



Smestow Academy

Prospectus

'Success Achieved Together'

2027 - 2028





A PROUD MEMBER OF MATRIX ACADEMY TRUST

Education **Without Exception**

I am very proud to be the CEO of the Matrix Academy Trust. It is truly a privilege to work with like-minded, hard-working colleagues who are all focused on delivering the Trust's vision.

Our vision is simple: every child deserves an exceptional education. We make this happen by doing the things which really make a difference. Working smartly means we have staff who want to work here. It ensures we have the capacity to care for every pupil, providing them with the best possible education – without exception.

A great school is one people want to work at and one parents want to send their children to. No matter how great our schools might be, we never rest on our laurels. We are restless in our efforts to keep improving and we instil this in our young people.

Welcome to Matrix Academy Trust.

Lynsey Draycott
CEO



Matrix
Academy Trust

'SUCCESS ACHIEVED TOGETHER'



Dear Parents/Carers

At Smestow Academy we are committed to supporting every child to achieve their fullest potential. We aim to provide the best educational experience we can for our pupils by operating the simple mantra of 'what we want for our own families, is what we want for every child at Smestow'.

We aim for every child to be the best version of themselves and strive to develop every day by focussing on learning and improving. We have high expectations; we support and teach pupils to reach them. We expect pupils to show manners, to respect each other and their teachers. We do not tolerate any pupil stealing the learning of others. If pupils do not meet expectations, they are sanctioned and are expected to reflect on how they could do things differently next time.

Everything we do is underpinned by our Smestow values

My dedicated staff and I pledge to work together with all our parents to enable all of our pupils to become happy, confident and motivated learners. This will be built upon developing positive relationships and upholding the school's values. We want pupils to be focused on shaping their own futures with the ultimate aim of accessing the best university courses, most sought after apprenticeships or entering employment with high quality training.

Mr I Chamberlain | Headteacher

Smestow Values

Success achieved together
Making a difference every day
Equality and respect for all
Strive to improve and be your best
Telling school
Open to all opinions and own what you do
Welcoming and caring environment



ADMISSIONS

The number of intended admissions in September 2027 will be **150**

Pupils will be admitted at the age of 11 years without reference to ability, aptitude, race or religion. Where applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied. Smestow Academy will admit any pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan naming the school provided that their needs can be met with the resources allocated to the EHCP. Priority will then be given to those children who meet the criteria set out below, in descending order until all places are filled:

1. Children in Public Care (looked after children) & previously looked after children. A Looked After Child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions.
2. Where a child has an older sibling currently attending the school when the application is made and who will be still attending the school in Years 8 – 11 in September of the relevant year. Siblings of Sixth Form students qualify for a sibling claim.
3. Where there are essential medical or social grounds for admitting the child.
4. Where a member of staff has been employed at The Matrix Academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission is made/or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage / or the member of staff has been seconded to support another school within the Matrix Academy Trust.
5. Proximity of the child's home to the school, with those living nearest being accorded the higher priority, the distance being measured in a straight line



Visit the school website for a full breakdown and descriptions of our admissions criteria.

APPEALS

Parents whose children are refused admission to the school have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel. The necessary forms and information should be obtained from the Appeals Board, Smestow Academy, Windmill Crescent, Castlecroft, Wolverhampton WV3 8HU to whom completed forms are returned. Please mark the envelope Admissions-Appeal.

Appeals in respect of Year 7 intake for September 2027 should be lodged by Friday 16th April 2027.



WAITING LIST.

Until 31st August 2027 parents may enquire about their child's position on the Waiting List by contacting the Admissions and Pupil Place Planning Team on 01902 539500.

INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS.

In the Autumn term, Year 7 parents/carers will be invited into school for a Settling in Evening. During this evening there is an opportunity to meet Form Tutors, Heads of Houses and the Leadership team to discuss the transition of your child from primary to secondary school. We are always keen to speak with parents/carers about any aspect of a child's education. It is vital that appointments are made to ensure that you see the appropriate person. Whenever you contact the school, please give the name of your son's/daughter's Form Tutor, form group and Head of House.

PROGRESS EVENING

One Progress Evening is arranged for each year group during the school year. Dates are published on the school website well in advance, but parents / careers will also receive an invitation to book onto the parents evening closer to the event. To support close home – school collaboration and ensure that all pupils receive the best possible support from school and home, it is an expectation that parents do attend the progress evening of their child.

MOST ABLE

We believe that everyone should aspire to achieve as highly as they can. To this end, although pupils are stretched at Smestow Academy regardless of their academic potential, some activities are targeted specifically at more able pupils, including competitions, stretch activities, visits to and talks from university staff.

