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# ISAAC NEWTON ACADEMY

**SECONDARY PROSPECTUS**

Ark  
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# Chair of Governors' message

Thank you for your interest in Isaac Newton Academy.

At Isaac Newton Academy, the foundation for a vibrant learning community is in place. We have the guidance and support of Ark Schools, one of the UK's leading academy operators. We inhabit a glorious building, purpose-built to provide a small school experience to a large student body.

And the energy, ambitions and interests of our students, supported by their families, has brought Isaac Newton Academy to life!

At Isaac Newton Academy we have a clear mission: to equip every student with the knowledge, learning power and character necessary for success at university and beyond. When we speak of knowledge, we recognise that exam results matter: we want all our students to have the option of higher education: we aim for all of our students to achieve 9-5 grades in their GCSEs. And we will do everything we can to help students achieve enough 9s, 8s and 7s to attend the finest universities. But knowledge means more than test results: we want our students to leave Isaac Newton Academy knowing themselves and the contribution that each of them, with sufficient ambition and hard work, can make to the world around them. When we speak of learning power, we have in mind essential educational building blocks such as literacy, foreign language, scientific and mathematical skills. But we also hope our students will develop the love of learning and the self-discipline necessary for a lifetime of independent study and personal growth. When we speak of character, we expect our students to be beacons of decency, integrity, resilience and drive.

We invite you to join the excitement of building a learning community at Isaac Newton Academy. If the pages that follow inspire you to learn more about us, please consider attending one of our information events or contacting us by email or phone. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Gerard Griffin**  
**Chair of Governors**





# Principal's welcome

I am delighted to introduce you to Isaac Newton Academy, a purpose-built, all-through school for students aged 4-18 in Ilford. Our prospectus should give you a flavour of this exciting educational opportunity for your son or daughter. I would also encourage you to browse our website and/or to arrange to visit us to find out more.

Isaac Newton Academy Secondary is a non-denominational, non-selective school, welcoming girls and boys from all backgrounds from the local community. The school opened with 180 Year 7 students in September 2012. The secondary school has grown year on year and we now have 1200 11–18 year olds (including 250 students in the Sixth Form).

Our staff work tirelessly to ensure that each and every student is supported and stretched to reach their full potential. We focus on working towards achieving our vision to 'equip every student with the knowledge, learning power and character necessary for success at university and beyond'. Commitment to our vision has already delivered a series of great successes highlighted in October 2018 when the academy was judged by Ofsted to be outstanding in all areas.

Joining Isaac Newton Academy in September 2020, I have spent more than a decade as a senior leader, a large portion of this within an all-through school. There is something incredibly special about working in an all-through school, which makes me committed to delivering the highest quality education to all the students at Isaac Newton Academy and will build on the successes already enjoyed by the school.

My vision for the community is to strive to ensure that the students and families we serve continue to receive excellent levels of care and academic support, whilst pushing new boundaries in pursuit of the ambitions I have for the academy and community. These ambitions will be fulfilled by each person in our community committing to our BRIDGES values, displaying a growth mindset and believing that our aspirational vision can be achieved by all. Ultimately, I want to help lead a legacy of pioneers who will positively change the world around them.

I very much look forward to meeting you and to working with you and your sons and daughters to continue building a truly great school.

**Morgan Haines**  
**Principal**





# Ark Schools

Isaac Newton Academy (INA) is part of Ark Schools, a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) with an excellent track record. Ark has a network of 35 academies in London, Birmingham, Hastings and Portsmouth. Ark's vision is to create a group of outstanding schools for local children that deliver high achievement for all of their pupils. Ark schools prioritise six key principles:

- **High expectations**
- **Exemplary behaviour**
- **Excellent teaching**
- **More time for learning**
- **Depth before breadth**
- **Knowing every child**

Ark Schools is part of Ark, an international children's charity whose purpose is to transform children's lives. Ark runs health, child welfare and educational programmes in Southern Africa, Eastern Europe, India and the UK.

# Our vision

At Isaac Newton Academy our aim is to equip every student with the knowledge, learning power and character necessary for success at university and beyond.

We:

- set clear, ambitious goals, and rigorously monitor our progress in achieving them
- offer a curriculum emphasising core academic subjects, while providing the facilities and specialist staff to meet and stimulate a wider range of interests
- employ an approach to teaching that instils knowledge, understanding and a desire to learn
- ensure that all students, teachers, staff and parents/carers commit fully to making Isaac Newton Academy a vibrant learning community.



# Ambitious goals and rigorous monitoring



*“If I am  
anything,  
I have  
made  
myself so by  
hard work.”*

We have uncompromising aspirations for all our pupils. We intend that every student will leave the academy with excellent qualifications, real choices and the option to continue their studies at a top university. Our aim is that 90% of our students achieve at least five GCSEs, including English and maths, at 9-5, with a clear emphasis on A\*, A and B/9, 8 and 7 grades. We recognise that this is an ambitious goal, but we have exceptionally high expectations of our students and staff.

To reach high levels of achievement we know that hard work and commitment from everyone at Isaac Newton Academy – students, staff, parents and carers – is essential. We work with our students’ families to ensure that together we provide the right support and challenge for every child to achieve their goals.

