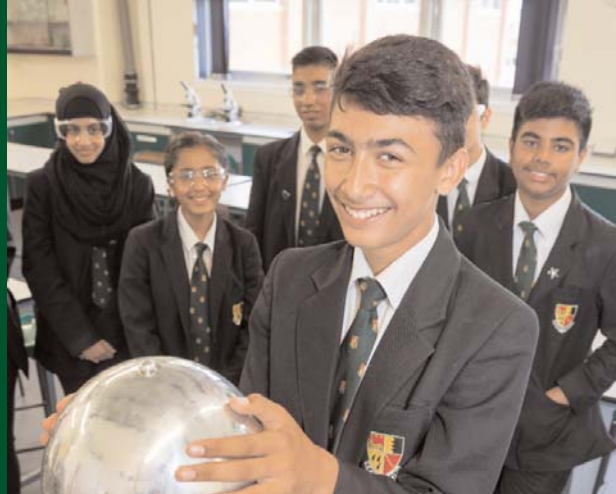


PROSPECTUS



Yardleys School

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE



a warm welcome

...this outstanding school exemplifies the very best in educational provision, showing that young people can achieve exceptionally well...

OFSTED

02





It gives me immense pleasure and privilege to introduce myself as the headteacher of Yardleys School, a place that is extremely close to my heart.

Having dedicated over 25 years of my teaching career to Yardleys, I am absolutely delighted and honoured to now be leading the school.

Yardleys is a 'unique and special place' with an inclusive and cohesive community. The trustees, the leadership team and staff will continue to work tirelessly to meet our school aims, provide a broad and balanced curriculum with committed teaching and support staff who put the students' interest at the heart of everything we do.

Our school aims are very simple, but I believe very effective. We will strive for academic excellence by gaining great examination outcomes, our students will have opportunities to compete with the very best for jobs, apprenticeships and further study. We will educate the 'whole child', because we believe that learning goes beyond the classroom and we value the variety of extra-curricular activities, visits and experiences we offer to support the development of our young people.

Finally, we will work collaboratively by forging and maintaining good relationships with parents and carers and other educational establishments.



We are fortunate to have a strong teaching and support staff body at Yardleys. I am committed to ensuring we do everything we can to maintain Yardleys as the first choice for parents and carers. As a parent of three boys, I know how important education is to their future lives.

At Yardleys, we have established a safe, calm and productive learning environment for our students. Ofsted's visit in March 2023 was a ringing endorsement of the strong leadership, quality of education, pastoral and curriculum provision in our school.

Working together as a team, trustees, staff, students, parents and carers, we will continue to build on this success.

GURPREET BASRA
Headteacher



INTRODUCTION

Yardleys is a co-educational, multicultural comprehensive school in the Tyseley district of the City. The school takes its name from the amalgamation of Yardley Grammar School and the Leys Secondary School in 1975.

The history of our school can be traced back to 1260 making it one of the oldest schools in the City. In 2013 the school became an academy trust but one that remains a single school which values its independence and long standing culture and ethos.

values & excellence

YARDLEYS SCHOOL VALUES

Our school motto is 'Keep Troth' which means staying true to your core values and principles. We believe that the following values or qualities apply to both adults and children. They are the foundation to both a high quality academic education as well as pupils' character development and their preparation for life after school. Everything that we do at Yardleys is based on these values. These, together with our three school rules of being 'Ready, Respectful and Responsible', are encapsulated in our Yardleys School Charter.



Curiosity



Empathy



Integrity



Positivity



Reflection



Resilience

Yardleys School Charter



Staff & Students believe everyone at Yardleys School should:



Be Ready

- show **positivity** and enthusiasm;
- be motivated & have high expectations of ourselves & others;
- be **curious** and ready to learn new things;
- be fully prepared for all activities with everything you need;
- communicate with others regularly and effectively;
- have excellent attendance and punctuality;
- be well presented and smartly dressed;
- show **resilience** when faced with challenges



Be Respectful

- recognise that we are all equal individuals;
- have regard for each other's personal space and privacy;
- take care of the building, equipment and the environment;
- be polite, considerate and kind to everyone;
- communicate in a calm and polite manner;
- actively listen to others;
- appreciate others' beliefs, opinions & cultures;
- show **empathy** and maturity when dealing with sensitive issues