The school has links with the full range of universities including many in the Russell Group. Highly able pupils are offered alternative curriculum provision through a range of extension opportunities.

OPPORTUNITIES

We endeavour to build experiences into our schemes of learning. This may be through field studies, visits, external speakers, outdoor learning and residential.

We have an extensive enrichment programme where students can experience a range of activities alongside pupil leadership positions within our academy to develop their cultural capital.

We build student aspirations through experiences that our students receive through our careers programme and access to an independent careers advisor.



REPORTS

Attitude to learning and progress are communicated termly to parents to keep you informed of their progress. If, on any occasion, you do not receive a report, you should immediately let your child's Head of House know.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY PROVISION.

Smestow Academy provides a broad and balanced curriculum for pupils of all abilities so that each pupil can reach their potential.

Pupils who require support that is additional to and / or different from the mainstream curriculum, have access to a range of provision on offer to match individual needs. This may be in the form of individualised teaching strategies and in class provision which may also include individual or small group withdrawal support.

Whilst the SEND Coordinator has the responsibility of ensuring that the Code of Practice is implemented, and the school uses its best endeavours to make sure that a child with SEN gets the support they need, all teaching and support staff take individual responsibility for meeting the additional needs of the pupils that they work with. . The school encourages active involvement of parents in the learning of their children, understanding that regular communication plays a vital role in the success of each individual. Hence parents are fully involved in the process of monitoring their child's progress through direct communication with the Learning Support Team and invitation to Provision Reviews.

LEARNING SUPPORT.

Provision is made for those pupils with learning difficulties or additional needs by the Learning Support Team. Most pupils access additional support provided by learning support assistants within their lessons. However, when required, pupils are provided with small and individual teaching sessions outside lesson times. These take place either in the morning during tutor times or after school between 3 and 4 pm. Most of the school is wheelchair accessible.



PASTORAL CARE

The pastoral organisation of the school is dedicated to the development of pupils' social skills, attitude, academic progress and their personal welfare. All staff are involved in this work. In particular, Form Tutors are directly responsible for the progress of their tutees and work closely with Heads of House who lead the teams of Form Tutors within each House group. We expect pupils to do well and strive to achieve and be their best at Smestow Academy and there is a positive reward system for academic achievement and effort.

The school's first priority, over and above all other responsibilities, is the welfare of pupils. If staff are concerned about the welfare of any pupil, parents are usually the first to be contacted. If the concerns are sufficient to suggest that there is the possibility of abuse, then staff will contact the appropriate Child Protection Agency, usually Children's Services.



SCHOOL SECURITY

We aim to keep all our pupils safe. There are CCTV cameras around the school. CCTV images may be used from time to time to ensure the safety of pupils, visitors and staff and the protection of Smestow Academy's grounds and contents.

Parents are asked to contact school first if they wish to make an appointment to see a member of staff, and on visiting school report directly to Reception. We will act to ensure Smestow Academy remains a safe place for pupils, staff and other members of the community. People who threaten or assault anyone in the school, or persist in abusive behaviour, will be asked to leave the premises and we will request that the Police prosecute.



DISCIPLINE

In any large organisation there have to be rules and regulations. These are kept to a minimum, but at all times there should be courtesy and consideration for the needs, convenience and safety of other people. The school rules are set out in the school's behaviour policy. Discipline is firm and consistent on the basis that children respond to the high expectations placed upon them. When punishment needs to be administered it usually consists of a reprimand, detention, referral to Head of House, Senior Pastoral staff or a warning letter.

On rare occasions, a senior member of staff is involved and parents may be invited to the school to discuss particular problems. A variety of strategies are used to improve behaviour. However, in serious or persistent cases of indiscipline, exclusion from school will result.

Building successful, resilient and confident learners by providing pupils with the knowledge, skills and opportunities to become curious, well-rounded and highly employable young people who make outstanding contributions to modern British society

Smestow Academy offers a broad and balanced curriculum which builds on previous learning for all students. All students will follow a sequential learning journey from Years 7 to 11, with the opportunity to continue their studies in our thriving Sixth form.

Subjects are taught in specialist suites of rooms by subject specialist teachers to ensure that provision is of the highest quality.

In the early phase of their education, students follow a curriculum that develops knowledge and understanding in the following subjects:

English, Mathematics, Science, Art, Citizenship, Computer Science, Dance, Drama, Food, Geography, History, Modern Foreign Languages, Music, Creative Arts, Personal Development (encompassing PSHE, RSHE, Citizenship and Careers topics, Physical Education, Religious Education and Technology.

