

Prospectus

Confident



Successful



Proud





Welcome
Witaj
Khush amaadiid
Benvenuto
Bem-vindo
Bienvenido
Bienvenue

Hello and welcome to Francis Combe Academy

Francis Combe Academy is committed to transforming the life chances of young people through learning. We are proud to support our community and believe that all young people deserve access to the best learning experiences, support and guidance.

We believe that learning is the tool to help everyone succeed and this vision guides us in all that we do at the Academy. We aim to be at the leading edge of high quality, inclusive and innovative teaching and learning practice.

We work with our community to raise aspirations, expectations and educational achievement for all.

All staff at the Academy share the commitment of empowering young people to play their full part in society. Our young people join us in Year 7 with dreams and aspirations that we value. The journey they take with us ensures they believe these dreams can come true, giving them all the skills, knowledge and

guidance to achieve their very best.

We are proud to be an inclusive school, breaking down barriers and obstacles in a supportive and caring community.

In November 2015, Ofsted judged Francis Combe Academy to be 'Good' in every category. Inspectors commented on the good behaviour of students, the high quality leadership and the embedded high expectations in terms of progress, teaching and learning.

Students at the Academy thrive in an environment that recognises and values the widest possible strengths, interests and influences, amongst both students and staff, all coming together to educate and develop our young people into confident, successful and proud members of society.

D. Warwick
Academy Principal





Learning *today* for life tomorrow

It is said that 80 per cent of the jobs people will be doing by the year 2020 do not yet exist. That is why we want our students to be developing the skills they need to enjoy today and succeed tomorrow.

At Francis Combe Academy we are committed to helping young people and adults develop real skills for the real world. We want learning to be purposeful, centred on the needs of each student and focused firmly on the future.

“I have taught children at Francis Combe for 32 years and it has changed so much in that time. I can honestly say that the improvements that have been made to the Academy in the last few years are the greatest.”

Paul Lovis

Raising Standards Leader Maths

Essential skills for the modern world

We believe there are essential skills for success in the modern world. That is why Francis Combe Academy focuses on English, maths and a range of creative and technology-based subjects. The full National Curriculum is offered, but our particular focus provides real benefits:

- **English:** because reading, writing and speaking will always be vital for personal success.
- **Maths:** because it helps us develop the power of problem solving.
- **Creative subjects:** because these help us express ourselves.
- **Technology:** because confidence with technology is a prerequisite for success in modern life.

Francis Combe Academy students will gain the skills they need to be ready for modern work and careers. Art is an established area of excellence at our Academy.



We believe everyone deserves:

- Enthusiastic teachers committed to supporting individual learning needs.
- A nurturing environment with high expectations of success.
- A safe environment with high standards of behaviour and levels of attendance.
- An opportunity to develop talents and learning skills according to personal needs.
- A quality curriculum that embraces a rapidly changing world.



It's all about you

Each of us learns from an early age that no two people are alike – that we are all different with our own set of talents.

At Francis Combe Academy we believe that if everyone is different, then everyone has the right to learn in ways that suit them best. Personalisation is the word we use to describe this. Only by meeting the personal needs of each student can we help everyone look forward to being the best they can.

Here for you
Personalised learning begins with Academy teachers taking time to understand the needs and ambitions of each individual student.

From here it's possible to set and agree appropriate personal targets. The aim is learning with a purpose. For this to happen, learning needs to be relevant to each individual.

The Academy day includes specific time for this guidance. We call it **SMART** time. This support is available to everyone that joins the Academy.

Everyone at Francis Combe Academy can look forward to:

- Personalised learning plans that allow each student to progress at an appropriate pace.

- Active teaching that genuinely engages and excites.
- Support for each student to take increasing responsibility for their learning.

Expert Student
At Francis Combe Academy we recognise students that consistently meet the Academy's expectations of behaviour, effort, attendance and involvement in the wider community through awarding the Expert Student Status. Students who achieve Expert Student Status are recognised by very high profile privileges.

- The criteria for Expert Student Status is:
- Attendance to the Academy of 98% or above
 - Always on time to the Academy and to lessons
 - Meeting expectations of attitude to learning
 - Wearing the Academy uniform with pride at all times
 - Being fully equipped for learning
 - Completing all home learning to a high standard
 - Being involved with a range of extra-curricular activities
 - Taking pride in being a friendly and helpful member of the Academy community.

