SEND Department at parents evenings and coffee mornings where discussions take place about any changes to the pupil profile that may be required. Parents are sent a copy of the Individual Support Plan each year.

Extended Learning

Extended learning is set following a timetable to avoid students being overloaded at any time. Teachers use Classcharts to set the work which can be accessed by both students and parents so there is never any confusion over the task or the deadline. Sanctions will be issued if extended learning is not completed in a timely manner. All students are all given a knowledge organiser folder to collate their work and store the knowledge organiser documents they are given in class; these are useful tools for revising and useful reference materials when completing other tasks and we do ask that students have them to hand at all times to utilise in class as well as at home.



The Academy Life

Uniform



Uniform

Girls' Uniform

- Black Blazer with purple piping and badge.
- Black school skirt or black straight leg trousers in same fabric (no leggings or jeans).
- White polyester/cotton shirt.
- School tie.
- Black V-neck jumper or plain black cardigan (optional but no other jumper may be worn).
- Plain black shoes (trainers, boots or leisure shoes are not allowed).
- Appropriate school bag.

Boys' Uniform

- Black Blazer with purple piping and badge.
- Black trousers (no pattern or texture).
- White polyester/cotton shirt.
- School tie.
- Plain black V-neck jumper (optional but no other jumper may be worn).
- Plain black shoes (trainers, boots or leisure shoes are not allowed).
- Appropriate school bag.

All footwear must be plain black and 100% polishable and have no different coloured logos or symbols on them. We would also appreciate your support with encouraging your child to wear their uniform correctly, particularly having their tie fastened by the top button of the shirt and having it at an appropriate length.

Female pupils must wear shirts that can be fastened to their neck and not come to the academy in V-neck blouses, they are also not allowed to wear fashionable belts.

Jewellery

Pupils are permitted to wear **one** pair of small stud earrings and **one** small ring. Chains, facial piercings and navel piercings are not permitted (they will be confiscated for parental collection).

PE Kit Requirements

Boys

Indoor

Black shorts with Willenhall E-ACT Academy logo, purple polo t-shirt with Willenhall E-ACT Academy logo, purple socks (football socks) and trainers (not pumps).

Swimming

Blue/ black swimming shorts/ trunks, white swimming hat, towel and t-shirt.

Outdoor

Black shorts with Willenhall E-ACT Academy logo or black tracksuit bottoms with Willenhall E-ACT Academy logo, purple polo t-shirt with Willenhall E-ACT Academy logo, black fleece with Willenhall E-ACT Academy logo, purple socks (football socks) and trainers (not pumps), if on field may require boots (football).

Girls

Indoor

Black shorts with Willenhall E-ACT Academy logo, purple polo t-shirt with Willenhall E-ACT Academy logo, purple socks (football socks) and trainers (not pumps).

Swimming

Blue/ black swimming costume, white swimming hat, towel and t-shirt.

Outdoor

Black shorts with Willenhall E-ACT Academy logo or black tracksuit bottoms with Willenhall E-ACT Academy logo, purple polo t-shirt with Willenhall E-ACT Academy logo, black fleece with Willenhall E-ACT Academy logo, purple socks (football socks) and trainers (not pumps), if on field may require boots (football).

If your child is ill/ injured they will need a note and are still required to bring in their PE kit as they can be an official/ leader and can still be assessed in the lesson.



Core Values



Our Core Values

- To deliver a high quality, balanced curriculum, supported by up-to-date teaching practices, to fully progress our students to the next stage of their development.
- To produce well rounded young people, who will contribute positively to society when they leave the academy.
- To ensure that Willenhall E-ACT Academy becomes the best performing academy in the area, that sets the standard in both teaching and learning.

We will achieve this

- By working with other outstanding academies to ensure that Willenhall E-ACT Academy students benefit from continually improving teaching standards and practice.
- By offering all of our students the opportunity to find their own individual talents.
- By utilising technology in its many forms to allow students to make progress before, during and after the academy day.
- By working at the heart of the community to provide a learning and leisure resource for the benefit of all, during and after the academy day.

