



The Laurel Academy **Prospectus**

2025/26



Welcome to The Laurel Academy

A secondary school with an established culture of high expectations.

Dear Parents & Carers

Choosing your child's secondary school is an exciting and important milestone for your family. At The Laurel Academy, we are delighted to offer you all the benefits of a first class 11-16 education.

Provisional data shows that students at The Laurel Academy achieve well. It is exceptional that 82% of students passed English and 71% passed mathematics. The Laurel's highest performance for measures in 2024.

You are not just joining an exceptional school, you'll be taking up a place in a Trust that is determined to broaden horizons and create opportunities and experiences for your child, similar to those provided by private education, but without the fees. The Laurel Academy provides continuous education from Year 7, through to GCSEs in Year 11.

The Laurel Academy is an Ofsted rated 'Good' academy, led by highly qualified staff, who prioritise every student's academic achievements and personal development to ensure they have the very best start in life.

We believe that every child has a right to an outstanding education. We are determined to make this a reality at The Laurel Academy. We offer a flexible curriculum and an extensive range of activities beyond the classroom.

The Laurel Academy experience includes:

- A residential experiences in the Lake District National Park at the Trust's Outdoor Education Centre at Patterdale on Ullswater or Dallowgill in North Yorkshire.
- The opportunity to experience cultural visits.
- State-of-the-art sports facilities and participation in Trust wide events.
- Fully resourced and funded curriculum resources, including knowledge organisers and bespoke revision guides, as well as access to exceptional online study packages;
- A free uniform pack, including a blazer, trousers/skirt, shirts, tie, and PE kit (sports jersey, lightweight PE top, shorts and socks).

To secure your place, you can register directly with the academy during the open evening and reserve a uniform and residential place for September 2025.

We look forward to working with you as partners; come and join us and secure a great future for your child.



***Mrs Taylor-Clarke
Principal***



***Paul Tarn
CEO***

Free Uniform

We understand that, in some cases, purchasing school uniform can be an expensive outlay with the average cost of compulsory school uniform and sportswear items anywhere between £80 and £100 per student.

That's why we provide all our Year 7 students with a full set of uniform and sports kit for free.

Your child will receive free uniform including a blazer, tie, two shirts, trousers/skirt, sports top, sports shorts and winter top so they can start the term fully kitted out; that's one less thing to worry about!

Our school specific uniform is manufactured to a higher standard than cheaper generic items, and is therefore more durable and lasts longer.

Students also receive planners, knowledge organisers, subscriptions to online learning resources and more for free!

2 free shirts

free tie

free blazer

free skirt

free trousers



free polo shirt



free winter shirt



free sports shorts

School Uniform

Sports Kit

Sharing resources

Our subject specialists develop Key Stage 3 knowledge organisers packed with subject-specific information and active learning tasks for students to complete at home.

With QR codes and links to online resources, including 'Sparx Maths' and 'Languagenut', students' learning extends beyond the classroom and it's all completely FREE.

Common assessments are written by our specialists, and we compare results from across the Trust, meaning we are able to really focus on areas where we identify our students may need more support.

Subject specialists (including qualified examiners) develop GCSE revision guides for many subjects, providing personalised learning and detailed course based content when it really counts.



Working with you

As partners in your child's educational journey, we use outstanding data comparison technology to provide you regular updates on your child's progress:

We use Common Assessments

- Students in Year 7 to Year 9 across all academies, take key stage 3 assessments in English, mathematics, science, geography, history, modern foreign languages, and computing twice a year.
- These assessments are designed by in-house subject experts such as linguists, authors, physicists and mathematicians that test the knowledge, skills and understanding students have acquired and retained in their learning since the beginning of the academic year.
- Students receive their marked assessments along with a record of their strengths and weaknesses, and they can download mark schemes to identify their own areas for improvement. These mark schemes are also available to you, allowing you to review them and gain a clear understanding of your child's progress.

