Holly Lodge High School, Smethwick
College of Science

Mr Ahson Mohammed, Headteacher

Holly Lodge School is a specialist science college catering for 1300 students aged 11-18. It has a long and distinguished past, which has paved the way for the establishment of its £23.5m new school which will transform learning for young people and their families in Smethwick.

One of the nation’s most improved schools this year, the beginning of an era for staff and students as they move into the new build next year. Students and staff have moved into the first phase of the new build, leaving the remaining 1930s ex grammar school structure to be fully refurbished by September 2011.

Holly Lodge welcomed new Headteacher Ahson Mohammed in 2009 on the previous Head’s retirement. Mr Mohammed has an outstanding track-record of school leadership in a range of schools as well as working as an Ofsted Inspector.

“Students enjoy school, feel safe and are well prepared for the next stages of their education or employment” Ofsted 2010

New build

Modern, glass fronted buildings, landscaping and its own public art are the future for Holly Lodge School.

Holly Lodge’s new home with modern sports facilities and specialised ICT learning zones with interactive equipment and resources, will allow out of hours and community access. The building work is expected to be completed in August 2011.

“When students arrived for classes in the new building, their reaction was just ‘wow!’”
Ahson Mohammed, Headteacher.

The new build has interactive projection and wireless access across the site, new dining facilities, sports hall, dance studio, fitness suite and large open learning areas. The school has also invested in individual learning devices along with a new service whereby students can loan laptop computers, digital cameras and flip video recorders as they would a library book.
History

The school was originally a girls' and boys’ separate site grammar school. The girls' grammar school opened in 1927. The boys' grammar school, moved to a new building next door to the girls' school in 1932. In 1967, the boys' school joined with the James Watt Technical School. The girls' and boys' schools were united in 1972 as a high school admitting children of all abilities on the two original sites. In September 1992, a new Holly Lodge School was opened on the site following the closure of several schools.

Holly Lodge became a specialist College of Science in the summer of 2004.

Achievements:

The science specialism is working exceptionally well with 65% of students gaining grades A* to C, which is above the national average.

“The headteacher has galvanised the staff, students and the community in a common vision of 'believing it can be done.'” Ofsted 2010

In 2010, Holly Lodge was identified as one of the 20 most improved secondary schools in the country by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust. This national recognition required 3 years' continuous progress with a minimum of 15% rise in 5 A*-C grades including maths and English.

Our top five students achieved: nine A* and four A grades; ten A* and two A grades; six A*s and four A grades; five A* and four As; and four A*s and seven As at GCSE.

“The school's specialism in the sciences has had a significant impact on the curriculum, the quality of teaching and learning, and on assessment systems.”

“The tracking and monitoring of students' performance are rigorous and have led to continuous improvement in GCSE examination results.” Ofsted 2010

Our community

The school is located on Holly Lane on the midpoint between Smethwick and Oldbury, recognised as one of the most deprived wards nationally. The school serves a rich culturally diverse community with approximately forty six languages spoken within the community.

“Community cohesion within the school itself is impressive.” Ofsted 2010

For further details visit www.holly-lodge.org

Government Initiatives IQ