

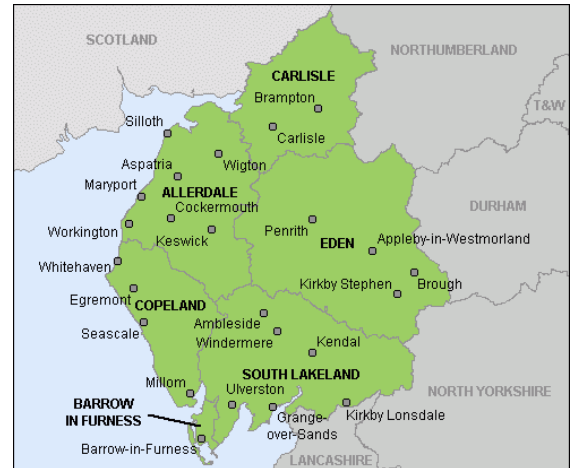


Applicants Guide and Information Booklet



Location

Barrow-in-Furness is situated in the southern tip of the Furness peninsula, on the North West Coast of England on the northern shoreline of Morecambe Bay. It is only 20 minutes from the Lake District with outstanding scenery on both road and rail routes. Barrow is surrounded by miles of beaches, each unique in character and conveniently accessible to the town centre. Barrow is the largest town in the borough of Barrow-in-Furness and the largest settlement in the peninsula of Furness.



Barrow is the perfect location for any outdoor pursuits with many options available right on our door step.

Furness Academy itself is located close to the centre of Barrow and is easily accessible from all areas of the town. Many of our staff choose to live in Barrow-in-Furness or in the towns and villages which surround it, including Dalton-in-Furness and Ulverston.

House prices are relatively low compared to other UK towns and Cumbria is a diverse county with both rural and urban areas. It is one of the safest places to live, work and visit with relatively low levels of crime compared to other areas in England and Wales.

About Barrow in Furness

Barrow-in-Furness is a large industrial town and seaport in the county of Cumbria, England, which grew from a tiny 19th Century hamlet to become the biggest iron and steel centre in the world, and a major shipbuilding force, in just 40 years. Situated at the tip of the Furness peninsula close to the Lake District, it is bordered by Morecambe Bay, the Duddon Estuary and the Irish Sea. In 2011 Barrow's population stood at around 57,000, while 69,000 lived in the wider borough, making it the second largest urban area in Cumbria after Carlisle.

Inhabitants are proud of their industrial and sea-faring heritage. Many Royal Navy flagships, a majority of its nuclear submarines as well as numerous ocean liners and oil tankers have been manufactured at Vickers shipyard, with BAE Systems now making a £300m investment in their facilities and creating thousands of new jobs. BAE Systems Submarines resourcing strategy has set ambitious targets for recruitment of local craft apprentices. The approach to meeting the resource demand is diverse, but relies on the recruitment of over 250 apprentices annually from 2014 – 2019 to a steady state of around 200 apprentices annually in the period 2019 – 2030. The submarine apprentice programme, which has one of the highest completion rates in the engineering sector, was voted 'outstanding' by OFSTED in 2014.

The Furness economy has been significantly boosted by improvements in a number of sectors, including the commitment to the submarine programme over the last decade and investment in UK energy production, including increased incentives for offshore wind and offshore gas extraction. The decision to give the green light to a new civil nuclear programme, growth in the low carbon lighting cluster around Ulverston and the GSK biopharmaceutical investment triggered by new tax incentives introduced in recent years all contribute to a growing local

economy. Few areas of Britain have this growth potential from advanced manufacturing. Many areas of the town have seen regeneration in recent years, including proposals to redevelop the waterfront area of the town.

Barrow-in-Furness is situated close to the South Lakes, which provides a pleasant place to live for people of all ages. There is an excellent range of shops, many located in the Portland Walk shopping complex in the centre of the town, while others are located in the Hollywood Park trading estate area. The town is well-connected. Main roads are easily accessible for the M6 motorway which provides easy access to other areas of the country. Barrow has its own mainline train station and the journey to London can usually be made by train in around 4 hours, whilst Manchester and Leeds can be reached in 2 ½ hours. Preston, Lancaster and Carlisle are within easy reach by car or train.

Information on the local area

General

Population: circa 70,000

Average House Prices (November 2014): £124,014

Number of Primary Schools: 15

Number of Infant Schools: 5

Number of Junior Schools: 5

Number of Secondary Schools: 3

Education

Education in the state-funded sector includes fifteen primary schools, five infant schools, five junior schools and many nurseries. The three secondary schools in the town are Furness Academy, St. Bernard's Catholic High School and Walney School. Chetwynde School is an all-through school for children aged 4 to 16.

In the further education sector there are two colleges. Barrow-in-Furness Sixth Form College concentrates on teaching A-level subjects, while Furness College specialises in vocational courses. Although there is no higher education institution based in Barrow, Furness College teaches several foundation degrees and a small number of Bachelor's and Master's programmes accredited by the University of Cumbria, the University of Lancaster and the University of Central Lancashire.

All schools in the South Lakes area work closely and collaboratively through the Furness Education Consortium (FEC), of which Furness Academy is a member. This is a mutually supportive network of local headteachers who are determined to work together to engage with each other and to build effective learning communities in the local area.

