



PROSPECTUS

2024/25





WELCOME FROM THE ACCORD MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

We are delighted that you are considering an academy within our Accord Multi Academy Trust for your child.

Established in 2016, the founding Accord academies are Horbury Academy, Ossett Academy, Accord Sixth Form College, Horbury Primary Academy and Middlestown Primary Academy.

You will find that each Accord academy retains its own unique character, ethos and vision. What unites us in one accord, however, is our shared drive to create an outstanding learning community in each of our academies, for all of our pupils. We believe our cross-phase MAT enables us to do that. We hope you agree and look forward to welcoming you.



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On behalf of pupils, staff and Governors, I am delighted to be able to welcome you to Horbury Academy

So, what's special about Horbury Academy..?

- Our pupils are welcoming, supportive young people. They take an active interest in the world around them. They are confident and creative.
- Our state of the art facilities allow us to physically practice what we preach.
- Close links with our Pyramid Primary schools/academies and a structured induction programme for our Year 7 pupils that ensures transition into secondary education is a positive experience for pupils and parents.
- A Pupil Support Service that ensures professional support, care and guidance for all pupils.
- Our Consequences Behaviour System that seeks to reward learners of all abilities and swiftly deal with any disruption.
- A focus on Pupil Voice because we recognise and value contributions made by the whole academy community.
- A highly personalised curriculum that allows pupils to blend the vocational and academic pathways, progress at their own speed and open doors into further education and the world of work.
- Partnerships with other secondary schools, universities and employers to enrich the life chances for all our young people.

As a part of the Accord Multi Academy Trust, we are able to enhance both our practice and knowledge

of learning across primary and secondary education, whilst also providing access for pupils and staff to an even better range of opportunities in order to achieve excellence.

I feel privileged to lead Horbury Academy; an innovative academy with outstanding staff providing a wide range of activities and experiences, inside and outside of the classroom.

We look forward to welcoming you into our academy where you can get a glimpse of this for yourself!



Mrs N. Walker
Principal

LEARNING AND CURRICULUM

KEY STAGE 3

Horbury Academy operates a three year, Key Stage 3. In Years 7, 8 and 9 all pupils study English, Maths, a Modern Foreign Language, Science, History, Geography, Religious Education, Physical Education, Art, Design and Technology, Drama and Music. We believe that this broad and balanced curriculum allows pupils to fully develop their literacy and numeracy skills as well as developing their inquiring and creative minds. Pupils' Personal, Social and Citizenship skills are developed through PSICHE lessons which are delivered by their form tutor.



KEY STAGE 4

In Key Stage 4, there are a wide variety of choices, including traditional GCSE courses and other vocational qualifications. Across all age ranges and throughout the curriculum, we have a skills based approach to learning to help our pupils to become independent learners and to better prepare them for working life in the 21st century.

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum model enables pupils to specialise in their chosen GCSE subjects and to stand the best chance of success in their EBacc subjects, whilst still giving the flexibility to study other option subjects. Pupils follow a core curriculum of English Language and Literature, Maths, Science and core Physical Education. Pupils then select from a wide range of options subjects.

Pupils are supported by a dedicated and specialist team of teaching and associate staff. Our staff have high expectations of themselves and of pupils; are enthusiastic and encouraged to drive pupils to aim high and achieve the very best that they can. We encourage pupils to excel at working in groups and to work independently.

Pupils receive regular homework to improve learning through the experience of self-study, using initiative and building up resilience.

The academy will provide opportunities to:

- learn independently of the teacher
- enhance learning by working collaboratively
- practise skills learnt in the classroom
- complete learning started in the classroom
- experience meeting of deadlines in preparation for Post 16 study and lifelong skills
- re-visit past learning to consolidate knowledge in preparing for examinations



OUR CURRICULUM

Maths

At Horbury Academy, pupils will enjoy a varied Maths curriculum which uses the skills pupils have developed at Primary school as the starting point on the journey that will eventually lead to your child's GCSE. Maths lessons are four times a week, and pupils will be taught by one of our departments' specialist Maths teachers. We cover a variety of topics from the main areas of mathematics; Algebra, Number, Ratio and Proportion, Geometry, Probability and Statistics. Each unit starts with a short prior knowledge check to allow pupils to recall key learning that will be required to access the unit and finishes with a unit assessment to give pupils the opportunity to demonstrate their new knowledge.

