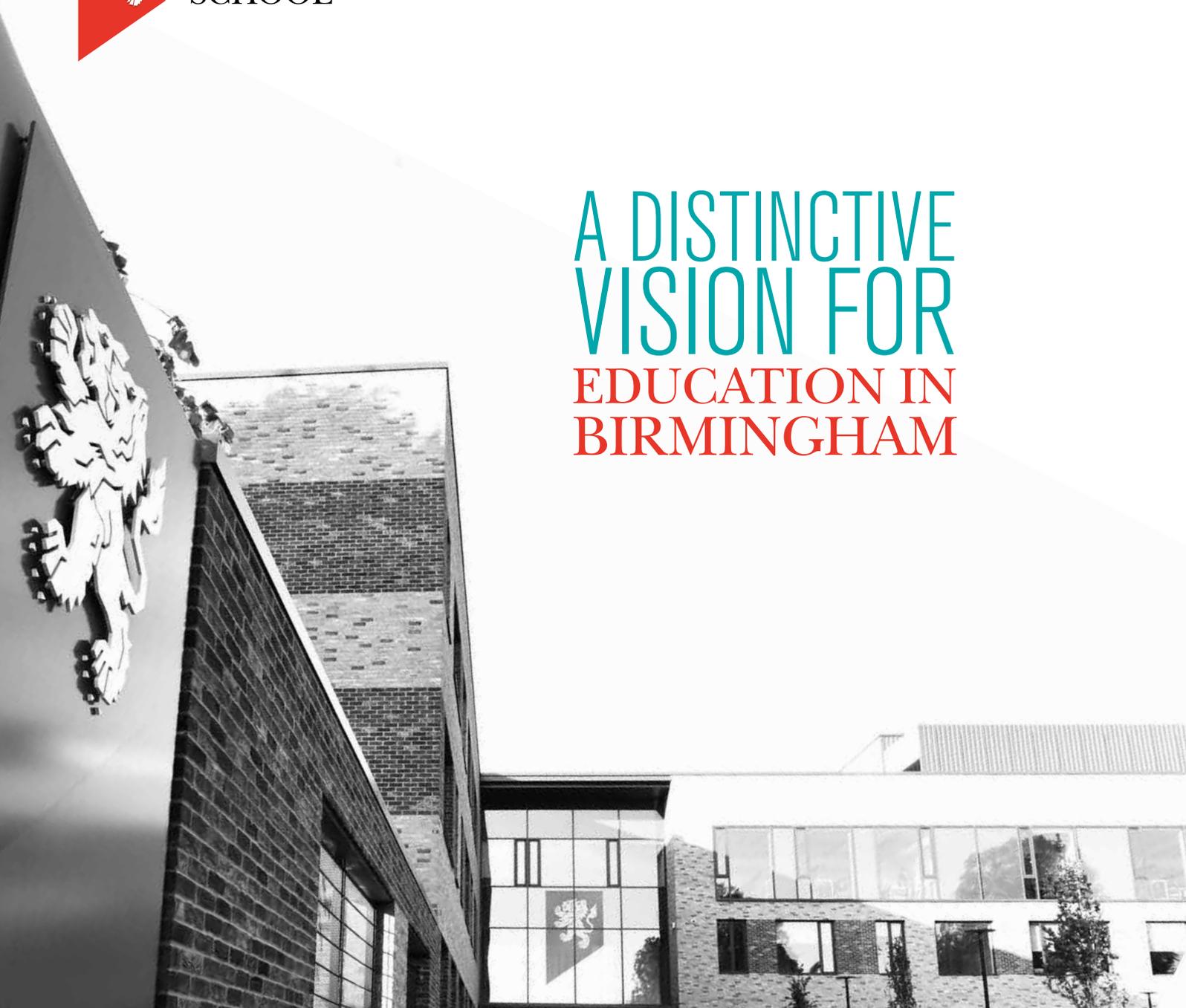




UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM  
SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS

