



Lode Heath School



Ad Astra: To The Stars

★ SINCERE ★ THOUGHTFUL ★ ASPIRATIONAL ★ RESILIENT ★ SOLIDARITY ★



EVERYONE IS VALUED AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND RESPECTED.

LAURA SUDDON, ASSOCIATE HEADTEACHER, SAYS: WELCOME TO LODE HEATH SCHOOL

Welcome to our wonderful school family. We are committed to providing our students with an excellent education to prepare them for life after Lode Heath.

Broad and balanced curriculum

Through a broad and balanced curriculum, our dedicated and talented staff provide engaging learning opportunities inside and outside of the classroom to interest, enthuse and inspire.

Supporting and challenging

We focus on both support and challenge and are determined to tackle disadvantages and remove barriers, so our students are well qualified, highly skilled and fully prepared for post-16 education and beyond.

A love of learning that will last a lifetime

Within the Lode Heath family, we encourage our students to be ambitious, to explore their potential and to develop a love of learning that will last a lifetime.

Character development and academic success

Character development has always been at the heart of Lode Heath School. We truly believe that supporting young people as they flourish into well rounded adults is as important as academic success.

Igniting an interest in the world

Our teaching is stimulating, creative and encourages our students to continue their education outside of school. We want to ignite an interest in the world around them, and for that interest to lead to fulfilling and imaginative lives.

Beyond the classroom

Alongside our supportive, yet challenging curriculum we offer many extra-curricular and wider opportunities to support students' development and experiences beyond the classroom.

Successful future in society

We invite you to delve deeper into Lode Heath and discover how we can empower your child to excel academically, develop into a well-rounded individual, and prepare confidently for a successful future in society.

Don't just take our word for it

Please see the student and parent case studies within this prospectus, to read about what we really mean to the families that use our school. And, finally, come along to see for yourself what we can offer your child.

To schedule a visit, please call the School Office on 0121 704 1421.

Lode Heath School is exceptionally proud to be part of Arden Multi-Academy Trust (AMAT). AMAT supports high quality, dynamic education for everyone. AMAT academies have common values and core operational systems, which are applied locally and adapted to individual context and needs.



MARY AND IAN LIVE IN SOLIHULL WITH THEIR DAUGHTERS, ELLA, AGED 12, AND LILY, AGED 7.

Ella has made new friends and learnt to be resilient and independent during her first year at Lode Heath School

Incentive scheme

Mary and Ian are delighted with the way the staff at Lode Heath encourage the students to try their hardest at everything. Mary says: "During Year 7, Ella has been able to have rewards such as chocolate, and free school trips, by earning credits for a variety of things. We are pleased the incentives offered are not just for academic success, but to encourage participating and trying hard, so that it includes everyone."

Helpfulness encouraged

Students can earn credits for things such as using the library, being punctual, volunteering around the school, or helping the teachers, Mary says. "If you are not given any debits, you become a Zero Hero and get a badge, so there is a big incentive to do well."

Settling in

Ella was the only one from her primary school to go to Lode Heath and she has settled in well. "We had moved house and were in the catchment area for Lode Heath during Ella's last few years at primary school. Because we had chosen not to move her from her primary school, she didn't know anyone else who was going to Lode Heath," Mary explains.

Friendly school

"When we went to the Lode Heath open evening we liked the school straight away. We were impressed with the opportunities on offer and felt it was warm and friendly," she says. "Although we viewed other secondary schools in the area, we got a good feeling about Lode Heath and felt it would be a nice environment for Ella."

Smooth transition

Mary says the summer school offered by Lode Heath for new students was absolutely fantastic and boosted Ella's confidence. "She met someone there who was in her class when she started. We thought the first day was

handled very well. They introduced the new students to the incentive scheme so there was encouragement right from the start to try to earn credits. They allowed Year 7 to get their lunches earlier than the other years so they could get used to the queuing system. Ella settled in quickly and enjoyed sampling new subjects, such as Drama and Catering, which she will get the chance to try again in Year 8."

Involving parents

Mary and Ian have found communication with parents very good. "After a few weeks we were invited to a 'Behind the Scenes' event for parents of new students to show us what they had been doing at school, which was very useful. The teachers knew Ella by name which showed they cared about students, and we even got to sample the cafeteria food," Mary says.

Student's viewpoint

"The other years started later than Year 7 on the first day so we were able to walk round the school without them there to get a feel for it," Ella recalls. "The teachers were all kind and helpful. On the first day we were all in the hall together and the teachers told us about earning rewards to go on free trips. We were also offered sports activities and clubs to try, such as netball, football, and trampolining, and we were able to use the library."

New subjects

Ella liked the way students got to try different subjects on a rotation basis in Year 7, such as Catering, Drama, DT and Music. She says: "I have enjoyed French because the lessons have not just been about learning the language, but also about the culture. I liked doing Catering because I enjoy making food and I look forward to doing it again. Since starting at Lode Heath, I have been encouraged to join in things and I have made a lot of new friends. I have also learnt how to be resilient and independent."

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE AS THEY FLOURISH INTO WELL ROUNDED ADULTS, IS AS IMPORTANT AS ACADEMIC SUCCESS.

CHARACTER AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Teaching character

Character education is directly taught at Lode Heath with the recent introduction of character and personal development lessons (CPD).

Topics

Topics covered in CPD include:

- ★ learning skills
- ★ relationships and sex education
- ★ mental health
- ★ online safety
- ★ alcohol and drugs
- ★ financial education
- ★ British values
- ★ anti-extremism
- ★ anti-bullying
- ★ anti-homophobia

Some topics are taught within subject areas at key points throughout the academic year whilst timetabled lessons are held with Form Tutors on a fortnightly basis. These are underpinned by our form time and assembly programme.

Weekly focus

There is a weekly focus across the whole school determined not only by statutory requirements but also by local and national context. Individual lessons are produced bespoke to each year group to ensure that content is appropriately pitched for each age range.