Our Expert Students embody the Academy's ethos of being 'Confident, Successful and Proud!'

At your side: personal tutors

Every Academy student has a personal tutor to monitor their progress – reviewing individual targets and helping them to stay focused.

These tutors work closely with each student, setting short, medium and long-term goals. Pastoral care goes hand in hand with this learning support, with guidance available on all aspects of Academy life and personal wellbeing.

The Academy brings learning to life through a calendar of clubs, regular events and projects. We call this our enrichment programme and it creates many opportunities for students to grow and develop.

“Francis Combe Academy is a mobility engine that supports the development of the whole child. The rich vibrant educational climate reflects authentic values that are embedded in the British culture. As a foreign teacher of maths I am delighted to be a part of a team that puts children FIRST and is committed to their success. I find Francis Combe Academy to be a valuable “cog” in the educational wheel that is making a difference to the lives of children.”

Lorna Wee-Ellis
Maths Teacher

*Special events all year round.
Help and advice every day.*

High Achievers Programme

Before School, Lunchtime & After School Enrichment Programmes

Cultural Events & Careers Events

Special Project Days

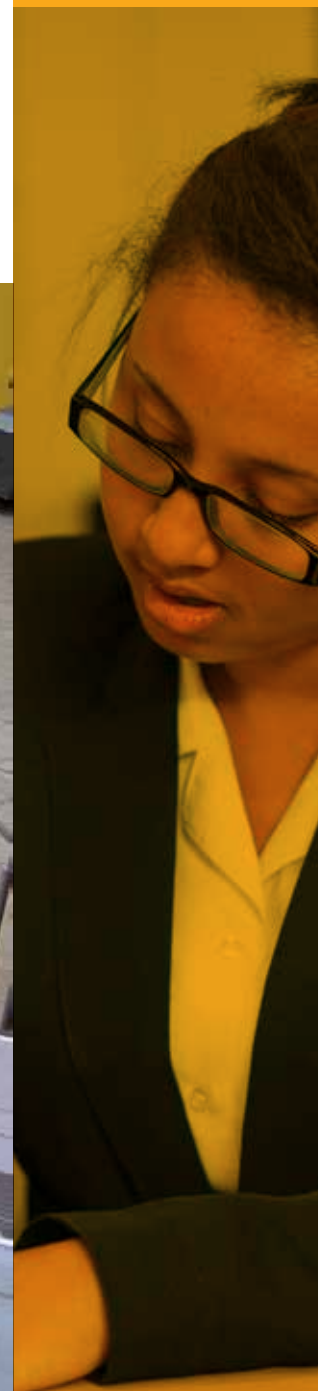
Community Involvement

Transforming lives through learning

How can learning help us make the most of life?

Inspirational teaching can help us rise to challenges and overcome the unexpected. We want each of our students to make the most

of every opportunity that comes their way. At the Academy we believe in giving people the qualifications and skills they need to move forward as well as the motivation to embrace every aspect of life.



Ready for work... ready for life

We are committed to helping young people and adults develop the skills and knowledge they need to be the best they can, for themselves and for their communities.

This commitment is central to Francis Combe Academy and has four essential elements:

- **Enjoying and achieving:**
Academy students will be supported, guided and challenged to achieve the highest standards. No opportunity is missed to celebrate student achievement.
- **Wellbeing and safety:**
They will have many opportunities to identify and develop the essentials for a healthy lifestyle.
- **Ready for work and life:**
Our students will focus on the skills they need for success today and in the future.
- **Active citizens:**
Academy students will gain the skills and confidence to contribute to and shape their communities.



Introducing our curriculum

Francis Combe Academy offers a wide range of courses and opportunities. This includes the full range of the National Curriculum:

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Citizenship
- Computing
- Criminology
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- English
- Finance
- Geography
- Health and Social Care
- History
- Maths
- Media
- Modern Languages
- Music
- PE/Sports
- Personal, Social and Health Education
- Psychology
- Religious Education
- Science
- Sociology

Plus:

- Provision of tailored learning for students with additional educational needs.
- Sixth Form for progression after GCSEs.

Space and time...to learn and think...to relax and play



Academy Environment

The Academy has inspirational spaces for learning and relaxing, sharing ideas and playing sport. Our students always have the latest technology at their fingertips.