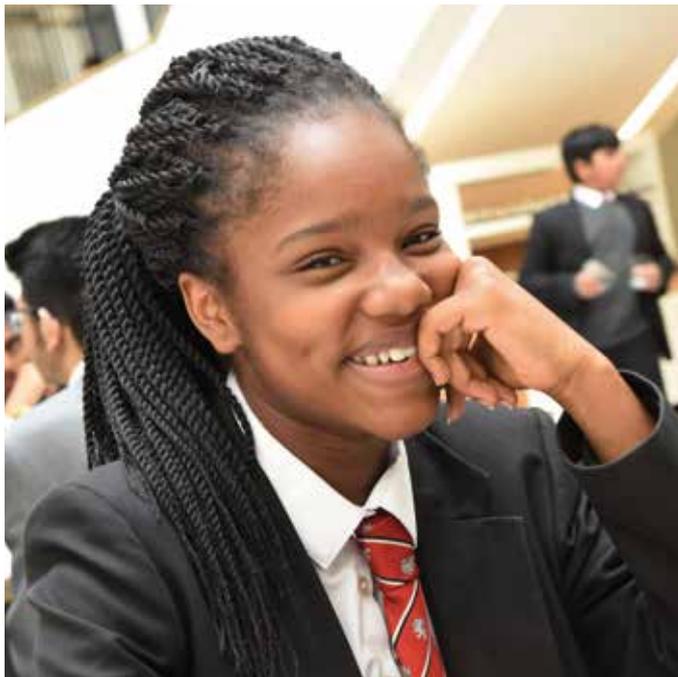
A DISTINCTIVE  
VISION FOR  
EDUCATION IN  
BIRMINGHAM



A FOCUS ON CHARACTER  
EDUCATION TO SUPPORT  
THE DEVELOPMENT  
OF HAPPY, FULFILLED  
YOUNG ADULTS



EXTENDED SCHOOL DAY,  
ALLOWING ACCESS  
TO A WIDE RANGE OF  
ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES



ACCESS TO THE  
UNIVERSITY'S WORLD  
CLASS FACILITIES



## Welcome from the Vice-Chancellor

The University of Birmingham is a global institution that has been challenging and developing great minds for more than a century. Growing out of the radical vision of our first Chancellor, Joseph Chamberlain, we have always been unafraid to take the lead and do things differently.

Birmingham was England's first civic university when it was founded in 1900. Our university represented a new model for higher education where students from all religions and backgrounds were accepted on an equal basis. We were also the first to be built on a campus model, to establish a faculty of commerce, to incorporate a medical school, to create a women's hall of residence and to have a purpose-built students' union building.

This spirit of innovation continues throughout our work today in pioneering research, partnerships, and teaching. On the back of this success, I have taken enormous pride in the opening of the University of Birmingham School and am watching it grow with great excitement.

In establishing the UK's first secondary University Training School, we have created a new community in Birmingham where pupils with a full range of prior attainment, Sixth Form and university students, teachers, and academics learn, debate, understand, and share with each other the great issues and knowledge of our time, irrespective of age, ethnicity, gender, financial or social background.

The energy at the School is palpable to anyone who visits and meets the pupils, students, and staff who are helping to form this new community, and this extends to the wider University. From academics to professional services, sports coaches to alumni donors, the University has mobilised behind the School to ensure that all pupils have access to the wonderful resources, both physical and intellectual, of a leading Russell Group institution.

We hope that you feel this same energy as you read through this prospectus and that you are inspired to join us. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

**Professor Sir David Eastwood**  
Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of Birmingham

## Welcome from the Chair of Governors

It is a great honour and privilege to lead the Board of Governors of the University of Birmingham School. As Governors, we believe in the power of education to make a tremendous difference to the life of a child, and, in turn, to the people and the world around them. At the University of Birmingham School, we are preparing our pupils to deal with all of the challenges life may have in store for them.