We have recruited outstanding teaching and support staff who share our ethos of high expectations and no excuses and we have prioritised their ongoing training and development.

At Isaac Newton Academy we take a systematic approach to assessment, establishing baselines, tracking students frequently and using regular diagnostic assessments. Each student has an assessment profile and clear progress path. Each scheme of learning has clear learning objectives. Progress is shared regularly with students and their families so that appropriate support and challenge can be planned and provided.

We regularly and rigorously evaluate and assess all that we do as staff to provide a first class education for our students, and strive to constantly improve the quality of teaching and educational provision.



# The curriculum

Our guiding principle in designing the Isaac Newton Academy curriculum is “depth before breadth”. First and foremost, it is essential that students master core academic subjects. In the early years, this means that students can expect a focus on literacy and numeracy. The curriculum centres on the essential academic subjects, including maths, English, sciences, the humanities and languages. At the same time, with a specialism in music and with first class sporting, arts and technological facilities, the school encourages students to expand their horizons, develop a wide range of skills and talents and have fun.

## **Literacy**

Every teacher is a teacher of reading at Isaac Newton Academy. All Year 7 and 8 students have a reading lesson each week and every child is expected to read for pleasure for at least 20 minutes per evening.

## **Specialisms – Maths and Music**

All Ark schools specialise in mathematics. High standards of numeracy are important in every walk of life, so we support and coach students to ensure that all can become confident mathematicians.

At Isaac Newton Academy students study music for two hours per week and every child is given a musical instrument at the start of Year 7 so that he/she can learn to play and perform as part of a class Big Band. Students are encouraged to join the choirs and ensembles that run as part of the enrichment programme.

## **Enrichment Opportunities**

Ark places a great deal of emphasis on enrichment activities as well as on the academic content of the curriculum, and the enrichment and aspiration that such opportunities provide. To enable our pupils to gain as much as they can from the wide range of opportunities on offer, Isaac Newton Academy has a school day that is longer than at a typical secondary school. The school day runs from 8.25am until 4.10pm, with after-school activities until 6pm. All staff and students participate in enrichment activities. Examples of clubs include: Latin, chess, trampolining, Samba, newspaper, film, food, football, henna, eco, dancing, rock band, football, athletics and book club.

We are committed to developing extended school activities and building strong links with external organisations.

# Knowledge through understanding

At Isaac Newton Academy we encourage intellectual curiosity and a life-long love of learning. We want our students to have imaginative, questioning and active minds. Wherever possible, students work with teachers and each other through collective discussion, debate, problem-solving and experimentation. We know that active engagement in lessons makes learning more enjoyable, deepens understanding and leads to greater examination success.

Students requiring additional support find it in small “nurture groups.” Meanwhile, all students are encouraged to learn beyond the classroom and staff are keen to provide them with challenging assignments, additional reading from a well-stocked library and after-hours activities and clubs mentored by academy staff. All students are set Independent Learning for at least one hour per night.



*“Vast oceans  
of truth lie all  
undiscovered  
before me.”*

# A vibrant learning community

The Isaac Newton Academy learning community is based upon core values of mutual respect, personal discipline, and an unwavering commitment on the part of all community members to do whatever it takes to excel. We know that everyone has the potential to grow their intelligence, improve their performance and expand their brain power through hard work, focused practice and targeted coaching and encouragement.

## **Mutual Respect**

The school insists that differing views, interests, backgrounds and outlooks are honoured; that the authority of staff is acknowledged; and the particular needs, contributions and interests of students are nurtured and developed.

## **Personal Discipline**

A clear code of conduct is enforced. Teachers expect hard work and excellent behaviour from their students. Students, in turn, can expect inspirational teaching every day.

Mutual respect and personal discipline are key to the success of Isaac Newton Academy. We are committed to doing whatever it takes to equip our students with the knowledge, skills, love of learning and character necessary for success. We expect the same level of commitment from our students and their families. More than any other principle or goal, this spirit of accepting no excuses for anything short of success and our collaborative commitment to achieving the best possible outcomes defines Isaac Newton Academy and the education that its students receive.



*“If I have  
seen further,  
it is by  
standing on  
the shoulders  
of giants.”*

# Buildings and facilities

Isaac Newton Academy has been built as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme, procured in partnership with Redbridge Council. The specially designed buildings provide a stimulating, inspiring, inclusive and ordered learning environment with excellent facilities in all curriculum areas. These include:

- Ten top quality science laboratories
- A full size sports hall with an activities studio and 3G synthetic sports pitch
- A suite of music and drama recital, performance and practice rooms
- State of the art technology, food, art and textiles workshops.

The modern facilities are available for the community to use outside school hours.

We believe that the academy represents the best of public building in Redbridge; it inspires local people as well as its students. It has been designed to facilitate learning, to meet the needs of a 21st century curriculum and to provide opportunities for adult, family and community classes.



*“We build too many walls and not enough bridges.”*

# How to apply for a place at Isaac Newton Academy

Parents of children in Year 6 can view the Local Authority's secondary transfer pack online on the Redbridge website; [www.redbridge.gov.uk](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk).