Depending on the topic, pupils may need specialist equipment from time to time, some of which we will provide, but it is essential that a ruler and a scientific calculator are brought to every lesson. All pupils are given access to online support tools such as sparxmaths.uk and all our assessments link back to this to provide pupils opportunities to be independent with their studies.

English

In English, our key stage three curriculum is broad, ambitious and engaging across all three years. It allows pupils to continue to develop the skills they have learned at key stage two and to learn new skills of analysis, evaluation, deeper thinking and debate. Not only will pupils develop their reading, writing and oracy skills, they will also have the opportunity to expand their cultural capital and understanding of the wider world around them. All of our English staff have written the curriculum together, and as a result, there is great cohesion, dynamism and passion in all aspects of study. Pupils will be involved in classroom activities in a number of different ways.

We place great emphasis on personal reading time. This is coupled with bespoke Literacy lessons supporting the development of phonics, SPAG and contextual understanding. Other areas of study include an in-depth look at Shakespeare's life and plays, a range of creative writing projects and non-fiction presentations.

Science

In Science we try to follow Charles Darwin: 'A person who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life.'

Pupils will have four one-hour lessons per week in Key Stage 3 with a variety of teachers covering the three disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

In Year 7, topics such as Cells, Reproduction, Particle Theory, Acids and Alkalis, Forces and Energy build upon the knowledge pupils have developed through Key Stage 2. In Year 8, topics include Healthy Diet, Microbes and Disease, Earth Structure, Metals and their Properties, Light and Sound and Energy Transfers.

An integral part of the course is to allow pupils to develop their hands-on skills through practical lessons and investigations. Enquiring minds are at the heart of Science and the Science department strives to encourage this.

Geography

We have Geography lessons once a week in Year 7, where we aim to develop our pupils' love of Geography through introducing them to fieldwork techniques. We then explore Human and Physical Geography in our 'Geography of the UK', covering themes in cities, population growth and river flooding in the UK. The final topic we study is called 'Our Planet', focusing on how the actions of humans are having devastating impacts on the world's ecosystems, such as the illegal wildlife trade, poor food choices and plastic pollution.

In Year 8, we have two Geography lessons per week, where we begin learning about 'Natural Hazards Across Europe', focusing on earthquakes, volcanoes and weather hazards. We then go on to studying about 'Development in Asia', 'Africa's Resources' and then 'Europe's Physical Landscapes', such as glaciers and rivers.

In Year 9, we have two lessons per week where we begin introducing pupils to wider themes such as Economic and Political Geography, where we explore the impact of the fast fashion industry and Globalisation. We also focus on the impacts of major global companies like McDonald's and Amazon. Students also study a GCSE 'taster' topic on Global Ecosystems, where we learn about the biodiversity and deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest.

History

In Key Stage 3 History at Horbury Academy, pupils will learn about the rich history of Britain, studying the chronological story of developments and our connections with others across the world. Pupils will also study significant aspects of the history of British society and the history of the wider world, such as the expansion and dissolution of empires.

History is more than just a knowledge of the past and pupils at Horbury will study historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections and draw contrasts between different eras and societies in the past. Pupils also learn how to engage in historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously, how interpretations of the past have been arrived at and the construction of supported judgements.

RE

In Religious Education in Years 7-9, pupils will have one lesson a week and each year is divided up into six topics, each one lasting half a term.

At Key Stage 3 pupils study first the big six religions of Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism and Buddhism.

They then go onto to study philosophical arguments on life and ethical issues such as the environment and animal rights.

