

LAUREATE ACADEMY INFORMATION BOOKLET



YEAR 7 ENTRY - SEPTEMBER 2023
LIBERTAS PER CULTUM

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FUTURE ACADEMIES

Future Academies was established to improve the life chances of children through an education that is built on the importance of knowledge-rich teaching by subject experts and of raising the aspirations of all. Our family of schools has built a reputation for achieving the highest standards for all our students.

The name 'Future' is important to us because the education we provide today is designed to ensure all our children can achieve the best in their future lives. A knowledge-rich aspirational curriculum with a focus on cultural capital delivered by expert teachers is our *raison d'être*, and it is transforming the life chances of the children and young people in all our schools.

We are an inclusive community where all children are welcomed and challenged to be the best they can be. With the support of our sponsors, Future, we are able to engage with the best teachers, the best universities and a wide range of the most prominent employers in the country to ensure that all our children are equipped with the knowledge and desire to be the best in whatever path they wish to follow in their futures.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our students benefit from an inspiring and challenging curriculum at Laureate Academy. We provide a first-class level of academic and pastoral support. This ensures every student can access the curriculum and develop into happy, confident and articulate young adults. Students also broaden their horizons through our Educational Enrichment programme and extensive extra-curricular provision. Together these support our students in thriving academically, and in developing passions and interests outside of the classroom.

We simply believe that every child, regardless of background or prior achievement, can be successful if given great teaching and pastoral support. We are proud of the stimulating, supportive and calm environment in the academy; this is an environment that brings the best out of our students. We strongly encourage you to visit us, meet the staff and students, and learn more about our ambitions for the future.

Mr Matt Singh
Principal

ACADEMY LIFE

We are committed to providing all our students with an excellent education. Inherent in everything we do is a culture of high expectations and aspirations. Students are encouraged to work hard, to think for themselves and stretch the boundaries of their individual ability.

Our teaching staff are central to delivering an exceptional standard of education to all of our students. This includes inculcating a deep love of learning throughout the academy. Many of our staff have been educated at the country's top universities, and all staff receive exceptional levels of continuing professional development through in-house training, Future Academies' Curriculum Centre, and our good relationships with top universities.



OUR CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is built on a belief in imparting knowledge to our students that will empower them, with the importance of memory and retention in mind. It is delivered by teachers who are experts in their fields, and who teach the students the best that has been thought and said in a subject.

Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3, we offer a broad and balanced curriculum that supports, challenges and excites our students. Subjects are taught discretely according to schemes of work that set out what knowledge we expect our students to acquire. This rigour not only gives our students the fulfilment and joy of mastering particular subject areas in depth, but also allows them to analyse and to discuss their subjects with greater sophistication.

We work hard to ensure that students are supported to express themselves accurately, fluently and confidently, both orally and in writing, in all subjects.

Key Stage 4

The majority of our students study nine subjects for GCSE, including maths, English, the sciences, a language and either history or geography. This route, which meets the government's requirements for the English Baccalaureate, provides a sound academic foundation for further study in the Sixth Form and beyond. Together with core courses in PE and PSHE, this offers a balanced and challenging programme of study. The range of courses are tailored to the individual needs and interests of the student, so that every child receives a broad and balanced education.

Key Stage 5

We are determined that every student has the opportunity to study at a top university or a real high-quality alternative. To this end, Laureate Academy are committed to offering an extensive academic Sixth Form curriculum, with a large number of courses available at GCE level or equivalent. We work to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum can be offered to all students. Students also have the opportunity to take the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) to further pursue a particular area of interest.

All students attend a bi-weekly Guest Speaker Programme session along with Sixth Form Games (PE). As well as guidance on careers education and personal wellbeing (including sex and relationship education), a wide range of outside speakers introduce students to a variety of political, moral and social issues. In Year 13, there is a particular focus on providing further guidance on careers and higher education and preparing students for life after Laureate Academy.



ATTAINMENT AND SUPPORT

Student progress is monitored very closely through the collection and analysis of data on every aspect of school life: academic, pastoral and extra-curricular. Through the rigorous tracking of this data we ensure that all students are achieving to the maximum of their ability.