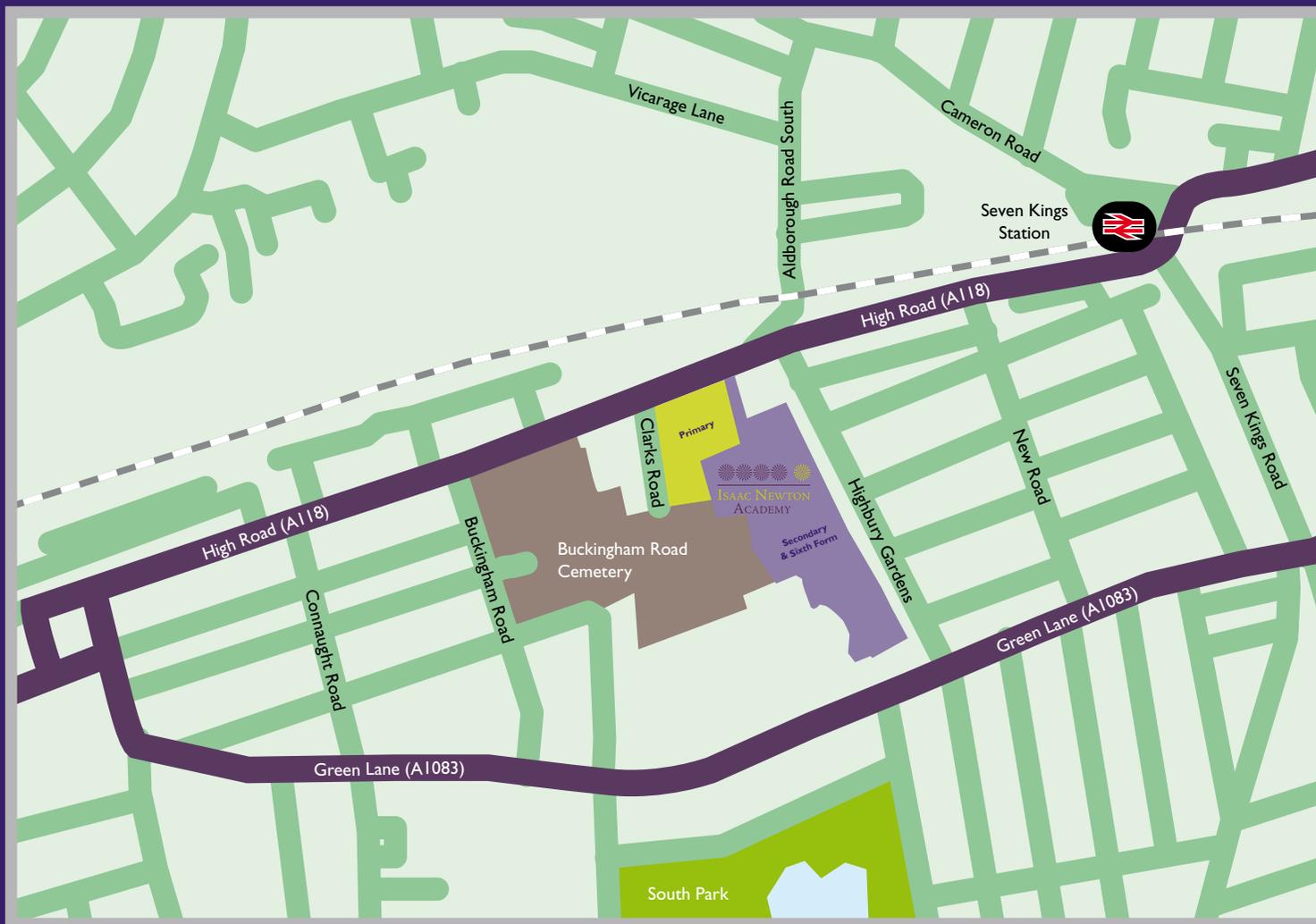
Please ensure that your application is submitted to the Redbridge Admissions Service by the closing date published in the pack.

## **Admissions Criteria**

Isaac Newton Academy is a non-selective school for local children. Priority is given to students with statements of special educational needs or EHC plans, where the academy is named on the statement/EHC plan. The remaining places are then offered in the following order of priority:

- Looked After Children and all previously Looked After Children
- children of staff of the school where there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
- children who have a sibling who already attends the school and who will continue to do so on the date of admission (for this purpose "sibling" means a whole, half or step-brother or -sister resident at the same address) .
- children of staff of the school (where there is no skill shortage).
- the remaining places will be allocated to children who live closest to the school. The Local Authority measures distance on behalf of Ark Schools. London Borough of Redbridge use a Geographical Information System to calculate shortest walking distance from the child's home to the main entrance of the school using public roads and recognised footpaths. Where measurements involve flats in the same block, the distance will be to the entrance of each individual flat.

The academy will keep a waiting list which will be used to fill casual vacancies occurring if students leave during the year, or withdraw from a place that has been offered.



Contact us:

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