



Want to give your daughter
or son a head start?
Enter your child now for

The **11+** Tuition Project

The Wolverhampton African-Caribbean Foundation Trust
is a registered charity in England and Wales (1149392)
and a limited company registered in England and Wales



About the Wolverhampton African-Caribbean Foundation Trust

The Wolverhampton African-Caribbean Foundation Trust is a group of committed individuals concerned about the relative disadvantage experienced by young people, but more significantly those from black and ethnic minority backgrounds, in the West Midlands.

The Trust is a registered charity. It has been supporting individuals, aged 16-35, predominantly from African Caribbean backgrounds, to enable them to fulfil their potential by providing grant funding. Small and large grants of between £500 and up to £5,000 are awarded for vital equipment needed to enable individuals to attend college or training courses, provide help for business and enterprise start-ups and support cultural and performing arts projects.

Board members know only too well that education improves lives and for the first time is providing funding for tuition to help Primary aged children prepare for the 11+ test under its 11+Tuition Project.

The 11+ Tuition Project

The 11+ exam is a grammar or selective school entrance test generally taken at the start of Year 6. All exam boards test the same subjects – English, Maths, Verbal Reasoning and Non-Verbal Reasoning.

This project pre supposes that parents/carers may have already identified the selective school(s) they wish their child to attend. Preparation for the 11+ can start as early as Year 3 or 4 and visits may have already taken place in the autumn term of Year 4 or before.

The focus of this project is funding to support academically talented children whose families may need help with tuition costs to enable their child to attend a selective school. Grammar or selective schools admit children on the basis of some sort of selection criteria, usually academic. The Trust will fund 10 children starting Year 5 in September 2021 who are aiming to take the 11+ test in September 2022.

This pilot will be limited to children applying for a place at any of the five schools in the Consortium of Grammar Schools in Shropshire, Walsall and Wolverhampton; the eight Birmingham Grammar School Consortium schools and Thomas Telford School City Technology College, the only non-selective school in the project.

The Trust will pay tuition costs quarterly in advance and direct to parents/carers up to a maximum ceiling. This will enable families to be flexible when putting in place a tuition programme that suits the ability and needs of their child. Tuition costs will cover the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. The test takes place in September 2022.

Children entering the project must have proven academic ability and the drive and determination to manage the rigorous tuition schedule. Parents/carers will be expected to play their part by keeping their child on task and motivated and providing an environment in which their child feels supported to succeed.

It is true to say that the Trust cannot guarantee success or a grammar school place for any of the children taking part. Each child's own efforts in the test and number of places available play a big part in whether a place is awarded. The positive messages to take away however, is that tuition will not be wasted. The programme of tuition should help children understand the efforts needed to succeed educationally and prepare them for transition to the secondary phase of education whatever the outcome.



Education is the passport to the future,
for tomorrow belongs to those who
prepare for it today' – Malcolm X

Is your child eligible to take part?

- Children should only be entered if they have the academic ability to succeed.
 - Children taking part must start or be in Year 5 in September 2021.
 - Funding will only be open to children applying for a place at any of the five schools in the Consortium of Grammar Schools in Shropshire, Walsall and Wolverhampton; the eight Birmingham Grammar School Consortium schools and Thomas Telford School City Technology College, the only non-selective school in the project.
 - Priority is given to children from disadvantaged backgrounds and of African Caribbean heritage predominantly, but not exclusively, and are either gifted and talented; whose families are in receipt of benefits; in receipt of free school meals; in the care of the Local Authority and children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
 - Parents/carers must be committed to their children's goals; be prepared to provide maximum support and undertake the required tasks to support their child into their preferred school.
 - Participating children must live in the West Midlands.
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What do parents/carers need to do?

- Complete an application form and scan and e-mail it to the Company Secretary at mail@twacft.org or complete a form on-line at twacft.org. The form should be returned by no later than 12.00 midnight on 30 June 2021.
 - Liaise, if appropriate, with your child's school or refer to school reports to tell us about academic ability and education performance.
 - If a tutor has not yet been identified, start researching and approaching tutors as parents/carers must appoint their own tutor. Help will be offered by their appointed Trust Liaison.
 - Make follow up of the desired school a priority if not yet identified.
 - Provide a quarterly update of your child's performance.
 - Participate in a final project evaluation.
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What will the Trust do?

