



North Oxfordshire Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning



ACE School of
CHARACTER



NOA Family, Proud to Belong.

Confidence ■ Ambition ■ Respect ■ Determination

PROSPECTUS

A Warm Welcome to North Oxfordshire Academy



I am delighted to welcome you to North Oxfordshire Academy, part of United Learning. The United Learning motto is 'The Best in Everyone', and we wholeheartedly subscribe to this philosophy.

I know what a truly amazing experience it is to be part of the North Oxfordshire Academy community; I am lucky enough to have worked at NOA since 2011 and have seen first-hand how our community has transformed lives. I am very proud of our school and, most importantly, of the students and staff with whom we have the pleasure of spending each day. When joining North Oxfordshire Academy you will join the NOA family; a family we are all very proud to belong to.

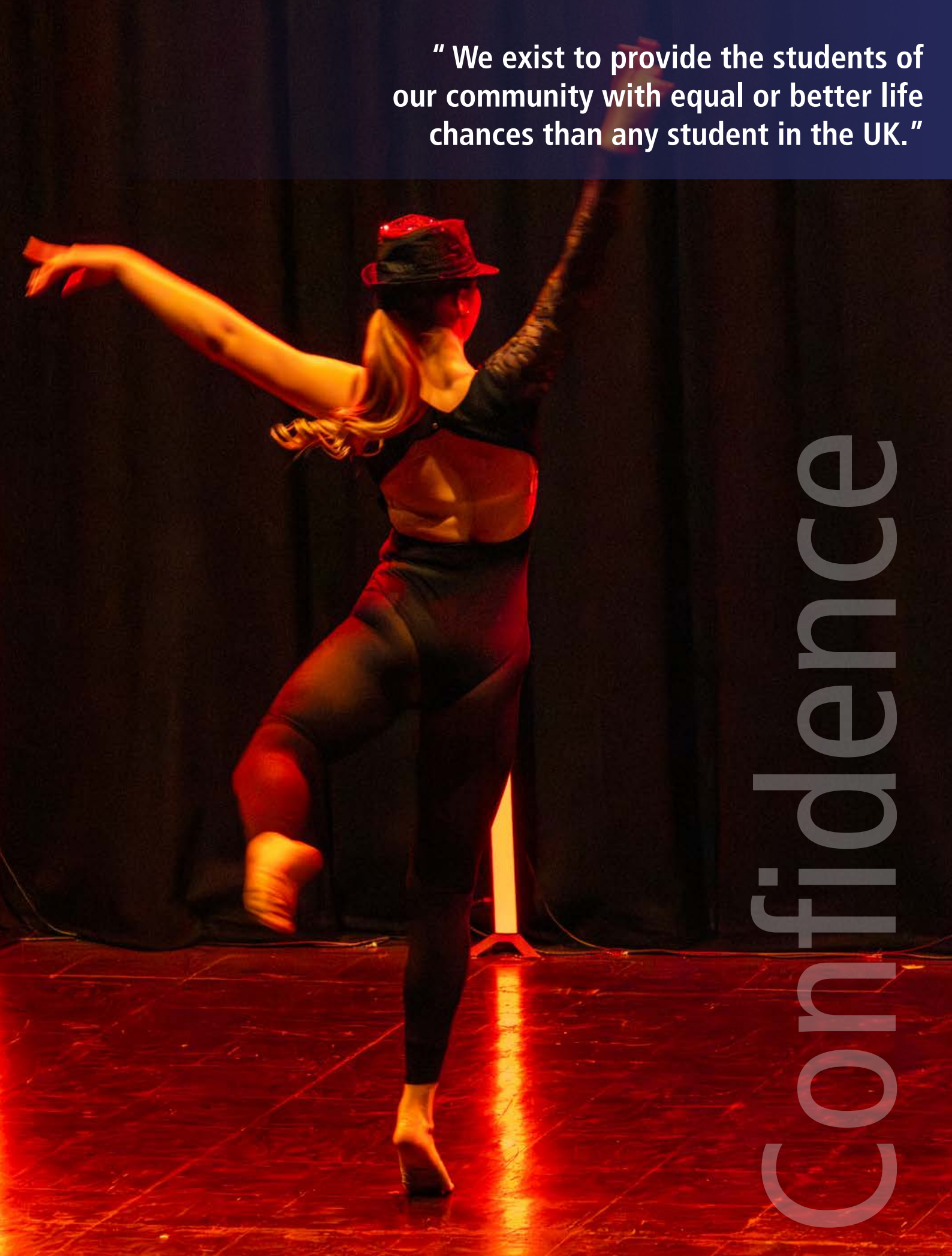
North Oxfordshire Academy exists to provide our students and families with the very best life chances in Oxfordshire. Our vision is for North Oxfordshire Academy to be a place where students receive a world class education in character and academics so that students are happy and fulfilled. Our values of Confidence, Ambition, Respect and Determination support us all to develop into thoughtful and confident citizens.

