



HILLCREST SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

PROSPECTUS



Stonehouse Lane, Birmingham, B32 3AE



0121 464 3172



www.hillcrest.bham.sch.uk



A Warm Welcome

At Hillcrest, we provide each student with the opportunity to achieve their full potential both academically and socially. We believe in combining the best of traditional values with high-quality teaching, inspiring our students to meet our school's core values: work hard, be kind, and aim high in everything they do.

We believe there is no ceiling on the potential of our students, and we are unapologetically aspirational for all of them. Where young people are educated in an environment characterised by high expectations, rigour, and warmth, we know that students can flourish. Through a knowledge-rich curriculum, we ensure that every student leaves Hillcrest equipped with the knowledge and skills to access any part of society they choose.

Our students leave Hillcrest as confident, resilient, and compassionate young people, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and character to thrive in further education, careers, and as active, responsible members of society.

Within a supportive and inclusive community, students learn the value of hard work, kindness, and ambition, ready to embrace every opportunity and make a positive impact in the world.

We view it as a privilege to educate your child at the school, and parents and carers of both current and prospective students are welcome to visit the school. We look forward to meeting you.



Mr Samuel Abbotts
Headteacher



Values and Ethos

At Hillcrest School, we live by our core values: Work Hard, Be Kind, Aim High.

We create a supportive and respectful learning environment where students are encouraged to work hard, take pride in their efforts, and develop a passion for lifelong learning. With high expectations for every student, we provide a knowledge-rich curriculum and quality teaching that prepare learners for the challenges of a constantly evolving world.

Students are encouraged to set high aspirations for themselves and collaborate constructively with their teachers to reach ambitious goals across a wide range of areas. We aim to give students the chance to thrive in the next stage of their lives, whether that means gaining places at some of the best universities, embarking on apprenticeships, or preparing to lead fulfilling adult lives.

Excellent behaviour is expected from all students, creating a safe and happy school community. A calm and orderly environment ensures every student can thrive and achieve their full potential.

Our community is founded on kindness and mutual respect. Hillcrest is a happy, fair, and responsible school where students learn to be kind to one another. We actively uphold the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and tolerance, ensuring everyone feels valued and included.

We inspire every student to aim high, not only academically but in all areas of life. Hillcrest equips students with the confidence, skills, and resilience to thrive in modern Britain. We encourage them to pursue their ambitions boldly, embrace new challenges, and make a positive impact on the world around them.

WORK HARD | BE KIND | AIM HIGH



Curriculum & Quality of Education

We are proud to offer a broad and balanced curriculum, with a wide range of subjects. Our aspirational curriculum is designed to ensure all of our students are well prepared for their next stage of life, whether this is in education or future employment. There is an emphasis on the core subjects; English, mathematics and science, which form the basis for success for your child's future. In addition, humanities, modern foreign languages, computer science, art and technology, and religion and worldviews feature in our curriculum alongside dance, drama, music and physical education.

As students progress through the school, the curriculum becomes increasingly personalised to suit their needs. Our main priority is ensuring that the quality of learning remains exceptionally high. We expect our students to benefit from a range of experiences and ways of learning in order to maximise their progress, allowing every learner to flourish and realise their potential. Our lessons are all taught in accordance with our research led teaching and learning framework, and regular staff professional development ensures we are fully up-to-date with the latest thinking in education.



A Day in the Life of a Hillcrest Student

Arrival: 08:00-08:40

Arrive at school and meet up with friends and use the library. When the movement bell sounds, we make our way to our tutor rooms.



Form Time: 08:45-09:10

The bell sounds again at 08:45, signifying the time for us to be in our form rooms. During this time, we do various activities, such as filling in achievement profiles, picture news and assemblies.



Lunch Break: 12:30-13:15

At lunchtime, we have more time to socialise with friends, use the canteen or the fields. There is also a wide selection of lunchtime clubs and activities including Chess Club, Debating Society and many more.



Period 3: 11:30-12:30

Each day, we have a variety of different lessons. For the core subjects of English, maths and science we have 7 lessons of each across the two week timetable.



Break 1: 11:10-11:30

After Period 2, it is time for the first break of the day. This break lasts for 20 minutes and gives us time to socialise with friends, and to go to the canteen to purchase snacks or drinks.



Period 4: 13:15-14:15

Throughout the school day we also study a range of subjects including history, geography and french. For each of these subjects we have 3 hours of lesson time across the fortnight.



Period 5: 14:15-15:15

Throughout the two week timetable, we also have lessons of PE, dance, drama and computer science.



End of the School Day: 15:15

There are more extra-curricular activities and opportunities for us to attend at the end of the school day.

Period 1: 09:10-10:10

At Hillcrest, we follow a timetable that repeats every 2 weeks. These are classified into Week A and Week B, the school day consists of 5 periods and each lesson lasts 1 hour.



Period 2: 10:10-11:10

Each lesson starts with a 'Do Now Activity', as a method of embedding important key knowledge into our long term memory from previous lessons. The structure of the lessons also include teacher explanation and modelling examples, and we then complete independent practice based on this information.



Culture & Standards



Expectations

We expect high standards in everything we do at the school including attendance, uniform and behaviour for learning as we want the absolute best for our students. We want our students to demonstrate a positive attitude and appropriate learning behaviours which will allow everyone to be the best they can be and make exceptional progress. High standards are essential; in the quality of work, in the way in which students dress and conduct themselves in and around the school.

Punctuality

Being on time is not only an essential life skill, but also something which has a huge impact on learning. Being on time to school provides a positive routine which sets students up for the day ahead and being punctual for lessons allows teachers to maximise time available to help students learn. Students need be on site no later than 08.40 to enable them to arrive at their classroom by 08.45.