Wherever we feel that students are not reaching their full potential, we act quickly to put in place the support they need. This can include additional in-class support as well as after-school personalised tuition for any that fall behind. We also offer a wealth of extension opportunities including additional twilight GCSE courses for our most able students to ensure that they have the chance to excel.

SPECIAL NEEDS PROVISION

The academy has excellent provision for students with Special Educational Needs (SEN). Our inclusive philosophy directs how this provision is organised to best meet the needs of students.

Inclusion Department

The academy has a dedicated inclusion department with specialist staff who are able to identify special educational needs at an early stage. Staff from the department focus on training and enabling teachers to meet the needs of students with SEN in mainstream lessons. Where necessary, they then provide specialist lessons or interventions.



Language and Communication

The Inclusion Department at Laureate Academy provides specialist support for students with a speech and language impairment. This is tailored to the needs of individual students and includes individual work, small group work, support in class and working with the student's mainstream teachers to develop strategies and resources for the classroom.

PASTORAL CARE

Student wellbeing is our highest priority at Laureate Academy. We have an extensive pastoral system in place to ensure that the personal, social and emotional needs of every student are met so that all students can thrive academically and socially.

The welfare of all our students is based on the understanding of shared values that extend through all areas of academy life. These are grounded in our values of Knowledge, Aspiration and Respect. It is very important to us that our students feel safe, happy and have a sense of belonging from the very first day they enter the academy. To ease transition from primary school we have transition specialists who work closely with our feeder primary schools to understand the needs of every student. In the summer before starting at Laureate Academy we invite students to spend a day with us to help familiarise them with the academy's ethos, layout and facilities.

We also provide a summer school for selected students to help improve their literacy and numeracy. At the start of Year 7 there is an induction period for students to learn the routines, appreciate the importance of our values, make friends and explore all that the academy has on offer. For some of our students there is a need for more intensive specialist support.

To further ensure the wellbeing of every child we give a high profile to health and fitness and we are working with a nutritionist to develop programmes which educate our students about easy ways to improve their health. Our restaurant offers healthy and nutritious meals.



THE HOUSE SYSTEM

The House System at Laureate Academy is central to our provision of pastoral care. Each student joining the academy in Year 7 is assigned to a House that they will then belong to throughout their time at the academy.

The academy has four Houses – Apollo, Athena, Hera and Zeus. Tutors meet their students every day. The tutor also delivers academic advice and delivers comprehensive Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). During this time, students are encouraged to ask questions and approach tutors with any concerns they may have. The amount of time that we dedicate to this allows tutors to provide personal attention and support to each of their students in a way not possible in most schools. Over the course of a school year all students receive one-to-one academic tutorials focused on guiding them to achieve their full potential, academically, socially and emotionally. Older students are also trained to provide support to their younger peers. This engagement helps to create a positive and friendly environment across the school.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

To ensure that every student achieves their potential, the academy aims to involve parents in every aspect of school life and most importantly in the education of their child.

Parents are provided with regular reports on their child's progress and there are opportunities including parents' evenings for parents to meet with teachers to discuss this progress. We also have a Managed Learning Environment (Microsoft Teams), which is a safe online system through which parents (as well as students) are able to see what homework their child needs to complete.

We also regularly inform parents about their child's progress in each subject. This tracking of student progress allows us to intervene and provide additional support to students who are struggling, and it also allows us to recognise and celebrate the achievements of students who are doing well. We regularly celebrate student achievements – both academic and extra-curricular – through assemblies as well as at the Academy Awards which students' families are invited to attend.

DEVELOPING INDIVIDUALS

The House System and tutoring model that we have introduced at the academy provide our students with many opportunities to compete with each other, to contribute to their community and to take on leadership roles as they progress through the school. These responsibilities enable our students to develop their interests and skills and grow into confident individuals.

Leadership

Many students elect to take on greater positions of responsibility by applying to become House prefects. Among the prefects, a head boy and head girl is elected for the academy. These students provide an important contribution to school life, meeting with the Head of School regularly to discuss whole-school issues.



Each House has a Council which appoints a number of House Officers who assist in the daily running of the House. A House Council deals with business specific to that House, as well as contributing to whole school issues such as healthy lifestyle, safety, specialisms, and achievement. Students taking on these roles have an important input at Laureate Academy and gain excellent experience through the range of skills – from discussion and debating ability to critical thinking and problem solving – that these positions entail.