About Furness Academy

Furness Academy opened its new building in September 2013 offering £22million worth of state-of-the-art facilities. It is a large 11-16 mixed academy, occupying a distinctive site in the heart of the local community. It is located near the centre of the historic shipbuilding town of Barrow-in-Furness and close to the southern boundary of the Lake District National Park.



Furness Academy falls within Cumbria's Local Alliance of System Leaders (LASL) South. This group, which has been developed to promote academy-to-academy networking, is an invaluable source of support for Furness Academy. Cumbria's wider system leadership (CASL) is keen to support the Academy as is the Cumbria Association of Secondary Headteachers (CASH).

The Furness Academy community has also benefited from a range of partnerships including those with parents and significant local businesses and organisations, notably BAE Systems.

Sponsorship

BAE Systems are the sponsors of Furness Academy. BAE Systems has worked hand-in-hand with the Furness community for many years and they place great emphasis on the importance of local education, demonstrating their commitment to Furness Academy from its inception. As a sponsor with a wealth of experience within the Furness community they are confident they understand the needs both of employers and the community to bring a synergy to the development and future success of Furness Academy.



Why choose Furness Academy?

Our Staff and Students

Furness Academy employs 135 permanent staff across a wide variety of functions.

Our September 2016 intake was the highest Year 7 intake in the Academy's history and in September 2017 we are expecting to have our highest intake yet. Since moving to the new building in 2013, intake numbers have doubled. This year's intake took our total student numbers to approximately 780 students. Our optimum student number would be 1000.

Throughout the year we hold a number of events where we celebrate the successes of our students and of the Academy.

These include:

- Awards Evening to celebrate our Year 11 leavers'
- Prize Giving for Years 7 - 10
- Prefects' Dinner
- Sports Awards Dinner
- Design Technology and Art exhibitions
- Leavers' Prom
- Termly celebration assemblies
- Half termly Afternoon Tea with the Headteacher celebrations



These events present the perfect opportunity for our staff and students to come together in a social environment to celebrate all that has been achieved throughout the year.

Furness Academy also has a strong sense of social responsibility, therefore, alongside the above events we hold a number of charity events throughout the year that our staff and students actively participate in. These include sponsored walks, funfairs, craft fairs and coffee mornings.



Charity Christmas Craft Fair



World Book Day 2016

Our Facilities

Furness Academy opened its new £22million building in September 2013 and has state of the art facilities.

Our general facilities include:

260 seat lecture theatre.



Classrooms with SmartBoard projection capability.



A large ICT suite.



Catering facilities with seating for over 300.



Fully equipped Hair and Beauty salon.



Our sports facilities are exceptional and massively exceed those offered by other local schools.

These include:

- 3G All-Weather Pitch
- County Standard Running Track
- Fitness Gym
- Grass Rugby and Football Pitches
- Five Hard-Standing Tennis Courts
- Large Sports Hall
- Multi-Use Games Area
- Activity Suite with Climbing Wall
- Sprung Floor Dance Studio



Staff are entitled to use our gym free of charge outside of school hours and we often run discounted professional exercise classes for our staff.



Our CPD Programme

A new CPD structure has been developed to support high quality staff development opportunities across the teaching and learning teams in the Academy, which will provide a significant increase in the CPD time available to our staff. Following successful consultation with our parents/carers, the school now operates a shortened school day every second Wednesday which allows for a whole school and departmental CPD slot of 3 hours to be available, from 2pm to 5pm on these Wednesdays.

Research evidence suggests that investment in the CPD time for teaching staff to develop their teaching pedagogy ultimately yields improvements in educational attainment in the student population. We have also put in place the BlueSky software tool to record CPD and link this to the School Development Plan and Performance Management Objectives.

Projects and our European Links

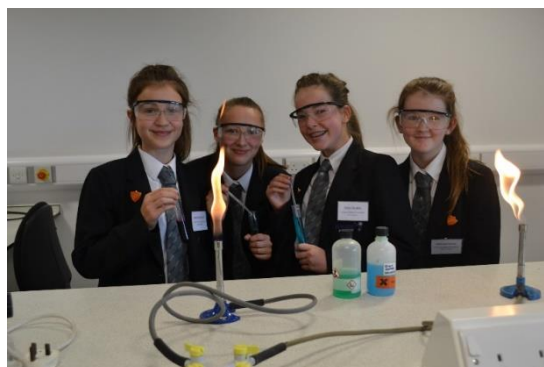
New and exciting opportunities for students and staff continue to develop, and this year Furness Academy has been successful in securing European Commission Erasmus+ Programme funding to undertake best practice studies in teaching and learning with a range of European partner organisations over the next two years to 31 August 2018.

The success of our applications for the ScienceGirls and ELIOT projects was confirmed by the British Council in August 2015 and represents new grant income to the Academy that will add significant value to student learning opportunities in the Academy, CPD development for staff at a European level and opportunities for students and staff to visit partner countries.

Our Enrichment Programme for Students

We have an extensive range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities, which include:

- Science Girls (a club to encourage girls to participate in Science)
- Duke of Edinburgh award scheme
- Ski Trip
- Sports Teams
- An annual sell-out School Production
- Healthy Eating Clubs
- Photography Clubs
- Microsoft Qualification Training
- Swimming
- A lego league



Our Employee Benefits

Furness Academy offers a teachers pension scheme or a local government pension scheme for all our employees.

All employees are entitled to free use of our gym and other onsite facilities

All employees are entitled to register for childcare vouchers

All employees are entitled to register for our cycle to work scheme