Be Responsible

- be safe and look after each other;
- complete work on time and to a high standard;
- behave well with **integrity**: even when no-one is watching;
- be a positive role model and representative of the school;
- recognise that we are responsible for our own actions;
- be fair in your treatment of others;
- give our full effort to everything you do;
- **reflect** on all that we do and learn from our mistakes

Leading to Academic Excellence and Personal Development

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE



Positivity



Integrity



Curiosity



Resilience



Empathy



Reflection

AIMS

We are a school that aims:

- To achieve academic excellence
- To educate the 'whole child' so they are ready for life
- To work collaboratively and ethically to provide education of the highest standard

...good-humoured, open and friendly dialogue between teachers and students reinforces a delightful working ethos in lessons. Students are keen and proud to show staff and visitors what they have learned. Students concentrate hard in lessons and show commitment to learning in class...

OFSTED



We have very high expectations of ourselves as well as our pupils and are committed to:

HIGH STANDARDS:

We insist on high standards from our pupils at all times (with regard to behaviour, attendance, punctuality, organisation, presentation, effort and achievement).

TARGET SETTING:

Each pupil is given a challenging target in every subject to ensure that they reach their potential. These targets are based on pupils' prior attainment at primary school and always match, if not exceed national minimum expectations.

high expectations

PRACTICE TESTS & MOCK EXAMS:

It is vital that pupils are able to demonstrate their learning in formal examinations. Therefore we have set up a system of regular tests and practice exams which inform pupils, parents and teachers of their strengths and weaknesses in each subject. This is then used to direct further improvement, extra revision or resources.

HOMEWORK:

Homework is set and completed online weekly and focuses on the learning of core knowledge and practicing of essential maths skills. Support is available after school every day and parents are updated weekly on their child's performance.





...students concentrate hard in lessons and show commitment to learning in class. They take up most of the many and varied additional learning opportunities provided by the school in high numbers...

...there are many examples of excellent teaching practice with high levels of challenge...

OFSTED

OUTSTANDING & INSPIRING TEACHING

We aim not only to instruct pupils but to inspire in them the love of a subject as well as learning in general. OFSTED judged Yardleys to have outstanding teaching stating that "there are many examples of excellent practice with high levels of challenge."

Continuing to improve standards of teaching remains the key priority of the school with all teaching staff attending weekly training sessions to improve their practice.

RAISING ASPIRATIONS

We seek to raise pupils' aspirations by celebrating success and giving guidance about progression routes into higher education and employment opportunities.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Through Religious Education we aim to prepare pupils for life in a multicultural society, recognising and building upon the strengths of cultural diversity. We seek to promote equality and tolerance by increasing the pupils' knowledge and understanding of the world's major religions.

In accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act parents have the right to apply to the Headteacher of the School to have their child excused for the whole or part of Religious Education. A similar right exists with regard to School assemblies and acts of collective worship.

academic excellence

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

At Key Stage 3 (Years 7-8) all pupils follow the National Curriculum. The core subjects are: English, mathematics and science; they also study art, history, geography, RE, modern foreign languages, ICT/computing, design technology, music, drama and PE. In Years 7-8 pupils are taught in ability groups for English, mathematics and science.

At Key Stage 4 (Years 9-11) all pupils study the core subjects of English (Language and Literature), mathematics, science (Biology, Physics, Chemistry) as well as non-examined courses in PE, Personal Development and General Studies in addition to three optional examined courses.

We have a wide range of GCSE and vocational courses covering the humanities, creative and performing arts, science and technology on offer to suit the needs of all our pupils. All course studied in KS4 lead to GCSE or other equivalent, accredited qualifications. The English Baccalaureate is available to all pupils.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE



ACADEMIC SUPPORT & INTERVENTION

Pupils are well supported throughout both key stages to ensure they achieve their best. There is a particular focus on the core skills of literacy and numeracy with an extensive programme of 'catch up' sessions for those who have fallen behind.

There are homework clubs, online exercises, revision programmes and booster sessions in place to help pupils achieve their potential.





opportunities...

ENRICHMENT & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We believe that true education goes beyond the classroom and that we develop pupils personally, socially, culturally as well as intellectually. Enrichment & extra-curricular activities therefore play a very important part in the life of the school and in the development of our pupils. We offer all pupils a wide range of opportunities and activities particularly through Wednesday afternoon enrichment sessions.

...pupils are cheerful, considerate, very hard working and thoroughly enjoy school. They throw themselves into learning in and outside of the classroom because teachers have captured their interest and enjoyment of study...

OFSTED

Many teachers also enhance their subjects and lessons with trips to local, national and international places of interest.

- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- a daily assembly or tutor period with a focus on spiritual, moral, social, and cultural issues
- a wide-ranging programme covering health, welfare issues including e-safety
- visiting speakers including politicians, business leaders, scientists and environmentalists
- university 'taster' lectures
- competitive inter-house challenges
- fund raising for charities
- a range of sports including competitions inside and outside of school
- additional 'booster' classes and clubs in a wide range of subjects
- drama, dance and music productions
- art exhibitions and other displays
- environmental and community work including gardening
- careers education and guidance
- international visits





Leadership & responsibility...

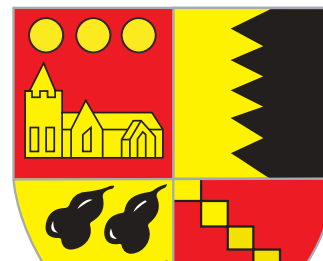
All pupils are given the opportunity to express their views on school issues and improvements through pupil council meetings...

We also encourage pupils to take up positions of responsibility as part of their wider education including:

- Membership of form, house and school councils
- Form captains
- Reading coaches
- Representatives of the School on Interfaith issues
- Peer mentors
- Sports captains & leaders
- Library monitors
- Receptionists and guides

...the school has a number of different student groups and individuals that take on responsibility for a range of projects. Students are generous in their financial support of a wide range of charities...

OFSTED





LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS

School lunch is served in the school canteen and Cooper Hall offering a full range of healthy foods and where halal food is always available.

Pupils may bring a packed lunch but only under exceptional circumstances are they allowed to go home for lunch.

Pupils are not allowed out of school to buy lunch.

excellent care & support

...care, guidance and support for all students is outstanding. One student encapsulated the commitment of every member of staff when she said “I’d say they are really committed to the job. They do more than the job really is...not just for the money...they care about what students get out of it”

OFSTED





PASTORAL CARE

Our pastoral system, which is based on year groups, is a real strength of the school.

All pupils are allocated to a tutor group on entry to school and most will stay in this group, with their form tutors, for 5 years.

We place pupils into groups with great care.

We ensure that we address any issues of concern to pupils at the time of transfer and have created a secure environment with zero tolerance of bullying in and out of school and including online.

STUDENT SUPPORT

We work with several outside agencies who provide a comprehensive range of services to ensure that children are supported and have someone to listen to their concerns.

Support includes:

- Counsellors who offer one to one work and small groups focus on pupil wellbeing. (Pupils may be referred to an external expert or agency if they require additional specialist support).
- Careers staff advise on work experience, college courses and vocational choices. Support is available through a structured careers programme from Year 7 onwards.
- A fully qualified and experienced lead first aider and a team of first-aiders are on hand to deal with any medical needs pupils may have.
- A team of specialist staff who support pupils with special educational needs or disabilities.
- A range of groups which focus on literacy, numeracy, reading and handwriting.
- Staff who work with pupils whose first language is not English.
- Additional activities to support or extend pupils who are identified as being exceptionally able.



high standards...

BEHAVIOUR & DISCIPLINE

Good behaviour is essential in a school community, our staff are here to teach and our pupils are here to learn. With this in mind we have a robust behaviour policy which includes strategies to support pupils who need additional help.

There are three school rules which apply to all pupils and staff:



We focus on pupil achievement and success.

We believe that pupils learn through praise, reward and we celebrate success in a variety of ways; parents can expect to receive notification of improvements, attainment and effort.

Occasionally we have to resort to sanctions to address persistent poor behaviour or disruption to lessons. We use daily/weekly reports and if necessary, withdrawal of privileges, detentions and an isolation room. Serious misconduct or repeated misdemeanours which affect the work or well-being of other children or staff will result in a meeting with parents and may lead to an exclusion. We keep parents informed of any problems.

A pupil's school days should be happy and fulfilling and at Yardleys we know that we are most successful when home, school and pupils work together.



ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

We insist on good attendance and punctuality and as parents/carers you have a legal duty to ensure that your child receives an education. Our aim is that every pupil should achieve at least 96% attendance.

A pupil with full attendance makes better progress in many different ways; learning will improve, targets will be reached and relationships will flourish.

Furthermore, good habits formed at school prepare pupils for the world of work where employers value reliable employees.

Morning school begins at 8.40 am with the first lesson at 8.45 am. Registers are taken at the beginning of each period and there is a full roll call during form period at 2.40 pm.