“As Executive Head Chef I am in the privileged position of providing the catering for the Academy community. This enables my team and I to make sure everyone is well fed with wholesome freshly prepared produce throughout the day. The Academy places wellbeing at the forefront of everything that it does, so it is a real pleasure to work in such a caring environment”

Aaron Oliphant

Executive Head Chef - CucinA

Art Specialism

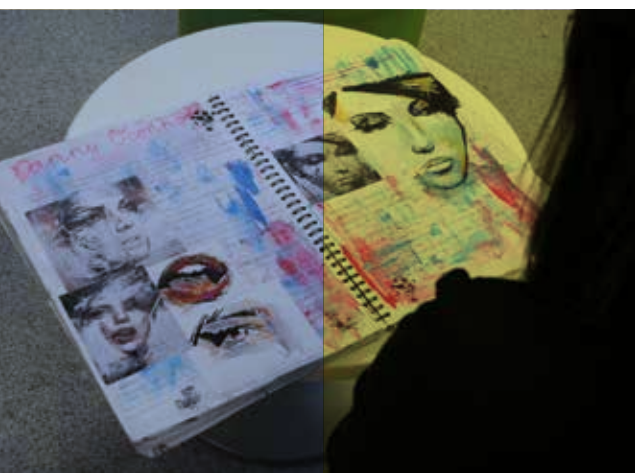


Art is a broad subject that calls on knowledge and concepts developed within many other areas of the curriculum, applying and extending these skills in a practical manner. At the Academy we are always proud of the creativity our students show and wish to encourage and develop their artistic skills. By specialising in art we are running a thread of creativity throughout our curriculum – aiming to inspire originality and imagination as well as developing creative thinking and exploration.

Our art curriculum is exciting and varied, giving students the opportunity to study a wide range of artists and sculptors, utilising different techniques across 2D and 3D media. The Academy has a strong programme of extra-curricular activities and we're always finding even more opportunities for those

students that enjoy art. Engaging in these extra-curricular opportunities helps our students achieve their creative and academic potential and we have sessions for those new to subjects, right up to our Gifted and Talented master classes. We strive to improve the quality of our creative provision and run monthly competitions within the Academy, resulting in participation in local and national competitions.

We are constantly seeking to further our links with the local community through events; in the past this has included students leading workshops at local primary schools, designing and creating themed murals for community centres, taking part in visiting artists workshops, creating ceiling tiles for Stanmore Hospital Spinal Ward and many more.



Sixth Form

Interested in joining us?

Students wishing to continue with their education after GCSEs are welcome to join the Sixth Form at Francis Combe Academy. We also welcome applications from individuals currently studying at other schools and academies.

Our impressive Sixth Form Centre is at the heart of our brand new Academy building. Here you'll find a relaxed Sixth Form area and a quiet study space. Close by, the fully-equipped Learning Resource Centre has all the latest in ICT.

On offer is a wide range of courses and subjects at levels two and three, including A Levels. We will work with individual students to identify the right courses and study levels, matching these to the hopes and ambitions of each person who joins us.

“Working as the Academy Attendance Manager, I enjoy working closely with our students and families, and am proud to have seen both them and the Academy flourish and grow over the years.”

Sarah Whitman
Attendance Manager

- Call us for a copy of our Sixth Form guide
- Visit our website for more information
- Email 6thform@franciscombeacademy.org.uk
- Call us on 01923 672 964 for a chat and to book a visit and tour

“Francis Combe Academy is an amazing place to work. The staff are dedicated, enthusiastic, warm and care deeply about the progress of the students they teach. I always feel privileged to work with such a wonderful team as we really do believe that learning transforms lives.”

Karis Folan
Vice Principal Teaching & Learning

Here for you – and on your doorstep

Francis Combe Academy is proud to be a lead school for Watford in the South West Hertfordshire Partnership.

This means we're at the heart of a group of 85 local schools offering services and support to young people, adults and families. Call us on 01923 672 964 to find out more.



The Academy Day

The Academy day includes *SMART* time.

An early finish on Friday enables Academy staff to get together and focus on teaching, learning and assesments.

There is a full programme of enrichment clubs before school, lunchtime and after school.

