

Furness Academy, Park Drive
Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA13 9BB
Tel: 01229 484270
Email: info@furnessacademy.co.uk

www.furnessacademy.co.uk

Furness Academy is part of the Furness Education Trust, an exempt charity. Furness Education Trust is a Company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales under Company Number: 06895426
Registered Office: Furness Academy, Park Drive, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria, LA13 9BB



FURNESS

ACADEMY

PROSPECTUS 2025/2026

RESPECT
RESPONSIBILITY
RELATIONSHIPS



WELCOME TO FURNESS ACADEMY



100%

of parents say that their child has **settled** in well at **Furness Academy**



WE ENCOURAGE
ALL OUR STUDENTS
TO STAY CURIOUS,
BE ENGAGED AND
AIM HIGH

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

Welcome to Furness Academy, where I am delighted to be the new Headteacher.

At Furness Academy, we foster a strong, positive culture for learning and pride ourselves on the high expectations and standards that are maintained by all students. These expectations are here to support you in becoming the very best version of yourself.

When you visit Furness Academy, you will see that we are more than just a school. Underpinned by our core values of respect, responsibility and relationships, we encourage all our students to stay curious, be engaged, and aim high, be respectful, act responsibly, and always show kindness to others.

Our aim is simple but powerful: to send every student out into the world confident, prepared, and equipped with the values and character needed to succeed in any path they choose. During your child’s time with us, they will be grounded in the skills they need for adult life, supported by expert and caring staff in our world class facilities.

The strong sense of community, shared purpose, and commitment to the personal and academic growth of each student is what motivates me every day.

Furness Academy really is a special place, and I feel incredibly privileged to lead such a dedicated and talented team of staff who work hard to support our students. We take our responsibility seriously and are confident that if you choose Furness Academy as your child’s school, you will be impressed and pleased with your decision.

This prospectus is a small insight into what life is like at Furness Academy, but we do hope you will visit us and gain a fuller sense of the education and opportunities we offer to the young people in our care.

I am proud to be headteacher of Furness Academy and look forward to welcoming you into our Furness Family.

Helen Robinson - *Headteacher*



“

My child has developed well in Furness Academy. Her teachers have supported her throughout, guiding her to find her potential. All though few in number, anytime I have contacted school, each issue has been resolved efficiently.

- Year 9 parent



OUR SPONSORS

BAE Systems is proud to sponsor Furness Education Trust, of which Furness Academy is a part.

We are a strong supporter of local education and have demonstrated our commitment to Furness Academy from its inception. With a shared sense of purpose, we want to help provide the best learning opportunities for all local children and young people.

BAE Systems has worked hand-in-hand with Furness Academy for many years and we place great emphasis on the importance of local education.

At Furness Academy, you can look forward to your child being provided with a superb education in a wider range of subjects from the Arts to STEM, alongside excellent facilities and supported by our sponsorship. We understand that investing in our students during their formative school years not only prepares them for the world of work but also allows us to help foster their confidence in exploring new experiences.

Furness and Cumbria offer excellent employment opportunities and we are committed to helping local people have the best possible education, training and employment prospects.

We are confident we understand the needs of both the employers and the community to bring a synergy to the development and future success of Furness Academy.

CURRICULUM AND OFFER

Our school curriculum is varied and we offer a broad range of subjects, taught by experts in their field. This includes English, Maths, Science – Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Modern Foreign Languages (French & Spanish), History, Geography to name a few, with our full curriculum offer detailed on our school website. Each year we have an increasing number of students undertaking the English Baccalaureate, which is proven to provide students with greater opportunities in higher education and increases the likelihood that a student will stay on in full-time education.

We always have high expectations for all our students, supporting them to progress during their time at Furness Academy and encourage them to reach their personal best. Our staff are highly skilled and enthusiastic about all aspects of your child’s education and will encourage them to have strong ambitions and to work hard to achieve their goals. Ofsted commented that Teachers at Furness Academy are equipped well to deliver subject curriculums skilfully and present new ideas to pupils with clarity.

