Welcome to our school!

On behalf of our school community we would like to welcome you to Riverbank Academy and hope you will take the time to read our prospectus and find out about our exciting school.

Riverbank Academy is an outstanding school that is a wonderful place to learn and a great place to work.

Our Riverbank vision is for all students to make exceptional progress. To achieve this, we offer a highly differentiated and bespoke curriculum for each student. The curriculum models we use are engaging, challenging and highly differentiated.

Academy is a special school for 11-19 year olds, with a range of special educational needs, including Moderate Learning Difficulties, Severe Learning Difficulties, Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Speech and language Communication disorders. We are a warm and welcoming school, which places student well-being and safety at the top of our provision.

We are very proud of our staff, students and school community. Our staff are highly skilled, dedicated and provide a personalised approach to all students. We work in partnership with all parents, carers and outside agencies and welcome regular two-way communication and feedback.

Overall, we are a great Academy that has been on an exciting journey. More importantly, our students are given the very best of opportunities and make excellent progress.

Mr D Lisowski Head Teacher
“The school provides life-changing education for all pupils”

“Behaviour is outstanding. Pupils display excellent manners and show consideration of others. They grow from being part of a very caring community” OfSTED May 2017

In June 2015, Riverbank Academy transferred to our state of the art purpose built building. We are very proud of our new school and the facilities we can provide. Our classrooms are engaging learning environments, supporting student engagement.

Our students benefit from a modern, well-equipped sensory room. It has a bubble tube, projector, heated water bed, light stimulating objects, colour changing lights. Our sensory garden was completed in September 2015. It is a safe, stimulating, multi-sensory environment, rich in outdoor learning opportunities. We have a state of the art hydrotherapy pool which will be multi-sensory and interactive. This will support the student’s motor skills and physical development. We have subject specialist rooms to enhance the learning opportunities of our students. Our specialist rooms are equipped to a high standard and allow our students to engage in practical learning.

SIDNEY STRINGER MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

In January 2015 we became part of the Sidney Stringer Multi-Academy Trust. A group of Coventry schools working together to provide the best outcomes for all of our students. There are currently 5 schools in the trust; Sidney Stringer Academy, Ernesford Grange Community Academy, Radford Primary, Sidney Stringer Primary and Riverbank Academy.
Our curriculum and enrichment…

We do not have one curriculum or a “one size fits all” curriculum. We aim for 158 different curriculums – one for each student as they are all individual and with varying needs. Our curriculum regularly changes and adapts around our students interests and needs. We offer a thematic curriculum at KS3, a choice of lunch clubs for additional enrichment, residential trips, and options at KS4. We also offer personalised pathways at KS5 so that our students can continue to be successful when they leave school.

By the end of year 11 we aspire for all our students to achieve entry level or level 1 and 2 qualifications. We offer many accredited programmes and aim to find the right qualification for each student to help them achieve beyond their full potential. We treat every student as a unique individual which is why we offer a diverse, developing and innovative curriculum.

It is important to us that our students have purposeful, fun and exciting experiences. We aim for all our students to attend at least one residential trip, see a play, take part in sports competitions and much more.

At Riverbank Academy, we look to provide structure and support for all of our students throughout the day to help them to develop their social skills and attitudes towards others. During the lunch hour, all of our students will partake in one of 12 clubs that we have on offer. This 30 minute activity before they dine is offered through a range of experiences from Cartoon to Mine-craft club, Team games to Board Games and even includes our own Eco -gardening club based in our sensory garden to allow students to contribute positively to our environment. Our clubs form a valuable part of our enrichment at Riverbank Academy, widening participation and experiences.
Our Riverbank values...

We have three core values at Riverbank which represent the heart of our school. We are a caring, creative and motivated school. We are a caring community and work respectfully together. We offer a creative and engaging curriculum that encourages creative thinking and creative work. We are a motivated school determined to succeed in a highly productive and determined environment. Students are rewarded when they show these values around the school and we encourage all our staff to send postcards home to celebrate student achievement!
Our school day…

consists of six, forty five minute lessons. This enables the students to focus fully on their learning and provide them with a wide range of subjects and experiences each week. There is a one hour lunch break which includes extracurricular activities and two tutor periods which last fifteen minutes in the morning and ten minutes in the afternoon.