If your child is absent, we ask that you contact the school as soon as possible.

Your child's Head of Year or our attendance officer will contact you on the first day of absence if we have no information.

Absences are either authorised or unauthorised and only the school can authorise an absence. We will refer your child to The Integrated Family Services Team if there is persistent unauthorised absence or lateness. If after a period of working with you, your child's attendance does not improve, legal action can be taken against you, the parents, in a Magistrates Court; an application to the Family Proceedings Court for an Educational Supervision Order or a request to Social Services to investigate.

In order to be fair and equitable to all pupils and families holidays during term time are not permitted. Please note that if you take your child on holiday, they may lose their place in the school or parents/carers may be subject to legal action.

The Heads of Year are available to discuss issues of concern with parents and pupils.



All pupils need to bring the supplied school bag and their own basic equipment and stationery including a pen, pencil, ruler and calculator.

Pupils are responsible for safeguarding and maintaining school books and equipment both at home and in school.

Pupil lockers are available in the school.

uniform & equipment

UNIFORM

Girls

Yardleys Black Blazer
White Blouse
Plain Black Skirt or
Plain Black Trousers
School Tie
Plain Black, flat shoes
Black jumper with
school badge (optional)

Boys

Yardleys Black Blazer
White Shirt
Plain Black Trousers
School Tie
Plain Black, flat shoes
Black jumper with
school badge (optional)

PE & SPORTS KIT

Girls

White polo shirt with
school logo
Black tracksuit bottoms with
white stripe down leg
Black micro fleece long-
sleeved top with school logo
White socks
Trainers

Boys

Green/black reversible
football/rugby top with
school logo
Black tracksuit bottoms with
white stripe down leg
Green & yellow striped
socks
Trainers





health & safety...
...procedures to ensure the safety of students
are robust and rigorously applied... OFSTED

CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT

The school takes its responsibilities in regard to Child Protection very seriously and will always refer any issues of concern to the appropriate authorities, which include the police and Social Services departments. It is our legal duty to do so and we follow procedures laid down for all schools by local and national government. It may be that we have to consult those agencies even before we contact you. Areas of concern include physical abuse including chastisement of a child by physical means, sexual or emotional abuse and neglect.

Furthermore, if staff become aware of, or have a need to become involved in, situations where a pupil may be at risk of hurting themselves or others, or if the behaviour of a pupil seriously disrupts the good order in the school or causes damage to property, staff may need to take steps to intervene physically. In such circumstances staff will follow the school's policy for dealing with such situations.

Both the Child Protection Policy and the Restraint Policy are available from the school.

