

THE WHITEHAVEN ACADEMY
YEAR 7
ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Respect
Responsibility
Resilience



Be the best you can be



Welcome

We are an 11 to 18 school serving the community of Whitehaven and surrounding villages.

As a proud member of Cumbria Education Trust, we enjoy the benefits of being part of a family of schools who are all committed to the core values of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.

Alongside the challenges so many have faced, this past year has seen significant developments for the school with rising student numbers, the new West Coast Sixth Form, improving performance, increasing capacity in staff and the start of our new build to be opened in spring 2022.

One year on as the headteacher, I am deeply proud of the warmth and positivity of our staff and students. The way they have overcome challenges and developed as learners and professionals has been truly inspiring.

We are a community with ambition, determination and a strong sense of collaboration. A core element of learning at our school is kindness. As a community we are supportive of each other, respecting the views, needs and beliefs of one another.

Our strong, broad and balanced curriculum ensures that students can develop as rounded global citizens. We offer a rigorous academic and creative curriculum to ensure that each student develops the key skills they need to excel as learners.

Our diverse enrichment programme enables students to discover new passions, explore their talents and thrive, whether it is through

music, sport, visits, outdoor pursuits, volunteering, charity work or residential.

It is crucial that our students are happy. We are proud of our pastoral care for them. Alongside the Senior Leadership Team, the Learning Provision Team has been strengthened with new Directors of Learning and five dedicated professionals who work closely with students, families and carers to ensure that students are supported. Our emphasis on mental health and well-being is key to our work, so that each young person can become a confident citizen, positive leader and successful learner.

Young people in Whitehaven deserve the best teaching and schools are undoubtedly more successful when they work in partnership. Staff development is highly valued, with staff training, planning and learning together. All members of our school need to be enthusiastic, reflective learners.

This past year saw the introduction of our first Whitehaven Academy Learning Festival, with students exploring new challenges alongside a staff training programme.

Choosing the right school is a challenge and an important decision. I hope this booklet and our events give you an insight into learning at The Whitehaven Academy. We will continue to find ways so that families can get a feel for the school despite the challenges of lockdowns and visiting restrictions. Whether in person or virtually, we look forward to meeting you.

NIGEL YOUNGMAN
Headteacher



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'I am deeply proud of the warmth and positivity of staff and students'



About Cumbria Education Trust

The Whitehaven Academy became part of Cumbria Education Trust (CET) in 2018.

The trust runs two other secondaries, Workington Academy and William Howard School in Brampton, and eight primaries, including Hensingham Primary. In total, CET is responsible for the education of more than 4,000 children across the county.

At all CET schools, pupils and students are at the heart of decision making – they always come first.

We fundamentally believe that each child is unique. We know that a first-class education improves the life chances and choices of young people and we are committed to providing an engaging learning experience for all our pupils and students, regardless of their background.

Our values mean that we are truly inclusive. We are passionate about equipping our pupils and students for success in the future. Our ambition is to enable every young person to reach their potential and achieve the success they deserve.

Our aim is for each academy to demonstrate year-on-year improvement.

At CET we work as a partnership that respects, sustains and supports. We all subscribe to a set of shared values, principles and operational processes that ultimately ensure that we deliver a quality education for all our young people. At the same time, we believe that each academy must reflect the needs and social aspirations of the local community it serves.



This is a very important principle for CET.

Collaboration is integral to the way in which CET operates. We place considerable importance on school-to-school support. Academies within CET are active partners, helping to design policy.

All staff are not only encouraged to support and challenge one another but to share best practice.

School-improvement and operational groups meet regularly, which enables staff to learn, share and challenge each other.

We believe in the importance of creating opportunities for schools and their students through strong relationships with industry, commerce and higher education. We are also developing trust-wide opportunities for students in disciplines such as performing arts, sport and health and social care.

Our Vision & Values

When a school becomes one of our academies it signs up to share our vision and values. Each of our academies has its own unique ethos within those shared vision and values.

Our vision

To enable every young person to reach their potential and achieve the success they deserve by providing an innovative and inspiring learning experience.

Our values

At the heart of the trust and running through our schools are the principles of:

- **RESPECT** To be tolerant and understanding of ourselves, others and society
- **RESPONSIBILITY** Self-motivated to drive learning and be good citizens
- **RESILIENCE** To understand and embrace challenge for personal growth

Our approach

We always operate with a pupil and student FIRST approach:

- **Inspiring Learning** Creating happy, positive and vibrant learning environments for ALL pupils and students.
- **Achieving Success** Enabling every pupil and student to reach their potential by providing high-quality teaching.
- **Creating Opportunities** Broadening children's experiences and opportunities.
- **Empowering Communities** Working in partnership with the local community to bring education alive for all.

