**THE HERMITAGE ACADEMY, CHESTER-LE-STREET**

Welcome to The Hermitage Academy

The Hermitage Academy is an exciting and successful, high performing 11-19 Teaching Academy serving the local community.

The school was invited in June 2010 to convert to Academy Status in the first round of “Outstanding” school conversions and officially converted to The Hermitage Academy on 1st April 2011.

Becoming an Academy has bought about significant opportunities for our school. We have developed our curriculum in a manner which reflects our school’s aspirations, our strengths and the needs of young people as they move into adult citizenship in the 21st century.

In the locality the Academy enjoys a well founded reputation for continuous improvement, high outcomes and expectations, and a strong sense of achievement for all learners. The Academy became a National Teaching School in March 2013 and we are embracing the challenges and opportunities it provides for all our staff. The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust have identified us as one of their High Performing Specialist Schools with Leading Edge Status.

We have developed strong links with our local primary schools and a nearby College of Further Education and work based providers that promotes innovation and collaboration enabling students to access additional vocational options.

The school is well over subscribed, yet the intake is truly comprehensive which is reflected in its growing 11-19 population. All employees at the school enjoy the privilege of working with our students.

Our students have a wide range of needs and abilities and the Academy is committed to provide a safe environment where outstanding teaching is encouraged to enable students to achieve their very best. Our school building is periodically refurbished and maintained to provide a comfortable learning environment where students want to learn and consequently attendance figures are high. To accommodate our successful and expanding Sixth Form we recently invested in a purpose built facility and prior to that, to enhance the learning experience of our SEN students, our Student Support Centre was added.

Students are encouraged to contribute to all aspects of school life, actively participating in School Council, Mini Leadership, Debating Society and various extra curricular clubs and activities.

The school’s leadership team consists of the Principal, 2 Vice Principals and 5 Assistant Vice Principals. We have a stable and highly qualified teaching staff who are deployed on a subject department basis led by respective Leaders and Managers of Departments. Directors of Achievement manage the progress and welfare of students in a horizontal year team structure supported by Year Managers. Personal professional development is strong within the school and all staff have a direct line manager to advise and support career opportunities.

Our aim is simple – we want to be the best school we can possibly be. To achieve this we remain focused on our core purpose of improving the quality of education we provide and ensuring that students, staff, parents and Governors all work together to that end, while continuing to provide the caring, supportive environment which is at the heart of The Hermitage Academy.