North Oxfordshire Academy is a place where students work hard to achieve their dreams. We believe that high quality academic outcomes are important, but our young people are so much more than grades. We develop character so our students become confident, ambitious, respectful, determined members of our community. We expect every member of the NOA community to work hard to pursue their dreams; relentless hard work builds character.

We are fully committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of our young people; it is at the heart of what we do. Every decision we make as an organisation puts our students first. We are a fully inclusive school and commit to removing barriers so that every student at the Academy belongs

I hope you find the information in this prospectus helpful. Please visit our website: www.northoxfordshire-academy.org for further information.

Ellie Jacobs
Principal



“ We exist to provide the students of our community with equal or better life chances than any student in the UK.”



Our CARD Values

Confidence

Definition: believing in yourself and your ability to grow and succeed

- The ability to interact with others positively and effectively
- The ability to express oneself expressively and with fluency
- The belief in your ability to succeed in a particular task or goal



Ambition

Definition: a strong desire to achieve something

- Aiming to achieve the highest possible outcome
- Aspiring to achieve the best possible jobs, college and university places
- Offering leadership opportunities for all



Respect

Definition: a quality shown through thinking and acting in a positive way

- Respect for others
- Respect for ourselves
- Respect for our environment



Determination

Definition: the ability to continue trying to do something, although it may be difficult

- Not giving up during adversity
- Embracing the challenges of learning at a higher level
- Support each other to achieve



The Best in Everyone

Part of United Learning

North Oxfordshire Academy is a proud member of United Learning, a unique group of independent and state schools committed to providing excellent education through which all students can progress, achieve and go on to succeed in life. We work collaboratively to achieve their 'The Best in Everyone' ethos. This ethos supports our 'CARD Values': Confidence, Respect, Ambition and Determination.

North Oxfordshire Academy is a fully inclusive school, welcoming students and staff of all faiths and backgrounds.

Our Vision:

To be an academy where students receive a world class education in character and academics leading to happiness and fulfilment in life.

Our Mission:

We exist to provide our students with the best life chances in Oxfordshire.



Character Education

We firmly believe in developing the character of our students through our Character Development Programme.

While we are proud of the important focus on academic excellence, we believe students need many other opportunities and experiences to become well-rounded young adults.

We expect students to contribute to our school community and society throughout their time with us. They are encouraged to step outside their comfort zone and try things they would not normally do, to persist in the face of difficulty and become resilient in overcoming obstacles.

In addition to our extensive range of extra-curricular clubs, our students enjoy workshops, university visits, talks from inspirational speakers, and opportunities to collaborate with their peers at United Learning schools across the country.

We encourage our students to continually reflect on what good character is and how they can develop themselves further. Our 'CARD Values': Confidence, Ambition, Respect and Determination, part of our daily language, and our praise system encourages students to display these values.

These character values underpin everything we do at the school and are visualised across all areas of the Academy. This year, we were incredibly proud to be the first school in Oxfordshire to receive the Character Quality Mark, in recognition of our Character Development Programme. A programme designed to challenge, inspire and excite our students, preparing them for the ups and downs of life.

“ One thing I’ve learned outside the classroom is that friendships happen naturally. Even if you think you won’t make friends at first, you usually will over time.”
Year 7 student

Removing Barriers

Children learn and develop in different ways. Teachers recognise this and use different teaching styles in the classroom to cater for various ways children learn. This means that most children will learn in the classroom without any additional support. At NOA, the Inclusion Team work with the mainstream class teachers to help support children in their mainstream subjects. Each child with SEN is provided a Learning Coach who will act as an advocate for the child’s learning and help them access the curriculum.

