



Tettenhall College Preparatory School Prep Pathway Programme



PREPARATORY SCHOOL



Welcome to Tettenhall College Preparatory School

Tettenhall College Preparatory School is a very special place. We are a school where a love of learning is shared with every pupil, from our very smallest learners in our lovely Nursery and Pre-School, to those aged 10 and 11, preparing to take those very important steps towards their Senior School education.

Tettenhall College Preparatory School is full of kind, happy, excited, ambitious learners; children who know who they are, know where they belong and know what is expected of them. It is a community; a partnership of teachers and parents who work together to ensure the very best outcomes for their children who are at the heart of everything we do.

Tettenhall College Preparatory School is personal. We ensure individual attention is a daily norm. It is a school where differentiated learning, stretch and challenge is incorporated into each and every lesson; because every one of our children are individual learners. Our teachers tailor learning, support and extension work to allow every child to thrive. We are ambitiously inclusive.

Tettenhall College Preparatory School is creative and unashamedly so. A beautiful Victorian theatre lies at the heart of our wonderful school site. It is a place that symbolises and underpins the ethos of expression, personality, confidence and individuality. The creative and expressive arts are important to us here at Tettenhall College because they inform and inspire our learning, whilst also developing key life skills such as public speaking, presentation and confidence. We value character, creativity, community, opportunity and personal ambition. You will see this demonstrated every day in our classrooms, in the theatre, on our sports fields, in our swimming pool, our science labs, our art rooms and our computer suites.

Tettenhall College is a family. Families talk to each other and share what is important to them. We look forward to talking to you, to learning about you and your family so we can start a conversation that will form the basis of a very special relationship. You are welcome at Tettenhall College Preparatory School.





STEP ONE: DISCOVERY

Nursery & Pre-School : Ages 2 - 4

When your child joins the Nursery or Pre-school at Tettenhall College Preparatory School, they will be given daily opportunities to explore, play and develop. During this key discovery stage, each pupil shares their daily learning with a small, familiar and happy group of peers, who explore our beautiful nursery and magical outdoor woodlands.



Our well-resourced environment allows each of our pupils to:

- Develop the fundamental elements of Reading, Writing, Spoken Language and Numeracy;
- Strengthen and promote their fine and gross motor skills;
- Build positive relationships with the children and adults they spend time with each day;
- Understand that they are part of a wider school and at the very earliest stages of their personal learning journey;
- Spend significant amounts of time in our wonderful outdoor settings, learning from nature and allowing it to be part of their daily experience;
- Share their own experiences of the world around them and learn from the experiences of others to build a growing and informed sense of culture, community, difference and self.

As the children in our Nursery progress through to our Pre-School class, subtle but important changes of routine and classroom structure start to prepare each person for the learning journey ahead. Our Pre-School children work to weekly topics and explore themes through a variety of skills. They start their weekly swimming lessons in our on-site pool and take a lovely daily walk up to the College dining room where sharing food with friends and others is an important part of the day.

Our use of Tapestry allows School and parents to share wonderful learning moments with each other; both in writing and pictorially. Communicating small but important nuggets goes a huge way to ensuring that a partnership based approach is built from the earliest days and allows our staff to have the best and broadest understanding of how to help each child discover who they are as individuals.





STEP TWO: GROWING ROOTS

Reception to Year 2 : Ages 4 - 7



When children progress through to the Growing Roots phase of Tettenhall College Preparatory School they transition from play based learning to a more formal learning environment. Group based work remains central in the early parts of this phase as each child continues to explore new concepts and build on those already introduced. Children join this phase of their school life at varying stages. However, our experienced teachers ensure a personalised approach that allows work to be tackled at the most appropriate level. The Growing Roots phase allows each child to strengthen their independence and learning in preparation for the step up into the next phase. They do this through:

- A clearly defined programme of study for each area of the curriculum which ensures a strong and thorough underpinning of learning and the development of skills and knowledge;
- A core focus on the development of their Reading, Writing, Spoken Language and Numeracy skills, with new methods and challenges being gently but securely introduced on a regular basis;
- Tracking and monitoring of their work and development, with information on scores and attainment shared regularly with parents along with meaningful information as to what this means for their child;
- Differentiated learning approaches for each individual child in each class. We know that each child will approach different areas of the curriculum in different ways, so personal attention is given to ensuring everyone gets the very most from each lesson;
- Developing the range of subjects on their timetable. From Reception class onwards, we introduce French, Computing, Music, Art and Science. Each class has a weekly Forest School lesson and a weekly class in the College library.
- Teaching Assistants in our core English and Mathematics lessons ensure that our already low ratios are further supported to deliver robust and strong basics.





