

A photograph of two young women in school uniforms. The woman in the foreground is smiling broadly, looking towards the right. She is wearing a dark blazer with purple trim and a purple tie. The woman behind her is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a classroom with a bulletin board and shelves.

**THE  
SKY'S  
THE  
LIMIT**

NORTH BIRMINGHAM ACADEMY  
**PROSPECTUS**



# WELCOME TO NORTH BIRMINGHAM ACADEMY



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to North Birmingham Academy.

We have a very clear vision for the future of our Academy. We are determined that our

students succeed and leave us as confident, articulate and aspirational young people, fully prepared for life and work in the 21st century.

We have high expectations for our students and have created an environment in which each individual is supported and challenged to achieve their full potential, both inside and outside the classroom. Accordingly, we expect our students to be ready to learn, to work hard and to take pride in their own and their Academy's achievements.

We have a great deal to offer our community and look forward to working with you in ensuring that we genuinely do make a difference to the life chances of our students.

The sky's the limit at NBA! Please do come and see just how much we have to offer. I can assure you of a warm welcome.

**Mrs K L Popratnjak**  
Principal



“At the heart of NBA is our commitment to excellence; not just a vision but woven into every aspect of what we do.” **Academy Principal**

## OUR VISION

At the heart of North Birmingham Academy is our commitment to excellence; not just a vision but woven into every aspect of what we do.

### WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

- Providing a caring and structured environment within which each student is individually nurtured and motivated to reach their full potential
- Offering a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum through innovative and quality teaching, strengthened by the Academy's exciting and stimulating specialisms of English and the Arts
- Inspiring confident young people with a 'can do' attitude
- Encouraging students to become responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society
- The continuous development of our staff to ensure that the best professional practice underpins our drive for student success
- Working in close partnership with parents, governors and the wider community

It is our aim to become one of the best educational establishments in Birmingham, based at the heart of our community, offering a high-quality and inspiring education for all.

## A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR



We are delighted that you are considering a place for your child at North Birmingham Academy. As sponsor, E-ACT is committed to supporting the Academy to become an outstanding place of learning with an inclusive ethos that promotes tolerance and respect for others.

We chose to become involved in this Academy because we are committed to young people and to improving educational achievement. We recognise the importance of each student being treated as an individual, given opportunities to flourish and to acquire the tools to succeed in adult life, whatever path they choose.

We are committed to supporting the Academy by:

- Sharing our educational experience and best practice in teaching
- Providing excellent links to further and higher education organisations, particularly Birmingham and Brunel Universities
- Supporting travel and work experience through our wide network of local and national business contacts

We are committed to an Academy that encourages students to think in a new way, to enjoy the challenge of learning and achieving, while also equipping them with the lifelong skills needed for successful personal and working adult life.

### **Sir Bruce Liddington**

Director General  
E-ACT

“NBA HAS TAUGHT ME INDEPENDENCE AND HOW TO RELATE TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS.”

**YEAR 11 STUDENT**

# E-ACT



# OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY

The Academy is committed to enabling each student to achieve academic success; but we also want them to develop enquiring minds, a balanced outlook on life and to become confident and responsible adults.

## OUR SPECIALISMS

Our specialisms in English and the Arts support our drive for excellence and are embedded throughout the curriculum giving students access to essential skills such as leadership, teamwork, critical thinking and innovation. These specialisms broaden and strengthen the unique educational opportunities available to our students and enrich the curriculum.

As a result of our English specialism, the Academy provides opportunities for all students to fully develop their English and Literacy skills which are key to their future education and employment goals. This is achieved through innovative teaching methods and a range of high quality, extra-curricular activities including working with professional writers, poets and performers. Our specialism in English gives students opportunities to work as writers and to showcase their work as well as drawing together skills from across the whole curriculum.