Sometimes however, students need something more than the standard offer and our Inclusion department (known as Thrive provide the link between extra provision and the classroom.

We follow the graduated approach to SEND model. This means that we first try to ensure that every child (regardless of SEND status) has access to high quality teaching. Our second Wave is to provide small group support and Learning Coach support in class. If more is needed then we will liaise with key stake holders, including the child, parents, and any external agencies, to offer a bespoke offer on an individual basis.

How do we identify pupils with SEND?

There are several ways in which children can be identified as having a special educational need:

- Parental concerns.
- Teacher and Pastoral Team identification.
- Liaison with other educational professions (for example Educational Psychologists or Specialist Teachers).
- Liaison with external agencies (e.g. medical professionals, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists etc.)
- At transition meetings with primary
- School transfer information.
- Monitoring and assessment information (tracking of progress.)



My Culture Day Fashion Show

" I would describe my school experience as exciting, different, and enjoyable because I've had lots of new experiences and fun opportunities. "

Year 7 student

What We Learn In Key Stage 3

Our curriculum comprises a broad and balanced range of learning experiences for each student to enable them to build a bank of rich knowledge. Our personalised curriculum, in conjunction with excellent teaching, impacts positively on learning and progress.

The curriculum is carefully sequenced in every subject area to ensure that students build on previous knowledge and deepen their understanding. In turn, this enhances each student's self-esteem and emotional wellbeing and promotes British values in conjunction with an understanding and appreciation of cultures and beliefs different from their own.

In the first three years (Key Stage 3), students follow a core English, Mathematics and Science curriculum complemented by History, Geography, Information Technology, Languages, Design Technology, Art, Theatre in Practice, Music, Religious Education, PSHE and Physical Education.



How We Will Be Learning

At North Oxfordshire Academy, our teachers combine their expertise with evidence-informed techniques to maximise students' learning opportunities.

Our approach is underpinned by Rosenshine's Principles (such as providing model answers for students to learn from). In addition, we use many of Doug Lemov's 'Teach Like A Champion' techniques (for example, all students showing their ideas to the teacher via their mini whiteboards).

All teaching methods employed at the Academy are underpinned by research showing the impact of the above. As a result, students will experience 'consistent classrooms' – regularly enjoying similar teaching techniques across the curriculum.

Teachers plan their lessons to ensure they provide appropriate support, adaptation and challenge for all students. This means that all students can access the tasks whilst effectively challenging the more able in the classroom, ensuring no learner is left behind.

Home learning is set for all students, so they consolidate and apply their learning outside of the classroom. Home learning timetables are shared with students and parents via the Arbor portal. Home learning support clubs run each day after school.

"My advice to younger students would be that school might seem scary at first, but once you get used to it, it's actually really okay and enjoyable."

Year 7 student



Student Wellbeing

Oxfordshire Academy students and families are supported by a high-quality wellbeing offer. Each year group is supported by a Welfare Manager and a member of the Student Engagement Department. The wellbeing offer depends on the needs of your child, but examples of our wellbeing offer include:

- Cognitive behaviour therapy sessions in school
- Counselling for parents of NOA students
- Family Links parenting course (face to face)
- 1:1 and small group intervention bespoke to the student's needs, led by our Welfare and Interventions Officer
- Young carer support
- Daily welfare drops in available to all students at break and lunchtimes
- Distraction Youth Group
- School Nurse
- School police officer
- Referral to external support agencies such as CAMHS

“ I’m most proud of doing a V5 boulder in rock climbing, getting into Set 1 for English, and reaching 31st place in the TIP rankings because they all took a lot of hard work and practice. ”

Year 7 student

Safe and Supportive Environment

Our character values are at the heart of everything we do, we have built our high standards of behaviour and conduct for all students around these values, and we encourage our students to demonstrate each value daily. In addition, we take great pride in our strong pastoral care and safeguarding systems. These are in place to ensure that each student feels safe and confident in their learning environment.

Each student will have a Form Tutor as their first point of contact and every year group has a non-teaching Pastoral Leader who is there for additional support.

