



Ark Evelyn Grace
Academy

Sixth Form Prospectus / 2016





The Ark Network

Ark Evelyn Grace Academy is part of the Ark network.

Ark is an international education charity which runs a network of 34 high-achieving, non-selective schools in Birmingham, Hastings, London and Portsmouth. Our schools give children and young people from all backgrounds an exceptional education and real choices about their future. Ark has also just opened its first school in India.

Each Ark school has its own distinctive character but they all share the same goal: to make sure every child can go to university or pursue the career of their choice.

We would like to welcome you to Evelyn Grace Academy's Sixth Form.

Evelyn Grace Academy's Sixth Form is a distinctive, engaging and nurturing place, where we place the person at the heart of the journey.

We offer students the opportunities to develop themselves. We recognise that the choices at Post-16 are broad and varied, with lots of organisations offering a range of different courses – choosing the right pathway at the right school or college can be confusing. What we offer is a modern, individualised and clear route that will take you to your intended destination with both the academic credentials and the skills necessary for achievement. It will not always be easy and we will hold you to account for your own performance, but we believe that we have the staff, the support and the pathways to ensure that you will be successful in your studies and you will achieve your goals.

We are excited about your potential.

We believe that you have the capacity to be incredible and to achieve great things.

We would love to have the opportunity of helping you to achieve your goals and to help make your dreams a reality.

We would like to thank you for taking the time to find out about the range of opportunities on offer here at Evelyn Grace Academy.

We hope that you find something to interest you and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Curriculum Pathways

We should be honest at the outset. What we offer is challenging, difficult and not for everyone. Our curriculum is constructed of two main pathways: A Levels and our distinctive IT Professional Pathway. *Both offer different challenges and neither should be undertaken without carefully considering the reality of two, or even three, years of focused study.*

We offer a range of carefully selected A Levels. We offer all of the traditional facilitating subjects – these are the ones that impress top universities the most because they mean something and everyone recognises what they mean. A high grade in a facilitating subject, for example Maths, History or Physics, means that you have proven yourself to be one of the smartest students in that academic discipline in the land. It means that you can hold your head up proudly and know that you have considered the knowledge, developed the understanding and displayed the skills that will mark you out as an outstanding learner.

It means that you can confidently apply for a place at a leading university or a top School Leaver Programme or an Apprenticeship that has high entrance requirements. It means that you are ready to go into the world and make your mark.

That's why we offer the A Levels that we offer – because our curriculum is designed to set you apart; it is designed to help you to stand out; it is designed to stretch and challenge you.

The IT Professional Pathway is exactly that – designed to enable the IT Professionals of the future to begin the process of preparing for the world of work. It is distinctive to us as an Academy, providing students with industry standard IT qualifications and giving them significant opportunities to engage with corporate, creative and financial careers. If you can see yourself constructing a career in IT, this could be what you are looking for.



Expectations

We expect a lot from our students. If you decide to join us, you will find yourself in an environment that will challenge you. *You will be expected to dress professionally, to aim for high standards, to complete demanding independent tasks and to develop a mindset that will allow you to thrive.*

We will expect you to have the determination to push for high grades, to redo work if it is not up to scratch, to attend additional sessions after school, on Saturdays and in the school holidays. We will expect you to develop a positive mindset and to respond enthusiastically to the opportunities that we present you with. We will expect you to succeed beyond your perceived limitations. We want the best for our students and we want the community - our students, our parents, our partners - that we serve to demand the best from us. Together we can do great things and we expect our students to expect the best from themselves as individuals and from each other as a collective.

We expect every member of the Sixth Form to pull in the same direction – only when we are a cohesive, committed and focused team will we achieve all that we are capable of – and more besides!

Responsibility
Eloquence
Confidence
Resilience
Integrity
Curiosity



/ Support

We understand how difficult it is to be young in this vibrant world that we live in. *Although there are opportunities everywhere, there are also temptations and challenges that can easily sway a young person's mind.*

That's why Evelyn Grace Academy is unique. Our staff know this and we strive every day to ensure that each student gets the right kind of support at the right time. We deliberately keep numbers small in our Sixth Form because we want every young person to be known.

We want each young person to feel understood and recognised, not as a statistic or a name on a spreadsheet, but as an individual with a unique narrative, a rich interior life and a personal perspective on life that needs to be shared.

Our tutor team, our subject teachers, our pastoral support staff all work in harmonious conjunction with each other to support, advise and guide each and every young person at whatever stage of their journey they are on.

If you are an EGA student, you are part of a team of people that look out for each other, that care for each other and that respond to each other's needs. That's important in life.

