FURNESS
ACADEMY

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FURNESS ACADEMY

PROSPECTUS 2019/2020

www.furnessacademy.co.uk

RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | RELATIONSHIPS

Furness Academy is part of the Furness Education Trust, an exempt charity. Furness Education Trust
is a Company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales under Company Number: 06895426
Registered Office: Furness Academy, Park Drive, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria, LA13 9BB



Dear **Students,** Parents and Carers

When you make your first visit to Furness Academy you immediately get the sense that it is more than just a school. The state-of-the-art learning and sporting facilities, along with the purposeful and happy atmosphere within, really are hard to miss. We believe that what matters most is the people that choose to learn and work here. Our values underpin the qualities in the thousands of small interactions that happen every day between the staff and the students and through which we aim to inspire your children to be the best that they can be.

As headteacher, I am really proud and lucky to be able to work in such an inspirational school; as a father I understand the great trust you place in us to care for, educate and inspire your children. I am confident that if you choose Furness Academy as your child's school you will, in the fullness of time, be impressed with us and pleased with your decision. We take our responsibility seriously and are always prepared to go that extra mile if it is needed.

This prospectus will give you an insight into what life is like at Furness Academy, but to gain a fuller sense and enjoy the purposeful atmosphere here we hope you will visit us and take a tour around with some of our students. Please contact us at any time of the year for a tour and we look forward to meeting you.

Simon Laheney - ***Headteacher***

ARRANGE A VISIT:

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Dear **Students,** Parents and Carers

Thank you for your interest in the education provision, care, guidance and support on offer at Furness Academy.

This is a very exciting time to be considering Furness Academy as a secondary school choice. We offer first class facilities that accommodate over 1000 students occupying a distinctive site in the heart of our community.

You can look forward with confidence to Furness Academy providing a welcoming and safe environment for your child. Our core values of respect, responsibility and relationships underpin all our efforts to ensure that all students have the greatest opportunity to achieve their best and we recognise and value the potential of every individual student. Under the leadership of our Head Teacher (Simon Laheney), teachers, managers, trustees, governors and sponsors are working in partnership to achieve progressive teaching and learning of a high standard, We provide strong support for everyone and we are never satisfied until a student is doing their best.

I hope this prospectus shows you the important qualities Furness Academy has to encourage your child to reach their aspirations.

John Shields - ***Chair of Governors***



Our Sponsors

BAE SYSTEMS
INSPIRED WORK

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING MATHS

BAE Systems has worked hand-in-hand with the Furness community for many years and, as highlighted by our on-going work with various schools and colleges, we place great emphasis on the importance of local education.

We are a strong supporter of local education and have demonstrated our commitment to Furness Academy from its inception. With a shared sense of purpose, we want to help provide the best learning opportunities for all local children and young people.

As a sponsor of Furness Education Trust, of which Furness Academy is a part, we are confident we understand the needs of both the employers and the community to bring a synergy to the development and future success of Furness Academy.

Furness and South Cumbria offers excellent employment opportunities, particularly in engineering or related disciplines and we are committed to helping local people have the best possible education, training and employment prospects.

At Furness Academy, you can look forward to your child being provided with a superb education particularly in STEM subjects, alongside excellent facilities and supported by our sponsorship. We understand that investing in our students during their formative school years not only prepares them for the world of work but also allows us to help foster their confidence in exploring new experiences.

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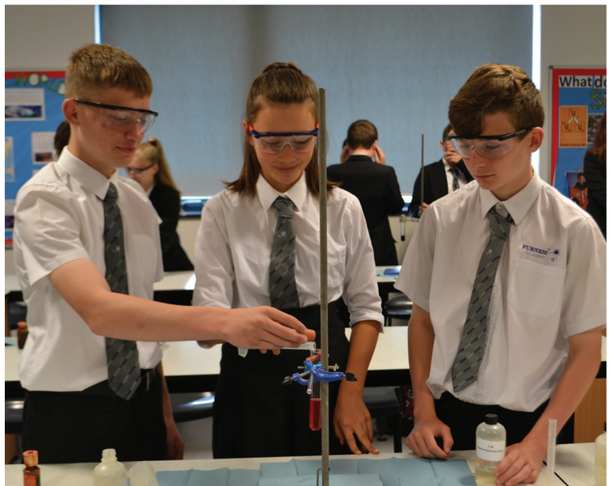

A curriculum designed for achievement

Our curriculum is designed to take students from the secure close-knit feel of good primary schooling to high levels of independent learning. We always have high aspirations for all our students, supporting them to progress during their time at Furness Academy and encourage them to reach their personal best. Our staff are highly skilled and enthusiastic about all aspects of your child's education and will encourage them to have strong ambitions and to work hard to achieve their goals.

