“Success For All Through Hard Work and Harmony”
Hamstead Hall is an Academy, serving the local area of Handsworth and Handsworth Wood. The Academy caters for approximately 1100 students across the range from 11 - 18 and reflects the religious and cultural diversity of the city.

Opened in 1973 as Hamstead Hall School, it enjoys an attractive setting next to Sandwell Valley Nature Reserve and Handsworth Golf Course. The site stands in its own extensive grounds and playing fields.

Hamstead Hall Academy has been at the forefront of inclusion and is one of six schools in the city with a Special Needs Resource Base. The Resource Base caters for 40 students who have statements for cognition and learning difficulties.

Today the Academy is one of the most successful comprehensives in the country. In 2009 it gained NLE (National Leader of Education) and NSS (National Support School) status. The Academy has supported schools both locally and nationally to help them improve standards.

The parents/carers and students of the local area have trusted the Academy for the best part of 40 years. The Academy, secure in its history of service to the local community, looks forward to the challenges and opportunities of the future.
Dear Parent/Carer

This prospectus has been prepared to help you choose the very best education for your child. It is also a personal invitation for you to visit Hamstead Hall Academy. Our aim is to create an environment in which all students can succeed to the very best of their ability through hard work and harmony, maximising the wide variety of resources and facilities which exist within our community.

We encourage all of our students to have high aspirations for themselves, think positively and develop their intellectual powers to the full. To help them, we have committed and skilful staff and a stimulating and disciplined Learning environment. In our latest Ofsted report in January 2016, the Inspectors stated that, “Overall, pupils make exceptional progress across all their subjects.”

We have worked hard over the years to meet the needs of all of our students, making Hamstead Hall a very popular Academy with an excellent reputation and an expanding Sixth Form. In the 2016 Ofsted inspection it was stated that “The academy works closely with other schools to improve teaching and to share the best practice with other schools”. We are committed to ensuring these high standards continue and improve further. We are looking forward, determined to empower all of our students to meet the challenges and opportunities that the future will bring.

The decision you are making is a crucial one for your child’s future, so we hope this prospectus will help you make up your mind.

Do come and visit us, you will be made very welcome.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Farar
Head of School

Our Academy is a community and we aim to give each student a sense of belonging to that community, based on mutual respect and self-discipline. Ofsted stated “Students display a very high knowledge and respect for differences in the school. This is also reflected in the outstanding way the school promotes community cohesion”.

We cannot achieve this alone. Education is a joint venture between parents/carers and teachers. Your child’s success depends on close co-operation between home and the Academy. It relies upon parents/carers having high aspirations for their child; teachers having high aspirations for themselves and their students and the student having high aspirations for themselves. This partnership, we are confident, will result in aspirational achievement and ultimate success for our students.

Mr J Mortimer
Head of School
“The Academy places a high priority on the development of other skills”
- Ofsted 2016.
Our Vision

We see Hamstead Hall Academy as a vibrant, dynamic and interactive Academy for students of all abilities.

At Hamstead Hall Academy:
• Achievement is at the heart of what we do;
• We achieve success through hard work and harmony;
• Every person matters;
• There is a relentless focus on teaching and learning;
• We make every effort to ensure that our students are: healthy, safe, enjoy what they do, are able to make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being.

By building upon our strengths we can provide our unique community of young children, students, staff, parents/carers, para-professionals and local people with:
• The widest possible range of opportunities to be able to fulfil their learning experience
• A challenging edge to achieve their individual best
• A real sense of being part of a learning organisation of active citizens, working pro-actively together on local, national and global issues

Aims and Values

Hamstead Hall Academy aims to be a fully inclusive learning community in which everyone achieves success through hard work and harmony. Our explicit aim is to create a learning environment in which we value all members of the community as learners.

To learn, we need good facilities, support and to be valued as a person. To achieve this at Hamstead Hall Academy we....

• Treat everyone with respect be they learners, teachers, para-professionals in any context.
• Value the fact that we all learn at different rates and we aim to support people along their individual learning pathway.
• Need to have the highest aspirations of ourselves and of others.
• Should strive to do our best in all aspects of life.
• Should be very ready to share our ideas with others and respect and value the ideas of others

"Success For All Through Hard Work and Harmony"
“I have nothing but praise in how the Academy is helping my child.”

