



**Great Park
Academy**

Create Your Future

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Principal's welcome

Welcome to Great Park Academy. On our school website you will see our mission statement 'Create Your Future'. It is a mission shared between all schools within our Trust.

Here at Great Park Academy enabling our young people to achieve their potential and fulfil their ambitions underpins everything we do.

To this end, our curriculum is designed to help our young people develop academic skills and the quality of character to succeed: we create learners who are resilient, ambitious, respectful, innovative, imaginative, problem solvers and effective communicators.

Our mission is upheld by ensuring that the things that matter most to us - our values - are taught inside and outside the classroom and embedded in school life.

If you are a current or prospective parent, I invite you to meet me and our inspirational students and staff. Please visit our website regularly where you will find opportunities to learn more about our vibrant school, our mission, our values and aims.

I look forward to welcoming you.



K Billingsley

Katherine Billingsley
Principal
Great Park Academy

Our Mission

We are respectful

We are courteous and considerate in our interactions with others.

We are tolerant

We understand and value diversity. We respect diverse perspectives.

We recognise potential

We celebrate everybody's achievements.

We are aspirational

We aim high.

We are collaborative

We work together.

We are inclusive

We value everyone.

We are resourceful and creative

We are forward thinking.

We are responsible

We act professionally, ethically and with integrity. We take ownership for the wellbeing of others.



What our students say...

"I feel welcome at Great Park Academy because I have lots of friends and the teachers are kind." *James*

"Great Park Academy is my home, school and family. Friends are easy to make here." *Amelie*

"I enjoy lessons because they don't just educate you, they are something to look forward to." *Eleanor*

"Learning is great because the teachers support me with my work." *Lily*

"You are never alone, there is always someone to give you a warm welcome, whether it is a pupil or teacher." *Eleanor*

"I enjoy Great Park Academy because everyone is kind and welcoming." *Mason*

Our guiding principles for our community

All of our staff and students' actions and aspirations are underpinned by honesty, trust, reliability, respect for the legitimate rights of others, care for the weaker members of society, regard for the environment and a kindness towards other people.

We believe that a calm, friendly, disciplined atmosphere, in which hard work and co-operation are respected, is the best way to promote these values.

We aim to:

- Recognise and value each student as an individual with his or her particular abilities, needs and aspirations.
- Offer learning experiences which extend students' knowledge and promote their personal development, regardless of academic, social or cultural background.
- Ensure a genuine equality of opportunity.
- Build self-esteem and confidence through membership of a caring, secure community.
- Celebrate the success and achievement of all students.
- Offer guidance and counselling to assist students in the planning of their future education and careers.
- Promote working partnerships between schools and the wider community at local, national and international levels.
- Encourage a love of learning that will be with our students throughout their lives.





Our core values

As well as our guiding principles, our students exhibit exceptional core values through the PRAISE code:

P – Positivity

We foster a culture of optimism and encouragement, empowering students to embrace challenges with a hopeful outlook.

R – Resilience

We build strength through adversity and challenge, teaching students to recover quickly and thrive in the face of obstacles.

A – Aspiration

We inspire students to set ambitious goals and pursue success with dedication and confidence.

I – Inclusion

We celebrate diversity and ensure every student feels valued and supported in our welcoming community.

S – Success

We nurture each student's potential, guiding them towards achieving their personal and academic goals.

E – Empathy

We cultivate understanding and compassion, encouraging students to connect with and support one another.



Ofsted said in their 2024 report:

“Great Park is a calm and purposeful school. Pupils show high levels of respect for each other and adults.” Ofsted.



A curriculum that is rich in knowledge, diverse and inclusive

At Great Park Academy, we view knowledge as essential for success both academically and beyond the classroom. Our Key Stage 2 and 3 curriculum is broad, balanced and ambitious, building on prior learning while introducing new and stimulating knowledge to help prepare students for Key Stage 4.