Our Community

Each House supports a local charity; through these links students meet local residents and contribute to their community through volunteering and fundraising activities.

EDUCATION ENRICHMENT

Along with our knowledge-rich curriculum, Education Enrichment is one of the key pillars of Future Academies. We believe that a strong Education Enrichment programme is an essential part of giving our students both the knowledge and the skills to achieve excellence, regardless of their background or individual circumstances.

We break down Enrichment into the following four areas although many of the programmes overlap:

Connecting pupils to the world of work, future education, training and employment

Enrich the curriculum

Provide exposure to culture, the arts, sport

Build character, integrity, resilience, judgement

Connecting students to the world of work, future education, training and employment

To enable our students to fulfil their potential and make informed decisions about their future, we provide a wide range of opportunities for our students to learn about, interact with and experience the world beyond. Some examples provided by the programme include:

- Visits to workplaces including top law firms, technology companies, investment banks etc.
- Workshops in schools delivered by top professional services firms and businesses
- A broad programme of notable speakers including Shami Chakrabarti, George Alagiah, Theo Paphitis, Boris Johnson and Gary Lineker
- Thriving careers networking events attended by colleges, apprenticeship providers and a broad range of employers
- High quality work experience placements at leading organisations in the students' area of interest
- Visits to the very best universities including meeting students and getting a taste for university style lectures and seminars

Enrich the curriculum

We have worked hard to develop an exceptional knowledge-rich curriculum and Education Enrichment has a key role to play in bringing subject learning to life outside of the classroom. Some examples provided by the programme include:

- Trips to Houses of Parliament
- Visits to a wide range of museums and historical sites including the British Library and The Tower of London
- Trips to Normandy, Frieburg and Rome
- Science trip to The Royal Astronomical Society and Royal Observatory

- Maths competitions around the country
- Geography trips around the country

Provide exposure to culture, the arts and sport

Access to culture, the arts and sport are critical to a well-rounded and excellent education. We take our students to some of the top museums and cultural venues. Some recent trips provided by the programme include:

- The Globe Theatre
- The Opera
- London Symphony Orchestra
- The Courtauld Gallery, Tate and Royal Academy

Beyond the sport offered in the curriculum, we offer additional sports coaching in the mornings, lunchtimes, after school, on Saturdays and over the holiday period so our students receive the multitude of benefits sport has to offer.

Build Character, Integrity, Resilience, Judgement

We believe these are the core skills that we can give to our students which will put them in a position to excel in their future endeavours. For this reason, we offer a broad range of high quality programmes in which our students can develop and apply these attributes. Some examples provided by the programme include:

- Adventure learning
- Outward Bound trips to Cumbria
- Residential on a Farm
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- Mentoring
- Debating clubs and competitions

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Extra-curricular and volunteering opportunities enrich the lives of all our students and, by complementing their academic studies, contribute to their broader development as well educated and well-rounded young men and women. We operate an extended day with library access and breakfast service from 8.00am and finishing with after-school homework support, intervention, and a huge range of sporting, musical, creative and academic clubs.

Extra-curricular activities



At Laureate Academy we offer several extra-curricular and volunteering opportunities alongside our Education Enrichment programme of speakers, visits and events to complement and enhance our students' development. These opportunities broaden students' horizons and contribute to their development as confident and well-balanced young people, with the self-belief to aim high and reach their full potential.

There is a great range of activities and clubs after school so there is something for everyone. These include sporting, musical, creative and academic clubs that broaden students' experiences, expand their curiosity, and spark a range of interests and passions. Through the provision of these opportunities, students are strongly encouraged to try new things, live healthier lifestyles and get extra help with their

schoolwork. The wide array of sporting opportunities on offer includes basketball, netball, table tennis, trampolining, rugby and football. Students can also choose to get involved with the Music Academy or opt for a debating club. Many students also complement their studies by joining academic clubs such as the Science Club or getting additional support with their GCSEs through regular subject drop-in sessions.

Thank you for your interest in Laureate Academy;
we hope you enjoyed your visit.

If you have any further queries, please email admissions@laureate.futureacademies.org