



**Pedmore
High School**
Aspire, Persevere, Succeed



Prospectus

2023/2024

INVICTUS

Education Trust

Welcome to our School



Welcome to our school Prospectus.

I hope it will give you a useful insight into our school and provide you with the information you require.

As the Headteacher, I feel privileged to have the opportunity to lead the school in its next exciting phase of development. Pedmore High School has a long tradition of success on which to build and is now in a position to become a flagship school in Stourbridge.

The most important part of any school is the quality of relationships. Above all, Pedmore is a happy school with a supportive and welcoming environment for all students. As a result young people grow in confidence and are able to participate in the wide range of opportunities available to them. We encourage our students to follow their interests, develop new skills and most importantly, fully enjoy all aspects of school life.

Pedmore High School is a learning community; we work together in a creative way to provide a dynamic learning experience for all. We want our students to reach their full potential by following a learning programme that meets their individual needs. It is important our young people learn how to discover, to be articulate and to make a positive contribution so that they can take their places as active, thoughtful citizens of the 21st Century. The task of choosing a school that is right for your child is no doubt uppermost in your mind. At Pedmore High School we quite simply want to provide the best education to suit all of our students.

We understand the importance of working in partnership with parents and the wider community and hope that your interest in our prospectus is the start of a happy and productive working relationship between home and school.

You are very welcome to visit us at Pedmore High School to meet staff and students and gather more information on the education we provide.

Mr Gareth Lloyd BA (Hons.) PGCE NPQH
HEADTEACHER

Our core purpose is to provide high-quality learning opportunities in a happy and secure environment, in order to offer ambitious life opportunities for our students. Hence, learning is at the heart of everything we do. We recognise that everyone is different, with different learning styles, gifts and talents. We seek to recognise these in our planning of the curriculum, lessons and extra-curricular activities. We want our students to leave Pedmore with the best possible academic qualifications and a love of learning that will remain with them for life.

Students who come to Pedmore High School are taught that it is good to be ambitious and to aspire to all that the world has to offer. They will be supported and nurtured in their aspirations because they deserve the very best.

We are committed to creating a dynamic, vibrant and welcoming learning environment that will give rise to a lifelong love of learning for all our community. Through the latest technology, innovative teaching and an extensive range of extra curricular opportunities, students can realise their aspirations whilst developing tolerance and mutual respect.

SCHOOL AIMS

1. Constantly raise every student's achievements by providing a positive learning environment which develops an enquiring mind and a love of learning
2. Provide an inspiring and structured curriculum which personalises every student's learning needs
3. Support our students to develop individual and social responsibility, as well as moral purpose, and to actively participate in local, national and international community issues with confidence
4. Provide equal opportunities for each student through a personalised and targeted learning programme
5. Develop positive links with parents and our local community
6. Create an atmosphere of trust and safety, within a calm and purposeful environment, in which everyone can learn
7. Implement clear and consistent expectations for behaviour and learning
8. Encourage staff to be collectively ambitious for Pedmore and to fulfil their roles effectively through continuous professional development.

Pedmore High School GCSE Results

We would like to congratulate and thank all our students, staff and families for their outstanding achievement and relentless hard work during the most challenging of circumstances.

There have been significant improvements across the board since the last external exams were taken in 2019 – English, Maths, Biology, Chemistry and Physics have seen increases in the number of students achieving grades 5 and above. The majority of students also achieved grade 5 or above in Arabic, Chinese, Child Development, Computer Science, French, Food Preparation, Religious Education, Sociology and Urdu.

The following students deserve particular recognition: **Mufeed Alam** achieved two grade 9s, six grade 8s and a grade 7; **James Checketts** achieved five grade 8s and four grade 7s; **Amina Zia** achieved one grade 9, two grade 8s, two grade 7s and three grade 6s; **Freddie Smith** achieved one grade 9, three grade 8s and four grade 7s; **Abigail Floyd** achieved three grade 8s, four grade 7s and a Level 2 Distinction; **Zainab Riaz** achieved one grade 9, three grade 7s and four grade 6s; **Hirah Khalid** achieved one grade 9, five grade 7s and three grade sixes.

We are also extremely proud of the outstanding progress scores achieved by **Lydia Sharkey, Ethan Poulton and Zain Khan**.

We are delighted and proud of all of our students on gaining places at their first choice post-16 courses.

