Ashington Academy

2027 PROSPECTUS



Ofsted
Good
Provider

Welcome to Ashington Academy

There has never been a more exciting time to join Ashington Academy. Rated 'Good' in all areas by Ofsted in March 2022, our school has undergone an impressive transformation in recent years.

We are very proud to be recognised for delivering high-quality education to the children of our community. Inspectors highlighted the positive impact of our high expectations for students, our effective support systems, and the good behaviour seen throughout the school.

We are now taking the next steps on our ambitious journey, continuing to ensure that every student thrives academically, socially, and personally.

I am incredibly proud to lead such a talented and dedicated team of staff who are committed to understanding each child as an individual and ensuring they are supported and challenged to reach their full potential.

Choosing a secondary school for your child is a big decision and I am delighted you are considering Ashington Academy. Our goal is for students to leave us with happy memories and the confidence to make their mark on the world.

Yvonne Weston

Yvonne Weston
Executive Headteacher

Our vision and values

Our vision is simple and shared by all schools across the North East Learning Trust – it is that every child experiences excellence every day.

We work hard to ensure this vision becomes a reality through a rigorous approach to teaching, learning and ensuring progress within a balanced, broad and ambitious curriculum.

We also have an experienced pastoral support network and an extensive extra-curricular enrichment offer for all students.

Our school ethos is based around a sense of pride. We teach students to take great pride in their work and to be proud of each other and their achievements. Staff are passionate and enthusiastic, and all staff, not just teachers, are determined for every student to succeed.

We also believe that a safe and pleasant environment is critical to success, so we have recently committed to significant investment in our buildings and facilities, including the creation of new, state of the art science laboratories. We also have upgraded dining facilities for all students and a sixth form bistro. We have made improvements to our main hall, created new catering rooms with brand new equipment and enhanced our outdoor spaces.



“Ashington Academy is a fantastic and progressive school to go to. As students, we are presented with new and exciting opportunities every day, and I am so proud to be a student here, where staff and students are all working together towards the same goal.”

Dylan, Year 11

Teaching & learning

We believe that students and their parents/carers have the right to expect a first-class education, delivered by teachers who are committed to making learning rewarding.

At Ashington Academy, we encourage all students to work hard and reach their full potential by providing them with a challenging curriculum that broadens their perspectives and their thinking.

We provide high quality teaching and in return, we expect a high standard of learning in the classroom. This is evident from the fantastic work you will see from our students.