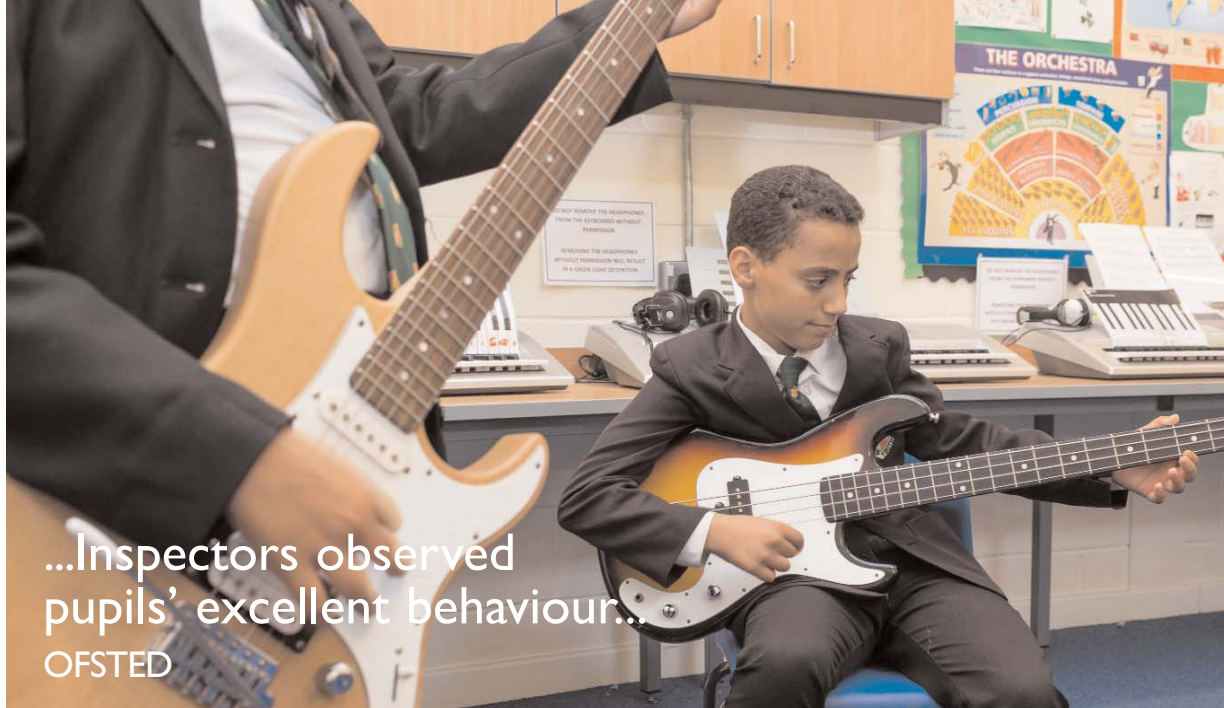
HEALTH & SAFETY

We place particular emphasis on health and safety in and out of school. We plan trips and activities outside of school carefully and monitor procedures such as fire drills regularly. We supervise the arrival and departure of pupils through the school gates.

Yardleys was the first secondary school in the city to win the Healthy Schools Award. This award is assessed on healthy eating, personal, social and emotional wellbeing, sporting activities and citizenship. We also offer a comprehensive programme of sex education for all pupils. We are always sensitive to the religious and cultural needs of our pupils and their parents.

DATA PROTECTION

The school will collect and store pupils' and parents' personal data and information in accordance with the GDPR of 2018. The school will share relevant information with other professionals where appropriate and in accordance with Codes of Practice.



...Inspectors observed
pupils' excellent behaviour...
OFSTED

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Yardleys is designated as a community school for the 11-16 age range and 180 pupils are admitted annually in September.

The school is heavily oversubscribed and there is a waiting list for each year. Most recently there were over 1400 applications for Year 7 places and the distance factor was approximately 0.8 kilometres.

...Pupils know that they are
cared for... OFSTED

welcoming

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

When there are more applications than places available at the school the following criteria will be used to determine which children will be allocated places:

1. Looked After Children (In Public Care)
2. Children with a brother or sister at the school who will still be in attendance at the time the sibling enters the school
3. Children who live nearest the school

TRANSFER FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL

We place great emphasis on primary school liaison and our induction process includes visits by staff and students to our feeder schools with return visits to school.

We run a very successful Open Evening which is followed up with an Induction Day and Induction Evening for pupils who have gained a place at Yardleys and their parents.





...Conversations between staff and pupils are warm and frequent...OFSTED

GOVERNING BODY

The Chair of the Governing Body is Ms **Jean Helme**; any parent interested in joining the Governors, or indeed any parent with any concerns, is welcome to contact her through the school.

VISITING THE SCHOOL

We welcome parents and carers to visit the school either during formal open days or by appointment.



COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

We communicate regularly with parents including via: newsletters; website; text messages on urgent matters to all parents; letters and updates from the headteacher; academic reports, progress review days and parents' evenings; meetings, by appointment, with teachers, form tutors, heads of year and senior staff.

Any parent with a complaint or enquiry is welcome to contact the Headteacher.