As we enter our second full year of operation, it is clear that the pupils at our School are flourishing and we are creating a community of happy and confident children and young people, who have embraced all that their School has to offer. In both lessons and enrichment, our pupils are making the most of every opportunity available to each one of them. Regardless of background or prior attainment, our pupils are finding their place in society, developing their characters and equipping themselves for whatever they choose to pursue in life. Our pupils are encouraged to work and study hard. Equally important, we believe, is that they become well-rounded citizens, who demonstrate good character and virtues in all aspects of their life, both personal and professional. Our bespoke programme of character education is embedded in School life and combines with our traditional academic curriculum to provide a full and high-quality education for every pupil.

As Governors, we are responsible for putting in place the foundations which will allow the School's remarkable teaching staff to excel and to continue to inspire each child as the School grows. We support and work alongside our exceptional Principal Michael Roden and his team, to continue to innovate and motivate both staff and pupils from the first day they set foot in our School.

It has been a wonderful start to the life of the University of Birmingham School. I believe it will only get better, as the School evolves to include more children, more teachers and more people who share our belief that an outstanding education is the right of each child, not a privilege. I hope you will consider joining us as our journey continues.

**Dr Christopher Banks CBE**  
Chair of Governors, University of Birmingham School

## Welcome from the Principal



Having completed our first full year of operations, and seeing our School double in size, it is a great privilege to be introducing this new prospectus of the University of Birmingham School as we prepare to welcome a third cohort of Year 7 and Year 12 pupils. It has been a wonderful start to life here at the School, and I hope that reading this prospectus and visiting us at an Open Evening event, you will be as excited as I am about our future.

I was the first in our family to go University and, inspired by my own wonderful teachers, I have enjoyed a long career in some of the country's best schools. I always said it would have to be something really special to make me move – and this school is just that.

When we welcomed our first cohorts of Year 7 pupils, Sixth Form students and staff in September 2015, we knew we were creating history. What we have seen since then is what that actually means in practice for our pupils – how they have thrived and matured in the year that we have spent together, and how they have enjoyed every opportunity which has been available to them to develop their character. As we continue to grow, we are defining together how we want to learn, what activities we want to do, and how we establish a friendly and caring community for all those who join us in the future.

Yet this is no experiment. We have the freedom and the ability to be creative and to look afresh at what makes an outstanding school. Our main priority is to ensure that every single

child achieves their full potential and are well prepared to become happy and engaged future citizens. To achieve this, we have recruited outstanding teachers and professional services staff who all benefit from collaboration with leading academics and the use of facilities at the University of Birmingham.

There is nothing more important than you or your child's education and we take that responsibility seriously. If you have questions, please ask or get in touch by telephone or email. If you would like to join us, we will be delighted to welcome you and your child into the University of Birmingham School family in 2017 and beyond.

**Michael Roden**  
Principal, University  
of Birmingham School

# Our School

Teaching and learning in our School is underpinned by a caring ethos and rich use of technology.

## Pastoral Care

The foundation of our School is the form and year. A form tutor works closely with each group, forging strong relationships with individual pupils and their families to support everyone's academic progress and personal welfare. This is underpinned by use of technology and a Home-School agreement, setting out what parents and carers can expect from the school and how they can support their child.

## College System

Our College System is designed to foster healthy competition, teamwork and leadership. It's a great opportunity to try new things and to mix with other pupils across form and year groups, making new friends in the process. College events last year included: Rugby Festival, taking part in local running challenge Bud's Run and a Healthy Mind and Body week which included the College Rowing Championships. Our Sixth Form students play a key role in the organisation, delivery and leadership of college meetings and events, acting as role models and mentors for the younger pupils.

## Celebrating Achievement

In our School, we celebrate both academic and personal achievements. We have rewards ranging from regular praise to merits, certificates and commendations, and we plan to welcome pupils and their families to an annual awards celebration evening as the school grows.

## Technology

Technology plays a central role in our School, with wireless networks available throughout the building and across the grounds. Pupils develop their IT skills through Computer Science lessons and throughout the curriculum. Students are not expected to have their own devices as we have sufficient desktops, laptops and tablets in school. The extended school day also ensures that anyone who needs to can use School resources for independent study.