Finally in Year 9 they look at world issues like medical ethics and human rights from the points of view of people in Britain and different religions.

Pupils do not need any special equipment for Religious Education lessons other than an enquiring mind!

Modern Foreign Languages

In Year 7 pupils study either Spanish or French for two hours a week. Pupils will follow a scheme of work based on key grammar concepts and language skills and cover three main topics: family, school and food. Pupils will be given a knowledge organiser for each term which includes all of the key vocabulary and structures they will need for the topic. Homework is set frequently in Year 7 and usually takes the form of vocabulary learning.

During their time at Horbury Academy, pupils will have the opportunity to develop their language skills and cultural knowledge by taking part in trips abroad to either France or Spain. There is no specialist equipment required for language lessons, but if pupils want to have a dictionary at home a basic school level dictionary will be more than enough.

PSCHE

PSCHE is a course which all pupils follow from Year 7 through to Year 10. It covers the Citizenship and Physical, Social and Health Education curriculum areas as well as Careers.

Pupils have two form time lessons a week and each year is divided into six topics, each one lasting about half a term.

During each year, pupils study different aspects of Fundamental British Values, Relationships and Sex Education, SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education) and Careers Education, providing independent information, advice and guidance to pupils. Pupils do not need any special equipment for PSCHE lessons other than an enquiring mind!

BICTE *(Business and ICT / Computer Science Department)*

The vision of the Business and ICT / Computer Science department is to ensure all pupils reach their potential across the host of subjects on offer. This can be through the use of practical, taught and real-life experience. Pupils will be supported throughout their learning journey by caring, supportive teachers who will guide them towards success. At Key Stage 3, pupils commence the year focusing on the safe use of IT and completing a series of lessons based around E-Safety. During Year 7 and 8, pupils will be introduced to a range of exciting and engaging topics, including basic programming, games development, website creation, control, DTP, spreadsheets and graphics. The learning undertaken will provide the platform for KS4 ICT and Computer Science courses.

Performing Arts - Drama

Explore, imagine and create in Year 7 Drama! Pupils will develop their skills in performance, devising and understanding, with many opportunities to be creative. From working in large groups to monologues, everyone will have the chance to release their inner star. Our drama facilities are equipped with a full lighting rig to enhance performance and challenge pupils' skills across all areas of performing arts. Horbury Academy also have a number of extra-curricular opportunities, such as a DramaLlama club and various other opportunities throughout the school year. We cannot wait to see your child making the most out of everything the department has to offer!

Performing Arts - Music

In Year 7 Music, pupils will have the opportunity to develop their skills in performing, composing and listening with plenty of opportunities to learn through playing musical instruments. Working both individually and in small groups using a range of instruments, including keyboards, ukuleles and percussion. We are also fully equipped with various pieces of music technology to aid and enhance your child's progression across a spectrum of music genres. If you are already learning to play a musical instrument or would like to start to learn, we have a wide range of instrumental group and individual lessons on offer. There are also lots of opportunities to play in concerts, events and more throughout the school year. We look forward to seeing your child make the most out of what is a very valued and enjoyed subject in the academy!

Art

Pupils will have one lesson a week of Art in Year 7 and will explore many different themes and materials. Our mission is to build confidence and skill in the basic principles of Art and Design through a range of projects. The lessons are taught in engaging classrooms with specialist staff that are experts in this area. The year begins with looking at basic skills with line, tone, shading and how to make objects look three dimensional. Further projects focus on colour, composition pattern and Aboriginal culture while exploring a range of artistic media and experiences. Pupils work from a range of artists and resources and will also look at exploring their own artistic voice and personal creativity in their work. All art staff are passionate about the subject and success of our pupils across all areas of KS3 while we develop progression into KS4.

