



M|P|W

Birmingham
Prospectus
2026/2027

Tailored, *not uniform*
www.mpw.ac.uk



About the College

MPW Birmingham is a co-educational fifth- and sixth-form college accepting up to 250 students each year. We offer intensive, small-group tuition in a socially relaxed yet academically rigorous environment.

MPW Birmingham is part of the MPW group of colleges founded in London in 1973. The college is located in Edgbaston Village, only a few minutes from the city centre and the University of Birmingham. It was opened in 1980 and is the only college of its kind in the West Midlands.

MPW relocated to larger, newly refurbished premises in 2006 and the site was substantially extended again both in 2015 and 2018. The college now boasts greatly enhanced facilities to meet all the needs of our expanding student base.

No student is accepted without attending an interview, the initial purpose of which is to provide parents and students with the best educational advice. If we feel that it is appropriate to offer a place at MPW, every effort is made during the interview to identify the right

programme and options, often by means of detailed discussion with individual subject tutors.

Once a student has been accepted at MPW, our aim is to provide the most effective possible preparation for the specific examinations that he or she will be taking. Our method is based on intensive tuition in small groups, close personal monitoring of academic progress and regular exam practice. We insist on strict punctuality in the attendance of lessons and the submission of academic work but are otherwise free of many of the school rules that today's students find restrictive.

Our reputation is based on having created a college in which students can enjoy working hard. The environment is friendly and informal, the tutors experienced and enthusiastic and the atmosphere positive and conducive to success.

“Governors and leaders work collaboratively to deliver an educational experience that prioritises individualised pathways, so that pupils benefit from provision closely matched to their circumstances and aspirations.”

ISI Inspection Report

College Inspections

The college is registered as an independent school with the Department for Education and as such is subject to regular inspections by Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education) and the Independent Schools Inspectorate. The college was rated by Ofsted as Outstanding in all assessment areas. It has also been judged as fully compliant with all regulatory standards by the Independent Schools Inspectorate. Copies of our inspection reports are available on our website.



Our Method

Our small class sizes ensure intensive, interactive work and provide optimum conditions for individual progress and success.



Tuition

We have a staff of highly qualified tutors, the majority of whom have several years' teaching experience at the college. Tuition takes place on weekdays between 9.00 am and 6.00 pm. MPW produces its own study materials in all major subjects and members of staff are available outside of class time to provide help on an individual surgery basis. This time is used for clarification of subject material and help with timed assignments or past examination papers.

It is a fundamental principle at MPW that there is a maximum of nine students in any one class. With these group sizes it is possible to combine a stimulating classroom atmosphere with the close individual attention that each student requires. Tuition is focused on the precise demands of the final examination and particular attention is paid to exam technique.

Examination Practice

A level students are required to complete a weekly timed assignment in each of their subjects. Timed assignments are usually of one hour's duration and are designed to test the understanding of work covered during the previous week. These are supplemented by regular, more substantial progress tests, the purpose of which is to ensure that revision is continuous and cumulative over the duration of the course. Full mock exams are held before all external examinations.

We place considerable emphasis on regular testing under timed conditions, which we find plays a major part in building students' confidence and motivation. All timed assignments, revision tests and mock examinations take place under supervised exam conditions. The Study Centre is operated as a mock examination centre and is fully supervised from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm every day during term time.

Facilities

A state of the art VLE and a full range of modern resources and facilities supports and enriches students' learning, promoting higher levels of achievement. There are dedicated laboratories for Biology, Chemistry and Physics, all finished to the highest specification. There is an Art Studio and ICT Suite, each of which offers optimal conditions for learning. All classrooms are internet-enabled and interactive whiteboard technology is available across the full range of subjects.

The Study Centre maintains a comprehensive selection of past examination papers and the Learning Resource Centre holds relevant reference books, subject journals and university prospectuses. Students have access to computers throughout the day in the Study Centre and the Learning Resource Centre. Our spacious, purpose-built student common room is the main hub of social activity outside the classroom and provides an area both for refreshments and relaxation.

