



# Arrow Vale Community High School

## A Specialist Sports College



"We are a community in pursuit of excellence where everyone is valued."



Main School  
Prospectus

# Arrow Vale Community High School



**As Headteacher I am proud to present to you our new school prospectus, through which we provide you with all of the information you will require as a parent or carer.**

At Arrow Vale, we pride ourselves on our mission statement:

*“We are a community  
in pursuit of excellence  
where everyone is valued.”*



Therefore, we are a fully inclusive, mixed 13-18 comprehensive and we work hard to be a community in which learners are encouraged to develop respect both for themselves as individuals and for others, as well as for the studies and activities in which they are engaged.

Our status as a DCSF Sports College and our affiliation to the Specialist Schools Trust ensures that every subject is delivered and enhanced by using the latest technology and

that we offer all students appropriate courses on which they will succeed. It is our commitment to provide an excellent learning environment for our students and the wider community.

Our students tell us that Arrow Vale is a happy place to learn, which is important to us as we want them to be confident to use their talents and skills to achieve the potential that exists in all individuals. We want our students to experience an education which sets the highest standards and aspirations for all. Our ethos centres on the core values of academic success, personal responsibility and self-respect.

Achievement and standards across the school are continually improving. This is underpinned by the curriculum offered at Arrow Vale, which reflects the varied needs of our students. Our emphasis is on a broad and challenging curriculum, which provides opportunities for all to achieve. Our curriculum is delivered



# A Specialist Sports College

by a team of highly specialised and motivated staff who are supported by strong pastoral care through the Student / Support Team.

Similar high standards of effort and performance are developed in the musical life of the school, on the sports field, on stage (recent productions included *We Will Rock You*) and in the many other areas of endeavour such as the Duke of Edinburgh and Sports Leaders Awards. Our innovative approach has seen: our students create and make their own feature film, which was premiered at The Apollo Cinema, Redditch; the school gain a Leading Aspect Award for its staff development; and our curriculum and approach to learning leading to the school being designated as a 'Change School' which cements our creativity and progress in learning.

As you will see from our prospectus, Arrow Vale has a number of unique factors. It has, most importantly, a keen and dedicated work force and

many hardworking, talented and ambitious students from a variety of backgrounds.

However, this cannot demonstrate fully the variety of experiences which our entire learning community undertakes so we encourage visitors to come and see the vibrancy of daily life at Arrow Vale.

The correct choice of secondary school is perhaps the single most important decision which a parent is called upon to make and we are happy to support all parents and students in any way that we can.

*Mark Creasy*

Headteacher,  
Arrow Vale Community High School

One of the most improved  
Sports Colleges  
in the country.

Our specialism means that we are given funding to use sport as a vehicle for improvement within the school and our community. It also gives us an enhanced capacity to deliver high quality educational opportunities to all of our students, in all of their subjects.

It has allowed us to work with our partner schools to enhance sporting opportunities. It has also provided excellent opportunities for our students to work as Young Leaders.

We have excellent sports facilities including a fitness suite, gym, sports hall, dance studio, outdoor table tennis facilities, squash courts, astro turf and rugby field.





# Opportunity and progression

**Arrow Vale is extremely proud to be able to offer an imaginative curriculum that puts students at the heart of the process.**

The curriculum on offer for our students allows individual learning pathways. The benefit of this approach is that it will enhance every student's life chances by allowing them opportunities to study a more appropriate curriculum best suited to them.

Every student will undertake cross curricular learning experiences in Year 9. These are based on thematic approaches and are designed to support the development of the personal, learning and thinking skills that are essential to meet future employment demands. Traditionally, Key Stage 4 qualifications are studied over two years. Arrow Vale has now moved to a three year Key Stage 4 curriculum in Years 9, 10

and 11. The impact of this is that optional subjects will now be studied in one year, not two. This strategy will help students, parents and teachers to clearly measure progress each year. It will also enable students to target specific areas of interest and maximise their progression in these subjects.

Progression within the curriculum is very important in allowing each student to achieve. We have clear, established links between Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 courses enabling students to progress to Further or Higher education and be better equipped for the world of work. To support all students in enhancing their learning, skills and wider interests, Arrow Vale also offers an extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities.



# Creativity and challenge

**Effective and engaging learning is our priority at Arrow Vale.**

The world is constantly changing; and we want our students to leave school with the skills and confidence needed to be successful within this world. Therefore, learning focuses on personal, learning and thinking skills as well as subject content and students are encouraged to take an active part in a wide range of activities. Our award-winning staff learning programme means that classroom-based staff are able to plan lessons which motivate and interest students, whilst also meeting everyone's individual needs.

We encourage students to take an active role in leading developments in learning at Arrow Vale. Our Learning Forum is made up of a number of students, led by the Sixth Form Learning Ambassador. The panel discusses issues relating to learning, give feedback to staff and participate in staff training sessions. We are all proud to be learners at Arrow Vale.





# Support and encouragement

**Supporting students has been a very important part of the success of the school over recent years and we pride ourselves on our inclusive ethos.**

The Student Support Team works to ensure that every child is safe and secure in school and achieves their full potential, both academically and socially. The team includes three Heads of House, a full time student counsellor, two staff responsible for supporting young people who need structured support to keep their education on track, and a large team of experienced classroom assistants who work alongside teachers to give individuals additional support according to their needs.