As a Specialist Arts College, the Academy provides numerous opportunities and experiences in performing and expressive arts. All students are encouraged to take advantage of our many extra-curricular activities and workshops to develop their skills. We work with professional dancers, musicians, theatres, artists and performing arts tours both here and overseas. Our students have access to the latest ICT software and technology in all the arts subjects.



“TEACHERS ARE DEDICATED,  
ENCOURAGING AND WILLING TO HELP.”  
**YEAR 11 STUDENT**

## OUR CURRICULUM

Our innovative curriculum is organised to allow a course of study that is broad, rich and flexible enough to allow a range of study routes as students progress through the Academy. We believe it is this variety that both challenges and excites the minds of all our students.

The curriculum is personalised to individual needs, shaped to suit particular interests and levels of attainment and enables students to follow their preferred learning pathways, be they academic or vocational. All students are able to enjoy, achieve and succeed in accordance with their individual talents and skills.

## OUR TEACHING

Our teaching is creative and constantly evolving. We have dedicated and talented teachers who develop students' interests and inspire them to pursue their own learning objectives and succeed in life. A range of cross-curricular events and activities challenge our students to use the skills they have learned in one subject and apply them to others. These activities enable students to develop a greater awareness and understanding of life and work in our global society.

# NURTURING TALENT

Within a culture of high expectations, North Birmingham Academy nurtures and develops the individual gifts, talents and interests of each and every student.

Consistent monitoring and a powerful mentoring system provide the support for each student to achieve their potential. Gifted and talented students and those with learning difficulties are equally important. Extension work is provided in lessons and we enrich the curriculum in many ways. Students with learning difficulties are supported wherever possible within the normal life and work of the Academy.

Our students are encouraged to believe in themselves and to pursue their dreams and aspirations. We prepare our students to be future leaders and change-makers; in doing so, we provide them with every opportunity to develop their wide ranging talents and skills so that, on leaving North Birmingham Academy, they are fully prepared for their role in society.



“A great feature of the school is the extra-curricular activities that benefit everyone. There’s dancing, singing, drama, music, sport and so many exciting clubs to attend.”  
**Year 8 student**

# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The Academy provides a comprehensive enrichment programme for students of all ages and abilities.

Every student has the opportunity to gain additional responsibilities in the Academy – from prefects to mentors, from sports leaders to running clubs and being ambassadors. All our students have the opportunity to develop their own leadership skills. Throughout the year we celebrate our students’ talents in a number of dance, drama and music performances.

We offer an exciting programme of extra-curricular activities and clubs run at lunchtime and after school on Fridays. From jewellery making and hip hop dance to podcasting and indoor football, there is something for everyone. With our Arts specialism we host a variety of activities focused on art, drama, dance and music and also have a strong tradition in sport with competitive matches and inter-house competitions. A full list of clubs and activities is provided at the start of each term.

Through our partnerships with local businesses as well as global accounting Pricewaterhouse Coopers, the international law firm Pinsent Masons and professional service provider Ernst & Young, we provide opportunities for all students to take part in a range of visits, trips, work experience and activities locally, nationally and internationally. These give our students unique opportunities to broaden their experiences and their outlook; as well as to support work done in the classroom.

We are fortunate to have our own outdoor study centre, located in Wales. Situated near the coast it provides high quality accommodation and recreation and study areas and is used many times throughout the year. We also have links with several outdoor adventure centres, all of which provide excellent opportunity for experiences beyond the Academy.

## OUR SIXTH FORM

North Birmingham Academy sets high standards in the sixth form, working closely with students to set achievable, personalised goals and meeting regularly to discuss their progress. The Sixth Form recruits the majority of its students from Year 11 and a small but significant minority from local schools. We are very proud of our sixth form students' achievements, most of whom go on to study at university.

We offer a broad curriculum in the sixth form – both academic and vocational – **from A- and AS-Levels to BTEC, diplomas and OCR Nationals**. Students are able to combine a selection of these qualifications in order to enhance their chances of academic and employment success and make the most of their individual skills and talents. For more information about all our courses please see the sixth form prospectus.