Time	Monday - Thursday
8.30 – 8.45 am	SMART Time
8.50 – 9.50 am	Period 1
9.55 – 10.55 am	Period 2
10.55 – 11.15 am	BREAK
11.15 – 12.15 pm	Period 3
12.20 – 1.20 pm	Period 4
1.20 – 2.05 pm	LUNCH (All Students)
2.05 – 3.10 pm	Period 5
3.15 – 3.30 pm	SMART time or Assembly

Time	Friday
8.30 – 8.45 am	SMART Time
8.50 – 9.50 am	Period 1
9.55 – 10.55 am	Period 2
10.55 – 11.15am	Break
11.15 – 12.15 pm	Period 3
12.15 – 1.00 pm	Lunch (All Students)
1.00 – 2.05 pm	Period 4
2.10 – 2.40 pm	PHSE and Careers (2.05 – 2.40 pm)

“Having worked at Francis Combe Academy since I was a newly qualified teacher, I am incredibly proud of our students and so happy to be a part of the FCA community. I have been with the Academy for a number of years now and feel a real sense of belonging. Year on year, I feel so honoured that I have the opportunity to teach our children; the most satisfying thing about my career is seeing our past students go on to great things once they leave us and celebrating their successes when they come back to visit!”

Marie Parry
Raising Standards Leader – Communications

Communication - *How we keep in touch:*

We report regularly to parents and provide frequent information so parents know how their child is progressing towards their targets.

- Parents are kept up to date with a weekly bulletin, FCA app or website.
- Our termly newsletter is sent out to all parents, giving you the latest Academy news
- Regular emails and text messages keep parents up to date with news and information
- A variety of parents and carers evenings and other events are offered throughout the year
- Our website provides lots of information and up-to-date news Visit: www.franciscombeacademy.org.uk
- Find out more at our Facebook page: facebook.com/FrancisCombeAcademy
- We will often ask for your opinions directly or via questionnaires so you can help us move the Academy forward
- Parents have the opportunity to meet the Principal each term at the Parent Partners Evening events
- We run regular parent and child workshops each term focused on different aspects of learning and key skills



Comments and feedback

- We care about what you think. We work hard to do the best for everyone involved with the Academy. Your comments and feedback – positive or negative – are always helpful.
- You are welcome to comment on all aspects of life at the Academy. Full details, including our commitment to handle complaints fairly and confidentially, are available on request.



“Any student may experience difficulty in learning at some point during their time at FCA and we all work together; staff, students and parents/carers to support our students in becoming confident, successful and proud members of this inspiring community”

Frances Martin
SENCO

Academy information

Wellbeing and Safety

- Respect for each other and self respect are central to Academy life. In partnership with parents and carers, we actively promote self-discipline based on an awareness of one's rights and duties as a citizen.
- Good order in classrooms and throughout the Academy is essential for successful teaching and learning. All teachers are encouraged to maintain firm but fair discipline inside and out of lessons.
- Students, and their parents or carers, are required to sign a Home/Academy Agreement. This sets out the partnership between student, parents/carers and the Academy. It is fundamental to shared success here at Francis Combe Academy.
- We recognise our role in safeguarding the welfare of children. We have a comprehensive child protection policy that places the welfare of children at the centre of all our activities. A copy is available on request.

Admissions information and how we consider applications

Francis Combe Academy caters for students from 11 to 19 years of age. The published admission number is 210.

The Academy Trust considers all applications for places at the Francis Combe Academy.

Where fewer than the published admission number(s) for relevant year groups are received, the Academy Trust will offer places to everyone who has applied.

Procedures when Francis Combe Academy Admissions to Year 7 is oversubscribed

Where the number of applications is greater than the published admission number, applications will be considered against the following criteria (and in the order of priority shown here):

1. Students with Statements of Special Educational Needs where Francis Combe Academy is named on the statement
2. Children who are and have been in public care
3. Students with siblings currently attending the Academy and who will continue to do so on the date of admission
4. Proximity to the Academy. The distance from an applicant's home to the Academy is measured from the address point for the house (as supplied by the post office) to the nearest public entrance of the Academy, by the 'shortest designated route'. All distances are measured by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) using a computerised mapping system.

“I really enjoy my job and definitely would not choose to do anything else. I am passionate about giving students the best opportunities and chances in life (Transforming life through education!).

I am delighted to be working at FCA with its fantastic facilities, dedicated, enthusiastic and friendly staff and a passionate and hardworking Senior Team.”

Lucy Wheeler

Vice Principal Behaviour & Standards

Academy information

Uniform

- At Francis Combe Academy we regard personal appearance very highly. We require all students to look neat and smart as this sets the tone for the high standards of behaviour we expect.
- Co-operation and support with this from parents and carers is essential and much appreciated.
- A copy of the Academy Uniform List is available on request. Much of the uniform is available from any local shop or supermarket retailer, with only a few items needing to be bought direct from the Academy's supplier.