We pride ourselves on the variety of options we can provide for all students at Furness Academy. We have designed our curriculum so that your child’s programme of study will be individually tailored to suit their interests and needs. Student progress is tracked across all years with regular reports sent home to provide information to parents and carers.

We are proud to be part of the Andrew Lloyd Webber Music in Secondary Schools Programme. This provides a classical instrument and professional tuition to all students in Key Stage Three. Each year our students are given the opportunity to perform in theatres across the country, including London’s West End

We understand that it is our responsibility to ensure students achieve their best. For this reason, we have a programme for our More Able students to ensure that our highest achieving students continue on their path to succeed. For our most academic students, we offer our Honours Pathway during our Options process to support our students aspirations. We believe that learning should stimulate and engage our students. While we support students to develop their knowledge and skills, we encourage them to ask questions, develop their understanding and build their confidence in their own abilities. We provide students with a wide range of opportunities for them to develop as young people. We believe there is something for everyone to enrich their academic education here with us.

Most of all, we aim for our students to leave Furness Academy as well-rounded young people; students who have been nurtured and encouraged but challenged and understood. We want our students to leave Furness Academy confident with the skills, knowledge and, importantly, the qualifications that they need to succeed and contribute to their community

More than ever, students need a range of skills to allow them to reach their full potential in their future career paths beyond Furness Academy. At Furness Academy, we strive to ensure that all students are equipped with digital skills for the future. This is achieved by coherent development through all areas of the curriculum, not just in isolation through ICT lessons, supported by the Furness Academy one-to-one laptop scheme, where all students have access to a laptop to enhance their learning. Being proficient in the use of digital technology helps to give Furness Academy students an ‘edge’ in the wider world of work and study and develops them as digital leaders.

A CURRICULUM THAT
IS DESIGNED TO TAKE
STUDENTS TO HIGH
LEVELS OF INDEPENDENT
LEARNING.



Leaders have ensured that the curriculum is suitably ambitious for all pupils
Ofsted 2023



I think that the MISST programme is a real strength of the school. It has had a huge impact on my daughter
- Year 9 parent

Everything has been excellent from the time my child started. Now he is in Year 11 and all the effort the staff have put in his education has been brilliant. Thank you.
- Year 11 parent

ENVIRONMENT & ENRICHMENT

Students at Furness Academy benefit from some of the best facilities in the North West. We have a superb range of ICT facilities. All students have access to computers, laptops, tablets and other media to enhance their learning and develop necessary ICT skills. Alongside these devices we also have specialised IT rooms boasting the most up to date software and a one-to-one laptop scheme.

Our sports facilities are outstanding. Furness Academy has its own 3G pitch, specialised Activity Suite with climbing wall, Fitness Suite and Sports Hall, a large multi-use games area which facilitates a wide range of sports, a soundproofed, sprung floor Dance Studio, which houses a fleet of spin bikes and an amazing County standard running track. Our theatre facilities are also of a very high standard as we have a specially equipped drama studio with its own lighting system and a 260 seat theatre where our school productions and events take place.

Our science department includes ten state-of-the-art laboratories, alongside a number of demonstration labs allowing our students to witness science in action and develop their own scientific skills. Our School Library provides students with an abundance of books and reading material, covering a breadth of topics and interests, encouraging even the most reluctant of readers to engage in reading for pleasure. This offers your child the best possible place to study. Our excellent environment allows us to teach using modern approaches to learning, using the latest technology and helps keep motivation and engagement high.

As a school we are proud of the wide array of opportunities we offer to our students, whether it is their prowess in sport, artistic flair, drama, music, volunteering and civic duty or international travel. Students are

given the opportunity to join any number of our extracurricular clubs and events. They are encouraged to get involved, to meet new people and be willing to try new experiences. Students are invited to stay in school each day and take part in a wide variety of clubs, including photography, engineering, crafts, sports, ICT and a variety of music and performing arts clubs.

