



The Academy at Shotton Hall
2019 Prospectus

SHOTTON
HALL

HELLO!



A PLACE WHERE EVERY CHILD MATTERS

Welcome to The Academy at Shotton Hall - a place where every child matters and where education, opportunity and fun go hand in hand.

School years are amongst the most important in our lives, helping us to develop the knowledge, skills and characteristics we need to succeed. At the Academy, we work hard to give every child the very best start we can.

The Academy has a unique and warm atmosphere. It is a happy, friendly school with high expectations and a clear focus on achievement. In 2018 we once again achieved fantastic GCSE results, significantly exceeding national averages, with 73% of students achieving grades 9-4 in both English and maths (broadly similar to the old A*-C passes). Year-on-year we are consistently placed amongst the top schools in County Durham.

I am delighted to lead a team of exceptional staff, supported by committed governors and to be working in such an energetic environment – a place where the determination of our youngsters to succeed and the passion of our teachers to make a difference makes me proud to be executive principal.



Lesley Powell CBE
Executive Principal and CEO of North East Learning Trust



**I BECAME A TEACHER BECAUSE
I BELIEVE THAT EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO AN
EXCELLENT EDUCATION.”**

LESLEY POWELL



STUDENTS WERE SEEN TO BE MAKING
OUTSTANDING PROGRESS,
TO BE THOROUGHLY ENJOYING LEARNING AND TO HAVE A REAL
DESIRE TO ACHIEVE THEIR VERY BEST.” OFSTED JULY 2013



WE ARE **OUTSTANDING!**

In July 2013, we were awarded a second consecutive outstanding judgment from Ofsted and in 2018 we had some of the best GCSE results in County Durham.

The double outstanding award has only been achieved by a very small percentage of secondary schools in England which places us in a very exclusive club. The report is full of praise for the school, in particular highlighting the outstanding progress students make from their starting point in Year 7, their excellent attitude to learning and their exemplary behaviour. It also outlines the consistently high quality of teaching and the equal opportunities given to all students. You can download a full copy of the report at www.shottonhallschool.co.uk/ofsted

In January 2016, our teacher training arm, Shotton Hall SCITT, was also awarded 'outstanding' for the high quality of our teacher training provision.

Year on year our outstanding judgment is consolidated with wonderful GCSE results. In the latest 2018 exams:

70 grade 9s were awarded (the new, very highest grade achievable)

73% of students achieved English and maths GCSEs at grades 9-4

91% of students achieved English language/literature GCSE at grades 9-4

73% of students achieved maths GCSE at grades 9-4

Our Attainment 8 score is 52.1

Our Progress 8 score is +0.15

ABOUT THE ACADEMY

The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee is a mixed comprehensive school for 11-16 year olds. Our 1250 students come to learn each day in a fantastic new school with state-of-the-art facilities.

The Academy is a fun and inspirational space with brightly coloured, modern classrooms, which provide a stimulating and lively setting for learning. Our ICT facilities include an Apple Mac media suite, interactive whiteboards, iPads, 3D TVs and the 'Frog' virtual learning environment.

We also boast a well stocked library, specialist equipment in science and technology, professional level dance and drama studios and a fully fitted theatre, worthy of our fantastic performing arts productions. Our extensive sporting facilities include a sports hall, tennis and basketball courts and acres of playing fields, which have contributed to the many successes of our young sportsmen and sportswomen. In addition we have a brand new £1m cedar-clad eco-building at the rear of the school.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Our student council ensures that every student has their say on issues around the school. Our head boy and head girl, along with other elected students, represent the 'student voice' on important issues such as uniform, catering and even interviewing new teachers. Alongside the school council, we have 'team potential' - aspiring young leaders who help to recruit trainee teachers.

REWARDS

We believe that a rewards culture promotes and encourages maximum achievement. Students who demonstrate effort, dedication and a commitment to their studies can earn points through our merit system. School trips and our annual awards ceremonies also celebrate the successes and hard work of our students. Excellent attendance and behaviour is also routinely rewarded.



