



Hadrian Academy

Achieving Excellence Together



Welcome to Hadrian Academy

Foreword: Ross Griffin, Principal, Hadrian Academy

Our vision at Hadrian Academy is to provide a school of excellence where every child is encouraged and supported to reach their potential.

Learning is at the heart of everything we do. Our dedicated, supportive staff immerse our pupils in a learning culture: encouraging pupils to be ambitious, resilient, creative, kind

and honest role models while always keeping the school rules of ready, respectful and safe.

The education and welfare of our children is paramount, and I'm proud of how hard all our staff and governors work to build positive relationships and deliver a high-quality education.

The quality of the education we provide was made clear by our 2022 results. Our teachers and support staff maintained their exceptional standards for teaching and

pastoral care throughout the challenging years of the pandemic, leading to our best ever progress results in year 6 SATs in summer 2022. We are so proud of the children who worked very hard to achieve our high expectations for them.

In addition to our varied and ambitious curriculum, pupils have the opportunity to broaden their interests through the Arts and wide range of extra-curricular clubs. In recent years, the school has achieved the following accreditations:

- Sing-Up Platinum Award
- School Games Mark Gold
- Arts Mark Gold Award

I hope you enjoy reading this Prospectus and get a feel for school life at Hadrian Academy.

Please contact us to arrange an individual visit. You will be warmly welcomed.

Ross Griffin – Principal

Ofsted say:

“Pupils are very enthusiastic about their learning and proud of their school. While they particularly enjoy sport, music and the different topics, they work well in lessons.”

“Teaching is typically good and some is outstanding. Teachers skillfully ask questions which not only check understanding but also develop pupils’ thinking and learning.”

Magda believes that Hadrian Academy is the number one choice of school for her children offering amazing extra curricular activities which have really boosted her children’s confidence.

Magda and Tomasz live in Dunstable with their two children Elena who is age 8 and in Year 3 and Adam who is age 6 and in Year 1.

An easy choice

Magda feels that a good education is so important for children and after receiving many recommendations from other parents, she did not hesitate to enrol her children at Hadrian Academy and has never looked back. ‘Being able to chat with the teachers has always been something I have appreciated. You can do that at Hadrian Academy. The teachers are all so approachable and will always make themselves available. Knowing how your children are progressing and keeping parents updated is something the staff are very good at doing’.

Wonderful creative opportunities

Hadrian Academy offers a brilliant opportunity to participate in the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA) exams. Elena chose to participate when she was very shy in year 1 which boosted her confidence massively. ‘LAMDA is an opportunity that teaches them some important and transferable skills for the future and to gain confidence in having the ability to participate in public speaking.’

Lot of sports on offer

Both Elena and Adam attend Street Dance club which is offered weekly after school and is one of the most popular clubs. They both love the amazing dance routines that their dance teacher choreographers for each lesson and love the different moves and attention to detail that each lesson brings. As well as Street Dance, Adam attends the Basketball club. He is doing so well that he has been encouraged to start playing at a professional club.

Magda says, ‘that her children always feel engaged and importantly they want to go to school. Enjoying lessons is a necessity to learning.

School day

School hours

School registration is at 8.45am, and children can arrive in the playground from 8.40am. School finishes at 3.15pm.

Before and After School Care Clubs

Before and After School Care Clubs are known as the Cool Kids Club. The breakfast club is open every day between 7.30am and 8.45am. Breakfast is available up to 8.20am. The after school club is open every day between 3.15pm and 5.25pm. Children have a snack and then participate in a variety of activities. All clubs must be booked and paid for in advance.

Uniform

Most items of school uniform are available from a variety of stores. For uniform featuring the Hadrian Academy logo, please contact the school uniform shop, BESTLOOK at 68 High Street North, Dunstable.

Learning is exciting!



Enriched curriculum: singing and music

Every child in Years 3,4 5 and 6 has the opportunity to play a musical instrument. We also offer individual or small group tuition with peripatetic teachers.