Our enrichment programme has had a positive impact on our students and is constantly evolving based on the changing interests of our students. We have opportunities that will appeal to all students, ranging from a wide variety of sports clubs, like football and netball, to our music groups where students are encouraged to pursue an instrument. Each year Furness Academy produces a theatre show of grand proportion and our Music in Secondary Schools programme provides many additional clubs and performance opportunities. Students can be part of the school orchestra, singing clubs, flute club and perform in school and on stages across the UK.

Excellent science, technology, engineering and maths provision is the sign of a school preparing its students for a successful future in an ever-changing world and this is what we endeavour to achieve at Furness Academy. We have a variety of extracurricular opportunities, where students can further develop these skills. We know that our students, with this type of education, will be excellent assets to any business in all areas of industry once they have completed their studies.

We believe it is important for students to supplement their academic learning with extracurricular opportunities, allowing them to become involved in school and develop their social skills.

ACCESS TO COMPUTERS,
LAPTOPS, TABLETS AND
OTHER MEDIA TO ENHANCE
THEIR LEARNING AND
DEVELOP ICT SKILLS.



Leaders have thought carefully about how to successfully raise pupils' aspirations alongside meeting local employment needs, such as those in technology and engineering
Ofsted 2023



I highly recommend the school to other parents. I am lucky to have a high achieving child who loves learning but the encouragement and support she gets to reach the best of her ability is fantastic.
- Year 11 parent

100%
of parents would
recommend Furness
Academy to other
parents

ENSURING EXCELLENCE AND SUCCESS

We will build your child's confidence and develop their social skills by providing them with excellent support. Our teaching and support staff are dedicated to ensuring that your child learns and progresses within a safe and caring environment. They are supported by our strong pastoral team who work hard at developing positive relationships between students, staff and importantly, parents/carers as well.

The pastoral team realise that in order for our students to achieve, we must care for their welfare, wellbeing and meet their individual needs. Furness Academy is committed to offering an inclusive, relevant curriculum to ensure the best possible progress for all our students, whatever their needs or abilities.

It is important to recognise the needs and abilities of each child and ensure that the educational programme they follow helps them fully reach their potential. We understand the importance of encouraging our most able students, to help them flourish and recognise the paths open to them. We place great emphasis on showing all our students the options open to them beyond their formal education as they move into the wider world, including visits to Russell Group universities, introductions to top apprenticeship programmes and a thorough careers education. Our students move on to study at some of the best universities in the UK, successfully gain apprenticeships at some of the country's top businesses and are offered places at specialist colleges to further develop their creative skills and talent. We believe it is important to introduce and encourage these aspirations in our students throughout their time at Furness Academy.

Our Furness Honours programme encourages students to pursue and achieve excellence, both through their classroom learning, supported by a programme of study and support, but also in areas beyond the classroom. Our sporting and performing arts excellence programmes, through a variety of partnerships, ensure our students are exposed to excellence in these areas and encouraged to pursue their own talents and achieve.

Inclusivity and wellbeing are very important parts of the culture that we foster at Furness Academy, ensuring that all students are cared for and are provided with many opportunities to achieve excellence. We work closely with all students to ensure they feel supported in their learning and are achieving their best, both academically and personally.

We are incredibly proud of the support we can offer to all our students on their path to excellence and the positive impact our support has on both their academic learning and confidence in all aspects of school life.

WE PLACE GREAT EMPHASIS ON SHOWING ALL OUR STUDENTS THE OPTIONS OPEN TO THEM



PARTNERSHIP & OPPORTUNITIES

A student's academic progression is dependent upon support both at school and at home. Our parents and carers understand the importance of continuing their child's learning outside the classroom and in the home, through supporting students with homework and encouraging them to work hard. We enjoy a successful partnership with parents/carers who encourage their children to embrace our Academy culture and values and follow the high standards that we expect.

