



University of  
Chester  
Academy  
Northwich



Prospectus

Aspire • Achieve • Excel

# Welcome

Welcome to the University of Chester Academy Northwich (UCAN). We are a unique learning centre focused on securing the best possible futures for each and every person within our learning community of Northwich and the surrounding area. It is our belief that every student who attends our Academy must be provided with the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding to continually progress throughout their time with us and to achieve personal success in the future. We expect every learner to aspire to be the best that they can be, to achieve beyond expectation and excel in every aspect of their lives.

The Academy's Arts and Science specialism mean that we can develop the creative and academic talents of our students, providing constant challenge and equipping them with the qualifications to become the next generation of society professionals and to achieve their career goals.

We are committed to serving our local and wider community and it is through strong partnership working that we are able to meet the varying needs of our students and their families. This network of support and educational partners means we have unrivalled access to a wide ranging amount of opportunities that enable any potential barriers to learning success being removed.

We are confident that your child will enjoy the learning experience we can offer them delivered by our team of dedicated learning professionals and specialist staff. I look forward to welcoming you and your child into the University of Chester Academy Northwich so together we can ensure that they 'Aspire, Achieve and Excel'.



Mr. M Wood  
UCAN Principal

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# Learning

A wide range of teaching strategies are employed both within and across subject areas. These actively engage students in their learning and include resource based learning, practical exploration, investigations, experiments, research, problem solving and field work that are supported by teacher exposition, questioning, explaining and modeling. Our Academy boasts unrivalled ICT access for our students with 8 dedicated suites which are utilised by all subjects to enhance the learning experience.

All students are supported, involved and challenged to enable them to become more competent and confident learners. Teaching helps students to link new ideas to their existing concepts. It also encourages understanding, application, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and the search for meaning. Students' curiosity and motivation are stimulated using direct, indirect and exploratory approaches.

Homework is an integral part of the academy's curriculum and allows for a continuation of learning and progress beyond the classroom. Subject teachers set homework according to school and departmental guidelines. Home learning encourages independent learning skills to grow and utilises resources that complement the set tasks completed during the school day.

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# Achieving

We believe that students who are happy at school will be successful in the widest sense of the term. At the University of Chester Academy Northwich we provide our students with a broad curriculum which will stimulate and challenge all students to achieve their full potential.

Prior attainment is used to set personal targets for each student to achieve in all of the curriculum areas they study and this takes place throughout each academic year. The progress of individual students is tracked throughout their time at the Academy and success is celebrated and intervention put in place where a need is identified. All students have a Personal Progress Tutor who they meet with regularly for a small group mentoring session and to provide ongoing care, guidance and support in academic and pastoral improvements.

Students are encouraged to support each other and, by using feedback on their progress, to assume increasing responsibility to take their learning forward. Formal assessment is undertaken at regular intervals throughout each academic year to monitor progress and learning. Students are organised into a variety of class groups in the school or 'within class' groups in subjects to promote effective learning and maximise progress.

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## Discovering

There is a broad academic curriculum with flexibility for different option choices at key points, supportive pastoral provision and an extended school curriculum with lots of opportunities for wide-ranging extra-curricular experiences and challenges.

The curriculum is organised to meet students' individual learning needs, provide appropriate challenges and ensure equality of opportunity. The school follows a 'Behaviour for Learning' structure which helps create a safe and secure learning environment.

We aim to prepare our students for adult life in the business and commercial world. The staff work closely with students to provide support and guidance on appropriate pathways to personal success.

Throughout Key Stages 3 and 4 there is a comprehensive programme of careers guidance. Students are encouraged to develop their enterprise skills through the curriculum and the various extra curricular activities they engage in. The Academy provides opportunities to explore the wider world through a rich menu of work experience, trips and visits. These enable students to reach out into our wider community and to forge links with businesses, other schools and local groups allowing for the development of their personal, academic and leadership potential.

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## Personalising

Personalised learning is a key dimension of our educational provision. We see it as our responsibility to identify, nurture and develop students' talents while supporting them to strengthen some areas.

We expect all students to achieve and for this to be most successful, their curriculum diet needs to be built around them as individuals. University of Chester Academy Northwich does not believe in a 'one size fits all' approach and constantly reviews its provision to ensure it meets the needs of its students.

