



Information for Applicants

Erasmus Darwin Academy is a highly successful and hugely popular 11-18 school, that converted to Academy status in July 2011.

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 such as 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-sized, all-weather pitch. We also recently increased our car-parking provision to ensure that all Academy staff and 6th Form students now benefit from a guaranteed, on-site parking space.

We are a school with a strong tradition of academic excellence, firmly established as one of the highest performing schools in the local authority and indeed the region, for both attainment and progress. Furthermore, according to the all-important Progress 8 measure, we have become firmly established in the top 5% of secondary schools nationally. However, as well as having a sharp focus on academic achievement, we greatly value out-of-classroom experiences, which broaden the horizons and the skills sets of our young people in preparation for their future lives. Consequently, we have an exciting range of high-quality extra-curricular opportunities on offer, which all students are actively encouraged to take full advantage of and which are delivered by our committed staff who give freely of their time. We are very proud of our annual production (which is Beauty and the Beast this year) together with our numerous concerts, educational visits, charitable events, clubs, teams, student leadership opportunities and careers activities.

Erasmus Darwin Academy continues to enjoy 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 over recent years, to the point where we are currently the most oversubscribed 11-18 school in Staffordshire. Indeed, in September 2020 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 up to 30 primary schools.

Increasingly, our ongoing success as a high-performing school is recognised and acknowledged by important external agencies and organisations:

- The regional press have featured us in their Elite Schools Guide, as one of the highest performing schools in the West Midlands, for the third year running.
- We have also been approached to feature in national publications, such as the Parliamentary Review, in order to explain the secrets of our success and to provide advice and guidance to others.
- The local authority, as part of their annual 'remote inspection' schedule, have judged us to be a Category 1 School, the highest grade of school performance, for three years running.
- In February 2018, Ofsted acknowledged that we performing well because we are *"a strong community.....(where) both staff and students are proud to belong to the Academy...(where) the ethos of 'excellence for all' stands out...relationships are exemplary...morale is high... (and where) teaching is strong...and pupils achieve very well indeed"*
- The Academy has won national awards for our examination performance from organisations such as SSAT, which is highly regarded in educational circles.

As both an aspirational and inclusive learning community, we take our motto incredibly seriously. We pursue **excellence** in everything that we do and 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 provide the best possible education to every single young person. Therefore, the Academy is committed to investing in staff wellbeing, to ensure that all our staff feel happy, cared for, listened to and professionally equipped to fulfil their role to the highest possible standard. And, as part our wellbeing strategy, we seek to provide high quality continuing professional development for teachers at every stage of their career. For example, our school day has recently been re-structured to facilitate weekly CPD sessions for our teachers, to help them become the practitioners possible. In addition, our NQT programme was described as 'exceptional' by NIPT, our national accrediting body and we are recognised as a leading ITT provider in the Arthur Terry Teaching School Alliance. Furthermore, we also have a successful record of training teachers ourselves through the School Direct route and for growing and developing our own middle and senior leaders through in-house programmes.

Students in Years 7-11 wear uniform which is traditional in style with a blazer, shirt and tie. Our approach to discipline and behaviour is also based on traditional standards, with children being taught to use their manners, smile, say "Sir" and "Miss" and to open doors for one another. Issues such as behaviour and uniform are regularly discussed at our Academy Council Meetings, where students are encouraged to discuss and contribute to the decision-making process about the way in which the school is run. Our Head Boy and Head Girl provide leadership for students as well as being ambassadors for the Academy on many occasions.

Pastoral organisation is on a vertical basis, with students being part of one of three Houses and the academic organisation is based on a subject department model.

Curriculum organisation for students is based on a 50 periods scheduled over a fortnight (a 2-week timetable.) The curriculum for Years 7-11 is 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, relevant and sensitive to their abilities, aptitudes and interests. The range of courses available to students is extended by partnership working and consortium arrangements with local school and colleges. Indeed, Erasmus Darwin Academy is collaborative and outward-looking and, as well as working with local educational establishments, we seek to develop deep and meaningful partnerships with parents, businesses, employers, charities, community groups and a range of other agencies and organisations, for the benefit of our young people.

In conclusion, Erasmus Darwin Academy has a strong ethos and an extremely positive school culture. We offer an exceptionally 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

We welcome applications from well-qualified staff who genuinely love working with young people and who will commit themselves to the ongoing improvement of this vibrant, friendly, caring, aspirational learning community. 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.