Students learn in an environment where there are consistent rules, behavioural expectations and boundaries. They are actively encouraged to be a part of setting standards and expectations and are provided with various forums for doing so.

The academy places great emphasis on the following behavioural rules:

- **Respect for everyone in the academy community.**
- **Safe and responsible behaviour on the academy site.**
- **Smart and professional appearance and behaviour, especially when representing the academy.**
- **Form positive relationships, co-operation and accepting responsibility for actions.**
- **Be prepared- ready to learn, organised and on time for lessons and when handing in homework.**

The academy appreciates parents' co-operation in achieving these values. There is a clear system of rewards and sanctions which is available in more detail on the academy website.

www.willenhalle-actacademy.org.uk





Careers

Careers Education,
Information Advice and
Guidance (CEIAG)



Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

Implementation of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance.

The Academy is committed to Careers Education giving all students the opportunity to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding to manage their own lifelong learning and career development. Careers Education prepares all students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of education, training and employment. It will both compliment and integrate with RESPECT. Emphasis will be upon impartial, confidential and informed advice. All students will receive a tailored approach to CEIAG, which will be determined by year group.

Our curriculum has been designed to incorporate and deliver CEIAG within timetabled lessons via the tutor time. We aim to:

- prepare students for life in modern Britain
- contribute to strategies to raise achievement
- support students to be work ready
- support inclusion, challenge stereotyping and promote equality of opportunity
- encourage participation in continued learning
- develop enterprise and employment skills
- contribute to the economic prosperity of communities
- meet the needs of all students through appropriate differentiation
- focus students on their future aspirations
- involve parents and carers

All students are invited to attend the annual careers fair which hosts over thirty different stands, representing a wealth of different employers and career options. We celebrate National Careers week every March and our students participate in a range of activities, to support their future choices.





Admissions

Year 7



The Willenhall E-ACT Academy is part of an Inter-LA Co-ordinated Admission Scheme.

The academy, as its own Admission Authority, is required to consult on admission arrangement.

Admission Criteria

Year 7 Criteria

Where the number of applications for admission is greater than the published admission number of 190 students, applications will be considered against the criteria set out below. After the admission of students with statements of Special Educational Needs, where Willenhall E-ACT Academy is named on the statement, the criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set out (NB there is no guarantee of a place for children living in our proximity area).

1. Children in public care (looked after children)

Definition: Children who are in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by a local authority.

