



Making dreams a reality



Academy Trust
A Specialist in Business & Enterprise



Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Welcome to our highly successful school, which offers a challenging but safe, happy and supportive environment for our students. We are a highly motivated and successful learning community, and we have high expectations of our young people. It is our mission to be at the heart of the local community, providing a thriving and growing learning hub for people of all ages – we passionately believe that learning changes lives.

My staff are inspiring and supportive professionals whose commitment and dedication is evident throughout the school and both Governors and parents play a major role in Fir Vale's success. The partnership we build with parents and carers is immensely important.

We believe in educating the 'whole child', providing a wide range of opportunities and extra-curricular activities, inside and outside the school.

We equip students with academic qualifications, but also with skills that will develop them into confident and employable young adults.

At Fir Vale School we are all committed to maintaining our outstanding achievements and building further pathways and opportunities for our young people.



Breffni Martin
Headteacher



Attendance is good because students are happy at school.

Ofsted

Making dreams a reality

Inspiring learners to be aspirational independent citizens who have the skills to contribute positively to, and succeed in, an ever-changing world.

Fir Vale School vision

Our Vision for Fir Vale School and community

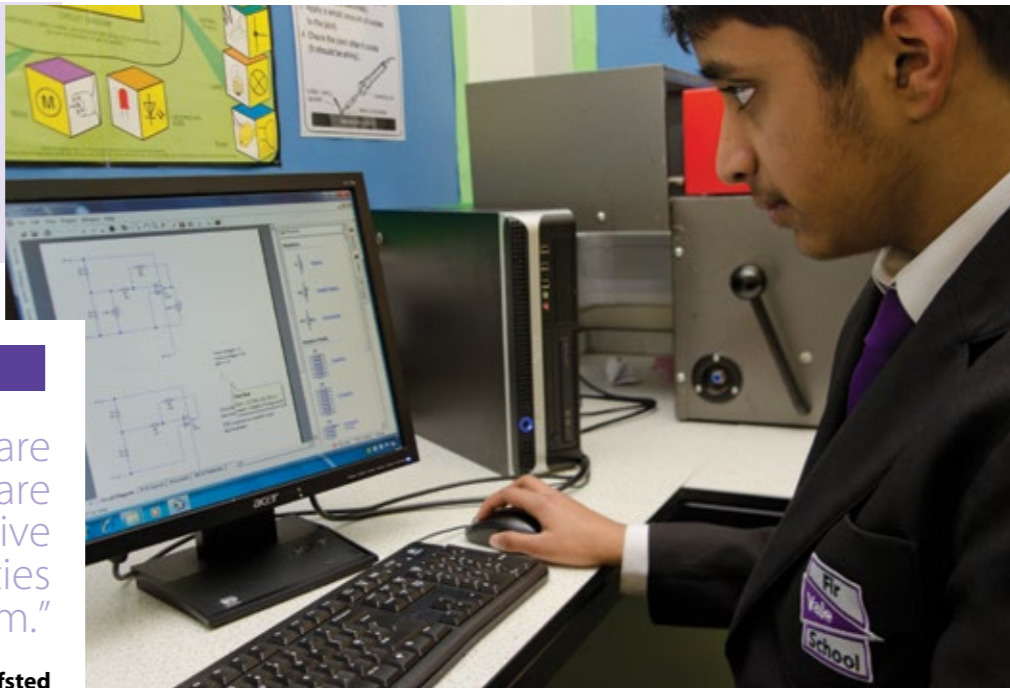


Our motto is 'making dreams a reality' and we place great emphasis on values of confidence, respect, self esteem, attainment, achievement and aspiration.

We also embed important skills to prepare students for life in the 21st century and aspire to deliver life-long learning across the community.