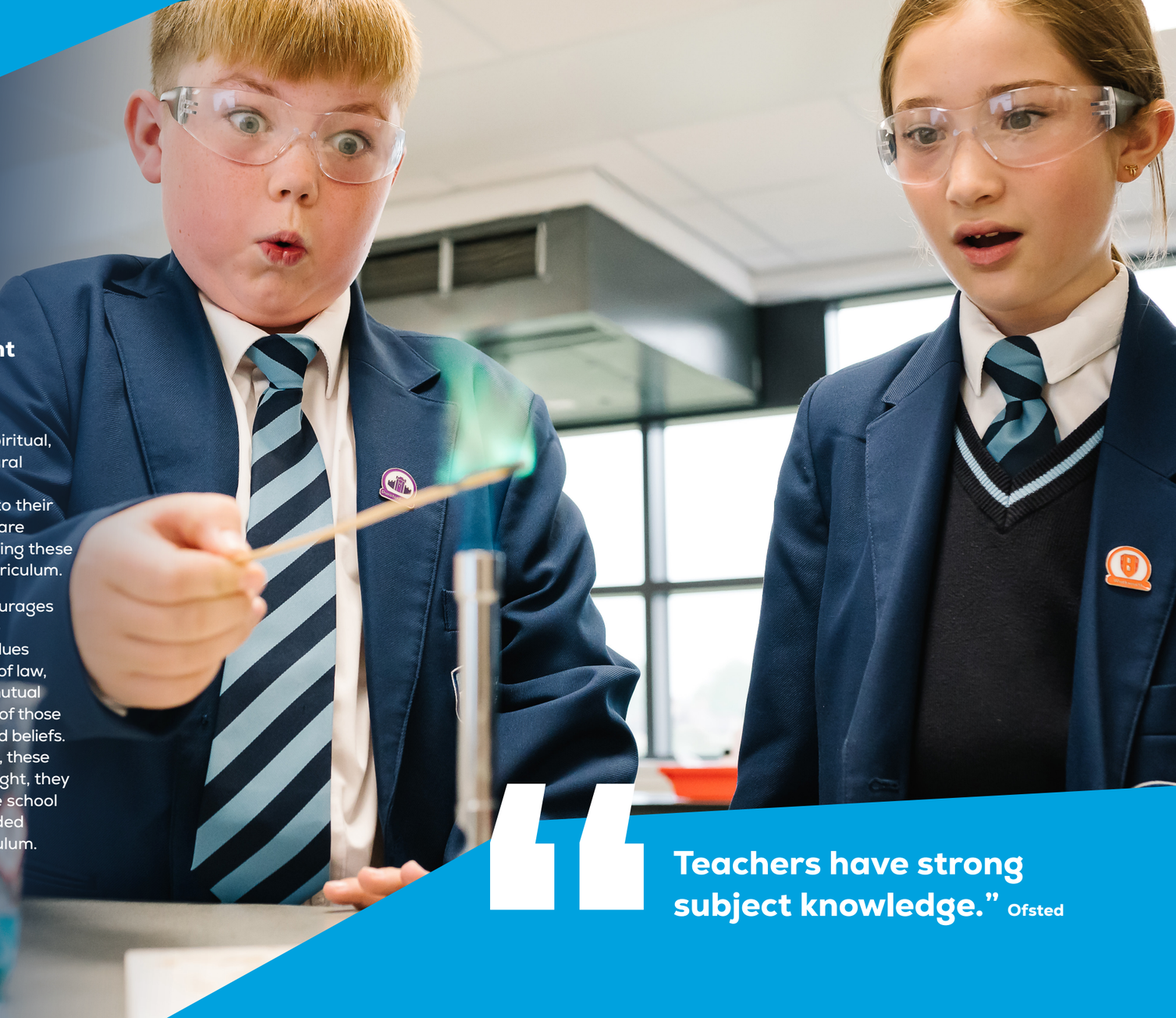
Teachers continually strive, through quality professional development and training, to deliver challenging lessons that engage students and drive them towards excellence.

High quality home learning opportunities are also key to students' success so our entire curriculum is available online through our Student POD, a phenomenal resource which your child can access anywhere, any time. It is fully resourced with all lessons, topic resources, videos and revision materials.

Our teaching practice is underpinned by the latest research evidence. Teaching staff employ strategies which help students to learn and remember key knowledge, and our tracking systems ensure that we can quickly identify students who are struggling so that appropriate support can be offered.

We believe that the spiritual, social, moral and cultural elements of students' education are crucial to their development, and we are committed to embedding these themes across the curriculum.

The Government encourages schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect, and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. At Ashington Academy, these values are not just taught, they form part of our whole school ethos and are embedded throughout our curriculum.



"Teachers have strong subject knowledge." Ofsted

SEND & *pastoral*

We aim to ensure each child reaches their full potential by making their safety and happiness our priority.

Supporting the wellbeing of our students is an integral part of our approach, underpinning the academic work of the school as we work tirelessly to remove any barriers to learning. If we know about something, we will deal with it.

Our dedicated pastoral team work extensively with other staff, parents and external agencies to provide exceptional personal support so that students are able to flourish and develop into well-rounded individuals.

Tutors and year managers interact with their students daily, providing consistent support throughout their school careers. This personalised engagement ensures that each student is well-known and cared for.

Form tutors are students' first point of contact. As a team, they deliver our 'World Ready Curriculum' where all students learn the necessary knowledge and skills to cope with the ever changing, modern world with confidence and resilience.



Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities

We are extremely proud of the inclusivity that permeates our school. We understand that every child is unique and that they have their own special talents and skills. Together, we celebrate and nurture this.

During their time at Ashington Academy, some students will have additional learning, health or emotional needs. Our committed SEND team do their very best to respond to these needs through in-class, targeted support and a range of bespoke interventions. The team ensures that every student with special educational needs and/or disabilities is able to make the best progress possible, both academically and pastorally.

"There are strong systems of support in place for those who need them."
Ofsted

We listen to our students and work hard to build good working partnerships with parents and carers. This way, we are able to operate a flexible system of support that breaks down barriers and gives every child the opportunity to succeed.

Moving up from primary

Starting a new school is a truly exciting time and we do our utmost to support children (and their parents!) to ensure that their transition from primary school is as smooth as possible.

It is important to ensure that when your child joins us, they are prepared and ready for new challenges. We want your child to arrive in September feeling excited about embarking upon a new chapter in their lives. We understand that starting a new school can feel quite daunting, so we do everything we can to ensure that children feel as confident as possible about their next steps and are able to settle into new routines quickly.

Towards the end of the summer term we host a transition evening, known as our Moving Up evening. We also have a transition day, which allows students to spend a whole day in school, experiencing timetabled lessons, meeting teachers, and most importantly, making new friends!

Parents/carers and children are most welcome to visit our school to meet staff and current students, tour the building and see our fantastic facilities. At our Moving Up evening students are able to try on, buy and order uniform, as well as ask any questions they have. Senior members of staff, the Year 7 pastoral team and our special educational needs coordinator (SENDCo) are on hand during the evening.

"I loved meeting people on Transition Day and I was really supported in September by my Form Tutor"

Aimee, Year 7

All Year 6 pupils are invited to attend the transition day during the summer term. This is an important time when many worries or anxieties are laid to rest. They also have the chance to explore the school, as we know and understand that a big concern is the fear of getting lost on your first day!



"Making new friends was one of the best bits about joining Ashington Academy. Once we started to learn who everybody was, it was easy to make new friendships!" Cole, Year 7

A focus on *careers*

From the moment they join in Year 7, students embark on a journey of personal development and follow a careers curriculum.

Students engage in a wide range of activities designed to develop their employability skills, including assemblies with industry specialists, collaborations with our local Enterprise Advisor, and meetings with representatives from universities and colleges.

They also receive personalised career guidance from our in-house careers' advisor.

In Key Stages 4 and 5, students participate in work experience placements, further enhancing their practical understanding of the working world. They also receive personalised careers guidance from our in-house careers' advisor and our personal development team.

From the outset, we are committed to helping students identify the right pathway for them and providing the support they need to achieve their aspirations.



Student *leadership*

We are extremely proud of the student leadership team and Student Ambassadors at Ashington Academy.

These students are an inspiring group who are extremely passionate about promoting and developing the school for all students, both inside and outside the classroom. Collectively, our team has been responsible for creating the extra-curricular timetable based on their knowledge of what students really wanted to see. They have also been involved in appointing new staff; talking to the parents and carers of prospective students at open evenings and helping out with assemblies.

Our Student Leadership Team and Student Ambassadors are on hand to support our new Year 7 cohort to settle in each September. They support academy staff at breaktimes and lunchtimes, providing a friendly, welcoming face if students have any questions or queries. They also provide peer support for extra-curricular clubs and will regularly check in with students in the form classes that they are linked to.

In addition to representing the school, students have been appointed to the Northumberland Youth Cabinet, which enables our school voice to be heard in a wider context.

"My role in school gives me a real sense of purpose and has taught me so much about responsibility."

Year 12 student

After school clubs and activities

At Ashington Academy, students can access a vast range of exciting extra-curricular opportunities that see their achievements extend well beyond the classroom.