2. Where the child has a sibling currently attending the Academy, at the time of admission

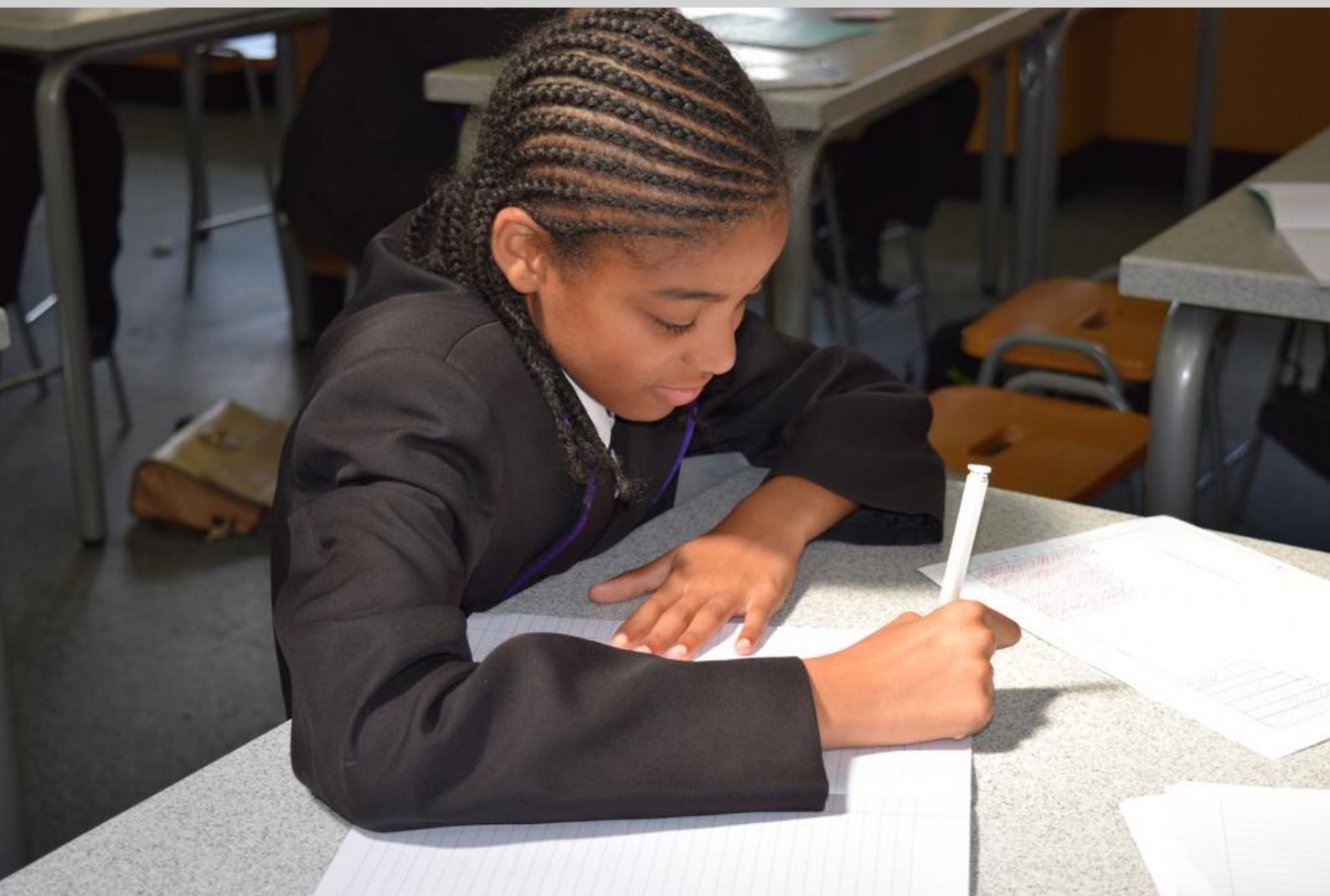
Sibling criterion: Children who have an older sibling already in attendance at the Academy when the application is made and who will still be attending the Academy at the proposed admission date.

3. Children for whom a place at the Academy is essential on medical grounds and supported in writing by a doctor (applications will be subject to verification by the Admissions Committee)

4. Distance criterion

Distance between the home address and the Academy as measured in a straight line, with priority given to those living closest.





The Centre of our Community

The academy aims to increase opportunities for the whole community to develop their learning, health, well-being and enjoyment. This is done through the organisation of sports courses and classes, club links and the hiring of our facilities.

Our success is based on our ability to create positive relationships with local people allowing us to really be 'the centre of our community'.

The current opening hours are 5.00pm to 10.00pm, Monday to Friday and 9.00am to 4.00pm, Saturday and Sunday.

For further information on anything Community related at Willenhall E-ACT Academy please contact the Community Office on 01902 365135 or check the Community section of our website.

For regular updates on new activities please follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook.

@willenhall.com

**Www.facebook.com/
willenhalleisureandcommunity**



Willenhall E-ACT Academy

Furzebank Way

Willenhall

WV12 4BD

Telephone: 01902 368221

Fax: 01902 634253

Email: postbox@willenhalle-actacademy.org.uk

Online: www.willenhalle-actacademy.org.uk

Head of School: Jenn Willmitt

Follow us on  Twitter and  Facebook

E-ACT