Regular reporting to partners

You, as partners, receive a student report twice a year (January and July) that provides an overview of performance in key stage 3 assessments, predicted grades and target grades in key stage 4, and an effort grade in all subjects.

Reports are available online through the Parent App and provide information on:

- Each assessment (December and June) completed by students up to that point in the academic year.
- The Progress of your child in line with expectations.

John Example (7A)
Interim Pupil Report – January 2020

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY (since September)	
Attendance	
Authorised absences	94.8%
Unauthorised absences	19
Number of late sessions	0
Key Stage 2 Reading scaled score	7
Key Stage 2 Maths scaled score	110
Key Stage 2 Average scaled score	110

English
Since September we have read a wide range of fiction and non-fiction, including in particular whole books, short stories, poems and plays with a wide coverage of genres, historical periods, forms and authors, including high quality works from English literature, both pre 1914 and contemporary, including prose, poetry and drama; Shakespeare (2 plays) and seminal world literature

Effort: **Outstanding**
Assessment: **75%**

Mathematics
Since September we have consolidated their numerical and mathematical capability from key stage 2 and extend their understanding of the number system and place value to include decimals, fractions, powers and roots. Learned how to select and use appropriate calculation strategies to solve increasingly complex problems. Used algebra to generalise the structure of arithmetic, including to formulate mathematical relationships.

Effort: **Outstanding**
Assessment: **75%**

Science
Since September we developed scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics. Developed understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science through different types of science enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them.

Effort: **Outstanding**
Assessment: **75%**

Example Pupil (11A)
Pupil Report – July 2018

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY (since September)	
Attendance	
Authorised absences	94.8%
Unauthorised absences	19
Number of late sessions	0

PREDICTED GRADES AND EFFORT			
Qualification	Target Grade	Predicted Grade	Effort
GCSE English Language	Grade 6	Grade 5	Requires Improvement
GCSE English Literature	Grade 6	Grade 6	Good
GCSE Mathematics	Grade 5	Grade 3	Unsatisfactory
GCSE Combined Science	Grade 6	Grade 4	Good
GCSE History	Grade 6	Grade 6	Outstanding
GCSE French	Grade 6	Grade 3	Unsatisfactory
GCSE Health and Social Care	Grade 6	Grade 3	Requires Improvement
BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Performing Arts	Level 2 Pass	Level 2 Pass	Requires Improvement
	Level 2 Merit	Level 2 Merit	

Predicted grade is equal to or above the target grade.
Predicted grade is one grade below the target grade.
Predicted grade is more than one grade below the target grade.

English

curriculum

82% of students achieved
Grade 4 or above in English

A Bespoke Curriculum

Our bespoke curriculum strategies include: Ruth Miskin Fresh Start programme, small group or one-to-one support, the Lexia software package, Rapid Plus, Toe by Toe peer-mentoring initiatives during tutor time, high frequency word practice, word of the week subject-specific vocabulary, reciprocal reading and other support programmes. In addition, we also aim to challenge our high-level readers through a range of activities such as book and debate clubs.

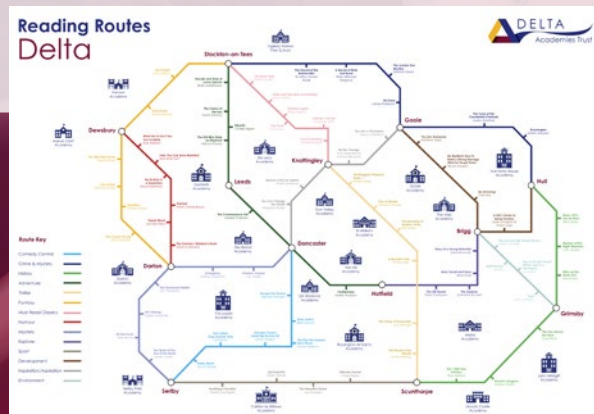
Competitions and Events

Students in Years 7 and 8 can participate in annual poetry events. These events often feature guest authors and special visitors, providing inspiration and a chance to meet literary heroes. Aspiring young writers can test their skills in national writing competitions, offering a platform to showcase talent and potentially gain recognition on a national scale.