Technology

Technology works on a termly rotation, with pupils having 1 lesson per week in up to six different areas, our teachers are helpful and enthusiastic. These areas are;

Food: During these lessons you will learn to make simple products and food preparation skills and how important the Eatwell Guide is for a healthy lifestyle. We focus on knife skills and healthy eating and prepare delicious food to take home.

Mechanisms: Lessons are taught in the technology classrooms where you have the opportunity to work with tools and equipment. Pupils will use the technology to produce mechanisms to help transport soft foods.

Textiles: Pupils will learn to add decoration and colour to fabric and make a mobile phone case. The skills developed will include; designing, colour application onto fabric and embroidery skills. The mobile phone case will be stitched together using a sewing machine at the end.

Product Design: manufacturing of different materials including working with plastics and timbers. We will produce a coat hook and a packaged keyring

Graphic Design: pupils will analyse packaging with a focus on package design to produce and manufacture their own.

Physical Education

At Key Stage 3, pupils have two lessons of PE per week. During lessons, pupils will experience a wide range of activities.

Sporting activities undertaken by boys and girls at Key Stage 3 include; Football, Rugby League, Athletics, Basketball, Netball, Dance, Rounders, Cricket, OAA, Fitness, Tennis, Badminton, Ultimate Frisbee, Tchoukball, Lacrosse, Golf, Hockey, Cross Country, Gymnastics and Trampolining.

Key Stage 3 pupils explore specific topics each year which aim to enhance knowledge and understanding of both healthy and active lifestyles and leading and officiating whilst preparing pupils for potential Sport Science and Sport Studies examinations.

The Academy will also provide the opportunity to attend sports clubs after school to develop skills, increase fitness or compete against other schools in arranged competitions.





SEN LEARNING

Pupils with special educational needs or disabilities also have the opportunity to study a broad and balanced curriculum, alongside receiving the support that they require to reach their full potential. We strive to support pupils both academically and socially, and to meet their individual needs.

WHAT ELSE WILL I LEARN? WHERE WILL I GO?

We believe it is important that our pupils learn about the world they inhabit locally, nationally and internationally. We want our pupils to appreciate their world; valuing differences and being keen to explore.



PUPIL WELL-BEING & SAFEGUARDING

Horbury Academy strives to provide a safe and friendly environment for all with a positive and caring ethos. The academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We are focused not only on supporting our pupils in their aspirations and academic goals, but also on their personal well-being and safety.

A highly dedicated and trained team of pastoral staff will work with your child's teachers to ensure that they are supported through their academic career at Horbury Academy. This team is comprised of Pastoral Year Leaders, an Education Welfare Officer, an Attendance Officer, and Inclusion Support Workers.

Pupils are supported through a range of bespoke provision within the academy and from external providers. Our Safeguarding Team work together to ensure that any concerns regarding pupil safety are addressed swiftly and endeavour to work in partnership with families wherever possible. The academy takes concerns regarding bullying extremely seriously and combats this using a range of strategies.

When your child joins Horbury Academy, their form tutor will continue to support their transition, whilst also reinforcing expectations. We know that bullying is a common concern around pupils as they transition to secondary school, in response all pupils receive education and awareness about bullying and how to respond to it should it occur. We ask that our parents/carers read the academy's anti-bullying policy which explains the steps taken to tackle bullying.



PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP



All pupils are encouraged to take part in our extra-curricular activities. Sports, including Rugby, Football, Netball, Basketball, Table Tennis and Trampolining take place alongside Science, ICT, Art, Drama, Languages and Music clubs. We actively encourage all pupils to take part in these activities believing that they encourage creativity, team work and success. Our extra-curricular activities are free and open to all.



As pupils enter Key Stage 4, we supplement their lessons with additional after school classes. Working alongside their class teachers, pupils are able to develop their skills and embed learning.

A clear outcome of our vision that learning is for life is evidenced by our excellent links with Sixth Form providers. In a typical year our pupils move on to the Accord Sixth Form College, Pontefract New College, Greenhead College and Wakefield College, with many going on to study at top universities.



