

PROSPECTUS  
2020/21



**Biddick**  
Academy



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*Our aim is simple,  
to 'inspire learning,  
unlock potential  
and achieve  
success'.*





# WELCOME

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It is with great pride that I welcome you to Biddick Academy. We are a thriving community school which serves the local Washington area.

Each year we aim to build on the high standards and reputation achieved over many years, whilst looking to prepare the young people in our care for the challenges of the future.



Learning is not just something that happens inside the classroom. We want our students to be well-educated and well-rounded individuals, prepared to take their next steps when they leave our Academy. Our specialist team of highly trained staff provide exceptional care, guidance and support, helping students to develop their confidence, work ethic and aspiration.

At Biddick Academy we strive to find and nurture the brilliance in every student in our community through a well-balanced and broad curriculum. Everything that we do aims to develop curiosity, build resilience, readiness and aspiration in our students.

We have high expectations and encourage all students to meet them. Our aim is to work closely with parents and carers to ensure that all of our students excel. By really knowing every child individually, students at Biddick Academy are happy, successful and often achieve far more than they ever thought possible.

We hope that this prospectus gives you a sense of our drive and ambition. Speaking with our students and staff is the best way to find out about what we have on offer. If you are considering our Academy for your son or daughter, please do come along to one of our open events or contact us to arrange a visit.

I look forward to welcoming you and your family to our school.

**Miss K. Morris**  
Headteacher

# INSPIRING LEARNING

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We are passionate about the quality of our teaching. Trustees are committed to recruiting and retaining the most highly skilled teaching professionals. All staff are completely committed to motivating, inspiring and securing the maximum achievement for all students.

At Biddick Academy students enjoy an ideal learning environment, a place where they really can be inspired to reach their full potential. In addition to well-maintained traditional classrooms and a comprehensively stocked library, students benefit from outstanding specialist teaching facilities. Whether rehearsing in our Dance Studio, studying in our purpose built engineering workshops, designing works of art in the digital art suite or learning the customer-facing disciplines of the Hair and Beauty industry in our stylish salon, Biddick Academy constantly buzzes with creativity and confidence.

Our collective motivation is to see our students emerge as highly qualified, resilient, proud and ambitious young people, equipped with outstanding qualifications as well as the employability skills to secure a prosperous and fulfilling career.

Our exceptional facilities offer the most incredible opportunities within a safe school setting and our students certainly make the most of them within and beyond the school day.



# Curiosity



*Resilience*



# OUR CURRICULUM

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At Biddick Academy, we take great pride in ensuring that all of our students are fully prepared for life beyond Year 11 and secondary school.

## **The curriculum is carefully structured to ensure:**

- Students master knowledge and skills by consolidating and learning in a coherent way, building on learning year on year
- Each subject is inspiring and engaging for students so that they develop a passion and enthusiasm for learning not just in the classroom, but beyond
- Students are routinely exposed to challenging concepts and ideas to which they can apply their knowledge so that they are thoroughly prepared for examinations
- Students develop the skills of independence, resilience and autonomy
- The development of literacy and numeracy is central to every subject and a love of reading is fostered throughout the curriculum.

## **Key Stage Three:**

In Years 7 to 9 students study a broad range of subjects that, at the end of Key Stage Three, enable them to make informed choices for their GCSEs. For example, at present students study the following subjects: English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, Religious Education, PE, Music, Art, Design Technology, ICT, IAG (Information, Advice and Guidance), Accelerated Reader, Spanish/French.

## **Key Stage Four:**

At the end of Year 9, students make choices regarding the courses they would like to study in Years 10 and 11. All students study GCSEs in the following subjects: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, History and/or Geography. In addition, all students must also continue to study PE, Ethics and IAG (Information Advice and Guidance) as part of the non-examined curriculum.

Students may then choose from a wide variety of further subjects to make up their option choices. At present GCSEs and vocational courses are available in: French, Spanish, Philosophy and Ethics, Engineering, Computer Science, Creative iMedia, Business and Enterprise, Food and Nutrition, Fine Art, Art and Design, Textiles, Digital Art, Hair and Beauty, Physical Education, Dance, Drama and Music.

The Key Stage Four curriculum is regularly reviewed and updated each year to offer our students the best choices.

# UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

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At Biddick Academy we consistently challenge our students to reach their true potential. In order to achieve this, we believe that all of our students deserve to feel safe, secure and happy.

We have extremely high expectations of all of our students and encourage them to show respect to each other at all times. We work hard to make sure that everyone feels welcome, safe and valued whilst actively contributing to our community. We are a fully inclusive school, which is proud to be LGBTQ+ friendly and recognises the importance of social justice.

Our Form Tutors are responsible for our students' well-being. They, along with the Heads of Year, have personal knowledge of each student and are on hand to provide help and guidance in all aspects of school life.

Students who require extra assistance are well-supported so that they overcome any potential barrier to their success. Our experienced SENCo and Student Support Team work across Biddick Academy to ensure that all students' individual needs are met and cared for. We are committed to ensuring our students achieve and while we will press them to have the highest expectations of themselves, we will also support them in equal measure.

Our experienced pastoral team recognise the importance of our students' emotional health and wellbeing and show care and empathy while encouraging our students to build their own resilience.

We are incredibly proud of our students' endeavours and successes both within and beyond the classroom. We regularly recognise their progress and achievements and capitalise on every opportunity to celebrate their efforts.



# Aspiration





Readiness



# CAREERS EDUCATION

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At Biddick Academy we strive to ensure that our students are 'ready' for their next steps.

Our excellent Careers Education programme empowers students to take control of their lives, while developing the key transferrable skills and attributes that are needed in modern life.

We consistently promote the importance of careers and employability skills through Information, Advice and Guidance lessons. This means that students are able to make informed decisions about the progression pathways available to them.

High quality work experience in Year 10 helps to prepare students for the ever-changing world of work, within a culture of high expectations and aspiration. At Biddick Academy we believe we have a responsibility to inspire our students to recognise the value of working hard alongside the acquisition of new skills.

We are proud that Biddick Academy has been recognised for its fantastic Careers Education programme, gaining the Gold Standard Quality in Careers Award. This comprehensive programme allows students to realise just how much success is possible, when they apply their full potential.





# LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

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We believe that academic success should go hand in hand with a rich variety of extra-curricular activities.

We encourage each student to find at least one activity that they enjoy and can excel in. We have a keen focus on leadership and volunteering with opportunities available for our students to be involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award or to become a Sports Leader.

A number of sporting clubs exist and this is complemented by our desire for students to perform, be it in a drama or music club. We want our students to be curious and creative learners; we support this outside of the classroom through numerous clubs linked to art, technology and ICT.

We work hard to ensure that a wide range of interests are catered for. Wherever there is demand for a club or activity, we will always try to find a way to make it happen. Students are encouraged to become involved in Academy life and to take part in leadership opportunities, sporting events, fundraising for charity, trips and residential visits. All students contribute to the local community and we believe this has a positive impact on the development of young people.









# ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

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Each year we welcome 224 students into the Academy in Year 7.

Full details on admissions, including information on the admission criteria, can be found on our school website.

**All admission applications should be made via the Sunderland Admissions Online System:**

<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/admissionsonline>

This prospectus contains a brief overview of the ethos, vision and opportunities on offer at Biddick Academy. We are happy to discuss any aspect of the Academy or answer specific queries regarding admissions in more detail with you directly.

Please contact Mr J. Houghton by telephone or email to arrange an appointment.

✉ [Houghton.j@biddickacademy.com](mailto:Houghton.j@biddickacademy.com)

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Academy

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