Reading Routes

We are passionate about igniting a love of reading in our students. That's why we launched "Reading Routes," a programme designed to encourage reading for pleasure. Students embark on a journey through nine exciting genres, like Crime & Mystery or Fantasy, choosing from six books each term.

Reading Routes goes beyond the typical curriculum. There are even specialised routes for students to explore their interests in areas like Sports or the Environment. With over 74 books on the "map," students are sure to find something that sparks their imagination and fosters a lifelong love of reading.



71% of students achieved
Grade 4 or above in Maths

Mathematics

curriculum

Our mathematics curriculum fosters a deep understanding and appreciation for this beautiful subject. It equips students with the essential skills to understand the world around them, from science and technology to everyday life. It allows development of critical thinking through problem-solving activities that encourage exploration and embrace 'wrong turns' as valuable learning steps. We believe everyone can excel in mathematics.

The Delta mathematics curriculum seamlessly progresses from Key Stage 2, building a strong foundation for further education and future careers. We utilise the Sparx online platform to solidify learning and propel students towards mastery. We offer exciting extracurricular activities including enrichment trips and the National Mathematical Challenge. High-performing students can even pursue the Further Mathematics level 2 qualification.

Trust-wide Events

Events like the Year 11 Enigma Masterclass push boundaries with fun, maths-filled activities. Students participate in relays, quizzes, and workshops on calculator tips, formula sheet usage, and mastering those equations and questions involving triangles.

Sparx Maths: *effective for all students*

Sparx Maths helps students from disadvantaged backgrounds progress at the same rate as other students.



2024 Best Results Ever!

45%

of students at The Laurel
achieved Grade 5+ pass rate
in English and Maths

67%

of students at The Laurel
achieved Grade 4+ pass rate
in English and Maths

51% of students achieved Grade 4
or above in Combined Science

Science *curriculum*

A Roadmap to Success

Our meticulously planned curriculum adheres to the national curriculum for Key Stage 3 and seamlessly aligns with the AQA specifications for either GCSE Double or Triple Science. Rooted in the latest research and recognised by Ofsted, our Science Curriculum provides a solid foundation.

