

The Whitehaven Academy
Admissions Information

YEAR 7



20
22



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Welcome

We are an 11 to 18 academy 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, the past two years have seen significant developments for the school with: rising student numbers; the expanding West Coast Sixth Form, improving academic performance, increasing capacity in staff and our forthcoming move to the new build in spring 2022.

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 students can develop as rounded global citizens. We offer a rigorous academic curriculum that is strengthened with an innovative creative curriculum to ensure that each student develops the key skills they need to excel as learners. Our Key Stage 3 students will all have the opportunity to work towards the Cumbrian Award, 'developing their confidence, independence and a sense of adventure, increasing their exposure to and engagement with Cumbrian culture and developing and applying their enterprise skills'.

Our diverse enrichment programme enables students to discover their new passions, explore their talents and thrive, whether it is through music, sport, visits, outdoor pursuits, volunteering, charity work or residentials. With Cumbria Education Trust's centre at

'We are a community with ambition, determination and a strong sense of collaboration'



Eskdale and contacts with local organisations, we are passionate about embracing the incredible opportunities available in the region.

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 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. To that end, 15 staff are currently involved in national training programmes with organisations such as Voice 21 and the Ambition Institute. We are all learners, and staff development is highly valued.

Our annual Learning Festival sees students and staff learning together and exploring different ways to improve. Over the coming year we look forward to developing our learning in a state-of-the-art building that has facilities to cater for our supportive and dynamic community.

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 look forward to meeting you whether we do so virtually or in person.

NIGEL YOUNGMAN
Headteacher



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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.



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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.

Situated by the Energy Coast, on the edge of the fells, The Whitehaven Academy is in the ideal position to provide our students with a rich learning programme that embraces our local environment, explores the world of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and develops their creativity and cultural experiences.

This year saw the introduction of our Creative Curriculum that gives students in Years 8 and 9 the chance to study three courses from: Philosophy and Politics; Creative Media and Design; Food Nutrition and Preparation; Arts Award; STEM; and Outdoor Learning.

Students in Years 8 and 9 study a course for a term, with a two-hour slot each week, giving the students the chance to really explore practical learning, focus on projects, and where appropriate, make it easier to arrange off site learning.

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. The 'T Band' is a smaller class, which is designed to give enhanced transition to those students who are just below expected level in Literacy and/or Numeracy and who may be extremely anxious or need emotional support when joining secondary school.

A specialist transition teacher will deliver English, Maths and Humanities subjects in the same classroom to give it a more primary feel. T Band students will access other subjects like Science, PE, Technology and Arts alongside the rest of year 7. The T Band is designed to run parallel to the mainstream classes, following the same curriculum as the rest of year 7, so that students can reintegrate into the mainstream groups when they are ready.

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 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 McMurdo mmcmurdo@whitehavenacademy.org.uk

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
Creative Curriculum	2 (Years 8 and 9)
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

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.



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 about 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, conduct badges, 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.



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 extra-curricular programme throughout the year covering a wide variety of sporting activities, performing arts and cultural interests. Some of our most popular clubs include: football, rugby, badminton, fitness, fell-running, Expressive Arts Team (EAT), Lego League, drama, chess, choir, ukelele, keyboard, debating club, animation club, song writing, eco-committee and Bake Off club. Staff are always keen to harness student interest and we welcome new ideas as they emerge.

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

Covid restrictions willing, 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 during 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.



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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 Maths, raising standards and Year 11. He is also the lead member of staff for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), coordinating projects and links with businesses, universities and organisations.



Mrs Marie McMurdo

SEN Lead and Assistant Headteacher responsible for West Coast Sixth Form at TWA. She also works with Cumbria Education Trust in developing and promoting an extensive range of cross trust competitions and events, including the Learning Festival.



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. Works in partnership with Mrs Brown and Miss Skillen on Transition and Year 7 and 8 teams.



Mr Gary Trehitt

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.



Mrs Victoria Sabuda

Assistant Headteacher responsible for English, Literacy and Oracy. Alongside working with Voice 21 on our Oracy Strategy, Mrs Sabuda also leads on a whole school reading initiative.



Mrs Fiona Brown

Lead Student Provision Officer (Lower School), responsible for supporting Year 7 and 8 students and their families. Mrs Brown also leads the transition programme and is the number one point of contact for families, helping them get ready for life at TWA.



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.

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 it has not been possible to visit schools 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.

'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



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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.



Year 6 to 7 key transition staff members

Fiona Brown – Student Provision Officer Year 7 and 8

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's 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 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 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.

Marie McMurdo

Mrs McMurdo 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 we could contact and support parents and prospective students virtually, via email, 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

Fresh uniform for students

In September, students returned to classes wearing the new uniform they helped design.

Students were keen to keep a version of our traditional lighthouse logo and enthusiastically submitted their designs for an in-school competition. The final design also incorporates peaks, signifying our proximity to the Lakeland fells.

We wanted a new combination of colours to show off the design. The blue represents our location by the sea and a sense of calm. The burnt orange is an uplifting contrast that denotes creativity and vibrancy.

We also have updated sports kit to complete the look and the colours will be represented inside the new build.



West Coast Sixth Form

The West Coast Sixth Form is a collaboration between Cumbria Education Trust's Whitehaven and Workington Academies.



We were delighted to welcome post-16 students back onto the Whitehaven campus and to support them on the next part of their learning journey.



The joint 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.

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.



Our New Build

Students starting at the academy in September 2022 will join us in our fantastic new build.

The state-of-the-art new building has risen steadily from the ground since clearance of the site started in June 2020. 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.

The three-storey building will allow year and subject group clusters, has bright internal walkways and an impressive, glass-fronted main entrance.

There will be a fully equipped learning resource centre and high-spec ICT throughout.

Each classroom will benefit from interactive whiteboards.

The adjoining sports hall will accommodate a full range of activities and there are spacious dance and drama studios.

There will be a community entrance for groups and individuals using the on-site facilities outside of school hours.

The academy will be able to accommodate up to 900 students and will truly be a centre of learning of which the community can be very proud.

Work has progressed well despite the restrictions of the pandemic and we expect all students and staff to move in spring next year.

The current buildings are set to be demolished.





Pitch Perfect

As well as our new sports hall, the academy will also be home to brand new outdoor facilities.

Permission is being sought for two full-size artificial pitches, one for rugby and football, another for hockey. In addition, there will be three tennis courts, a sprint track and standing area for spectators.

We expect a planning submission will be made this year with a potential opening in September 2022.

These additional facilities will further make good on our commitment to give students at the academy the best facilities to develop their skills.



Find out more about this growing school



Over the past two years we have seen 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 email us at schooloffice@whitehavenacademy.org.uk or phone **01946 595400**.

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 may be expected to wear masks. 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.



Contact us at:
The Whitehaven Academy,
Cleator Moor Road Whitehaven,
Cumbria. CA28 8TY
Tel: 01946 595400

Emma Graham, Admin Manager:
schooloffice@whitehavenacademy.org.uk

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