Our motto

Be the best you can be.



A Very Bright Future



It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to CET and tell you a little about what we do and the journey we are on.

The trust has grown quickly and now encompasses 11 schools.

We fully appreciate the responsibility that is placed on us to ensure all our young people are given access to high-quality education.

We are firmly of the belief that schools are better when they work together. Collaboration makes us stronger and sharing best practice from Longtown to Tebay, Whitehaven to Brampton is part of our everyday life. Our motto is 'Be the best you can be', our values 'Respect, Responsibility and Resilience', our students always come first.

Across CET we believe in raising the aspirations of our children and helping them aim higher. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum that is enriched by many wonderful and exciting opportunities.

Our expertise has grown as we have developed our ways of working to make the most of the depth of talent at our disposal. We thrive to be 'Great' in all that we do and, as such, we work hard to build positive relationships with our communities.

We are proud of the progress being made at The Whitehaven Academy. It has a very bright future and we very much hope you will choose to become part of the CET family.

LORRAYNE HUGHES
CEO Cumbria Education Trust

Curriculum

At The Whitehaven Academy we believe that all students have the right to a broad and balanced curriculum. We have developed one which increases students' knowledge and skills in core academic areas such as English, Maths and Science whilst also ensuring they develop an understanding and appreciation of other cultures and religions, the arts and the world they live in.

At the end of Year 9, all students have the opportunity to select three subjects from a broad range of options that they choose to study for GCSE. These are studied alongside the academic core curriculum.

All students can choose a modern foreign language and to study either history or geography. Students and parents are supported throughout the options process so they can be sure they have made the right choices to help them as they progress to post-16 education and training.

Throughout their time at the academy all students will be supported by a robust programme of personal development. This includes careers education, information, advice and guidance, relationships and sex education and healthy living.

Transition Curriculum – T band

We are delighted to offer a Transition Curriculum to appropriate students joining us in Year 7. Our group provides support for those students who need a little extra help to enable them to thrive. Maths, English and Humanities subjects, alongside extra literacy and numeracy, are delivered by two specialist transition teachers. Students will access specialist subjects like Science and Technology alongside the rest of year 7.

SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)

We are passionate about inclusion and do everything we can to ensure all students make excellent progress whilst at the academy. The Learning Support team is at the heart of the school and supports

At Key Stage 3 - Years 7 to 9 - all students follow a central curriculum:

Subject	Number of lessons per week
English	4
Maths	4
Science	3
MFL	2
History	2
Geography	2
PE	2
Technology	2
RE/PD	1
Art	1
IT	1
Performing Arts/Music	1

At Key Stage 4 - Years 10 and 11 - students follow the curriculum below:

Subject	Number of lessons per week
English	4
Maths	4
Science	5
PE	2
Option 1	3
Option 2	3
Option 3	3
PD	1

students with special needs. We make sure that students with SEND are part of our extended transition programme. We welcome any questions you may have that will help you whilst making your school place decision, please contact:

Mrs Kinrade kkinrade@whitehavenacademy.org.uk

Maximising Learning Time

As a school we are deeply committed to ensuring we maximise learning time. Every minute in every lesson counts. Central to this is our shared approach to establishing a positive and supportive learning culture.

Each lesson begins promptly with clearly established routines and rituals, so that all students are absolutely clear of the expectations upon them. We have a research-driven approach to our teaching and learning and work hard with our staff to continue to learn and develop as a school community.

Students' learning begins with **Do Now** activities to draw on their recall and recap skills, with a strong emphasis on developing their independent learning, extended writing, and creativity.



Strong oracy (talk) is crucial and we are delighted to have become a **Voice 21** school, participating in leading oracy training in the country.



'Every minute in every lesson counts'



Learning is celebrated daily, through our rewards system, letters home, student of the week, celebration assemblies, rewards events and trips. We are constantly looking for ways to capture success and celebrate excellence, whether from attitude, effort or outcome. In order to promote reading, students choose books as their rewards, with a personal copy for them and one for the library. Our aim is to enrich the library with books for students chosen by students.

Student Culture

Behaviour and relationships

Creating a positive learning culture involves building relationships with mutual respect and cooperation. Students at The Whitehaven Academy deserve excellence. In turn, we expect excellence. All students are expected to cooperate with one another and follow our shared expectations in order to maximise learning time for themselves and those around them.

Every effort is made to support students in behaving appropriately and we expect students to take responsibility for their own learning and success. All members of the school community deserve to be treated with respect and kindness.

We have a restorative approach to behaviour and appropriate consequences are combined with supporting students in making positive choices in the future.