In addition, we make extensive provision for young people beyond the classroom. Students have their own allotment on site and also access to the Youth House. There are several breakfast clubs and many activities for them to join at lunch-time and after school. It is with pride that Arrow Vale has been identified as a leading school for social and emotional aspects of learning within Worcestershire. This is the direct result of the strong belief that we include all children in every aspect of school life and will put in all possible resources to achieve the best for every child.



# valued

## Everyone is valued

**One of our strengths is the value we place on listening to our students and actively involving them in decision making.**

Students are routinely involved in the appointment of new staff, leading projects and initiatives as ambassadors, and discussions about all aspects of life at our school. Our Student Council has played an important part in the rapid improvement of both the facilities within the school and also the systems to promote achievement.

The Council has contributed significantly to the values we promote as a school and which encourage the best climate for learning. All students should be able

to express themselves as individuals in ways that will equip them to be independent and skilled adults, and be provided with the opportunities to achieve their potential. Everyone is involved in enabling learning and teaching to be conducted in a positive and enjoyable way. We all recognise the importance of an attractive, clean and cared for school environment where students and staff feel safe, respected and valued.







# Facilities and resources

- Excellent sport facilities, including a fitness suite, gym, sports hall, dance studio, outdoor table tennis facilities and astro turf, squash courts and a rugby field.
- 13 ICT suites, with over 400 computers (a ratio of better than 1:2).
- The Olympus Café, a welcoming meeting and eating area, attached to our main dining facility.
- 3 dedicated art rooms, with a Mac editing suite and photography dark room.

- A modern and spacious Sixth Form area, complete with study area and IT suite.
- Performing Arts facilities, including 2 drama studios, a band practice area, radio room and Mac suite.
- An observation classroom, equipped with a viewing room and recording facilities.
- A theatre with full lighting, audio and video capabilities.
- State of the art hair and beauty salons.





I enjoy how interactive and hands-on my lessons are.

Megan Griessel



The sports facilities are fantastic.

Helen Racki

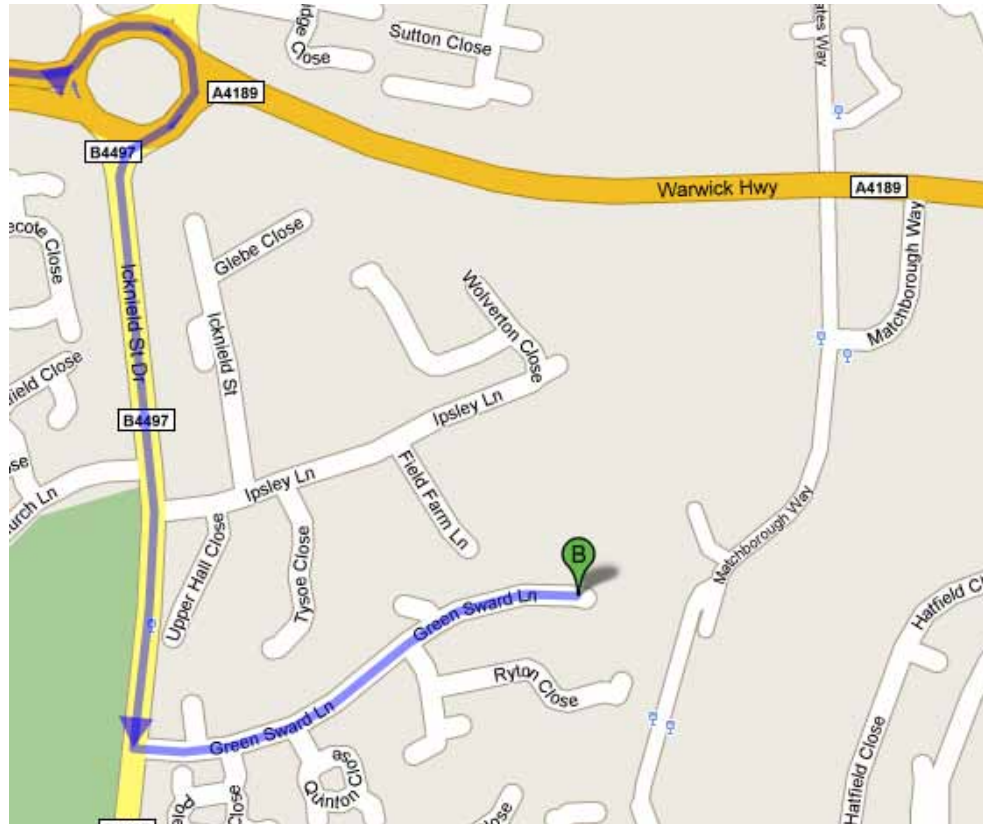
It was good having freedom to choose from a wide range of subjects to enable my learning.

Aaron Whittaker






How to find us...



**Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus.**

If you would like any further information please contact the school on:

 01527 526800

 [office@arrowvale.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@arrowvale.worcs.sch.uk)

 [www.arrowvale.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.arrowvale.worcs.sch.uk)

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