



**ASHINGTON**  
Academy

**2023 PROSPECTUS**



# WELCOME TO ASHINGTON ACADEMY

There has never been a more exciting time to join Ashington Academy. Recently rated 'Good' in all areas by Ofsted in March 2022, our school has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years, and we are extremely proud to be recognised to be providing a high-quality education to the children of this community. Inspectors noted the impact of the high expectations that are now placed on students, the effective support systems that are in place and the good behaviour seen across the school.

We are now taking the next steps in our ambitious journey, continuing to ensure that all learners are able to thrive academically, socially and in their wider personal development.

I am extremely proud to lead such a talented and dedicated team who are absolutely committed to getting to know each child as an individual to ensure they are supported

and challenged to reach their full potential.

There is so much more to Ashington Academy than the learning that takes place in the classroom. We also offer many exciting extra-curricular activities, where there is something for everyone. Our aim is to ensure that when our students leave us, they do so with happy memories and as confident individuals who are ready to make their mark on the world.

Choosing a secondary school for your child is an important decision and I am delighted that you are considering Ashington Academy - we are a unique school with a kind heart.

I warmly invite you to take a look through these pages to introduce you to who we are and what we can offer your child.

*Gronne Weston*  
**Head of School**



# OUR VISION & VALUES

**OUR VISION IS SIMPLE AND SHARED BY ALL SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH EAST LEARNING TRUST – THAT EVERY CHILD EXPERIENCES EXCELLENCE EVERY DAY.**

We work hard to ensure this vision becomes a reality through a rigorous approach to teaching, learning and ensuring progress within a balanced, broad and stimulating curriculum.

We also have an experienced pastoral support network and an extensive extra-curricular enrichment offer for all students.

Our school ethos is based around a sense of pride. We teach students to take great pride in their work and to be proud of each other and their achievements. Staff are passionate and enthusiastic, and all staff, not just

teachers, are determined for every student to succeed.

We also believe that a safe and pleasant environment is critical to success. We have made significant investment in our buildings and facilities this year, including the creation of new dining facilities for all students and our sixth form bistro; improvements to our main hall; new catering rooms with brand new equipment and upgrades to our outdoor spaces. Further exciting improvements are planned, with the creation of new science laboratories next on our agenda!



# “

**My time here has been incredible. From the supportive and caring atmosphere, to the kind and enthusiastic members of staff, I have been given a wide range of opportunities to fulfil my potential and I have thoroughly enjoyed being here.”**

Lorien, Year 10

# TEACHING & LEARNING

**WE BELIEVE THAT STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS/CARERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXPECT A FIRST-CLASS EDUCATION, DELIVERED BY TEACHERS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING LEARNING REWARDING.**

At Ashington Academy, we encourage all students to work hard and reach their full potential by providing them with a challenging curriculum that broadens their perspectives and their thinking. We provide high quality teaching and in return, we expect a high standard of learning in the classroom. This is evident from the fantastic work you will see from our students. Teachers continually strive, through quality professional development and training, to deliver challenging lessons that engage students and drive them towards excellence.

High quality home learning opportunities are also key to students' success. We are proud to say that our entire curriculum

is available online through our Student POD, a phenomenal resource which your child can access anywhere, anytime. Fully resourced with all lessons, topic resources, videos and revision materials, Student POD ensures the transition between in-school and home learning is seamless.

**"Teachers have strong subject knowledge."**

Ofsted, 2022

Our teaching practice is underpinned by the latest research evidence. Teaching staff employ strategies which help students to learn and remember key knowledge, and our tracking systems ensure that we can quickly identify students who are

struggling so that appropriate support can be offered.

We believe that the spiritual, social, moral and cultural elements of students' education are crucial to their development, and we are committed to embedding these themes across the curriculum.

The Government encourages schools to 'promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.' At Ashington Academy, these values form part of our school ethos and are embedded throughout our curriculum.



**The support and encouragement from teachers, as well as the teaching itself, is great - it inspires me and others to improve and work hard."**

Ben, Year 11





# PASTORAL SUPPORT & SEND

**WE AIM TO ENSURE EACH CHILD REACHES THEIR FULL POTENTIAL BY MAKING THEIR SAFETY AND HAPPINESS OUR PRIORITY.**

We aim to ensure each child reaches their full potential by making their safety and happiness our priority. Supporting the wellbeing of our students is an integral part of our approach, underpinning the academic work of the school as we work tirelessly to remove any barriers to learning. If we know about something, we will deal with it.

Our dedicated pastoral team work extensively with other staff, parents and external agencies to provide exceptional personal support and ensure that students are able to

flourish and develop into well-rounded individuals.

Tutors and Year Managers see their students every day and throughout their school careers where the focus is on individual support, with every student well known and cared for.

Form tutors are students' first point of contact. As a team, they deliver our 'Personal Development Curriculum' where all students learn the necessary knowledge and skills to cope with the ever changing, modern world with confidence and resilience.

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITIES

We are extremely proud of the inclusivity that permeates our school. We understand that every child is unique and that they have their own special talents and skills. Together, we celebrate and nurture this.

