


achieve...

Dream... believe... achieve...

Grace Academy
Specialist Business and Enterprise Academy





You can do it. That is what we teach **all** of our students at the Grace Academy **Post 16 centre**.

GRACE Centre

Our role is to encourage our students and help them believe that they can achieve their ambitions for a positive future. We want each and every student to reach their potential with a mixture of hard work, exceptional teaching and pastoral care and total commitment from everyone involved.

Each student is made up of many people – an academic achiever, a budding entrepreneur, a sports star, and a performing artist. At Grace Academy, we believe in developing every aspect of their character to encourage them to follow their interests and reach their goals. Our mission is to develop our students into individuals who will have a positive impact on their communities.

Increasing numbers of our main academy students stay on into Years 12 and 13, where they are joined by new colleagues from the local area and further afield. They are attracted by our committed team of teaching staff.

The success and wellbeing of our students is at the heart of everything that we do. Effective pastoral leadership in each of our academies ensures that our Post 16 students are well looked after.

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Our vision is to develop well-educated, considerate and caring citizens with a strong sense of values who will succeed in, and contribute to, modern society

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achieving the best you
can with your abilities
and gifts

Excellence

At **Grace Academy**, we support all our students as they work to make the most of **their** abilities and gifts. Our job is to get to the **heart** of their talents and **encourage** them to flourish.





Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart

WILLIAM TYNDALE

We ask our students to give us their total commitment in return for our total support.

We are constantly developing our range of subjects and qualifications on offer in response to the interests of our students. The wide selection of options includes A-levels and some vocational qualifications.

If they are interested in a subject that is not available at Grace Academy, we can work with other agencies, schools and universities to find a solution.

The Grace Academy values and the lessons we teach are brought to life through local, national and international visits. As well as presenting a unique opportunity to see somewhere very different, trips to Zambia have had a big effect on students, changing the way they see the world and their own lives. We've found that students don't only develop life skills such as team building, but the trip also brings out Christian values such as compassion and a desire to give to, and help, others. It is hoped that future trips to Mexico and other countries will have the same impact.

At Grace Academy, we have high expectations of work, conduct, behaviour and achievement. In return for meeting these expectations, we celebrate the success and hard work of each student at 'The Graces' – our version of The Oscars – an event where families and friends are invited to celebrate all of our achievements.

A Christian ethos, summarised by our five **values**, is at the centre of everything we do at Grace Academy. One of these values is integrity which we see as meaning a **strength of character** and always being completely honest, even in difficult situations. We expect teachers to be **role models** for our students in this respect.

There are many opportunities, both inside and outside of the classroom, to develop these and other life skills that will set our students apart in today's competitive business world.

For example, our students are given the opportunity to volunteer with local charities and community projects. As well as learning new skills and being able to help others, all those who take part are given references for their records of achievement.

There are extra-curricular activities to interest everyone, including sports, performing arts, interest-based clubs and subject groups. We believe so strongly in the value a student can get from taking part that we expect all our students to attend at least one club or activity and one sport or health-related club each week. Students could learn a new skill like cooking or a language, or acquire a qualification that will impress future employers such as Microsoft Office or First Aid. They might choose to take part in one of the popular shows we put on each year, join a football, rugby or athletics team or work towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

And, for those who enjoy socialising, our Post 16 centre is a vibrant community and students arrange a lively social calendar including parties, charity events and fundraisers.

InteGrity

Integrity is about not lying,
telling the truth and being
honest with everyone

AS DEFINED BY A STUDENT
FROM DARLASTON



RESPECT

We are **a family** at Grace Academy.

We all encourage each other. Our vertical tutor groups mean that Year 12 and 13 students have chance to acquire **leaderships skills** while passing down useful advice to their younger colleagues. Students from across the academy get the chance to learn to communicate and **work together** as part of a team.

Giving our students a voice is one of our core beliefs. Students have plenty of opportunities to express their opinions including our Academy Council and Student Leadership team. Those who take part can make a real positive impact for change across the whole academy. Experience of working in a team can also be gained by helping to organise one of our many social, charity or sporting events.

The parents of our students are a part of our family and, for students to reach their potential, they need support from home. Grace Academy works in partnership with parents and our doors are always open for them to come and discuss any areas of concern. Parents' evenings and consultation evenings keep everyone up to date with the students' progress.

Grace Academy students have their own identity of which we can all be very proud. This is symbolised by the smart business dress worn by Years 12 and 13 and the way we all treat each other. Certain behaviours, tied in with our values, are expected of students throughout the academy, including respect for staff and each other, hard work and punctuality.

We have a zero tolerance policy towards bullying as we believe all our students have the right to study and learn in a safe and supportive environment.



Let everyone live by the golden rule of doing to others as we would have them do to us

WILLIAM WILBERFORCE.



Partnerships with businesses and employers enhance the curriculum and the inclusion of well-judged vocational provision meets students' needs and interests

Potential

Our mantra of 'you can do it' is geared towards helping each student to **achieve** his or her **potential**.

Our Grace Ambassador, Lord Edmiston, is a real life role model. As well as being Chairman of the IM Group, he is the sponsor of Grace Academy and has an inspiring history in the automobile industry which includes many successes – and some failures – that we can all learn from.

Whether students are looking towards university or employment, we offer a programme of support to prepare them for their future.

We have a clear focus on Business and Enterprise and hold many events throughout the academic year to help students learn business skills and start to understand the business world. We have developed relationships with a number of local, national and international businesses and our partners regularly come into the academy to speak to students or arrange visits

for a taste of life in the workplace. We also have links with local universities. Students are invited to take part in programmes which include seminars on campus, a mentoring scheme, masterclasses to learn more about Higher Education or a summer courses to get an insight into university life.

Their dedicated personal tutor will help students through the process of applying for university and we can help them decide which university would suit them best. We also have a Connexions team and our well-stocked careers library can help everyone make an informed decision about their future.

Whichever path our students choose, studying at Grace Academy can provide the best platform to step into the next stage of their lives. And, whatever it is our students dream of doing, we always want them to remember: 'you can do it'!

You can do it. We would love to show you how we can help you.

Dream... believe...

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