



BEDLINGTON
Academy

2020 Prospectus



WELCOME TO BEDLINGTON ACADEMY

Bedlington Academy is rooted in the heart of the community – it always has been, and it always will be. Our heritage guides us, but it is our future that will define us as we look forward and push ourselves to go further and faster than ever before.

I am proud to lead a team of truly dedicated staff who are the lifeblood of this school and who have a genuine pride for the school and the community and who care greatly about your children's futures. I am supported by our trust deputy CEO, Ms Toni Spoors, and together we plan to drive Bedlington Academy forward to match the achievements of the best schools in the country.

There has never been a more exciting time to be a student here as transformations filter into every corner of our school. Since joining the successful North East Learning Trust, we have been working on a series of rapid improvements to join

all schools in the trust in delivering a shared vision - that every child experiences excellence every day.

Choosing who should educate your child as they evolve into young adults, or where to go on to study for sixth form are important decisions. We are now in the strong position of being oversubscribed and are accepting applications for entry in September 2020. I warmly invite you to visit us to see our achievements and experience our aspirations for yourself. Until then, the following pages are designed to give you an insight into who we are here at Bedlington Academy.

Joanna Lamb
Joanna Lamb, Headteacher



THE BEDLINGTON JOURNEY

FROM THE MOMENT STUDENTS JOIN US IN YEAR 7 TINY AND TIMID, TO LEAVING US TALLER AND TRIUMPHANT IN YEAR 13, STUDENTS AT BEDLINGTON ACADEMY ARE ON AN EXCITING JOURNEY.

This journey sees students incrementally building on their successes with staff developing a deeper knowledge and understanding of what makes them tick year-on-year.

This personalised approach to learning can't be underestimated, especially as students move into sixth form, where the working relationships that have developed over the years give students a great head start for the demanding years ahead.

Personalisation and approachability count for a lot when the pressure is on – and staff are proud that many students choose to complete their entire school journey with us.

And when the journey is over, students remain proud of their time at Bedlington Academy. We know this from the regular visits we receive from ex-students, keen to report on their lives beyond school and tell us about the enduring positive impact that our staff have had on their lives.



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.

Our values are equally simple and inspired by the community of Bedlington - that everyone is respected and valued as an individual, and that all children's futures are seen as being of equal value so that everyone is given a chance to thrive.

Children come to Bedlington Academy to learn and ultimately leave with the qualifications that give them the best chance to access further study or rewarding careers. However, we pride ourselves on the work we do not just to educate children academically, but to educate them as young citizens. We work hard to instil traditional values and important life skills across the

whole school and start by ensuring that our school is a safe and caring environment where staff are approachable and where mutual respect dominates.

And it works. Ask students and they will tell you that Bedlington Academy is a loyal and close-knit community school where individuality is valued and where tolerance, acceptance and inclusiveness run deep. Children here support each other, and staff have a kinship with students that sees them invested in developing the whole child, not just for their own subject. It sounds like a cliché but children here really are more than just a number.



“Everyone
IS GIVEN
A CHANCE TO thrive”



“Confidence
IS BUILT, talents ARE
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ASPIRATION & ACHIEVEMENT

AT BEDLINGTON ACADEMY WE AIM HIGH AND WE
WANT EVERYONE TO KNOW ABOUT IT.

Our bottom line is that we expect all students to succeed. We don't expect them to succeed in the same way at the same things – that would be a very boring world indeed - but we do instil high aspirations and standards from day one, and work tirelessly to ensure that confidence is built, talents are nurtured, and passions are pursued.

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 top universities, including Cambridge, and opportunities to attend challenging seminars, both designed to boost their learning and raise aspirations. In addition, in-school higher education events enable students to get a head start in understanding the range the future choices available to them.



Getting involved in

DANCING SINGING THROWING
TRAVELLING COLLECTING
ACTING STITCHING DESIGNING TUMBLING
JUMPING PAINTING TUNNELLING
DEBATING PROJECTING TASTING
PROGRAMMING MIXING DECORATING
CLIMBING

THE LIST GOES ON AND ON...

GETTING INVOLVED

THERE'S PLENTY ON OFFER TO ENRICH OUR STUDENTS' EXPERIENCE OF SCHOOL ONCE LESSONS ARE OVER.

