




The Birley Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

The Birley Academy

Information for prospective parents and carers



*"Pupils say they
enjoy being at The
Birley Academy*

Ofsted 2020

*"Pupils are safe and
happy at this school."*

Ofsted 2020



The Birley Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy

Our Vision

Lead

That means we:

- Make things happen
- Take opportunities
- Create improvement
- Are role models for others

Empower

That means we:

- Teach
- Develop and challenge ourselves
- Support the development and challenge of others
- Work together
- Care for each other

Achieve

That means we:

- Learn
- Are successful
- Set goals and reach them
- Leave a positive impression

Drive

That means we:

- Show resilience
- Show resourcefulness

Reasons to study at The Birley Academy

1. Receive ambitious, high quality, subject specialist teaching.
2. Modern facilities with specialist equipment for DT, Art, Music and PE.
3. Make friends with people from other primary schools.
4. Experience calm working environments in all lessons.
5. Have the opportunity to read regularly.
6. Have a wide range of opportunities under the Birley Promise
7. Benefit from music and sports coaching every week.
8. Have fun at many clubs as part of our extensive extra curricular programme.
9. Sing, dance and act in productions.
10. Earn badges for your curriculum areas and character development.
11. Enjoy spending time with Milly the School Dog.
12. Become an ambassador.
13. Join one of our many student leadership teams.
14. Attend school trips both locally and overseas.
15. Learn about future careers and visit universities.
16. Be rewarded with positive points for excellence and good citizenship.
17. Have a team of people to support you, from form tutors, to Heads of year.
18. Experience the very best team of staff who work hard to make our Academy incredible in every way.
19. Achieve **your** very best GCSE results.
20. Partnership with **The Sheffield Sixth Form**.



Contents



Academic Achievement
for ALL



The Curriculum



Careers and Post 16
opportunities



Extra Curricular activities



Achievement & Behaviour



Milly the school dog &
Academy Day



Uniform

“
Education is the most
powerful weapon which
you can use to change the
world.
Nelson Mandela

Academic achievement for ALL

Great things are accomplished by talented people who believe that they will accomplish them.” - **Warren G. Bennis**

At The Birley Academy, we believe that all students have the potential to achieve great things. We expect them to continue the momentum from what they achieved in their SATS at the end of Year 6, right through to achieve their individual potential in GCSE outcomes. Students will go on to post 16 opportunities across the city and after that to attend the best universities in the UK or work within industries that will support and empower others— this journey starts with the highest expectations from Year 7.

We both challenge and support all students to achieve their targets through:

- Offering a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum that expects high levels of progress from Year 7;
- Quality first teaching and learning by specialist teachers;
- Effective groupings of students, ensuring that students are in an environment that will enable them to achieve their potential;
- Targeted intervention and bespoke support within school and the option of external activities including participation for some in The Brilliant Club;
- Providing opportunities for students to get involved in university projects to see where excellence in academia can take them;
- A head of year and deputy head of year to support all students in both academic and pastoral matters.

We, at The Birley Academy, are determined that every student fulfils their potential and we therefore provide both stretch, challenge and support to make this happen.



Supporting Students with SEND

At The Birley Academy we aim to provide all students with a positive learning experience in a mainstream school, which prides itself on being inclusive. We appreciate that when a child has been identified with a special educational need they can face their own personal set of challenges, as well as dealing with the day to day routines of school. With this in mind, all students who are on the SEN register have an Adapted Support Plan. This plan advises all staff of the different strategies that can be used to support your child in lessons. This plan also allows staff to get to know our SEND students fully.

We aim to develop open and honest communication with home and will often provide our most vulnerable students with a communication log. As well as a SENDCo, we also have two Deputy SENDCos and an Engagement Leader who are all fully trained in dealing with all areas of SEND, which includes completing SEND review meetings, support plans, My Plans and annual reviews. The inclusion team is also made up of a team of teaching assistants who work with small groups of students in and out of lessons.