STEP THREE: DEVELOPMENT

Years 3 & 4: Ages 7 - 9

As children take the step up into the Development Phase of the Pathway journey, the pace, challenge and scope of daily learning increases. By this point we have a clear picture of a child's current level and potential and the Development Phase is specifically designed to harness this potential effectively and continuously.

We expect children to work more independently through the Development Phase and be able to concentrate as their teachers introduce new topics and methods. The curriculum is expanded to introduce a second Modern Foreign Language.



To allow each child to work towards reaching their own personal learning goals we:

- Put in place extended goals for attainment and progression;
- Continually review each child's personal targets in Mathematics and English;
- Develop confidence and competence with the recalling of key facts and repetition of key skills;
- Ensure the importance of handwriting and the presentation of work is mastered;
- Continue to differentiate teaching to ensure each child has the most effective approach delivered for them;
- Provide ongoing additional support from Teaching Assistants in the key areas of Mathematics and English;
- Introduce more Senior School subject specialists in lessons such as Music, Performing Art, Modern Foreign Languages and Art;
- Introduce verbal and non-verbal reasoning within the curriculum;
- Expect and support increased levels of personal organisation and responsibility for learning, including completing regular and targeted homework;
- Work with each child to promote pace and accuracy in completing work to set time frames and in more formal test conditions.





STEP FOUR: SENIOR PREPARATION

Years 5 & 6 : Ages 9 - 11

In the most senior years of Preparatory School, our pupils increasingly look ahead at the next steps that they will be taking into Senior School, whilst, of course, seeking to get the very most from Prep.

The Senior Preparation Phase has at the heart of it an accelerated approach to tailored learning for each pupil, as we work with a child to build on all they have done, in anticipation of all that is to come. We are ambitious for every child at Tettenhall College Preparatory School and the Senior Preparation Phase therefore:

- Prioritises Mathematics and English with a structured approach to teaching more advanced and complex elements of these core subjects. The application of and strong use of grammar is a core aspect of the English programme whilst the Mathematics scheme now seeks to take on algebra, geometry and statistics;
- Allows pupils to take on positions of responsibility within the school as Prefects and Captains. To act as a role model for younger pupils is key to developing maturity and a sense of self, all of which are needed when moving into a Senior School setting;
- Includes regular formal and informal tracking and testing to inform the next steps of each teaching programme;
- Ensures an increasing number of lessons are taken within our Senior School facilities, most especially Science and Modern Foreign Languages, ensuring pupils are familiar with moving to different rooms and teachers;
- Looks towards applications for scholarships in the Senior School becoming more focused, with those seeking to secure such opportunities taking an active role within the Accelerated Pathway Programmes (A.P.P.).
- Sport, Music, Performing Arts and cultural studies remain key parts of the curriculum and timetable, allowing pupils to experience a full and dynamic range of subject areas, as they will do when they move up to the Senior School.



THE TC ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

One very special aspect of the provision at Tettenhall College Preparatory School is the broad and challenging Enrichment Programme (TCEP). The TCEP is an opportunity for every child in our community to try a range of stimulating and engaging activities which are designed to broaden horizons and widen their learning experiences. These activities are different to, but complement, the work already undertaken on the timetable. Led by our highly qualified Preparatory School team, but supported in specific areas by members of the Senior School staff, the TCEP is offered both during the timetabled day and also during our lunchtime and after school activities.

The TCEP begins in the Development Phase (Y3) and each academic year, pupils have the opportunity to work towards their TCEP Award.

The activities offered as part of the TC EP will vary each year. However examples of Enrichment Activities delivered to date have included:

- Chess
- Book Club
- Cookery
- Sewing
- Latin
- Lego Robotics
- Debating
- Coding Club
- An introduction to Philosophy
- Orienteering & Navigation
- Mandarin
- Wildlife Club
- Public Speaking
- Astronomy

Alongside the TC Enrichment Programme, a weekly programme of sports is offered at lunchtime and after school. This includes, but is certainly not limited to, our Squash and Swimming Academies, athletics, tennis and football. This is in addition to our timetabled programme of sport which follows a seasonal plan. The development of physicality, agility, coordination and strength, all contribute to allowing our young learners to grow and flourish. Our music and performing arts teams also offer a broad range of opportunities, from orchestra and choir through to participation in our annual productions.