To achieve success, students need to be actively engaged in their learning. A fundamental part of this is attendance. Our Learning Provision team work closely with students, families and carers to address any barriers that may impede full attendance. Students, parents, carers and staff work in partnership to ensure students are in school being successful.

Student Voice

It is essential that students feel their views and concerns matter and are considered. Our approach to learning and priorities for

'Students at The Whitehaven Academy deserve excellence. In turn, we expect excellence'



our development plan, through to proposals for the school uniform and the rewards process are shaped by the student voice with student council, focus groups and form reps.

We have introduced a prefect team who are committed to contributing to the quality of school life and look forward to making sure new students feel welcome. Like any school, self-review is an important part of our work. For us, student voice in this process is key.



Enrichment

Learning beyond the classroom enriches the experiences of our students and gives them new opportunities.

They can explore their passions, learn about future employment and society, discover their creativity and enjoy sport and new fields.

There is an ever-growing after-school programme throughout the year, which includes: football, musicals, rugby, netball, badminton, Active Girls fitness club, fell running, dodgeball, cricket, athletics, ukulele, keyboard, school choir, steel band and, for cake lovers, The Great Bake Off Club.

The richness and success of our Performing Arts team captures the imagination of all involved.

Students will have the opportunity to enjoy the unique learning experience that residential visits can give, whether that's skiing, geography residential field trips, revision in Eskdale, French trips, university visits or Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.



In addition to this, we are committed to ensuring that students can achieve their best in examinations and offer revision and intervention sessions for subjects across the curriculum.

We offer an extensive revision programme during the day, after school and at holidays that is carefully structured to give students the additional support in the areas they require.

We ensure our students are fully prepared for the world of work, alongside conventional work experience. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) is a major global and local area of employment. It is crucial that we give our students the chance to explore this growing area with local mentoring, cyber security projects, women in STEM, engineering opportunities and STEM challenges. Volunteers, speakers, experts, and different professionals support our Enrichment and Personal Development programme.

Learning Differently and Embracing Challenges

The past year at The Whitehaven Academy has brought new learning challenges for us all. Schools across the country had to develop their own responses to remote learning (learning at home). Our own approach was guided by invaluable feedback from staff, students and parents.

We've taken those experiences and strengthened the way we learn. We've also recognised the massive achievements of our students and the way they are developing as independent learners.

Remote Learning

The overriding principle of our remote learning expectations, in all year groups, is that students need to be learning and not just doing. If necessary, lessons will be delivered online and remotely to individual students, classes, year groups or the whole school. Remote learning will cover the curriculum of each department area and we work closely with families in supporting them setting up learning at home.

Teaching staff ensure that students have access to new material and also consolidation material. Students mainly access their work via Satchel One (Showmyhomework) and Microsoft Teams and a big emphasis is on ensuring students continue to have regular contact and feedback from staff, in addition to online lessons. We provide alternative learning packs for those students where required.

Challenges

During lockdown we set up a series of challenges from Science and English to PE and Performing Arts, as well as Cultural, Creative and specifically Cumbrian Challenges!

From this, we now offer students the opportunity to participate in a wide range of challenges that are designed to promote the development of many skills. These include independence, creative thinking, innovation and problem solving, as well as encouraging students to be active. We want to inspire students to try something different and embrace new experiences.

And these challenges are not just for students. We also run challenges for staff and at different times we pit the skills of our students against those of our staff – this makes for some exciting competition! It's also wonderful to see some parents get involved.

Learning Festival

At The Whitehaven Academy we are proud to celebrate learning at every opportunity. In the summer we introduced a festival that focuses on the learning and development of all members of our community. It was such a success that it will now become an annual programme.

The activities and challenges are all based around staff and student development and are designed to provide multiple opportunities to develop a wide range of learning skills, with a focus on different ways of working. The aim of the Learning Festival is to unite our community and to celebrate learning.



Key Members of Staff



Mrs Andrea Bateson

Senior Assistant Headteacher, responsible for assessment, internal review, and curriculum, deputises for the Headteacher in his absence.



Mr Simon Fitzgerald

Assistant Headteacher, responsible for raising standards, Year 11 and STEM development (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) across the trust.



Mrs Marie McMurdo

Assistant Headteacher, joint responsibility for teaching and learning, staff development and Sixth Form.



Mr Daniel Smith

Assistant Headteacher, joint responsibility for teaching and learning, focusing particularly on middle leadership. Mr Smith is also responsible for teachers new to the career in CET schools in West Cumbria.