Our students explore a diverse range of subjects and our rich curriculum prepares students to be informed, thoughtful citizens with an appreciation for diverse cultures, religions as well as the arts and sciences. In March of Year 9, students will select their Key Stage 4 options, guided by a comprehensive program of information and advice. Their chosen courses will commence in September of Year 10.

Our curriculum is designed to enrich students' cultural capital, fostering curiosity and deepening subject knowledge. We emphasise questioning skills and connect learning to real-world experiences to ensure career readiness. Teachers use scaffolding and modelling, employing an 'I do, we do, you do' approach to support learners of all abilities.

Delivered in a positive and ambitious manner, the curriculum emphasises the positive aspects of strong, healthy relationships and integrates personal development opportunities. It promotes spiritual, moral and social growth, including British values like democracy and respect for diverse beliefs. It also teaches students how to stay safe and healthy.



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Subjects we offer at Key Stage 4

The Compulsory Core Curriculum for students in Year 10 will include:

- English Language GCSE
- English Literature GCSE
- Mathematics GCSE
- Combined Science GCSE (2 GCSEs) or Separate Sciences in Biology, Chemistry and Physics (3 GCSEs) which can be taken as an additional option.
- A Humanities Subject (GCSE Geography or GCSE History)
- Personal, Social, Health, and Economic Education (non-examination course)
- Physical Education (non-examination course)
- Students will also receive statutory religious education throughout Key Stage Four through curriculum days, assemblies, and at times, as part of the PSHE curriculum.

Pupils will also be able to choose additional subjects from the following:

- Art and Design GCSE
- Computing GCSE
- Design and Technology GCSE
- Drama GCSE
- Geography GCSE
- History GCSE
- MFL Mandarin GCSE
- MFL German GCSE
- Media Studies GCSE (subject to staffing specialism)
- Music GCSE
- Physical Education GCSE



The power of reading

Reading is embedded throughout school life. We regularly share stories and reading opportunities with our children, including regular reading fluency opportunities.

Disciplinary literacy and subject-specific vocabulary form the gateway to academic success and are the backbone of every subject. Our children express themselves creatively and effectively by speaking and listening, reading and writing in every subject.

At Great Park Academy, we want to ensure all our students become competent speakers, readers and writers who can transfer these skills to every subject and to continue to develop these skills - unlocking their own futures.



"I love reading more than ever since joining Great Park Academy." *Nathan*

"Some books are hard to follow but it challenges me, therefore I like it. I enjoy how most of the books I read take me to a different place." *Holly*

"It is fun because we do poems and novels in English about the book we are reading in class and I like having some time to read." *Isabella*



Improving academic and personal development

At Great Park Academy, we are committed to developing both the academic abilities and character of our students and we recognise the close connection and importance of both.

Great Park Academy is an inclusive school in which all children are both challenged and supported to achieve their potential. All staff are committed to recognising and meeting the needs and aspirations of every student, across all aspects of school life, both within the classroom and beyond. Every student receives support from a form tutor, the opportunity to learn in 'real-world' settings locally as well as through an abundance of extra-curricular activities.

Our intention is that:

- All students leave having met their full potential.
- Students feel socially and emotionally secure.
- Manners, kindness, confidence, and resilience are visible in the way the students conduct themselves both in and out of lessons.
- All staff are at the heart of creating a climate for learning that is ambitious, exciting and rich in knowledge so that our students develop a love of learning that will last for a lifetime.

Achievement for all

Our vision is to create a school in which all pupils are encouraged, supported, and given the necessary tools to fulfil their potential both in school and beyond their school years.

We support students in their social and emotional development. Manners, kindness, confidence, and resilience are visible in the way the students conduct themselves both in and out of lessons.

All staff are fundamental in creating a climate for learning that is ambitious, exciting, and rich in knowledge so that our students develop a love of learning that will last for a lifetime and well beyond the classroom.





An education outside of the classroom

We believe that learning extends beyond the classroom boundaries. At Great Park Academy we offer a range of extracurricular clubs and activities that promote a variety of skills, develop confidence, and encourage students to take on new challenges.