Praise for Lode Heath's CPD programme

Solihull Local Authority says: "The curriculum for personal development exceeds statutory requirements and has been well-considered. It is proactive in addressing issues linked to bullying through a spiral curriculum with built in opportunities to be reactive to wider events in the world and community... The Trust's recognition of the importance of this aspect of school life through their own monitoring is to be commended. New staff attest to the positive impact of the support and guidance provided. This is an area of good practice which could be shared beyond the school and Trust."

A recent Arden MAT peer to peer review said: "The CPD and tutor time programme is a clear strength. Lessons are well-structured, regularly updated, and tackle real-life issues like knife crime, vaping, and online safety. Students engage well and debate important topics. Outside speakers such as Loudmouth Theatre add impact and variety."



NATALIE AND CRAIG LIVE IN SOLIHULL WITH THEIR SONS, KYLE, AGED 14, AND SAM, AGED 11.

Kyle has developed as a person and enjoyed helping others during his four years at Lode Heath School

Receiving recognition

Kyle is flourishing in Year 10 at Lode Heath School and is proud to have just been chosen as a Senior Student. Kyle says: "I applied by letter saying why I thought it would benefit my personal development and why I would be good for the role, and I am delighted to have been selected. I helped at the recent Year 6 transition evening and am now looking forward to helping at this year's summer school for new Year 7 students."

Friendly teachers

Even now, Kyle can remember thinking how big Lode Heath was when he first started in Year 7 at the age of 11. "Thankfully, I didn't feel too overwhelmed and my form teacher was very nice. I liked the fact there was a good range of subjects on offer, including things I hadn't done at primary school, such as Catering and DT. I enjoyed Catering, but my favourite subject has been Computer Science, which I am doing for GCSE. I also liked History and Geography. I got on well with all the teachers and enjoyed having banter with them."

Positive change

Kyle is keen to help new students as they transition into Year 7 and keen to start using the training he has received through the Diana Award which is for young people who try to make positive change in the world. "We are educated about bullying, and how to make other people feel valued, and we help by putting up anti bullying posters and raising money for mental health support."

Character development

He also thinks it is valuable for students to have the chance to study Character and Personal Development at Lode Heath. "It is a lesson each fortnight that covers issues such as alcohol and drugs, sex education, what to do if you find yourself in danger, and other useful things that will help us in the future. I like the lessons and think

they are taught well. They are backed up by assemblies on the topics we have covered to reinforce what we have been learning about."

Sampling subjects

Kyle says: "As well as PE, which everyone does, you can try sports at a variety of different clubs. I have been in the football team, played cricket, and tried dodgeball. I have enjoyed having the chance to try Drama and Music, which were taught along with other subjects on a rotation basis in the lower years. But my favourite subject is Computer Science. We have a very good teacher and I enjoy all the lessons and get on well with the other students."

Good choice

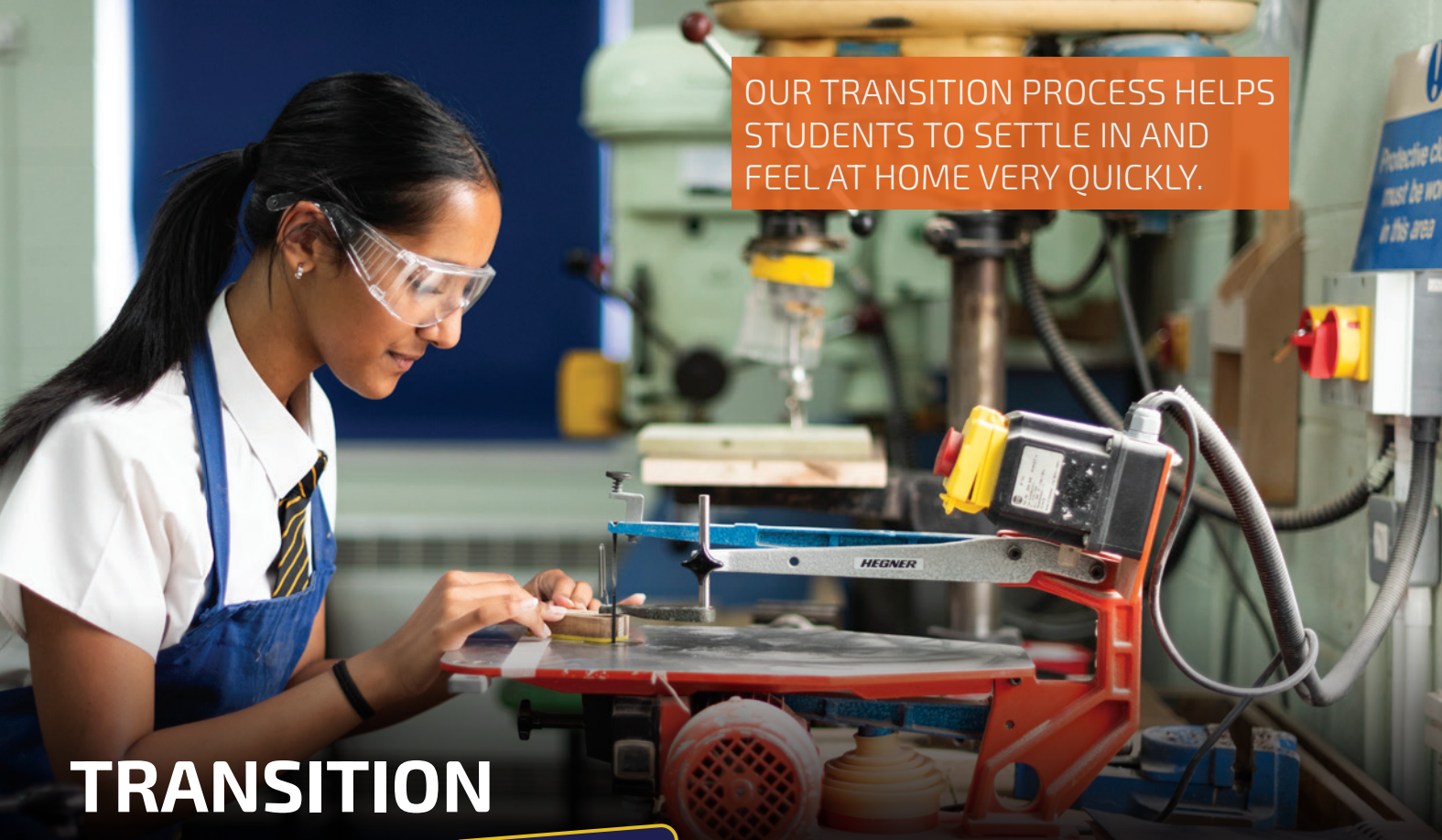
Natalie and Craig can't speak highly enough of Lode Heath and what the teachers have done for Kyle. "He has really enjoyed his time there, so we know we made the right decision when we chose the school. It was during Covid, so we couldn't actually go to look round, but we decided Kyle should go there based on its good reputation," Natalie says.