Mrs Laura Gaston

Director of Learning, responsible for student progress in Years 7 and 8. Line manages T band staff and works in partnership with Mrs Brown and Miss Skillen on Transition and Year 7 and 8 teams.



Mr Gary Trehwhitt

Assistant Headteacher, responsible for the strategic development of Learning Provision, leading our work on attendance, behaviour and student culture. He is also the Designated Safeguarding Officer, responsible for safeguarding of all students and staff.



Mr Laurie Black

Lead for Learning Provision, implementing pastoral support including behaviour and attendance. Mr Black is also a Designated Safeguarding Officer.



Mrs Katie Kinrade

Assistant Headteacher, responsible for Personal Development and SEND, ensuring students develop as successful learners with a strong understanding of careers, opportunities and responsibilities.



Transition Information

At The Whitehaven Academy we understand that making the transition from primary to secondary is an exciting time for both you and your child. We also recognise that it is a process that has been made more difficult because you can't visit traditional open evenings in the usual way.

This is an important decision for your family and we are keen to make life easier. We work hard to make sure the transition is as smooth as possible and use our wealth of experience to take the stress out of this change; your child's future is in good hands.

We have a dedicated Transition team who will support your child every step of the way. The key to success is a positive and supportive transition process. We have an extensive programme to help all students joining us – and their parents/carers too! A simple rule of thumb: if you have a question or concern, just ask.

Our transition programme includes:

- Visits to your primary school from key staff and current students
- Virtual/face-to-face meetings with parents and students to help you through the process
- The sharing of key information between primary schools and The Whitehaven Academy
- Opportunities to visit the academy for students and parents
- Transition Days for students to spend time with their new form, their tutor and their teachers
- Year 6-7 Summer School during the holidays – a fantastic opportunity for students to spend additional time at the academy, familiarising themselves with the building and making new friends, all whilst participating in a range of fun activities.

Undoubtedly one question in parents' minds is how we can ensure a positive transition with any potential lockdowns. This year we worked closely with primary colleagues to offer online meetings, learning challenges and regular contact via email and Microsoft teams, so that parents and students felt supported and connected.

We are keen to get students into school safely, but whatever the circumstances, it is our job to make each student feel connected and valued.

'You did everything in your power to make the children in Year 6 feel like they had a sense of place and belonging and that they had seen some familiar faces before their first day, despite being unable to meet you all in person on transition days'

Year 6 to 7 parent, Sept 2020

'Virtual meetings in small groups were a great way to let children see the staff and feel they were able to ask questions and engage and I know you have always been at the end of an email and responded promptly'

Year 6 to 7 parent, Sept 2020

As part of our transition we also offer bespoke assistance and programmes for students who may require a little extra support in taking the step from primary to secondary school.

They say 'it takes a village to raise a child' and here at The Whitehaven Academy we believe that everyone has a role to play in ensuring that students have the best possible start to their secondary experience. By working with students, parents, primary schools and all those who support your child, we can ensure that any anxiety, concerns or difficulties can be minimised.



Fiona Brown



Year 6 to 7 Key Transition Staff Members

Fiona Brown – Student Provision Officer Year 7

Transition begins with Mrs Brown. She works closely with students, parents and primary staff to ensure that students get off to the best possible start. She is responsible for pastoral care and will support you with any emotional or social concerns you may have, as well as overseeing attendance, behaviour and well-being. Mrs Brown is always on hand to discuss any concerns that students or parents may have and will do everything she can to ensure that time at the academy is happy, enjoyable and successful. She is supported by a dedicated and experienced team of Form Tutors who will assist both students and parents in ensuring that everyone can be the best they can be.

Laura Gaston – Director of Learning – Years 7 and 8 and Transition

Mrs Gaston works closely with Mrs Brown and the transition team to ensure that students have everything they need to be successful. With the leadership team, Mrs Gaston will oversee academic progress and ensure that students have every opportunity, both in and outside of lessons, to reach their full potential. Mrs Gaston works with Mrs Kinrade to ensure that T-band students are supported in their particular transition needs.

Katie Kinrade – SENCO

Mrs Kinrade and the Learning Support Team will ensure that the appropriate support for students with SEND are in place prior to them starting. They then work closely with students and parents to make sure that provision is sustained.

Abi Skillen – Deputy Director of Learning – Years 7 and 8 and Transition

Miss Skillen supports Mrs Brown and Mrs Gaston, working closely on Transition projects and leading form tutors. Miss Skillen is also Subject Leader for Performing Arts.

Frequently Asked Questions

When do I apply? How do I know if I have a place?