Unleashing Inner Scientists

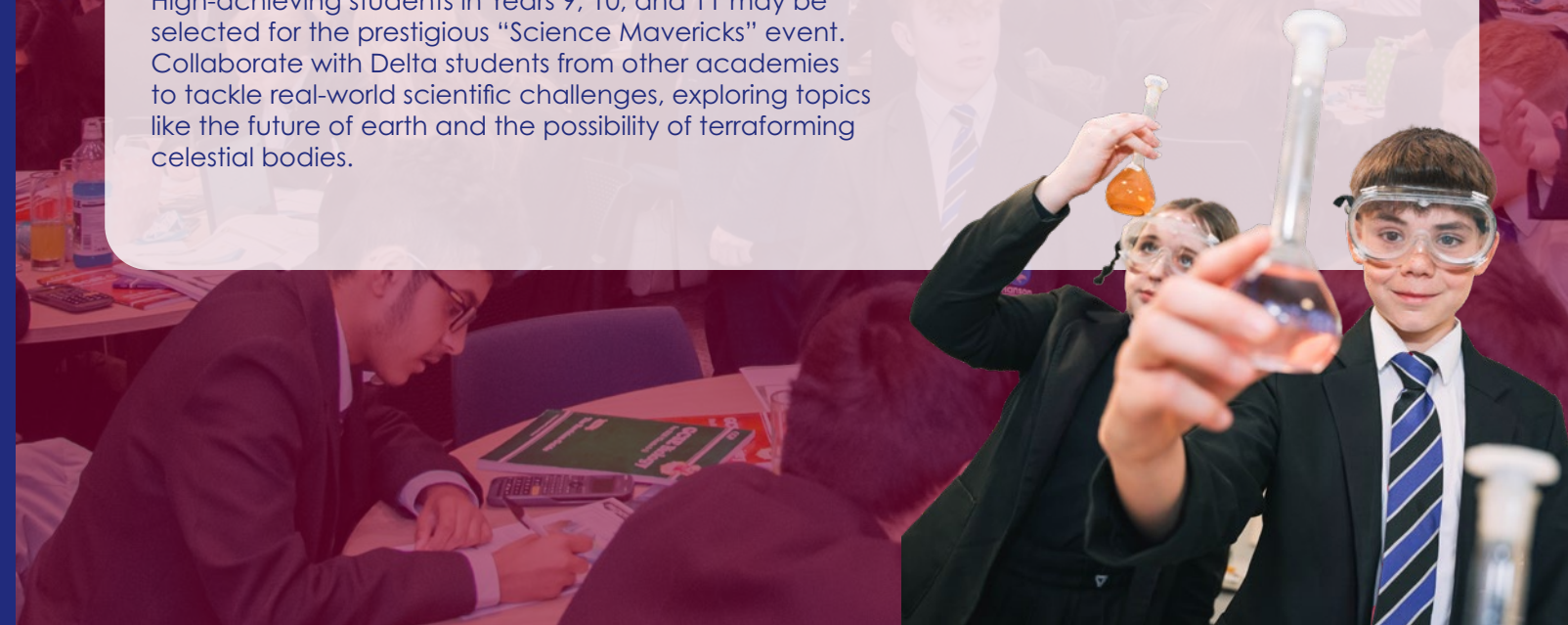
Delta celebrates science throughout the year with exciting themed events like "Space Week", "Brain Day" and "World Bee Day." These wider curriculum lessons spark curiosity and broaden scientific horizons. Students also participate in our termly science competitions.

Nurturing Future STEM Leaders

Delta offers an after-school STEM club, featuring activities around Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

Mavericks

High-achieving students in Years 9, 10, and 11 may be selected for the prestigious "Science Mavericks" event. Collaborate with Delta students from other academies to tackle real-world scientific challenges, exploring topics like the future of earth and the possibility of terraforming celestial bodies.





“Leaders are aspirational
for all pupils”

Ofsted

MFL

curriculum

Your Bridge to a World of Opportunity

We believe every student should have the chance to explore the world through languages. Learning a modern foreign language (MFL) is more than memorising vocabulary – it's a journey of cultural discovery and personal growth.

Our vision is to broaden horizons, helping students develop new perspectives on the world as they step beyond familiar boundaries, sometimes literally as they step off a plane in sunny France. We aim to enable students to express themselves confidently in another language and converse with native speakers. These skills will become life skills for the future, allowing students to navigate practical situations, learn new ways of thinking, and appreciate diverse cultural expressions.

The Delta MFL curriculum emphasises core grammar, vocabulary, and phonics, equipping students with a solid foundation for all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. As they progress, students will revisit and deepen their understanding of key concepts, building fluency and accuracy. With at least one modern languages assistant in every academy, our students have invaluable access to native speakers.

We believe in fostering confidence and independence as a language learner. Our curriculum is designed to empower students to tackle new challenges and succeed in the MFL world.



The Arts

curriculum

Igniting Creativity and Celebrating the Power of Performance

Drama and dance come alive through a range of exciting opportunities. Students can refine their acting and production skills through our dynamic drama and production clubs available throughout the Trust. Many clubs even culminate in performances that include parents, fostering a strong school community.

Students can take their performance skills beyond the classroom with theatre visits and workshops led by visiting artists. These experiences broaden horizons and provide invaluable insights from industry professionals.

There are opportunities for students to showcase their talents alongside their peers in academy talent shows. For dedicated drama students pursuing the GCSE qualification, trips to London's West End are a highlight. Students are immersed in the magic of live theatre and witness professional performances first-hand.

Our well-equipped academy drama studios provide the perfect environment to rehearse and elevate performances.

