



**Biddick
Academy**

2025

PROSPECTUS

A group of students in school uniforms are standing in front of the Biddick Academy building. The building is a two-story brick structure with large windows. The name 'Biddick Academy' is written in large white letters on the brick wall. The students are dressed in dark blazers, white shirts, and striped ties. The scene is set outdoors during the day, with a clear blue sky and a bright sun creating a lens flare effect on the left side of the image.

Biddick Academy

Welcome to **Biddick Academy**

It is with great pride that I welcome you to Biddick Academy - a thriving community school which serves the local Washington area.

At Biddick Academy we find and nurture the brilliance in every student through a well-balanced and broad curriculum. Everything that we do aims to develop curiosity, build resilience, readiness, and aspiration in our students. Each year we work to build on the high standards and reputation we have achieved over many years as we prepare students to embrace the endless possibilities that lie ahead of them.

We want our students to be well-educated and well-rounded individuals, prepared to take their next steps when they leave our Academy. Our dedicated and talented staff provide exceptional care, guidance and support, helping students to develop their confidence, work ethic and aspiration.

We have high expectations for all our students and are committed to working closely with parents and carers to ensure your child excels. By getting to know each child individually, we create an environment where students are happy, successful, and often achieve more than they ever thought possible.

This prospectus offers some insight into life at our school, but to really experience what Biddick Academy can offer your child, please join us at our annual open evening where I look forward to meeting you and your family.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'K Morris', is written in a light blue color on the dark blue background.

Miss K Morris, Headteacher

Inspiring learning

At Biddick Academy our vision is simple and shared by all schools in the North East Learning Trust – that every child experiences excellence every day.

This fundamental goal stands as the cornerstone of every decision we make and informs the delivery of high-quality teaching and learning by dedicated staff who are committed to motivating and inspiring students to reach their full potential.

We have cultivated a fantastic learning environment where students really can be inspired to reach their full potential. In addition to well-maintained

traditional classrooms and a comprehensively stocked library, students benefit from outstanding specialist teaching facilities. Whether rehearsing in our dance studio, studying in our purpose-built workshops or designing works of art in the digital art suite, Biddick Academy constantly buzzes with creativity and confidence.





Our curriculum

At Biddick Academy we offer a broad and balanced curriculum that meets our high academic standards and fosters creativity, critical thinking, and personal growth.

The curriculum is carefully structured to ensure:

- students master knowledge and skills by consolidating and learning in a coherent way, building on learning year on year
- each subject is inspiring and engaging for students so that they develop a passion and enthusiasm for learning not just in the classroom, but beyond
- students are routinely exposed to challenging concepts and ideas to which they can apply their knowledge so that they are thoroughly prepared for examinations
- students develop the skills of independence, resilience and autonomy
- that literacy, numeracy and a love of reading is fostered across every subject.

Key Stage 3

In Years 7 to 9 students study a broad range of subjects that enable them to make informed choices for their GCSEs. These include: English, mathematics, science, geography, history, religious education, PE, music, art, design

technology, ICT, personal development and Spanish/French.

Key Stage 4

At the end of Year 9, students choose the courses they would like to study in Years 10 and 11.

All students study GCSEs in English language, English literature, mathematics, science, history and/or geography. In addition, all students must also continue to study PE, ethics and personal development as part of the non-examined curriculum.

Students may then choose from a wide variety of further subjects including: French, Spanish, philosophy and ethics, computer science, creative i-media, business and enterprise, food and nutrition, fine art, art and design, textiles, digital art, PE, dance and music.

The Key Stage 4 curriculum is reviewed and updated each year to offer our students the best choices.



Unlocking potential

We believe every student has unique talents waiting to be unlocked and we consistently challenge our students to reach their true potential. By offering personalised learning, a broad curriculum, and diverse extracurricular activities, we help students explore their passions, build confidence, and achieve more than they imagined.

Our starting point is ensuring that children learn in a safe, secure environment where they feel happy and supported. We have extremely high expectations of all of our students and encourage them to show respect to each other at all times and work hard to make sure that everyone feels welcome and valued.

Form tutors are responsible for our students' well-being. They, along with heads of year, have personal knowledge of each student and are on hand to provide help and guidance in all aspects of school life.

Students who require extra assistance are well-supported so that they overcome any potential

barrier to their success. Our experienced SENCo and Student Support Team work across the school to ensure that students' individual needs are met and cared for.

Our experienced pastoral team recognise the importance of our students' emotional health and well-being and show care and empathy while encouraging our students to build their own resilience.

We are incredibly proud of our students' successes both inside and outside the classroom and regularly recognise and reward their progress and achievements including through our house point initiative and celebration station.



Careers education

At Biddick Academy we work hard to prepare students for their next steps by equipping them with the qualifications and employability skills they need to pursue rewarding and fulfilling careers.

We have been given a 'Gold Standard Quality in Careers Award' in recognition of our excellent careers education programme, which empowers students to take control of their lives, while developing the key transferrable employability skills and attributes that are needed in modern life. We consistently promote the importance of careers and employability skills through 'information, advice and guidance' lessons that help students to make

informed decisions about the progression pathways available to them.