During their time at Ashington Academy, some students will have special needs which may relate to learning, health or emotional needs. Our committed SEND team do their very best to respond to these needs, through in-class, targeted support, and a range of bespoke interventions. The team ensures that every student with special educational needs and/or disabilities is able to make the best progress possible, both academically and pastorally.

**“There are strong systems of support in place for those who need them.”**

Ofsted, 2022

We listen to our students and work hard to build good working partnerships with parents and carers. This way, we are able to operate a flexible system of support that breaks down barriers and gives every child the opportunity to succeed.





# MOVING UP FROM PRIMARY

**STARTING A NEW SCHOOL IS A TRULY EXCITING TIME AND WE DO OUR UTMOST TO SUPPORT CHILDREN (AND THEIR PARENTS!) TO ENSURE THAT THEIR TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL IS AS SMOOTH AS POSSIBLE.**

It is important to ensure that when your child joins us, they are prepared and ready for new challenges. We want your child to arrive in September feeling excited about embarking upon a new chapter in their lives. We understand that starting a new school can feel quite daunting, so we do everything we can to ensure that children feel as confident as possible about their next steps and are able to settle into new routines quickly.

Towards the end of the summer term we host two transition evenings: our Moving Up evening and our Parent Information

Evening. We also have a transition day, which allows students to spend a whole day in school, experiencing timetabled lessons, meeting teachers, and most importantly, meeting new friends! Parents/carers and children are most welcome to visit our school to meet staff and current students, tour the building and see our fantastic facilities. At our Moving Up evening students are able to try on, buy and order uniform, as well as ask any questions you might have. Senior members of staff, the Year 7 pastoral team and our special educational needs coordinator (SENCO) are always on

hand during this evening.

**“Pupils say that teachers are kind and will always help them.”**  
Ofsted, 2022

All Year 6 pupils are invited to attend the transition days during the summer term. This is an important time when many worries or anxieties are laid to rest. They also have the chance to explore the school, as we know and understand that a big concern is the fear of getting lost on your first day!



**When I was in Year 6, I was scared to move into Year 7, but now I am a student at Ashington Academy, it is very fun! Even if you leave some old friends behind, there are always new ones waiting to meet you.”** Ashby, Year 7



# A FOCUS ON CAREERS

**FROM THE MOMENT THEY JOIN YEAR 7, STUDENTS EMBARK ON A JOURNEY OF PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOLLOW A CAREERS CURRICULUM.**

Through weekly sessions students begin to develop employability skills and there are many opportunities to work with regional, national and international organisations.

Their programme is tailored to their stage of development and throughout their time at the academy. Students attend assemblies with industry specialists; work with our local Enterprise Advisor; meet universities, colleges and Ask Apprentice, as well as taking part in work experience placements in Key Stages 4 and 5.

From the outset, students are supported to find the right pathway for them and receive support to help them to achieve their aspirations.



# STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

**WE ARE EXTREMELY PROUD OF THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM AND STUDENT AMBASSADORS AT ASHINGTON ACADEMY.**

These students are an inspiring group who are extremely passionate about promoting and developing the school for all students, both inside and outside the classroom. Collectively, our team has been responsible for creating the extra-curricular timetable based on their knowledge of what students really wanted to see. They have also been involved in appointing new staff; talking to the parents and carers of prospective students at open evenings and helping out with assemblies.

Our Student Leadership Team and Student Ambassadors are on hand to support our new Year 7 cohort to settle in each September. They support academy staff at breaktimes and lunchtimes, providing a friendly,

welcoming face if students have any questions or queries. They also provide peer support for extra-curricular clubs and will regularly check in with students in the form classes that they are linked to.

In addition to representing the school, one of our NE6 students has been appointed to the Northumberland Youth Council, which enables our school voice to be heard in a wider context. We value our students' contributions and ensuring that every student's voice is heard is very important to us.

**"Ashington Academy has given me plenty of opportunities to grow in confidence and really develop as a person."** James, Year 10

# AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

AT ASHINGTON ACADEMY, STUDENTS CAN ACCESS A VAST RANGE OF EXCITING EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES THAT SEE THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS EXTEND WELL BEYOND THE CLASSROOM.

We cultivate a whole-school love for performing arts with the drive to entertain deeply rooted in our heritage. Sport is close to the hearts of many staff and students and we are proud of the strong links our school has forged with many top level local sports clubs.

We also have a wonderful annual activities week that allows every

student in school to access an exciting and unique variety of trips including surfing, skiing, and ice skating!

Finally, our strong collective sense of compassion prompts students to undertake a range of charitable endeavours including regular collections for our local foodbanks and the wonderful 'Spirit of






Christmas' acts of kindness.

