Dear parents and prospective students,

You are about to make an extremely important decision; your choice of school for the next phase in education is a decision that will affect you for the next five years, but one that affects your children for the rest of their lives.

I have a vision for Leeds West Academy that takes us beyond Outstanding, to provide a world-class education that will prepare our students to be the leaders of tomorrow. Every child can achieve greatness and it is my job to provide them with every opportunity to do so: to nurture confident, well-rounded, well-adjusted, articulate young people who are well-prepared for their next steps towards their adult lives.

As a parent myself, I want the best for my children. When choosing their schools, I want to be assured that my children will be safe; that they will be cared for by staff that care for every individual. I want to know that they will be taught well, by teachers who believe in them and encourage them to believe that nothing is impossible. But most importantly, I need to be assured that if they need support, they will get the help that they need so that they can enjoy their education and can thrive. As much as I hold these expectations of my children’s schools, I hold the same expectations of each and every member of staff at Leeds West Academy. Put simply; if the standards we provide here are not good enough for my children, they are not good enough for yours.

So, I invite you to step into the experience that Leeds West Academy has to offer. Please take the time to explore our facilities, our building and the resources that enrich our Academy. But be assured that our Academy is rooted in far more than just the fabric of the building.

As the new Principal, it is a privilege to lead Leeds West Academy on its Journey to Outstanding. I am delighted that you have taken an interest in joining us and look forward to working with you.

Yours faithfully,

Christian Wilcocks
Principal

Christian Wilcocks
Principal
The power of any school or academy lies within the quality of its teachers. At Leeds West Academy, our teachers pride themselves on their personalised approach to teaching. Our teachers are carefully selected for their enthusiasm for their subject, coupled with their values and their common goal; to ensure every student enjoys their learning and achieves their potential.

Our teachers work tirelessly to prepare lessons that are exceptional. Lessons are well-planned to meet the needs of individuals and our teachers ensure that our students understand precisely what they need to do to improve.

We work in partnership with other local schools and academies to ensure our classroom practice is exceptional; through powerful professional development, we know that our teachers are amongst the best in the area. This, combined with a willingness to go the extra mile for our students, means that by choosing Leeds West Academy, you are joining a culture of excellence.

In order to provide students with a truly exceptional education we invest in a comprehensive programme of high quality continuous professional development, ensuring our teachers have every opportunity to develop into exceptional practitioners, share the very best ideas, resources and thrive in an environment where they can collaborate and innovate together.

You are joining a community where we expect the highest of standards; from both our staff and from our students. You are joining a vibrant learning community where every student matters, in every classroom.

Creating Leaders of the Future

Our students are our next generation of leaders: leaders of industry, future sporting giants or the next generation of leaders in performing arts. Whatever their chosen pathway, it is our belief that we start laying the foundations for this when students join us in Year 7. Our Student Leadership programme invites representatives from each year group to be School Councillors, Prefects or to be part of our newly formed Student Parliament. This supports our students in practicing those skills of debate, negotiation and empathy, as well as developing their understanding of democracy, the rule of law and diversity.

Careers Information, advice and guidance: Our in-house Careers Adviser provides students with exceptional independent and personalised Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance.

We have also developed a diverse programme of planned activities, both within the formal curriculum and as part of our SPACE programme (Social, Personal and Citizenship Education).

Every student will have the opportunity to complete a Work Experience placement in Year 10. Whilst many schools and academies removed this aspect of their curriculum, at Leeds West Academy, we believe this is a crucial element in preparing our students for the next steps in education and the world of work.

Leeds West Academy works in partnership with many colleges, universities, employers and training providers, all with the intent to provide enriching experiences which inspire and raise aspirations.

Exceptional Teaching Means Exceptional Learning
Our fabulous Academy building opened in September 2011. At a cost of £30m, it is the flagship school building in Leeds and a fantastic resource for our students, the local community and the wider region. It is no surprise that our Academy boasts some of the best facilities throughout all subject areas: our state-of-the-art theatre, dance and recording studios underpin our Performing Arts specialism, whilst our professional grade climbing wall and fitness suites add a professional dimension to our sporting facilities.

