Hermitage Academy

2027 PROSPECTUS



Leaders are ambitious that
all pupils will be successful." **Ofsted**

Welcome to Hermitage Academy

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Hermitage Academy, where we are committed to providing an exceptional educational experience for every student.

I am extremely proud to be leading a team of talented and dedicated staff who continuously strive to ensure that every child is successful while here, that they achieve well, and leave with many happy memories. We are deeply ambitious for the children of this community and work tirelessly to ensure they receive a great educational offer.

In our most recent Ofsted inspection, we were rated as 'Good' and are on a journey for excellence where we aim to compete with the very best schools both regionally and nationally. We believe in fostering a nurturing and inclusive learning environment that encourages academic excellence, personal growth, and most importantly, a love for learning. This is a high-achieving school where students thrive.

Our ethos is for students to enjoy coming to school every day. We offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities designed to develop sporting skills, nurture inquisitive minds, and our school productions develop students' confidence outside of the classroom.

Choosing the right school is an important decision and I am delighted that you are considering Hermitage Academy for the next step in your child's education.

L Maughan

Lindsay Maughan
Head of School

Ofsted
Good
Provider

The Hermitage experience

Everything we do at Hermitage Academy is tailored to making students feel happy about coming into school, enjoying learning, making good friends and feeling safe.

Our curriculum is broad and ambitious for all students. It is designed to challenge students' thinking through stimulating and exciting lessons that are adapted to meet all children's needs. We are determined that no student is disadvantaged in their learning. For those students with unique learning needs, our skilled staff work hard to make sure students achieve their potential - just the same as every student in our school.

We have high standards and expectations. The quality of teaching across the school is strong and staff are highly skilled practitioners. Alongside this, we have a vibrant extra-curricular offer that students can get involved in. Essential to our school culture is praise and recognition. Students can be awarded praise points for various positive achievements and contributions to learning and school life. Students could also receive praise postcards or a phone call home congratulating them on their effort and hard work.

We support students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education through our curriculum and, in particular, our PSHE and careers sessions. We host external speakers in school and embark on a range of exciting and stimulating visits and trips both close to home and much further afield.

As students progress through school, they enjoy varied and wide-ranging experiences thanks to our wealth of connections with workplaces and other schools, both here and abroad including local football clubs, businesses and charity groups.



We collaborate as a team within school and with Trust colleagues to constantly improve the experiences of our students

with a new focus and drive."

Teaching & *learning*

We believe students and their parents/carers have the right to expect a first class education, delivered by teachers who are committed to making learning challenging and rewarding.

We provide high-quality teaching and, in return, expect a high standard of learning in the classroom. This is evident in the excellent work you will see from our students. Teachers continually strive, through quality professional development and training, to deliver challenging lessons that engage students and drive them towards excellence.

High-quality home learning opportunities are key to students' success. Every student has their own Office 365 account through which they access homework, learning resources and strategies. Homework underpins how children learn and therefore high-quality homework is set regularly and monitored thoroughly.

Our practice is underpinned by the latest research evidence. Teaching staff employ strategies which help students learn and remember key content and our tracking system ensures that we can quickly identify students who are struggling to complete work so that appropriate support can be offered.

Careers guidance, promotion and signposting is embedded throughout our curriculum and we are dedicated to preparing students for all of the opportunities a forever developing world has to offer. Through bespoke careers guidance, job exposure, work experience, employer interactions, CV building and interview preparation students leave Hermitage Academy ready for their next steps.

The Government encourages schools to 'promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.' At Hermitage Academy these values form part of the school ethos and are embedded throughout our curriculum.





Our vision and values

Our vision is simple and shared by all schools in the North East Learning Trust – that every child experiences excellence every day.

This fundamental goal stands as the cornerstone of every decision we make and is an aspiration that staff at Hermitage Academy are dedicated to delivering.

Our vision is supported by a set of values that set the tone for learning. These start with the important job of encouraging students to aim high and make the most of their talents.

Moving on we aim to provide students with an education that enables each of them to achieve their full potential and learn with confidence in a safe and supportive environment.

We also aim to create a kind, happy and disciplined culture and to nurture in our students a deep love of learning and a strong work ethic. Alongside this, we endeavour to nurture students' sense of social responsibility and their spiritual and personal development.

Our students are taught to respect both themselves and others, and to understand and value our community that is comprised of so many different individuals. Each student is unique and important, and we seek to foster integrity, resilience, creativity, good manners and sensitivity to the needs of others in each of them.

Support & *celebrate*

Our priority is to ensure that every child reaches their full potential by making their safety and happiness our priority. This commitment is at the heart of our school and we work tirelessly to remove any barriers to learning. We believe in celebrating successes and rewarding students who embrace school life and work hard.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PHSE)

Year managers and form tutors see their students every day with a focus on providing individual support, where every student is well known and cared for. Form tutors are students' first point of contact. As a team, they deliver our PHSE curriculum where all students learn the necessary knowledge and skills to cope with the ever changing, modern world with confidence and resilience.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and pastoral support

Our pastoral staff work extensively with other staff, parents/carers and external agencies to provide exceptional personal support and ensure that students flourish and leave us as well rounded individuals.

Our committed SEND team works diligently to address these needs through strategies such as in-class targeted support and bespoke support sessions. Their goal is to ensure that every student achieves their best possible progress, both academically and pastorally.

We listen to our students and work hard to build good working partnerships with parents and carers. This way we are able to operate a flexible system of support that breaks down barriers and gives every child the opportunity to succeed.