## University Training School

We are the first secondary University Training School in the country. Following the model of teaching hospitals, trainee teachers will work closely alongside experienced, highly qualified and outstanding practitioners to learn their craft. We aim to make a significant contribution to the recruitment and education of the next generation of outstanding teachers in the school, the city and region.

“ This school is amazing and in the space of just one year my daughter really has come so far! Their enrichment programme is outstanding. The opportunities for students are endless. ”

*Tammy Moseley, Year 8 Parent*

# Our School Day

The School has an extended school day. This allows plenty of time to deliver a broad curriculum and an extensive programme of enrichment activities.



## 8.30am/Assembly

Form and year assemblies and meetings, led by teachers, Sixth Formers and visitors.



## Break period

Break time snacks and hot cooked lunch available for pupils and staff in the large open plan atrium.



## Monday/Friday enrichment

Enrichment every Monday and Friday with a range of options for every pupil.



## Period 6

Extended school day to allow time for enrichment activities which are built in to the timetable on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.



## Academic Work Club

Optional time for independent study.



## Wednesday afternoons

No formal teaching on Wednesday afternoons to allow for trips, community visits, school clubs and visits to the University campus.

Time of day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.25am	In School, ready to go to Tutor Time				
8.30am	Tutor Time				
9.00am	Period 1				
10.00am	Morning Break				
10.20am	Period 2				
11.20am	Period 3				
12.20pm	Lunch				
12.45pm	Enrichment		Enrichment		Enrichment
1.05pm		Period 4		Period 4	
2.05pm	Break			Break	
2.20pm	Period 5	Period 5		Period 5	Period 5
3.20pm	Period 6	Period 6		Period 6	Period 6
4.20pm	Years 7–11 – Tutor Time / Sixth Form – Home Time				
4.30pm	End of School Day				
4.30–5.30pm	Independent Study				

# Our Curriculum

Whether your son or daughter is joining us in Year 7 or in Year 12, the University of Birmingham School offers a broad, traditional academic curriculum, based around the core subjects of the national curriculum and the subjects regarded as being useful to support application and entry into employment, vocational training and higher education (including into leading Universities). Each one is led by an experienced subject leader, supported by a team of highly qualified teachers who have close links to the relevant University departments.

## SUBJECTS

Years 7, 8 and 9 is a time of exploration through a broad range of subjects.

Over the course of the week, pupils will find themselves studying Biology, Chemistry, English, Mathematics and Physics. They'll also take on Art, Dance, Computer Science, Design Technology (using our facilities for Resistant Materials, Food, and Graphics), Drama, a compulsory Foreign Language, Geography, History, Music, Physical Education and Religious Education. Then once pupils reach Year 10, it's time to start their two year GCSE

curriculum where they will choose from a wide variety of options, including additional languages (subject to demand).

At A-Level, students have the choice of humanities such as Art, English literature, Geography, History, French, Music and Religious Studies, or more science and technology based subjects like Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Product Design, Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics. Other subjects may be available in the future depending upon demand.

## INDEPENDENT STUDY

Traditionally known as homework, 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. Yet we know that this sort of self-discipline does not come naturally to everyone so in Year 7 we provide lessons in study skills to support pupils as they make the transition to secondary school. We also work on the study skills required to excel at A-Level at the start of Year 12, before looking at the research skills they will need to get started confidently and successfully in University or employment, whether that is learning to use an academic library or undertaking mock interviews.

We remain open until 5.30pm to support those who would like to complete their homework in School.

For more information, go to: [www.universityofbirminghamschool.org.uk](http://www.universityofbirminghamschool.org.uk) or call 0121 796 5000





Our aim is to support our students so that they are able to make the wise choices that will enable them to flourish in society and fulfil their potential.