The booklet from Cumbria County Council 'Applying for a secondary school place in Cumbria' provides lots of details about the application process. There will be an online or paper SA3 application for The Whitehaven Academy and the deadline for your application is 31st October. National Offers Day is in early March. If you have applied online you will receive an email, if you applied on paper a letter will be posted to you on this date. Please contact schooloffice@whitehavenacademy.org.uk if you require any support with your application.

What happens after I gain a place?

We will write to you in March welcoming you to our academy and ask you to complete our admissions paperwork. We will also give you details of all the transition events we offer, for both yourself and your child, to help make the transfer between primary school and here as smooth as we possibly can for everyone involved.

How do I apply for a place on school transport?

This can be done via Cumbria County Council – full details are in the Secondary School Admissions booklet on their website.

Do you visit the primary schools prior to my child starting?

We visit the primary schools and all prospective Year 7 students. We work closely with primary colleagues collecting academic data and other relevant information to ensure their transition into The Whitehaven Academy is seamless. Last year the primary schools were incredibly supportive in ensuring we got around barriers of lockdown so that we could contact and support parents and prospective students virtually, via email, Microsoft Teams and phone.

What do you do to make the transition go smoothly?

We have an extensive programme for students joining us in

September. We visit all our students in their primary schools and our Transition team also visit students and invite them to The Whitehaven Academy before they join. We also have nurture groups that will be involved in extended transition to help some of our students settle in. In addition, we offer a Summer School programme for all Year 7 students during the holidays, prior to starting with us.

How do you report on student progress?

We report to parents three times each academic year. We also have one Progress Evening where parents and carers have the opportunity to meet their child's teachers. We encourage all parents, carers and students to attend, even if a child has an excellent report, because we think it is great for students to hear how well they have done face-to-face.

July Induction Days

Year 6 pupils visit the school for two full Induction Days. They will try some taster lessons with members of their new form, spend time with their new form tutors and Year 8 buddies, as well as meeting other members of staff. They will even get the opportunity to sample the academy dinners! Students enjoy the induction days; making new friends, learning more about the academy and they feel more confident and prepared for the future months.

Parent Pack

In May, parents and carers receive a Parent Pack which gives vital information including: what to expect, key contacts, term dates, home-academy agreement, parental permission forms, school policies (particularly the new uniform policy explaining how to order uniform). There will also be important 'admission' documents for parents and carers to complete and return to school so we have your most recent contact details.

Our New Developments

New build of The Whitehaven Academy

Work is now under way on site for the new Whitehaven Academy.

The new build is set to open in spring 2022 – making those students who start with us in September 2021 the first to benefit from its state-of-the-art facilities.

The three-storey building will be a modern, inspirational place to learn, making the best use of natural light, have bright internal walkways and feature 'an entrance with impact'.

The 6,720 sq metre build will include 21 classrooms, seven science labs, two art studios with views across to the Lakeland fells and three design and technology rooms.

West Coast Sixth Form

We were delighted this year to welcome post-16 students back on to the Whitehaven campus and to support them on the next part of their learning journey. The West Coast Sixth Form is a collaboration between Cumbria Education Trust's Whitehaven and Workington Academies.



The sixth form provides students with a wealth of opportunities when furthering their studies.

They can choose from more than 30 courses, both traditional A-level and vocational.



The desire for the academy to be at the centre of the community means the design incorporates letting spaces such as the sports hall, drama and performance spaces. We look forward to watching the facilities rise from the ground, heralding a bright new future for learning provision in Whitehaven.



New studies covering performing arts, sport, business and IT have been well supported and staff have also been delighted with the high level of take up for health and social care courses.

We also provide students with a wide range of enrichment opportunities and careers guidance to support them to their future destinations.



Contact us at:

**The Whitehaven Academy, Cleator Moor Road
Whitehaven, Cumbria. CA28 8TY**

Tel: **01946 595400**

Emma Graham, Admin Manager:

schooloffice@whitehavenacademy.org.uk



Find out more about this growing school

September 2020 saw a trebling of Year 7 students opting for The Whitehaven Academy as their first choice and we look forward to welcoming an increasing cohort next year.

If you would like to visit the academy for a mini tour and to meet the Headteacher or a member of the Transition and Leadership team, please contact us or visit www.whitehavenacademy.org.uk.

We will be running tours after school in September and October. Tours will be one family at a time, so please bear with us as we try to organise a suitable date for all.

Please be aware that visitors are expected to wear masks and complete a track and trace form. We will also be offering follow up virtual meetings on Microsoft Teams where parents and prospective students can ask questions and learn more about learning and life at The Whitehaven Academy.

It is really important to us that parents, carers and students see whether we are right for them.

If you intend to apply, please remember to submit your application by 31st October. For in-year applications please contact the school to discuss next steps.