As students' progress into Year 10, they will study examination subjects with a wide range of GCSE and vocational qualifications to choose from.

The structure of our curriculum therefore ensures that students are challenged to achieve the highest possible grades and to progress onto a destination of their choice.

At 16, students can choose to progress onto our Sixth form, to ensure students gain the qualifications and develop skills to progress on to their chosen pathway at 18.



WHAT WE OFFER AT GCSE LEVEL:

- **ART**
- **BUSINESS**
- **ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE**
- **FRENCH**
- **GEOGRAPHY**
- **HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**
- **HISTORY**
- **IT**
- **MATHEMATICS**
- **BTEC MUSIC**
- **BTEC PERFORMING ARTS**
- **PSYCHOLOGY**
- **RELIGIOUS STUDIES**
- **SCIENCE - TRIPLE AND COMBINED SCIENCES**
- **SPORT**
- **BTEC ART AND DESIGN - TEXTILES**

SMESTOW VALUES

At Smestow, we recognise how important your child's future is and we reflect this in our Academy vision of "Success Achieved Together". We focus hard on helping your child to make their dreams come true and are dedicated to doing everything possible to ensure that they succeed. We see your child as an individual and work hard to meet their needs academically, personally and socially and support them to become kind, thoughtful, well-rounded and employable people who make outstanding contributions to modern British society.

Smestow Values



Success achieved together

Making a difference every day

Equality and respect for all

Strive to improve and be your best

Telling school

Open to all opinions and own what you do

Welcoming and caring environment



UNIFORM

All pupils are expected to wear full school uniform at all times and their appearance should be appropriate to a working environment. Shirts must be tucked in, top buttons fastened and ties tied so that 6 stripes are visible underneath the knot. Coats are not to be worn inside the school building. Our ties and badges are stocked by “Lads and Lasses” and “Crested” at their schoolwear stores. Hoodies or tracksuit tops are not permitted and will be confiscated.

Pupils are permitted to wear a wristwatch and one pair of plain studs in the lower earlobe. Piercings must be taken out prior to all PE lessons and sporting activities. Any other jewellery worn may be confiscated and placed in the school safe for collection at the end of the day.

Make-up in years 7 and 8 is not allowed. Make-up in years 9, 10 and 11 is to be discreet and natural-looking if it is to be worn at all. False eyelashes are not permitted, nor are fake tans.

Natural nail varnish is permitted but false nails are not allowed. In the event of a make-up/nail varnish infringement, pupils will be asked to remove their make-up and or nail varnish in their House Office.

Extreme hair colour and high fashion cult hairstyles are not permitted. Shaved heads (grade 2 or shorter) and shaved eyebrows are not permitted. Any cult and other extreme hairstyles or body marking/piercing is banned.

There will be sanctions for incorrect uniform which may result in pupils being removed from lessons until this is resolved.

SCHOOL UNIFORM.

- Black blazer
- White school shirt
- School tie in House colours (minimum of 6 stripes to be visible)
- Black 'V' neck long sleeve jumper (optional)
- Black tailored trousers or black formal skirt (appropriate length)
- Black socks or tights (not patterned)
- Plain black leather shoes
- Small stud earrings to be worn in the lower lobe
- No facial piercings
- Natural hair colour only
- School bag large enough to fit an A4 file

PE KIT

Our PE kit is stored at both “Lads & Lasses” and “Crested” listed below with product codes:

- Polo shirt - GV20 Navy Polo Shirt
- Shorts - P235 Navy Sports Short
- ¼ zip top - ZR45 Navy ¼ Zip Top
- Navy blue football socks
- Navy or Black Swimming Suit/Swimming shorts/Swimming Costume
- Swimming Hat required for hair longer than shoulder length
- Towel

All PE kit is available with or without the logo. The cost of the logo is £1 extra per item.





ATTENDANCE

We expect your child to attend school at all times. If a child does not attend school they will not learn. Parents of a pupil who will not be attending school through illness, etc are required to telephone the House Office before 8:15am to give the reason. If no valid reason is shared, then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. By law only the school can authorise an absence. Pupils are registered at 8.30am every morning.

The Local Authority's Educational Welfare Service investigates unexplained absences. It is essential that pupils attend school regularly. We believe that school attainment and success are closely linked with regular attendance. Dental or medical treatment should be arranged after school, or during school holidays.

Where attendance is declining, or we have cause for concern with your child's attendance, you may receive a 'notice to improve' letter from us informing you that you are being monitored by the Education Welfare Service. If, for very exceptional circumstances, you need to request absence from school for your child during school time you should apply to the school, 8 weeks prior to the known absence, by letter. Once this has been returned to the school, the school will confirm whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised.