Supervision of Progress

MPW's Personal Tutor system provides close, friendly and constructive pastoral support and monitoring of students' progress. The Personal Tutors are readily accessible to parents and hold regular individual meetings with their students to discuss academic progress, degree applications and general welfare. A large proportion of the Personal Tutors' time is devoted solely to this important function. Students' attendance and punctuality are monitored closely.

Our work schedule is demanding and parental support is vital to any student's success. We encourage parents to discuss progress with us at any time. Written reports are sent to parents twice in the Autumn and Spring terms and once in the Summer term. The reports provide information on general progress, timed assignment results and suggestions for short-term action. Reports are discussed with students in review meetings at which students and Personal Tutors together agree formal targets for development during the following half term.

“Leaders have established a comprehensive personal tutor (PT) framework, providing individualised guidance through weekly contact, so that pupils develop self-confidence, self-awareness and clear academic direction throughout their time at the school.”

ISI Inspection Report

“Regular assessments, combined with formative feedback, ensure that pupils clearly understand their academic progress and the next steps in their learning.”

ISI Inspection Report



University Guidance

The clear aim of the majority of our students is to proceed to a university degree course after leaving MPW. A key part of the Personal Tutors' role is to provide the help and guidance necessary to make the most appropriate choices of course and institution.

Degree Applications

For students in the lower sixth the process of applying to university begins in the Autumn and Spring terms with ongoing discussions regarding university and career options. It culminates in a university support programme at the end of the Summer term. We encourage early applications for all courses in Higher Education and advisory discussions start in earnest at the earliest possible stage, normally during the initial student interview.

MPW Birmingham has built up considerable expertise in supporting students applying for some of the more competitive courses such as Medicine, Dentistry and

Veterinary Science. This support extends to university selection, help with structuring the personal statement, interview practice and preparation for the UCAT and other pre-admissions tests. Speakers ranging from university admissions tutors to gap-year students visit the college each year to give advice on the universities and departments that students from MPW have attended in the past.



“Students are exceptionally well prepared for life at university through the personal and social education curriculum and the ethos of the school, which encourages self-reliance and individual responsibility.”

Ofsted Inspection Report

MPW Guides

Our experience of university admissions has led to the publication of a series of MPW Guides on Higher Education. These guides cover general entrance procedures, admission to Oxford and Cambridge and admission to degree courses such as Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Pharmacology, Veterinary Science, Physiotherapy, Business and Management, Psychology and Law. MPW Guides and our mock interview service are used not only by our own students but also by pupils from a wide variety of other schools.

Citizenship Scheme

We believe that to be truly successful in life, our students need not only good examination results but also initiative, a strong work ethic, outstanding communication skills, and a positive, courteous, and purposeful approach to life. All students at MPW are expected to show a willingness to accept responsibility for their actions, contribute constructively to life at MPW, and engage in some form of voluntary work outside college. In our experience, involvement in schemes such as this significantly enhances students' university and career prospects.

Sport and Extra-curricular Activities

MPW students enjoy access to the sports facilities at a local university. The most popular sporting activities are badminton, basketball, football, cricket, netball and general fitness training. MPW has an established football team which plays matches against other colleges. We run a popular debating society and our students participate annually in a Model United Nations conference. Our students may also take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme and become involved in charity work with a wide range of local charities. We make the most of our central Birmingham location with excursions to the Magistrates' Courts, Botanical Gardens, art galleries and museums. There are activities with travel further afield, including overseas study tours, theatre trips to London and Stratford-upon-Avon, field trips to Wales and History excursions around the country.

A level at MPW

A level study at MPW is characterised by choice and specialisation. Subject choice is informed by the career aspirations of the individual student and by our personalised higher education guidance.

Two-Year A level Courses

Most A level students at MPW study a two-year A level programme. These courses are designed for students who are continuing at MPW after GCSE or for students from other schools who are seeking a change of environment after Year 11.

