



# The Blyth Academy



## PROSPECTUS 2013/14

A Northern Education Trust Academy



# A change for the better



*"The school is fun and caring with lovely staff."*

John

From October 2013 The Blyth School will become The Blyth Academy. The Academy will be led by Alison Jobling, who as Acting Head of The Blyth School, has made many changes to improve the success of our students and even more are planned.

The initial focus has been on making sure that there is the right atmosphere in the Academy and students are ready and able to learn and develop.

Feedback from the research carried out at the end of the summer term from students, parents and staff, both at the Academy and in our partner primary schools, was very clear and we have listened and taken appropriate action.

Students now know what is expected of them and behaviour, both in and out of lessons, has improved rapidly.

We have renewed our focus on the individual care and support and learning progress of each of our students.

Great strides have been made in making lessons relevant, interesting and engaging.

Our aim is for all our students to be the best they can be and to succeed in further education and in employment.



*“My favourite subject is Geography because we always have fun lessons!”*

*Tonia*

## New sponsor

After discussions with the Department of Education and with Northumberland County Council and following consultation with staff, students, parents and the community The Northern Education Trust have become our sponsors.

The Northern Education Trust already sponsor a number of Academies across the North of England. These include the rapidly improving North Shore Academy in Stockton and the high performing Dyke House College in Hartlepool.

The Trust is made up of experienced educationalists who have been Heads, Principals and Senior Leaders in education and their experience will make sure Blyth becomes an excellent Academy which helps all students achieve their best.



# A great place to learn

The Blyth Academy is a great place to learn with a mature and orderly atmosphere and excellent facilities set in a brilliant building designed to provide positive support for learning.

Our aim is for all our students to be the best they can be and to succeed in further education and in employment. We have renewed our focus on individual care and support for the learning progress of each one of our students. We listened to students, parents and other stakeholders.

We have spent a great deal of time creating a Virtual Learning Environment called Frog for students to access from home with simply a PC and the internet. Students can log into Frog from home and can see revision materials, lesson resources and homework information. This is simple and easy to use and all students will be trained in how to use our virtual learning environment to lengthen the school day and encourage our learners to become more independent.



*“The staff at the Blyth School are very friendly and helpful.”*  
Jayne

## Creating successful learning journeys

Every student has a different learning journey. At The Blyth Academy we treat every student as an individual and will support and challenge them to do their best.

Every student is supported to reach and surpass their learning goals. We work hard with our primary school colleagues to make sure that the journey which students started continues at The Blyth Academy and we also work with local universities and colleges to help bridge the gap for our students when they move on towards their careers.

All students in Years 7-11 will have tailored tutor time to focus on skills needed to be successful learners. These skills focus on Literacy, Numeracy, Reading and Study Skills. Sixth Form students are actively involved with supporting younger students to achieve in these areas, providing a positive role model and creating an aspirational and cooperative school.



*“Everyone at the school is really friendly. I have made lots of new friends here.”*

*Olivia*

## Supporting each student's learning

The Academy is developing a strong learning culture with a range of teaching and learning styles to meet the needs of all students. We want to help each student to be an independent learner within a supportive environment.

- Every student has clear goals that they know they can achieve and that are clearly related to their developing learning journey
- The curriculum will have options and will be tailored so that each student has a work programme which engages them
- We will track and monitor each student's progress to make sure they are doing their best so that we can provide any additional support that is needed.

We have teachers and associate staff who will support all students to be the best they can be. Where a student has a barrier to learning we have a dedicated team who will work with individual students to address their issues. This team helps develop strong social, spiritual and behavioural standards in the Academy and encourages students to aim high.

The Academy is at the start of a journey to develop a 'Well-Being Centre' which will promote an inclusive, multi-agency approach to support all students. The Centre will offer special educational needs support as well as access to a range of health services and counselling. A Parent Support team will work closely with families to provide further help, support and guidance and facilitate development of basic and key skills for all family members.

### Effective and exciting lessons

We are aiming to make all lessons outstanding.

Teachers will plan and prepare effectively and make lessons as exciting as possible using the very best practice.

# Building on firm foundations



*“We like our uniform at the Blyth School it makes us look smart and prepared for learning.”*

*Heather*

We work with all students in our partner primary schools both in their own schools and in our Academy. Our staff will know the primary students as individuals which will help us to identify their learning goals if they decide to join us.

We recognise that moving to a secondary school is a big change for students and we work hard to make the process as smooth and as easy as possible. We visit our partner primary schools as often as we can so that when students move on to us they recognise our faces.

## Listening to parents and carers

We encourage parents and carers to express their views, find out how their children are progressing or to raise concerns. If you wish to speak to a specific person it is always best to telephone to arrange a time.

Every student has an Academy diary to record their homework and reminders for lessons. Parents and carers are encouraged to read these diaries. We will contact parents and carers by phone or letter every time we want to say something good about progress made and at some times when no progress is being made. We believe that the learning journey of every student is supported by a partnership of the student, the staff and the parent or carer. When all three of us work together the student makes excellent progress.



*“The staff are very helpful and willing to give up their own time to run activities & clubs.”*

*Rachel*

## One School Rule

As a Northern Education Trust Academy we operate our One School Rule.

*“All students and adults are expected to behave in a responsible manner, both towards themselves and others, showing consideration, courtesy and respect at all times.”*

The One School Rule applies to everyone and establishes clear expectations for all students and adults within the school community.





## Rewards and celebration

We have high expectations that students will have a positive attitude, will want to learn and enjoy their learning and their time at the Academy.

We celebrate their achievements, success and positive attitudes whether that is for academic work, sports, volunteering or other things in whole school and year group assemblies, as well as giving verbal and written praise in letters, certificates and phone calls home.

When students do well they will be rewarded using our credit system where credits can be used to buy items from the Academy reward catalogue. There are also weekly and half termly opportunities to win prizes for good behaviour and achievement.



*“The thing I like about school is that everyone encourages you to do the best you can.”*

Rhys

# Transition to the Academy

We hope that parents and students in primary schools will already have had some positive experience of The Blyth Academy whether it is a sport or dance session or a lesson in their primary school or at the Academy.

Joining the Academy is straightforward and we operate the same admissions policy as Northumberland County Council. From 12th September 2013 applications are open for entry in September 2014.

Our school website [www.theblythacademy.org](http://www.theblythacademy.org) provides further information about us. There is a special Primary Zone section for primary school students to access before they join us.

## A warm welcome

We hope that this brochure gives a good idea of what The Blyth Academy is like and our determination that every student should achieve their best.

If you want to find out more about us then come to one of our open events which will be advertised on our website. You can also come and visit us and see the Academy in action at other times. Call us for an appointment on number: **01670 798100**.





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