We do NOT authorise holidays during school term time. Research has found that two weeks absence can seriously affect examination results. By taking time off school for holidays parents are encouraging their child to fail. Cheap holidays will reduce the academic achievement of your child.

EXPECTATIONS.

At Sместow Academy, the expectation for our pupils in both behaviour and achievement is extremely high. We expect pupils to be polite, orderly and considerate of others and of property.

High standards of behaviour are expected in and out of classrooms. This ensures all pupils can learn effectively and maximise their progress. No one has the right to spoil other pupils' learning. A positive, caring atmosphere based on an ethos of mutual respect provides a working environment where youngsters can reach their full potential. We need your support to ensure that we work in true partnership to support your child.

HOMEWORK.

All pupils will be expected to do homework. The amount set will be appropriate to the age and different needs of pupils. Homework will be logged on Classcharts, as well as in pupil handbook so parents can monitor weekly tasks.

EXTRA CURRICULAR.

All pupils are encouraged to develop an interest and participate in the wide range of activities which take place outside the normal school timetable. We encourage all pupils to actively involve themselves in extra curricular activities. We expect every child to be involved in at least one extra curricular activity. A copy of the Extra Curricular Programme is available on the school's website. This programme is updated each term.

A wide range of clubs and activities take place after school. There are many sporting activities in which the pupils may participate and the school takes part in competitions with other local schools.

SPORT.

Sport is a very important and vibrant part of pupils' lives at Smestow Academy. The school's philosophy is to provide opportunities for all at a level appropriate to pupils' abilities in a wide range of sporting activities. Our intention is that all pupils enjoy their Physical Educational experience and develop self-respect, teamwork, confidence and the sporting competence they need to participate in physical activity out of school hours and in later life.



In Key Stage 3 pupils follow a broad and balanced curriculum from the areas of games, swimming, athletics and outdoor adventure activities, whilst also following a course in health-related fitness.

During Key Stage 4 pupils are able to select the activities they wish to pursue including traditional competitive team games and fitness and health-based activities.

Smestow Academy operates an extra-curricular sports programme including a range of competitive and non-competitive activities in which all pupils are encouraged to participate. We encourage competition in sport and regularly enjoy success in a range of sporting activities at district levels. We hold an annual Sports Day (weather permitting) in summer term.

When a pupil regularly attends extra-curricular activities they may have the honour of being selected to represent the school. To achieve success in sport, and all areas of life, it takes dedication and commitment. This is something Smestow Academy strives to instil in its pupils through sport.

FACILITIES INCLUDE:

- Multi-purpose Sports Hall
- 20m Swimming Pool
- 2 Football Pitches
- Dance Studio
- Fitness Suite



TEACHING AND LEARNING

At Smestow we are passionate about ensuring that our pupils receive consistently high standards of teaching and learning across all curriculum areas. We strive to deliver lessons that are engaging, challenging, active and meaningful whilst supporting our pupils' individual needs. Through effective feedback, we encourage our pupils to be reflective and independent learners, taking a lead in their own progress.

To ensure teaching and learning is of the highest possible quality, all teachers at Smestow Academy engage in regular training and professional development. This includes adopting and refining evidence-based strategies aligned with our five Smestow Teaching Principles, which focus on delivering quality-first teaching to ensure all lessons are engaging, inclusive, and rooted in research-informed practice.

Our curriculum is carefully designed to build successful, resilient and confident learners by providing the knowledge and skills to become curious and well-rounded young people. We also endeavour to provide rich opportunities for cultural development, helping pupils to understand and engage with the world around them, becoming highly employable young people who make outstanding contributions to modern British society.

A strong emphasis is also placed on developing a culture of reading across all subjects. We believe that reading is the gateway to deeper understanding, critical thinking, and successful learning, so our teaching fosters pupils' ability to engage with challenging texts, infer meaning, and apply what they've read.

Learning at Smestow goes beyond the classroom. Home learning is carefully planned to be purposeful and impactful, consolidating and extending classroom learning. In addition, enrichment activities, educational trips and cultural visits are used to deepen subject knowledge and bring the curriculum to life.

We are passionate about creating a climate for effective learning where all pupils are supported and inspired to achieve their best—and to develop a lifelong love of learning.



EXAMINATION POLICY.