Each and every classroom in our Academy is fitted with brand new, touch-screen SMART TVs to enhance the learning experience for all students, in all subjects. We continue to invest heavily in technology, with fully equipped Apple iMac suites to complement our specialist Art and Photography zones.

Our pride in our building and our facilities is an endorsement of our commitment to excellence for all our students.
The transition from Year 6 to Year 7 is probably the biggest change in a child’s education. They go from having mainly one teacher in one classroom on a daily basis to having five different lessons per day, in various classrooms with different teachers across a large building.

We strive to make the transition process as thorough, reassuring and informative as possible for both students and parents. That’s why we start to build those relationships with our feeder schools at an early stage, so that we are known to our newest students and we know as much about them as we can, long before they join us in Year 7. We always visit every child in their Primary setting, meeting with them and speaking with Primary staff to gather important academic and pastoral information.

All students are then invited to spend a full day in the Academy at the end of the Summer Term. On this Induction Day, students will be welcomed by their Progress Leader, thoughtfully placed into their tutor groups and will have the opportunity to get to know their form tutor. Students will participate in a range of team-building activities as well as lessons that introduce them to life and learning at Leeds West Academy.

Break and Lunchtime: Year 7 Students have their own dedicated lunchtime so they can enjoy a meal just with their friends in their year group for the first academic year. There are various social spaces for students to use and they can also access the Academy Library.

The Student Planner: All students are given a planner when they start in September and they can use this to familiarise themselves with many of the Academy procedures. The planner is designed to help students organise themselves with respect to homework and extra-curricular activities. It is designed to help students in:

• Managing their time, both inside and outside school
• Planning their work and recording homework
• Recording personal progress data
• Setting targets for improvement
• Recording rewards and achievements

Uniform: We believe that high standards of dress are important for students as individuals and the Academy as a whole. Our uniform has been chosen because it represents the clearly identifiable standard for Leeds West Academy.

Transition: A Smooth and Worry-Free Transfer

Specialising in Performing Arts

High-quality experiences of the arts are abundant at Leeds West Academy, whether that is through direct performance, wider participation, or involvement with arts professionals working with the Academy. Recent shows include The Wiz, Into The Woods, Cats, Hairspray and the award-winning The Lion King. We regularly showcase our students’ fair for the Performing Arts within our Assembly Programme, within school events or dedicated performances for parents and our community.

Each year, up to 10% of our places in Year 7 are awarded to students who have a talent for Performing Arts. Auditions take place around November and placements can be allocated even if Leeds West Academy is not your nearest school. Admission to our Performing Arts Specialism will provide your child with a rich experience, from guaranteed participation within our productions and a superb extra-curricular programme, to regular specialism trips, visits and workshops with professional performers. Information and application forms can be found on the website and are available from the Academy reception.
This year we have launched our Nurture Group, a brand-new provision that has been developed to meet the diverse needs of our students. The Nurture Group is based on key psychological principles and is an integral part of our support programme for our most vulnerable young people.

Offering targeted support for Social and Emotional development, the Nurture Group staff will deliver carefully planned sessions throughout the week in a “home-from-home” environment.

Students supported by the Nurture Group will cook and eat together, and support will be provided throughout the day, during break times and lunchtimes, before and after-school; whenever the support is needed.

Our Nurture Group staff are highly trained in Nurture Group principles and supported through membership of the national Nurture Group Network.

Parent-Academy partnership: No parent should have to fight to get help for their child. We listen to parents because you know your child better than anyone. We welcome open and honest dialogue and we will respond quickly to any concerns you raise. We review each child’s progress in keeping with their individual needs and hold regular review meetings to consider each child’s progress and plan any necessary changes to their support programme. The key to the success of these review meetings is the support of parents; we value your views and wishes in ensuring your child reaches their true potential, whatever challenges they may encounter.