*M Roden  
Principal*



There are a vast range of new opportunities available. We have 5 hours of enrichment every week, which broadens our horizons from the traditional academic study. I've done debating and philosophy this year. I think the wide range of opportunities offered is not something you can turn down really.

*Darnesh, Year 13 Student*



# Character Education and Enrichment

Underpinning our School ethos and provision is a focus on character education and enrichment. We want to equip all pupils with the experience and skills to make wise choices that will enable them to enjoy a happy, fulfilled life, whatever routes they take after School.



## CHARACTER EDUCATION

Character Education is about acquiring and strengthening virtues – traits that sustain a well-rounded life and a thriving society, such as compassion, humility, sensitivity, creativity, curiosity, determination and resilience. Supported by the University of Birmingham's Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, we are developing a character education curriculum and resources for timetabled lessons as we grow to full capacity. This focus also runs through our form periods, college system, meal times, and all enrichment activities. We want University of Birmingham School graduates to have the confidence to go on and deal with the tests of life in an educational system that can often emphasise an accountability driven 'life of tests'!



## ENRICHMENT

Our extended school day allows plenty of time for clubs, societies and trips, and all of our staff are expected to lead or support activities for our pupils. There is an interesting, wide-ranging programme throughout the school year, which includes over 70 options. From knitting to philosophy, jazz ensemble to Chinese culture, karate, military fitness, hockey and more, our Monday and Friday enrichment caters to lots of interests. Our extended enrichment on Wednesdays also offers a chance for other opportunities including visits to the University campus, trips to Birmingham's museums and performances, meeting local businesses and much more.



## LINKS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

The University of Birmingham School is fortunate to have strong links with our 'parent' University to enhance the delivery of our curriculum and our enrichment activities, through access to both physical and intellectual resources. This involves guest lectures, guidance on careers and University admissions, and professional development for our teachers, as well as use of facilities such as the new 360 Sports Centre with its 50m swimming pool and the state of the art Bramall Music Building.

# Our Building

The University of Birmingham School occupies a brand new building, opened in September 2015, located on the University's Selly Oak campus, that has been developed with much thought and care by the University's Estates department and the School of Education working alongside the award-winning practice Associated Architects. With investment from both the Department for Education and the University, our School provides a spacious, welcoming, safe and professional environment that is a pleasure for pupils to grow up in and for staff to work in.



## WELCOMING AND SAFE

- A large and welcoming central atrium where pupils, staff and visitors meet, gather and eat together.
- Wide corridors, a lack of 'hiding' spaces and staff workbases located across the building allow for passive monitoring from teaching staff to keep pupils safe and enable them to stay indoors at breaks and lunchtimes.



## FACILITIES

- School Hall capable of accommodating two year groups, with an electronically operated seating system.
- Large Sports Hall, Activity Studio, Drama Studio, an all-weather flood lit MUGA outdoor pitch, with additional access to University playing fields, Sports Centre and Swimming Pool.
- A light, spacious and peaceful Library fosters a love of reading and promotes independent study.

## CLASSROOMS

- Larger than average classrooms and laboratories, typically at least 50m sq for a classroom and at least 90m sq for laboratories.
- State of the art ICT infrastructure, with a site-wide wireless network capable of supporting the plentiful hardware and software provided in school.
- Eight fully equipped science laboratories, a science studio and science terrace where the emphasis is on practical work.
- Two large music classrooms, a recording studio and practice rooms, as well as three art rooms, a graphics studio, and a Design Technology wing with facilities for food technology and resistant materials.



## SPACE

- Clusters of classrooms, lockers and breakout space for form period and college meetings that allow young people to get to know each other quickly and foster a sense of community.
- Fully accessible building for pupils with physical disabilities, with a dedicated area to cater for the learning needs of our comprehensive intake.
- Interview rooms on each floor for pupil feedback or support for trainee teachers.
- Dedicated facilities for Sixth Formers, including a social area, study space, careers office and seminar rooms.
- Space provided for individual and larger group meetings with parents and the community.