Hadrian Academy is a 'Platinum Sing Up school', which demonstrates our commitment to enriching our curriculum, with stimulating singing sessions. We have a very active choir which we believe helps the children to develop both their academic skills and their confidence.

'Thumbs up for school dinners'

School Meals and snacks

Nutritious, hot cooked school lunches are from the on-site school kitchens. Children may bring in packed lunches too.

Snacks and drink

We have a Healthy School Award, and encourage healthy eating. All children are provided with a fruit or vegetable snack each day.

All children have access to water at school.



The curriculum is divided into four phases: Key Stages 1-2

- Early Years Foundation Stage (age 4 – 5 years)
- Key Stage 1 (age 5 – 7 years)
- Lower Key Stage 2 (age 7 – 9 years)
- Upper Key Stage 2 (age 9 – 11 years)

Reception

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- English
- Science
- Information and Design Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Personal Social Health and Citizenship Education.



Oana and Mihai live in Houghton Regis with their daughters Jessica who is aged 5 in year R and Madison who is aged 7 in year 2.

Number one choice for Hadrian Academy

Oana says that she looked at a few other schools before deciding on Hadrian Academy but had no hesitation in choosing Hadrian Academy. She liked the layout of the school and thought it was great to be shown around by older students and hear their honest opinions of the school. As well as receiving strong recommendations from other parents, Oana immediately decided that Hadrian would be the best school in the Houghton Regis and Dunstable areas for her children.

Healthy competition and strong teamwork

Oana believes that the House system of St George, St Andrew, St Patrick and St David at Hadrian is an excellent concept and encourages great competitiveness and motivation at the school. The children are rewarded with House points and she believes that the House system instils some great teamwork and healthy competition among the children. ‘I think the children really enjoy that side of things. Jessica gets very competitive and loves it when her house is winning!’

Championing Reading from a Young Age

The school actively encourages reading every day and Oana is very much a fan of ‘Star Reader’ at Hadrian Academy. All children are expected to read at home every day and half termly reward schemes take place. ‘The Star Reader scheme is a great way to encourage children to read and a good motivator to keep reading more and more. It is great to see children at Hadrian becoming ‘word millionaires’ with the most recent record being achieved from a year 6 boy being awarded 7,000,000 word millionaire!’ As a result both Oana’s children love reading.





Extended curriculum: trips and visits

To extend the curriculum, and make learning even more fun, we offer many trips and activities including a residential in years 4 and 6 and various day trips linked to curriculum topics, for all the year groups. The school invite in visiting theatre groups as well as making full use of the local theatre. Annually every child gets a chance to perform to their parents, some years this happens at the Grove Theatre. The choir are invited to perform at a variety of events. Some, such as The Mayor's Civic Service, are prestigious..

As a school we excel at a number of different sports and our children regularly compete against other local schools. We have won places in County Finals in a number of events.

Communicating with parents

We hold termly parent/carer consultations where we will discuss with you your child's progress through the curriculum, and iron out any problems. You can also make an appointment to see the class teacher at any time throughout the school year.

There is also a regular newsletter which can be viewed on the school website and which is sent to all parents, along with any other communication by Parentmail.

Report

We send home a report in the summer term showing progress, attainment and effort.

Dawid and Kasia live in Dunstable with their son Jan and daughter Zoe who is 8 years old and currently in year 3. Jan is a former pupil of Hadrian Academy.

No hesitation to choose Hadrian Academy

David and Kasia looked around other schools before choosing Hadrian Academy however they got such a good feeling after visiting the school and Hadrian stood out over and above the other schools mainly due to its creative curriculum that it has on offer.

A creative curriculum

Zoe takes part in LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts) and for the last two years she has received 'Distinctions'. Zoe says, 'It is great fun to do voices and expressions and to give your opinion about poems'. She really likes her teacher who makes LAMDA such fun and is looking forward to participating again next year. Let's hope Zoe gets yet another distinction next year!