Approachable staff

They are happy for Kyle's brother, Sam, to be following him into the school. "Our experience has been that if we have ever needed to mention anything, or ask about anything, we have had a very quick response from the staff, although we haven't had to contact them much while Kyle has been there," she says.

Excellent experience

Natalie is grateful for receiving good guidance from Kyle's Computer Science teacher about where he could go for work experience. "Kyle gained very good experience in the computer department of Solihull College, where he learnt a lot and he was given the chance to take computers apart. It was his teacher who suggested he applied there and it worked out well. We couldn't be happier with Kyle's whole experience at Lode Heath School."



OUR TRANSITION PROCESS HELPS STUDENTS TO SETTLE IN AND FEEL AT HOME VERY QUICKLY.

TRANSITION

Transition comic

It can be very daunting to start in a new school. To help ease any worries, we produce a transition comic that we hand out to all incoming students, which is based around their questions and concerns.



Transition process: supporting new students to settle in and feel safe and secure

We understand how daunting starting at secondary school can be. It's a big step-up. Our aim is to ensure that all our new Year 7 students quickly become part of our Lode Heath family and get the most out of being at our school.

A day at school

All our new Year 7 students will be invited to spend a day with us in the summer term. On this day they will meet their new Form Tutors, get to know their form group and have the chance to explore our school, taking part in some lessons and spending their social time with our current students.

Summer School

We then offer a chance to attend Summer School. This is a great way for students to get to know their classmates and have lots of fun. And this also helps ease those nerves meaning our newest students can enjoy their summer without worrying.

Induction programme

When the long holidays end and September arrives, we have a carefully planned induction programme for all our new Year 7 students.

- ★ Year 7 students arrive on their first day earlier than the rest of the school. They are looked after by their Form Tutor for the day and given all the information they need to be successful.
- ★ Year 7 students take part in an extended induction: they have dedicated lessons over the first week or so, learning all about us, what we expect from them and why, as well as what they can expect from us and how we will support them as the newest members of our family.

Settling in

We understand that adjusting to secondary school is not easy, so Year 7 students are given a couple of weeks to get settled. During this time, they get to go to lunch and break early to avoid the queues, and no detentions are set.

Summer School

In order to ease the transition from primary to secondary school we offer a summer school: action packed days that give our new starters a chance to meet their new classmates and explore our building, whilst taking part in lots of exciting activities. Previous summer school activities have included:

- ★ climbing walls
- ★ archery
- ★ drama workshops
- ★ history mystery!
- ★ small animal handling
- ★ Laser Tag
- ★ pizza party



ZOE AND ANTHONY LIVE IN SOLIHULL WITH THEIR DAUGHTER, MIA-ROSE, WHO IS 15.

Mia-Rose loves being able to study Hair and Beauty in the happy atmosphere of Lode Heath School

Learning skills

Mia-Rose has enjoyed Year 10 at Lode Heath School where she has been fulfilling her dream of training to be a hairdresser. Mia-Rose says: "I am delighted to have been able to do Hair and Beauty this year. I have been able to do six hours a fortnight – four hours of theory and two hours of practical work. I enjoy doing the practical side and I have found that I learn better when I am doing things myself."

Useful lessons

Learning about the science of skin and hair has also been interesting for Mia-Rose. "We have learnt about the effects of ingredients on hair and skin as well as about styling hair and applying make-up to the skin. I got 90 per cent in the exam at the end of Year 10 and was awarded a distinction star."

Creating looks

Students don't just get to practice on dummy heads because members of staff sometimes act as models for them. "It is nice that the staff are willing to get involved," Mia Rose says. "I enjoy doing the practical work, such as being given looks to create for hair, and for beauty, and try to carry them out."

Approachable staff

Mia-Rose started in Year 7 at Lode Heath at the age of 11. It was the closest school to where she lived and her Mum, Zoe, had attended Lode Heath herself. She went to a summer school where she met some of the teachers and settled in well after she started. Mia-Rose says: "I remember that it seemed really big and we were given maps to help us find our way around, but the teachers were all friendly."

Range of subjects

She says she started with some of her friends from primary school but she has met lots of new people and

has a totally different group of friends now. "I enjoyed learning new subjects and particularly liked Catering and Dance. I enjoy doing English and analysing books and poems, and I always find the teachers very helpful."

Good qualification

Mia-Rose is now studying for GCSEs in English, Maths, Geography, Science, Business, Hair and Beauty, and Statistics. "I am very excited about next year and carrying on with Hair and Beauty at Lode Heath. When I take the exam at the end of next year it will be for a Level 2 qualification in Hair and Beauty. I will then apply to go to a college to take Level 3. If I wasn't doing Hair and Beauty at Lode Heath now, I would have to do Levels 1 and 2 at college before I could move on to Level 3, so it is great to be able to study for Level 1 and 2 at school," she says.