In common with most schools in the independent sector, the majority of students joining us in the lower sixth study three subjects at A level and may undertake an Extended Project Qualification. This programme enables students to follow a broad and balanced academic curriculum combined with the opportunity of developing in-depth study and research skills.

An increasing number of students also join MPW at the end of Year 12 either to complete the studies that they have started at their previous schools or to change direction with a new approach or a new set of subjects. Depending on prior academic attainment, this may mean transferring into the upper sixth or restarting in Year 12 at MPW.

One-Year A level Courses

These self-contained courses cover the complete specification in one year and are run entirely separately from the second year of our two-year programme.

“Pupils have extremely positive attitudes to learning due to the high quality of teaching and individual support they receive. They work hard and are determined to succeed. Behaviour in lessons and around the school is exemplary.”

Ofsted Inspection Report

One-year courses are designed for students with previous experience of A level work and include the option of students taking up a new subject that may not have been available at school, often allowing them to rethink their UCAS options in a fresh and constructive manner.

Retake A level Courses

At MPW there are two main course duration and start date options for retake students at A level. The choice between these options often depends on previous grades, university aspirations and gap year plans.

Our September to June course suits those students who require thorough revision of all papers, often over more than one subject. It is no longer possible to retake a subset of papers that contribute to the overall grade and the full-year course is usually the safest and most effective means of securing a significant improvement.

The other main option is the January to June short retake course which may suit those who have narrowly missed their target grade, who perhaps have gap-year activities such as work experience or travel plans during the Autumn term and whose new UCAS application does not need to reference the academic progress made during a retake course. It is essential to discuss the various short retake options carefully at interview.

Oxbridge Entrance

Our Oxbridge preparation programmes focus on aptitude test preparation, interview performance, wider reading, and the short written tests often set at the time of interview. We offer a mock interview programme that provides detailed advice and guidance to the student. Where appropriate, we also offer specialist extension tuition for Oxbridge candidates in individual subjects.





“Teaching is underpinned by good subject knowledge and positive relationships between teachers and pupils.”

ISI Inspection Report

GCSE at MPW

Our GCSE curriculum is specifically tailored to meet individual needs and provides a firm foundation for success at A level. Work done in the classroom is supplemented by a wide range of out of class activities designed to bring school work into the context of everyday life.

Two-Year and One-Year Courses

Our GCSE core curriculum programme allows those who wish to transfer to MPW at the beginning of Year 10 or Year 11 to do so with the minimum of disruption to their studies. The two-year course is a fully integrated programme covering the requirements of the National Curriculum. These include English, Mathematics, Modern Languages and Sciences. Students may take up to 10 subjects. Students taking one-year GCSE courses receive more hours of tuition per subject, thus placing a lower limit on the maximum number of subjects that may be taken.

Students who are under 16 at the beginning of the school year are expected to be full-time. Those in this age group are also required to participate in a wider range of activities than their older counterparts. In addition to the academic timetable, all students are supported by a PSHE programme that encourages them to understand their role in society and to uphold the values of freedom, tolerance and respecting the rule of law. The PSHE programme also covers personal well-being, healthy relationships, personal finance, careers education and current affairs.

GCSE students take part in a range of indoor and outdoor sports activities in which they are able to mix with A level students in a supervised environment. Many of the GCSE students are members of the college’s sports teams. GCSE students are given the opportunity of studying a creative subject and of participating in the college enrichment clubs so that they may explore areas such as photography and film.