Our teaching staff regularly receive training around working with SEND students so that quality first teaching is at the heart of all we do. We feel this is the most effective way to support your child's progress.

At The Birley Academy we also have the following resources and interventions available for our SEND students:

- A dedicated SEND base for students who will be taking part in interventions during the school week.
- Intervention sessions, that include work around social, emotional and mental health; communication; pre and over learning; targeted maths and English intervention and speech and language.
- Intervention sessions around the 5 point scale to support students to regulate their emotions.
- Any student who has a SEND will have a completed adapted support plan. This document will provide their teachers with strategies to support them in lessons.
- In order to support our students further, we also use the Anxiety Gremlin and Talk About intervention packages.
- Where students need support around social situations, we also use social stories and visual aids.
- We also have a wide range of therapeutic interventions, such as art therapy, clay therapy and Lego therapy.
- Where appropriate, students are provided with a visual timetable.
- A lunchtime club for students who require a quieter environment. Students can have their lunch here and there are a range of games available for them to play.
- A sensory room to help regulate emotion and/or physical overload.



The Curriculum



At The Birley Academy we believe all students have an entitlement to a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum. We recognise the diverse needs of our students, whilst ensuring that they receive a world-class education with quality first teaching and outcomes that effectively prepare them for the next phase in education, the workplace and the wider world.

Mathematics at the Birley Academy

In line with the National Curriculum, there is a strong focus on fluency, reasoning and problem solving in maths to help prepare students to progress through their studies and be able to play their full part in this world. Stretch, challenge and support runs throughout our schemes, adapting for students of all abilities and needs. The 5-year, well-sequenced scheme of work, knits together the journey from KS2 and prepares them for the next stage. Our curriculum is designed so that students have the opportunity to work at a higher tier when they can.



English at the Birley Academy

By studying English, pupils will learn to speak and write fluently so as to communicate their ideas to others; through reading and listening, to communicate with them. Through the study of English Literature, students will read a breadth of literature that spans time, genres, and contexts, whilst acquiring knowledge about the texts they are reading and the time period in which they were written. They will learn to read printed-word and visual texts critically. By studying Language, they will acquire an understanding of how writers craft their texts for a purpose and develop their proficiency in replicating this through writing for a variety of purposes, audiences and forms.



Geography at The Birley Academy

Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, it is one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study today. "So many of the world's current problems (hurricanes, flooding, migration) boil down to Geography, and we need the Geographers of the future to help us understand them" (Michael Palin). Students will learn about weather and the climate in different parts of the world and look at the effects of development and tourism. They will also study countries across the globe such as Kenya, India, Poland and of course the UK. There are fieldtrips in both KS3 and KS4.



DT at the Birley Academy

Design Technology develops a student's understanding of materials, processes and products in our manufacturing and digital age. In KS3 we rotate between 3 intersecting subjects, Resistant Materials, Graphics and CAD/CAM. Collectively these subjects allow students the opportunity to design and make a variety of practical outcomes, in a spectrum of different materials and media, developing an appreciation for manufacturing techniques, methods, ICT and equipment.



PSHE at The Birley Academy

All students have 1 hour of Personal, Social and Health Education a week. These lessons are delivered by a PSHE specialist teacher who will support them through a wide range of topics, all of which are focussed on preparing students for a well-balanced, healthy and happy adult life. Personal wellbeing helps young people embrace change, feel positive about who they are and enjoy healthy, safe, responsible and fulfilled lives. Students will be able to recognise and manage risk, take increasing responsibility for themselves, their choices and behaviours and make positive contributions to their families, schools and communities.



PE at The Birley Academy

Our aim in Physical Education is to ensure all our students are encouraged to participate, enjoy, challenge and compete no matter what your background is. Physical Education allows students to understand and adhere to rules, regulations and fair play. In return students, learn the importance of teamwork, sportspersonship, support, motivation and encouraging others. Promoting healthy active lifestyles and enjoyment of participation in physical activity is key to our curriculum. We offer a wide and comprehensive extra-curricular timetable, that includes competitions at a city, county and national level.