We have a strict uniform policy and expect students to wear their uniforms with pride and be excellent ambassadors for North Oxfordshire Academy in the local community and beyond.

Full details of North Oxfordshire Academy uniform can be found here on our [Uniform Information](#) leaflet.

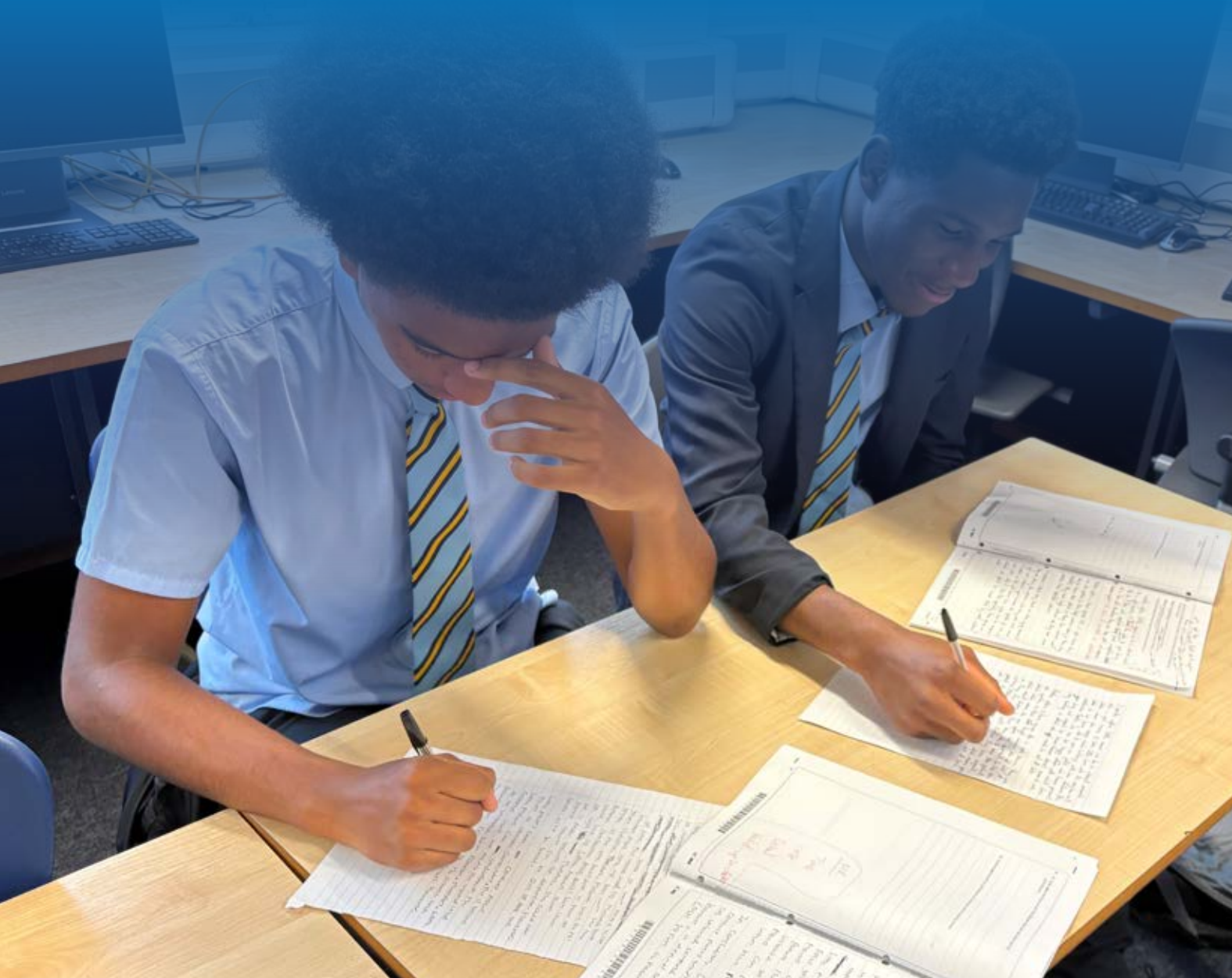


The School Day

North Oxfordshire Academy opens from 8.15 am daily. Students are welcome to eat breakfast in the canteen or socialise with friends in our covered courtyard area. Students are expected on site by 8.40 am when the first school bell rings. Tutor time starts formally at 8.45 am and runs until 9.15 am. Each student will have five one-hour lessons per day. Students have a twenty-minute break between lessons 2 and 3. Lunchtime is thirty minutes between lessons 3 and 4. Lunch options include a hot and cold food offer from the canteen and courtyard pod. Halal, vegetarian and vegan options are available. Students are welcome to bring in their own packed lunches.