Innovative information sharing: We use information from a range of sources to ensure we know as much as possible about each individual student; visits to Primary Schools are the starting point, where individual needs are identified and plans to best support each student are built. Our innovative systems ensure that every appropriate adult in the Academy is aware of every child’s additional needs and is fully aware of the help and support he/she may require. We expect this support to be provided in every lesson, without exception.

Nurture Group: Pure Support

Your child’s needs - our priority: It is no surprise that students with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities often find the transition to Secondary School challenging; but it doesn’t have to be that way. With several trained and qualified Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCo) now part of the staffing structure, up to and including our Principal, we pride ourselves on the early help and support we provide, even before students transfer to Leeds West Academy. We have significantly extended our Additional Needs Provision for September 2017, with innovative approaches to our support for Social, Emotional and Mental Well-being, clearly planned programmes to support Literacy and Numeracy, as well as more bespoke support, planned and influenced by the needs of the individual.

A Personalised Approach to Special Educational Needs
An Effective Curriculum

At Leeds West Academy, students study a broad and balanced range of subjects throughout their first two years. Our curriculum, which consists of English (Language and Literature), Maths, Science, History, Geography, Spanish, Citizenship, Art and Design, Technology, Drama, Music and PE, is designed to enable students to make the best choices when it comes to choosing their GCSE options at the end of Year 8. Students who find reading or writing difficult will be supported through an additional two hours of literacy each week, to drive forward accelerated progress in preparation for the demands of GCSE study.

Teachers will assess each child’s progress continuously, through in-class assessments, homework tasks and end of unit tests. Progress is reported to parents three times a year. This Progress Report will provide you with an indication as to how your child is progressing against GCSE criteria. This provides precise tracking of progress for students at Leeds West Academy and prepares students well for GCSE study.

Students also sit an end of year exam at the end of Year 7 and the end of Year 8. These exams are based on the 9–1 GCSE assessment model for each subject, enabling students, parents and teachers to track progress towards GCSE target grades.

Extra-Curricular Excellence

Life at Leeds West Academy is enriched by an exceptional programme of extra-curricular clubs and activities. Even if you already participate in these activities outside of school, we strongly encourage all of our students to get involved; to try out something new, to become more confident or to support and encourage others to try new activities. We publish our extra-curricular programme every year, harnessing the skills, knowledge and interests of our staff.

Our extra-curricular provision includes after-school clubs in sports such as Cheerleading, Football, Rugby, Netball, Gymnastics, Dance, Basketball, Badminton, Rounders, Athletics, Cricket and Tennis. There are opportunities for students to take part in inter-form competitions in a variety of sports and students are encouraged to represent the Academy in sporting competitions and tournaments against other schools. Students may wish to try clubs in Art, Photography or Media, or sharpen their musical talent through our exceptional Music facilities and clubs.

Year 7 Residential: Every year, we take our Year 7 students away on a team-building residential. This provides an excellent opportunity for our newest students to make new friends and to try adventurous activities such as archery, climbing and raft-building. Throughout the residential, students will be supported by their form-tutor and a range of staff who are there to make sure they have a great time. As well as being a great personal experience, the Year 7 Residential provides a foundation on which to build a positive year-group ethos.
The Academy offers a full range of sporting activities for both boys and girls and each year the commitment and energy of our students is celebrated in a Sports Award Ceremony. Many of our teams compete in local and national competitions and our cheerleaders and football teams have even taken their talents abroad in recent years.

Sporting Prowess

As a parent, you need to feel assured that your child will be well looked-after throughout their Secondary School career, as it is this sense of safety and support that underpins student well-being and good progress. Ensuring student well-being is fundamental to Leeds West Academy’s structures for support, advice and guidance.

Dedicated Form Tutors: We pride ourselves on a pastoral care programme that centres around the Form Tutor, a teacher who will be a key person in the day-to-day care and support of every student throughout their time at Leeds West Academy. Form Tutors have daily contact with our students and are the first point of contact for parents/carers. Form Tutors are there to help with day-to-day organisation and to deal with any concerns you may have, quickly and effectively. Form Tutors also have a crucial role in monitoring the Student Planner and in promoting excellent attendance, positive behaviour and exceptional progress.