# An introduction to Character Education in the Sixth Form

As students progress into the Sixth Form, we want to inspire and guide you in the development of your character. Exploring the specific issues that confront everyone making the transition from late childhood to young adulthood, we provide opportunities to take greater personal responsibility and to continue to grow into authentic freedom. They include identifying meaningful and worthwhile future pathways in life, different kinds of fruitful engagement with the world around you and sustained exposure to, and reflection on, the challenges of a balanced adult life.

In addition to a diet of 'hard currency' A-Levels, you will follow a taught course that aims to build character which is complemented by the much more practical and experiential approaches, whether on the sporting field or stage, or in concert hall or debating pit, or in school or the community. Here, character will be both 'taught' and 'caught' through our ethos and values. Indeed, we will look increasingly to the Sixth Formers to model the role of being

a good character to those in the lower School – a great privilege and task, no doubt! Such an approach is both broad based and pervasive; it should deepen your insight into the morally relevant features of situations, enhance your own self-awareness when confronting them, and provides ample opportunity to practise and reflect on how to strengthen and integrate more fully the virtues required to meet such challenges.

Our approach continues to cut deeper than mere 'study or employability skills' or 'knowledge about civics', important as these are. We aspire to guide our students in becoming fully flourishing individuals, who live with increasing good sense, courage, fairness, gratitude and self-control. This will naturally lead you to becoming high performing, active and engaged citizens, amongst other things that will not only place you on firm footings when confronting the complex and varied challenges of adulthood, but will also furnish you with enduring traits and worthwhile habits of character.

When you leave us at 18 we aim to have inspired, engaged and supported you in cultivating all that you need for a perfectly balanced, flourishing adult life.

**Professor James Arthur**  
**Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor (Staffing) and**  
**Director of the Jubilee Centre for Character**  
**and Virtues, University of Birmingham**

When you leave us at 18 we aim to have inspired, engaged and supported you in cultivating all that you need for a perfectly balanced, flourishing adult life.



# Sixth Form

We understand that making the choice about where and what to study in the Sixth Form is a major decision for students and their families. If you are considering applying for University in the future, then we believe that the University of Birmingham School will give you the best possible start, with a large Sixth Form of up to 200 students in each year group.

## Sixth Form Curriculum

Our curriculum is based around a choice of three/four AS levels and three A2/A-levels per student. Our emphasis is on academic achievement at a high level, targeted towards university entry, and as such we offer a broad but focussed range of A-levels, emphasising the core disciplines preferred by Russell Group universities. Each subject will be taught through nine hours per fortnight at AS level. For more details on specific subjects, please see page 8.

## Links with the University

A key characteristic of the Sixth Form experience is the involvement of the University. Masterclasses and guest lectures are an important part of the curriculum and you will be encouraged to use the resources of the University to enhance your coursework (eg, library, archives, art collections, laboratories etc.). Beyond your core subjects, University staff also work with teachers and students to enhance your Sixth Form experience.

University specialist facilities are used where appropriate. The University Careers and Employability team support the provision of expert advice and guidance.

## Facilities

Sixth Form students are able to enjoy their own dedicated area in the Orchard Learning Resource Centre, linked to the new School building. The Sixth Form Centre includes study and social space, as well as a careers office and seminar room. You will also have access to the whole School building, including the Library.

## Support

When you arrive at the University of Birmingham School, you will be allocated a Sixth Form Tutor who will work closely with you and the Sixth Form Manager to support you in:

- university entrance planning and applications
- career planning
- research and study skills

- target setting and monitoring of your progress
- leadership and independence
- team work
- communication skills
- developing a healthy lifestyle and work/life balance

## Mentoring and Leadership

As a member of the Sixth Form, we also expect you to work with pupils in the 11–16 school, in addition to your core studies. This might involve mentoring of younger pupils, leading enrichment activities such as sport or music productions, or volunteering in the local community. We run an Ambassador Programme for Sixth Formers, giving you a chance to play a major role in the smooth running and ongoing development of the School.