We cultivate a whole-school love for performing arts with the drive to entertain deeply rooted in our heritage. Our recent production of 'Mary Poppins Jr' was a great success!

Sport is close to the hearts of many staff and students and we are proud of the strong links our school has forged with many top level local sports clubs.

We have annual activity days that allow every student in school to access a diverse range of trips including bowling, ice skating and even a visit to an escape room!

Students also have the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, getting involved in some very exciting expeditions. We participate in Trust wide annual events such as our summer concert at The Glasshouse, the Debate Competition and the NELT Athletics Festival.

Finally, our strong collective sense of compassion prompts students to undertake a range of charitable endeavours including regular collections for our local food bank and charities, and the wonderful 'Spirit of Christmas' acts of kindness.

We creatively plan life-enhancing enrichment opportunities including:

- Arts and Crafts
- Athletics
- Blooket Club
- Chess Club
- Choir
- Cricket
- Darts Academy
- Debate Club
- French Poetry
- Girls' Football
- Gym Club
- KS3 Band
- KS3 Multisports
- Netball
- Reading Club
- Trampoline
- Wellbeing Art Club



"Many pupils make use of the wider curriculum activities to develop their talents and interests."

Ofsted



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 children at Ashington will explore are:

1. Democracy

At Ashington Academy, we promote the core values of a democratic society. Through our entire school ethos, PHSE programme and individual subject curriculums, students are encouraged to share their voice in shaping our school community.

Students explore historical examples of different styles of government, and they are encouraged and provided with the opportunity to partake in and run mock elections. Students also have the opportunity to apply for roles in the Student Leadership Team and be active members of our Student Council, supporting the school with decision making.

2. Rule of Law

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

Within our PHSE 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 are built on strongly supporting our students so that they can celebrate difference as well as their individual and unique talents and skills.

We invest a great deal of time in creating a positive culture in our school, so that children learn and socialise in a safe environment. Achievements and efforts are celebrated regularly with rewards and 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 enquirers and inquisitive young people.

4. Mutual respect and tolerance

Mutual respect is at the core of our school community. Fundamentally, students learn to treat each other and staff with great respect. Our students are tolerant and respectful.

Kindness is of the utmost importance and is referred to daily, allowing students to feel comfortable and confident in their own skills/abilities. This is evident when walking around the school and in our 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 and during extra-curricular activities.

Within the curriculum, students are encouraged to explore topics such as conspiracy and fake news, understanding peer pressure and where to access support, alongside discussion on discrimination. Our school is happy and safe, and our students are our greatest ambassadors.



LEFT: The annual NELT summer concert, held at The Glasshouse in Gateshead, is an opportunity for children from all NELT schools to perform together for their families.

North East Learning Trust

Proud to be part of the North East Learning Trust

Our school is sponsored by the North East Learning Trust (NELT), a successful family of 14 schools across the North East.

NELT is widely regarded as providing some of the best education in the region, and indeed the country. Children in NELT schools make significant progress from their starting points, achieve impressive exam results, and go on to access a range of well-respected further and higher education opportunities.

NELT has grown to 14 schools with an impressive series of rapid school improvements under their belts. Without exception, every school that joined the Trust as 'inadequate' or 'requiring improvement' as judged by Ofsted, 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. Ofsted gradings have recently changed and all NELT schools who have been graded under the new system have met, and very often exceeded, all of the required standards.

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

The Trust is led by outstanding educators, including CEO Dame Lesley Powell DBE who actively contributes to regional and national educational development, most recently as co-chair of the National Key Stage 3 Alliance, which aims to improve teaching and learning across England in the early secondary school years.

NELT has also built up a wide network of specialist teachers and other experienced professionals to support schools to reach their full potential.

Ashington Academy
Green Lane
Ashington
Northumberland
NE63 8DH

admin@ashingtonacademy.co.uk
01670 812166
www.ashingtonacademy.co.uk

Sponsored by North East Learning Trust
Company number 07492165, registered in England and Wales

North East
Learning Trust