Parents and carers…

At Riverbank we value and welcome regular communication with parents and carers. We hold 3 parents evenings each year as well as the statutory annual review and provide monthly updates via our Riverbank newsletter.

We also encourage parents and carers to check our website as we provide regular updates and celebrate our student achievements using our @Riverbankac twitter feed.

We also offer “drop in” clinic sessions for occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and nutritional guidance.

More importantly we encourage regular and open communication between our staff and parents so that you are kept up to date on how your child is doing.

‘Friends of Riverbank’ was founded in 2017 and is represented by parents and teaching staff, new members are welcome to join at any time of the year. The parents are already starting to play an active role in supporting our school. They are beginning to organise events, during the year, to help the school continue to provide an enriched and inclusive experience for our children. We hold a fortnightly coffee morning for parents, in our ‘Little Riverbank Café’ which gives parents the chance to meet others and share their experiences.

Trips…

Our students at Riverbank Academy benefit from a range of trips and visits to both local and national places. These experiences help to further develop our students’ social and academic skills, whilst broadening their horizons. Our students visit the theatre, restaurants, sporting events and can participate in residential at Dol-y-moch and camping as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.
Our student council...

Riverbank Academy has re-launched its school council. The aim of members on the school council is to promote our core values: caring, motivation and creativity.

School council representatives work with our students, staff and parents. They take on leadership roles, respond to student issues and create student activities that encourage a spirit of success.

Students have to apply for the position of Head boy or Head girl. The two chosen candidates will play a key role, as representatives of Riverbank Academy, advocating standards of excellence expected of all students. Our vision for the school council is that a Head boy and girl will lead it.

Creativity...

Riverbank’s creative art provision is one that we are all very proud of. Due to the varying levels of need in the school, the arts provide opportunities for our students to develop self-esteem, resilience to failures and real life creative experiences. It also enables our students to develop fine and gross motor skills, communication, speech and language, confidence, social understanding and performance techniques.

All students that attend Riverbank Academy have access to a wide-ranging creative arts curriculum. Students will explore and develop a wide range of skills across the curriculum to suit their individual needs through a personal and creative pathways.
Creativity…

All KS3 students will have access to Art, Drama and Music lessons. Within KS4 and KS5 we offer a range of courses to suit and develop the student’s individual needs. Our students make above national average progress in KS3 and we have 100% pass rate in all Level 1 and GCSE courses.

As a whole school, we value the relationships we built with our parents and carers, and we chose to develop our relationships through creative parental events that are organised termly. We have events throughout the school day and evening that involve our parents and their child developing their own creative relationship, through seasonal based activities. We encourage our creative learning to then be developed at home through extended learning.

No matter what the need or ability of our student’s, their creative success will always be inclusively celebrated. Throughout the school year our students will experience and take part in performances, art exhibitions, and creative school trips to the Theatre and Art Gallery’s.

Creativity to Riverbank is based upon a way of living life that embraces innovation and makes unique connections between visual, physical and emotional outcomes. We have developed a comprehensive, research-based curriculum that structures exploration and discovery as a way of learning, enabling our students to develop confidence, creativity, and lifelong critical thinking skills.
Creativity…

explores the ability to problem-solve, innovate, and explore new and unfamiliar areas. Through our creative arts, our students can express their experiences that they cannot verbalise. When we value our students creativity, we help them feel valued as people, raising their self-esteem and helps boost self-confidence.
Pastoral care…

Our class sizes range from five to twelve students. Most of our classes have one teacher and two members of support staff. This means that we can provide the best level of care, education and guidance for all of our students.

Student progress, wellbeing and attendance is tracked and recorded regularly. When a student is identified as needing additional support we offer a variety of interventions which are often highly personalised and tailored to meet the individual’s needs.

“Pupils make exceptional progress, often from very low starting points. They achieve excellent results in a range of subjects and all are extremely well prepared for their next steps in education, employment or training.”

Ofsted May 2017
For more information...

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