The school enters pupils for GCSE, A Levels and vocational qualifications. Although in a very few cases it may not be considered appropriate to enter pupils for external examinations, it is the school's policy to enter all pupils who have completed the course. We will endeavour to enter any pupil who is fluent in reading, writing, speaking and listening in any language for a GCSE in this language where available. Year 12 and 13 students sit exams in January, May and June.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

Religious Education is taught through a discrete timetabled lesson for Year 7, 8 and 9. It is delivered through Personal Development programme in Year 10 and Year 11. All pupils are given the opportunity to discover a range of beliefs as well as exploring the central elements of other world faiths, on the grounds of conscience. Religious Education is an important part of the school's cultural and moral education. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of Religious Education and acts of collective worship on the grounds of religious conscience. Contact the Headteacher in writing to request withdrawal.

SEX EDUCATION AND RELATIONSHIPS.

Appropriate and responsible sex education is an important element in preparing pupils for adult life. We strongly recommend all pupils attend these lessons. Parents and Carers are the key figures in helping their children to cope with physical and emotional aspects of growing up and in preparing them for the challenges and responsibilities which sexual maturity brings.

The teaching offered by the school will complement and support the role of parents and carers regarding this topic. However, some parents and carers may not feel able to discuss sexual matters fully and freely with their children and because of this, the school has a clear responsibility to ensure that pupils are adequately prepared for adult life. The physical aspects of sexual behaviour are covered within the teaching of science. This begins in Year 7 and various aspects are taught throughout the first three years. Emotional and health aspects of sex and relationships are addressed in the Personal Development programme for Years 7-13 through lessons delivered during form time.

We work hard to promote e-safety with all our pupils. The disadvantage and advantages of electronic information sharing is covered in lessons and assemblies.



SIXTH FORM



Smestow pupils have first choice access to our Sixth Form where they benefit from high quality teaching that builds upon previous knowledge and skills. Staff pride themselves on the excellent working relationships they have with our pupils. Our Sixth Form offers the opportunity to study a range of both academic and vocational courses, providing pupils with the qualifications required to follow their chosen career path. Every student who applies to sixth form is given a personal interview with the Sixth Form Team in order to discuss career aspirations, university choices, apprenticeships and subject choice. By doing so, we can ensure that all students are on a personalised course of study. Students receive weekly, bespoke UCAS support and careers guidance, and are able to take part in the Reading Theatres programme as part of the wider school experience.

Students are expected to wear smart business wear as their uniform. A wide and varied enrichment programme is provided - which students participate in weekly - to support the development of life and employability skills. We are very conscious that universities, apprenticeship providers and prospective employers look for the wider expertise a student possesses that not only complements academic attainment but also enhances their growth into confident adults.

BICYCLES

No cycle may be brought on to the premises unless it is mechanically safe and pupils who cycle will be expected to have attained a satisfactory standard of proficiency. All reasonable care will be taken, but the responsibility for the safety of cycles and accessories will remain with the owners. Cyclists are advised to padlock their cycles. Cycling helmets are recommended. We promote cycling by the provision of a cycle shelter. Electronic Scooters are not permitted on site or to be used to travel to school as per the law.

EMERGENCY CONTANT

Please ensure that emergency telephone numbers (work phone number, mobile phone numbers etc) are kept up to date. Notify your child's House Office of any changes of address, telephone, emergency contact, etc to the school office immediately. Schools are required by law to have two emergency contacts per child.

COMPLAINTS

If you wish to make a complaint about the school, in the first instance, you should contact the Headteacher in writing. Your complaint will be investigated following the Governors' Complaints Procedures, a full copy of which is available at the school and on the school website.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The belief that everyone deserves to be treated equally, including having the same opportunities, is central to everything we do at Smestow Academy. There are many events throughout the year to promote the school's culture of equality and diversity. One of our core Smestow Values is "Equality and Respect for all"

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Pupils eligible for free school meals will receive funding for their daily lunch. Many other opportunities are provided to support pupils academic achievement and additional learning resources are provided to enable independent access. It is a parent or carer's responsibility to apply for free school meals for their child. If any support is required with this process, please contact the school reception who will be able to assist.

MENTAL HEALTH.

We work hard to promote positive mental health for all of our pupils. We engage in important activities that promote positive Mental Health such as exercise, talking to friends and family and being creative. Our five steps to positive Mental Health are:

- Connect – Talk with Family. See friends. Share.
- Keep Learning – Read for fun. Teach yourself. Grow.
- Be Active – Walk. Cycle. Run around. Keep Well.
- Take Notice – Look around you. Listen. Rest. Be.
- Be Creative & Play – Draw, Paint, act. play more. Dream.

We have a dedicated mental health team in school to support young people who may need to access services in school and from "Reflexions" the mental health support team that we work in partnership with from The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.



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