

Inspection of West Bromwich Collegiate Academy

Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, West Midlands B70 7LE

Inspection dates: 20 and 21 February 2024

Overall effectiveness	Good
The quality of education	Good
Behaviour and attitudes	Outstanding
Personal development	Outstanding
Leadership and management	Outstanding
Previous inspection grade	Not previously inspected under section 5 of the Education Act 2005

The principal of the school is George Faux. This school is part of the Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust, which means other people in the trust also have responsibility for running the school. The trust is run by the chief executive officer, Sir Mark Grundy and overseen by a board of trustees, chaired by Andrew Dennis.

What is it like to attend this school?

West Bromwich Collegiate Academy (WBCA) staff and pupils share the same high aspirations. Pupils experience consistent and high-quality support to become the best they can be. The school has set very high expectations for pupils' future academic achievements and their development. Staff relentlessly focus on helping pupils to meet these high standards. As a result, the school enables pupils to fulfil their aspirations.

Pupils understand and follow the WBCA values which put 'decency' and 'respect' at the heart of everything the school does. Relationships between pupils and staff are highly courteous and respectful. Pupils are happy and safe. A typical parent comment is: 'WBCA staff are amazing and do their best to make sure the school is a community rather than just a school'.

The school places an exceptionally strong emphasis on pupils' personal development. The school puts itself at the centre of the local community to celebrate and support pupils inside and outside school. Pupils can explain their understanding of fundamental British values such as democracy clearly. Pupil leadership opportunities include wellbeing ambassadors and sports leaders. Pupils regularly take part in a range of extra-curricular activities such as young engineers, enterprise and poetry by heart.

What does the school do well and what does it need to do better?

The school has carefully developed a highly ambitious, rigorous and innovative curriculum to suit the needs of its pupils. For example, a 'Literacy for Life' (LFL) curriculum in Years 7 to 9 effectively helps pupils develop from their primary school education into their secondary school education. Through this curriculum, pupils build on their knowledge systematically. Year 7 LFL pupils were able to build on their prior knowledge of suffragettes and suffragists to discuss what impact they have had on history.

The school has precisely identified the important things that pupils need to know to succeed. The majority of teachers present new subject matter clearly. Teachers use 'do now activities' at the start of lessons. This helps most pupils know and remember more. Most teachers check what pupils know and ensure that pupils understand what they have to do well. However, there are times when some teachers do not check pupils' understanding well enough. This means that some pupils develop gaps in their knowledge and struggle to complete their work. This limits the progress they make.

The school identifies pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) exceptionally well. 'Pupil Passports' provide precise information for staff about pupils' individual needs. Teachers use this information very effectively to adapt their teaching. The school has implemented an extensive range of strategies to support pupils who are not confident readers. These include specialist teachers who rapidly

address weaknesses in phonics, grammar and comprehension. Pupils value reading. The library is a hive of activity within the school.

Pupils' behaviour is exceptional. Pupils display excellent self-control and highly positive attitudes to learning. Staff and pupils share highly respectful relationships. This creates an open and encouraging culture where everyone is equally valued. School attendance is exceptionally high with robust systems in place to support absent pupils to catch up on their work quickly.

An extensive personal development curriculum promotes the development of pupils' character and interests. Pupils learn about topics such as healthy relationships and online safety effectively. Pupils speak positively about how the school educates them about culture and diversity. Pupils regularly discuss careers, university aspirations, and apprenticeships, including within the LFL curriculum. This prepares pupils very well for the next stages of their lives.

Trustees and governors know the school exceptionally well. They support and challenge appropriately in meetings and during school visits. They hold the school to account well for all aspects of provision, including safeguarding and the quality of SEND provision. Staff have highly detailed professional development. Staff greatly appreciate this and how it helps them to do their best for the pupils. Ongoing encouragement, praise and an openness to research are key to this. The school supports all staff with both their workload and well-being.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

What does the school need to do to improve?

(Information for the school and appropriate authority)

- The school has not ensured that all teachers consistently check that all pupils understand what has been learned and what they can remember. This means that gaps in some pupils' knowledge are not always identified and addressed. The school should ensure that all teachers consistently check what all pupils know and can do and adapt their teaching accordingly to close any gaps in learning.

How can I feed back my views?

You can use [Ofsted Parent View](#) to give Ofsted your opinion on your child's school, or to find out what other parents and carers think. We use information from Ofsted Parent View when deciding which schools to inspect, when to inspect them and as part of their inspection.

The Department for Education has further [guidance](#) on how to complain about a school.

Further information

You can search for [published performance information](#) about the school.

In the report, 'disadvantaged pupils' is used to mean pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND); pupils who meet the [definition of children in need of help and protection](#); pupils receiving statutory local authority support from a social worker; and pupils who otherwise meet the criteria used for deciding the school's [pupil premium funding](#) (this includes pupils claiming free school meals at any point in the last six years, looked after children (children in local authority care) and/or children who left care through adoption or another formal route).

School details

Unique reference number	147182
Local authority	Sandwell
Inspection number	10294660
Type of school	Secondary Comprehensive
School category	Academy free school
Age range of pupils	11 to 16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	800
Appropriate authority	Board of trustees
Chair of trust	Andrew Dennis
Principal	George Faux
Website	www.WBCA.School
Date of previous inspection	No previous inspection

Information about this school

- The school is part of the Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust which contains twelve schools.
- The school makes use of one alternative provider.
- The school meets the requirements of the provider access legislation, which requires schools to provide pupils in Years 7 to 13 with information and engagement about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships.

Information about this inspection

The inspectors carried out this graded inspection under section 5 of the Education Act 2005.

- Inspections are a point-in-time judgement about the quality of a school's education provision.

- This was the first routine inspection the school has received, including since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Inspectors discussed the impact of the pandemic with the school and have taken that into account in their evaluation of the school.
- Inspectors focused on the following deep dives: English, geography, mathematics, physical education and technology. Inspectors looked at leaders' curriculum planning, visited lessons, looked at pupils' work and talked with pupils about their learning. Inspectors also looked at the curriculum in other subjects.
- Inspectors reviewed a range of school documents. These included information about pupils' behaviour, attendance, the school's curriculum and improvement planning. The school's website was also checked.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of safeguarding, the inspectors: reviewed the single central record; took account of the views of leaders, staff and pupils; and considered the extent to which the school has created an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts pupils' interests first.
- Inspectors observed informal times of the day as part of their evaluation of safeguarding and pupils' behaviour.
- Inspectors held meetings with the chair of the trust, the chief executive officer of the trust, the principal and other senior leaders, teachers, including early careers teachers, learning support assistants, administrative staff and pupils. Inspectors also talked informally to pupils, staff and parents to gather information about school life.
- Inspectors considered responses to Ofsted Parent View, and the free-text comments. Inspectors also considered the responses to Ofsted's staff survey and pupil questionnaires.

Inspection team

Stuart Clarkson, lead inspector	His Majesty's Inspector
Marie George	Ofsted Inspector
Jane Epton	Ofsted Inspector
Clare Turner	Ofsted Inspector

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Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

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Textphone: 0161 618 8524
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