Short Retake GCSE Courses

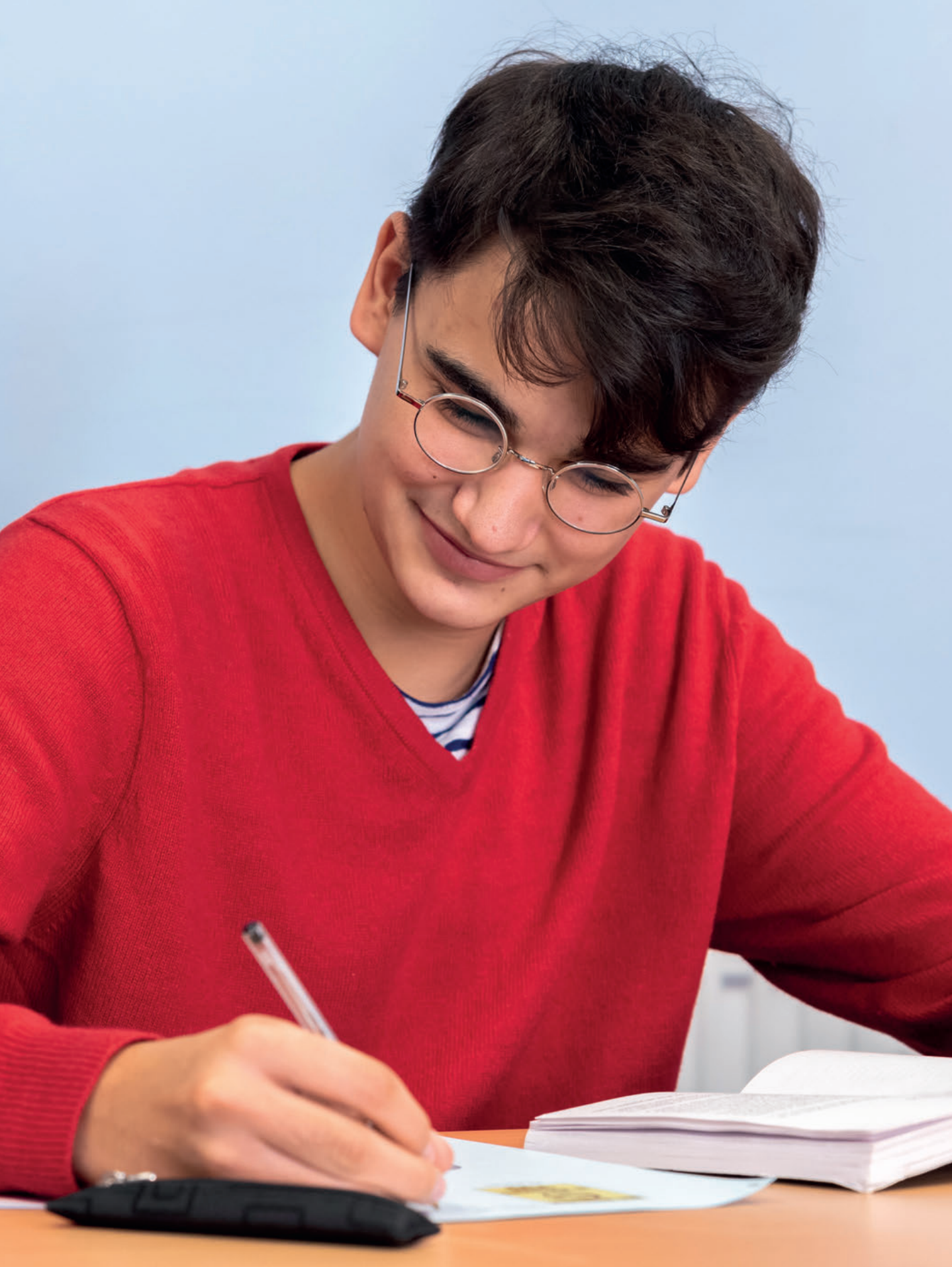
We run short retake courses for students who have narrowly missed the pass grade equivalent in English Language or Mathematics. Assessed coursework may either be improved and resubmitted or, where desirable and permitted by the examining boards, we can arrange for assessments made by other schools to be carried over.

Student Supervision at GCSE

The relationship between the student and the Head of GCSE is a particularly important one at MPW. Students need access to a specialist who has a detailed overview of their strengths and weaknesses and of the demands placed upon them by the various subjects. The Head of GCSE holds regular individual meetings with each student and is the main point of contact with parents.

