



### **Introduction**

Dodderhill School is an independent day school in Droitwich Spa providing education for girls from 3 to 16 years and boys from 3 to 7 years. The number currently on roll is 227 and the school can accommodate up to 240 children. It is therefore small enough to care for the individual, and yet strong enough to meet the educational and economic challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

A new Nursery opened in March 2004 to provide day care from 0 – 3+years. This provision is open for 50 weeks per year. The Nursery Manager leads a team of trained nursery nurses to run this setting, which transfers children through the Kindergarten in to the School's Reception class.

### **Background**

The school today has grown out of two schools, Whitford Hall School, founded in 1945 and Dodderhill School, founded in 1973; Dodderhill today is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The Headmistress belongs to the Girls Schools Association (GSA) and the Independent Schools Association (ISA). Staff benefit from a wide range of good professional development training offered by the associations and pupils participate fully in the wide range of sporting and cultural events which membership offers. The School is a member of the Independent Schools Bursars' Association (ISBA) and the Governors belong to the Association of Governing Bodies of Independent Schools (AGBIS)

### **Facilities**

The school campus is situated on the outskirts of the town and set in landscaped grounds surrounded by extensive lawns which provide a relaxing atmosphere for pupils and staff alike. Outside facilities include, for sport an AstroTurf with netball and tennis courts and a grass hockey pitch, for investigation a pond area and for the EYFS a new exploration and play area.

The school buildings are now a tasteful mix of old and new following the opening in September 1999 of a purpose-built junior block with dedicated Early Years provision, a multi-purpose hall and an extended dining room. Further development has followed each year since and includes a new classroom and catering block in 2007, full refurbishment of the physics laboratory in 2008 and a 2<sup>nd</sup> ICT room and a greatly enhanced Early Years Foundation Stage outside area in 2009. In addition, in recent years, there has been substantial investment in ICT to enhance pupils' learning.

### **Academic Standards**

Entrance to the school from Year 4 (9+) onwards is by examination; for younger children entrance is by Taster Day and one to one assessment. Scholarships, both academic and music at 11+ are awarded on the results of the formal spring entrance examinations. The School also offers help with fees (Bursaries) to those children who would benefit from a Dodderhill education but whose families are not in a position to pay.

The ability range of the pupils ranges from average to well above average and this, combined with small classes and a positive ethos plays a large part in the school's success.

All girls are expected to take 9 GCSE examinations and the school has a reputation for high academic achievement. In four of the last five years all girls have achieved 5 or more A\* to C at GCSE and the A\*/A average for the same period is 41%. Girls leaving Dodderhill regularly win sixth form scholarships to local independent schools, places at the King Edward Foundation and other grammar schools as well as numerous good local maintained sixth forms such as Old Swinford Hospital and Haybridge.

### **Staff**

The school has a team of well-qualified, experienced and enthusiastic staff both full and part time who are committed to excellence in academic performance, the encouragement of high self-esteem and the development of 'all-round' personalities in the pupils. Their commitment contributes significantly to the excellent academic results, which the school achieves.

New staff joining the team have a personal induction with one of the two deputies and are welcome to visit the school before taking up their appointment both for familiarisation sessions with current post holders and for the more formal school events