Great experience

"Lode Heath organised my work experience in a hair salon during Year 10 and I absolutely loved it. I would recommend Lode Heath to other students because of all the opportunities you are offered. I enjoyed playing netball after school for two years and taking part in competitions. I think it is great there are lots of different subject options available for you to try and the teachers are always happy to help you."

Supportive school

Her Mum, Zoe, says: "Mia-Rose has always wanted to be a hairdresser and so we are pleased she has been able to do Hair and Beauty at Lode Heath, as not many schools offer this. Being able to do her work experience in a hairdressing salon was perfect for her. We were pleased Lode Heath helped her get a place and supported her while she was there by checking on her to make sure she was okay. At the end of it, the salon offered her a Saturday job, which was great."

STUDENT SUPPORT

Access to support

Each student will have access to their Head of Year, the Student Support team and a range of 'in school' interventions should they need support. As a school we actively engage and encourage the support of wider external agencies. This will be different for every student, dependant on need.

Caring team of non-teaching staff

We know that school can be both rewarding and challenging to all students. We know that there may be days where students need help. That's where Student Support come in.

Available throughout the day

Student Support are a team of non-teaching staff. They are available throughout the day and help students access the support they might need. Whether it's a medical need, someone to talk to or help in signposting children to the support they might need. Student support is there for them.

Some of the things that Student Support helps with...

- ★ If you're not feeling well.
- ★ If you need to speak with home.
- ★ If you have any questions which are not linked to lessons.
- ★ If you need to speak with some about a problem and you are unsure of who to ask.

Building strong links

The Student Support team build strong links between school and home, and teaching staff and students. They help with restorative conversations and 'rebuilding' relationships in times of challenge.

Role of the Form Tutor

Each student arriving at Lode Heath will be allocated a Form Tutor. The Form Tutor is both the student's and the parents' first point of contact at school. Students meet with their tutor on a daily basis.

This shared time with their Form Tutor is an important part of the day. At Lode Heath our tutors stay with their forms throughout their Lode Heath experience, building strong relationships. These relationships ensure tutors are able to identify any issues or problems and support the students in their forms.

WE PROVIDE THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF SUPPORT FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AT LODE HEATH.



Safeguarding

At Lode Heath School, safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to creating a safe and secure environment where all students can thrive, learn, and grow. Safeguarding is not just a policy; it's a collective responsibility shared by everyone in our school family.

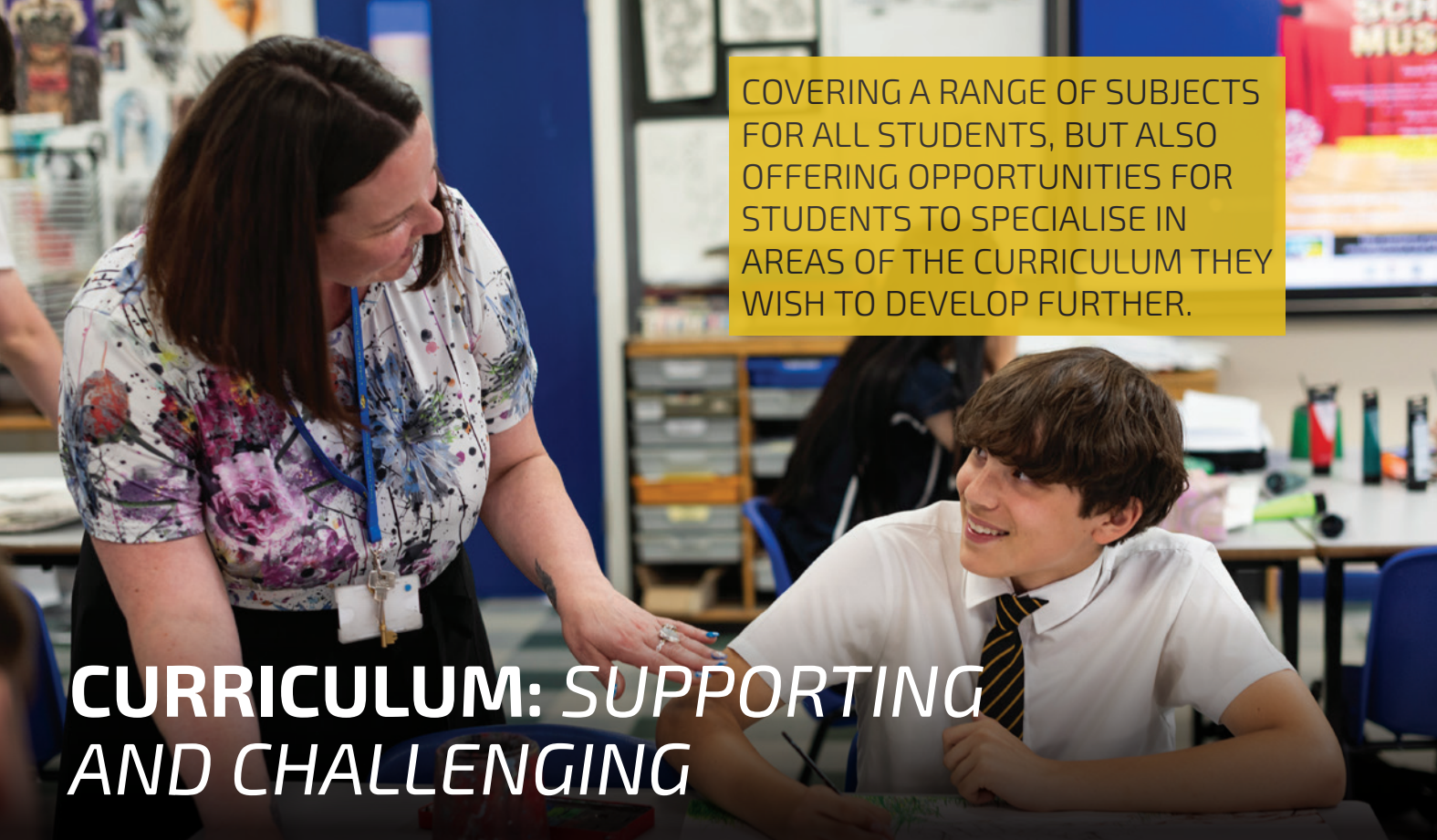
Our commitment

The safety and well-being of every student is our top priority. We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure that all students are protected from harm, abuse, or neglect. Our dedicated staff members undergo regular training to recognise signs of safeguarding concerns and to respond appropriately to any issues that may arise.