Joining our School

From Primary To Secondary – Managing Transition

We believe the move from primary to secondary school is profoundly important and building relationships with our new students and their parents stands at the heart of what we do at Pedmore. This partnership starts during year 5 with our staff working closely with our primary schools. Many year 5 students attend our school as part of our primary liaison programme where they take part in many varied activity sessions/workshops and taster days. They also have the opportunity during weekly visits to use our excellent swimming pool facilities to enhance and build their learning and to gain confidence in our secondary school environment.

We continue this journey by visiting year 6 staff of the primary schools of children who have chosen to join us in year 7, gaining important personalised information to allow us to begin to get to know them. We also work to support our local primaries, often delivering a range of activities which include Design Technology, Enterprise, Languages and Science together with Numeracy and Literacy. Children are also encouraged to complete a range of activities and challenges which are designed to prepare students for their start at secondary school. All of this ensures children will have many opportunities to meet Pedmore's teachers and other staff as well as our students and take part in activities to help them to get to know our school better. We believe familiarity helps ease the transition and children coming to us in September look forward

“We understand how important it is to involve parents during this time and all are invited to attend a one to one appointment with a member of the pastoral team to talk about their child's move to secondary school and to discuss any concerns or specific needs which their child may have”.

with confidence and excitement in joining a school they already feel part of.

Our Year System

On entry to Pedmore students are assigned to a year 7 form group, led by a form tutor, with whom they register twice daily: each year group is led by a head of year. Within the year structure there are a wealth of opportunities for students to develop qualities of leadership and responsibility; key attributes for when they leave Pedmore and move onto college and then employment. Prefects and ambassadors for such areas as charity, student well – being, school events (e.g. year reward visits), sports teams and academic issues are all roles where our students can and do excel outside of their academic studies.

Joining Us In Year 7

Year 7 students and parents are given extensive support by the head of year 7 and the Transition team to help students settle and get used to new routines.

We have an open door policy and parents are always welcome to contact the school to talk about any issues relating to their child. During the month of October, parents have the opportunity to come in and meet with form tutors to review the first half-term. We also run 'drop in' "keeping in touch" mornings for the parents of our new students.

Moving On

Throughout Year 9 we support students with a particular focus on academic achievement and making choices related to their GCSE subject areas. Tutors, pastoral staff and impartial professional advisors support them through detailed conversations and activities to enhance their achievements and decision-making skills. Students are encouraged take part in extensive student leadership opportunities which they can continue throughout their time at Pedmore. At the end of Year 9 our students have chosen their GCSE subjects of study and have an individualised agreed programme to embark on when they return as Year 9.

In Years 10 and 11 the main focus is on achieving and exceeding students' target grades in their GCSE studies. Students are supported and guided through their studies by frequent analysis of their current progress with sophisticated intervention programmes ready to support where appropriate. This is reported live to parents via INSPIRE+ ensuring the partnership between parents and school remains throughout. Post 16 destinations are a serious consideration and students are supported in their decision making with an extensive package of employment and employability workshops/opportunities, college taster days, interview technique workshops, independent careers advice and individual support in completing their applications to their preferred post 16 destinations.



Pedmore *Curriculum*



At Pedmore High School, our purpose is to empower all of our students to take responsibility for their own learning and unlock their potential by providing them with a range of opportunities to prepare them for their next steps.

We deliver a creative curriculum for our students taught by specialist teachers through which they develop skills, knowledge and understanding and are then able to make informed choices about their KS4 curriculum which they start in Year 10. This is regularly reviewed and in September 2020 we switched to a three-year Key Stage Three (Years 7, 8 and 9) to ensure students study an array of topics in depth.

We are justifiably proud of the wide range of subjects that all students study at KS3: The Arts (Art, Drama, Music), Design Technology (Graphics, Food Technology, Product Design and Textiles), Computer Science, Modern Foreign Languages (French, Spanish or Urdu) and Humanities (History, Geography and RE) as well as the core curriculum (English, Maths, PE and Science). We believe that it is important for all to study this broad curriculum and to experience the full range of subjects both within and beyond the classroom.

In addition, spiritual, moral, social and cultural education helps children develop personal qualities, which are valued in a civilised society. For example, thoughtfulness, honesty, respect for difference, moral principles, independence, and self-respect. At Pedmore High School we look to teach these qualities across the curriculum and throughout school life and they form an intrinsic part of our school aims and philosophy.

At the end of the first half term, Year 7 students are placed into one of three bands named after the school's values: *Aspire*, *Persevere* and *Succeed*. This allows us to personalise the curriculum to suit students' needs and raise aspirations. This is reviewed on a regular basis.