“

SHOTTON HALL IS AN **AMAZING SCHOOL.**
SINCE MY DAUGHTER HAS STARTED HER STUDIES THERE
SHE HAS **GROWN AND DEVELOPED GREATLY.**
THEY ENCOURAGE AND NURTURE THE
CHILDREN IN ALL SUBJECTS.”



“

TEACHERS ARE EXTREMELY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND THEIR PASSION FOR THE SUBJECTS THEY TEACH SHINES THROUGH IN THEIR LESSONS. CONSEQUENTLY, STUDENTS ARE ABSORBED IN THEIR LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT IS OF THE HIGHEST ORDER.”

OFSTED, JULY 2013

TEACHING & LEARNING

Our expert and enthusiastic teachers bring learning to life by offering an inclusive, flexible and creative curriculum that includes a broad range of academic and vocational qualifications.

An exemplary assessment system, as well as individual support and encouragement, ensures that students frequently exceed challenging targets. Information and guidance are provided by a range of independent advisers, while intervention work tracks and mentors targeted students to help them achieve their potential.

LITERACY AND NUMERACY

An important area of cross curricular work at the Academy is our whole school literacy and numeracy strategy - *Locks and Keys*. Developed by the Academy, our nationally praised scheme ensures literacy and numeracy skills are embedded into every department and every lesson - not just maths and English. If you think that numeracy has nothing to do with art...think again!

SOCIAL, MORAL, SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL (SMSC)

We are particularly proud of our SMSC provision which cuts across the whole curriculum. Social, moral, spiritual and cultural topics and issues are woven into all lessons, helping students to develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of the wider world by learning about the beliefs, cultures, difficulties and needs of other people.

GIFTED AND TALENTED - ISPARKS

'iSparks' is our brand new initiative which offers students the chance to take part in an even wider range of activities firmly focused on preparation for university life. The iSparks programme includes a range of high quality enrichment activities designed to inspire, motivate and, most importantly, challenge children to achieve their very best. iSparks enables students to work at a higher cognitive level to develop and draw out the extra skills and knowledge needed to achieve A and A* grades. iSparks takes learning to the next level, challenging children to push themselves further, questioning, analysing and researching at a level beyond what is expected of them at GCSE, helping to prepare them for academic life beyond the Academy.

BRITISH VALUES

Other important cross-curricular work is the promotion of British values - democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs. At the Academy students encounter these principles throughout everyday school life which are embedded into lessons and extra-curricular activities.

ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

The involvement of parents and carers in the education of children is widely recognised as one of the most beneficial ways to enhance success in school. Consequently, we welcome and encourage all aspects of communication between the Academy and parents and carers. We place great value on individual and regular contact. Our home/school agreement ensures that we achieve our targets in standards of work, behaviour and attendance. In addition, consultation evenings, email/text updates and termly reports keep you informed of your child's progress and welfare.

HOMEWORK

We place great importance on the role that high quality, relevant homework plays in achievement. At the Academy, homework is seen as integral to learning and throughout the year, students are given carefully planned homework projects that challenge them to work independently. The Year 8 'Curious' English project is a particular highlight for children where their creativity is allowed to run wild with fantastic results.



**“AWARDED
OUTSTANDING
TWICE CONSECUTIVELY - THE
HIGHEST ACCOLADE
A SCHOOL CAN ACHIEVE.**





YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND

We pride ourselves on the attitude and behaviour of our students and it is a constant source of pride to receive unsolicited praise from the public and visitors on our students' exemplary conduct.

When people visit our school, they always tell us what a friendly and happy place it is. From the first day at school in Year 7 to the final goodbyes in Year 11, students are cared for as individuals and given every opportunity to succeed and reach their full potential.

From time to time, everyone needs a helping hand. At the Academy we have a highly experienced pastoral team and support system that gives every student access to support, advice and guidance when they need it. From extra academic support, through to dealing with any worries or personal problems, we have the right people in place to help every child through difficult times.

