



**BEDLINGTON**  
Academy

**2024 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. They have a genuine pride for the school and the community and care greatly about your children's futures.

Ofsted agree that our approach is effective awarding us a 'good' rating all round in October 2022 and praising our "calm, purposeful and happy school." The inspection highlighted many areas where we excel, in particular our strong sense of community, culture of respect, broad and successful curriculum and strong strategic vision from school leaders.

Choosing who should educate your child as they evolve into young adults is an important decision, and I am delighted that you are considering Bedlington Academy.

I warmly invite you to visit us at our open evening to see our achievements and experience the wonderful atmosphere in our school for yourself. Until then, the following pages are designed to give you a small insight into who we are and what we're about here at Bedlington Academy.



**Joanna Lamb**  
**Head of School**



# 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.

Focussed attention



acceptance of each other

ongoing improvement

students mix with each other

protectiveness

consistency to become a better person

high aspirations

personalisation

approachability

genuine pride



# *Our vision* **AND VALUES**

**OUR VISION IS SIMPLE AND SHARED BY ALL SCHOOLS IN THE NORTH EAST LEARNING TRUST – IT IS ‘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 NURTURED AND  
*passions* ARE PURSUED

# *Aspiration* AND 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 a challenging curriculum that allows them to stretch themselves. The transition between in-school and home learning is seamless, as with the use of Student

POD, our entire curriculum is online and all students have access to our Office 365 platforms.

For our students, we recognise that targeted support and aspirational opportunities can help them really fly high. Therefore, we focus on careers education from Year 7 onwards, with university and college visits, and work experience opportunities which are designed to enhance students' learning and boost their aspirations. In addition, in-school events enable students to get a head start in understanding the range of the future choices available to them.



*Get involved in...*

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

*the list goes 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 have taken 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 work with professional directors and perform at prestigious theatres. 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 cultural trips to London and Europe, and curriculum linked visits to the Lake District, Zurich and Iceland. Every year, students take part in our summer 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 Macmillan Coffee Morning.

## **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. We also have a whole host of exciting extra-curricular clubs and activities for you to get involved with from debating to drama and sport to Spanish. Students also have the opportunity to become a member of our Combined Cadet Force, one of only two in Northumberland.

# WHY CHOOSE BEDLINGTON ACADEMY?



## Results

Over the past few years, our students have achieved consistently good GCSE and A level results and we are on a steady path of positive progress.



## 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."**

Year 13 student

# WHAT STUDENTS AND PARENTS THINK ABOUT BEDLINGTON ACADEMY

**I don't think we could have picked a better school.** The teaching, support and overall running of the school is extremely effective in creating a safe, enjoyable environment and both **our children have thrived at Bedlington Academy.**" Year 10 parent

"We have always been **immensely impressed** as parents at the **outstanding education and support** the children receive."

Year 11 parent

**"I love this school** and am happy I've attended it. The staff are lovely and caring which **makes me feel very secure and cared for.**" Year 12 student

"My husband and I recently travelled to Iceland, where **a group of your school children were on the same flight.** I would just like to express how so proud you must be of them. **Their manners and behaviour both at the airport and on the plane were absolutely impeccable.**

They were a credit to your school, well done!"

Mr & Mrs Dunn

"I have found each interaction with teachers, year managers and support staff at the school to be **professional with a personal touch;** from the comms on what's happening each week to the chats at parents evening - where I found each teacher I spoke to **full of passion with a genuine interest in my son.**"

Year 7 parent

"My son is really **enjoying his time at school both academically and socially.** This I put down to the culture that has been created."

Year 7 parent



# *Supported by the* North East Learning Trust

**Bedlington Academy is sponsored by the North East Learning Trust (NELT), a successful family of 12 schools across the North East.**

NELT has a proven track record of school improvement with all schools under their wing having sustained or improved their Ofsted gradings at their first inspection following sponsorship.

NELT is widely regarded as providing some of the best education in the county, and indeed the country, with children making significant progress from their starting points, achieving impressive exam results, and going on to access a range of well-respected further and higher education opportunities including courses at some of the UK's most elite universities.

The Trust is also heavily involved with teacher development. It boasts its very own teacher training arm, North East SCITT, that trains the next generation of teachers and ensures the highest standards of teaching are instilled from the outset. It is a National Teaching School

Hub, one of 87 centres of excellence across England that provide high quality training and development to teachers throughout their careers. Not only that, but the Trust's founding school, The Academy at Shotton Hall, is a National Research School, one of just 23 in England, that up-skill teachers using cutting-edge research.

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, Lesley Powell CBE, is a member of many regional and national education boards and advisory groups. The CEO and Deputy CEOs are National Leaders of Education and the Trust also employs a wide network of specialist teachers and other experienced professionals to support schools on their paths to becoming outstanding.



**BEDLINGTON**  
Academy

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