# Joining us in Year 7

At the University of Birmingham School, we have a diverse learning community that helps to address the needs of a rapidly growing city by admitting pupils from across Birmingham. If your son or daughter would like to join us in 2017, you will need to make your application through Birmingham City Council before 31 October 2016 and you will be notified whether you have secured a place in March 2017. Full details of how to apply are available at [www.birmingham.gov.uk/secondary-school](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/secondary-school)

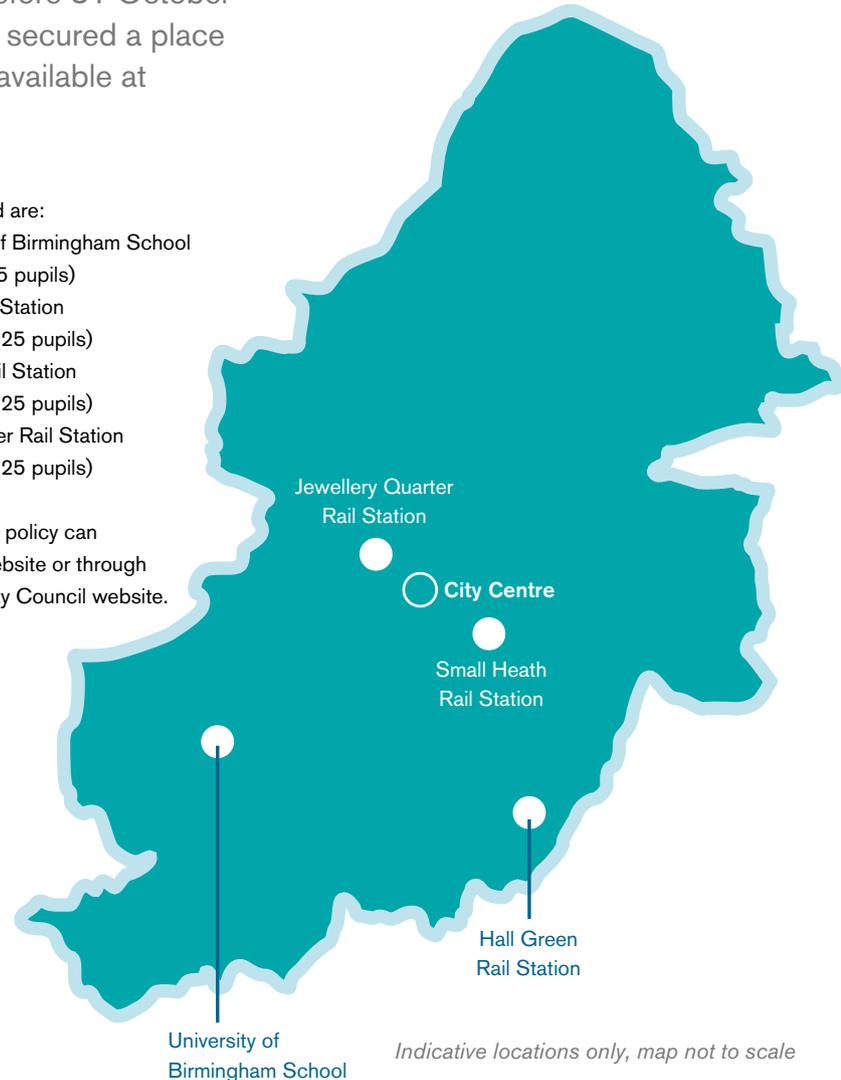
For 2017/18, we have an agreed Published Admissions Number (PAN) of 150 for admission into Year 7. If we receive more applications than this, places will be offered according to the following over-subscription criteria:

1. Pupils with either an Education, Health and Care Plan or statement of Special Educational Needs naming the University of Birmingham School.
2. Looked-after children and children who were previously looked-after.
3. Siblings of students currently attending the University of Birmingham School and who will continue to do so on the date of admission (from 2017). This does not include siblings who were external entrants to the Sixth Form.
4. Distance between applicant's home address and the nodal points set out opposite. Distance will be calculated according to 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.