Zoe is also actively involved with the School Choir and has been involved in numerous concerts and shows such as the annual 'Young Voices' show at the O2 Arena in London, Priory View and Ridgeway Lodge. She has fond memories of 'Young Voices' and participating with thousands of other young people all shining their torches in the darkness and enjoying singing her favourite song, 'Message'. Zoe says, 'The Choir is fun to go to every week, learning new songs and exploring new places when singing.'

Zoe's second favourite extracurricular activity is the very popular Street Dance club which takes place after school. Zoe says, 'It is such fun and I love learning the new dance routines and performing to other children. I like to use my imagination and perform in front of other children.'

Most favourite club....

As well as being a determined swimmer and starting to become an accomplished pianist outside school, Zoe's favourite club at Hadrian Academy is the Before and After School club called Cool Kids club. She loves spending time with her friends there and all the arts and crafts that are on offer such as physical activities, word searches and arts. She likes the freedom of being able to choose what she wants to do.

Teamwork

The Stern's really like the House system of St George, St Andrew, St Patrick and St David at Hadrian. They state it is excellent for teamwork and encouraging healthy competition with all the children. Kasia adds that Zoe has even introduced her Granny to the weekly Walking Mile at Hadrian around the bright Daily Mile track and helped earn her more points to go towards St Patricks House.

We love reading at Hadrian Academy

Dawid and Kasia really like the Star Reader scheme and say it is a great motivator to reading. As well as being able to check what Zoe is reading, the Accelerated Reader scheme is brilliant for comprehension and being able to choose her own book to read. Zoe is very excited at the moment as she is just days off being a 'Word Millionaire'. She often asks Mrs Taylor the librarian for new books particularly, 'Are there any more Percy Jackson books?' Dawid and Kasia realise the importance of reading from a young age and are so pleased that Hadrian Academy actively encourages this.

Inclusion: a curriculum for all

Gifted and talented children

We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as being exceptionally able or talented, are monitored and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons appropriate to their needs.

Special Educational Needs

We are totally committed to providing high quality provision and support for pupils who

have special needs of any kind. We modify the curriculum where needed to ensure that all children can access education that is tailored to them. Where appropriate we work with external agencies to provide this.

Access

Children with a physical disability are fully supported in accessing all parts of the school downstairs.

Different cultures and languages

We feel that it is important for children to be aware of, and understand, other cultures and religions. Such variety within school brings great enrichment to the teaching and learning that takes place.

As part of our Religious Education curriculum, we visit different places of worship and have visitors into school e.g. we have visited the Hindu Mandhir in Luton, to learn about the Hindu Special Place.



Emma and Gary Roberts live in Dunstable with their children, two of whom currently attend Hadrian Academy. Isla, age 10, is currently in Year 6 and Max, age 6, is currently in Year 1.

Choosing to come to Hadrian Academy

Emma and Gary originally lived in Westoning but chose Hadrian for their eldest daughter, 16 years ago, due recommendations from other parents and having a good network of child care nearby. Emma says, 'Communication has always been very good at Hadrian and this has followed through with each of my children.'

School Choir

Emma says her daughter Isla has been a member of the school choir for many years. She has loved taking part in a variety of

performances, her favourite being Young Voices in London. Isla is now one of the older members of the choir and enjoys supporting and mentoring the younger children.

Before & After School Club

Both Isla and Max love going to Cool Kids Club, Hadrian's Before and After School club. Emma believes that the club is run extremely well with a range of activities for the children to participate in. It is also a great opportunity to make friends with children in other year groups. Emma says, 'The club has such a lovely, friendly and caring atmosphere.'

Teamwork and Reading

Emma thinks that the House system brings a sense of belonging. It enables a healthy level of competition and the children enjoy being part of a bigger team. She also praises the Star Reader award scheme, which is a great incentive to promote reading. There is a vast range of books for the children to choose from and it allows reading progress to be tracked. Emma is a primary school teacher herself, and so fully understands the importance of reading from a young age.

