

# The University School, Bolton

## Information for Parents

### Background to The University School

The current number of children attending local primary schools and the projected rise in pupil numbers in South and Central Bolton means that there will be an increasing shortage of secondary school places in the area over the next seven years. The Local Authority is commissioning expansions at seven secondary schools in the Borough to cater for the growing demand but by 2024, the estimated shortfall for pupils entering Year 7 will be 303 places.

To meet this rising demand and to ensure that all of our children continue to have access to the highest quality of education which we currently enjoy in the local area, The Keys Federation is planning to establish The University School in central Bolton to serve the needs of local families. The school will be a Free School - a new type of state school that is funded directly by the Department for Education. They are typically established in areas of strong demand where parents and educationalists are able to demonstrate a shared desire to improve the educational prospects for children in the local community. If approved, The University School will be operational from September 2020.

In order to demonstrate to the Department for Education that there is parental support for this proposal, we need parents of children currently in Years 4 and 5 to complete this survey. The Department for Education requires that you state on the survey that The University School would be your first choice of secondary school. We sincerely hope that this will be the case but we do recognise and understand that you will want to look round all of the secondary schools in the area in the years to come before making a final decision so an indication of first choice at this stage would certainly not be binding upon you. The information you supply will remain completely confidential and will have no bearing on the local authority admissions process. However, it would help us to establish that there is demand for a new Free School and will mean that you will have a greater choice of secondary school for your children when you come to make this important decision in the future.

Thank you in anticipation for your assistance and we will keep you informed in the meantime of progress on this exciting new venture.



# The University School, Bolton

The University School will create a community with the highest aspirations. Dedicated to achieving the best outcomes for all learners, the school will serve the local community by providing an outstanding quality of education within an environment of trust, tolerance and mutual respect.

## **Valuing every individual within our community**

Every student at The University School can expect to be known and genuinely cared for by the staff within a caring and supportive culture in which every individual is safe and can thrive. The learning and progress of all students will be tracked on an ongoing basis against personalised targets, preparing them to face their future challenges with confidence. Every student will be supported and guided to achieve their full potential and will meet regularly with staff to discuss their performance and access any additional help or resources that they may require.

## **Creating innovative and creative climates for learning**

At The University School, learning will embrace creative and innovative approaches that engage students, utilising modern technology and virtualisation to maintain pace and interest. Every student will have a tablet to support the new ways of learning which our 'any time, anywhere' access to information will engender. Programmes of study will be tailored to individual needs to ensure that all students can access the broad and balanced curriculum which will facilitate progress to higher education, apprenticeship or employment.

## **Delivering inspirational teaching and learning**

The University School's team of outstanding, well-qualified teaching professionals will work across the school to ensure that best practice is shared and that all staff exhibit the highest levels of professionalism. Our ongoing programme of continuing professional development for teachers will be delivered by inspirational experts, focusing strongly on teaching and learning and on developing a talented cadre of future leaders who will challenge the senior leadership team to forge a continuum of continuous improvement and innovation. Every member of staff will undergo performance management termly and good and outstanding teaching will be the norm across the school.

## **Providing an exciting programme of enrichment activities**

On four days each week, there will be an extended afternoon session so that all students can participate in enrichment activities, including music and sport. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award will also be integrated into school life to give participants a sense of purpose, focus and achievement in their non-academic studies. Our aim is to provide an enjoyable, challenging and rewarding enrichment programme of personal development for young people that is of the highest quality and the widest reach.

## **Working in partnership with parents, employers and the wider community**

The University School will be at the very heart of the local community, playing an active and enthusiastic role in community affairs and fostering in the students a real sense of pride and belonging. We will work closely with local primary and secondary schools, with Bolton UTC, Bolton College, Bolton Sixth Form and, of course, the University of Bolton itself to ensure that transition between all key stages is an area of excellence, to foster collaboration and to share resources. We will also make it possible for parents, local employers and other members of the community to be active in the life of the school, engaging in clubs, sport and service, and for school resources to be used by the community out of hours, building good relationships with each family based on mutual trust and open communication.

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## Age range

The University School will provide the highest standard of education for 11 to 16 - year olds.

## Size of school

From a proposed initial intake of 120 Year 7 pupils in 2020, we anticipate that the school will accommodate 900 pupils across Years 7 to 11 by 2026.

## Proposed curriculum

The curriculum of The University School will be based upon the national curriculum to provide rigorous and comprehensive programmes of study. The curriculum will be designed to develop the character, mind and resilience of the whole student and will incorporate our core beliefs and values. We will put into place a programme of ongoing assessment so that we know how well the students are doing and can benchmark our performance against that of other schools and national targets.

The broad and balanced curriculum will ensure that all students develop strong standards of literacy and numeracy as a basis for wider learning. Students' learning will be personalised to their needs and interests, enabling all students to progress, achieve and participate, to develop their talents to the full and to have the confidence to follow their aspirations. The following subjects will be mandatory at GCSE:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Double or Triple)
- History or Geography
- French, Spanish or Mandarin Chinese

## Our aspirations and outcomes

- To create a community with the highest aspirations, underpinned by core British values
- To provide every child who enters The University School with a better educational experience than they could hope for in any other school
- To produce young people with the knowledge and skills to choose their future pathways to higher education, apprenticeship or employment at the age of 16
- To give all students a sense of purpose, focus and achievement in both their academic and non-academic studies
- To allow all students to flourish in a wide range of enrichment activities

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## Parental survey

Please indicate the importance of the following factors in influencing your choice of secondary school:

Factor	Very important	Quite important	Not important
High quality teaching and learning and well-qualified teaching staff			
Continuity of 'same site' education from Year 7 to end of sixth form and beyond			
Ongoing support for teachers and school leaders from outstanding schools in The Keys Federation			
Broad-based, balanced but challenging curriculum combining core academic subjects with a focus on practical STEM skills			
Encouraging high aspirations and valuing each student as an individual through personalised learning			
Provision of a wide range of sporting, creative and academic extension and enrichment activities such as music, debating, service learning and leadership			
Valued parental involvement and active community & employer connectivity, with a strong emphasis on understanding community needs and collaborative working			

Would you be interested in sending your child to The University School?

Yes  No

Would The University School be your first choice of secondary school?  
(Please note that this is not a binding commitment, just a measure of interest)

Yes  No

In which year would your child need a place in Year 7?

2020  (Current year 5 pupil in 2018/2019)

2021  (Current year 4 pupil in 2018/2019)

Please provide your contact details"

Name	
Address	
Postcode	
email	
Telephone	

# The University School, Bolton

Please let us know if you have any comments or suggestions relating to The University School project:


Please tick the box if you would like to be kept informed about the progress of The University School Free School application

Further information and an online version of this survey form are available on our website at [www.thekeysfederation.org.uk](http://www.thekeysfederation.org.uk)

Many thanks for taking the time to complete this survey. Please email by return to: [theuniversitieschool@thekeysfederation.org.uk](mailto:theuniversitieschool@thekeysfederation.org.uk)

or hand it into Head Office, or post it to  
The University School, Bolton (Free School Project)  
c/o The Keys Federation Academy Trust  
682 Atherton Road  
Hindley Green  
Wigan  
WN2 4SQ