The nodes selected are:

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

Our full admissions policy can be found on our website or through the Birmingham City Council website.



*Indicative locations only, map not to scale*

# Joining us for the Sixth Form

At the University of Birmingham School, our large, selective Sixth Form provides outstanding opportunities for students across the city and region. We have up to 200 places available for students starting in Year 12 in September 2017 and applications can be submitted from Autumn 2016, using an online application form. The closing date for Sixth Form applications will be 30 January 2017 and applications received after this date will only be considered once applications have been processed for those applying within the prescribed timescale. Further application details can be found on our website.

To be eligible for entry into the Sixth Form, your son or daughter will be expected to meet the minimum academic entry requirements:

- At least 5 GCSEs at Grade B or above or the equivalent in the new grading system, 9-5.
- At least a Grade C at GCSE in English and Maths or equivalent in the new grading system, at least a 4.
- If the school is oversubscribed, you may need to achieve at least a Grade A at GCSE in the subjects that you want to study or equivalent, typically at least a 7 (or associated subjects such as an A in Mathematics to study Computer Science or an A\* to study Further Mathematics).

There are no geographical criteria for the Sixth Form so where there are more applicants that satisfy the academic entry requirements than we have places, priority will be given in the following order:

1. Pupils with either an Education, Health and Care Plan or a statement of Special Educational Needs naming the University of Birmingham School and who meets the minimum academic entry requirements.
2. Looked-after children or children who were previously looked-after.
3. Children eligible for the Pupil Premium.

In the event of two or more applications that cannot otherwise be separated, the School will use random allocation as a tie-break.

Please note that every effort has been made to make this information as accurate as possible. However, the School reserves the right to make changes, as circumstances demand, although these will be kept to a minimum. For up to date information, please see our website.



Want to know more?  
Please get in touch if  
you have any queries.

It's a unique school. The first secondary University Training School in the country – sponsored by one of the best universities in the UK. They've got some of the best facilities in the world including a new sports centre. I thoroughly recommend it.

*Dean Miller, Paralympian and School Enrichment Coach*



# Additional Information

We know that parents and carers will have many practical questions about how our School operates. We have summarised some of the most important information below and you can find other relevant policies and information on our website. Important information will also be sent to those offered places in March 2017 as part of their induction.



## Support for pupils with Special Educational Needs

It is important to us that all pupils are able to flourish in our School, regardless of their abilities or disabilities. Our new School building is fully accessible for pupils with disabilities and has a dedicated area where we can provide tailored support for students with Special Educational Needs, overseen by an experienced SEN Co-ordinator. 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 full uniform policy is available on our website.



## Homework

Homework, or independent study, is a critical aspect of school life.

More details are provided on page 8 and space is provided until 5.30pm for any pupils who want or need to complete their work in school after the school day finishes.



## School meals

Eating together in our large atrium is an important part of our school day that we want everyone to enjoy. We have a fully equipped kitchen to provide a range of healthy hot lunches that pupils, staff and visitors can enjoy, as well as breakfast options, break time snacks and 'grab and go' lunches for those busy with activities. We use a cashless system of payment, with opportunities for top up online or at designated points in school.



## Travel and transport

We see independent travel as part of our character education and expect pupils to use sustainable transport, whether walking, cycling or catching the bus. Further details of routes and support for Year 7 students in their first weeks at school are published on our website.



## Our governance

As a University Training School, the University of Birmingham School is a new model for the UK that came out of the 2010 White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching'. We are an independent and free state school, overseen by a Governing Body and Trust set up by the University.



# COME AND JOIN US

## Keep in touch

 [www.universityofbirminghamschool.org.uk](http://www.universityofbirminghamschool.org.uk)

 [welcome@uobschool.org.uk](mailto:welcome@uobschool.org.uk)

 [facebook.com/uobschool](https://facebook.com/uobschool)

 [@uobschool](https://twitter.com/uobschool)