



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM
SCHOOL



WELCOME

University of Birmingham School



@uobschool

uobschool.org.uk

Welcome from the School Principal

Welcome to University of Birmingham School.

At University of Birmingham School, standards and expectations are very high as we want our young people and staff to be exceptional. I am honoured to lead our ambitious and distinctive learning community. Distinctive - in that we purposefully and explicitly prioritise the development of pupils' character and academic accomplishments in equal measure – so that they flourish as happy, socially aware, skilled citizens equipped to find and take their places on the world stage.

We speak of good character as making the right choice at the right time for the right reason - and our core purpose of developing character is planned and active. Opportunities and learning which allow our pupils to discover and further shape their personal qualities, attributes and virtues receive explicit time in each School week through a taught programme and wide ranging enrichment.

We are a School for all – for youngsters of all abilities, aptitudes and backgrounds – with an admissions process which by design seeks to welcome pupils and families from across the city. Accordingly our School is intentionally diverse and representative of Birmingham.

We aim to personalise learning and provision so that each individual excels to a personal best – facilitating life chances and successful pathways beyond School education - surpassing any preconceived expectations.

We benefit very considerably from the proactive involvement of the University of Birmingham – a world class University within an aspirant and thriving city – whereby learning partnerships, expertise and opportunities routinely enhance our pupils' development and education.



Drawing upon our partnership with the University of Birmingham and their world-leading research and best practice resources; focusing on learning without limits; and combining our own diverse experience in education, we are setting an example of what's truly possible for secondary school education - one that gives character development as much attention as academic success.

By continually innovating, welcoming challenges, and staying infinitely curious, we'll see our School and our region recognised around the world for creating better schools, better citizens, and better communities.

Colin Townsend
Principal

Together, we'll flourish

Joining us in Year 7

A School for everyone. We're proud to be a diverse and inclusive comprehensive School & Sixth Form truly representative of our city. We are academically non-selective in Years 7 to 11 and take pupils from four 'nodes' across Birmingham to create a diverse learning community. We provide our pupils with the opportunity to learn earlier in life that the world is full of different people, cultures and attitudes which helps to build great character and more rounded citizens.

Each year we admit 150 pupils. We don't have a specific 'catchment area' as we operate a nodal system, taking pupils from four different locations across Birmingham.

A node is a central point, determined by co-ordinates on a map, and not a postcode area, from which measurements will begin. Our nodes are the main reception entrance of the School, and the entrance of the railway stations in Hall Green, the Jewellery Quarter and Small Heath.

The determined number of pupils admitted from each node, per year, is:

- The University of Birmingham School main entrance – up to 75 pupils (50%).
- Hall Green Station – up to 25 pupils (16.7%).
- Jewellery Quarter Station – up to 25 pupils (16.7%).
- Small Heath Station – up to 25 pupils (16.7%).

Distance will be calculated by Birmingham City Council as a straight line measurement between the applicant's home and the main entrance of the nearest node (as the crow flies). In the event that a tie break situation occurs for the distance criteria, a random allocation tie break will be used.

If you want to find out the distance between the coordinates of your home address and a specific nodal point, please contact Birmingham City Council School Admissions.



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For more information

Our Curriculum

All of our young people, regardless of background and prior learning experiences, should have access to the best that has been thought, said, written and discovered. We aim to deliver this through an academically-focused and knowledge-based curriculum, underpinned by a taught, caught and sought character education programme, so that pupils develop the virtues, and embed the knowledge needed to understand the world, contribute to society, and change it for the better. At University of Birmingham School, we plot the entire learning journey from Year 6 to undergraduate study in each subject – crossing key stages – but taking account of external examinations along the way. Designed by subject specialists, the curriculum aims to inspire a curiosity and love for the subject by tapping into the exciting stories and wonderful experiences beyond the core knowledge, whilst giving pupils the solid foundations necessary to ensure academic success. Rather than just ‘teaching chemistry or languages’ we consider that we are ‘creating young chemists and linguists’.