Key Safeguarding Principles

- ★ Prevention: we believe that prevention is key to safeguarding. We provide education and awareness programmes to empower students to protect themselves and their peers.
- ★ Early Intervention: we are proactive in identifying and addressing any safeguarding concerns at the earliest possible stage to prevent escalation.
- ★ Collaboration: we work closely with students, parents, carers, and external agencies to ensure a coordinated approach to safeguarding.
- ★ Respect and Dignity: we treat all students with respect and dignity, valuing their individuality and recognising their rights.





COVERING A RANGE OF SUBJECTS FOR ALL STUDENTS, BUT ALSO OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO SPECIALISE IN AREAS OF THE CURRICULUM THEY WISH TO DEVELOP FURTHER.

CURRICULUM: SUPPORTING AND CHALLENGING

Curriculum

Key Stage 3

Students at Key Stage 3 are offered a broad and balanced curriculum, building on their learning experiences from Key Stage 2 and preparing them for the next stage in their journey. There is a wealth of resources available to ensure all students are challenged and supported to fulfil their potential in the first phase of their secondary education.

We believe that intelligence isn't fixed. Your child can achieve whatever he or she sets their mind to, and we will work hard with them to both realise and achieve their goals.

Key Stage 4

The curriculum in Years 10 and 11 continues to offer breadth and diversity, covering a range of subjects for all students, but also offering opportunities for students to specialise in areas of the curriculum they wish to develop further. Courses are designed to be relevant for students and to match their talents and interests. Students are supported in selecting their personal pathway including traditional academic and vocational courses (GCSEs, BTECs, OCR Nationals etc).



Online Learning Platforms

As a school, we purchase online subscriptions to support students' revision and learning from home. They will be given logins to access these. These include:

- ★ MathsWatch: a platform that is used only by Maths and provides online activities by subject and Key Stage, help videos for every topic to watch and pause, past exam questions and papers for practise.
- ★ Seneca: a platform that has practise questions and activities for subjects including English, Science, Maths, History and many more. This platform is often used to set homework, and parents receive an invite to view their child's activity and assignments.

Homework

Homework is set for all students via the Synergy app, to allow both parents/ carers and students to view this.

- ★ At KS3 students will be set 15-20min of homework per week per subject.
- ★ At KS4 this increases to approximately 2x 30min tasks per subject per week.



JACQUELINE AND DAVID LIVE IN SOLIHULL WITH THEIR FAMILY, FYNN, AGED 19, FREYA, AGED 17, FRANCESCA, AGED 16, AND FLEUR, AGED 13.

Freya is grateful that her passion for art and determination to do well were encouraged by the helpful staff at Lode Heath School

Dedicated teacher

Freya was thrilled when she received her GCSE results and discovered that she had achieved the high grades she needed to secure a place in the sixth form at Solihull School. She was quick to acknowledge the support she had been given by Lode Heath School to help her get there, saying: "It was with the help of my art teacher working alongside me. She advised me on many things that would enhance my grade."

Winning scholarship

Freya is now studying at Solihull School, having won an art scholarship to go there. She says: "I've always enjoyed drawing and painting but it was at Lode Heath where my ability was enhanced. It was during a careers meeting with Mr Davies, Lode Heath's Career Leader, that it was suggested I apply to Solihull School, and I am grateful for the encouragement I was given because I have been able to take my painting to a different level at Solihull School."

Pastoral support

She says she was given great advice at Lode Heath and whenever she felt under pressure she was helped by the pastoral team. "I am grateful they were always there for me. Many people at Lode Heath helped me to achieve my GCSE grades. They gave me opportunities to do extra work, past papers to work through, and I had one to ones with teachers."

Extra activities

Freya followed her older brother, Fynn to Lode Heath. She says: "He did very well at the school and carried his studies on to Solihull Sixth Form where he studied Music, Economics, and Maths." When Freya started in Year 7 at Lode Heath, she remembers that she settled in quickly. "Lode Heath offers students many activities alongside their studies, such as sport, drama, and music. I was a student ambassador in Year 7 and a prefect in Year 10.

When I applied to be a Senior Student, I had always aspired to be Head Girl, but I never thought I would be selected. I wrote a letter in support of my application and had an interview, and I was delighted to be chosen."

Leadership skills

Although she was never good at public speaking, becoming Head Girl and giving talks to parents built up Freya's confidence. Being in charge of the prefects and running the Senior Students Team has also helped her develop leadership skills, she says.

Challenging work

"The art department put me in the position to excel. To begin with the lessons helped you to develop your skills, but when you take it for GCSE you have more freedom with the subject. As soon as I realised that I wanted to go to Solihull School, the staff challenged me more to help me get the grades," Freya says.

Further study

"When I got my results and realised that I had got in, I was amazed, but very happy. I am now studying for A Levels in Art, Music, and English. I am planning to go to University to study Law, but I will carry on painting for pleasure. I am grateful to have been able to go to Solihull School and for all the support I had from Lode Heath to help me get there," Freya says.

Good school

Freya's Mum, Jacqueline, says: "We are pleased with the school and how they have helped Freya achieve so much. Fynn also did well there and came out with good grades, and Francesca has enjoyed her time there. We were disappointed that the catchment areas changed so that Fleur wasn't able to go there as well."

THE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES OFFERED AT LODE HEATH ENRICH THE LIVES OF STUDENTS AND COMPLEMENT THEIR ACADEMIC STUDIES.