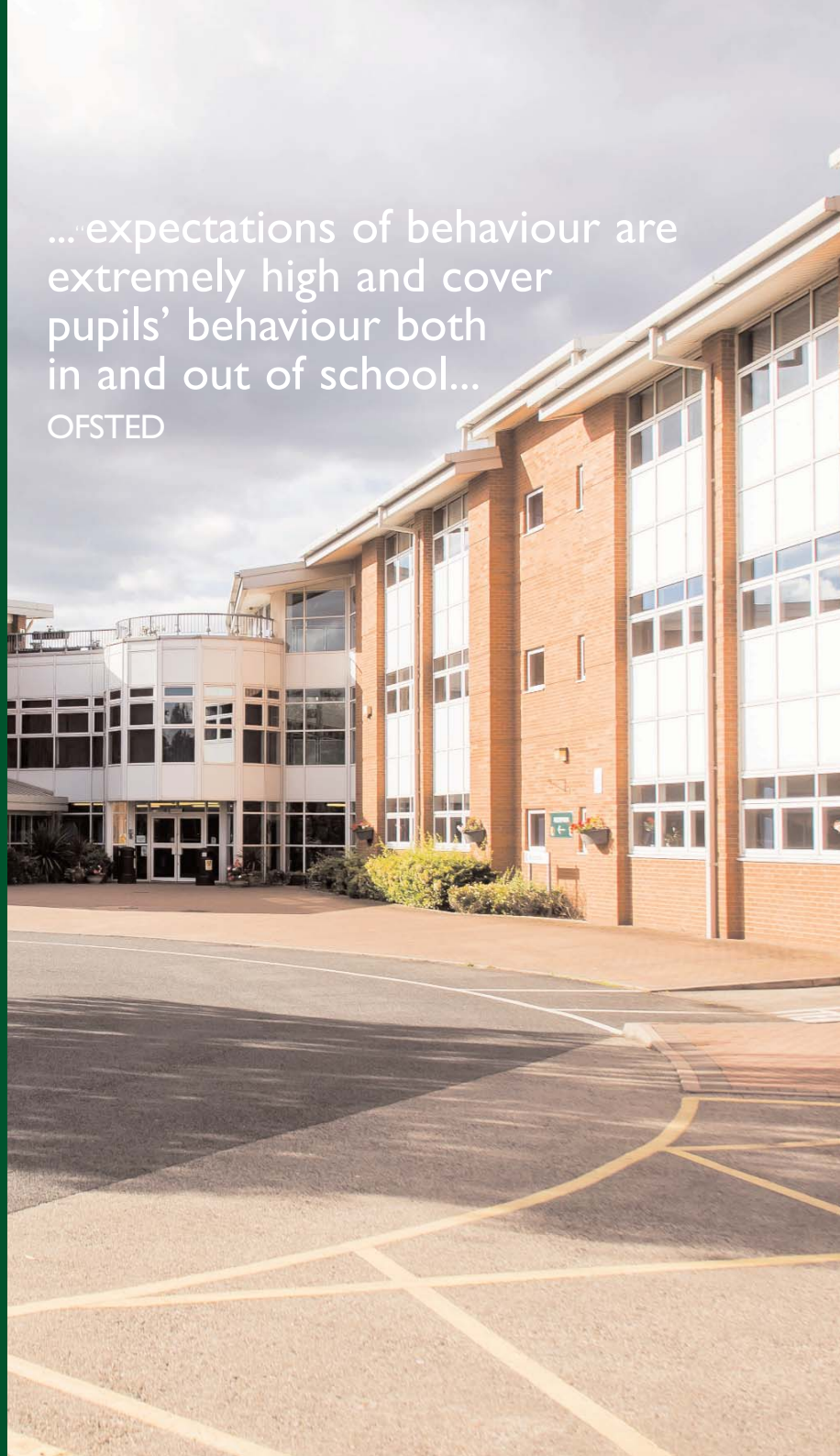
excellent facilities

...users cherish
the new building
which contains
wonderful
examples of how
to celebrate and
display students'
work in every
nook and cranny...

OFSTED

...expectations of behaviour are
extremely high and cover
pupils' behaviour both
in and out of school...

OFSTED



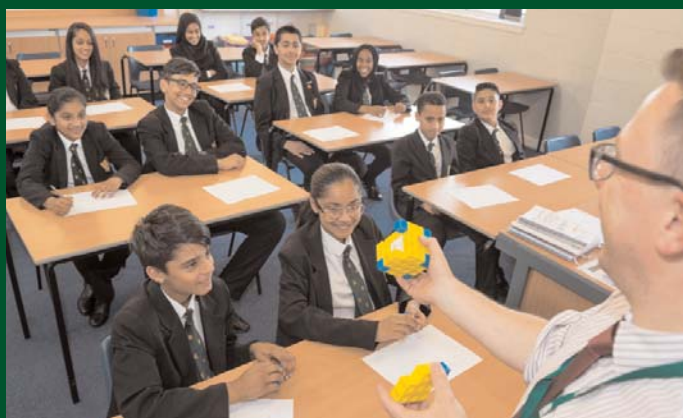


Yardleys School benefits from having a new modern building which is very well maintained with light and open classrooms. We are constantly developing and improving these facilities, most recently with the addition of several classrooms, toilets and a multi-purpose hall.

There are specialised areas for subjects such as ICT, technology, science, music and drama and an extensive library which is open from 8 a.m. until 4.30 p.m. every day.

The school has a large sports hall, separate gym, multi-use hall and playing field for a range of sports including football, tennis, cricket and basketball.





Yardleys School

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE

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INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE