



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM
SCHOOL

Welcome

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL

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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



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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Our School Day

	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
08.45 - 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	Form	Lunch	Form	Form 12.30 - 13.00	Lunch
13.25 - 13.55	Form reading	Lunch	Form reading	Lunch	Form	Lunch	Form	Lunch	Enrichment 13.00 - 15.00 School finishes at 15.00 for pupils and students	
13.55 - 14.50	Learning for Life		Period 5		Period 5		Period 5			
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							



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 7 to Year 13, in each subject, taking account of external examinations to support pupils and students to achieve the best results they can. Designed by subject specialists, the curriculum aims to inspire a curiosity and love for the subject, 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
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- English Language
- English Literature
- French
- German
- Geography
- History
- Hospitality and Catering
- Mathematics
- Music
- Photography
- Physics
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Sports Studies

A level Subjects

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

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 the University of Birmingham School, we would like all our pupils to be able to experience all the enrichment opportunities we have on offer so that they can have a breadth of experience. As such, pupils rotate between different activities on a half termly (KS3) or weekly basis (KS4). Pupils will get the opportunity to: develop their communication and teamwork skills through activities such as debating or the apprentice challenge; get creative by having a go at knitting or writing a ballad; and experience a new sport such as squash or golf.

All Year 9 pupils take part in the Bronze 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 and develop their character through, for example, 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 Principal (SENDCO). We also work closely with all relevant agencies across the city and beyond.

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.

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.

SCAN ME



For more information

SCAN ME



For more information

A black and white photograph of the University of Birmingham School building. The building is a modern, multi-story structure with a mix of brickwork and large glass windows. A large tree with dense foliage is in the foreground on the left, partially obscuring the building. The sky is overcast.

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