HOW WILL YOU HEAR MY VOICE?

There are 1050 pupils learning at Horbury Academy. This diverse, creative and inspirational group of pupils enables us to support learners through our Pupil Voice activities. Not only do pupils participate in the running of the academy through the Pupil Council, they are also Buddies, Subject Ambassadors, Prefects and Senior Prefects. They are part of the recruitment process for all new staff, they decide and plan what we eat in our restaurant, they support one another through peer mentoring and support learning through peer tutoring. Our pupils matter to us, we want to hear what they have to say.

We also want to hear what our parents and carers have to say. We know that successful pupils are supported pupils – and that we must work in partnership. The academy provides an additional parents evening in the first half term, this enables parents to experience and understand more about our Key Stage 3 curriculum, in addition to hearing how their child has settled in.

In addition, parents are encouraged to contact the academy to raise any personal issues or discuss their concerns. Parents and carers are expected to attend all Parents' Evenings and play an active role in their child's education.

ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

STANDARDS FOR SUCCESS

Horbury Academy has high expectations in terms of standards of behaviour and presentation from all our pupils. These expectations are underpinned by firm policies and procedures which ensure all pupils and staff are aware of the consistent standards required. We expect that pupils behave in a respectful and tolerant way to staff, each other and the local community. We encourage positive relationships and peer support.

Learners at Horbury Academy dress for success. Uniform is worn with pride and represents pupils' commitment to our school community. (Full details of our uniform and suppliers can be found on our website). Uniform is not just about what you wear; it is also about what you bring to the academy. All pupils are expected to have their "five a day" – the essential tools for learning (pens, pencil, ruler, eraser and their pupil planner).

Our Rewards and Consequences Policy exists to support learning and to create a safe environment for all. We reward our pupils through a variety of means for making positive choices/gaining above and beyond points.

For pupils to "Fly High" we expect them to attend every day. Holidays in term time are not permitted and our school based Education Welfare Officer works with families to support one hundred percent attendance. We know that full attendance equals success!



SUPPORTING SUCCESS

We have an excellent careers provision for our pupils, led by our Careers Advisor who works with our pupils throughout all year groups to instil high aspirations throughout their school career, from Year 7 through to Year 11 and beyond! This provision includes; one to one discussions, assemblies, career fairs, external speakers from industry and work and university visits. These all aim to engage pupils in their chosen career paths.

FURTHER INFORMATION

WHAT HAPPENS IF I CHOOSE TO COME TO HORBURY ACADEMY?

Throughout the year a variety of events and activities take place that are designed to support pupils moving from primary to secondary school. Our Open Evening provides prospective pupils with the opportunity to visit our academy and to hear from key members of staff.

Primary pupils are invited into Horbury to experience academy life. Pupils take part in our Music Days, taster days and more! Strong curriculum links have been developed through our MAT and through our links with our feeder primary schools.

Once pupils know that they have been granted a place at Horbury Academy, there will be a range of transition activities put in place to support their transition.

Pupils and families who are transferring with additional and special needs are supported with a number of transition days to reduce any concerns that these learners (or their parents) may have.



WILL I GET A PLACE?

Horbury Academy is a popular, successful academy. We are over-subscribed and there is a waiting list in all year groups. We admit 210 pupils into each year group. Learners come from our Pyramid Primary schools/academies and beyond.

Full details of our admission policy and procedures can be found on our website at www.horburyacademy.accordmat.org or by contacting the academy directly.

Please also refer to our Transition Guide under the 'Parents' tab of the website for a more detailed insight into the academy's approach to the transition from primary to secondary education and the support on offer.



“THE SCHOOL IS REALLY SUPPORTIVE AND HAS HELPED ME FOLLOW MY DREAMS.”

PUPIL





Wakefield Road, Horbury
Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF4 5HE

Telephone: 01924 282740

Facsimile: 01924 282759

Email: enquiries@horbury.accordmat.org

Website: www.horburyacademy.accordmat.org

