

# SMITHILLS SCHOOL

**SUCCESS FOR ALL**





## Hello and welcome to Smithills School

I would like to welcome you to Smithills School. I am proud to be the Headteacher of such a wonderful school and feel fortunate to work alongside our talented and diverse pupils, staff, families and community partners.

Our school is an incredibly special place; we are an inclusive, caring and friendly family where every child is respected and encouraged to reach their potential and shine. This is supported by our vision of Success for All and our strong values that are evident in all that we do:

- Community: we actively support others by respecting views and difference
- Excellence: we strive to be our best in all that we do
- Independence: we take responsibility for our actions and personal growth

Our pupils are at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to developing and nurturing every child, providing the very best standards

of education: academic learning, personal development, bespoke support and the essential skills needed to empower our pupils so they can flourish and make a valued contribution to the 21st Century as global citizens.

We want every young person to enjoy their time at Smithills School and leave with precious memories, prepared for adulthood.

In the pages of this prospectus you will find information about different aspects of our school – from curriculum through to clubs and societies. In the inside back cover, you will also find QR codes which will take you to more information about our school – including specific details about GCSE and vocational courses that we offer. On the back cover, there are various ways in which you can contact us to find out even more. I warmly encourage you to learn more about our school.

**C. Dewse**  
Headteacher



## KS3



*My favourite lesson is English because I like reading books. I like learning about different places and lives in the books and it helps us learn about History as well. I like writing about the things that I have learnt.*

Sara

*My favourite subject is French because it helps me learn about the world around me, and helps me communicate with more people and make friends. I also love French as it will help me in the future when I am looking for a job, or travelling abroad. My teacher is also very caring, and always helps us whenever we don't understand something.*

Mariam

*My favourite subject is Science as we look at daily essentials in more details using a microscope. We also do a wide range of practical experiments which help us better our understanding and it helps us become more independent for other lessons.*

Safaa

*My favourite subject is History because I get to learn about events that happened in the past. It helps me learn about how our country has come to be as it is today and the changes it has gone through across the years.*

Atika

*I like RE because I'm very good at it. I am good at remembering about all the different religions and their beliefs and views on the world. It is good that we get to learn about religions from all over the world and how these religions think different things about how people should behave. I like the lessons where we get to talk about our own views and what we believe. It is good to hear what other people think.*

Ayesha

At Key Stage 3, our curriculum is designed to offer a broad academic experience: students study a balanced, diverse and stimulating curriculum, which builds on their Key Stage 2 learning. The focus across key Stage 3 is on developing academic excellence alongside independent learning skills: this combination prepares students for GCSE studies at key Stage 4.

*The QR code insert at the back of this prospectus takes you to information about each individual subject.*

*My favourite subject is P.E because it tests our physical ability in many different sports. It also is a change from our academic subjects. We also learn about our body and how it works through physical challenges.*

Liam

*I love PE, it is my favourite lesson. I really like all the different sports we get to do especially Rounders because I play for the school team. I really enjoyed swimming this year but I thought I'd hate it - I wasn't very good at swimming but I have got a lot better. I like Art as well because I like being creative and I like drawing.*

Lily



## KS4



*I really enjoy my History lessons. I enjoy learning about what has made us the way we are and how things that happened a long time ago can affect the way the world is now. I especially like learning about the Second World War and how Germany was convinced to do things by Adolf Hitler. I also really like it when we get to have debates in the class and discuss things that we don't always agree with.*

Michael

At Key Stage 4, students study core curriculum GCSEs: English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science. Students then select subjects and qualifications which enable them to succeed: these subjects may be EBACC GCSE subjects or a more vocational suite of qualifications.

*The QR code insert at the back of this prospectus takes you to information about the requirements and curriculum content for each individual GCSE option and each vocational course.*

*My favourite subject is Science as it will be useful to me in the future going on to A-levels and university. We had many different options to choose from and we got a lot of support from school: we were given a booklet outlining the topics that were going to be taught in various options. Another support we got from school was an assembly where the teachers talked about the different subjects available and they also did taster sessions to ensure that each pupil felt comfortable and happy with the options they picked.*

Priya

*I have loved being at Smithills. I am about to do my GCSE exams and I have made so much progress since year 7. I now feel more confident about myself and my future. I like all the different subjects I have got to study here, and I think it's great we have so many options to pick from when we start our GCSEs. One day, I want to be a doctor so I have really enjoyed Maths and Science: I love learning about the human body but also about how we can solve problems using Maths. It's really tough but it has been fun.*