Our Arts curriculum is more than just learning lines and choreography. It's about self-expression, collaboration, and developing the confidence to shine on stage.



Music

curriculum

Education is more than Academic Achievement

Music is more than just notes on a page. It's a vibrant journey of exploration, performance, and personal growth. Our curriculum is designed to nurture a lifelong love of music in every student.

Music fosters social connections, boosts enjoyment, and provides a foundation for lifelong participation in music, regardless of any potential career path. Whether it's pursuing music professionally or simply enjoying it for fun, Delta's music curriculum equips students with the skills and appreciation to enrich their lives with music.

Our curriculum emphasises hands-on learning, equipping students with the skills to sing, play instruments, and participate in musical activities. Delve into the world of music through active and passive listening, exploring a variety of sounds and genres. Learn to play simple melodic instruments and percussion, building confidence and musical expression.

Under the Spotlight

We hold an annual music festival, a highlight where primary and secondary students come together to share their passion and perform in front of a live audience.

There's also an opportunity to perform at various events throughout the year, from conferences to celebrations. We have recording studios across the Trust, giving students the opportunity to take musical creations to the next level.

Our Charity: *Delta Academies Charitable Trust*

Through our charity, a student received funding for piano lessons. She was later invited to the 'Top 100 Global Child Prodigy 2020' awards in India.



Humanities

curriculum

Explore, Analyse, and Understand Our World

Our Geography curriculum is designed to ignite curiosity and wonder about the world around you.

Students explore both human and physical aspects of geography, examining themes like sustainability, development, globalisation, and climate change. Cartographic, graphical, ICT, and GIS skills will make students proficient in analysing geographical data.

Apply knowledge in real-world settings through exciting fieldwork trips. These immersive experiences range from local investigations to coastal trips.

Other exciting trips and fieldwork include:

- Year 7 students participating in infiltration investigations
- Year 8 tackling micro-climate investigations
- Year 9 embarking River Studies
- Year 10 and 11 completing coastal management enquiries in Hornsea, and for their human geography fieldwork, visiting various urban areas.

Enrichment trips add another dimension to learning, with excursions planned to various UK to locations including the coast and wildlife parks, as well as European destinations like Barcelona.

Our History curriculum empowers students to think critically about the world they live in. Here's what sets us apart:

Questioning the Past: We encourage students to analyse historical events and perspectives, fostering independent thinking beyond 'received wisdom'. Don't just accept information at face value – learn to question and examine evidence.

Global Context: Move beyond a solely British perspective. Students explore a variety of cultures and historical events on a local, national, and international scale, from Ancient times to the Modern era. This global awareness is crucial for understanding the interconnectedness of our world.

Building Historical Worlds: Immerse yourself in different historical periods through engaging activities like "building worlds" in your mind. Historical fiction becomes a springboard for exploration, igniting curiosity and sparking questions about the past.

Diverse Voices: Encounter a range of historical figures and perspectives, gaining a well-rounded understanding of the past. Learn about the world from the viewpoints of people from all walks of life.



Sport curriculum

Whether you plan on becoming an elite athlete or simply enjoy staying active, we have something for you!

The Laurel Academy boasts excellent sporting facilities such as a state-of-the-art sports hall and gym and fitness suite.

Examples of the activities we offer include sports such as football, netball, badminton, basketball, hockey, athletics, tennis, table tennis, gymnastics, trampolining, rounders and cricket.

Furthermore, we utilise our Trust Outdoor Centres in the Lake District and North Yorkshire. At these centres students can choose to take part in mountain biking, canoeing, rock climbing, hill walking and abseiling.

We encourage all students to represent the academy in one of the many clubs and teams which are available. The academy uses top coaches and local links to develop students and give them opportunities to play at a higher level. The Trust is developing a scholarship scheme for our most gifted athletes. Students are identified and nurtured through our inter-school competition programme.