“Leaders have established a broad, balanced and well resourced curriculum... This enables pupils to pursue interests and develop a positive foundation across all academic disciplines.”

ISI Inspection Report



MPW Prize Winners

Each year MPW awards a number of prizes in recognition of academic achievement. The roll of honour for our 2025 prize winners was as follows:

MERT AVCIOGLU won the Outstanding Academic Achievement Award. Mert joined MPW from Saudi Arabia for a two-year A level programme in Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics. He achieved grades AAA and won a place to read Aerospace Engineering at the University of Sheffield.

EMMA JONES won the MPW Medicine Award. Emma joined MPW from King Edward VI College, where she had achieved grades ABB in A level Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics. She retook Biology and Mathematics over one year, achieving grades AA and won a place to read Medicine at Hull York Medical School.

ARJUN SOORAE won the MPW Retake Award. Arjun joined MPW from Queen Mary's Grammar School, where he had achieved ABD in History, Biology and Chemistry. He retook Biology and Chemistry over one year, achieving grades A*A* and won a place to read Medicine at the University of Liverpool.

OSCAR DARBY won the Dentistry Award. Oscar joined MPW from Concorde College, where he had achieved grades AAB in A level Biology, Chemistry and Physics. He retook Physics over one year, achieved a grade A and won a place to read Dentistry at Cardiff University.

REX CHAN won the MPW Science Award. Rex originally joined MPW from Victoria Shanghai Academy in Hong Kong to complete GCSEs and then a two-year course in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics. He achieved grades AAB and won a place to read Biomedical Science at the University of Birmingham.

MILLIE WOOD won the Isobel Cater Memorial Award for Humanities. Millie joined MPW from King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls for our one-year A level course in Psychology and achieved a grade A. Millie won a place to read Product Design at the University of Edinburgh.

ROXY XU won the Gary Durrant Creative Arts Award. Roxy joined MPW from the Cambridge School of Visual and Performing Arts in Shanghai for our two-year A level course in Art, Chinese and English Literature. She achieved grades AA*C and won a place to read Film Studies at King's College London.

YUSEF ALSALEM won the NCUK Award. Yousef joined MPW from the New English School in Kuwait to complete a one-year NCUK Foundation course. He achieved grades A*ABA* in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and English and won a place to read Medicine at the University of Central Lancashire.

MWAKA MUSUKWA won the Lower Sixth Prize. Mwaka joined MPW from the Banani International School in Zambia for our two-year A level course in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics. She achieved outstanding results in her lower-sixth examinations alongside an A grade for her EPQ on the use of regenerative medicine in the prevention and treatment of myocardial infarctions.

HANNAH WONG won the GCSE Award. Hannah joined MPW from Hong Kong for our two-year GCSE course. She took nine subjects and achieved grades 9,9,9,8,8,8,6 and is now studying A levels at Arden Academy, Solihull.



Subjects Taught at MPW

Subjects	A level	GCSE
Accounting	●	
Art*	●	●
Art and Design		●
Biology	●	●
Business	●	●
Chemistry	●	●
Chinese	●	
Computer Science*	●	●
Digital Photography	●	
Economics	●	
English Language		●
English Literature	●	●
Film Studies	●	
French	●	●
Further Mathematics	●	
Geography	●	●

Subjects	A level	GCSE
German	●	●
Government and Politics	●	
History	●	●
Mathematics	●	●
Media Studies	●	●
Physics	●	●
Psychology	●	●
Religious Studies	●	●
Sociology	●	
Spanish	●	●

**Students choose between GCSE Art and GCSE Computer Science.
Other subjects may be available from time to time.*



“The principal and the senior leadership team are ambitious for their pupils. Their collective experience and expertise ensure that the school benefits from leadership and management of the highest quality.”