ENRICHMENT: LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Exploring interests developing new skills

We believe in fostering holistic development beyond the classroom. Our extra-curricular clubs offer students opportunities to explore their interests, develop new skills, and build lasting friendships. Currently, our clubs include:

- ★ Sports: run by the PE department, offering a range of activities from football to netball, cricket to athletics.
- ★ STEM Club: engaging students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- ★ Performing Arts: drama and dance clubs provide platforms for creative expression.
- ★ Visual Arts: art club encourages students to unleash their creativity through various mediums.
- ★ And many more: from film club to language societies, there's something for everyone to get involved in.

Trips and visits

We believe in enriching education through experiential learning, both locally and globally. Some of our trips include:

- ★ Departmental Excursions: tailored trips by subject departments such as Languages, History, Geography, and English, enhancing curriculum learning.
- ★ Cultural Visits: explore historical sites, theatres, and iconic landmarks, fostering a deeper understanding of the world.

- ★ UK Adventures: from the Eden Project to the South Coast of the UK, broaden your horizons with trips within the country.
- ★ Sports Tours: football, netball, and skiing enthusiasts can enjoy sports tours to Spain, Portugal, France, Andorra, and Austria.
- ★ Geography and History Tours: delve into the past and explore the world with tours to Italy, Sicily, USA, Costa Rica, Belgium, and Germany.
- ★ Language Immersion: immerse yourself in French culture with language tours to France, enhancing linguistic skills and cultural understanding.

Events

We celebrate achievements and milestones through a variety of events, creating memorable experiences for our students and their families. Our events include:

- ★ Rewards Assemblies: recognising and celebrating the achievements of our students, fostering a culture of excellence.
- ★ Zero Hero Events: honouring our best students with special ceremonies to commemorate their hard work and excellent conduct, behaviour and attitude to learning.
- ★ Presentation Evenings: providing opportunities for parents to engage with their child's education and celebrate their academic and character achievements and progress.
- ★ Year 11 Prom and Leavers' Events: marking the end of an era, our prom and leavers' events commemorate the journey of our students at Lode Heath School, creating cherished memories to last a lifetime.

CLAIRE AND DAN LIVE IN SOLIHULL WITH THEIR DAUGHTERS, ISABEL, AGED 16, AND JESSICA, AGED 14.

Isabel can look back on wonderful experiences and happy memories during her time at Lode Heath School

Taste for travel

Isabel will never forget the amazing experiences she had in Costa Rica on a school trip when she was in Year 10 at Lode Heath School. She says: "To be in a swimming pool in the middle of a rain forest in Central America was breathtaking. I have always wanted to travel and to see the authentic side of places and going to Costa Rica has made me want to travel even more now."

Gaining understanding

She was fascinated when they met people from a local tribe and she saw how differently they lived in Costa Rica. "They made their clothes from the trees in the forest by sewing pieces of bark together to make a fabric. We went to water parks and hot springs and saw some amazing scenery there. I was with people I had known for the last four years but afterwards I found I could understand them on a deeper level because of going to Costa Rica with them," Isabel says.

New people

During the trip, Isabel enjoyed getting to know some of the Year 11 students who had gone to Costa Rica as well. "It was lovely to make friends with people from a different year group and to stay friends with them afterwards," she says.

Experiencing subjects

When Isabel started in Year 7 at Lode Heath, she remembers she liked being there straight away. "I had been to open days at two schools, but I preferred Lode Heath to the other one I went to visit. It was smaller and seemed more friendly. We sat together in the classroom and got to know the form teacher. I liked the creative subjects we did on a rotation basis in the first few years, such as Catering, Dance, Music, and Drama. It was good to be able to try different subjects and I enjoyed Catering."

Helping at school

It was while she was on the school trip to Costa Rica that Isabel was given the idea to apply to be a Senior Student in Year 11. "The Head of Pastoral Care was on the trip and talked to us about being a Senior Student and encouraged us to apply. Being a Senior Student during Year 11 was good experience and has given me a fresh perspective on things. I have enjoyed participating in student conferences and helping out at events."

Making friends

Isabel is now waiting for her GCSE results and is planning to go to Solihull Sixth Form College to study Health and Social Care, Psychology and Sociology. She says: "It was strange to be leaving Lode Heath at the end of Year 11, but I have enjoyed my time there and I have made some good friends at the school that I will keep in touch with. My sister, Jessica, is now doing well in Year 10 at Lode Heath and she has also made lots of friends there."

Parental viewpoint

Isabel's Mum, Claire, says: "We are pleased that going to Lode Heath has given Isabel lots of opportunities and some great experiences. Being a Senior Student and doing activities with students from other schools has definitely increased her confidence. We also think the pastoral side at Lode Heath has been good. We have encouraged Isabel to throw herself into everything while she has been there because we consider her education to be very important. We believe parents have to have the same commitment as the staff and we have always found that we have been able to work well with the teachers at Lode Heath School."

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND STUDENT COUNCIL

Student leadership

Student Councillors lead on our charity initiatives, fundraisers and other projects to help enhance school life for the student body. We utilise our councillors for student voice activities and encourage them to present to their peers via assemblies, both in person and online.

Assisting vulnerable students

Our senior students from Year 11, and student ambassadors in Year 10, work to support our school events, including open evenings, transitions days, parent events and sporting activities. They also lead on the running of some lunchtime clubs for our more vulnerable students, and students who struggle in our larger social areas during break times.

Local community

They also support with events in the local community, including supporting primary school students from our feeder schools with reading and with their sports days.

We are working to develop more leadership roles, with new roles becoming available in Years 8-9, to encourage students to become more involved and engaged with wider school life.

Student Council

Our Student Council - led and supported by our Senior Students - plays an important part in our school. They represent the voice of our students, and their feedback is a key aspect of our school development.