Year Managers and Progress Leaders: Each of the year groups from Year 7 to Year 11 has a dedicated Year Manager devoted to promoting rewards, supporting good behaviour and attendance. For 2017, we have introduced Progress Leaders to each year group. This senior teacher will closely track and monitor every student’s progress in every subject and work with teachers across the Academy to ensure that each student reaches their potential. It is the job of this dedicated team to identify any barriers that stand between your child and their full potential, and to ensure we do everything we can to secure excellent outcomes. Your Progress Leader and Year Manager will remain with your child’s year group throughout their time at Leeds West Academy, meaning you and your child can build and maintain excellent working relationships; working together to support your child in achieving his/her potential.

Social, Personal and Citizenship Education (SPACE): Form Tutors meet their tutor group each morning and follow a comprehensive Tutor Programme of Social, Personal and Citizenship Education and also participate in this shared experience through SPACE Days. During SPACE Days, each year group within the Academy focuses on individual personal development, with Form Tutors and Year Teams participating in an engaging programme of active learning events. As part of this pupils are encouraged to express their thoughts and feelings on a wide range of topical issues such as democracy, British values, social justice and human rights.

A Caring Academy: Exceptional Pastoral Support
At Leeds West Academy, we develop socially responsible young people who are ready to hold their own in the world of work and make a positive contribution to their community and beyond. This means teaching our students well, supporting them in making the right choices with respect to other people, our community and themselves. We are committed to providing the best possible learning experience for our students and believe that high standards of behaviour are fundamental to students achieving their full potential. Good behaviour in the classroom is also essential for good teaching and learning to take place and we see parent/carers as important partners in upholding our core values and encouraging positive attitudes to learning.

Our Positive Behaviour policy promotes our high expectations throughout the Academy. At its heart is the fundamental belief that all students and staff are important and valued individuals who deserve to be treated with respect. All aspects of a student’s behaviour affects their learning and that of those around them.

At Leeds West Academy we recognise that our students thrive on praise and recognition. Central to the Positive Behaviour policy is the promotion of high expectations. We expect our staff to encourage and praise every success because we believe that praise and encouragement is more effective in engaging and motivating young people, than sanctions and punishment. Students will be consistently recognised for their positive actions, both in and out of lessons.

- **Credits (Praise Stamps):** Regular recognition of positive action from students
- **Student of the Week Postcards:** These will be sent home weekly to recognise and celebrate outstanding progress in lessons or around the Academy/community.
- **LWA & Trust Awards Ceremonies**
- **Hall Termly Celebration Assembly**
- **Senior Leadership Award**
- **Achievement Wall**
- **Golden Ticket Reward Trip**
- **Praise Calls and Postcards**

### REWARDS at LWA

#### Credits
- 50 Bronze Award
- 100 Silver Award
- 150 Gold Award
- 200 Platinum Award
- 250 Double Platinum Award
- 300 Diamond Award
- 350 Double Diamond Award
- 500 LWA Special Award

#### Student of the Week
Weekly recognition for outstanding progress made in lesson or around the academy/community

#### Badges
- 1 - 1000 Progress Leader Award for outstanding performance as a Leeds West student
- 2 - 2000 Associate Principal Award for outstanding performance as a Leeds West student
- 3 - 3000 Principal Award – 3 STARS for outstanding performance as a Leeds West student
- 4 - 4000 Executive Principal Award – 4 STARS for outstanding performance as a Leeds West student
- 5 - 5000 White Trust Award – 5 STARS for outstanding performance as a Leeds West student

### Positive Behaviour: A Fair and Consistent Approach

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR
A fair and consistent approach

