

Welcome to the Aldridge Education family of schools and colleges



Welcome



We are a charitable trust with a strong focus on our students achieving the qualifications and developing the enterprising qualities and life-skills which prepare them to take the opportunities that lie ahead of them. The schools in our trust range from primary to secondary and sixth-form. They each have their own, unique character, but they all share a commitment to excellence.

As a trust, we have a firm belief that learning of all types and for a range of purposes matters. Learning for the love of the subject and to study that subject further, either at university or as a lifelong interest. Learning with the aim of being able to apply it in a hobby, skill, trade or profession. We love to promote both knowledge and practical application of that knowledge. They go hand in hand all the way through a strong education.

We also believe that our students should own their learning and that this helps them take ownership of their next steps and their life beyond school. We help our students to develop a strong set of qualities and values that will stand them in good stead as they move into adulthood.

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make as a parent. Alongside the school's website and prospectus, this leaflet explains how an Aldridge entrepreneurial education can make the difference for your daughter or son. We hope that you will visit our schools, talk to our teachers and students, and see for yourself what makes them a special place to learn.

Jane Fletcher
CEO

Our Aldridge Attributes



Determination

The movement towards a goal, and resilience to difficulties along the way



Passion

The drive to achieve and succeed



Teamwork

A co-ordinated effort on the part of a team or in the interests of a common cause



Problem-Solving

The ability to express and interpret challenges, concepts, thoughts, feelings, facts and opinions



Creativity

The ability to look at things in a new way, and seek different solutions



Risk-Taking

Not being afraid to try something new or do something differently



Partners in your child's success

Aldridge secondary schools perform strongly in Ofsted judgements. Of the six secondary schools in our multi-academy trust (or where we are the Lead Sponsor) which have had an inspection published, four schools are judged to be 'Good' and one 'Outstanding'.

We take great pride in the many outstanding performances achieved by our students each year at GCSE and sixth-form levels, and in their subsequent achievements in their careers. In the last year for which figures are available (2019) on completing their Year 11 studies 95% of our students stayed on in education, 7% above the national average.

Following their sixth form studies 60% of Aldridge students moved onto university, higher or further education and 30% went straight into employment or took up an apprenticeship, again well above the comparable national average.*

"I want my daughter to fulfil her potential – and she has a real chance to do that here. She has learned to aim higher, to push herself further, and that she can face up to challenging work."

Parent Survey Response

"The academy was a wonderful experience that allowed me to achieve the grades that I wanted. Throughout my five years here I have gained so much and am extremely thankful to the teachers and staff here who supported me through secondary school."

An Aldridge student speaking on GCSE results day

"What the school has achieved is remarkable."

Kensington Aldridge Academy Ofsted Inspection Report

"Parents described the support their children receive as 'absolutely fantastic'."

Portslade Aldridge Community Academy
Ofsted Inspection Report



High quality education

Aldridge schools each have their own character but they share a commitment to providing a high quality education. Our student culture is built on enjoying and engaging with learning; valuing diversity and individuality; good behaviour and attendance; caring for our own and each other's physical and mental health; and having an enterprising attitude.

Our teachers focus everyday on improving the understanding and knowledge each student gained yesterday, closing any gaps and ensuring no one is left behind - rather than automatically moving on to the next stage of the syllabus. We seek to support children both with their particular abilities and with any needs they have.

The curriculum we teach

Our curriculum is designed to allow learners to gain a breadth of knowledge and to understand how to apply that knowledge in different contexts. Students make links between learning from one subject to another, and use their knowledge to grow new knowledge. Part of our approach comes through our use of English and Maths Mastery programmes which your child may well have already experienced at primary school. We are also building a Trust science mastery programme.

Your daughter or son will gain a strong grounding in science, technology and maths (often referred to as STEM), the arts, languages and humanities before selecting the subjects they want to study to GCSE from Year 10 onwards.

Developing real skills for real life

An enterprising individual responds creatively to problems, grows from failure and is hungry for new experiences. A young person with an entrepreneurial mindset is work ready. They have developed aspirations and goals to work towards - and do so with passion and determination.