Our Furness Academy community also encompasses local people and businesses. Furness Academy has an exceptional partnership with many local businesses including our sponsors BAE Systems, who each year provide our students with a variety of opportunities and mentoring programmes. These programmes help develop our students problem solving skills, their ability to work in a team, leading to improved confidence and a greater ability to communicate effectively. Our students play a special role in our larger community through their charity fundraising; each year they raise thousands of pounds for local and national charities.

We are always interested to hear the opinions and ideas of all our students in everyday life at Furness Academy and develop our students as leaders. We want our students to feel confident that their ideas are valued, respected and acted upon where appropriate.

Our Student Voice team comprises students from every form group who gather to discuss school life, community work and pass on their ideas to staff. This group are responsible for the huge amount of charity and community work that we undertake each year. Led by our Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputies, these students discuss their ideas about student life, make policy change suggestions, deal with topics that our Senior Leadership Team wish to discuss and more. Our Student Voice and Senior

student team have a close relationship with the Furness Academy Senior Leadership Team, with many opportunities to pass on their thoughts and ideas whilst representing all students.

We are proud of the links we continue to build with local charities such as the wonderful St Mary's Hospice. Our students volunteer at Barrow Food Bank, with Asda each Christmas for Sheltered shopping and take part in the Coniston to Barrow walk. Students at Furness Academy work closely with children from the primary schools who are also part of Furness Education Trust through mentoring programmes, developing leadership skills and also as part of extra-curricular activities, including our Trust-wide school choir, which provides various performance opportunities throughout the year. As a part of Furness Education Trust, Furness Academy also works closely with the South Cumbria Initial Teacher Training programme.

We have great links to universities around the UK through our Future First programme, helping support student information sessions and visits. Our participation in the Andrew Lloyd Webber Music in Secondary Schools programme opens up many performance opportunities to our students. We have partnerships with schools across the globe, including the breadth of Europe, New York, India, Cambodia, China, Brazil and Japan allowing our students to develop the cultural awareness and global citizenship.

We are proud to be a part of such a strong community that exists both inside and outside the Academy walls and provides an abundance of enrichment and development opportunities for our students.

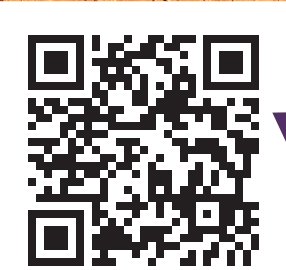
**WE HAVE EXCEPTIONAL
PARTNERSHIP WITH MANY
LOCAL BUSINESSES
PROVIDING A VARIETY
OF OPPORTUNITIES**



Pupils are afforded a wealth of opportunities to gain from a wide and diverse range of valuable experiences
Ofsted 2023



My son has been able to thrive after moving here part way through year 8, he has had lots of opportunities to progress and see the world.
- Year 9 parent



Visit: www.furnessacademy.co.uk

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Being at the heart of Barrow, we understand how important location is in developing the wider experience of our students. Barrow has a rich history of industry, architecture and culture. However, we understand that developing our students’ world experiences will help them become wiser, more tolerant and more aware of the world they live in. Therefore, we work hard to find opportunities to support our students’ cultural development and build their cultural capital.

In 2021, the UK alternative to the Erasmus+ scheme was launched, the Turing scheme. Since then, Furness Academy has proudly been successful in gaining funding each year. The 2021 project saw 40 students travel for a week of cultural activities and study in Italy, fully funded by the scheme. The 2022 project saw students travelling across the globe to Cambodia and India for two weeks of volunteering and cultural experiences. In 2023, we proudly launched our Brazil exchange programme, with 20 students travelling to Montes Claros in Brazil in Spring and we welcomed students from Brazil to Furness Academy in Autumn 2024. During 2023, 40 students travel to Barcelona and Paris, funded by Turing, as part of their language course, with a similar number travelling to Spain in Spring 2025 to enhance their studies. We are so proud to be able to offer these fully funded trips to our students so they can experience the wider world.