Science at the Birley Academy

In science, students will learn knowledge and skills that will help them to better understand the world around them. Our aim is to make science education relevant to students and to introduce them to potential careers in science, while challenging them to use their knowledge to explain everyday phenomena. From reproduction in humans, to the impact of cosmic rays on planet Earth, and everything in between! Students will learn about key scientific concepts including energy, the nature of particles and chemical reactions, as early as year 7, building a firm foundation on which to develop their scientific knowledge. At key stage four, students have the option to study separate science. The separate science course introduces extra content that allows students to investigate further learning about the human eye and the planets & objects in our Solar System, to name but a few.



Performing Arts at The Birley Academy

The Performing Arts curriculum at Birley **prepares students to become independent and creative individuals**. A range of topics allow students to develop an understanding and appreciation of the arts formed in a contemporary society and throughout the world. The **Music** curriculum **ensures students sing, listen, play, perform and evaluate**. This is embedded in classroom activities, as well as weekly clubs, seasonal concerts and performances, in the learning of instruments and the joining of musical ensembles. The **Drama** curriculum engages students in a wide variety of performance styles and encourages them to develop skills to support them in drama lessons and throughout life.

Religious Studies at The Birley Academy

Religious Studies is a subject that explores the beliefs and practices of the six major world religions. We develop an understanding of the core beliefs, worship rituals, sacred texts, founders, festivals and relevant people of each religion. We also delve into the big philosophical questions about the afterlife and the purpose of life. All students will be taught how to apply religious knowledge to a number of real-world topics, such as peace and conflict, crime and punishment and human rights.



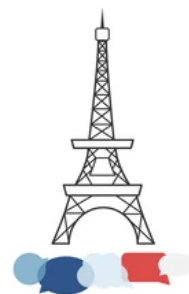
Food at The Birley Academy

Food develops a student's fine motor skills, creativity and an appreciation for one of life's pleasures and necessities. The subject has a focus on practical skills that cover a variety of methods, techniques and equipment. Food theory is linked to the practical they produce and covers the five areas in the curriculum, food nutrition, food choice, food science, food provenance and food safety. Our primary aim is for students to become competent and confident at food preparation and understand its place in our world beyond our plates.



French at The Birley Academy

Students start learning French when they arrive in year 7. All students study this language and have the opportunity to continue it to KS4. There is the opportunity to go to watch French films at the Showroom Cinema and even the chance to go on a trip to France to practice those skills in real life. We celebrate the European Day of languages each year and encourage students to learn about other cultures.



Art at The Birley Academy

Art is a subject that explores visual communication, cultures around the world, social issues, self-expression and imagination through a broad range of media and techniques; drawing, painting, printing making, textiles, mixed media and sculptural materials. We develop skills in observation, recording, developing and refining ideas and producing a personal response to an initial starting point. Students develop their critical understanding of the artwork of others and an ability to use visual language. All students are taught drawing skills, and have an opportunity to work both on 2D and 3D art outcomes.



History at The Birley Academy

History at the Birley Academy gives students an understanding of local, British and world history. They will learn about significant events, people and changes from the recent and more distant past. Students will study topics from a variety of perspectives, including political, religious, social and economic viewpoints. All students will be taught about the chronology of history, from the Dark Ages to modern day, including major historical events such as the Norman invasion, the Tudors, Empire slavery and the Holocaust.



Option Process

At the end of Year 9, students continue to study maths, English, science, PSHE and take part in PE. Currently students are able to choose from the following subjects.