Ofsted Inspection Report

Staff at MPW

Principal

ADAM CROSS read Biological Sciences at Lancaster University before completing a post-graduate degree in Education. He joined MPW in 2003, becoming Vice Principal in 2010. He was appointed as Principal in January 2026. Adam has taught Biology since joining MPW and is the co-author of MPW's *Getting into Dental School* and *Getting into Medical School*.

Vice Principals

JAMES BOURNE read Illustration at the University of Plymouth and joined MPW in 2006. James continues to be involved in various community-based Art projects in the West Midlands. His work has been exhibited nationally including at Somerset House and the Old Truman Brewery in London. James serves both as a Vice Principal and as the college's Head of GCSE.

RYAN MORAN read Business and Accountancy and took his PGCE at Birmingham City University. He joined MPW in 2013 and also holds the positions of International Student Officer and Director of Student Enrichment.

AARON GHUMAN read Chemistry at the University of Sheffield before going on to work in the pharmaceutical sector before joining MPW in 2019. Aaron served as Director of Teaching and Learning at MPW before being appointed as Vice Principal in January 2026.

Director of School Operations

TIM BANKS worked in managerial positions within logistics and media sectors before joining MPW in 2016. He holds a DipHE in Computing and IT and oversees the college's support systems.

Teaching Staff and Subjects Taught

TAUHEED ARIF	BA	Economics, Business
JAMES ASHLEY	BSc	Biology
NIGEL BAKER	BSc, PhD	Biology, Chemistry
BEN BLACKFORD	BSc	Computer Science
JAMES BOURNE	BA, PGCE	Art
REBECCA BOWLEY	BA, PGCE	History
JESSICA CARTER	BSc, MSc	Biology
MICHAEL CARTWRIGHT	BA, MA	English
BEN CHETTER	BSc, MRes	Chemistry
ADAM CROSS	BSc, MEd	Biology
YOLANDA DE LLANO ARIAS	BA	Spanish
MYA DONALDSON	BSc	Chemistry, Biology
AARON GHUMAN	BSc	Chemistry
JAMES HADLEY	BA	English, Politics
MATHEW HAMMOND	BA	Media Studies, Photography
CHARLES HARRY	BSc, ALAM	English, French, German
BRODERICK HARVEY	BSc, MSc	Physics, Mathematics
ROBIN HATTER	BSc	Mathematics
KEVIN HILLIER	BSc	Mathematics, Physics
MARIANNE HUGHES	BSc, MA	Psychology
ISMAEEL JAVED	BA	Business
RAKIM LEE	BA	Geography, Business
PEI MCKENSIE	BA, MA	Chinese
RUSSELL MIDDLETON	BA, PGCE	Media Studies, Film Studies
AKIF MOHIT	BSc, MSc	Mathematics
RYAN MORAN	BA, PGCE	Business
GILES PENMAN	MPhil, MA, PGCE, AKC	Politics, Sociology, History, Classics
OMAR QURESHI	MSc, PhD	Mathematics
PATRICIA ROBINSON	BA, PGCE	French, English, IELTS
JADE ROUND	BA	Religious Studies
ZOE SNEE	BA	Sociology, History
SOPHIE STEWART	BA, MA, PGCE, DELTA	English, IELTS
SHAMIHA SULTANA	BA	Business
LAURET TIPPING	BSc, MSc	Physics
ANDY VANEK	BSc	Mathematics



Supplementary Tuition and Easter Revision

MPW runs a number of courses for students at other schools and colleges. These usually take place in the holidays, after school or on Saturday mornings.

Supplementary Tuition

We run a busy after-hours tuition programme tailored to the individual needs of A level and GCSE students. Tuition is also provided at pre-GCSE level in Mathematics, English and in verbal and non-verbal reasoning for school entrance examinations.

All tuition takes place on the college premises. We do not provide home tuition. Lessons normally take place between 4.30 pm and 6.30 pm, Monday to Friday. Tutorials last for one hour or one and a half hours. Many of our tutors are experienced examiners; all are enthusiastic about their subject areas and experienced in teaching a variety of specifications.