We have both hosted visitors at Furness Academy and had the opportunity to send our students and staff to schools in Italy, France, Portugal, Greece, and Spain in recent years, fully funded by the EU. These projects span the breadth of Europe, from Hungary to Spain, Lithuania and Romania, Greece and beyond. We have been proud members of ten successful European projects.

We also run four successful school exchange programmes. Supported by bid-funding from the British Council, we have partner schools in Germany, Spain, New York and China which support reciprocal visits. We have an established annual exchange with our German partners and also spent a time in their school in Germany, we have sent staff to China and had our first fully funded visit to New York City as part of an international study and debate programme. The exchange programme is something we hope to build on, year-on-year, strengthening our international relationships and providing further opportunities for our students. We also have a comprehensive programme of additional international opportunities which include our annual ski trip, our Geneva trip, an Iceland trip and even a trip to Finland planned for the next academic year.

We are in a truly privileged position to be able to offer our students and staff these amazing opportunities. We want our students to see beyond borders and integrate themselves in the worldwide community of which we are all a part. All those who represent us on an international basis become one of our International Ambassadors. These students share their experiences with our wider school community, through presentations, assemblies and speeches.

The development of the students who take on these roles is phenomenal, with clear boosts in both confidence and self-esteem. We want to build our students cultural awareness, developing them as global citizens and we are proud of the opportunities that we can offer to our students.



DEVELOPING OUR STUDENTS’ WORLD EXPERIENCES WILL HELP THEM BECOME WISER & MORE TOLERANT



PRIMARY TRANSITION

We know how daunting moving from Primary to Secondary school can be. Each year we work, in partnership with Primary schools, to ensure that this transition is as simple and smooth as it can possibly be.

Through working with our feeder primaries, we are able to invite your children into Furness Academy throughout the school year so they can begin to see how we put our school values into practise. We keep the staffing as consistent as possible so students learn to recognise faces, and hopefully feel more comfortable moving around our school.

Parents and primary students are welcome to visit us any time to have a look around and meet our staff and students. We will answer any questions you may have about our school and hopefully reassure you that we are the school of choice for our local area. However, we truly believe that the school you choose to send your child should be the one where they feel the happiest, as we know that when children are happy, the learning follows.

If you and your child decide to join us, we have a comprehensive transition programme in place.

Our Transition Programme:

- Transition Days at Furness Academy throughout Year 5 (Sport, Performing Arts, Science and more)
- Open Evening and Open Sessions in September during Year 6
- Design Challenge Transition Day at Furness Academy before secondary school applications are submitted
- Following a successful application, students join us for two “moving up” days in July of Year 6

The purpose of all this is to ensure that from the moment your child steps through our doors on their first day in September that they are happy, comfortable and ready to take on Secondary school life and become part of our Furness Family.

...BECOME PART OF
OUR FURNESS FAMILY



FURNESS EDUCATION TRUST



The trust comprises our ourselves, five local primary schools, Parkside, Newton Village, Yarlside and Victoria Academies and Lindal and Marton Primary School and most recently, Walney Secondary School, who joined the trust in January 2025. We believe a great way to achieve the best for our all students is by our schools working together as a Trust to deliver our aims and by developing best practice through collaborating and working together. Furness Education Trust is a strong trust that continues to share and deliver high quality educational services to all its member schools. Through collaboration, we can deliver seamless education across the Trust and give the best of everything to every child in our schools. Our approach is led by our shared values, creating a sense of Trust identity and shared responsibility for what happens in our own school and in all the other schools in the Trust; to unlock the potential of every child, whatever it takes; to feel as responsible for giving children in all Trust schools outstanding educational opportunities. All our schools maintain their own identity and character when joining our Trust, but it is important to us that our ethos and values align, so that we are always working together and in collaboration to deliver the best for our young people and our communities.



Aspiration



Collaboration



Excellence



Integrity

Furness Academy is proud to be a member of Furness Education Multi Academy Trust.



ARRANGE A VISIT:

Tel: 01229 484270

Email: info@furnessacademy.co.uk

Visit: www.furnessacademy.co.uk



FURNESS
ACADEMY