Imaan

*I really love Biology because it lets me understand how the human body and world around us works. I really like the challenges we get and how all of the things we learn about fit together and help things make sense. I enjoy the experiments and dissections we do because it makes the other knowledge we learn in lessons make even more sense.*

Tom

*The options I have chosen are: Drama, Geography, Citizenship and French. I love the subjects I have chosen. Being able to pick your own options means you're able to choose something you like or something you want to pursue in the future. I personally enjoy Maths the most as I want to do it in the future so I can achieve my future career. It teaches you skills that can help you in the outside world and not just in school: it is more than just numbers! We all have strengths and weaknesses in Maths but we need to learn how to embrace our strengths and learn from our weaknesses.*

Imrana





## Support



*All my life has been spent in Pakistan and then I moved to England 3 months ago. I have found it easy to move to Smithills. This is because I have extra support in the Curriculum Hub with my English and Maths sessions. The teacher helped me to learn how the school works and where I should go. I think the help she has given me will mean I make a lot of friends quickly.*

Nafessah

*I think the support we get from our heads of year and the other pastoral staff is amazing. They want us to do our best and push us really hard but they also listen to us when we have problems. I know I always have somewhere to go if I need to get help.*

John

*I get extra help with my Maths and Literacy in the Curriculum Hub. It's useful because it helps me understand what goes on in my lessons and helps give me confidence. The teacher is really helpful and she is good at making me understand the hard work.*

Fatima

*I come from Rome, Italy: my first language is Italian and I never spoke English in Italy. I have lived in the UK for a year now. The first day I came to this school, they provided me with lots of support such as more English lessons and teachers who sit and work with me in other lessons. Today, I have lots of knowledge and I personally think that I speak English well after being here for just a year.*

Flavia

*I really like being in the Hub. The teachers are really kind and they want me to do my best. I can go up there at lunch times as well and go to the Nintendo club. It is fun and I make new friends there.*

Josh

There is a wide range of support for our students. Our Curriculum Hub provides interventions for students with specific learning needs – such as literacy and numeracy support – but also runs extra-curricular sessions for students to develop social skills and raise self-esteem. Students who arrive from other countries receive highly targeted support, in lessons but also in small group sessions, led by specialist staff.

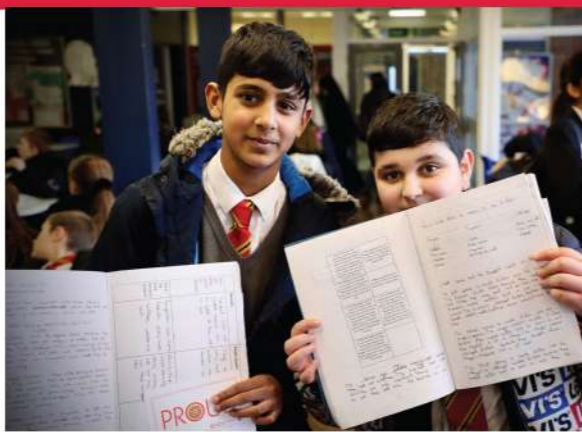
There is also multi-layered support for students with Mental Health needs, from bespoke, individual counselling to raising awareness across whole year groups about Mental Health in Session 0 – our daily PSHE lessons. As a school, we pride ourselves on offering support to all of our students, whilst developing personalised approaches for individuals in need of more specialised help.



## Personal Development

Across every aspect of school life, we encourage our students to become the young people they want to be: our school values constantly promote the ways they can grow as a person and take their place in the world. Central to this are assemblies and Session 0, which take place at the start of every day and which always include students' wellbeing: these parts of the school day seek to prepare students for the world we live in and to empower them for their next stage in life.

During Session Zero in particular, students consider topics such as their current and future roles in society and how they can be best prepared for this with practical topics such as how to write a cv and apply for a job, how to prepare for exams and money management. We also have a wide range of opportunities for our students to take on leadership roles, from Form Representatives to whole school roles.