Attendance

School attendance has been proven to have a huge impact on achieving positive outcomes. As a result, every student at this school is expected to maintain an attendance level of at least 97%, in line with the government's expectations.

Equipment

It is essential that all students have the correct equipment so they are 'Hillcrest Ready'. Our minimum expectation is that all students will always have a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, sharpener, calculator, and a whiteboard pen. Equally, we expect this equipment to be carried in an appropriate school bag. Having the correct equipment is a compulsory requirement of attending Hillcrest School.





Inclusion and Special Educational Needs Provision

Our philosophy is that the best place for our students is in lessons with their teachers, whose expertise is the most important variable in effective teaching. At Hillcrest School, there is an ongoing commitment to, and emphasis on 'quality first teaching', ensuring that lessons are delivered using tested, research backed methods to enable all of our students, particularly those with SEND, to progress. Our Learner Support Team works with our students to address and break down barriers to ensure that all of our students can make progress.

We strive towards independence for all of our students. This can involve, but is not limited to, support in lessons from a teaching assistant, bespoke literacy and numeracy interventions and involving relevant outside agencies. Interventions are carefully planned and the impact of these are assessed regularly to ensure that they have a positive impact on the education of our students. We also provide a high level of support for our students with SEND at key milestones in their school journey. For example, transition into Year 7, during the options process when students select their GCSE subjects, and where students have specific needs, we ensure that we have appropriate special arrangements in place for external examinations.



Student Welfare

Students at Hillcrest School are supported by a wide network of pastoral support. All students have a form tutor, who delivers bespoke pastoral care for their tutor group. Students remain with their form tutor throughout their time at Hillcrest School, meaning that this relationship is a significant form of support for students. Students receive guidance from non-teaching Heads of Year, who are specially trained to support students at their age and stage of education. As part of the wider student support team, we have a non-teaching Safeguarding and Welfare Coordinator and a School Health Nurse. All of the support is coordinated by the Deputy Headteacher (Personal Development, Behaviour, Attitudes, Welfare and Inclusion).

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything that we do at Hillcrest School. We strongly believe that all students have the right to be the best that they can be, and work with external agencies to support all students to fulfil their potential. As appropriate, we would welcome a conversation with you about how we can support your child on their journey through secondary school. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mr Connor-Hemming (Deputy Headteacher Personal Development, Behaviour, Attitudes, Welfare and Inclusion).



At Hillcrest School and Sixth Form Centre, our students are encouraged to excel in a wide range of opportunities beyond the classroom. These include the arts, sport, sciences, reading, debating, and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, to name just a few.

We want our students to be inspired, to embrace new challenges, and to enjoy new experiences. To support this, we provide a varied programme of enrichment activities throughout the year.

Our music and drama productions are a highlight of the school year, showcasing exceptional talent, while our sports teams have achieved great success.

At Hillcrest School and Sixth Form Centre, we are committed to ensuring every student has the opportunity to discover and experience something new during their time with us. Whether performing on stage, competing in sport, or contributing to the community, every student has the chance to discover and develop new talents at the school.



🌸 Arts Enrichment

Arts Enrichment encourages creativity, expression, and confidence through a wide variety of opportunities in visual arts, music, drama, and dance. Students can explore new skills, showcase their talents in performances and exhibitions, and work collaboratively on creative projects.

🌸 Universal Enrichment

Universal Enrichment provides all students with access to supportive and inspiring opportunities beyond the classroom. Our Library and Homework Hub offer quiet, focused spaces for independent study, research, and extension activities.



🌸 Sporting Enrichment

Sporting Enrichment offers students the opportunity to develop their physical skills, teamwork, and resilience through a wide range of activities. From traditional team sports to individual challenges and fitness programmes, students are encouraged to explore new interests and maintain a healthy, active lifestyle. Our enrichment programme fosters not only sporting excellence but also confidence, wellbeing, and a lifelong enjoyment of physical activity.

🌸 Discovery Enrichment

Discovery Enrichment gives students the chance to extend their learning beyond the classroom and explore new challenges. Opportunities include the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, chess club, debating, and a range of other activities designed to spark curiosity and develop problem-solving, leadership, and critical thinking skills.





Success in Our Community

At our school, we believe in recognising and celebrating the achievements, efforts and successes of every student. Praise not only motivates children but also helps them to build confidence and self-esteem.

Success is recognised in many different ways – from excellent work in the classroom, kindness towards others, or sporting triumphs, to the positive contributions students make to our school community. Certificates, badges and awards are regularly presented in assemblies, giving students the opportunity to be celebrated in front of their peers.

We also value and reward the dedication of those who take on extra responsibilities. Our students are encouraged to develop their leadership skills as class and form representatives, sports leaders, and peer mentors. These roles help them to grow in confidence, develop teamwork, and make a real difference within our school.





Sixth Form

We are a small and highly successful Sixth Form, with excellent examination results and destinations for our leavers. Our Sixth Form is a very supportive environment where students are able to flourish academically, alongside developing their skills to be best prepared to enter their next stage of education, training or employment. During students' time with us, they will develop the knowledge and skills to play an active role in society and lead a healthy, happy and fulfilling life.

We are fortunate to have experienced expert academic and pastoral staff who are persistent in their willingness to help, support and guide students through their Post-16 studies. At Hillcrest Sixth Form students are not simply a number. Students become valued members of our community, and supported individually to achieve their academic excellence. Whatever a student's future aspirations, we stand ready to facilitate and support them in achieving their best.





Hillcrest School and Sixth Form Centre

Address Stonehouse Lane, Birmingham, B32 3AE

Phone 0121 464 3172

Email enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

Website www.hillcrest.bham.sch.uk

WORK HARD | BE KIND | AIM HIGH