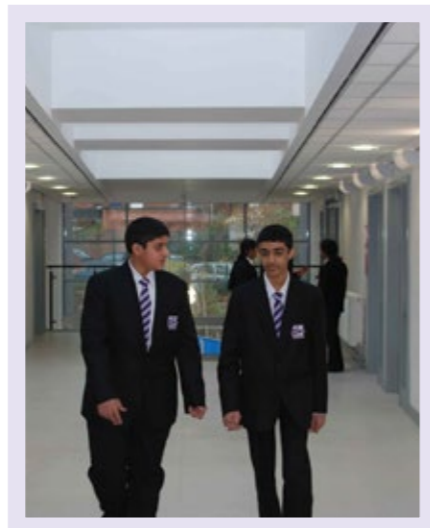
We will provide a positive environment for learning and growth, inspiring you to discover, develop and fulfil your potential and dreams.

Our challenge is to aim even higher and develop a World Class School, adapting in a society which is an increasingly diverse cultural environment.



Behaviour and safety are good because students are overwhelmingly positive about the opportunities the school offers them."

Ofsted



Individual care and support

We are proud of our safe, happy and secure learning environment which Ofsted praised because students are overwhelmingly positive about the opportunities the school offers them. Student support teams are closely involved with children's progress, while form tutors have daily contact with students and provide learning support, recognition of achievements and advice throughout their school career. Our tutor 'families' include students of all ages, encouraging positive relationships and friendships with older or younger students in their family. We also have a successful and competitive house system. Each child belongs to a tutor group led by a form tutor, and has a Director of Learning

and Student Support Officer to oversee their welfare. Parents can contact members of this team whenever they wish. We also provide Learning Mentors who offer extra support in and out of the classroom.

High achievers will receive challenging development opportunities and programmes to nurture their talents. Students identified as talented in sports or performing arts will be mentored to reach their highest potential.

Students identified with additional educational needs, or who require support as bi-lingual learners, meet regularly with specifically trained staff. Some students receive one to one support outside of lessons, while others work with specialist staff within lessons.



Taking responsibility

Our Behaviour Policy is based on respect and dignity, inside and outside the school. We expect the highest standards from our students in their learning, their behaviour towards each other and towards staff, and in all aspects of their lives. We want our students to be independent and confident, prepared to speak out, use their initiative and take a lead. Students should wear their uniform with pride remembering that they are ambassadors for Fir Vale School.

Our secure, safe and happy learning environment is built upon a Code of Conduct. Students are expected to follow instructions; show respect for themselves and others; not use hurtful or insulting language; be on time and ready to learn; and keep hands, feet and objects to themselves.

Good behaviour is recognised and rewarded with credits, stickers, certificates, letters home and educational visits. A student that does not follow the Code of Conduct faces consequences, including school detentions. Parents will be notified if a student's behaviour gives cause for concern. The school has policies for dealing with student worries, including bullying, and parents are encouraged to share any concerns with the appropriate members of staff.

Joy of Learning

Although we are an Academy, students still follow the National Curriculum in the classroom and beyond, providing a broad and balanced range of learning opportunities. Creativity is promoted alongside the skills required for students to become effective at independent learning.

During Year 9, students are carefully guided by staff before making decisions about pathways of study at GCSE which will lead to further education



"When I am at school I feel comfortable because I am part of a friendly community. I do not worry about being bullied and I know that teachers are always there to talk to if I have a problem."

Year 8 student



There are examples of outstanding teaching in English and Mathematics.

Ofsted



Broadening Horizons

There are numerous clubs and activities provided free of charge that take place outside the classroom, after school, at weekends and in the holidays. We believe in broadening a student's horizon giving them experiences such as the Duke of Edinburgh programme, school camp in Y7 or weeks of work experience in a business environment. We ask parents to encourage and support their children in engaging in as many of these quality activities as possible.

Partnership with parents

We believe that working closely with parents and carers is essential if students are to be successful and achieve their full potential. We encourage parents and carers to get to know our school and the staff who work closely with their son or daughter. We ask you to support your child's learning and provide a setting at home in which your child can study. You can become more involved as part of the Community and School Partnership Group, or by joining one of our adult courses. We expect parents and carers to attend progress evenings to receive vital feedback on their child's achievement.

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