We pride ourselves on the variety of options we can provide for all students at Furness Academy. We have designed our curriculum so that your child's programme of study will be individually tailored to suit their interests and needs. Student progress is tracked across all years with regular reports sent home to provide information to parents and carers. For any student who may not be reaching their full progression potential, we have an important system of interventions in place to ensure that students achieve their best. We have implemented a comprehensive catch up programme for any student who is absent from school due to illness or other reasons to ensure they are able to complete any necessary work they have missed. This enables us to ensure that no student falls behind in their learning.

We believe that learning should be interesting and enjoyable. While we support students to develop their knowledge and skills, we encourage them to ask questions, develop their understanding and build their confidence in their own abilities. We provide students with a wide range of opportunities for them to develop as young people.

Most of all, we aim for our students to leave Furness Academy as well-rounded young people; students who have been nurtured and encouraged but challenged and understood. We want our students to leave Furness Academy as confident learners with the skills, knowledge and, importantly, the qualifications that they need to succeed and contribute to their community.

99%

FURNESS ACADEMY

99% of parents say their child makes good progress at Furness Academy

Parents say...

My daughter has blossomed since coming to this school and continues to grow in confidence, thanks to the teaching and mentoring she receives here. Thank you.

– Year 9 Parent

...Student thoughts

I like how many opportunities we are given each and every year.

– Year 8 student

Parents say...

Would highly recommend Furness Academy, my daughter has progressed in every subject each year. All teachers approachable and human!

– Year 10 Parent

...Student thoughts

My form tutor helps me when I am down and supports me everyday.

– Year 7 student

Learning environment and enrichment

Students at Furness Academy benefit from some of the best facilities in the North West. We have a superb range of ICT facilities. All students have access to computers, laptops, tablets and other media to enhance their learning and develop necessary ICT skills. Alongside these devices we also have specialised IT rooms boasting the most up to date software.
Our sports facilities are outstanding. Furness Academy has its own 3G pitch, specialised Activity Suite with climbing wall, Fitness Suite and Sports Hall, a large multi-use games area which facilitates a wide range of sports, a soundproofed, sprung floor Dance Studio and an amazing County standard running track. Our theatre facilities are also of a very high standard as we have a specially equipped drama studio with its own lighting system and a 260 seat theatre where our school productions and events take place.

This offers your child the best possible place to study. Our excellent environment allows us to teach using modern approaches to learning, using the latest technology and helps keep motivation and engagement high.

Students are given the opportunity to join any number of our extra-curricular clubs and events. They are encouraged to get involved, to meet new people and be willing to try new experiences. We introduced Enrichment Wednesdays, where students finish school at 2.10pm on a Wednesday every fortnight. Students are then invited to stay in school until 3.10pm and take part in a wide variety of clubs, including photography, engineering, crafts, sports, ICT, swimming and even sailing.

Our enrichment Wednesday programme has had a very positive impact on our students. This programme has been a huge success over the last few years and we are pleased to see this continue moving forward.

We have opportunities that will appeal to all students, ranging from a wide variety of sports clubs, like football and netball, to our music groups where students are encouraged to pursue an instrument. Each year Furness Academy produces a theatre show of grand proportion and own summer music festival, Academy Calling, providing many opportunities for each and every one of our students to get involved in.

We also have a variety of extracurricular STEM opportunities, where students can further develop their science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills. Excellent science, technology, engineering and maths provision is the sign of a school preparing its students for a successful future in the ever changing world and this is what we endeavour to achieve at Furness Academy. We know that our students, with this type of education, will be excellent assets to any business in all areas of industry once they have completed their studies.

Students are able to build up their own programme of enrichment to support their academic and personal development, based on their individual talents and interests.

We believe it is important to supplement each child's academic learning with extracurricular opportunities to allow our students to become involved in school and develop their social skills so that one day they will have the ability to play a successful role in society.

Parents say...

Great school with fantastic teachers, my child is doing well in all her lessons. We're really pleased with how well she's doing. Well done to all the staff.

– Year 10 parent

...Student thoughts

I would highly recommend this school to others, I love this school and hope I get good grades in the future.