- Year 8 Parent.
Pastoral Care

Caring for Students
The high standard of pastoral care helps to support the positive ethos at Hamstead Hall Academy. The Academy is divided into seven year groups. Each has a Head of Year who guides the students through their academy career. They are supported by Assistant Heads of Year and Form Tutors. Together, with the support of the Learning and Welfare Directors and other senior staff, they work together to ensure that all students are given the guidance and support they need to fulfil their potential.

School Council
Each year group is given the opportunity to be involved in how the Academy develops. Year councils are elected with representatives drawn from each form group. These councils can discuss important issues with their year group.

Uniform
Until they enter the sixth form all students are expected to wear uniform. It is an attractive uniform and we expect all students to wear it with pride and to remember they represent the Academy when they are wearing it. (See additional information enclosed for uniform details).

High Standards
The Academy expects all students to be courteous, considerate and to treat others with respect. There is zero-tolerance on bullying and other anti-social behaviour. Loss of privileges and detention are the main sanctions. Information on the Academy’s detention policy can be found in the Student Planner. A student may be excluded from The Academy for a fixed period of time and only in the most serious cases is permanent exclusion considered. In such cases the Academy follows guidelines set down by the Local Authority.

Safeguarding
At Hamstead Hall Academy student welfare and safety is paramount, supported by the Safeguarding, Anti-bullying, Equality and Health and Safety policies. (These are available on the Academy website or a hard copy is available on request)

Ofsted 2016 stated “Leaders have effectively developed a culture of safeguarding in the academy by making sure that all staff have a shared understanding of their role in keeping pupils safe, happy and well looked after”
Teaching and Learning

At Hamstead Hall Academy, we have a deep commitment to maximise our students’ potential. At the heart of this is a relentless focus on teaching and learning. We are all learners and as such, we encourage all children and adults to develop knowledge and expertise. It is our aim to ensure that all students enjoy their education, achieve through it and participate in a variety of stimulating learning activities and opportunities.

The Curriculum

Our Vision
“To further develop a broad and balanced curriculum which supports and challenges our students to enable them to succeed and reach their full potential. It aims to be varied, innovative and exciting and fully prepare students for life in the 21st century. It will engage our students through excellent teaching to raise standards and aspirations.”

The Curriculum for Key Stage 3

Students study all National Curriculum subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Computing, Drama, French, Geography, History, Physical Education, Music, Religious Education and Technology. Students are placed in sets based on ability in most subject areas but these are regularly reviewed to allow for movement between sets.

In Year 7 students also follow the ‘ROCIT’ curriculum at different points within the year which encompasses curriculum areas such as Drama, Religious Education, Geography and History. This skills based learning is designed to emphasise the acquisition of generic skills through cross-curricular projects.

The Curriculum for Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 students study a common core of subjects including English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, Religious Education and Citizenship. Students are supported through information, advice and guidance to follow the Learning Pathway of their choice. This enables students to choose from a wide range of subjects the courses they wish to study alongside the core subjects.

The curriculum is differentiated and tailored to meet the needs of individual students. It caters for all students covering both vocational and traditional GCSE subjects.

All subjects lead to GCSE or Vocational qualifications. A work related learning programme includes work experience and careers guidance for all students.

To ensure every child receives their entitlement of two hours of Physical Education every week at Key Stage 4, students are expected to stay at the Academy until 4.00 pm one evening per week.

Students achieve very highly at Key Stage 4 with results that are well above the national averages. Our success is based on high quality teaching, excellent resources, a secure grounding in Key Stage 3 and high aspirations of the teachers, students and parents/carers.
Physical Education

All students receive a minimum of two hours of Physical Education per week. The students follow a broad and balanced curriculum which involves the use of the sports hall, with a recently installed new high specification sports floor, gymnasiums, fitness centre, astro-turf pitch and playing fields.

Religious Education

Although Religious Education is an important part of the National Curriculum, parents/carers are entitled to withdraw their children on the ground of conscience after consultation with the Heads of School. Students who are withdrawn from Religious Education are given additional time for reading.

Students with SEN

Teaching Assistants provide support to SEN students across the curriculum and where possible, students with SEN are integrated into mainstream lessons with the support of Teaching Assistants. Where appropriate SEN students are given additional time and support with English and Mathematics and access to a curriculum that has been designed to develop life skills.

“Disabled pupils and those with special educational needs receive exceptionally high-quality support through the resource base. Pupils are provided with a timetable tailored to their individual needs which provides the opportunity to improve their basic skills and to gain a range of awards” – Ofsted 2016

For further details on SEN see information enclosed.