As part of a large, high performing and aspirant Trust, The Laurel Academy students have the opportunity to experience, train and compete at internationally renowned facilities. These include the English Institute for Sport, working alongside national and international athletes and their coaches. A number of our highest performing students have been supported to perform at an elite level at international venues through Delta Academies Charitable Trust.

There are a range of sporting experiences available for you. You can see the top stars, experience iconic sporting events and undertake overseas tours. Examples include visits to major sporting events such as Wimbledon, Champions League football and International test matches. There is no surprise that our students go on to achieve outstanding results at GCSE.

Many go on to have successful careers in sports and leisure industries.

Our Charity: *Delta Academies Charitable Trust*

Through our charity, a student received funding to represent Britain at the World Youth Championships for Bouldering in 2023.



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We are proud to champion the transformative power of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE). This prestigious programme equips young people across our academies with essential skills and experiences that set them up for success in all aspects of life.

The DofE programme goes beyond traditional education, fostering a holistic development that benefits students in numerous ways:

- Learning new skills ignites passions and talents.
- Regular physical activity fosters a healthy lifestyle.
- Volunteering builds responsibility and community spirit.
- Overcoming challenges builds resilience and confidence.
- Teamwork and leadership skills develop through expeditions.
- The DofE Award is recognised by universities and employers.
- Strong social skills and lasting friendships are fostered.
- DofE activities enhance mental well-being and cultural awareness.

There are four sections to complete at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold.

They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter and healthier, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition and, for Gold only, working with a team on a residential activity.

Achieving an award isn't a competition or about being first, it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries.



Dallowgill

outdoor enrichment

Unforgettable Environmental Learning at Dallowgill

We stand out as an organisation because we provide every child with life changing experiences irrespective of their starting point in life. A cornerstone of this commitment is the Trust's very own Environmental and Outdoor Education Centre. Nestled in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales' Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Dallowgill offers a transformative educational experience unlike any other in the region.

This state-of-the-art facility isn't just about stunning scenery. Dallowgill provides a hands-on learning environment where students develop a lifelong connection with the natural world. Through activities like den building, habitat exploration, and environmental art projects, students gain a deeper understanding of ecology and sustainability principles.

A Commitment to Accessibility and Opportunity

Since opening in 2021, thousands of children have enjoyed a residential experience at Dallowgill. We have also purchased a nearby church for additional activity space.

Removing Barriers to Learning

We understand that financial constraints shouldn't hinder educational opportunities. That's why the Trust provides an on-site coach to transport students between academies and Dallowgill, eliminating the cost burdens often associated with residential trips.



Patterdale

outdoor enrichment

Expanding Horizons

Building on our success of Dallowgill, we have acquired another Outdoor Education Centre in the Lake District National Park. This exciting addition to the Delta experience provides students with even greater opportunities for transformative outdoor learning experiences.

A Landscape of Adventure

Nestled amidst breathtaking scenery, Patterdale offers a unique opportunity for students to delve deeper into adventurous activities. Imagine scaling iconic peaks like Helvellyn via Striding Edge, exploring the shores of Ullswater, or encountering diverse wildlife in the centre's four-acre haven, complete with a river, wetlands, and rare birds. Patterdale is designed to ignite a passion for the outdoors and inspire a sense of adventure in every student.

To maximise learning opportunities, we plan to construct a permanent observatory at Patterdale, harnessing the wonders of the night sky.

Memorable Experiences, Lifelong Impact

Patterdale promises unforgettable experiences that will leave a lasting impact. Students return with stories of personal growth, new-found confidence, and a deeper connection with the natural world. We are committed to fostering these transformative experiences for all our students.



Cyber North

digital defence

This immersive annual event, co-organised by Delta and Northern Education Trust, is designed to introduce students to the ever-growing field of cyber security.

Why Cyber Security Matters

In today's digital age, where everyone relies on computers and the internet, cyber security is more important than ever. Cyber North equips students with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves from online threats like identity theft, financial fraud, and more.