- Appoint a project lead.
- Appoint a Trust Liaison to communicate with and advise each family group.
- Fund 10 children starting Year 5 in September 2021 who are aiming to take the 11+ test in September 2022.
- Pay tuition costs quarterly in advance and direct to parents/carers up to a maximum ceiling. This will enable families to be flexible when selecting a tuition programme that suits the ability and needs of their child. Tuition costs will cover the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022.
- Undertake an evaluation of the project.
- Request a quarterly update of children's performance to inform the evaluation and further funding.



Timetable

The 11+ Project pre-supposes that parents/carers may have already identified the grammar or selective school(s) they wish their child to attend. Preparation can start as early as Year 3 or 4 and visits to schools can begin in the autumn term of Year 4.

Month	Action
April – June 2021	Advertising the project to the wider community to encourage take up
30 June 2021	The project closes to all applicants at 12.00 midnight
July 2021	Successful participants identified and informed by allocated Trust Liaison
July/August 2021	Families and Trust Liaison link up to discuss next steps actions including tutor appointments.
September 2021	By now parents/carers should have decided on their child's preferred grammar school. If not undertake virtual tours and virtual open days if this is an option – check with each school Quarterly tuition payment made (September – December) Eligible Year 5 children begin tuition
October 2021	Tuition could continue during Half Term if parents/carers feel appropriate
January 2022	Quarterly tuition payment made (January – April)
February 2022	Tuition continues during Half Term if parents/carers feel appropriate
April 2022	Most grammar schools will open their registration for the entrance test – apply on line
May 2022	Quarterly tuition payment made (May - August) Tuition continues during Half Term if parents/carers feel appropriate
July 2022	Entrance test registration deadline – check date. Late applications may be possible but a valid reason must be given. Criteria for applications must be followed e.g. completion of the home Local Authority Common Application Form (CAF1) stating preferred schools including grammar school, or direct application to the school. Vital to check with individual schools.
August 2022	Tuition continues during summer holiday if parents/carers feel appropriate
September 2022	Eligible children start Year 6 For most grammar schools the 11+ test will take place during the first two weeks in September 2022. Check exact dates with individual schools.
October 2022	Ensure the Local Authority Common Application Form deadline for preferred secondary schools is met 11 + results posted in mid-October
March 2023	All school allocations confirmed
May 2023	End of project celebration event Project evaluation
September 2023	Successful children start Year 7 Project close
July 2024	Final follow up check with children and families

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Gather as much information about your preferred school as possible. Websites are ideal sources for this. It's also helpful to speak to past pupils and/or their family.



The Consortium of Grammar Schools in Shropshire, Walsall and Wolverhampton

There are five schools in the Consortium. For 11+ and admissions information about specific school, please visit the individual websites

School	Intake	Website
Haberdashers' Adams (Newport)	Boys/Girls - 16-18	adamsgs.uk
Queen Mary's Grammar School (Walsall)	Boys	qmgs.walsall.sch.uk
Queen Mary's High School (Walsall)	Girls	qmhs.org.uk
Newport Girls' High School (Shropshire)	Girls	nghs.org.uk
Wolverhampton Girls' High School (Wolverhampton)	Girls	wghs.org.uk

Birmingham Grammar School Consortium

There are eight schools in the Consortium. For 11+ and admissions information about specific school, please visit the individual websites or contact The Admissions Officer:

School	Intake	Admissions Contact
Bishop Vesey's Grammar School	Boys	The Grammar Schools in Birmingham Foundation Office Edgbaston Park Road Birmingham B15 2U
King Edward VI Aston School	Boys	
King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys	Boys	
King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Girls	Girls	
King Edward VI Five Ways School	Boys/Girls	
King Edward VI Handsworth School	Girls	
Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls	Girls	
Handsworth Grammar School for Boys	Boys	

Thomas Telford School

Thomas Telford School is a City Technology College. The School is especially equipped in the Technology, Science and Mathematics curriculum areas. Students are drawn from a defined catchment area across the City of Wolverhampton and Telford. During 2021 between 30% and 40% of places will be given to students residing within Wolverhampton or residing outside the city but within postcodes WV6, WV8 and WV9.