Careers

During their time at Pedmore High School students have to make important choices, whether it's deciding which subjects to take at GCSE or which path they take post 16 (further education, apprenticeships or traineeships). We aim to ensure that all our students are given the tools and information to help them make effective decisions. By discussing their subject preferences, researching careers/occupations and further education options, they are equipped to make an informed choice. We develop our student's knowledge of opportunities and self-awareness so they are confident when planning their future education and career paths.

We work to forge close partnerships with Careers Guidance professionals, Further Education providers and Sixth Forms, Universities and employers, regionally and nationally. We deliver the Careers Programme in many ways including lessons in PSHE, tutor time, assemblies, enrichment days and employer and Further and Higher Educational establishment visits. We also recognise how important it is to work together with parents to ensure that the right decisions are made for each student as individuals, creating opportunities to meet us and our partners to discuss their child's aspirations and choices.



INVICTUS

Education Trust

Invictus Education Trust was created in March 2015 by a group of like-minded schools: Crestwood, Ellowes Hall Sports College, Kinver High and Wombourne High School. Two schools have since joined us, Leasowes High School in Autumn 2016 and Pedmore High School in September 2018. Rufford Primary School became the first primary school to join us in September 2021 further strengthening an already thriving Trust.

Collaboration across our Invictus schools is integral to us. We are now fortunate enough to be in a really strong position to have a range of educational settings across our Trust: primary, secondary, Sixth Form and Alternative Provision. Although our schools retain their identity, we have built a successful model from which we work closely together in order to learn from each other and share good practice. Our fundamental purpose for this is to ensure our students have the best educational experience possible during their time with us. Our students too also have regular opportunities to collaborate through joint learning experiences. This level of partnership makes us quite unique, in comparison to other Multi Local Academy Trusts, due to our locality and determination to be the best that we can be. Our innovative Invictus Sixth Form, which is open to everyone, is a perfect example of how both staff and students work together simultaneously. Invictus Sixth regularly appears at the top of league tables and leader boards for progress. All of this is made possible by our expert staff and the fact that we ensure all Invictus students are not only transported to their lessons by us free of charge but are also equipped with a free laptop and free text books for their studies, throughout their time with us.

Our Invictus Subject Directors are specialist expert leaders who work alongside Heads of Department, and their teams across all of our schools, in order to lead the curriculum and ensure our students receive a quality first education. This model also ensures consistency in learning and a wider support network for our teaching teams. The focus of the directors' work is very much linked to each individual school's context and needs, spanning from Early Years all the way through to Sixth Form! In addition to the curriculum, our Subject Directors also work hard to ensure our students receive fantastic experiences and opportunities. Another



unique feature to us is that we are the only Education Trust in the country to become an 'F1 in Schools Academy'! This gives our students amazing opportunities to participate in national challenges with Invictus teams entering in different divisions. We were honoured to be invited to a 'Girls On Track UK' event, organised by Motorsport UK, at the Silverstone Museum. In addition to

this array of opportunities we are also proud to have the very best team of staff to ensure our students' education is at the very highest level. To ensure we keep abreast of local, national and even international research, training sessions for staff are organised, using expertise from both within our Trust and also using external organisations, if needed.

Our Invictus Sport ethos is '**Unconquerable in Sport**'. Competition between our schools is tenacious, fierce but fair and when our schools come together to face other schools and Trusts we become formidable! As well as more traditional sports, our students have enjoyed access to sailing, scuba diving, golf, skeet shooting and tennis. Our students also have the opportunity to visit, and even play at times, at prestigious sporting venues such as Wimbledon and Premier League football stadiums.

Performing Arts is a huge priority for us throughout Invictus. It has been phenomenal to see the Performing Arts making a real comeback following the disruptions nationally in this arena. Again, we strive to ensure that collaboration is key across our schools and that our incredible talented musicians, dancers, singers and actors have the opportunity to perform across a number of platforms to further unlock and unleash their talent!



OUR SCHOOLS



OUR VALUES

Invictus Values

Our principles and standards of behaviour.

Every day, in every way, our students come first

Our first and most important value.

Anything is possible

We focus on the challenge to identify it, our energy is spent finding a solution.

Accountability

If it is to be, it is to be me.

Seek and seize opportunities

We aim to deliver 'WOW' through opportunities and experiences.

Focus on relationships and all else will follow

Open, honest and empathic relationships with clear and simple communication are the foundations of our Trust.

Start with the end in mind

We identify our aspiration and put processes in place to exceed expectations. We celebrate our progress throughout the journey.

Think collaboratively

We always ask ourselves; can we include more students, more of our team or more of our schools in anything we do?

