

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH LEARNING



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Welcome to WEST LAKES ACADEMY



Here at West Lakes Academy we are succeeding in 'Changing Lives through Learning'. Our goal is to provide the best possible educational opportunities for the young people of West Cumbria. We are fully committed to being a fully inclusive, aspirational, high achieving centre of world-class educational standards, firmly rooted in the local community.

We have excellent levels of academic achievement, our recent exam results place us among the most successful schools in the country. Many of our students successfully move on to university, apprenticeships or their chosen career.

We can provide your child with the education they need for a successful and happy future.

Jonathan Johnson,
Principal and Chief Executive



Your Child's Path to Success



We have high expectations of all our students and our highly skilled and enthusiastic staff will encourage your child to have strong ambitions and work hard to achieve these.

The academy has a two year key stage 3 programme. At key stage 4 students will have the opportunity to study for the E-Baccalaureate. After key stage 4 many of our students move into our Sixth Form which is bigger, better and more successful than ever.

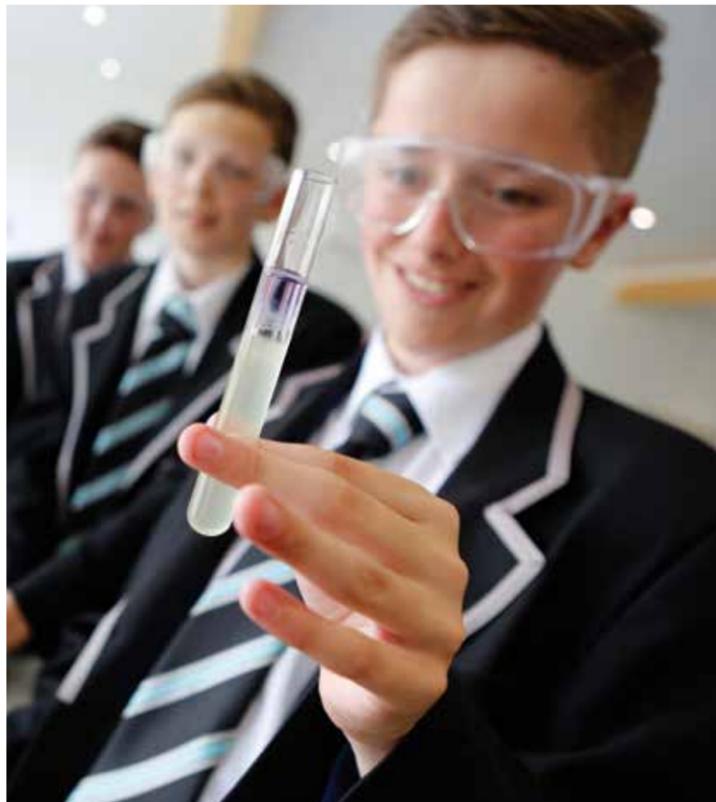
Our programme of study is personalised to meet students' individual needs and we have designed our curriculum to make your child's move from primary to secondary education an easy one. Whilst making sure we nurture students' talents, we also make learning interesting and enjoyable through six 55 minute lessons a day.

Our key stage 3 programme aims to raise the ambitions of all our students, develop their knowledge, skills and understanding and help students to have confidence in their abilities. We are committed to providing a challenging programme of study and opportunities, both inside and outside of the classroom. In achieving all this, our aim is to give our young people the skills and qualifications they need to succeed in the 21st century.



"EVERY CHILD DESERVES AN EDUCATION LIKE THE ONE WE RECEIVE AT WLA. THE TEACHERS OF WEST LAKES ACADEMY ARE PHENOMENAL!"

- SARAH JACKSON,
HEAD GIRL 2015-2016.



Your Child's Personal Development

As well as helping your child to meet their academic potential, we also want your child to develop as a well-rounded individual with confidence, social skills and a wide range of interests. There are lots of opportunities to join after-school clubs for music, dance, science, cooking and sport to name just a few. Your child will also have the opportunity to take part in residential trips, for example to Derwentwater and France. Students can also take part in the national performing arts 'Rock Challenge' competition. In previous years the academy has enjoyed huge success, in 2016 the academy was awarded 12 out of 13 excellence awards.

All of this helps your child's personal development so that they leave the academy with the desire and ability to play a successful part in society.

Our Outstanding Facilities

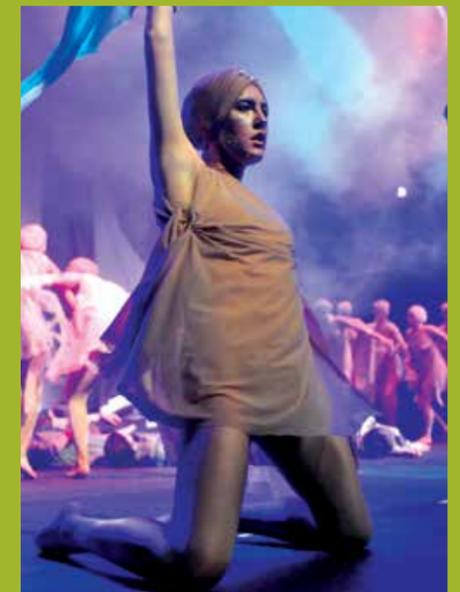
Students at West Lakes Academy benefit from some of the best ICT, Apple Mac and Apple iPad facilities, a £300k engineering facility, a dedicated performing arts suite and an eco-pod science lab. Not only do we offer your child access to these fantastic resources but they are all based in our £26m state of the art building.

This excellent environment helps to keep motivation and morale high and allows us to deliver modern approaches to learning, using the latest technology.

