



**The
Wenlock
School**



Gemma Mann

Head Teacher, The Wenlock School

Gemma comes to The Wenlock School with extensive classroom and leadership experience from a range of educational environments as well as a Master's degree in Education. For the last three years she has worked at Longdon Hall School, where in her most recent position of Assistant Headteacher she held the responsibility of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning.

Prior to her appointment at Longdon Hall, Gemma established a British International School in Phuket, Thailand, where she also taught for nine years. The skills she gained setting up the school will be put to good use as she builds a new team and sets the foundations in place to provide outstanding care for children at Wenlock.

Gemma is driven by a passion and determination to help every child in her care to become a confident and independent member of society. Through the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum, Gemma wants to create a rich and relevant learning environment tailored to the unique needs of each child.

She is particularly looking forward to establishing the vocational learning opportunities at The Wenlock School to support young people up to the age of 18. Having helped the team at Longdon Hall to achieve 'outstanding' status, Gemma is determined to see The Wenlock School emulate that success.

Our Aim

At The Wenlock School we support boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 18 years of age who have a range of social, emotional and mental health needs and also pupils who have been diagnosed with autism or demonstrate behaviours associated with autism. Our aim is very simple: we want to equip every child with the skills and knowledge they need to lead healthy, productive lives.

Many children come to us with very complex needs, communication difficulties and associated challenging behaviour. We always look beyond the issues and potential barriers to learning and recognise the innate potential within. We invest time with each individual child to recognise and understand their learning needs so that we can put in place the right support package.



“Consistency is so important for our children”

Our Approach

Child Centred Education

We strive to make our school a safe, friendly place where all our children love to learn. We believe that success in the classroom depends on positive relationships between staff and pupils. Our 'wrap around' holistic approach to supporting our pupils ensures that all needs are met. With small classes of no more than eight pupils, teachers can creatively tailor lessons to ensure that all individual learning needs are addressed and met. We also have the capacity to schedule one-to-one interventions and therapy sessions to meet the wider individual needs of each child.

Involving Parents and Carers

We recognise the need to work closely with all stakeholders and we commit to actively engaging with families and carers in order to fully support their child's education. Many parents and carers have had negative encounters with education in the past – we aim to give them a completely different experience by offering the support and advice required for pupils to enjoy their schooling and so that learning is supported beyond the school day. As part of our commitment to working closely with our stakeholders the school contacts parents and carers at the end of each day to update them on their child's progress. We also make home visits a priority and invite parents and carers to participate in activities at school.

Celebrating Success

Consistency is so important for our children and we work hard to create a positive learning environment where they know exactly what is expected of them. Through a credit and reward system pupils are rewarded for achievement inside and outside the classroom and for positive behaviour displayed during the week. We set aside reward time on a Friday afternoon to offer a range of curriculum enrichment activities, on site and off site, including trips to local attractions such as bowling, ice skating, local parks or the cinema. We also build time into our assemblies each week to acknowledge children who have made particular progress and to celebrate success either in their academic studies, on the sports field, in their behaviour or for displaying positive attitudes towards their work or others.

Beyond School

Life Skills

We pride ourselves on preparing all our pupils well for the next stage of their life – not just academically but socially and emotionally. Through our life skills classes, college placements and work experience, students learn about budgeting, cooking, navigating public transport and taking care of themselves and their home. We also offer a Preparation for Working Life qualification and through this pupils learn about how to prepare for the world of work. A key priority through our focus on the development of key life skills is to ensure that every pupil develops into a successful learner, confident individual and responsible citizen.

Further Education

When pupils finally leave The Wenlock School we are committed to find appropriate placements in further education or in a work placement. When pupils enter the Upper School we help them to develop goals and ambitions for the future. With the support of their teachers and external careers advisers, we guide each child through the range of options available to them. Local businesses, colleges and local services often visit the school to give the children an insight into their professions and talk about the employment opportunities that are available.





The Wenlock School at a Glance

How old are the children at The Wenlock School?

We support boys and girls from 7-18 years of age.

How many children attend?

The school provides places for up to 85 children.

How long is the school year?

The school year follows the same 38-week timetable as mainstream schools within the area.

What special needs do children at The Wenlock School have?

All the children who attend the school will have an autism spectrum condition or social, emotional and mental health needs. Many also have additional learning or communication difficulties too.

How far do children travel to attend the school?

The majority of children at The Wenlock School live within an hour's drive from the school and come from Local Authorities across the West Midlands.

What extra support is provided?

Our multi-disciplinary team consists of teachers, teaching assistants and external therapists who support our children with specific needs. We also have a Family Liaison Officer who works directly with our children's families and carers.

What facilities are available onsite?

The Wenlock School is set in spacious, purpose built site with a separate Lower and Upper School. Within the grounds we have indoor and outdoor sports areas, purpose built vocational training facilities and spacious classrooms.

Visitors and pupils will enter the school through the welcoming reception area.



A dedicated primary with internal sensory lighting, four classrooms and a central hub catering for up to 24 children



Our dedicated SEMH Secondary area of the school will have four classrooms, a central activity and 'chill out' area and be equipped with the latest ICT facilities.



An impressive state of the art vocational area will allow the young people to access a range of accredited courses including brickwork and carpentry.





If you are interested in visiting
The Wenlock School, or finding
out more about the support we
provide, please contact:

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