



University of Brighton

Academies Trust



OAKMEEDS
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

INTRODUCING THE UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON ACADEMIES TRUST

Choosing the right secondary school is an important decision. We hope you decide Oakmeeds is the best choice for your child. If so, in September 2016 they will join the Oakmeeds Academy*, sponsored by the University of Brighton Academies Trust.

The trust consists of a team of education professionals focused exclusively on supporting and challenging Sussex schools to be the best they can be.

We're delighted to be supporting Oakmeeds on its improvement journey. As our work accelerates during the 2015 Autumn term, we look forward to meeting you at the open evening and hope that this leaflet will give you an interesting and informative insight into how we work.

Paul Griffiths
Chief Executive
University of Brighton Academies Trust



OUR VISION

Through our unique collaborative approach, we aim to provide high quality education for your children by focussing on:

Teaching and learning

We aim to provide consistently high expectations so that students reach their academic potential and are inspired to continue learning.

Long-lasting improvement

Close connection with the University of Brighton allows us to draw on the knowledge of the university's education experts and external contacts. Each academy is recognised as distinctive and given flexibility to make decisions that are right for them.

A community academy

We support schools in our local region. We know the context that Sussex schools are working in, many of which the university has worked with for numerous years.

*It is planned that Oakmeeds Community College will convert to Oakmeeds Academy in February 2016, subject to ministerial approval.

OUR SUPPORT

Beginning in 2008, our commitment to improving educational opportunities by supporting academies led the university to take the role of lead sponsor in the Hastings Academies Trust. Working with secondary schools in the Hastings area, has resulted in 'good' Ofsted ratings for the Hastings Academy and St Leonards Academy within two years of academy conversion.

The University of Brighton Academies Trust builds on this success, providing challenge and support to ensure that the solutions and improvements proposed for our academies are right for the students, staff and community involved.

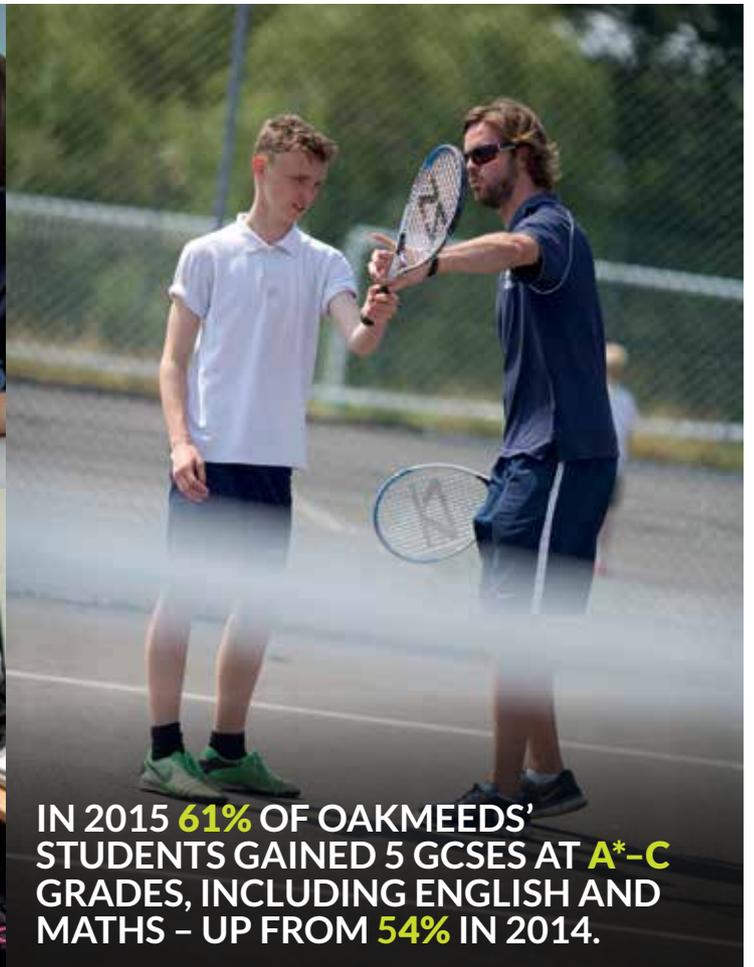
OUR AIMS FOR OAKMEEDS ACADEMY

To work towards becoming rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted.

To be the first choice school amongst local parents and students.

To be in the top quartile of key performance measures, such as attainment, progress and value added.

To either meet or exceed the Fischer Family Trust D (FFTD) estimates for student outcomes and results.



IN 2015 **61%** OF OAKMEEDS' STUDENTS GAINED 5 GCSES AT **A*-C** GRADES, INCLUDING ENGLISH AND MATHS – UP FROM **54%** IN 2014.

IMPROVING PERFORMANCE

- Improving performance is the core purpose of the trust. We share accountability for improvement with our academies and work in partnership to deliver our quality framework: a set of principles and procedures for school improvement.

DESIGNING THE CURRICULUM

- Our academies teach English, maths and science in-line with the national curriculum. We use our expertise to support academies to develop a full curriculum that suits students' needs and that is enriched in creative ways.

PUTTING RESEARCH INTO PRACTICE

University of Brighton academics carry out world-class education research. We give academies advice and support on how to put the results of this research into practice in the classroom. Our education experts work with academy colleagues to constantly reflect and improve on their teaching practice.



PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Our support with professional services, allows academies to concentrate on teaching and learning. We help identify where support is needed in areas such as finance, human resources, estates and ICT and share our expertise so that good-value, efficient support services can be developed.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

We are committed to high-quality teacher training and professional development. All the teachers in our academies are qualified. We help academies to identify suitable training and development opportunities for their teaching and support staff.

INSPIRING YOUR CHILD

It is our aim for every child to receive outstanding learning opportunities based on their individual needs. We believe that the most crucial aspects of successful learning are better discipline and outstanding teaching.

Individual needs. Care and support are at the heart of the learning process. Our academies adopt the special educational needs code of practice followed by all state schools. We also aim to make provision for more able students who demonstrated a talent or ability in an academic or non-academic area.

An engaging learning environment. Our bespoke curriculum may result in the use of innovative learning and teaching methods and technologies. We use initiatives such as one-to-one tuition, small group work and catch up programmes.

Transition. Utilising our extensive contacts we work to ensure there is a smooth transition for students when the time comes for them to move on. The university is a great source of expertise and experience for secondary students when they begin to think about their future education and careers.

WHAT IS AN ACADEMY?

Academies are government-funded independent schools. They provide free education to young people of all abilities from the local community.

Academies that are part of a trust can draw on the skills of sponsors, such as the University of Brighton, to help shape the way they are run and how young people learn. Academies have flexibility to decide on the best curriculum to meet the needs of their pupils. English, maths and science must still be taught; however, academies can enrich the curriculum in more creative ways.

In the same way as other state schools, academies are inspected by Ofsted, publish their examination and test results, and follow the same rules on admissions, special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and exclusions.

Whilst academies are independent of the local authority, there are key areas where they continue to work closely, including admissions, school transport and SEND. Academies also can and do choose to continue to work with local schools and local partners.

Academies do not receive any additional funding. They do however receive the funding that the local authority holds back to provide services to the school and have greater flexibility to determine how that funding should be used. Academies are responsible for buying their own services.

**MEET US AND ASK YOUR QUESTIONS AT THE
OAKMEEDS OPEN EVENING ON THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER**

FIND OUT MORE

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