



Thetford

ACADEMY




Ofsted
Good
Provider



Welcome to your academy

Welcome to Thetford Academy. We have a clear aim for our pupils: that they are happy, safe and successful. This aim directly influences every action we take as a school.

We have the highest expectations of our pupils and are committed to maintaining a calm, structured and supportive learning environment that enables them to prosper. We believe that these high expectations will not only lead to excellent academic progress, but also provide our pupils with the confidence and self discipline they will need to be successful in later life.

Thetford Academy offers a broad, rigorous academic education from Year 7 right through to sixth form because we believe that all our pupils should have access to the best that has been thought, said and created.

We ensure our pupils take part in a range of enriching experiences, from participation in sports clubs and teams to a multitude of trips and visits, at home and abroad. Pupils have opportunities to take part in a variety of vibrant arts, music and drama activities too.

Our custom-built campus has enviable facilities: classrooms and labs designed for modern teaching, and extensive grounds for a full range of sports. Our teachers are passionate and committed subject experts, and work hard together to make sure our pupils make good progress, whatever their starting points. Each child is treated as an individual and is supported by an extensive system of pastoral care.

As part of the Inspiration Trust - twice ranked the top comprehensive schools group in the country for pupil progress to GCSE - we can draw on the resources and expertise from across our East Anglian family of schools to support our pupils and staff.

We are proud of Thetford Academy: our pupils consistently make better progress than the national average, and Ofsted graded the school 'Good' again in March 2020. I invite you to come and see Thetford Academy for yourself - I'm convinced you will be impressed by what we can offer you and your child.

Dan Carter, Principal



Oh the places you'll go!





Our vision

The Thetford Academy is a school at the academic and cultural heart of our community. **We teach our pupils a curriculum that provides them with a thorough understanding of the world** in which we live, an appreciation of what is amazing and beautiful, and preparation for the challenges we face. **We welcome our pupils into a range of cultural pursuits in sports, crafts and the creative arts.** We achieve all of this by teaching our pupils to develop a set of values and habits that allow them to contribute to our community in Thetford, and beyond. This means that **we teach our pupils to be polite, considerate, hardworking and disciplined.**

Joining our academy

With more than 1,100 pupils Thetford Academy is a large school, but we have a 'small school' ethos, where each child is supported and valued as an individual. This starts during our transition process. Our Year 7 team works closely with our feeder primary schools to get to know our new pupils, and each family has a one to one meeting with school leaders before starting at the academy. We run a successful transition week at the end of the summer term where our new Year 7s get to know the academy before they start in September. We meet with parents again early in the autumn term to ensure our new Year 7s are settling into the academy well.

Thetford Academy is an increasingly popular choice for parents in the wider area, and we also often welcome pupils who transfer at other ages, or part way through the school year. We offer tours of the school and open day events for families who think Thetford Academy might be the right school for their child.





Teaching and learning

The classroom experience at Thetford Academy is founded upon:

- High expectations of behaviour and fair, consistent application of rules and routines
- The knowledge and passion of our teachers as subject experts
- An emphasis on reading widely and often
- A belief that deliberate practice is the best way to build the independence and confidence of pupils
- Regular feedback and advice to pupils to help them progress
- Recognising and rewarding hard work

We work with our fellow academies within the Inspiration Trust to apply innovative teaching approaches and deliver a thorough, modern, knowledge rich curriculum. This ensures that students have the knowledge not only to tackle their exams, but the wider and richer knowledge they need to get on in the world after education.





Academy life

Because we are a large, modern academy we offer a wide range of subjects. Every pupil has the opportunity to tailor the choice of subjects to their particular strengths and interests.

English and maths are the foundations of our curriculum: all our pupils are entitled to leave Thetford Academy securely literate and numerate, and we run successful programmes to 'catch up' those pupils who are behind when they join the academy.