Creative writing

There are many opportunities for budding writers to showcase their talents, including our brilliant Year 9 students who recently took part in a Newcastle University project working with real writers to produce stunning poetry and artwork now on display in galleries across the region.

Super STEM

Five sixth form students recently won £5,000 in a national UK Space Agency competition by developing an innovative idea that used satellites to benefit humans displaced by natural disasters.

The arts

From leading roles to stagehands, our annual shows bring the whole school together to entertain our community. Our performing arts department takes part in a National Theatre project where

students perform on the Northern Stage in Newcastle. Students can also access musical tuition and take part in orchestra and choir activities, including performing in the prestigious NELT concerts at the Sage Gateshead.

School trips

Activities further afield include our popular Year 7 outward bound residential to Dukehouse Wood, as well as cultural trips to London and South Africa, and curriculum linked visits to the Lake District, Zurich and Iceland. Every year, student take part in activities week which includes adventurous sports and fun days out.

Sports

Sport is important at Bedlington Academy with students' commitment and talent paying off with regular top ups of the silverware cabinet.

Community spirit

We have a strong connection with our local community and regularly support church and charity events. Every year we host an OAP Christmas Dinner and this year we are supporting St Oswald's Hospice's *Elmer's Great North Parade* with our own Bedlington Academy designed Elmer.

Building character

Students have their views heard as representatives on our student council or as prefects. Our Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme allows students to gain a nationally recognised qualification whilst completing expeditions and helping the local community and environment.

Students also have the opportunity to become a member of our Combined Cadet Force, one of only two in Northumberland.

WHY CHOOSE BEDLINGTON?



Results

Our students make excellent progress at GCSE and A level. In 2019, 80% of A level students achieved or exceeded their target grade and our rate of Grade 9 results at GCSE was three times higher than last year.



New, modern facilities

Our new, purpose built school has fantastic specialist classrooms and sports facilities including a 3G pitch, state of the art gym and dance studio.



Care and support

Our staff go above and beyond to ensure that all children can reach their full potential. Our special educational needs team provides expert support and helps students with additional needs to achieve their full potential. Our school counsellor and school nurse ensure that students' mental and physical health needs are fully met.



Pursuing excellence

Staff at every level and role in school are committed to the pursuit of excellence. We work hard to deliver our vision that every child experiences excellence every day.



Big things are happening

There has never been a more exciting time to be a student here as transformations filter into every corner of our school.



Part of a wider family

We are part of a multi-academy Trust that exists to provide children across the north east of England with the very best education.

At Bedlington Academy the staff are kind and friendly.

They care for the education of every student in the school and they want them to achieve the best grades they can."

Josh, Year 10

WHAT STUDENTS AND PARENTS THINK ABOUT BEDLINGTON ACADEMY

"My child was really nervous about starting year 7, but she was given lots of **support** to make her feel **more comfortable**.

The staff have been so **approachable** and **supportive**. Since that first day, she hasn't looked back!"

Year 7 parent

I am really pleased with the progress my child is making at Bedlington Academy. I

think the **range of extra curricular opportunities** the school offers is great too."

Year 9 parent

I couldn't be prouder of the **GCSE results** my son has achieved. At one point he wasn't reaching his target grades, but his teachers worked with him to help him catch up. **It is great that he has done well enough to go onto sixth form and do his A levels. Now he's talking about studying medicine at university"**

Year 11 parent

"Bedlington has made me feel **safe and confident** in my lessons, **encouraging me to push myself** to improve in my work. The teachers have always offered help to make me feel more comfortable in school, it is a **really great environment** to work in. All support staff are really easy to talk to and they are always very accessible around school. Teachers have always helped me in and outside of lesson times so I can **keep on track** with my work going towards my GCSEs".

Hannah, Year 11

"I like coming to Bedlington Academy because the teachers are **very kind**. I think the sporting **opportunities** are outstanding. The staff in student services always give support to any students needing help."

Kai, Year 8



NORTH EAST LEARNING TRUST

In April 2018, Bedlington 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 2019 the school achieved some of the best GCSE results in County Durham and they have 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 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 Bedlington 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 and the CEO and Deputy CEOs are all National Leaders of Education.

Bedlington 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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