The school is the only non-selective school in the project although some parents believe it to be a grammar school in all but name. Children who apply will be invited to attend for a non-verbal reasoning assessment to determine the band of ability (A-I), within which they will be considered. Following this assessment, children are placed in one of nine bands of ability. Band 'A' being the lowest and Band 'I', the highest. Within each band, places will be allocated as far as practicable over the full range of ability. Visit the school website for further information.

School	Intake	Admissions Contact
Thomas Telford School	Boys/Girls	Old Park, Telford TF3 4NW Phone: 01952 200000 Email: info@ttsonline.net Home - Thomas Telford School (ttsonline.net)



Shanade James

I believe my time at Wolverhampton Girls' High School was a great start to my career as a journalist, says Shanade James, a producer at ITV News.

The unique curriculum at WGHS allowed me to nurture my curiosity and explore subjects that wouldn't have ordinarily been within reach at a comprehensive school. I was interested in languages from an early age, and was able to study Japanese at WGHS, gaining GCSE and A Level qualifications in the language, and then later a degree.

My university experience was invaluable as I was able to study abroad. Not only did I learn to become independent and self-sufficient, I also had the chance to make friends with people from all over the world, many of whom I am still in regular contact with years later.

Learning a language really developed my communication skills, which is crucial in my current job as a producer for ITV News.

I believe that my education at WGHS really opened up opportunities in my professional life that would have been difficult to come by otherwise. It also developed my critical thinking skills which are crucial to navigating the world in the 21st century. I would encourage other young black students to attend a grammar school to develop these skills and the confidence to achieve one's full potential.



Akil Henry

Akil Henry currently works as a Lead Data Analyst at Starcom, working exclusively on the Procter & Gamble account. He co-ordinates projects across the data team and manages staff.

'One of the main benefits of a grammar school is the high work ethic and healthy competition as there are so many high-achieving smart pupils. The environment pushes you to achieve your best because excellence is the norm. You also have access to great teachers, and a number of extra-curricular activities, which will help you in your overall development. You can potentially end up forming great friendships which are useful to you later on in life in terms of career opportunities and development.'



Children older than 11 years may not register for the tests.

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Finding a tutor

Firstly, a word about what amount of tuition may be needed for a child. Private tuition costs are normally quoted as an hourly rate and can vary between £12 and £60 per hour. If a tutor is coming to your home then you can expect the costs to be much higher than if you go to them.

You or your child's school will know whether your child only need a few weeks or months of preparation time just as the 11+ approaches, focussing on practising exam papers, developing exam technique and improving confidence. Most children benefit from several months of support. This may involve regular weekly tuition to build rigour and polish across core skills; being fully stretched and challenged academically and then shaping performance towards the demands of the exam.

It may be best to see at least two tutors and ask as many questions as possible before opting for your final choice. It is also wise to assess whether your child and tutor is a good fit. Your personal reaction to a tutor is also important in identifying a suitable one. Remember that it is always the case that parental involvement and what work goes on at home will be an essential part of success e.g. providing a quiet space for your child to work, checking whether work is completed to ensuring that your child is on time and ready for tuition.

Some local tutor services

Name	Contact	Website
Helping Hands Tuition	370-371 New Hampton Road, Whitmore Reans Wolverhampton, WV6 0RX	info@helpinghandstuition.co.uk
Explore Learning	Centres are located in places easy for families to attend on a regular basis, such as Sainsbury's supermarkets, shopping centres and local high streets.	www.explorelearning.co.uk
Tutor Hunt	Online tuition 0203 151 0012	www.tutorhunt.com
McConnell's Maths Ltd	A small tuition company (now fully online since the beginning of the pandemic) covering all school years from 1 to 11. Classes focus on key academic milestones such as year 6 SATs, 11+ preparations and GCSEs. 0800 0025712 (Free from mobiles)	McConnell's Maths - Home Facebook twitter/facebook: @mcconnellsmaths
Dawn Riley-Anderson	Proven experience of preparing students for grammar school entry. The offer not only involves one-to-one or small group tuition but includes working with parents to develop a customised teaching plan. Dawn has worked with the Steve Biko Saturday School for over 30 years. 217 Waterloo Terrace, Newhampton Road East, Wolverhampton WV1 4RB	

Note – Access arrangements may change owing to COVID 19 restrictions.



