



ASHINGTON
Academy

2019 Prospectus





WELCOME TO ASHINGTON ACADEMY

Just like the town it calls home, Ashington Academy is a place where pride runs deep. Our school has always been at the heart of the community who look to us to help give their children the best start in life.

As deputy chief executive officer of the North East Learning Trust, I am at the face of the work we do to ensure excellence across all of our schools. The recent sponsorship of Ashington Academy by the Trust is a move that has set the Academy on a well-defined path to bigger and better things.

I am proud to be supporting the school on the next phase of its evolution and to be leading a team of dedicated and talented

staff who are committed to helping every child reach their fullest potential.

Ashington Academy is a unique place with a kind heart. To anyone considering us for their child's secondary education, please join us for an open evening or a visit to experience, first-hand, what we have to offer. Until then, I hope you find the following pages provide a useful insight to our vision, ethos and achievements here at Ashington Academy.

Toni Spoors

Toni Spoors
Executive Headteacher

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 and stimulating curriculum.

We also have an experienced pastoral support network and a broad extra-curricular and 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 dedicated 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. Our school building is a calm space that promotes learning and high standards of behaviour. Our bright and light new £3.75m extension is home to our learning hub and is a fresh and fun place for students to learn.



STRONG BONDS

Our students tell us what they love about school is feeling like part of a big family, in a home from home, and the strong bonds that exist in the Academy. As a family member, they leave us with the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to excel in life, knowing there is somewhere to return to where they will be remembered and welcomed by friendly staff keen to hear what they have gone on to achieve.



We teach students to take great pride in their work and to be proud of each other."

HIGH ASPIRATIONS

At Ashington Academy, we encourage all students, regardless of their ability, to work hard and reach their full potential by providing them with a challenging curriculum that allows them to stretch themselves.

For our most able students we recognise that targeted support and aspirational opportunities can help them really fly high. Therefore, we provide visits to universities and opportunities to attend challenging seminars, both designed to boost their learning and raise aspirations.

In addition, collaborative summer schools with the National Citizen Service and in-school higher education events enable students to get a head start in understanding the range of future choices available to them.

We take the time to encourage and nurture several stand-out students who are scholars of local sports academies including Newcastle United Football Club and Newcastle City Gymnastics, and our impressive Dance Academy is a particular source of pride, regularly performing at Newcastle Eagles matches.



Students consistently achieve great things here, thanks to their drive and the hard work of the staff who support them."





Our **strong and collective sense of compassion** prompts students to undertake a range of **charitable** endeavours.

NEVER A SPARE MOMENT

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. Our annual shows are true spectacles that have entertained the Ashington community for years, easily competing with professional productions.

Sport is close to the hearts of many staff and students. We are proud of the strong links our school has forged with many top level local sports clubs and teams including the Newcastle Eagles basketball team and Newcastle Falcons rugby team.

We also have a wonderful annual activities week that allows every student in school to access an exciting and unique variety of trips and experiences over the course of five action-packed days. Recent opportunities during activities week have included surfing, mountain biking and paddle boarding.

Lastly, our strong collective sense of compassion prompts students to undertake a range of charitable endeavours including regular collections for the local food bank and the wonderful 'Spirit of Christmas' annual performances in local old people's homes.