Key Stage 3 Subjects

- Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- English
- French
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Music
- Learning for Life (L4L)
- Physics
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies

Key Stage 4 Subjects

- Art
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Combined Science Trilogy (double GCSE)
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- English Language
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- History
- Hospitality and Catering
- Mathematics
- Music
- Photography
- Physics
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Sports Studies

A level Subject Choices

- Art
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Music
- Politics
- Psychology
- Physics
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Sociology

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For more information



Our School Day

Our School day allows plenty of time to deliver a broad curriculum and an extensive programme of Character Education and Enrichment.

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08.50 - 09.00 | Line up | | | | |
| 09.00 - 09.55 | Period 1 | Period 1 | Period 1 | Period 1 | Period 1 |
| 09.55 - 10.50 | Period 2 | Period 2 | Period 2 | Period 2 | Period 2 |
| 10.50 - 11.05 | Break | | | | |
| 11.05 - 12.00 | Period 3 | Period 3 | Period 3 | Period 3 | Period 3 |
| 12.00 - 12.55 | Period 4 | Period 4 | Period 4 | Period 4 | Lunch 12.00 - 12.30 Form |
| 12.55 - 13.25 | Lunch | Form reading | Lunch | Form reading | Lunch 12.30 - 13.00 Lunch |
| 13.25 - 13.55 | Form reading | Lunch | Form reading | Lunch | Form |
| 13.55 - 14.50 | Learning for Life | Period 5 | Period 5 | Period 5 | Enrichment 13.00 - 15.00 School finishes at 15.00 for pupils and students |
| 14.50 - 15.45 | Staff Training School finishes at 14.50 for pupils and students | Period 6 | Period 6 | Period 6 | |
| After School | | Study Support - Optional sessions for pupils and students | | | |

Enrichment

As humans, we learn and grow from new experiences. Enrichment is a vital part of our 'taught, caught and sought' character education curriculum, where these additional learning opportunities enable pupils to put into practice virtues such as courage, curiosity and resilience that they have learnt about during the School week. Our enrichment programme helps pupils to understand better the unique relationship we have with our University, as well as trying new cultural and social experiences that expand their understanding of the world.

At University of Birmingham School, enrichment is not extra-curricular, it's a core part of our School week. From Parkour to Biophysics, from Song Writing to Politics & Tea, from the die-hard Harry Potter Fan Club to Swimming, our range of enrichment activities change each term, offering a truly broad education for pupils.

All Year 9 pupils take part in the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Awards programme. This nationally recognised award combines fun, adventure, social action, and new challenges. Thereafter some choose to advance further to higher awards.



Character Education

Character Education includes educating the part of the self that makes difficult and moral decisions. As a School, we believe that our job is to prepare the children in our care to have moral agency and be ready for 'the tests of life, not a life of tests', meaning that we commit to offering planned learning opportunities and an environment that enables our pupils to flourish in the widest sense. It is our intent that people in our communities – adults and children – flourish and inspire other citizens to build better communities and a better world. Character Education is a conduit for this as we aim to create the space to nurture content, engaged, and fulfilled citizens.

We want our pupils to grow up to be kind, honest, curious, and brave citizens with the resilience and perseverance to make wise choices and do what's right. Excellent behaviour and excellent learning should be second nature, not something that one has to work at constantly; it should simply be the way that we are. This is a state of mind that we want all our pupils to attain and sustain, not just at School, but for the rest of their lives.

Moral Virtues

Compassion, Empathy,
Honesty, Humility,
Loyalty, Sensitivity,
Responsibility, Generosity.

Civic Virtues

Service, Citizenship,
Volunteering, Community
Awareness & Spirit, Social
Justice, Responsibility.

Performance Virtues

Ambition, Creativity,
Curiosity, Determination,
Resilience, Self-reliance,
Reliability, Self-discipline.

Intellectual Virtues

Reflection, Focus,
Curiosity,
Resourcefulness,
Critical Thinking.

How is character embedded?

We are what we repeatedly do.

We call the values or strengths that need to be developed to make wise choices and live a purposeful life 'virtues'.

