



## Information for Applicants

Erasmus Darwin Academy is a highly successful and popular school for students aged 11-18, that converted to Academy status in July 2011. We are now a school with a strong tradition of academic excellence, firmly established as one of the highest performing schools in the Local Authority for both attainment and progress.

Also, our ongoing success has helped the academy achieve a strong and growing reputation both locally and over a wider geographical area and we are now the school of choice for an increasing number of families. This is reflected by our steady and sustained growth in pupil numbers: We are now heavily oversubscribed and have grown from 880 on roll in 2010 to 1024 on roll in this academic year. Indeed, from September 2018 we will be above our net capacity of 1064, which means that we will be completely full. The school admits students from Burntwood and surrounding towns and villages in south Staffordshire, with students being admitted from approximately 25 primary schools.

The Academy occupies a quiet and pleasant site on the edge of Cannock Chase and in close proximity to Chasewater. We are situated just off Junction 6 of the M6 Toll Road and a 10 minute drive from Trent Valley railway station. From the Academy, Birmingham city centre is only a 35 minute car journey.

The main buildings were opened in 1970 and Governors actively support a programme of refurbishment and improvement of the site. A new Sports Hall was built in 2005, incorporating excellent facilities, including a dance studio, a fully equipped gym, specialist P.E. classrooms with networked computers and a large sports hall. We also benefit from extensive sports fields, tennis courts and an excellent full-size all-weather pitch.

Very recently, we have recently been awarded the SSAT Educational Outcomes Award for the first time. This is a national award in recognition of our incredibly strong GCSE results in 2018, which places in a category alongside some of the highest performing non-selective schools in the country. SSAT is an influential and well-respected educational organisation and their awards are highly valued in educational circles. What makes this award particularly pleasing is the fact that it adds to the other significant accolades that we have received this year, as listed below:

- Featuring in the regional press as one of the highest performing schools in the West Midlands (for the second year running.)
- Being judged as a Category 1 School, the highest grade possible, by Staffordshire LA's Quality Assurance Team (for the second year running.)
- Receiving a very good Ofsted report which acknowledged that we are in a really healthy position as a school where "the ethos of *Excellence for All* stands out... relationships are exemplary...and morale is high...teaching is strong...(and pupils achieve very well indeed"

As an inclusive learning community, we are committed to achieving excellence for all – and that includes students and staff. We want our staff to be the best that they can be so that they can help our young people excel, both in and out of the classroom. Indeed, as well as having a sharp focus on academic achievement, we greatly value out-of-classroom experiences which broaden the horizons and skills sets of our young people. Consequently, we have an exciting range of high-quality extra-curricular opportunities on offer for all of our young people, which they are actively encouraged to participate in and which are delivered by our committed staff who give freely of their time. We are very proud of our annual production (which was 'Grease' earlier this year) and numerous concerts, educational visits and charitable events.

Pastoral organisation is on a vertical basis, with students being part of one of four Houses. The academic organisation is based on a faculty model, with the five faculties being Communication, Mathematics and ICT, Science and Technology, Human Development, Sport and the Arts. As well as the faculties working well together internally, the school is collaborative and outward-looking and works closely with parents, primary schools, other secondary schools, businesses, and a wide range of other agencies and organisations.

The timetable is made up of 50 hourly periods scheduled over a fortnight. The curriculum for Years 7-11 is now organised into the Development Stage (Years 7 & 8) and the Qualifications Stage (Years 9-11). The Academy aims to provide all students with opportunities to enjoy and achieve in a curriculum which is broad, balanced and relevant to their abilities and interests. The range of courses available to students is extended by partnership working and consortium arrangements with local school and colleges.

Students in Years 7-11 wear uniform which is traditional with a blazer, shirt and tie. There is an Academy Council, through which students are encouraged to contribute to decisions about the running of the school, in relation to issues such as uniform. Our Head Boy and Head Girl provide leadership for students as well as representing the Academy on many occasions.

The Academy is committed to investing in staff wellbeing and providing high quality Continuing Professional Development for teachers at every stage of their career. Our NQT programme was described as 'exceptional' by NIPT, our national accrediting body and we are recognised as a leading partner in the Arthur Terry Initial Teaching School Alliance. We also have well-developed links with the Ninestiles Teaching School Alliance, Birmingham City University and other secondary schools which provide us with extensive, high quality teacher CPD and leadership training opportunities. We also have a successful record of training teachers ourselves through the School Direct route.

Erasmus Darwin Academy has a strong ethos and a positive school culture. We offer a friendly, supportive and caring environment in which to work and study, where every individual is valued and where everyone works together towards the vision of "excellence for all" with high expectations of themselves and others. Our recent Ofsted inspection in January 2018 confirmed that EDA is "a strong community...(where) the ethos of 'excellence for all' stands out...relationships are exemplary...morale is high...(and where) both staff and students are proud to belong to the Academy."

We welcome applications from well-qualified staff who will commit themselves to the ongoing improvement of this successful and vibrant learning community, and who genuinely enjoy working with young people. In return, I am confident in stating that Erasmus Darwin Academy will provide the successful applicant with the opportunity to promote her/his own career and to make a real difference to the education and future lives of our students.

**Mark Maydew**  
**Principal**

*The Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to a 'disclosure' check under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.*