High quality work experience in Year 10 helps to prepare students for the ever-changing world of work within a culture of high expectations and aspiration. At Biddick Academy we believe we have a responsibility to inspire our students to recognise the value of working hard alongside the acquisition of new skills.

Beyond the *classroom*

We believe that academic success should go hand in hand with a rich variety of extracurricular activities and we encourage every student to find at least one that they enjoy and can excel in.

We have a keen focus on leadership and volunteering with opportunities available for students to be involved with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

A number of sporting clubs exist and are complemented by our desire for students to perform, be it in a drama or music club. We also want our students to be curious and creative learners and we support this outside of the classroom through numerous clubs linked to art, technology and ICT.

We work hard to ensure that a wide range of interests are catered for and

wherever there is demand for a new and exciting club or activity, we will always try to find a way to make it happen.

Students are encouraged to become involved in wider academy life by taking part in leadership opportunities, sporting events, fundraising for charity, trips and residential visits with a particular focus on contributing to the local community which we know has a positive, lasting impact on the development of young people.



Some of the *clubs* we offer...

Fitness

Basketball

Badminton

Dodgeball

Football

Netball

Dance

Reading

Music & Singing

Chess

Warhammer

Debate

Pride Club

Board Games

Retro Gaming

School Council

Eco Club

Art & Textiles



British values

Schools are now expected to focus on, and be able to show, how we work with students to effectively embed fundamental British values into learning. The four key areas students at Biddick will explore are:

1. Democracy

At Biddick Academy, we promote the core values of a democratic society. Through our entire school ethos, PSHE programme and individual subject curricula, students are encouraged to share their voice in shaping our school community. Students explore historical examples of different styles of government and are provided with the opportunity to partake in and run mock elections.

Students also have the opportunity to apply for the roles of head/leading students and be active members of our

student leadership team or Student Council, supporting the school with decision making – most recently with selection of the new school uniform.

2. Rule of law

Students are fully immersed in the understanding of rules and the importance of such for everyday life. Through regular reinforcement across the curriculum, coupled with a strong pastoral team, students are aware of consequences and rewards.

Within our PSHE programme, students are provided with the opportunity to explore the justice system, for example via

active role play in a mock trial. Furthermore, students explore human rights and how laws are made linking to politics and current affairs.

3. Individual liberty

Our school ethos and community is built on strongly supporting our students so that they celebrate difference and their individual, unique, accolades and skills.

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our school so that children are in a safe environment. As soon as we know about anything, we deal with it.

Achievements and efforts are highly celebrated with rewards, regularly acknowledged and honoured through our varied and diverse assembly programme.

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular clubs and activities which students have the freedom to choose from based on their talents and interests.

Finally, our curriculum allows all learners the opportunity and support to become independent, lifelong learners and inquisitive young people.

4. Mutual respect and tolerance

Mutual respect is at the core of our school community where students learn to treat each other, and staff, with tolerance and great respect.

Kindness is of the utmost importance and referred to on a daily basis allowing students to feel comfortable and confident in their own skills/abilities. This is evident when walking around the school and in the classrooms.

Visitors to the school often comment on how polite and

well-mannered our students are, as well as complimenting their conduct at open evenings, parents' evenings or during extra-curricular activities.

Students are encouraged to discover topics such as conspiracy and fake news, understanding peer pressure and where to access support alongside discussion on discrimination.

Our school is a happy and safe place and our students are our greatest ambassadors.

A photograph of two young girls in school uniforms (dark green blazers, white shirts, and blue and green striped ties) smiling and walking outdoors. The girl on the left has long brown hair and glasses, while the girl on the right has long blonde hair. They are both looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a path. A blue curved graphic element is at the top left, and a dark blue curved graphic element is at the bottom right.

How to *apply*

Each year we welcome 224 students into the Academy in Year 7.

Full details on admissions, including information on the admission criteria, can be found on our school website.

All admission applications should be made via the Sunderland Admissions Online System:

www.sunderland.gov.uk/admissionsonline

This prospectus contains a brief overview of the ethos, vision and opportunities on offer at Biddick Academy.



Supported by the North East Learning Trust

Biddick Academy is part of the North East Learning Trust (NELT), a successful family of schools across North East England.

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.

NELT has grown to 13 schools with an impressive series of rapid school improvements under their belts. Without exception, every school that has joined NELT as 'inadequate' or 'requiring improvement' as judged by Ofsted, has improved by two whole grades to become 'good' or 'outstanding' – this success is a testament to the unwavering dedication of a talented regional network of staff.

NELT is deeply committed to teacher development. It operates North East SCITT, a dedicated training arm for

new teachers, ensuring the highest standards of teaching expertise are embedded from the start of new teachers' careers.

Additionally, as a National Teaching School Hub, NELT is one of 87 centres across England offering teachers high quality training and development throughout their careers.

NELT's founding school, The Academy at Shotton Hall, is also a National Research School, one of just 23 in England that up-skill teachers using cutting-edge research.

NELT is led by outstanding educators, including CEO Lesley Powell CBE, who actively contributes to regional and national educational development. It has also built up a wide network of specialist teachers and other experienced professionals to support schools on their paths to becoming outstanding.



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