The Student Council meet regularly throughout the year to discuss everything from our food offer, to building and resources and policies. They also represent our school at Arden Multi-Academy Trust student conferences, they deliver assemblies, they undertake interviews with staff, show prospective candidates around and much, much more.



STUDENTS HAVE A VOICE AND OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE LEADERSHIP AND VOLUNTEERING ROLES.



Aman has learnt to lead others and organise events in the friendly surroundings of Lode Heath School

Good opportunities

Aman is grateful for the chance he was given at Lode Heath School to become confident about speaking in public and to develop his leadership skills. "I learnt a lot after joining the Student Council in Year 9, and have now progressed to making solo speeches. I have built up my skills by helping to interview new staff, making speeches to audiences, participating in conferences, and organising charity initiatives."

Further study

Now Aman has finished Year 11 and taken GCSEs in History, IT, PE, and German, as well as English Language and Literature, Maths, and Science, he is planning to go to college. "I am going to do A levels in Business, IT and Sports, and after A Levels, I would like to go to University, or do a degree apprenticeship."

Enjoying learning

He looks back on five happy years at Lode Heath, where he says there is a friendly atmosphere and the students are treated well. "I have never had a boring moment at the school and I can look back on the lunchtime football games my year group would play and how it was highly competitive and fun, bringing the entire school year together. I would describe my time at Lode Heath as exciting, adventurous, entertaining, unifying, and hard-working."

Warm welcome

Aman's friends from primary school went to different secondary schools and he remembers feeling nervous on his first day. "I was glad my cousin started at the same time and we could go in together, but I soon began to feel at home. My Form Tutor was welcoming and made me feel comfortable straight away."

Charity match

He started organising charity initiatives in Year 9 by raising money for the Pakistan flood victims. "One of my ideas was a staff versus Year 11 football match. We sold tickets and about 500 people came to watch and we had cheerleaders and sold sweets and food at half-time."

TAZEEM AND MUHAMMAD LIVE IN SOLIHULL WITH THEIR SONS, AMAN, AGED 16, AND HARIS, AGED 10.



Supporting mental health

Aman helped to raise about £700 while he was in Year 11 for the mental health charity MIND, with a staff versus Year 11 football match, in which he scored a hat trick. "We also held a Grand Iftar (after-school feast) during Ramadan, when people were able to eat together after sunset as a school family," he says.

Head Boy interview

When Aman applied to be a Senior Student at the end of Year 10, students were asked in their application letters to say if they wanted to be considered for Head Boy. He says: "Three boys were interviewed by the Headteacher and Director of Pastoral Care. They asked me what I thought would make the school better and I gave them my ideas," Aman says.

Student conferences

"I suggested improving online safety for everyone who used school computers and increasing the school's presence on social media to boost its reputation, and I was delighted to be chosen as Head Boy. It has given me opportunities to build on my leadership skills and practice speaking in front of large audiences. I have also worked with students from other schools during Year 11 senior student conferences to develop presentations for our senior leadership team on ways of improving schools alongside students from Arden Multi Academy Trust."

Parent perspective

Tazeem says: "We have been very happy with Lode Heath and even though none of Haris's friends are going to the school, we are going to send him there too. At parents' evenings, I have been the proudest Mum when hearing how well Aman has done. We were delighted when he was nominated by the school for the Solihull Council's Young Carers awards. He has helped look after me and done household chores, without it affecting his schoolwork, punctuality, or attendance."

WE FIND EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO REWARD OUR STUDENTS, WHETHER IT BE FOR OUTSTANDING WORK IN A LESSON, AMAZING HOMEWORK, SHOWING KINDNESS OR A RANGE OF OTHER POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS.

REWARDS AND RECOGNITION

At Lode Heath School we truly value students 'getting it right'

Credits

We use 'credits' to reward students for getting it right, and we give out a lot!

Awards hour

At the end of each term, we have an awards hour, where we recognise students who are 'Zero Heroes', as they have no debits or detentions for the term. Each term Heads of Year have an awards assembly where we again recognise the students that have 'got it right'.

Awards evening

At the end of the academic year, we invite parents to celebrate with their children through our awards evening. We have a range of both academic and character awards, which again recognise students who have 'got it right'. This might be for an excellent year in a subject area, outstanding progress in a subject area or a student who 'lives out' our PRIDE values through their actions. Irrelevant of the award name, it shows that our students receive recognition for positive actions.

School Colours

We recognise the need to reward more of our students, particularly those who demonstrate excellent progress and achievement in their learning. We have introduced a 'Colours' system that aims to recognise individuals who have personally excelled. Subject teachers will nominate candidates who have performed particularly well to be rewarded with 'School Colours' at a prestigious special end of year awards assembly. These exclusive colour patches can then be proudly worn on blazers.

STARS and PRIDE awards

Alongside the colours system, we have launched our school motto 'Ad Astra'. In line with the ethos of the new Latin endorsement, which means 'To The Stars', we have introduced our 'Learning, Pride and Character' educational initiative.

Every Lode Heath student will display 'PRIDE'; Participate, Respect, Independence, Determination and Energy; by developing these positive attributes of their character. Whilst we understand that there are different levels of academic achievement, these awards search out those with real PRIDE at every level of attainment to receive our new STARS awards.

Presented at Bronze, Silver and Gold level, they recognise those who surpass challenging credit thresholds.



KELLY AND STEVEN LIVE IN SOLIHULL WITH THEIR CHILDREN, MELODY, AGED 16, JACK, AGED 14, AND BELLA, AGED 11.

Bella has made a flying start at Lode Heath School and enjoyed every minute of her time in Year 7

Good motivation

Kelly and Steven are thrilled with how well Bella is progressing at Lode Heath School and the awards she received at the end of her first year. Kelly says: "Bella is enthusiastic about all the different subjects and has been motivated to try hard. She was given a gold star for her attitude to learning and overall progress, and a Zero Hero badge because she has never received a debit."