Our classroom curriculum is supported by speaker visits and trips to regional, national, and international venues. Students get the opportunity to experience unfamiliar places and cultures alongside applying their learning in real world situations.

Enrichment activities run throughout the week before and after school, providing opportunities for students to learn new languages, develop new skills and build confidence and resilience through participation in sports and the performing arts, these include:

- Coding
- Football
- Basketball
- Fitness
- Futsal
- Italian
- Dance
- French
- Table Tennis
- Drama
- Handball
- Yoga
- Guitar
- Environmental
- Journalism
- Chess
- Performance
- Cross Country
- Netball
- Arts and crafts

Getting to know us

We work closely with first, primary and middle schools to plan for the needs of new students when they arrive at Great Park Academy.

Great Park staff visit students during Year 4 and Year 8 in their current schools, delivering assemblies and working in small groups to help in their transition to our school. During this transition phase, our pastoral and SEND team work collaboratively with students and their families to deliver additional sessions and offer any necessary support. All students will be offered the opportunity to visit the school in summer for a transition day, meet our staff and familiarise themselves with the surroundings.

This ensures that all children have a happy and confident start to their time at Great Park Academy.





Our new school

Our brand new school building is scheduled to open its doors to our students and staff for the first time in September 2025.

Uniquely placed, our new school building is positioned at the heart of the Great Park Community as well as against the backdrop of beautiful, natural green spaces. The school will be built to accommodate our projected 1200 students and will have state-of-the-art facilities, providing exceptional learning experiences for our school community.

The three-story building will house specialist teaching and learning indoor and outdoor facilities such as a theatre-style lecture room, open plan communal and eating areas, a library, science laboratories, computer suites, spacious and bright classrooms, as well as a range of indoor and outdoor sports facilities.

The school will have a dedicated sports hall, complete with changing rooms, which will be open to the local community for use in the evenings and on weekends placing Great Park Academy as a vital cornerstone within the wider community. Outdoor sports facilities will include rugby and football pitches, a 600-meter running track, and a cricket pitch complete with a synthetic cricket wicket.

For updates on the new school building project, design plans, and a video walkthrough, please visit our website. You can find more information in the News & Events section:

www.greatparkacademy.org.uk/news-and-events/permanent-site-updates

Ofsted said in their 2024 report:

“Pupils show high levels of respect for each other and adults. They behave well in lessons and act maturely around school, including at social times.

They have pride in their school and are excited about how the school will develop as it grows in size and moves to its permanent home.”

Ofsted said in their 2024 report:

“Despite the challenges of operating from temporary accommodation for longer than expected, leaders have established a school where pupils thrive, personally and academically.”



Our current home

While our new school is being built in Great Park, we are temporarily based in purpose-built facilities on the Gosforth Academy site.

We were delighted to open our brand-new teaching block at the start of September 2024 which houses some fabulous new teaching spaces including a brand-new science lab and high specification technical machinery for design and technology lessons. Every room is air conditioned and equipped with state of the art, digitally interactive screens to further support all of our learners.

Our community is growing quickly and our students have access to a wide range of specialist teaching facilities both indoors and outdoors. Students can enjoy various sporting and outdoor facilities such as our Multi Use Games Area, vast playing fields, Sports Hall, Sports Café and the recently laid full size 4G pitch.

We can take full advantage of our location at Gosforth Academy by using the nearby metro station for extracurricular visits and the Academy's state-of-the-art sporting facilities.



Ofsted rating

In July 2024 our school was rated as a Good Provider by Ofsted. The report can be viewed on our school website. Below are a few of the highlights:



“Pupils enjoy coming to school. Attendance is very high.”

“Adults know how to get the best out of each individual pupil. Pupils who need it receive highly effective support.”

“Pupils achieve very highly, including in the end of Year 6 national curriculum tests.”

“Pupils benefit greatly from an exceptional personal development programme.”

“Behaviour in lessons and around school is exemplary. Lessons are free from disruption. Pupils get along well with each other.”

“In mathematics and English, pupils, including those with SEND, achieve highly in their end of Year 6 national curriculum tests.”



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