



6th November 2025

Dear parent or guardian,

I am delighted to be writing to you as the newly appointed Headteacher at Ashington Academy. I have had the pleasure of working here for over six years, firstly as Assistant Headteacher for Sixth Form and Assessment, and more recently as Deputy Headteacher. I am truly excited to lead the school through its next phase of growth and development alongside Mrs Weston, as Executive Headteacher, and the wider senior team.

I grew up in Newcastle and I have worked in a range of schools across the North East. I have a passion for enhancing the life chances of young people and am committed to ensuring that our students receive the same opportunities as students elsewhere. I want every child to achieve, belong and thrive in our school.

Over my time at Ashington Academy, I have witnessed first-hand how excellent teaching, outstanding pastoral support and high expectations have allowed students to flourish and reach their full potential. I have also seen the incredible community spirit that exists in school, evident in the wide range of charitable events such as our annual food bank collection every Christmas time.

Ashington Academy is now a very successful school. We are always oversubscribed for places in Year 7, our outcomes in Year 11 and 13 are some of the best in the region, and we have been appointed as an Attendance and Behaviour Hub by the Department of Education to support local schools. I am proud to work here and I know our students are proud to attend. To create this success, we are lucky to have a highly trained, professional and committed staff team who work tirelessly to provide the best care, education and support for your children.

I know that a successful and positive school depends on all of us working together as a team. As parents and carers, you make an important contribution to your child's education, and I would like to thank you for your continued support and trust. I also invite you to fully engage in the parent events we run in school.

Upcoming events this half term include:

- Year 12 Tutor Parents' Evening Wednesday 12th November 3.30 – 6pm
- NE6 Open Evening Thursday 13th November from 5pm-7pm
- Year 8 Parents Evening Wednesday 26th November from 4.30 – 7pm

- Careers Pop Up Wednesday 26th November 4.30 – 7pm
- Scholastic Book Fair Parent Session Wednesday 26th November 4.30 – 7pm
- Christmas Showcase at the Holy Sepulchre Church Tuesday 16th December

Please look out for more information about these events, and we hope to see many of you there.

Yours faithfully,

L. Smith

Miss L Smith

Associate Headteacher