- Geography
 - Music
 - Triple Science
 - Health and Social Studies
 - Sports Studies
 - French
 - Graphics
 - Engineering
- Travel and Tourism
 - Performing Arts
 - Creative imedia
 - Religious Studies
 - History
 - Art
 - Resistant Materials
 - Food preparation and Nutrition



Some courses are BTECs and are assessed mainly through coursework, while others are assessed through a final examination. For the last 2 years, every student has been allocated their first three choices.

In lessons, students have the chance to achieve reward points. We challenge all students to collect all the following reward badges by the time they leave school in Y11.



Students also have the chance to achieve the following badges for student leadership.

	Outstanding Leadership
	The Empowerment Award
	Outstanding Achievement
	Outstanding Effort (Drive)
	The Year Leader Award
	The Leadership Team Award
	100% Attendance
	School Representation Badge
New this year – Handwriting award	

Badge	Role
	Student ambassador – front of house at school events, tours of school during interviews, take part in student voice activities with external visitors.
	Sports Captain – Regularly captain academy sports team.
	Sports Leader – Completed the Junior Sports Leader Award and regularly takes a leadership in primary sports events.
	Performing Arts Leader – regularly takes assumes the leadership role in the Performing Arts Club. This will include writing scripts, directing, choreography as well as performing.
	Performing Arts Ambassador – regularly attends and takes part in the Performing Arts Club as well taking part in the academy productions.
	Student Council – For members of the Student Council

Careers and Post-16 opportunities:

Year 7 & 8	IMPACT Events	
	Brilliant Club	
	My Future Project	
	University Trips	
	Big Bang Fair	
	Careers Clinic	
	Aspirations Day	
	Student Council & Ambassadors	
Year 9	Brilliant Club	
	My Future Project	
	University Trips	
	Discover US Events	
	Careers Clinic	
	Aspirations Day	
	Student Council & Ambassadors	
Year 10	Careers interviews with Sheffield Futures	
	Careers Clinic	
	Work experience placement	
	Assemblies with local businesses/ colleges	
	USISM Events	
	PSHE lessons on CV writing, interview skills and applying for work experience	
	Student Council & Ambassadors	
	Aspirations Day	
Year 11	Post 16 Open Evenings	
	College visits	
	Careers interviews with Sheffield Futures	
	Careers Clinic	
	PSHE lessons on applications, personal statements, interview skills	
	Student Council & Ambassadors	
	Aspirations Day	

We have a partnership with The Sheffield Sixth form which guarantees our students a place, subject to achieving the entry grades and attending an interview.



Extra Curriculum Opportunities

At The Birley Academy, we value the importance of the extended curriculum. We are delighted that our students are making the most of our excellent extra-curricular programme. We offer 30 different clubs and revision classes. A sample include our lunchtime games club; an eco committee; art and music clubs; maths revision for Year 11 students. We have competitive sports teams in football, netball and athletics. We also have clubs where students can come along and play just for fun. We are running a mountain bike club in partnership with British Cycling, and have a successful Duke of Edinburgh programme running as part of our outdoor curriculum.

Students have the chance to take on leadership roles within the school too. We have a school council and subject ambassadors for every department. We are also training our ambassadors through The Diana Award Anti Bullying Programme.



Achievement and Behaviour:

All students can earn Reward Points in lessons, in social times and after school. Reward points are issued under the following criteria - when students demonstrate our vision (Lead, Empower, Achieve and Drive), when they contribute to the wider school community and when they go above and beyond in their efforts.

Reward Points lead to certificates and letters home. They give students access to incentives, such as weekly hot chocolate breakfasts and end of term reward activities.

On the other hand, when students choose not to meet our expectations (*owning their own behaviour*) they are given Behaviour Points. In such instances, this may lead to contact being made with their parent/carers and appropriate sanctions given.

Using the Go4Schools app, parents/carers are able to see when their children receives reward or behavioural points and what they have been given for. This enables us to foster home/school relationships and work in partnership with them.