The academy day timings can be found here:

<https://www.northoxfordshire-academy.org/about-us/key-information/the-academy-day>



“ My teachers had a really positive impact on me because they gave me lots of opportunities to take part in sports I enjoy, like football, cricket, athletics, and rugby. ”

Year 7 student



Character Enrichment

Character Enrichment is a significant part of the North Oxfordshire Academy experience. Engaging in enrichment activities helps our students develop their character, learn new skills, and experience various activities outside their formal learning environment.

Students can select from a variety of activities led by our enthusiastic staff. We pride ourselves on offering a wealth of clubs, catering for all students, there is something for everyone. Options

include music, drama, sports, gaming, Dungeons and Dragons, and coding, not to mention animal club, Forest School, library sessions, board games and chess. Activities take place before school, during lunchtime and after school.

At break and lunchtime students can also participate in fun activities including bingo, karaoke, dancing, football, tennis and making the most of our running track. We also offer mindfulness activities providing quiet time for students.

In addition to daily enrichment, we offer a broad and diverse trip offer. Places visited have broadened students' horizons and developed their character. In 2026, students took part in a two-week expedition trip to Kenya helping with community projects. More local trip destinations have included Barcelona, Normandy, Iceland and Cern alongside UK destinations.



Personal, Social, Health, Careers Education

At North Oxfordshire Academy, we are passionate about providing our students with a well-rounded spiral and sequenced curriculum that incorporates the hidden skills and knowledge that will help our students nurture their own personal development. Today's young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. In this environment, young people need to learn how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive and balanced way.

Personal, Social, Health, Careers Education (PSHCE) education is a subject that supports our students to be healthy, safe and prepared for modern life. It is a subject in which our students will develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to manage their lives, now and in the future. NOA students benefit from regular, planned PSHCE lessons as well as extended PSHCE mornings throughout the year.

Relationships, Sex and Health education (RSHE) is taught as part of PSHCE, to teach our students to understand human sexuality and to respect themselves and others.

Other aims of RSHE are to cover the following areas of Healthy living:

- Physical, Mental and Social wellbeing
- Mental wellbeing
- Internet safety and harms
- Physical health and fitness
- Healthy eating
- Drugs/Alcohol and tobacco
- Health and prevention
- Basic first aid and changing adolescent body

PSHCE also incorporates aspects of Careers, finance, citizenship, equality and diversity and British values.



Celebrations and Rewards

Student effort, participation and achievement is rewarded and celebrated in lots of different ways at the academy. Students and parents have access to the Arbor portal where they can track their reward points. Reward points are linked to our character values. Students collect Golden CARD tickets with weekly and termly draws. Prizes are much sought after! In addition, students regularly take part in year group celebrations. In recognition of exceptional effort and character students can be awarded a Principal Certificate. Annually we hold the North Oxfordshire Academy Best in Everyone Awards ceremony which is a wonderful opportunity to showcase NOA students' incredible achievements.



How to Apply for a Place at North Oxfordshire Academy



Fill in the online application form at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schools/apply-school-place/year-7-applications>



Online applications are encouraged where possible. However, if you do not have internet access, you can request a paper application from the School Admissions Team or download and print an application form from their website and post it to:

School Admissions Team, County Hall, New Road Oxford, OX1 1ND

Contact the Oxfordshire County Council School Admissions Team on 01865 519800 Option 2.

The deadline for applications is 31st October.

North Oxfordshire Academy is socially, academically, and culturally inclusive and welcomes applications from all. Each of the 180 places in each year group is open to students of all abilities. As such, there is no selection by ability or faith. Arrangements for admissions are clear and fair and the school abides by the School Admissions Code and the School Admissions Appeals Code.

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