Engaging Activities and Friendly Competition

The event features a variety of engaging activities that put students' problem-solving skills to the test. They are reimagined as digital detectives, cracking codes, analysing evidence, and bringing cyber criminals to justice. There's even a healthy dose of friendly competition between participating schools, making the experience more exciting.

Building a Brighter Future

Cyber North goes beyond just raising awareness. It empowers students to take control of their digital safety and explore potential careers in the booming cyber security field. By participating in this event, students gain valuable insights into this critical field and discover if a cyber security career path might be the perfect fit.



Trust-wide Events



Careers Education

As a Trust we understand that everyone's career path is personal and also adapts over time. As a result, we offer an extensive range of guidance and opportunities that start from Year 7 and adjust to meet changing aspirations throughout.

All students are given the opportunity to visit colleges, universities and workplaces, and experience first-hand potential routes for them. Students are given access to a large range of potential employers who visit through scheduled lunchtimes and breaktimes, along with full days of employer speed-dating events.

Whether your child is interested in the world of work or further academic study, they will be guided and supported to make a decision that is right for them. We are proud to work with multiple partners such as the University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University, HEPP and HEPPSY and local businesses for students to have a widely and deeply insight about how they would like their careers after school to progress.

All our students have regular access to an independent careers advisor who will guide them via informal chats about career paths as well as by more formal scheduled careers appointments.

Many employees work with students within the academy to help them prepare applications, practise interviews and develop the skills they need to secure their preferred route.

The Quality in Careers Standard is awarded to schools and education providers who can demonstrate the importance they place on careers and how they support students to make decisions about their life after

school. The Laurel Academy is proud to have been recognised for its outstanding careers education, receiving the Careers Award for securing students some of the most aspirational career routes available for young adults and helping them embark on exciting, unlimited career paths.

Quality career support

The Quality in Careers Standard is awarded to schools and education providers who can demonstrate the importance they place on careers and how they support students to make decisions about their life after school.



Personal Development

Our curriculum is designed to improve learners' self-esteem while developing higher aspirations in both current academic situations and in pursuing long term careers.

What can Year 7 expect?

Careers, Experiences & Celebrations

- Celebration Events
- Attendance Rewards including trips
- KS3 Awards Evenings
- Theatre trips
- Careers trips to educational & workplace establishments

Contributions

You will contribute to representing the academy by:

Volunteering as a student ambassador at a parents' evening/ academy event.

Regularly participating in an enrichment activity. This might be as part of a sports team or performing within school as part of the winter or summer showcase.

Enrichment and Clubs

- | | |
|-----------|----------------|
| Rugby | Homework Club |
| Football | LGBTQ+ Club |
| Art | Mindfulness |
| Food | French Culture |
| Dance | Reading |
| Football | Table Tennis |
| Netball | Music |
| Badminton | |
| Rounders | |

Even more activities...

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Languages Week | Poetry Competitions |
| Mental Health Day | Themed World Cuisine |
| World Book Day | Celebration Events |
| Anti-Bullying Week | & so much more! |
| Fundraising Events | |



Everyone is included

At The Laurel Academy we are ambitious for all students. We have high expectations that everyone will excel, regardless of starting points. Our most recent report from Ofsted recognised that **“All pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), have the same opportunities”**.

We support students to understand and apply their learning and achieve well. We understand that some young people will require additional support for part or all of their time with us. If your child is identified as having SEND they will have a bespoke Learning Passport, which identifies strategies teachers and support staff should use in order to support them to achieve their full potential.

The Learning Passport will be written in partnership with you and your child, and reviewed on a termly basis to ensure we continue to support your child's progress, both academically and pastorally.

Dedicated staff members

We have a dedicated team of support staff led by our Special Educational Needs Coordinator. Together they strive to provide the best for students with additional needs including delivering a range of bespoke interventions.

The SENCO works closely with the local primary schools and the local authority to ensure that students are effectively supported during their transition to us from our local primary schools.



So, what are you waiting for?
Choose The Laurel Academy.



Learn more about us:
laurelacademy.org.uk

Follow us on X:
@DeltaTheLaurel