Some Questions For Tutors

1

Can I meet with you to understand how you work?

Many tutors actually don't offer much parent time because they are busy teaching so don't expect too much upfront or on an ongoing basis.

2

How much homework do you give?

A tutor should be giving out quite a lot of homework, if they aren't then we would be concerned. Two hours per week is an average, some give more (amounts will vary by tutor and the child's needs).

3

What is expected of me in terms of admin or marking?

4

How do you manage reading at home and reading lists?

5

What does the exam entail and what materials do you use?

6

Is the tutor a full time professional or someone looking to make a little extra money by helping students on the side?

There's nothing wrong with either approach but they do tend to come at different prices.





Doing your homework



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What will actually go on in the sessions?

It is not unusual for some Tutors to charge £40 per hour but during that hour every minute will be tuition and in other cases Tutors will charge £20 but at least half the session involves a child working their way through work sheets while a tutor marks the work.

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What's included in the costs?

Some Tutors will include all the materials needed, others will charge extra. Check what the cost is going to be overall. Charging extra for materials isn't necessarily a bad thing, it is just that different tutors structure their prices in different ways.

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What's required of me?

You should accept that with any tutor you will need to make sure reading is happening and that any work given is done. Some tutors give you mark sheets and expect homework to be marked, others may mark during tutor time whilst others will mark for you but outside tutor time.

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How long will you expect me to sign you up for?

Many private tutors will ask for a commitment from you (three months is not unusual), and most will ask for notice (1 month is normal). Some tutors however will seek to sign you up to the whole programme of work (six months or more) with no opportunity to cancel or take a break. Make sure you have asked what applies.



Management of success rates in exams could lead to some children not getting through the test – your child may not have failed but it may be that not enough places are available.



Wrayon Vassel

Wrayon Vassel BSc is an Trainee Optometrist was a former student at Thomas Telford School. He says it provided a strong base to go forward and build his career.

‘Their tolerance for no nonsense ensured every student was surround by like-minded individuals, whether it be in academic or sporting activities. The longer school day somewhat resembled the professional working hours enabling us to maintain high levels of prolonged concentration. This made the transition to the working world easier. Having a personal tutor group, comprised of multiple students from each year, was comforting, particularly as a Year 7 student, because it meant you knew older students who could look out for you and help with homework or understanding certain subject areas.

Aside from the academics, Thomas Telford provided a plethora of sporting and theatre/ drama activities which one could indulge in, which provided a good opportunity to balance any academic weight’.



Dr. Kayleigh Vassel

Dr. Kayleigh Vassel (Bsc. BDS, MFDS) is currently an Associate Dentist providing both NHS and private patient-centred dental care. She is a former student at Wolverhampton Girls High School (WGHS).

She says the school has a strong focus on academic achievements, which is complimented by a stringent curriculum and adaptable teaching styles to suit every student.

‘During my formative years, it was here that I developed a hunger to achieve, I was often caringly challenged and encouraged to continually raise my benchmark. What I thought was unachievable as a young black girl, soon became accessible and viable.

The broad and rich curriculum at WGHS allowed me to learn languages; French, German and Russia. Although, I did not continue with these subjects beyond GCSE level, they increased my curiosity to learn about different cultures and ethnicities and supported my desire to travel extensively. My personal love for music was supported by my teachers whereby I completed all classical piano practical and theory grades by the age of 18. I was a valued member of the philharmonic choir, and was often given solo performances in the yearly musical/theatrical productions. This provided balance between academic achievements and personal enjoyment.

On completion of my secondary school education, I achieved a Bachelor’s Degree at Keele University in Biochemistry and Music. I then went on to study Dentistry at Peninsula Dental School in Plymouth. I do believe that by attending a grammar school, it provided a stable foundations to achieve academic excellence, social disciplines and personal gratifications.



Applying to sit an entry test is not the same as asking for a place at the school (an expression of preference). Parents should therefore also complete their home Local Authority Secondary transfer preference form although they may wish their child to attend a selective school.

How do I involve my child?

Send an e-mail request for an application form and brochure, giving you full details of the project, to the Company Secretary at



mail@twacft.org

Or go to the Special Projects section of our website to view the information.



www.twacft.org

for further information contact



07412695900

Project closing date

30 June 2021, 12.00 midnight