For each lesson students will need

1. Arrive on time, fully equipped and ready to work
2. Be polite and show respect for all people
3. Respond instantly to staff instructions; first time, every time
4. Communicate with the teacher by putting up your hand and waiting for permission to speak
5. Respect everyone’s right to learn, and do not disrupt the learning of others
6. Take pride and complete all work set to a high standard, making maximum use of the learning time
7. Stand in silence at the end of the lesson, and leave the classroom in a calm and orderly manner
8. Take responsibility for your actions and accept that sanctions are a result of making poor choices

Defiance = Seclusion

Our Expectations

1. Positive Behaviour
2. Respect
3. Independence
4. Responsibility
5. Participation
6. Aspiration
7. Respect


Fixed Term Exclusion
Formal Warning
Seclusion
Moved Room
Internal Exclusion
Disciplinary Panel
Permanent Exclusion
Verbal Reminder
Reminder of Expectations
Teacher clearly states this is a verbal reminder
Student formally reminded of appropriate behaviour
Teacher clearly states this is a formal warning
Teacher clearly states this is a formal sanction
Removal to moved room
8th Seclusion referral in a half term
Scale from 3-5 days depending on offence
10 Negative comments or for behaviour that merits seclusion
Scale from 1-3 days depending on offence
40 minute consequence detention the next day
Reintegration meeting with parents/carers

For cumulative misbehaviour or serious incidents

Arrive on time, fully equipped and ready to work
Be polite and show respect for all people
Respond instantly to staff instructions; first time, every time
Communicate with the teacher by putting up your hand and waiting for permission to speak
Respect everyone’s right to learn, and do not disrupt the learning of others
Take pride and complete all work set to a high standard, making maximum use of the learning time
Stand in silence at the end of the lesson, and leave the classroom in a calm and orderly manner
Take responsibility for your actions and accept that sanctions are a result of making poor choices

Defiance = Seclusion


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Executive Principal’s Message

We believe that our Academies are at the heart of the communities they serve. This is why we are committed to delivering an outstanding education to all our students, an education that transforms the region and makes a truly positive contribution to wider society. We are aspirational in our vision to ensure that every student who attends our academies:

- is safe and is happy at school
- makes outstanding progress in all their subjects
- develops communication skills and confidence to fully prepare them to be successful leaders of the future.

At our Academies we employ amazing professionals whose daily commitment is matched by the pride our students feel about the education they receive.

All adults associated with our Academy Trust believe that the future direction of our society is safe in the hands of our students. Their character, ambition and determination will place Leeds at the centre of the Northern Powerhouse of the future.

Andrew Whitaker
Executive Principal
The White Rose Academies Trust

The White Rose Academies Trust’s Sponsor

The Trust’s vision is to be an exceptional and responsive academy group providing life-changing education, skills and experiences for individuals in our academies and in their communities. Our academies are outward facing schools, working closely with local secondary and primary schools/academies and other educational institutions on a national and international basis. They will also develop close links with other training and education providers including local colleges, universities and private training providers.

Our academies will be part of their local community and will develop relationships with community groups and employers. The aim of collaboration in every case is to raise standards of achievement of students. White Rose Academies Trust believes that by working in partnership with Leeds City College we will be well placed to provide an innovative local solution to the educational needs of Leeds to benefit and support more young people across the city and raise their ambitions and aspirations.

Colin Booth
Chief Executive and Principal of Leeds City College, Sponsor of The White Rose Academies Trust

The college, as academy sponsor and strategic partner, believes that it can make a unique contribution to the work of our academies through its expertise and national and international networks. The profile of Leeds City College as the largest educational provider in the area will be of great benefit to the students and staff of Leeds West Academy.

As sponsor the college will play an active part in developing any specialisms with extensive work placements alongside the design and possible delivery of vocational qualifications. The college is also keen to promote the employability prospects of the students attending our academies through a range of activities.

Colin Booth
Chief Executive and Principal of Leeds City College, Sponsor of The White Rose Academies Trust
Our ambition is excellence. Every child, every teacher, everyone; outstanding.
Leeds West Academy
LEADING IN LEARNING

Principal Christian Wilcocks
Executive Principal Andrew Whitaker

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