/ Pastoral Care

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We begin every week by discussing weekly targets with each and every student, so that there is a clear and accountable focus for every individual. We construct CVs and discuss different ways that we can develop skills that will make us attractive to employers and universities.

We research university choices and courses, making sure that we are adept at navigating our way around the diverse range of information and data that is available. We discuss current news events and we aren't afraid to analyse difficult topics or have challenging discussions with each other. We meet every week and share challenges, celebrate successes and reflect on our lives together, thinking about ways that we can seek to improve and to develop further.



Enrichment

Our life at EGA is a rich one, full of variety, diversity and range. We know that in this challenging world academic results are only part of the picture. Young people are increasingly being asked to develop skills that make them a fully rounded individual.

You will need to be able to present yourself, articulating thoughts and ideas; you will need to be able to work as part of a team, to be creative, to consider alternative viewpoints, to express a cogent and structured argument – the list goes on.

That's where our weekly Enrichment programme comes in. In the last academic year, we have had over 30 different speakers presenting a wide range of opportunities. We have fantastic links with a huge range of supportive teams, from organisations that will take you to leading universities, to ones that will take you into the Houses of Parliament and put you in front of MPs, to others that can give you work experiences in cutting edge law firms, financial centres and media organisations.

There are always opportunities for you to excel – your step is to develop the confidence to say 'yes' to them. And once you have said 'yes' once, just keep saying it – who knows where you will end up?



EGA Scholars Programme

One of our most unique and exciting ventures is our EGA Scholars programme. This is a carefully designed package of support for our most academically able students.

If you are selected to be an EGA Scholar it means that we feel that you have the ability to successfully apply for a competitive university or a competitive course. We place our scholars on programmes run by one of our partners that will enable raise their aspirations and provide them with the skills to compete with the very best that the global market has to offer. We will give each scholar individualised academic support in their chosen subject, opportunities to attend summer schools at prestigious universities, significant work experiences, bespoke university lectures and seminars and the chance to apply for a range of bursaries provided for us by our Academy sponsors, Ark.

If you have the desire to excel in academic subjects and you would like to be pushed to achieve your best, the EGA Scholars programme is for you.



Applying for University

When the time comes to apply for university, we have the expertise to guide, advise and support. Research begins in Year 12 and, by the time that Year 13 begins, we would expect all of our students to have completed their personal statements and to be ready to make applications.

Our dedicated team of tutors, our Careers Advisor and our subject teachers can all assist with this process and, in collaboration with our partners, we ensure that your application is first-class.

Last year, we are proud to say that 100% of our Year 13 students received offers from universities to study the subjects of their choice and we intend to continue this proud tradition. Whatever you want to study, whether it be Law, Maths, Fashion Design, Political Science and Philosophy, Computing, International Relations or History, we know that we can guide you on the right path. Wherever you want to study, whether it be Southampton, Imperial, Manchester, Birmingham or Liverpool, we know that we can help you to achieve your goals.

Leadership

Central to our philosophy and values at Evelyn Grace Academy is the belief that we have within our student body the young people that will become the leaders of tomorrow in every walk of life.

This begins by allowing our students to be the leaders of their own lives – that they are the ones making decisions for themselves, not allowing others to decide for themselves where they will end up, what they will be or how they will live their lives. We give our young people the tools to take the lead in their lives as individuals.

Further, we expect all of our students to take on significant opportunities to develop leadership attributes and to lead others – whether this means starting a society, playing an active role in student voice or leading the student body and acting as an ambassador, there are many different ways that you will be able to take on the very particular challenges offered by leadership.

Alumni

When you join EGA's Sixth Form, you will find yourself connected to the wider world of our Alumni network. All students that graduate from our Sixth Form are expected to play a full role in acting as ambassadors for the Academy as you move through your career. This means that we are always engaged with you, able to offer support even when you have left, but increasingly able to support us and our young people as we strive to make the world a better place.

EGA values in the Sixth Form

Evelyn Grace Academy is driven by clear values that we place at the heart of all of our work. It is our desire to give all of our students the right characteristics that will help them to become life-long learners, constantly pushing at the edges of what is possible and exploring the world around them. We want all of our students – including you – to be curious about the world and to be open to new experiences; we want our students to act with integrity in all that they do and to take individual and collective responsibility for their actions; we want our students to be resilient so that they are able to keep going when times get hard, to be confident in themselves and in their abilities and to be eloquent in speech and written communication.

We hope that you have enjoyed learning about life in Evelyn Grace Academy's Sixth Form.

We are proud of our students and of our Academy and we trust that you will choose to continue your learning journey with us.



Get in Touch

We'd love to tell you more about our Sixth Form. If you have any questions, or if you want to book an appointment to look around our school, please just call or email us.

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