Specialisms in Science and the Arts

The academy's specialism in science is supported by its sponsors, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and Sellafield Ltd. Their significant investment means we can offer students outstanding science facilities and our science curriculum is enhanced by their expertise. Students are able to spend time working with scientists from local industry both in and out of school.

All students are able to develop their skills in the arts. We encourage all of our students to express themselves through a variety of media such as paint, dance and music.



Our Community



We place great importance on working in partnership with parents. Parents understand the need to support their child's learning by making sure that homework is completed, listening to their child read and providing them with a suitable environment in which to do their homework. We also enjoy a successful partnership with parents in making sure that students meet our high standards of appearance and discipline. Our community stretches further to include local people and residents, businesses and voluntary groups. Students play an active role in their community through fundraising and voluntary services. Our Student Council has representatives from within each year group who work both within the academy and outside in the local community.

Our Skilled Staff

Students at West Lakes Academy are taught by a team of skilled and enthusiastic staff in every subject area. Our focus is on developing outstanding teaching and learning and delivering fun lessons. We are committed to attracting and keeping high quality teaching and support staff dedicated to your child's success.

Transition

We pride ourselves in offering a complete worry-free transition process for all our new Year 7 students. We provide as much reassurance and information about the new school year as possible so that each student receives a smooth, happy and seamless start to the next chapter of their academic life.

Staff from the academy visit students in their primary schools throughout their time in Year 6, making time to talk to their class teachers.

During the summer term students are invited in to the academy for a day. There is also the opportunity to take part in our summer school, which allows our new students to settle into the academy and feel part of the family before they join us in September.

"VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE TRANSITION FROM YEAR 6 TO YEAR 7. FEEL VERY CONFIDENT MY CHILD IS ENJOYING WLA AND DELIGHTED HOW ENTHUSIASTIC MY CHILD IS ABOUT LEARNING."

- YEAR 7 PARENT FEEDBACK

"THE FEEDBACK WE HAVE RECEIVED ABOUT THE ACADEMY'S DONATIONS HAS BEEN OVERWHELMING. I HAVE WORKED FOR AGE UK FOR 11 YEARS AND NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH KINDNESS AS SHOWN BY YOUR PUPILS."

- JACQUELINE FLEMING,
AGE UK



Pastoral Care



West Lakes Academy is a caring and welcoming school. We have a pastoral system organised on a year basis, which provides support for students in many ways. Students are placed in tutor groups which have a form tutor who will stay with their group throughout their first five years at the academy. Tutors get to know their students well and are able to provide individual advice and encouragement.

Each year group is led by a non-teaching head of year, who takes a close personal interest in the welfare and progress of students. Additional support will be provided through a peer mentoring scheme or via our student prefects.

It is very rare that a student experiences a bullying issue and we have a rigorous Anti Bullying Policy which was led by our students. We believe in providing opportunities for all, and have a positive Equal Opportunities Policy. At the academy everyone is encouraged to achieve their full potential regardless of background or gender. You can see the results of this reflected in the achievements of our students in examinations and awards.

Your Contact with the Academy

We believe that good links with parents are vital to help children succeed. We have established a pattern of parents' evenings and hold a tutor evening at the start of term for parents of Year 7 students. We inform parents of academy events and report regularly on progress and targets. We like to celebrate our students' positive achievements and regularly phone home to share these with parents or via our website and social media.

Teachers give termly updates to students and parents. This information is based on the targets set for every student based on thorough analysis of key stage 2 data. We ensure targets are challenging and all students are supported in achieving these aspirational targets. We report on whether they are on track to reach these targets using the professional judgment of teachers in key stage 3 and key stage 4.

Our website is updated regularly with news, important notices, upcoming events and academy policies and procedures. Parents are encouraged to regularly visit the website and familiarise themselves with the information available.



Challenging all Students



The academy is committed to giving a personalised learning experience to all of its learners. As a result of this, we recognise the need to provide extended provision for those learners whose mindset is already sufficiently resilient. In all subjects across the academy, we aim to ensure that students achieve the highest levels of attainment and make exceptional progress in their time here. We endeavour to provide a stimulating learning environment, set challenging tasks and regularly review learning with our students. We enrich provision beyond the classroom by providing a wide range of extra-curricular activities, visits and enrichment opportunities. Core provision for students is through quality teaching in the classroom. Staff training is provided regularly to update and further develop classroom practice.



Learning Support



Staff in the Learning Support Department work with those students who need additional support within school either academically, socially, emotionally or physically.

This support is largely offered within mainstream classrooms to ensure that all students are able to access inclusive learning at an appropriate level. Tasks may be modified or differentiated for individual students. Students are also supported at social times if appropriate.

The students' needs cover reading, writing, spelling, numeracy, understanding, communication, self-esteem, self-confidence, behaviour, hearing impairments, visual impairments, co-ordination and mobility.

At key stage 3 most support is provided within mainstream classes by learning support assistants who work closely with the class teachers. The curriculum may be modified or differentiated for these students. Some one to one and small group work is also carried out when this is thought to be appropriate.

Praise Structure

We have a culture where praise, rewards and achievements are accepted and celebrated. We regularly reward students for a wide range of activities, both academic and pastoral through a new electronic rewards system called VIVO. Reward points add up and prizes can be claimed from a wide variety of choices from an online 'shop'.

Achievements are also celebrated through a wide variety of mediums including our website, social media accounts, newsletter and local press.

We also hold an annual awards evening ceremony to celebrate and reward the achievements of our students. This is a formal evening attended by staff, governors, students and their families.

"MY DAUGHTER HAS SETTLED IN BEAUTIFULLY TO WLA. SHE LOVES IT. I COULD NOT BE HAPPIER WITH THE SCHOOL. THANK YOU."

- YEAR 7 PARENT FEEDBACK




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