



The Birley Academy
A L.E.A.D Academy

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS AND CARERS

“There are good
relationships
between staff and
pupils.”

Ofsted 2023



“Leaders are dedicated to
ensuring pupils are safe
and well cared for.”

Ofsted 2023



DEAR PROSPECTIVE YEAR 7 PARENTS/CARERS,

We are thrilled to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to you as you embark on this exciting journey with us at The Birley Academy. Your child's transition to secondary school is a significant milestone, and we are honoured that you are considering our academy to be a part of this important chapter in their life.

At The Birley Academy, we believe in fostering a nurturing and inclusive learning environment that empowers students to reach their full potential academically, socially, and personally. As your child enters Year 7, we want to assure you that they will receive the highest quality education, care, and support from our dedicated team of educators and staff.

Here are some highlights of what you can expect from our academy:

Academic excellence: Our curriculum is designed to challenge and inspire students, providing them with a well-rounded education that prepares them for the future. We have a strong focus on core subjects, while also offering a wide range of extracurricular activities to encourage exploration and personal growth.

Supportive community: We believe in the power of a strong school community. Our teachers, staff, and parent network collaborate closely to ensure that your child has the best possible experience at our school. We value open communication and encourage parent involvement in various academy activities.

Wellbeing and personal development: We prioritise the emotional and social well-being of our students. Our pastoral care system ensures that each student receives the support they need to thrive in a safe and nurturing environment.

State-of-the-art-facilities: Our school boasts modern and well-equipped facilities, including laboratories, computer suites, design and technology workshops, sports facilities and a library. We are committed to providing the best resources to enhance your child's learning experience.

A diverse and inclusive environment: We celebrate diversity and inclusivity, embracing students from all backgrounds and fostering an atmosphere of respect, empathy, and understanding.

Tonight you have the opportunity to meet our school leadership team, teachers, non-teaching staff and other prospective parents, as well as learn more about our curriculum, LEAD values, and extracurricular activities.

We understand that choosing the right secondary school is an important decision, and we are here to assist you every step of the way. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out to our admissions team – Mrs Hunt, on (0114) 2392531, extension 2286 or email pennyhunt@birleysecondaryacademy.co.uk

Once again, welcome to the The Birley Academy. We look forward to embarking on this educational journey with you and your child and helping them reach their full potential.

Warm regards,



Diarmaid Casey

Acting Headteacher

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At The Birley Academy we challenge each other and ourselves to always strive for more. It is our aim to ensure that students are ready, respectful and resilient. We believe that instilling these values will help all to succeed in life.



OUR VISION

Lead

That means we:

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

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. Become an ambassador.
12. Join the Student Parliament.
13. Attend one of our many school visits to local and national places of interest and abroad.
14. Learn about future careers and visit universities.
15. Be rewarded with reward points for demonstrating readiness, respectfulness and resilience.
16. Have a team of people to support you, from form tutors, to Heads of year.
17. Experience the very best team of staff who work hard to make our Academy incredible in every way.
18. Achieve your very best GCSE results.
19. Make use of our partnership with The Sheffield Sixth Form with an automatic place providing you achieve the grades and attend an interview.



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 SEND 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.
- Weekly SEND drop-in service for parents/carers on a Tuesday evening (3-5pm).



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

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

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

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 field trips in both KS3 and KS4.



Design Technology

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

All students have 1 session 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.



Physical Education



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

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 sciences. The separate sciences 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.



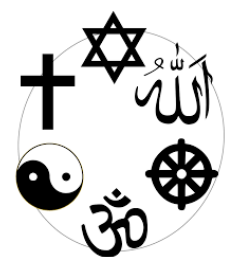
Performing Arts

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

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.



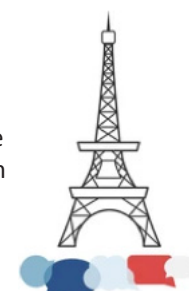
Food Technology

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 to understand its place in our world beyond our plates.



French

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 practise those skills in real life. We celebrate the European Day of languages each year and encourage students to learn about other cultures.



Art

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

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.