Community Engagement

At Pedmore we are committed to actively engaging with and supporting our local and wider community. Throughout the year there are a wide variety of community related activities held within school and out of the classroom. These help to ensure our students develop their understanding of how important giving and working with others is, develop themselves as individuals and encourage participation in today's diverse society.

Developing Partnerships with Local Business and Educational Providers

The development of stronger links with local business and services is key to providing our students with unique learning opportunities both in the classroom and within different working environments. We work closely with local employer forums and professional organisations to encourage partnerships that promote our student understanding of enterprise and career development. Examples of these include employer

related trips and visits, Young Enterprise Company Programme and Inspirational Speaker events. This, together with our existing partnerships with Careers education providers and local college and sixth form visits, mean our students gain a greater understanding about career directions and opportunities to help them make informed decisions in their planning for the future, whether it's choosing their subjects to study at GCSE or at post 16. As part of the Invictus Trust we, working with our community can also offer our students access to our partner school's 6th forms.

A recent example of success in raising awareness of career opportunities was a competition hosted at the Black Country Young Enterprise - to encourage young people to develop business and entrepreneurship skills. Our student teams have been extremely successful, winning the overall competition in 2019 and 2020.

Developing Educational Partnerships

We are part of The Invictus Education Trust. This partnership between six local secondary schools and one local primary has many benefits to our students. Multi school trips and events take place throughout the year such as trips to universities who are part of the Russell Group, our Invictus Sports Day and many

more. Students, teaching staff and senior leadership work together on many aspects of educational matters including Student Voice and the Aspire student programme in association with the University of Wolverhampton.

The Importance Of Giving

Giving and working with others is a key strength here at Pedmore. We have a long history of charity fundraising. Our students and staff show a real commitment to supporting charity work and regularly raise funds for charities such as Mary Stevens Hospice, Domestic abuse charities, hospitals, cancer treatments and charities, global disasters and major national fundraising initiatives including Children in Need and Comic Relief.

Celebrating Difference

As a multi-cultural school, we work tirelessly to ensure our children recognise, respect and celebrate differences to help create a culture of racial and religious harmony. Our Christian and Muslim festivals are celebrated by all with equal enthusiasm and commitment.



Parent Partnership

We recognise how important it is to communicate with our parents/carers as regularly and as effectively as possible. In order to do this, we have several different ways of ensuring you are informed about the latest events and developments for our school and how they will benefit your child. Our methods include:

Open Evenings & Mornings

Every September we have an Open Evening that allows children and their families to visit us and get a taste of life at Pedmore. You can take part in our many curriculum related events and our staff and students are keen to show visitors the sort of activities they get involved in on a typical day at our school, give guided tours and answer any questions you may have. Our Head Teacher also addresses our visitors in our hall during the evening, giving information about Pedmore and why it can be the right choice for your child. For parents and children who cannot make our Open Evening, or for those who would like to see the school operating on a normal day, we also hold several Open Mornings.

Induction Events

When Year 6 children and parents have made their choice for Pedmore as their secondary school, we have

an induction programme. This involves children coming into school in July to "learn the basics", meet our staff and students and help them feel more comfortable when they join us in September. Parents/ carers are then invited to meet our Heads of Year and tutors in the evening and we share important information to ensure everyone knows what to do when joining us.

Parents Evenings

There is a high expectation that parents/carers attend a formal parents evenings every year. Parents/carers and their child are both encouraged to attend to discuss their progress in every subject they are studying and also talk to our Heads of Year about any The Year 9 Parents' Evening is combined with GCSE 'Futures' event, where parents/carers and students can find out more about GCSE subjects available and speak to subject staff about the best possible combination of subjects.

Making An Appointment

We know that sometimes we need to meet with our parents/carers individually. When this occurs, parents/carers can ring to make an appointment with the appropriate member of staff at a mutually convenient time. We do ask that parents/carers make an appointment as it is not always possible for staff to meet due to prior teaching and other commitments.



Unique Opportunities & *Elite Experiences*

Healthy Lifestyle And Physical Activity

We aim to provide all students with the opportunity to participate in high quality physical activity in a safe and supportive environment. Regardless of ability, all students are encouraged to strive to improve and to always help others achieve their potential.

We actively encourage our students to participate in our diverse programme of extra-curricular sporting activities. We believe that every student can enjoy and achieve in at least one sport or activity. The wide range of sporting activities that we offer our students includes competitive team sports such as football, netball, basketball, rugby, cricket, and rounders. We are keen to introduce new and exciting sports into school that are inclusive, for example Goalball for visually impaired students.