ACADEMIC STRETCH & SCHOLARSHIP AT TETTENHALL COLLEGE

When pupils reach the Senior School at Tettenhall College, the formal scholarship programme is introduced. Scholarship at Tettenhall College is a significant, foundational and active process, quite different in many ways to the traditional programmes seen in other schools. Each year, scholarships are applied for and awarded for excellence in Academics, Music, Art, Sport and Performing Arts. Such an award is made after a structured assessment process that considers a pupil's current level of attainment alongside their potential. Attitude and an understanding of the importance of scholarship are also important aspects of the assessment process.

However, the critical difference is that Scholarship at Tettenhall College is not merely an award, a noun. Scholarship at Tettenhall College is an active process. This is demonstrated and brought to life by every pupil in the Senior School and every student in the Sixth Form receiving a copy of the full Scholars' Handbook at the start of each academic year. All formal academic scholars are required to complete at least one task per term, however every pupil is warmly and actively encouraged to complete tasks of their choosing. At the end of each term, certificates are awarded in assemblies to all pupils who have successfully completed Scholars' Tasks.

In the Preparatory School we know that children show potential and talents at varying times and in differing ways. Whilst the formal scholarship programme is reserved for the Senior School, the Accelerated Prep Pathway (A.P.P.) is a route to allow pupils who are showing significant potential, most especially in Maths and English, to harness this with a range of tasks, activities and tailored attention from the teaching team in these areas. Alongside tasks and activities, there will also be opportunities to take part in external competitions such as the Junior Mathematical Challenge and Olympiad.

Participation in the A.P.P. scheme is by no means a guarantee of a Scholarship Award when entering Senior School. First and foremost the A.P.P. is designed to inspire, excite and motivate children in areas that they are showing promise in. A Senior School scholarship must still be applied for and assessed, alongside the external applicants to the School at this point. However, successful completion and commitment to the A.P.P. Scheme will contribute to a pupil's assessment portfolio.



OUR VALUES & REWARD SYSTEM

Here at Tettenhall College it is really important that our Values are meaningful and fully embedded into everyday life. It is also essential that our pupils recognise how their actions, efforts and attitude reflect our school Values and, in turn, see how these are recognised by us here at School.



Each week our pupils have the opportunity to earn stickers which are recorded and kept in their personal learning diaries. Each time a pupil clearly and effectively demonstrates one of our Values through their work or actions, these are rewarded positively with a sticker. Effort and commitment are as highly valued as overall achievement. Kindness, good grace and manners are of true importance. Creativity, teamwork and ingenuity are commended through this Values based approach.

As our pupils gather their stickers, they will reach milestone points with a Bronze Award being given for 100 stickers, Silver for 200, Gold for 300, Platinum for 400 and Titanium for 500 - a really outstanding achievement.

We celebrate our individual and shared successes with weekly assemblies where certificates and awards are presented. These are also shared with parents in our end of week newsletter which also contains news from both inside and outside of the classroom.



THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION

Underpinning every phase of the Preparatory Pathway is a strong and meaningful partnership with parents. This partnership is essential in ensuring that we truly understand and know each pupil as fully as possible and allows home and school to work together to secure the best possible outcomes.

We hold termly parents meetings, both digitally and face to face, so that progress can be shared and discussed. These parents meetings will always follow a report or a grade card so that there is specific and progressive information to base discussions on.

However, it is really important that parents feel they can discuss their child, their progress and any areas of concern with the class teacher or other members of staff, whenever this is needed. Parents here at Tettenhall Preparatory School are welcome to contact class teachers and other members of staff either by email or telephone, remembering of course that the majority of the school day is dedicated to teaching lessons.

We also highly value the role that parents play in supporting and encouraging the completion of homework and other learning tasks. By being aligned in our approach to this, we can ensure that our pupils receive a consistent and joined up message about the importance of focus, attitude, manners and respect.





Tettenhall College

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Tettenhall College Preparatory School
Wood Road, Tettenhall
Wolverhampton, WV6 8QX

T: 01902 751 119 - www.tettenhallcollege.co.uk

admissions@tettcoll.co.uk