From Year 7, pupils study a wide range of subjects including art, biology, chemistry, computing, drama, English, French, geography, history, maths, music, physical education, physics, religious education, Spanish and technology. When they progress to GCSEs and A-Levels there is an even broader range of subjects on offer, including business studies, government and politics, health and social care, photography, psychology and sociology.

Pupils have daily tutor time to ensure all our young people are fully supported, with tutors able to get to know their students in depth. The tutor programme enhances the curriculum by providing opportunities for further independent reading, as well as access to our careers and PSHE programme.

We work hard to recognise the achievements of our pupils. Merits and 'golden tickets' are used to reward hard work and good conduct. These lead to an awards ceremony and reward activities at the end of each term. It is common to see pupils wearing blazer badges showing their number of merits or for 100% attendance. There are many opportunities for pupil leadership, from anti-bullying mentors to prefects.

An important feature of our academy is what goes on outside the classroom. We run extra classes for pupils after school several nights a week, particularly for pupils in exam year groups striving to achieve their best. We have high expectations for homework, and many pupils take the opportunity to make the most of our facilities and stay after school for homework clubs. Many subjects offer clubs and activities outside of lessons, particularly in practical subjects like PE, drama, art, music and technology. The academy has a well established and popular Duke of Edinburgh award scheme too.







Wider opportunities

Our academy ensures that pupils are able to take advantage of a wide range of trips and visits both in the UK and abroad, supporting their classroom learning as well as developing their confidence and personality based on exposure to a range of challenges.

We place great value on music, art, drama and sport. Music is provided through music lessons and personal tuition, with established links with the Thetford Music Project. There are multiple opportunities for pupils to perform, with recent productions including We Will Rock You, Grease, and A Midsummer Night's Dream, as well as a touring Shakespeare show alongside professional actors. We hold exhibitions of student artwork both in school and with partners such as the Ancient House Museum of Thetford Life.

Our sports teams perform very well in local and county competitions and we have a number of pupils who have achieved county, regional and national honours in their sports. Our sports programme is not just for the elite athletes: everyone is welcomed at the training sessions where the focus is on developing skills and techniques.







Supporting our pupils


Every pupil is important and we have a strong pastoral system to ensure we identify and support their needs. Each pupil has a form tutor, who they see daily, and a Head of Year who oversees their academic and personal development. Each year group has a dedicated Parent Liaison Officer (PLO). They are your first point of contact if you have any concerns, and they work closely with the Head of Year and form tutors.

We also have a strong special needs department working closely with families from the point of transition. By ensuring learning barriers are identified and support is put in place, we can make sure all children make good progress.

Our uniform is smart and traditional. We encourage each pupil to take pride in their appearance and to be proud to belong to Thetford Academy, representing their community whenever they are in uniform.

We work in close partnership with parents and hold formal parents' evenings to give the chance to meet and speak with teachers about the progress their child is making.

The academy has a stringent safeguarding policy to ensure that every child is safe and protected from harm. This policy gives clear direction to staff, volunteers, visitors, and parents and carers about expected behaviour, and our legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all students.



Café



Sixth form

Our sixth form offers a natural progression for students after GCSEs.

We provide a wide range of courses so that students can pursue their interests and work towards employment or university, with plenty of expert advice from our award-winning careers service.

Sixth form is an important bridge to adult life, with students guided into taking more independence and responsibility.

While the sixth form is a distinct part of the academy, it retains strong links with younger years with a 'buddy' system encouraging our post-16 students to support children further down the academy.

Full details of our sixth form can be found in its own dedicated prospectus and on our website.





Thetford Academy is part of the Inspiration Trust, a not-for-profit charity twice ranked as the country's top comprehensive schools group for pupil progress to GCSE.

Our schools follow a knowledge-rich curriculum, structured by traditional subjects, to ensure systematic and thorough teaching for all.

We also offer the widest range of sporting and cultural opportunities to our young people, and encourage them to play an active role in their school and the wider community.

Our family of schools work together to ensure that all students have access to the very best teaching expertise, exceptional facilities, and extracurricular activities to excite and broaden young minds.



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