We believe it is important to develop the 'whole student', ensuring they leave us as responsible, committed and ambitious young people who are a credit to themselves, their families and their communities. All sixth form students are encouraged to make a positive contribution to Academy life by mentoring the younger students, assisting group tutors and being ambassadors at Academy events. Additionally students can become involved in volunteer work, work experience, job-shadowing and community service. All of which are focussed on cultivating initiative, responsibility, commitment and positive relations with staff, their peers, younger members of the Academy and the local community.

The sixth form gives our students the opportunity to continue to study and achieve in the inclusive and caring environment they have come to value.



“I WAS ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTED WITH MY RESULTS. IT JUST SHOWS THAT HARD WORK AND DETERMINATION PAYS OFF. I'D LIKE TO THANK ALL OF MY TEACHERS; IT WAS THEIR SUPPORT THAT ALLOWED ME TO ACHIEVE THESE FANTASTIC RESULTS.”

**SIXTH FORM STUDENT, 2 As and 2 Bs**

# STATE-OF- THE-ART NEW FACILITIES

“THE EXTRA SUPPORT FROM MY TEACHERS HAS HELPED ME GET BETTER GRADES IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT MAKES YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE.”

**YEAR 11 STUDENT**



In 2012/2013 the Academy will move into brand new state-of-the-art facilities offering an outstanding learning environment for the communities we serve. Combined with our innovative curriculum, the new facilities will support us in achieving our aim of becoming one of the best educational establishments in Birmingham, based at the heart of our community, offering high quality, rigorous education for all.

#### **PLANNED KEY FEATURES OF THE NEW BUILDINGS WILL INCLUDE:**

- Industry standard Arts facilities including two sprung floor drama and dance studios and a theatre for productions and community use
- State-of-the-art ICT, media and technology facilities
- Zones for each subject area with subject specific facilities which will enhance consistency as well as enable individual, one-to-one and group work
- A dedicated zone for learning support including tutoring, mentoring and counselling ensuring that students with emotional, learning or physical needs are supported to achieve their best
- A self-contained area for the sixth form where students can take on more responsibility for their final two years at the Academy
- Extensive sports facilities including a multi-use gym, activity room, large sports hall, all weather sports pitches and excellent changing facilities
- Spacious dining facilities
- Community facilities for meetings, sports and leisure, adult and family learning, community events and much more

The new buildings will provide exceptional teaching facilities for our young people and will be a source of local pride.

# LEARNING IN AND WITH OUR COMMUNITY

We are committed to playing a strong role in our wider community. Our growing relationships with local primary schools and businesses are an essential part of the Academy's development and success.

We share our facilities and expertise and are committed to providing a range of learning opportunities for the whole community throughout the year, including evenings and weekends. In support of our aim to be a community hub the design of our new buildings, which open in 2012/2013, will include an impressive range of facilities for everyone to use.

We are an Academy at the heart of our community committed to:

- Working closely with primary schools to ensure a smooth transition to the Academy
- Building on collaborative arrangements with local schools and partner agencies
- Expanding community involvement
- Creating facilities and activities for the benefit of the wider community

- Developing innovative relationships with partner organisations, including businesses and universities, locally and nationally
- Nurturing a strong philosophy of community service in our students
- Participating within the E-ACT family of schools to enhance current good practice

We are committed to forming a genuine partnership with families and carers, as we strongly believe this will support students in achieving their potential.

We encourage all parents and carers to take an active interest in the Academy and their child's education. To help, we will communicate regularly with parents and carers to ensure that they are kept informed of their children's progress. We also have a vibrant Parent and Staff Association, who organise a range of activities throughout the school year for students and adults within the school community.



“There is a sense of belonging, community and friendliness. There is always someone to talk to if you have a problem.”  
**Year 8 student**

# THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

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**E-ACT**



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