An open and very friendly school

Emma finds the staff at Hadrian very approachable and always willing to help. Parents can communicate with their child's classroom teacher through 'Class Dojo'. Emma feels that, 'Class Dojo has improved lines of communication even more. It allows you to communicate through directly with the teacher rather than via the school office. All staff are very friendly and approachable. As a parent you always feel listened to, all school staff are very accommodating and go above and beyond.'

Clubs



There are a wide variety of clubs that children can join, during class, lunchtime and after school. Options often include:

- flute and guitar
- cricket
- football for boys and girls
- choir
- street dance
- athletics
- French
- hockey
- sewing
- gymnastics
- street soccer

Drama: London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) exams

We are the only LAMDA speaking and listening exam centre for this area, with Hadrian children getting 100% pass rate. Fantastic recognition for our drama classes!

Sport competitions

The school regularly enters local inter-school sports competitions, and does very well... frequently winning or in the top three.



We encourage pupils to take part in community activities and frequently celebrate their achievements in assembly recognising the benefits.

Mustafa and Andrea regarding friendships:

Everyone at Hadrian is really friendly and we all help each other. At break times, some of us become play buddies to ensure that there is someone you have fun with. At Hadrian, we have lots of fantastic rewards such as the Star Reader celebration, Golden Pass and being able to become a Word Millionaire. In Celebration Assembly, we find out which class has the top attendance and can win extra playtime for being in the top three.



Nathaniel in year 4 talking about sporting opportunities:

I have represented the school in cross country and football. Representing the school makes my mum really proud. During the football tournament, I was able to help my teammates; I scored lots of goals! At Hadrian, we have the Friday morning mile, this event happens every week with children getting the opportunity to win house points. Taking part helps you get ready for school and learning.

Melody in year six talking about the specialist teachers:

'I have been doing LAMDA since I was in year one. The teachers have always been very supportive and encouraging. The best thing about LAMDA are the fun warm up games which help prepare you for the session and give you confidence to perform.

At Hadrian, we had a specialist teacher who taught us to play the trumpet. The lessons were very entertaining due to the fun range of songs we learnt. Having specialist teachers helps you to learn new things and provide you with a different experience. During year six, we had a specialist PE coach who helped make the PE lessons really enjoyable.



Laila in year 3 and her experiences with reading:

It is great going to the school library as you can choose any book you like. I enjoy reading and visiting the library. Mrs Taylor, the librarian, is very knowledgeable and often helps me. We have lots of reading rewards which are really fun. The best thing about reading is that you are able to imagine things such as going on an amazing holiday in your head. My favourite author is David Walliams.

Admissions

Parents who are thinking of applying for a place at our school are invited to visit and look around at any time. Children start at Hadrian Academy in the Autumn term of the academic year in which they will have their fifth birthday.

Applications

The Local Authority Admission's Office deals with all new admissions to Hadrian Academy School. Contact details for Local Authority Admissions are:

Tel: 0300 300 8037
Email: admissions@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Web: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/learning/schools/school-admissions/>

Staff in our school office are also able to help with enquiries.

Getting involved: hands up for school

Association of Hadrian Academy (AHA)

AHA is our Parents and Friends Association, and is very active. All parents automatically become members when their children join the school and are warmly invited to take part in the fundraising and social activities.

Every planning meeting is open for all parents to attend. There is no 'committee' apart from chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary and treasurer. The money raised goes towards equipment such as musical instruments, sandpits, computers and educational visitors.

If you would like more information, please contact the school office.

Governorship

The Governing Body consists of representatives of parents, teachers and other governors. They work closely with the staff and Senior Leadership Team to support the school and plan its strategic developments.

Our criteria for being an effective Governing Body is that:

- we help to shape the vision and direction of the school
- we ensure the school fulfils its statutory duties
- we understand the strengths and weaknesses of the school
- we challenge and support the Principal and the Senior Leadership Team.

Do you want to be a Governor?

If you want to be a school governor, please contact the school office.

How to find us

We are ambitious; resilient and creative- always **READY** to learn

We are role models; kind and honest- always **RESPECTFUL**

We are **SAFE** to achieve excellence together



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