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Registered Office: Furness Academy, Park Drive, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria, LA13 9BB



“This school is great, I love it!”
- Year 6 Pupil

PROSPECTUS 2019/2020



Dear Students, Parents and Carers

I am pleased to write these words of welcome on behalf of the children, staff and governors of Victoria Academy.



This Prospectus has been designed to give you an insight into the amazing education we provide here at Victoria Academy, full of experience, opportunity and academic achievement. I do hope you will find it informative and that it gives you an insight into the life of school. You are very welcome to visit us, by appointment, to ask further questions and talk to the staff.

Victoria Academy is a really happy school. We are very proud of our high academic standards, our exciting range of clubs and our reputation for excellent sporting achievement but, most of all, we are proud that we do our absolute best to make sure every one of our children feels valued, loves learning and achieves highly.

Ofsted said that our children's behaviour is 'exceptional.' We know this is because we work hard to create a learning community that the children really value, we all look after each other, respect each others' differences and help each other to be the best we can be. We are a strong learning community where aspiration and collaboration are encouraged so that every child can reach their potential.

Above all, we aim for our school to be a place in which every child is valued, happy, secure and encouraged to achieve their very best.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline S. Vernon Headteacher








High academic standards - we are always well above National Average.

Mission Statement & Aims

We will inspire our pupils to enrich both their own lives and the lives of others. We will nurture a love of learning; the motivation to succeed; and ensure high academic standards, enabling all students to fulfil their limitless potential through perseverance and effort.

OUR AIM IS...

-  To enable our children to build on their foundation of knowledge, find their talents and develop the learning skills and dispositions to reach their potential.
-  To provide learning opportunities which stimulate enquiry, reflection and challenge, equip children with resilience and perseverance and ensure excellent learning outcomes.
-  To give learning purpose, by ensuring its relevance for our children and by creating opportunities for them to learn in our wider community.
-  To create a Learning Community which is safe, increases self esteem and encourages risk.
-  To promote British and community values and attitudes of care, tolerance, trust and respect for others, both as people and as learners, finding enrichment in difference.

We will work hard to meet these aims so that whatever their starting point when they arrive, our children will leave with the world at their feet - equipped and ready for continued learning and successful futures.

Our Sponsors

BAE Systems has worked hand-in-hand with the Furness community for many years and, as highlighted by our on-going work with various schools and colleges, we place great emphasis on the importance of local education. We are a strong supporter of local education and have demonstrated our commitment to education in Furness. With a shared sense of purpose, we want to help provide the best learning opportunities for all local children and young people.

As a sponsor of Furness Education Trust, of which Victoria Academy is a part, 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 Victoria Academy.

Furness and South Cumbria offers excellent employment opportunities, particularly in engineering or related disciplines and we are committed to helping local people have the best possible education, training and employment prospects.

At Victoria Academy, you can look forward to your child being provided with a superb education particularly in STEM subjects, alongside excellent learning opportunities 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.



ARRANGE A VISIT:

Tel: 01229 870 812

Email: admin@victoriaacademy.org.uk

Visit: www.victoriaacademy.org.uk

100% of parents would recommend our school to other families.

Visit: www.victoriaacademy.org.uk



Learning to Learn

At Victoria Academy we enjoy a happy, caring and exciting environment. We provide an ethos that will help our children grow into caring and responsible members of the community - a credit to our school, their families and themselves.

We love our pupils and our culture of academic, social and emotional support means the needs of each child are addressed and met, so that all children can experience success. High expectations, coupled with a great sense of fun create a dynamic working environment which fosters the skills of life long learning and high standards of attainment. An extensive range of experiences and activities ensures that all pupils are challenged and have the opportunities to achieve and celebrate success.

At Victoria Academy, time is spent in the creation of a classroom community where all members work and learn together within boundaries and following guidelines agreed by their group. Within this setting, learning skills are taught and used to support learning, encourage positive communication and ensure understanding and a feeling of security amongst learners.

Learning is given real purpose as children use their skills and their team's abilities to develop knowledge and problem solve. Children learn to work in varied teams recognising their own and each other's preferred learning styles and natural roles. The lifelong learning skills which are explicitly taught and assessed have been modified to reflect the priority skills identified by local employers. Our school has a strong reputation within the county and nationally, for its innovative approach to teaching and learning, leading partnerships of schools in National College of School Leaders projects, Curriculum Development work with Prince's Trust, and often leading Continuing Professional Development training in skills based curriculum and research based approaches.



“ Parents say...

'My daughter really enjoys her school as it is a happy and enjoyable place to learn - if she's happy, I'm happy. This is an open school to parents. I feel I can go into school anytime to discuss any issues.

- Parent Yr6 child.

...Student thoughts

"We love the challenges, they make us learn without knowing it."

- Year 5 Pupil

“ ...OFSTED Say

"Pupils love coming to this school. They are happy, feel secure and are keen to learn."

"Learning is given real purpose in the school, enabling pupils to follow their own ideas as well as working successfully with others. Pupils clearly enjoy this way of working and this is reflected in above average attendance, exemplary behaviour and excellent relationships."

"Standards are well above National Average in English, Maths and Science."



Curriculum and Opportunity

Our curriculum, graded Outstanding by Ofsted, is very carefully planned to meet the needs of all of our pupils. A large focus is obviously placed upon developing a high standard of reading, writing and numeracy skills together with ICT and creative ability. All of our children access specialist PE coaching and receive swimming tuition plus French lessons. Our broad and rich curriculum is underpinned by the teaching of lifelong learning skills to enable our children to be successful independent learners who are prepared well for secondary education and beyond. We believe that children should be aware of their achievements. Their self-esteem and confidence should be high and personal success should be celebrated. We award stickers for good work, personal progress or exemplary behaviour.

We promote the children's spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development and prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. English and Mathematics are a priority but at the same time we aim to provide rich and varied activities and experiences within the whole of the curriculum, all taught in ways to motivate our learners.

We are eager to encourage the wider community to take part in school life. Ambassadors from BAE Systems and many other local businesses work in school to provide professional skills. These helpers provide additional support for the children's learning and share their knowledge and skill. Through this interaction, our helpers become involved in new experiences and learn from and with pupils in new subject areas.

Our extensive programme of clubs has been recognised as a great strength of school by several Ofsted teams. We aim to encourage all our children to attend at least one of them. Over the past few years over 90% of our children have taken advantage of the clubs on offer.

We look for every opportunity to take our children on visits, for them to work in colleges and for them to work with businesses. We know that children learn best when they are motivated and can see a point to lessons.

We work hard to show our children how their learning links to their lives outside school and how it will help them to have successful futures. Each year group experiences a residential visit: Year 3 Bardsea, Year 4 Ramside, Year 5 Coniston and Year 6 London.

“ “ Parents say...

"We moved our child to Victoria Academy from another school, we are so pleased we did. Our son is so happy here, he has lots of great opportunities and his standard of work is excellent"

- Parent Yr4 child.

“ “ ...OFSTED Say

'Pupils' personal development and well-being, including their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, are outstanding.'

"Parents are overwhelmingly positive about the school and make a good contribution to their child's learning.' 'There is a family atmosphere in the school; an ethos which is highly valued by the parents."

...Student thoughts

Teachers have high expectations of us. They think about the valuable lessons which can help us for the future.."

- Year 6 Pupil

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