– Year 9 student

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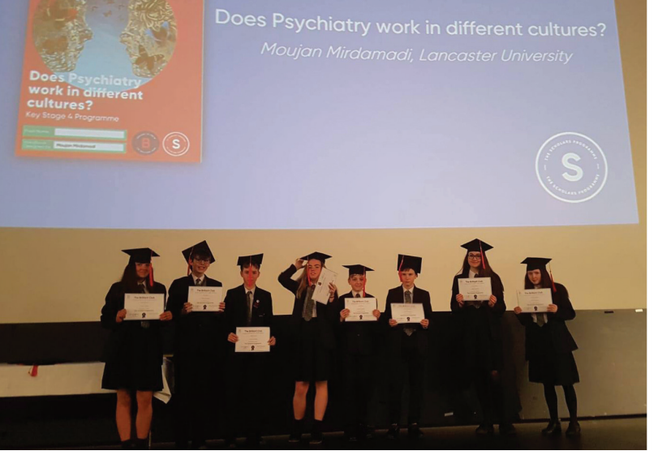













Ensuring your child's success

At Furness Academy, we encourage every student to pursue excellence. However, as well as encouraging your child to meet their academic potential, we also want your child to develop personally as well as academically. We hope to build your child's confidence and develop their social skills by providing them with excellent support. Our teaching and support staff are dedicated to ensuring that your child learns and progresses within a safe and caring environment. They are supported by our strong pastoral team who work hard at developing positive relationships between students, staff and importantly, parents as well.

The pastoral team realise that in order for our students to achieve, we must care for their welfare and meet their individual needs. Furness Academy is committed to offering an inclusive, relevant curriculum to ensure the best possible progress for all our students, whatever their needs or abilities.

It is important to recognise the needs and abilities of each child and ensure that the educational programme they follow helps them fully reach their potential. We understand the importance of encouraging our most able students, to help them flourish and recognise the paths open to them. We place great emphasis on showing our students the options open to them beyond their formal education as they move into the wider world, including visits to Russell Group universities, scholar programmes and a thorough careers education recognised as outstanding by OFSTED.

We place great emphasis on ensuring that students with special educational needs and additional needs are identified, assessed and that the correct support programmes are put in place to ensure that all of their academic, emotional and physical requirements are addressed. We are incredibly proud of the support we can offer to these students and the positive impact this has on both their academic learning and confidence in all aspects of school life.

Inclusivity is a very important part of the culture that we foster at Furness Academy, ensuring that all students are cared for and are provided with many opportunities to achieve excellence. We work closely with all students to ensure they feel supported in their learning and are achieving their best. We also dedicate time to supporting our more able students to ensure they too flourish.

99% FURNESS ACADEMY

99% of parents say their child is safe at Furness Academy

Parents say...

Really happy with the school , very helpful and supportive to helping any issues that are raised.

– Year 8 parent

...Student thoughts

I am privileged to go to this school.

– Year 8 student

Parents say...

Fabulous school always recommend to my clients for their children.

– Year 7 parent

...Student thoughts

This is the best school ever.

– Year 7 student

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Community and Partnership

At Furness Academy, we understand the importance of working in partnership with parents and carers to ensure the best possible future for your children. A student's academic progression is dependent upon support both at school and at home. Our parents and carers understand the importance of continuing their child's learning outside the classroom and in the home, through supporting students with homework and encouraging them to work hard. We enjoy a successful partnership with parents/carers who encourage their children to embrace our Academy culture and values and follow the high standards that we expect.

Our Furness Academy community also encompasses local people and businesses. Furness Academy has an exceptional partnership with many local businesses including our sponsors BAE Systems, who each year provide our students with a variety of STEM opportunities and mentoring programmes. Our students play a special role in our larger community through their charity fundraising; each year they raise thousands of pounds for local and international charities.

We are always interested to hear the opinions and ideas of all our students in everyday life at Furness Academy. We want our students to feel confident that their ideas are valued, respected and acted upon where appropriate. Therefore, we have two student bodies to ensure this happens, Student Voice and the Junior Leadership Team (JLT). The Student Voice team comprises students from every form group who gather weekly to discuss school life, community work and pass on their ideas to staff. This group are responsible for the huge amount of charity and community work that we undertake each year. The JLT are a different group. This is a team made of two students per year group, plus our Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputies. The students involved attend fortnightly formal meetings where they discuss their ideas about student life, make policy change suggestions, deal with a topic that our Senior Leadership Team wish to discuss and more. Both teams enjoy a close relationship with the Furness Academy Senior Leadership Team, with many opportunities to pass on their thoughts and ideas whilst representing all students.