Taught character

We give time in the curriculum to teach these virtues explicitly, starting by teaching a virtue vocabulary and sharing examples of what virtue – and vice – look like in real life. Pupils are then encouraged to practise virtuous behaviours until they become embedded habits.

Caught Character

This is the absorbing of character virtue through seeing it modelled well by others. We make a concerted effort to act with wisdom, patience and consideration, ensuring that every interaction between adults and children is a place for good character to be taught. Learning happens in all corners of our building and how we conduct conversations with our children and each other is absorbed and held on to by all in our care.

Sought Character

Having begun to gain virtue knowledge, we make sure there are opportunities for pupils to seek out to practise their character – through joining a choir, climbing a mountain or helping others.





Additional Information

Pastoral Care

The pastoral care of our pupils and students is at the heart of our School, and drives all that we do here at University of Birmingham School. Our aim is for every pupil and student to be safe and happy which will, in turn, enable them to flourish, achieving their potential in both the classroom and in the wider community. Pastoral care begins with the form tutor. Our form tutors share time with their tutor group each day, supporting them and delivering our Learning for Life (L4L) programme, and fostering strong relationships with pupils, students, and families.

Support for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

It is important to us that all pupils and students are able to flourish in our School, regardless of their abilities or disabilities. Our School building is fully accessible for pupils and students with disabilities and we have a dedicated team to provide tailored support for pupils and students with Special Educational Needs, overseen by an experienced Assistant Vice Principal (SENCO). We also work closely with all relevant agencies across the city and beyond.

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For more information

Uniform

Our uniform policy for Years 7–11 balances a smart style with affordability, whilst the Sixth Form wear business attire. Our expectations are linked to our desire for all pupils and students to develop into flourishing, active citizens, and the School's commitment to prepare them for the challenges that lie ahead. Our full uniform policy is available on our website.

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For more information

Home Learning

Traditionally known as homework, home learning, or independent study plays an important role in our School. There is always a purpose to the work that we set and, whatever year pupils are in, self-directed learning, research and preparatory work play a critical role in their development and in enabling them to fulfil their potential.





Key Dates

Timeline for Year 7 Admissions

12 October 2023

Open Evening.

31 October 2023

Deadline for submitting applications via Birmingham City Council.

01 March 2024

National Offer Day.

15 March 2024

Deadline for accepting the offer via Birmingham City Council.

26 June 2024

Pupil Induction Morning (SEND only).

02 July 2024

Induction Evening for Parents & Carers.

03 July 2024

Pupil Induction Day.



Keep in touch

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GCSE Success Stories

Individual successes included:



“

Jess

Jess achieved two 9s, one 8, and six 6s at GCSE and is now studying A level Art, Biology, and Psychology at University of Birmingham School Sixth Form.



“

Zaeem

Zaeem achieved eight 9s and two 8s at GCSE and is now studying A level Mathematics, Further Mathematics, and Physics at King Edwards VI Five Ways School.



“

Achent

Achent achieved one 9, three 8s, two 7s, and three 6s at GCSE and is now studying A level Art, Biology, and Psychology at University of Birmingham School Sixth Form.



“

Fergus

Fergus achieved four 9s, four 8s, and one 7 at GCSE and is now studying A level Further Mathematics, Physics, and Geography at University of Birmingham School Sixth Form.

Alumni Success Stories

University of Birmingham School is proud to celebrate the success of all of our Sixth Form students. Whether students decide to continue their academic education at University, join the world of work, or take a road less travelled, we are creating a thriving alumni community, where our students continue to share in the journey of the School.



Ben

Ben achieved C C C at A level and is now studying Computer Science at Nottingham Trent University.



Haniyah

Haniyah achieved A* A* B at A level and is now studying Medicine at the University of Birmingham.



Ayman

Ayman achieved A A B at A level and is now studying Chemical Engineering at the University of Birmingham.



Rohan

Rohan achieved A B B at A level and plans to start a higher apprenticeship with Rolls Royce.

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