Assemblies and religious education

- All students attend two formal assemblies each week. At other times they meet in tutor rooms for SMART time.
- Religious education is a compulsory separate subject for all Academy students. Details of the curriculum are available on request. It is hoped that all students will attend assemblies and religious education lessons. Parents and carers who would prefer their child not to attend should write to the Academy Principal.

Meeting the needs of all our students

- All students are entitled to equality of educational opportunity, irrespective of social circumstances, gender, ethnicity or ability (which in this case is used in the widest sense to include young people with special educational needs through to students who have particular needs because they are gifted and talented).
- Students on the Special Educational Needs (SEN) register receive in-class support and guidance from learning support assistants, plus additional focus sessions in the Learning Support Base.
- The Academy's SEN Policy aims to ensure students can access an appropriate curriculum which goes beyond the National Curriculum entitlement and prepares them fully for responsible independence in the adult world.
- High ability students are stretched and stimulated at Francis Combe Academy. Our system of 'setting' means we can target appropriate levels of learning and developing for different ability groups, with the top 25 per cent of students being involved in advanced learning to enhance and widen their learning experience.
- Underpinning this attention to special educational needs and support for high achieving students is a commitment to personalise the focus and objectives of learning for all Francis Combe Academy students.

Transport

- We are committed to helping everyone travel safely to and from Francis Combe Academy. We encourage everyone here to consider the environment when travelling and to consider our immediate neighbours when arriving and leaving.
- The Academy's Transport Plan discourages car travel because of the congestion it contributes to. There is very limited parking local to the Academy.
- Parents and carers are asked not to drive onto the Academy site to drop off or collect their children.
- Bicycle storage is available, but we cannot accept any responsibility for the safekeeping of bikes on site.

Parent Partners

All parents are encouraged to support the Francis Combe Academy Parent Partners Group, which aims to:

- Develop and maintain good relationships between parents and staff.
- Raise funds for buying extra equipment for students.
- Provide services for students.
- Organise social functions.
- Provide a parental perspective on Academy provision.
- Work with the Principal to improve policies and procedures.
- Act as a sounding board for planned improvements.



Being part of the team at Francis Combe Academy is very rewarding; transforming the students lives through learning. It is a great feeling coming to work each day knowing that we are making a difference to our students lives..

Anne Lovell

Learning Support Assistant

Our sponsors...

Welcome to The Meller Education Trust

The Meller Educational Trust is a charitable multi-academy trust specialising in improving secondary education. Our schools include four Academies with Sixth Form provision and two UTCs (University Technical College). We are a small but dynamic and mutually supportive group of schools with the belief that all young people deserve the very best education in order to achieve their full potential.

Our Vision

The vision of the Meller Educational Trust (MET) is to ensure that young people are educated to an extremely high level and possess all of the skills necessary to ensure they are happy; fulfilled; socially aware; community minded and successful.

The expectation of the Trust is that all barriers can be overcome to allow young people to reach their goals. MET schools will be stimulating places where children are motivated and enjoy learning. They will have buzz, energy and vitality.

Students will leave MET schools with high self-esteem, well equipped for employment and with the life skills that they need and deserve. We will also emphasise the basics of literacy and numeracy and the values of behaviour and respect.

We will ensure an outstanding level of teaching and our Trust will allow truly excellent and inspirational teachers to be given the freedom to use their skills across our member schools, valuing and celebrating diversity and raising aspirations for students of all abilities.

Partners such as Higher Education; businesses and high profile individuals will support and nurture our aims. Similarly, MET schools will have a relationship with other agencies (such as Facing History and The Brilliant Club) with the aim of raising aspirations and deepening understanding of MET students.

Our Core Values will inform the operation of the Trust. They are:

- **Aspiration**
- **Compassion**
- **Excellence**

Francis Combe Academy is proud to be part of the The Meller Educational Trust (MET).



Meller Educational Trust
Aspiration, Compassion
& Excellence.





Confident

Successful

Proud

How you can contact us

Francis Combe Academy
Horseshoe Lane
Watford
Hertfordshire WD25 7HW

T: 01923 672964

F: 01923 620828

info@franciscombeacademy.org.uk

www.franciscombeacademy.org.uk

Academy Principal: Deborah Warwick

Chair of Governors: Robert Galashan