



The Academy at Shotton Hall
2023 Prospectus

A PLACE WHERE *Every child matters*

Welcome to The Academy at Shotton Hall - a place where every child matters and where we strive to deliver excellence for every child, every day.

We understand that the five years at secondary school are some of the most important years of our lives. Therefore, it is important that each child is nurtured to support and challenge them to help them reach their full potential, regardless of their ability. Our ability to offer this level of dedication to every one of our students is something that I am deeply proud of.

The Academy at Shotton Hall truly is a unique place to learn, with a warm and happy atmosphere with high expectations and a clear focus on achievement. Our students consistently reach the highest standards and year-on-year we are placed amongst the top performing schools in County Durham with students exceeding their targets.

I am proud to lead a team of exceptional staff, who are deeply committed to the education and welfare of our children. Staff have a genuine pride for our school and love nothing more than seeing students succeed. With the support of the Trust CEO, Lesley Powell CBE, we are determined to build upon the many successes of our school and continue to provide an excellent experience for our children.

We are now taking applications for entry in September 2023 and we invite you to take a look through these pages to gain an insight to student life at the Academy.



Alex Hook
Head of School

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**SHOTTON HALL IS A PLACE THAT
TRULY LIVES UP TO IT'S VISION
- THAT EVERY CHILD EXPERIENCES**

*excellence
every day.”*





WE ARE *Outstanding!*

In our last Ofsted inspection, we were awarded our second consecutive outstanding judgment from Ofsted and in 2022 we once again 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.

You can download a full copy of the report at:
shottonhallacademy.co.uk/ofsted

Our teacher training arm, North East SCITT, is also judged to be 'outstanding' for the high quality of our teacher training provision.

Through setting out high expectations, students understand the importance of trying their best and working hard. Year-on-year their ambition translates into the Academy consistently achieving some of the top GCSE results in the county and very often the country.

STUDENTS WERE SEEN TO BE MAKING

outstanding progress

TO BE THOROUGHLY ENJOYING LEARNING AND TO HAVE A REAL DESIRE TO ACHIEVE THEIR VERY BEST."

About THE ACADEMY

The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee is a mixed comprehensive school for 11-16 year olds. Our 1200 students come to learn each day in a fantastic school with state-of-the-art facilities and resources.

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 and 3D TVs.

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 two brand new cedar-clad eco-buildings at the rear of the school providing us with extra classroom space and science labs.

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

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.

Excellence EVERYDAY

BRITISH VALUES

An important aspect of 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.

HOME LEARNING

During COVID-19, students at Shotton Hall were able to learn online from day one of lockdown via Student POD - an online resource that your child can still access anywhere and at any time. Using Microsoft Teams, we were able to set and mark assignments as well as conduct video lessons in real time.

Digital exercise books, assessment feedback and online tutorials are also used to enhance students' learning experience.

**“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.

PRIMARY SCHOOL TRANSITION

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

We are proud to place a strong emphasis on overseas adventure by organising trips that give our young people once in a lifetime opportunities.

We aim to widen the horizons of our students and to encourage active global citizenship, as well as supplementing the curriculum through academic field work in other countries and encouraging friendships across the globe.

Our students are given many opportunities to travel to places such as: Italy to study food technology, Germany to study European migration, and Greece to study astronomy. They have also visited Sicily, Spain, Portugal, Slovenia, Poland and Hungary.

We were recently awarded funds under the new Turing Programme for students to visit and study in Eagle Ridge High School in Washington DC. The trip was a huge success with

students crossing the Atlantic to experience life in an American school, as well as taking in the sights, sounds and tastes of American culture through an extensive exploration of Washington DC and the surrounding area.

We also have the opportunity to work virtually with schools in Canberra and Wellington with a view to possible study visits to New Zealand and Australia in summer 2023.

The Academy won the British Council's e-Twinning/ Erasmus schools award for five consecutive years and was awarded the prize of the best international project in the United Kingdom.

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“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 Siddle

Over the many years that I have worked at Shotton Hall Academy I have found it a very special place to work which has an exceptional teaching staff as well as hard working learners.

Mr Hardwick

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 Peel

I am continually impressed by the desire students have to achieve and be the best versions of themselves despite the many obstacles in their way.

Mrs Heseltine

School's out!

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

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.

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

We also have an enormous range of clubs open to all ages and abilities including: Debate Club, Wildlife Club, Girls and Boys Football, STEM Club, Reading Club, Table Tennis, Harry Potter Club, Yoga, Netball, Indoor Rowing, Dungeons and Dragons, Ancient History and Mythology Club, Cheerleading, Rugby, Trampoline and many, many more!



“
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.”

Founding school of the **NORTH EAST LEARNING TRUST**

The Academy at Shotton Hall founded the North East Learning Trust (NELT), a highly successful multi-academy trust with 12 partner and sponsor schools across the region.

NELT has a proven track record of school improvement with all schools under their wing having sustained or improved their Ofsted gradings at their first inspection following sponsorship.

NELT is widely regarded providing some of the best education in the county, and indeed the country, with children making significant progress from their starting points, achieving impressive exam results, and going on to access a range of well-respected further and higher education opportunities including courses at some of the UK's most elite universities.

The Trust is also heavily involved with teacher development. It boasts its very own teacher training arm, North East SCITT, that trains the next generation of teachers and ensures the highest standards of teaching are instilled from the outset. It is

a National Teaching School Hub, one of 87 centres of excellence across England that provide high quality training and development to teachers throughout their careers. Not only that, but The Academy at Shotton Hall is a National Research School, one of just 23 in England, that up-skill teachers using cutting-edge research.

The Trust is led by three outstanding teachers who are involved in the regional and national development of education. The Trust CEO, Lesley Powell CBE, is a member of many regional and national education boards and advisory groups. The CEO and Deputy CEOs are National Leaders of Education and the Trust also employs a wide network of specialist teachers and other experienced professionals to support schools on their paths to becoming outstanding.

Goodbye!





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Company number 07492165, registered in England and Wales*



**North East
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