Our focus is not just on preparing young people for GCSEs, but on preparing them for life through developing a love of learning.

Alongside academic qualifications, we help our students to develop enterprising skills we call the Aldridge Attributes and important life-skills. These include literacy and numeracy; communication skills; punctuality and strong attendance; empathy and tolerance of others; and financial literacy.

By the time they leave us this means that our students have not only the qualifications but also the life-skills, experiences and confidence to succeed - at sixth-form, at university or in an apprenticeship, in their careers and throughout their life.

Outside of the classroom students have the chance to get involved with Young Enterprise and with a range of enterprise activities. They gain work experience, benefit from employer-led mock interviews and cv advice. Our links with businesses and careers guidance experts give our young people an insight into the world of work and the chance to explore the many career opportunities they have open to them.

"The level of education and personal development and encouragement she gets from all staff she has encountered at the academy is just superb. Far better than anything she has experienced before. She is extremely happy and doing well."

Parent Survey response

"I see a massive change for the good since our son started and I appreciate everything that the academy does for him. He is enjoying secondary school and we are so proud of him. Thank you."

Parent Survey response



Arts, sport and culture



Music, drama, dance, art and sport are very important parts of school life. We have built excellent facilities at each of our secondary schools to give all students a chance to enjoy taking part in a wide range of activities, and to give those with a particular talent the chance to develop and excel.

Our Trust schools each have 100 activities and experiences that they offer to every student during their time at the school. These reflect their local community and their hopes for their young people. The school will be able to tell you about these at their open days and parents' events.

We are very fortunate to have a sister organisation, the Aldridge Foundation charity, which raises funds and creates partnerships to provide our students with additional extra-curricular opportunities. Most recently these have included university residential schools and high-flyers' initiatives, adventure training experiences, international sports tours and cultural visits. For example, last year five Aldridge students had the chance to take part in a once in a lifetime expedition to Iceland, while a group of students from the Darwen Aldridge Community Academy travelled to Uganda to help teach the children of the Acholi tribe.

"As a 13-year-old coming from a family without an awful lot, having never been part of the private education system, and still dreaming of a career in cricket, this school has been the best thing to ever happen to him."

Parent of a student on Brighton Aldridge Community Academy's Junior Cricket Pathway

"The academy helped me to fulfil my potential, realise my ambition and challenged me to develop my skills."

Khushna Sulaman-Butt, the first Aldridge student to graduate from Oxford University, with a degree in Fine Arts

"Aldridge schools encourage learning outside the classroom both locally and abroad, and in Year 10 I applied to go to Mumbai to see some different educational models in practice, including an orphanage that helped kids learn through sport. The trip itself was incredibly motivating; I came home and redoubled my efforts at revision!"

Lily Cai, Former Aldridge student

"I'd say coming to Uganda has been a life changing experience. I've learnt some huge life lessons."

A student taking part in the 2019 AfriDACA trip



Our Results

We believe that the best education is a partnership between home and school. Your Aldridge school will work with you and your primary school to help your son or daughter make a happy and successful transition to secondary school life. That partnership will continue throughout your child's time at the academy, working with you to ensure they have the best chance to take advantage of everything school life offers.

Our schools focus on providing a safe and happy learning environment where young people learn how to relate to others and how to build and keep strong relationships. Where they build an understanding of what citizenship means. Of what are the rights and responsibilities we all have as individuals. They also focus on strong academic outcomes which will give our students genuine choice when it comes to leaving school and taking their next step in education or their careers.

To read what our students say in their own words about their experience of an Aldridge education, to find out more about our Trust, or for links to our schools' websites and application information, please visit www.aldridgeeducation.org

"She has settled well into school and is a high achiever through the amazing tenacity, patience and time that the staff have put in. I could not ask for better support from them."

Parent survey response

"My son is in his last year at the academy and I cannot praise enough the level of effort, dedication and care that his teachers have put in. They go that extra mile and they'll do anything to help the children succeed."

Parent survey response



*All data quoted in this leaflet is the most recent available and correct at the time of printing. (09/20)



Lives transformed through entrepreneurial education

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