House system and rewards

Students will join one of four houses within Hermitage Academy: Ambition, Evolution, Integrity, and Synergy. Students belong to their house family and work together to earn praise points for positive behaviour and attitudes resulting in a termly winning house. Rewards include silent discos, pizza evenings, inflatable assault courses and much more. Praise points are earned for displaying our 'RAMP' characteristics: respect, appearance, manners and punctuality.



"*Hermitage Academy has bounced back* **stronger than before, under effective leadership there has been significant improvement and commitment to high standards not seen before."**

Our approach to extra curricular

At Hermitage Academy, we offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities to enrich students' personal and social development.

Students can get involved in sporting activities, either for the pure joy of playing or in competitions. Our sports provision is excellent, and we offer various sporting activities and events outside of the normal school day.

We also have a huge choice of clubs where we encourage all students to explore their interests and enjoy the full community life of the school.

Our imaginative programme of educational visits has included trips to China, Austria, Italy and Iceland.

Additionally, our school has earned a growing reputation for outstanding public performances, with highlights including a production of 'Aladdin', performing at The Glasshouse, Gateshead, and Holocaust Memorial at Durham Cathedral.

Here are just some of our clubs and activities:

- **Hermitage Voices**
- **Keyboard Works**
- **Guitar Lessons**
- **Musical Rehearsals**
- **Drum Practice**
- **Lego Club**
- **Chess & Games Club**
- **Craft & Knitting**
- **Book Club**
- **Astroturf Activities**
- **Netball**
- **Football**
- **Basketball**
- **Badminton**
- **Rugby**
- **Fitness**
- **Trampoline Club**
- **Photography**





Moving up from primary

Starting a new school is a truly exciting time so we do our utmost to support children (and their parents/carers!) to ensure that their transition from primary school is as smooth as possible.

It is so important that when your child joins us, they are prepared and ready for new challenges. We want your child to arrive in September feeling excited about this new chapter of their lives.

We understand that starting a new school can feel quite daunting so we do everything we can to ensure children feel as confident as possible about their next steps and settle in quickly to new routines.

Towards the end of the summer term, there is a transition evening which takes place at the same time as the transition days. Parents/carers and children are most welcome to visit the school, meet staff and current students, tour the building and ask any questions they might have. Senior members of staff, the pastoral team and our special educational needs coordinator are always on hand during our open events.

All Year 6 pupils are invited to attend the transition days during the summer term. This is an important time when many worries are laid to rest. The children spend a few days in their new school, take part in timetabled lessons, meet teachers and most definitely meet new friends and have fun.

They also have the chance to explore the school as a big worry is always getting lost!



Sixth Form

At Hermitage Academy, our thriving sixth form offers students the opportunity to complete their 11-18 education in a familiar and supportive environment that offers an unwavering commitment to high-quality higher education.

At Hermitage Sixth Form we believe in potential. Our team of supportive staff will help all students succeed through a blend of academic focus and exciting extra-curricular opportunities.

Students will be challenged whilst being encouraged to be the best they can be and we will help all students that apply to us make the right choices about their studies and future career aspirations.

We have a dedicated team with a strong commitment and pride in providing high-quality teaching and learning, supported by first-class care and guidance for students.

We have an excellent track record of students gaining first choice university places as well as supporting students moving into higher-level apprenticeships and employment.

Student leadership

At Hermitage Academy, we believe in developing and nurturing leadership skills and we are extremely proud of tour student leadership team where representatives from each year group share the views of all students on important school matters. Each year, students can apply to be on the team, including as Head Girl or Head Boy, and we are consistently overwhelmed with the quality of the applicants and their well thought, excellent ideas. Taking part in leadership activities allows our students to get experience of running initiatives and being responsible to others. We value our students and believe it's important that every student's voice is heard. We regularly carry out student voice activities to gather their views and ensure their contributions are recognised and acted upon.



LEFT: The annual NELT summer concert, held at The Glasshouse in Gateshead, is an opportunity for children from all NELT schools to perform together for their families.

North East Learning Trust

Proud to be part of the North East Learning Trust

Our school is sponsored by the North East Learning Trust (NELT), a successful family of 14 schools across the North East.

NELT is widely regarded as providing some of the best education in the region, and indeed the country. Children in NELT schools make significant progress from their starting points, achieve impressive exam results, and go on to access a range of well-respected further and higher education opportunities.

NELT has grown to 14 schools with an impressive series of rapid school improvements under their belts. Without exception, every school that joined the Trust as 'inadequate' or 'requiring improvement' as judged by Ofsted, improved by two whole grades to become 'good' or 'outstanding' – this success is a testament to the unwavering dedication of a talented regional network of staff. Ofsted gradings have recently changed and all NELT schools who have been graded under the new system have met, and very often exceeded, all of the required standards.

Additionally, as a National Teaching School Hub, NELT is one of 87 centres across England offering quality training and development throughout teachers' careers.

NELT's founding school, The Academy at Shotton Hall, is also a National Research School, one of just 23 in England that up-skill teachers using cutting edge research,

The Trust is led by outstanding educators, including CEO Dame Lesley Powell DBE who actively contributes to regional and national educational development, most recently as co-chair of the National Key Stage 3 Alliance, which aims to improve teaching and learning across England in the early secondary school years.

NELT has also built up a wide network of specialist teachers and other experienced professionals to support schools to reach their full potential.

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