Our schools Sports Day introduces students to compete in traditional track and field events such as shot putt, running, javelin etc. We also provide individual sport, leisure and exercise activities including swimming, circuit training, trampolining, athletics, and much more.

Throughout the academic year, we also aim to provide our students with additional opportunities that take them out of our school environment to compete against other school teams. As part of The Invictus Trust there are opportunities to compete in multi-school sports days and for Pedmore students to trial for Invictus teams, which will combine the best players from all six trust schools. UK outdoor adventure trips also help to provide students with special out of school experiences from bushcraft skills to mountain climbing and many more.

During curriculum time, all students also participate in a minimum of 2 hours of Physical Education. Due to the extensive range of facilities at Pedmore (swimming pool, gymnasium, games hall, hard court, sports field) students are able to participate in a vast range of sports and exercise activities that help them to establish a healthy active lifestyle throughout their time at Pedmore and into adulthood.

Understanding Our Society

Our PSHE programme is delivered by tutors who really know their students and tailor what they deliver to meet the individual needs of students in their tutor groups. We focus on key aspects such as relationships,

drug awareness education and healthy eating but also learn about other key aspects of our society. Examples of this include our voting system, the importance of human rights, the criminal justice system and education and employment opportunities beyond 16.

Enabling our students to stay safe is vital and we encourage students to develop their decision making skills. Local Emergency Services make contributions to our programme and discuss particular dangers with students and how to manage difficult situations. We also benefit from the regular support of a NHS qualified nurse who runs regular workshops on national health-related issues.

Working With Others

Enrichment is an essential aspect of student lives at Pedmore. Students are encouraged to join the many on-site special events, extra curricular clubs, sports teams, and given the opportunity to take part in residential trips in the UK and abroad. Students have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of national enrichment activities such as the Young Enterprise Company Programme, the Rotary Young Chef of the Year, BBC School News Report and many more.

We are passionate about addressing unfounded pre-conceptions about entering higher education and professional careers. Our partnerships with Further

and Higher Education institutions ensures our students are inspired to continue in education after 16 and reach their full potential. An example of this is the Aspire students programme in association with the University of Wolverhampton. Many of our students achieve success at university and secure graduate employment thereafter in a wide range of professions.

Our FI in Schools events, also provided the opportunity for our young people to work in partnership with local primary schools.

Student Voice is valued very highly in our school and students are regularly consulted on issues that will affect them and their views are always considered.

Taking Responsibility

Students of all ages, led by our Year 11 Student leader team, are encouraged to take on leadership roles within the school and are given the opportunity to drive through initiatives such as supporting our many charity fundraising events. Examples of this include the school's Open Evenings, Open Mornings, form representatives, student council, prefects in Year 10, Senior Prefects, Head Boy and Head Girl in Year 11, Celebration Evenings and summer and Christmas Concerts.



WELCOME TO *Invictus 6th Form*

Invictus Sixth Form brings together the very best teaching, learning and achievement from six successful schools; Crestwood, Ellowes Hall, Kinver, Leasowes, Pedmore and Wombourne.

We are committed to providing a high quality, forward looking and caring educational experience which enables all our students to fulfil their potential. We recognise and value achievement within all aspects of Sixth Form life, be it in an academic, sporting, creative, personal or social context and are keen to celebrate our students' many successes.

We offer a wide variety of advanced level courses and our small group sizes ensure that each student has the support and challenge needed to be successful. All students will belong to a tutor group at their chosen base campus and receive regular academic mentoring from their personal tutor as well as support with careers and university applications. We also have an extensive enrichment programme which complements our students' academic studies, providing them with opportunities to develop new skills, make new friends and settle into Sixth Form life.

Each campus within Invictus Sixth Form has its own dedicated sixth form area. We believe that this allows our students the freedom and independence to develop their own sense of identity and confidence as well as providing the support and challenge needed to ensure that they can meet the demands of Sixth Form study.

We have high expectations of our students in every sense. Studying at Invictus Sixth Form is demanding and advanced level work can be challenging as well as exciting, rewarding and fun. Students are expected to work independently, manage their own time and balance the many demands placed upon them. If you find such a prospect attractive it is likely that you will enjoy and gain enormously from becoming an Invictus Sixth Form student.

We welcome applications from Year 11 students within Ellowes Hall, Crestwood, Leasowes, Kinver, Pedmore and Wombourne High Schools as well as from other schools within Wolverhampton, Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen or further afield. After 5 successful, enjoyable years at your school we look forward to welcoming you to Invictus Sixth Form.



Emily Morgan

Emily Morgan
Director of Sixth Form





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