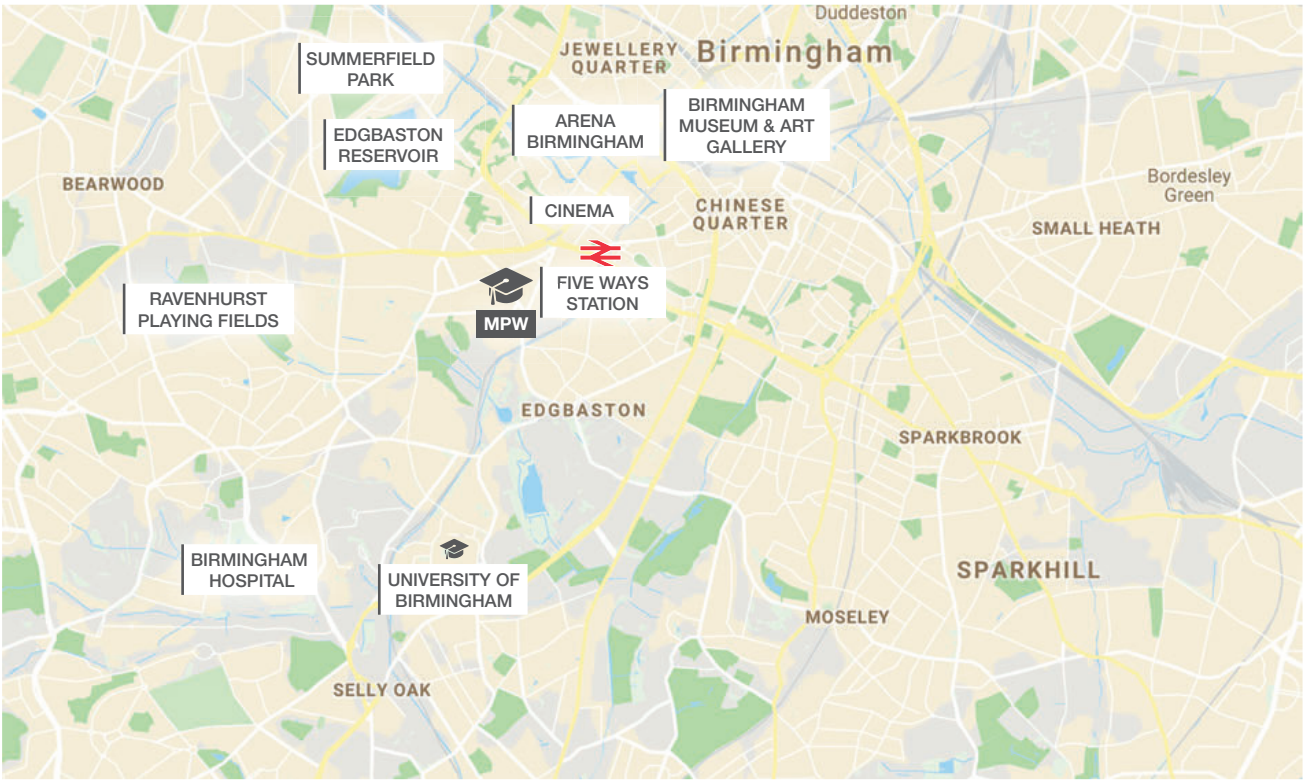
Saturday Tuition

MPW offers Saturday morning tuition between the hours of 9.00 am and 1.00 pm when pupils from outside MPW have the opportunity of covering core topics and practising exam technique. Our team of tutors offer tuition in pre-GCSE, GCSE and A level courses and are familiar with all exam boards. Pupils are expected to attend a minimum of six hours' tuition in each subject that they study. Most Saturday pupils study Mathematics, Sciences or English but other subjects are available on request.