**"Many pupils make use of the wider curriculum activities to develop their talents and interests."**

Ofsted, 2022

We creatively plan life-enhancing enrichment opportunities including:

 **Badminton**  
 **Basketball**  
 **Bench ball**  
 **Board games**  
 **Choir**  
 **Coding Club**  
 **Craft Club**

 **Creative media and graphics**  
 **Creative writing**  
 **Culture and diversity group**  
 **Debate Club**  
 **Docu-science**

 **Dutch conversation**  
 **Eco school**  
 **Film Club**  
 **Geography Club**  
 **Knitting and crochet**

 **Law Club**  
 **Maths Challenge Club**  
 **Soul band**  
 **Sustainable Fashion Club**  
 **Wellbeing Club**

# WE ASKED OUR TEACHERS WHAT MAKES ASHINGTON ACADEMY SO SPECIAL...

**"Staff always place the needs of the pupils first. Ashington Academy is a wonderful, positive environment to both learn and work."** Mr Ditchburn, History

**"I love working at Ashington Academy because our students have a real thirst for knowledge. Discussions are never dull and often, students make a point I hadn't even thought of!"** Mrs Douglas, Geography

**"There is mutual respect between staff and students that makes this a great place to learn."** Mr McLaughlin, Assistant Headteacher

**"Ashington Academy is such a special place to learn and work. Both staff and students are fabulous. Students engage in whatever challenge is set and always succeed."** Ms Morgan, Business and IT

**"Ashington Academy provides a warm and secure learning environment where students are encouraged to value themselves and strive for greatness."** Miss Brown, Science





# BRITISH VALUES

**SCHOOLS ARE NOW EXPECTED TO FOCUS ON, AND BE ABLE TO SHOW, HOW WE WORK WITH STUDENTS TO EFFECTIVELY EMBED FUNDAMENTAL BRITISH VALUES INTO LEARNING. THE FOUR KEY AREAS CHILDREN AT ASHINGTON WILL EXPLORE ARE:**

## **1. Democracy**

At Ashington Academy, we promote the core values of a democratic society. Through our entire school ethos, PHSE programme and individual subject curriculums, students are encouraged to share their voice in shaping our school community.

Students explore historical examples of different styles of government, and they are encouraged and provided with the opportunity to partake in and run mock elections. Students also have the opportunity to apply for

roles in the Student Leadership Team and be active members of our Student Council, supporting the school with decision making.

## **2. Rule of Law**

Students are fully immersed in the understanding of rules, and the importance of the rule of law within everyday life. Through regular reinforcement across the curriculum, coupled with a strong pastoral team, students are aware of consequences and rewards.

Within our PHSE programme, students are provided with the opportunity to explore the

justice system, for example, via active role play in a mock trial. Furthermore, students explore human rights and how laws are made, linking to politics and current affairs.

## **3. Individual liberty**

Our school ethos and community are built on strongly supporting our students so that they can celebrate difference as well as their individual and unique talents and skills.

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our school, so that children learn and

socialise in a safe environment. Achievements and efforts are celebrated regularly with rewards and through our varied and diverse assembly programme.

We offer a wide-range of extra-curricular clubs and activities which students have the freedom to choose from, based on their talents and interests.

Finally, our curriculum allows all learners the opportunity and support to become independent enquirers and inquisitive young people.

## **4. Mutual respect and tolerance**

Mutual respect is at the core of our school community. Fundamentally, students learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. Our students are tolerant and respectful.

Kindness is of the utmost importance and is referred to daily, allowing students to feel comfortable and confident in their own skills/abilities. This is evident when walking around the school and in our classrooms. Visitors

to the school often comment on how polite and well-mannered our students are, as well as complimenting their conduct at open evenings, parents' evenings and during extra-curricular activities.

Within the curriculum, students are encouraged to explore topics such as conspiracy and fake news, understanding peer pressure and where to access support, alongside discussion on discrimination. Our school is happy and safe, and our students are our greatest ambassadors.



# NORTH EAST LEARNING TRUST

**ASHINGTON ACADEMY IS PART OF THE NORTH EAST LEARNING TRUST (NELT), A SUCCESSFUL FAMILY OF 12 SCHOOLS ACROSS THE NORTH EAST.**

NELT has a proven track record of school improvement with all schools under their wing having sustained or improved their Ofsted gradings at their first inspection following sponsorship.

NELT is widely regarded as providing some of the best education in the county, and indeed the country, with children making significant progress from their starting points, achieving impressive exam results, and going on to access a range of well-respected further and higher education opportunities including courses at some of the UK's most elite universities.

The Trust is also heavily involved with teacher development. It boasts its very own teacher training arm, North East SCITT, that trains the next generation of teachers and ensures the highest standards of teaching are instilled from the outset. It is a National Teaching School Hub, one of 87 centres of excellence across England that provide high quality training and development to teachers throughout their career. Not only that, but the Trust's founding school, The Academy at Shotton Hall, is a National Research School, one of just 23 in England, that up-skill teachers using cutting-edge research.

Joining the Trust has given Ashington Academy access to outstanding leaders who are involved in the regional and national development of education. The Trust CEO, Lesley Powell CBE, is a member of many regional and national education boards and advisory groups. The CEO and Deputy CEOs are National Leaders of Education and the Trust also employs a wide network of specialist teachers and other experienced professionals to support schools on their paths to becoming outstanding.





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