We understand that for some students it's not always easy to go straight to a teacher for help, so we also have a 'peer support' system where students can confide in each other.

TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our warm and welcoming environment eases the transition from primary school, which we know can be a daunting prospect for some children. Older students act as 'buddies' so that each new student has a friendly face to help them to feel safe and secure, and settle in quickly. There is also an early review meeting for parents in October so you can see first-hand how your child has adapted to life at the Academy.



GLOBETROTTING

The Academy is proud to be part of ERASMUS, a partnership between schools from over 30 European countries, which gives young people opportunities to experience life in other countries.

The project aims to widen the horizons of our students and to encourage active citizenship. It also supplements the curriculum through academic field work in other countries and encourages friendships across seas, allowing students to share, learn and grow together.

Academy students have recently travelled to Norway, Germany, Turkey and France where they took part in once in a lifetime activities and got a glimpse of life from a perspective beyond that of a tourist. Other trips have included a visit to the snow-capped mountains of Transylvania to learn about maths and a hop across to Albacete to sing, dance and debate with new Spanish friends.

Students are given equal opportunity to take part in Erasmus activities, with funding available for all students selected to take part.

Recently, the Academy also won the British Council's e-Twinning/Erasmus schools award for the fourth consecutive year. We won the award for our 'global outlook' project which used IT to connect students in different countries in innovative new ways.



**"IT IS GREAT TO SEE OUR STUDENTS EXPERIENCE
DIFFERENT CULTURES AND
GO OFF THE BEATEN TRACK
TO SEE WHAT LIFE IS REALLY LIKE."**

IAN KELL, MATHS TEACHER AND ERASMUS COORDINATOR





WE ASKED OUR TEACHERS WHAT MAKES SHOTTON HALL SPECIAL?...

The students here are phenomenal and have a real thirst for learning – the atmosphere that they create *makes me love coming to work.*

MRS MCMANUS

Shotton Hall is special because of the resilience of both the staff and students. *We keep on going no matter how difficult the challenge.*

MISS SIDDLER

The staff and the pupils' enthusiasm for learning is what makes Shotton Hall special. Extra-curricular enrichment activities, outstanding lessons, access to technology, students' engagement with current affairs and wider society - it all adds up to make a special place.

MISS CHADWICK

I enjoy working at The Academy at Shotton Hall because the *children are very engaged in lessons* and are willing to learn.

MR HUGHES

I love working as part of a *fast-paced, forward-thinking and dynamic team.*

MRS HICKMAN

SCHOOL'S OUT

...but that doesn't mean it's over for the day, with plenty of clubs and extra-curricular activities on offer.

At the Academy we are proud of the variety of enrichment activities we offer students. From tried and tested sporting pursuits like rugby, netball and football, to more unusual activities like steel band or street dance, there is something for everyone.

PERFORMING ARTS

We believe in the power of performing arts to develop confidence and self esteem in young people and are proud to be a specialist provider of performing and community arts. Throughout the year, our performing arts department put on a variety of fantastic performances that give the professionals a run for their money!

As a parent, if you have witnessed your child involved in a musical or dramatic production, you will know how much good it does for their confidence. We therefore offer an array of opportunities for students to take part in performing arts. Whether acting, singing, dancing or helping out backstage, what matters is being part of a team and extending their experience beyond the classroom.

SPORT

We excel at sport and students here are given every opportunity to become highly skilled athletes. Our recent successes include regional titles for rugby teams, recruits to the Sunderland Football Academy and Durham County Cricket U15 female squad and both girls' and boys' titles in county table tennis.



PARTICIPATING IN AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS GAVE MY DAUGHTER
SO MUCH EXTRA CONFIDENCE.
SHE HAS MADE NEW FRIENDS, DEVELOPED NEW SKILLS AND EXPERIENCED
WONDERFUL THINGS SHE WOULD NOT HAVE IF SHE'D GONE
HOME ON THE BELL."



GOODBYE!

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