ASHINGTON ACADEMY IS **EVOLVING...**

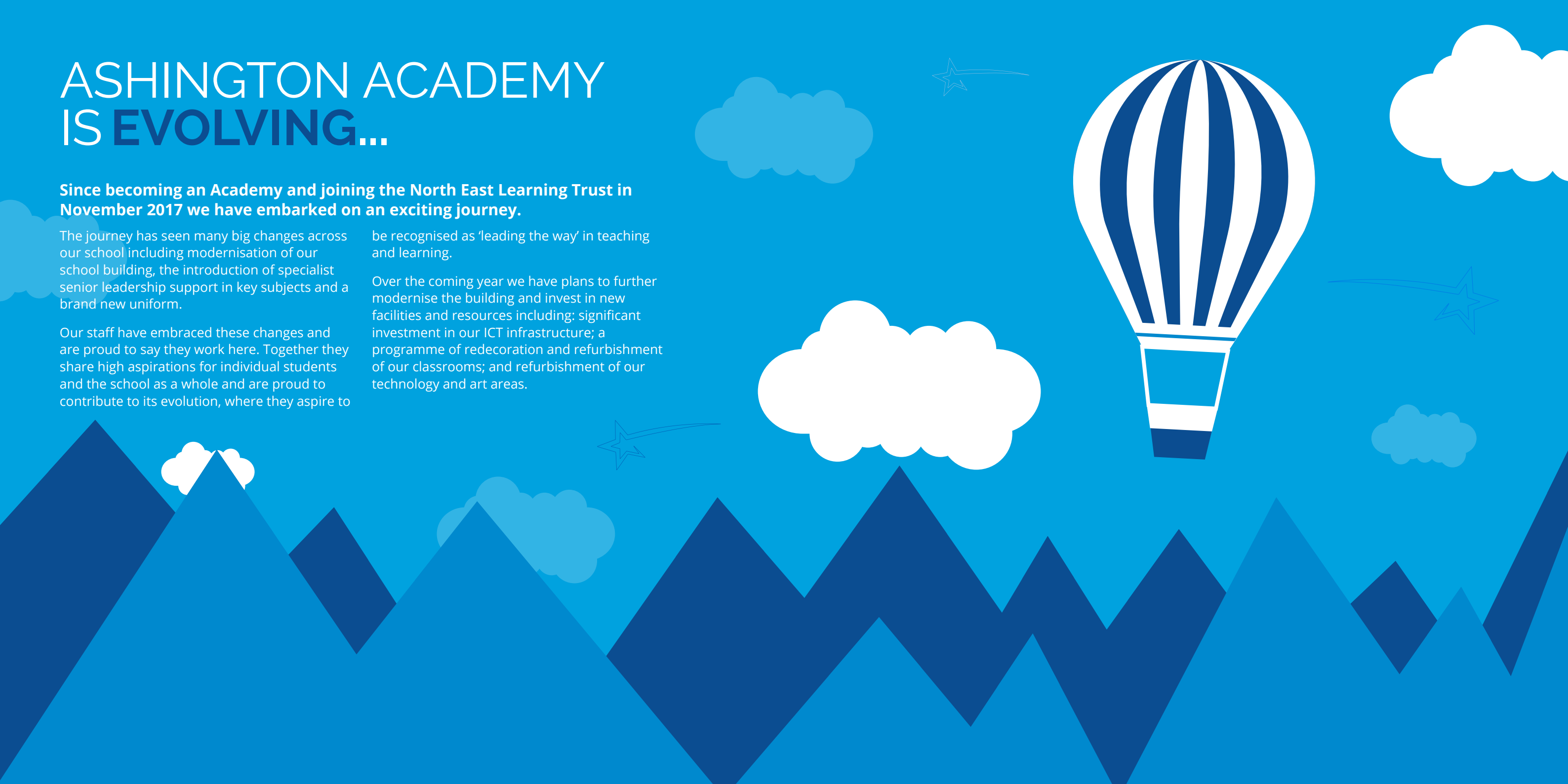
Since becoming an Academy and joining the North East Learning Trust in November 2017 we have embarked on an exciting journey.

The journey has seen many big changes across our school including modernisation of our school building, the introduction of specialist senior leadership support in key subjects and a brand new uniform.

Our staff have embraced these changes and are proud to say they work here. Together they share high aspirations for individual students and the school as a whole and are proud to contribute to its evolution, where they aspire to

be recognised as 'leading the way' in teaching and learning.

Over the coming year we have plans to further modernise the building and invest in new facilities and resources including: significant investment in our ICT infrastructure; a programme of redecoration and refurbishment of our classrooms; and refurbishment of our technology and art areas.





NORTH EAST LEARNING TRUST

In November 2017, Ashington Academy joined the North East Learning Trust, a highly successful multi-academy education Trust which spans the region.

The Trust's vision is simple and shared by all schools who join the family; that 'every child experiences excellence every day'.

The Trust's founding school, The Academy at Shotton Hall, has achieved great success for their children by securing some of the best outcomes in the country. In 2018 the school achieved some of the best GCSE results in County Durham and they have also been awarded two consecutive outstanding judgments from Ofsted. They have also been designated as a national research school, one of just 23 in the country.

Shotton Hall is also a National Teaching School training the next generation of teachers and ensuring the highest standards of teaching are instilled from the outset. This means the Trust can access a steady stream of consistently high quality staff to meet workforce needs across its schools.

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 sits on the Regional Schools Commissioning Board. The CEO and Deputy CEOs are all National Leaders of Education and practising Ofsted inspectors.

Ashington Academy also has access to a wide network of specialist teachers and other experienced professionals to support us on our road to outstanding.



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