We are proud of the links we continue to build with local charities such as Team Jake and the wonderful St Mary's Hospice. Our students volunteer at Barrow Food Bank, with Asda each Christmas for Sheltered shopping and take part in the Coniston to Barrow walk. We are proud to be a part of such a strong community that exists both inside and outside the Academy walls.

Parents say...

I am really pleased and happy with my son's progress at the school, it is an amazing school and I can not wait for my other two children to attend in the future. Thank you to all the staff that make this school amazing!.

– Year 7 parent

...Student thoughts

It is a brilliant school, I am proud to be a student here.

– Year 7 student

Parents say...

I've been very happy with school especially when I compare with the school my older children went to.

– Year 10 parent

...Student thoughts

This school has friendly, helpful teachers and it is a great school.

– Year 7 student

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International Ambassadors

Being at the heart of Barrow, we understand how important location is in developing the wider experience of our students. Barrow has a rich history of industry, architecture and culture.

However, we understand that developing our students' world experiences will help them become wiser, more tolerant and more aware of the world they live in. Therefore, we have looked beyond our county and national borders, and looked to Europe to provide exceptional experiences for our students.

As part of the European Union Erasmus+ project funding, we have been able to involve our students in projects that span the breadth of Europe, from Hungary to Spain, Lithuania and Romania, Greece and beyond.

Our students, as part of these projects, have met teaching staff and students from schools across the globe, learning all about education around the world. We have both hosted visitors at Furness Academy and had the opportunity to send our students and staff to schools in Italy, Germany, Greece, Slovenia, Croatia, Portugal, Bulgaria and Spain this year alone, fully funded by the EU. We have been proud members of three successful European projects, and have another six projects currently underway at Furness Academy, with many travel opportunities including visits to Greece, Malta, Spain, Italy, Germany, Portugal and even China over the next academic year.

We are in a truly privileged position to be able to offer our students and staff these amazing opportunities. We want our students to see beyond borders and integrate themselves in the worldwide community of which we are all a part. All those who represent us on an International basis become one of our International Ambassadors. These students share their experiences with our wider school community, through presentations, assemblies and speeches. The development of the students who take on these roles is phenomenal, with clear boosts in both confidence and self-esteem. This is a key reason why we will continue to support the Erasmus+ programme and will continue to apply for these projects over the coming years.



Visit: www.furnessacademy.co.uk



99% FURNESS ACADEMY

99% of parents say they would recommend Furness Academy to another parent

Parents say...

Thank you! Both my girls are happy at this school. Staff are lovely, approachable and really helpful. Interested in my children. 5*

– Year 7 parent

...Student thoughts

It's a great school ***– Year 9 student***

Parents say...

Fantastic school, keep up the good work.

– Year 10 parent

...Student thoughts

Furness Academy is a really good school. I feel safe here and have the best form!

– Year 7 student





Transition Programme

We know how scary moving from Primary to Secondary school can be. Each year we work, in partnership with Primary schools, to ensure that this transition is as simple and smooth as it can possibly be.

Through working with our feeder primaries, we are able to invite your children into Furness Academy throughout the school year so they can begin to see how we put our school values into practise. We keep the staffing as consistent as possible so students learn to recognise faces, and hopefully feel more comfortable moving around our school.

Parents and primary students are welcome to visit us any time to have a look around and meet our staff and students. We will answer any questions you may have about our school and hopefully reassure you that we are the school of choice for our local area. However, we truly believe that the school you choose to send your child to should be the one where they feel the happiest, as we know that when children are happy, the learning follows.

Working with local primary schools as part of our Multi Academy Trust provides us with a unique insight into how we can ensure a fluid transition from primary to secondary education. Our curriculum is tailored, through this partnership, to take students from primary learning, to secondary level learning as seamlessly as possible. It is our intention to develop a through curriculum meaning we are able to fully integrate our new students into secondary Academy life from the moment they join. We are proud of the strong partnerships we have developed with primary schools in our local area.

If you and your child decide to join us, we have a comprehensive transition programme in place to ensure that from the moment your child steps through our doors on their first day in September that they are happy, comfortable and ready to take on Secondary school life.

99% FURNESS ACADEMY

99% of parents say their child is happy at Furness Academy

Parents say...

My son joined the school in March after being in Spain for 3 years The teachers have made his transition very easy and made my son welcome. My son enjoys school and that is a credit to the staff that teach him.

– Year 7 Parent

...Student thoughts

I like that my hard work is rewarded.

– Year 7 student

Parents say...

Fantastic school, keep up the good work.

– Year 7 Parent

...Student thoughts

It's a great school - ***Year 9 student***

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