Reporting to Parents/Carers

Parents/carers receive information about the academic progress of their child every term. This data and progress information is used by staff to track the progress and achievement of students throughout the year. There is one formal opportunity each year to discuss your child’s progress at Parents/Carers Evening. We also encourage regular communication between home and the Academy throughout the year.
“I believe that Hamstead Hall Academy is a great place for education.”
-Year 7 Parent
The Curriculum for Key Stage 5 (Sixth Form)

At the end of Key Stage 4 the majority of our students stay on to continue their studies in our Aspirations Sixth Form Centre.

We offer a wide range of courses that include traditional A Levels as well as Applied A Levels. We also deliver a Level 2 Apprenticeship Progression programme that includes vocational work based learning to complement the Level 2 courses completed at Hamstead Hall. There are a wealth of extra-curricular activities including work or university placement opportunities through our strong links with businesses and universities that students are encouraged to take advantage of.

Ofsted 2016 stated “Sixth form learners benefit from a highly effective 16 to 19 study programme which includes a rich variety of activities to enrich their learning.”

We offer the sensitive support of an academy combined with the independence of a college. The induction programme will help to make Hamstead Hall a welcoming Sixth Form for the students and prepare them for life in the Sixth Form. The success of the Sixth Form Centre is due to the hard work and high aspirations of students and staff. There is a fully integrated information, advice and guidance process that supports students to achieve in their subjects, develop personally and make the right choices for life beyond the Sixth Form. All students will have a personal tutor throughout their time in the Sixth Form offering personalised support and guidance.

The majority of our students have secured their desired university places including places at Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

Homework

It is our experience that students who are conscientious about homework achieve and make the most progress. It encourages the self-discipline essential for learning and extends the time available for study. Parents/carers are asked to check and sign their child’s planner to confirm homework is being completed. Not all homework is written; students are also expected to read and research topics, as well as prepare work for lessons. Students are provided with a homework timetable to help them and their parents/carers manage their workload.
“We feel the academy has made an excellent impact on our child”. - Year 7 Parents.
Personal, Social and Health Education/Citizenship

Students across the Academy receive 6 full days of PSHE each year. This is timetabled for one day each half term and students are taught in mixed ability groups in accordance with QCA recommendations. “Teachers ensure pupils understand how to keep themselves safe through the personal, social and health education course and assembly themes” – Ofsted 2016

There are also additional Citizenship lessons at Key Stage Four. Although Citizenship themes are covered in the normal curriculum we encourage our students to see Citizenship as more than a subject to be studied. Our students have taken leading roles in organising charitable events and activities to support local, national and international initiatives. We have a whole school commitment to support a school we built in the Gambia that our students raise money for. Students have visited Australia, India, Ireland, Germany, South Africa, The Gambia and Ethiopia on Citizenship related projects and engage in regular work to support younger students at local primary and special schools.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Hamstead Hall Academy has a very high reputation for its extra-curricular Physical Education provision and enrichment programmes. Students are encouraged to develop their sporting skills in a number of disciplines, under the guidance of our highly qualified staff and coaches. Our provision includes football, hockey, cricket, netball, rugby, cycling, rounders, athletics, basketball, trampolining, badminton, table tennis, rock climbing, handball, wrestling, judo, dance, multi-gym and gymnastics.

We have a state of the art climbing tower facility which offers students the chance to participate in very challenging activities such as rock climbing, abseiling and the leap of faith with an impressive 100m zip wire descent from the top.

The Academy has also established excellent links with local clubs and community groups and offers an extended sporting programme at weekends and during the holidays which are fully inclusive.

Every year a group of students are taken skiing at the resort of Torgon in Switzerland. These visits prove not only most enjoyable but provide the students with an opportunity to practice the language skills they have acquired. Residential trips are also available as well as field trips and outdoor adventure activities to a number of destinations including the Woodlands Centre in North Wales. The Academy also offers the Duke of Edinburgh Award at bronze, silver and gold level which involves outdoor adventure expeditions and camping in the Malvern Hills in Worcestershire, the Long Mynd in Shropshire and the Brecon Beacons in Wales.
“Academy leaders have led a culture of high expectations and ambition, where swift action is taken to prevent underachievement so that pupils achieve as well as they can.”
- Ofsted 2016.
Complaints Procedure

Any complaint, by a parent/carer or member of the public should be made, in writing, to the Heads of School. A complaints procedure is available on request.
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