Computing

Key Stage 3 students are introduced to the fundamentals of computer science, which includes topics like programming, algorithms, data representation, and computer hardware. They are encouraged to develop problem-solving skills and a deep understanding of how computers work. Students also learn about programming languages such as Scratch to write code and create simple software applications. Our KS3 curriculum also covers digital literacy, teaching students about online safety, responsible internet usage, and the ethical considerations of technology.



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
- Separate 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. through a final examination. For the last 2 years, every student has been allocated their first three choices.

The Birley Promise

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.



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

CAREERS AND POST - 16 OPPORTUNITIES:

Year 7 & 8	Impact Events
	Brilliant Club
	My Future Project
	University Trips
	Big Bang Fair
	Careers Clinic
	Inspiration Day
	Student Parliament & Ambassadors
Year 9	Brilliant Club
	My Future Project
	University Trips
	Big Bang Fair
	Careers Clinic
	Inspiration Day
	Student Parliament & Ambassadors



Year 10	Careers interview 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 Parliament & Ambassadors
	Inspiration Day
Year 11	Post 16 Open Evenings
	College visits
	Careers interview with Sheffield Futures
	Careers Clinic
	PSHE lessons on CV writing, interview skills and applying for work experience
	Student Parliament & Ambassadors
	Inspiration Day

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



EXTRA CURRICULAR 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 Student Parliament 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 (Ready, Respectful, Resilient), 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/carer 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.



THE SCHOOL DAY

Students must be in school by 8:25am each morning and will finish at 2.55pm each afternoon.

8:25am	9:10am	10am	10:50am	11:05am	11:55am	12:45pm	1:35pm	2:05pm	2:55pm
Line up and Tutor Time	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Break	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lesson 5	Lunch	Lesson 6	End

Tutor Time Programme

Students attend tutor time every morning. This is an opportunity to meet with their tutor and discuss achievements and any concerns. Tutors will check uniform and equipment every day and discuss reward points, attendance and any behaviour points. Usually their tutor will stay with them throughout the time at the Academy.

The tutor time programme includes time for reading and independent study, as well as the personal development curriculum. There are inter form competitions and quizzes.

Students will also attend assemblies led by the head of year and senior leadership team. The focus of these varies from celebrating achievement, current affairs, citizenship, mental health awareness, as well as welcoming outside speakers from relevant organisations.

Food Information

At the Birley Academy, we provide an excellent catering service to pupils and staff, offering a wide choice of healthy food, including a full hot food selection pasta bar, wraps, salads and sandwiches.

Students can sit in the dining areas or go outside after they have eaten. They are not allowed in the areas of school where other groups will be in lessons.



THE BIRLEY ACADEMY

UNIFORM

Uniform

- Plain white long or short sleeved shirt.
- Plain black trousers or knee length skirt.
- Academy tie.
- Academy grey blazer.
- Plain black, flat soled, leather look shoes or ankle boots. No trainers.
- Optionally: Navy blue V-neck jumper with or without L.E.A.D logo.

NB – if students are not wearing the correct uniform, they will be expected to remain in the removal room until the matter is resolved.

PE kit

Compulsory equipment.

- The Birley Academy PE T-shirt.
- Black or navy blue shorts (thigh high).
- Navy blue football socks.
- No marking sports shoes.
- Footwear for outside on the field. E.g. studded football boots.
- Hair bobble/hair band, if hair can obstruct vision.

Optional extras

- The Birley Academy PE rugby shirt.
- The Birley Academy, PE zip up top.
- Plain navy blue or black tracksuit bottoms.
- Black base layer.
- Non-cotton, black shorts, leggings.

Personal Presentation

- Shirts must be tucked in at all times.
- Blazer sleeves must be rolled down.
- No jewellery except one plain stud in each ear and a watch.
- Nails must be short and natural looking.
- No false eyelashes or excessive makeup.
- Hair must be natural in colour.

NB – Uniform, personal presentation and equipment will be checked each day in tutor time and throughout the day.

Equipment

- Strong waterproof bag.
- Planner.
- Pencil case.
- Black Pen.
- Red Pen.
- Ruler.
- Rubber.
- Calculator preferably a scientific calculator as Casio FX83GT Plus or similar.
- Optional: A set of coloured pencils.

"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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