Through the development of our community as a learning family we get to know our students and understand what will help them to make the most progress.

Students are actively involved in the decision making process within the Academy and have a range of forums in which they can express their opinions and share ideas individually and on behalf of their peers.

## Leading

Students are encouraged to develop their leadership skills by taking on one of the many positions of responsibility within the Academy – these include; Student Reception, Prefect and Senior Prefect, Student Council Representative, Sports Ambassador and Student Curriculum Leaders.

Our students play a significant role and lead a range of events within school. Working alongside staff, students have contributed to successful sporting events and run Maths workshops for Year 5 and 6 pupils with our main primary schools. The Academy is constantly looking at new ways it can provide additional leadership opportunities for all its students.

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## Developing

University of Chester Academy Northwich is a healthy school and has achieved the Healthy Schools Award. We promote healthy eating and support this by providing a range of healthy options including pasta, jacket potatoes, salads and fruit all available from the school's catering facility. Students are offered a wide range of sporting activities both in the curriculum and beyond. The Academy prides itself on providing an extensive programme of extra-curricular opportunities for students of varying interests and ability levels; these include Drama, Dance, Music, Languages and Art alongside sports, for example, Football, Rugby, Athletics and Badminton. All subject areas provide additional learning opportunities and support throughout the academic year. Healthy lifestyles are promoted through our PHSCE curriculum delivered by students' Personal Progress Tutor.

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## Supporting

The care and support of students is of paramount importance to us. The Academy aims to foster an atmosphere in which students, staff and parents can work together to ensure students receive an excellent educational experience. Each student is supported and advised as an individual and specialist support is provided where a need is identified. Interventions may be short term catch-up programmes or longer term individualised approaches or strategies. The Academy's ethos is one of inclusion where students feel valued and supported to develop the confidence, talents and skills required to reach their full potential and achieve excellence within and beyond the classroom. Within the University of Chester Academy Northwich we encourage a culture of respect for each other. Students support each other and consequently incidents of bullying are rare. However, we recognise that young people can and do face issues which make life tough for them; our level of support is outstanding and we always go the extra mile for all our students. Pastoral staff oversee interventions and also how and what external agencies might be used to support students to ensure the five outcomes of Every Child Matters (ECM). The school will work alongside parents/carers and, if necessary, adopt a multi - agency approach.

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## Exploring

University of Chester Academy Northwich has an outstanding reputation for its commitment to 'the arts'. We see this area as an innovative way of supporting our students learning and progress through the development of foundation learning skills, for example, group work, communication, confidence building and evaluation.

The Academy has extended its specialism to include Science. This builds on our local science and technology heritage and provides our students with the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding to follow the career pathway of their choice.

The introduction of our second specialism in Science means that students are able to extend their learning strategies to include increased opportunities to experiment, explore, analyse and predict amongst many others.

We encourage all students to explore learning in their preferred style and for this we provide exciting and stimulating learning experiences across our entire curriculum.

Students will explore key skills and concepts in a variety of ways in each subject they study. Although some subjects can facilitate this practical approach to learning, all subjects endeavour to engage students through a range of learning and teaching styles.

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## Contributing

Students are encouraged to make a positive contribution to wide ranging events on a local and National level. Our students contribute to the local community in a variety of ways from enrichment activities, volunteering in the local community, becoming sports leaders, Maths leaders and assisting at events with our partner primary schools. University of Chester Academy Northwich values students' contribution to school life. Students take an active part in staff interviews, school evaluation and have a forum for discussion through the Student Council. Our Prefects and Senior Prefects are excellent ambassadors for the school and represent us with pride at a range of local and national events.

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## Welcome from Our Sponsor's

We are very proud to be able to be the sponsor for this Academy and feel confident that together we will guide UCAN to become an outstanding place of learning and an important central resource for all within the community. The University of Chester Academies Trust is a prominent multi-sponsor of Academies, one of only a small number of sponsors nationally to be formally accredited by the DfE for the high quality of our sponsorship provision. The University of Chester has over 170 years of experience of delivering educational excellence and now UCAN has joined UCAT's 'family' of Academies; this entitles UCAN to expert support and quality services, which will be the first step towards outstanding achievement and success for your child and opportunities for the whole of the Academy community.

*Dr Colin Hankinson*  
*Chief Executive*  
*UCAT*

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