Easter Revision

Intensive A level and GCSE revision courses are organised during the Easter holidays. These courses are self-contained and include thorough revision of core topics, guided practice of examination questions and improvement of study and revision skills. Students may register for one-week courses that cover an entire subject specification or for individual day or half-day modules.

At the end of each course students receive guidance and suggestions for further improvement so that a step-by-step plan of immediate action is in place before the examinations. Separate course outlines are provided for each subject.



MPW Birmingham is situated on Greenfield Crescent in Edgbaston Village. The college is a short walk from Five Ways train station and is easily accessible via the M5, M6 or M42. Our proximity to the city centre and the University of Birmingham campus allow our students access to the full range of world class facilities that Birmingham has to offer.



BIRMINGHAM **0121 454 9637**
16-18 Greenfield Crescent
Birmingham B15 3AU

birmingham@mpw.ac.uk

LONDON **020 7835 1355**
90-92 Queen's Gate
London SW7 5AB

london@mpw.ac.uk

CAMBRIDGE **01223 350158**
3-4 Brookside
Cambridge CB2 1JE

cambridge@mpw.ac.uk

www.mpw.ac.uk



M|P|W

Additional Information

2026/2027



www.mpw.ac.uk

MPW Birmingham – 2026/2027 Term Dates

Terms and Half Terms

Autumn Term	Tuesday 8 September – Friday 11 December 2026 (Half term: 26 October – 30 October 2026)
Spring Term	Monday 4 January – Friday 19 March 2027 (Half term: 15 February – 19 February 2027)
Summer Term	Monday 12 April – Friday 11 June 2027* (Half term: Bank Holidays 3 May and 31 May 2027)

Easter Revision Courses 2027

Week 1	Monday 22 March – Friday 26 March
Week 2	Monday 29 March – Friday 2 April
Week 3	Monday 5 April – Friday 9 April
(Good Friday is 26 March 2027; Easter Monday is 29 March 2027)	

**Student Induction – Monday 7 September.*
**Where examinations fall after this date we continue, when appropriate, to teach students up to their last examination paper.*

2026/2027 Fees

All listed tuition fees are exclusive of VAT at the standard rate of 20% which will be applied, where applicable, in accordance with government legislation.

A level Courses

Two-year courses	
First year of two-year courses	per term £8,609
Second year of two-year courses	per term £8,609

One-year courses	
For one subject	per term £4,259
For two subjects	per term £8,516
For three subjects	per term £9,282

GCSE Courses

Integrated two-year course	
Core curriculum	per term £6,188

One-year courses	
For up to four GCSE subjects	per subject per term £1,830
For five or more GCSE subjects	per term £8,388

Other Fees *These fees include or are exempt from VAT.*

Individual tuition	per hour £90
For programmes of more than six hours	per hour £78

English as an Additional Language (EAL)	per term £2,000
---	-----------------

Registration fee	£350
------------------	------

There are no other fees except for the exam entry fees and, where appropriate, field trips.

Tailored, *not uniform*

**Our mission is to work with students to transform
academic aspirations into reality.**

Aims

Encourage students to have high academic aspirations

Work in partnership with parents to encourage a strong work ethic and the confidence and self-belief to achieve those aspirations

Provide a broad and flexible curriculum that allows bespoke programmes of study which reflect individual needs and allow students to cultivate their specific academic interests and aptitudes

Assist students in achieving high academic success through a combination of small class sizes, high quality teaching and a clear focus on learning outcomes

Provide an excellent system of pastoral support that is geared towards individual needs and recognises the personal and emotional challenges faced by 14 to 19 year olds

Enable students to make informed choices about educational progression in such a way as to maximise their chances of securing places on competitive and prestigious courses

Provide a friendly and informal environment in which students are encouraged to develop personal discipline and values, lead fulfilled lives and make a positive contribution to society

Chair of Governors: Steve Boyes BA MSc PGCE

Mander Portman Woodward Ltd 90-92 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5AB Tel: 020 7835 1355