Milly the School Dog

Milly has officially been part of the Academy since October 2021, and has quickly settled in to the routine of the Academy day, bringing her unique style to everything she does. Milly is a Shih Tzu dog. Shih Tzu dogs are a rarely-shedding dog breed, and are hypoallergenic which is perfect for those who suffer with allergies. As part of the training undertaken, she has completed a 5-week training course through the Dogs Trust and has been working with ‘The Dog Mentor’.



Academy Day

Tutor time	Period 1	Period 2	Break	Period 3	Period 4			Period 5	Intervention, Enrichment and Detention time	
8.35am–9.00am	9.00am – 10.00am	10.00am – 11.00am		11.15am–12.15pm	12.15 – 1.15pm		12.45 - 1.45pm	KS3 1.45pm - 2.35pm	2.45 – 3.45pm As applicable	
					Lunch 1 12.15 – 12.45 pm Year 7,8 & 9		Lunch 3 1.15 – 1.45 pm Year 10 & 11			KS4 1.45pm–2.50pm

Lunch time

At The Birley Academy we provide an excellent catering service to pupils and staff, offering a healthy choice of foods, including a full hot food selection, salad bar, soup, pasta and sandwiches. For many students, lunch is the main meal of their day. Meal time should be relaxed and calm, whilst also providing all the ingredients necessary to assist with pupils’ concentration and learning. At the Academy, we prefer to manage the catering provision ourselves, giving us more control and choice over the food we offer. This allows us to ensure a good variety and selection of foods to cater for every taste.

The Birley Academy Uniform

The Academy has strict guidelines on dress. All pupils are expected to wear the full Academy uniform, including travelling to and from the Academy.

Our uniform comprises of :

- Plain long or short sleeve shirt - white
- Plain trousers or skirt - black. Jeans and cords are not allowed. Skirts should be no shorter than knee length. All items should allow for shirts to be properly tucked in and must not be tight-fitting
- Academy tie
- Academy blazer - grey
- Plain, sensible black shoes. Footwear must be leather or leather look with flat soles - no trainers, boots, pumps or canvas shoes will be allowed. High heeled shoes are unsuitable and dangerous on our school site
- Navy blue V neck jumper with the LEAD logo - sleeves need to be at full length

PE Uniform

- Academy PE top
- Academy reversible games top (recommended for winter sports)
- Academy shorts
- Plain navy blue knee length games socks
- White sports socks for indoor use
- Indoor trainers - non-marking sole with laces, providing support to the ankle and foot
- Outdoor footwear - suitable for on grass use. E.g. football boots or Astro turf shoes
- Gum shield for rugby (parents/carers will be informed when necessary for other sports)
- Shin pads for football

Jewellery, Make up and Hair styles

Jewellery is not allowed, except for one pair of small, plain stud ear studs. Ear rings, rings, nose studs or other piercings/jewellery are not acceptable.

Fake nails and excessive make up is not allowed. Nails must be short and natural looking. Hair must be of natural colour and must not be dyed. Pupils are not allowed 'cuts', shapes or designs.

Equipment

- Strong waterproof bag – A4 size
- Pencil case
- Black pens
- Red pens
- A spare pen or spare cartridges, if you have a fountain pen
- Two pencils
- Pencil sharpener
- A 30cm ruler
- A rubber
- A calculator, preferably a scientific calculator as Casio FX83GT Plus or similar
- A set of coloured pencils

Knowledge Organisers

Every student will be given a knowledge organiser at the start of each term with key information in it.



"I get lots of help."
Student



**"This place is
brimming over
with talent."**
Birley Parent



**"Fantastic
school."**
External partner



**"The staff have
surpassed themselves
in dedication, determination
and genuine care for the
benefit of the students."**



**"They were
engaging and lovely
pupils to work with."**
University partner



**"Thank you for all
the time and effort
you have put in."**
Student



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**"Must comment on
how well-behaved
your students are."**
Member of the public