



**Parkside Academy**  
An Outstanding School



# About the School

Parkside Academy is a successful 11 – 16 Converter Academy with around 750 students. Most of our students come from Willington and Crook and the surrounding villages, with about 60% arriving by school bus. A higher than average number of our students stay in education beyond 16 and study at a number of sixth forms and colleges in the Durham and Bishop Auckland areas.

The ability range of our students is broadly average but with some year groups significantly below. In Key Stage 4 we expect every child to achieve their best and all our students study a minimum of 11 GCSEs or their equivalent. There are opportunities to study academic subjects, such as separate sciences, as well as vocational subjects such as Leisure and Tourism, Sports Studies etc. We aim to build a personalised curriculum for every child. In the very recent past 100% of our pupils have achieved 8A\* to C grades or equivalent and the school has been in the top 5 in the country for CVA in 2008, 2009, 2010 and in the top 1% of schools for value added based on prior attainment in 2011 and 2012. The 2013 tables placed us as the top school in the country for value added. As the school converts to a more traditional curriculum attainment is around the national average but progress is significantly above. 2016 results are outstanding and headline figures are included in the pack.

Our most recent Ofsted inspection (March 2011) rated us as “Outstanding” overall and we are considerably oversubscribed for entry in September 2016.

We encourage students to embrace opportunity and have a full programme of after school and holiday activities. We even provide a free ‘Activities Bus’ which leaves school when clubs end on some evenings

Within the last few years we have added new computer suites taking our total to 9, as well as constructing a new drama studio, dance studio and re-equipping our fitness room. All classrooms have an interactive whiteboard and access to subject specific, as well as generic, software. All teachers are provided with an iPad.

We hold the NACE “Challenge” award reflecting our excellent provision for gifted and talented students and are one of the few secondary schools in the country to hold the UNICEF “Rights Respecting School” Award. In addition, we are a National Support School and a member of the Leading Edge group of high performing schools.

The school has extensive grounds and playing fields on three levels, the lowest of which borders the River Wear. Other sports facilities include a sports hall, gym (with climbing wall), dance studio, fitness room and a 3G floodlit all-weather football pitch.



We have an excellent staff, with a proven track record and we make every effort to retain our quality staff by ensuring internal advancement opportunities are available. All teaching and support staff enjoy challenging and innovative C. P. L. ranging from participating or delivering internal workshops to attending PiXL training, following National College or SSAT development courses to undertaking Masters modules through our links with Newcastle University.

All staff in Parkside are fully supportive of the ethos of the school.



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[www.parkside.org.uk](http://www.parkside.org.uk)