*In assemblies, we learn about the school's values and how these will help us even after we leave Smithills School and we will always need them. Session 0 is our form time and we learn about many different things: we do many activities and it is a time where we explore our creativity. During form, we are taught how to apply for college and how to apply for a job which has been really helpful showing me what I can do when I leave school.*

Haleema

*School is not just about the regular subjects we study. I really enjoy Session Zero because we get to debate really important issues from right across the world. We recently talked about the reason that wars happen and if they are ever justified. It's good to learn about things that are going on in the world right now because it helps us have a wider perspective about life.*

Aaliyah

*The special events we do during the year make school really fun. I really enjoyed work experience week because we got to try out different jobs and see if that's what we wanted to do when we leave school: it helped me understand the career I wanted and helped me see how I might get there. I think the support we get is not just for when we are at the school but they want us to be successful when we leave as well.*

Tom

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I've been involved with the Performing Arts department throughout my time at Smithills. Throughout the year, we usually do one full scale musical, a pantomime and other showcases that we get to perform for friends and family, local primary schools and the wider community. We also have many other running projects such as working with the National Theatre and our competitive dance team, Elite. My greatest achievement was to take the lead in Sister Act Jr. The rehearsals were super fun and I loved every second.

Adassa

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## Enrichment

We offer an enriched curriculum to all our students. This curriculum includes: a fabulous production, which is open to all year groups and to students of all Performing Arts abilities; the Duke of Edinburgh award, which is open to students in year 9 and upwards; and each year, Year 10 have a designated work experience week where they are encouraged to find a work placement in a local workplace.



*During my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh I have developed a lot of different skills. I think it has really helped with my independence, teamwork and also has improved my physical and volunteering work. I had to work in a team so we could navigate our routes, using maps and compasses to guide our way through a 16km walk.*

Astha

*I have been working in a mechanics. I always really liked cars so I would like to work here full time one day. It has given me the chance to work with other people to see what they have to do to fix the cars. I have had the chance to work on some of the cars which I have liked.*

Aiden



*I have been working in customer services at the Last Drop Hotel. It has been really hard but I have enjoyed it. I have to say hello to people when they arrive and help them with their luggage. If anyone calls reception, I have to sort their problems out. It has made me realise I'm quite a good problem solver and I work well with other people.*

Delier

*I wasn't sure what I wanted to do when I was older so work experience has given me a really good opportunity to see what it's like to go to work. I have been working in a local nursery with young children, helping them feed themselves and setting up activities for them. It has given me the chance to see what it is like to work in the real world. I think it has made me become more mature and really think about what I want to do when I'm older.*

Imrana

Each day of the school week, we offer a wide range of clubs and societies which we encourage students to participate in. These clubs are sometimes linked to subjects which are delivered during lesson time – such as the STEM club which is run by the Science department. But we also offer other clubs which seek to broaden our students' experiences of life, such as our Eco club.

Dance Club • Nintendo Club • Rock Band • Performing Arts • Art Club  
Horrible Histories • Eco Club • Student Council • STEM Club  
Fitness Club • Science Club • Duke of Edinburgh • Hair & Beauty  
Basketball • Girls Football



*I play in the year 7 football team. We train once a week and have played a few games. I really enjoy it because we get to keep fit and work together as a team. I love it when we win and it gives us a massive buzz. It makes me proud to represent to the school.*

Taylor

## Clubs & Societies



*Horrible Histories club is really fun. We play games and watch programmes about our favourite parts in History. I get to work on History projects with my friends, which help us learn to work together as a team.*

Zach



*I really like doing Science experiments so I decided to join STEM club. One day I want to be an engineer so I love doing the experiments that we do. I think it makes learning about Science and Technology even more fun because we get to carry out experiments all of the time.*

Ayesha







# SMITHILLS SCHOOL

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*I really found that I struggled more in academic subjects and I will be forever grateful for my teachers who spent so much time with me. I left Smithills with 10 GCSEs – all grades that I'm really proud of! Whilst at school, I specialised in Dance, Drama and Music, participating in Smithills School Senior Brass and Concert band as well as performing in the musicals and pantomimes. I am now a full time performer at Alton Towers, as well as working in the industry with companies such as the BBC and Netflix.*

Nicole

*Smithills School helped me to grow in my confidence with the opportunities I was given during my time there: especially extra-curricular activities with the sports department and being able to join various bands in the music department from year 7 all the way up to year 11. Being Head Boy in my final year gave me lots of confidence and skills going forward after school as it meant that I had been in a leadership position to voice students' ideas creating a real sense of value.*

Ciaran

*My experience at Smithills was amazing and thoroughly enjoyable. From the level of teaching and support to the engaging lessons and encouraging advice, it set me up for my challenging A-level journey. The most memorable aspect of my time at Smithills was the dedication of the teachers.*

Rumaysa



*Before I came to Smithills, I was nervous that I wasn't going to fit in and make new friends. On my first day I met so many new and different people who I immediately felt comfortable with. I was greeted by the teachers who answered all of my questions. Teachers always support me to achieve the best grades I can get and give me guidance on how I can improve.*

Almedina



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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