Happy time

When it was time for Melody to start at secondary school, Kelly and Steven gave her the choice of two schools nearby and she chose Lode Heath. "We had visited Lode Heath and liked the atmosphere and the teachers. She had a good time at the school and is now waiting for her GCSE results and has provisional places at two colleges," Kelly says.

Friendly environment

Kelly and Steven also took Jack to see both schools when he was due to start secondary school, and he preferred Lode Heath. "Jack has also done well at Lode Heath and made good friends there. He has just finished Year 9, so he has been able to walk to school with Bella each day," Kelly says.

New friends

"We gave Bella the choice of both local secondary schools and she chose Lode Heath also. She never particularly enjoyed primary school, but she has absolutely loved Lode Heath. She started with a few friends from primary school, but now has a much bigger circle, with lovely friends she has met this year," she says.

Enjoying Art

Bella settled in at Lode Heath straight away and loved the school's Art facilities. "Art is her favourite hobby and she enjoys going to the after school Art Club. Bella likes nothing better than to be given an art project to work on at home," Kelly says.

Variety of subjects

Bella likes the way her class study different subjects, whereas at primary school it was just Science, Maths,

English, and Topics, Kelly says. "She gets on well with all the teachers and is above where she is expected to be in everything. She has now earned 1212 credits for her work. If you do something well, you are given a credit, but students can also be given a debit. When Bella was given a gold star for her learning, and a Zero Hero badge for never receiving a debit, she was very chuffed."

Working hard


Kelly and Steven have received so many postcards from the school praising Bella's work their fridge is covered with magnets attaching them. "After Bella took a Maths test and there were things she didn't know, she worked hard to learn them and she is now good at Maths as a result," Kelly says.

Student says

Bella says: "I like Lode Heath because it has expanded my knowledge past what I have already learnt in primary school, and you get to delve into a wide range of subjects. I am developing new skills through a variety of subjects, from cooking in my Catering lessons to keyboard skills in my Music lessons. I've been involved in extracurricular activities such as Art Club and football, and found new hobbies and passions. There is a library, which is well equipped, and I regularly borrow books from it."

Building resilience

"At Lode Heath everyone is friendly, which allows me to meet new people. Many school projects and activities involve working in groups and therefore I have created new friendships. Attending classes, completing homework, and managing my time, have helped me build a sense of responsibility, while some academic challenges have helped me build resilience," Bella says. "The teachers have been supportive and given me great guidance through my learning journey in Year 7."



STUDENTS CAN
BE ASSURED
OF RECEIVING A
WIDE RANGE OF
EXPERIENCES,
SUPPORT AND
GUIDANCE TO
HELP THEM MAKE
DECISIONS ABOUT
THEIR FUTURE.

PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE: CAREERS AND FURTHER EDUCATION ADVICE

The shared vision of the careers programme is that students leaving Lode Heath will have the skills, knowledge and dynamism to reach their full career potential, to meet the needs of employers and to contribute to the economic growth of the borough.

Career evenings and partner presentations

The Careers Leader hosts career evenings primarily for Year 9-11 students, and hosts careers appointments for parents and carers at parents evenings.

Provider presentations in school

- ★ Solihull College
- ★ Solihull 6th Form College
- ★ Stratford College
- ★ University College: Birmingham
- ★ South and City College
- ★ Arden 6th Form
- ★ Alderbrook 6th Form
- ★ St Peter's 6th Form
- ★ Tudor Grange 6th Form
- ★ Solihull School
- ★ The Apprenticeship Works
- ★ ASK Apprenticeships
- ★ Birmingham Electrical Training
- ★ Total Training
- ★ Heart of England Training

Option choices

Additional opportunities are provided for Year 9, where they can meet Solihull College, Solihull 6th Form and The Apprenticeship Works. All providers adapt their

presentations to suit the age of the audience they are presenting to.

Higher Education

Higher Education encounters are met through the use of events and talks. Recent talks have been from Newman University, Keeble College Oxford and University of Birmingham.

Campus visits

Year 9 students gain experience of the campus environment as part of the Aim Higher programme. Assemblies alone are no substitute for the campus experience.

Awe and Wonder lessons

Often referred to 'Awe and Wonder' lessons or learning variety lessons. Recent lessons have featured talks by Tony Elvin (Touchwood Shopping Centre), Gabriel Imevbore (Z Digital), Andy Cole (NEC Group). Alumni such as Oliver Savage (CodeMasters), West Midlands Police, JLR and Severn Trent apprentices have presented also. Recently we focused on senior female police officers, lawyers, language specialists, scientists and accountants.

Employer engagement activities

Recent activities include:

- ★ MedicMentors for GCSE triple science.
- ★ JLR working with GCSE Design and Technology students on their practical component.
- ★ GCSE food demonstrations from alumni working in Michelin star restaurants to enhance presentation of final dishes.



AD ASTRA: TO THE STARS!

STARS: working in partnership

There is strength in working together: Lode Heath students, parents, carers, and staff are **STARS**. We are:

- ★ Sincere
- ★ Thoughtful
- ★ Aspirational
- ★ Resilient
- ★ ...and exhibit exceptional **Solidarity**.



PRIDE

Whilst character development is the heart and soul of Lode Heath School, learning **PRIDE** is the brains. Our students demonstrate:

- ★ Participation
- ★ Respect
- ★ Independence
- ★ Determination
- ★ ...and put colossal **Energy** into learning.



Lode Heath School

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Reception opening hours:

Monday–Thursday: 08:15–16:15 - Friday: 08:15–15:45

Key Contacts

Laura Suddon – Associate Headteacher
Mr G Bate – Chair of Governors (contact via Lode Heath School)
Amer Mohammed – SENDCO

Key staff can be contacted via the school office. Please use the details above to contact our reception team who will direct your query to the correct member of staff. The above key staff can be contacted via the reception team.

You can also follow us on:



★ **SINCERE** ★ **THOUGHTFUL** ★ **ASPIRATIONAL** ★ **RESILIENT** ★ **SOLIDARITY** ★