

**WEST
ACADEMY**

**PROSPECTUS
2012/13**

Barnfield
Setting the standard

West Academy





OUR VISION

“To be Britain’s highest performing Federation, where customer and community needs are met, students are happy, successful and reach their full potential.”

OUR MISSION

“To provide innovative and exciting learning opportunities that lead to employment and/or further study.”

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



We believe in three core expectations: high achievement for all, happy and successful learners and a blend of traditional values within a modern context. As a result, our students are articulate, hard-working and well-rounded individuals who achieve considerable success by taking on challenges and working independently. Standards are very important to us and we are extremely proud of the many achievements of students and staff at the Academy.

Our academic results consistently place us among the top state schools in the country, putting us within the top 10% for value added for our GCSE results over 4 years. Our curriculum experience reflects our specialism strengths in Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Enterprise and Creative & Cultural Industries.

Our prospectus will provide you with a brief insight into some of the outstanding work we are doing in learning and teaching, in order to provide an excellent education for students who attend the Academy. At Barnfield West Academy we never forget that parents entrust us with one of the most important and rewarding jobs in the world, the education of their children. For us, that means finding the means to unlock the potential within every child in ways that ultimately make them happy, confident and competent young adults.

Our most recent OFSTED visit judged the Academy as “Outstanding”.

Students make exceptional progress from their starting points to reach standards, by the end of Year 11, that are significantly above average. (OFSTED)

Our supportive approach enables everyone to develop the skills and knowledge required to be responsible and considerate individuals suited to the demands of our ever-changing multicultural society. There is extensive monitoring of students’ progress and regular contact with parents. We place a high emphasis on positive behaviour which ensures the Academy is a happy and safe place within which to learn.

In February 2011 we moved into our amazing £30 million state-of-the-art building. We have some of the best and most innovative educational facilities in the country. The building was designed in partnership with students, parents, carers, local residents and our stakeholders to ensure it can be used as a community resource for the Lewsey area for many years to come.

As an Academy within the Barnfield Federation we hold a pivotal position in delivering a world class educational experience for students from the local community. We are committed to excellence; we embrace change and no matter what the starting point, we are committed to providing the best for every child.

Andy Hardy
Principal, Barnfield West Academy

FROM THE SPONSOR



Barnfield is a Beacon College, graded outstanding by Ofsted, an Investor in People (IiP) Gold Champion and the WorldSkills leader for the Eastern region.

In September 2007, Barnfield broke new ground by becoming the first Further Education College in the country to sponsor two significantly underperforming secondary schools, create academies and form a federation. Since this point GCSE results have more than tripled in both academies and from a position of special measures, they are now judged as “Outstanding” and “Good” by Ofsted. These are the highest grades achieved in the history of these schools.

Over the last four years the Federation has grown in size and maturity. The Federation is now led by the Barnfield Education Partnership Trust – members of

the Federation include Barnfield College (16+ upwards), Barnfield South and West Academies (11 – 18 years), Moorlands Primary free school (4 – 11 years) and the country’s first FE sponsored Studio School (14 – 18 years Enterprise Academy), with another sponsored academy planned for a 2012 opening.

Like the Principal and staff at Barnfield West Academy, I am excited about the future and determined to provide the young people that attend Barnfield with every opportunity to reach their goals.

Pete Birkett

**Chief Executive, Barnfield Federation
Founder and Chairman, Barnfield Education
Partnership Trust**

ABOUT US

“Barnfield West Academy has improved outcomes for students from one of the lowest in the country to among the very highest.” **OFSTED 2010**

Barnfield West Academy opened in September 2007 sponsored by a Further Education College; it is part of the Barnfield Federation. The Academy has won a range of Awards including International School

Status, Healthy Schools Mark, ECM Quality Gold Mark, ICT Mark, and a National Business Award to name a few.

The Academy has also received 15 national awards from The Schools Network for raising achievement and transforming achievement and learning.

ACHIEVEMENT



“At Barnfield West Academy, the amazing can-do attitude held by staff and pupils makes all our aspirations achievable!” **Year 10 pupil**

In 2011 we maintained our high attainment, including our excellent 100% GCSE pass rate for five A*–C, along with 59% gaining five A*–C with English and Maths. We became the first school in Luton ever to achieve 100% five A*–C. We have been graded “Outstanding” by OFSTED when they inspected the school in 2010. We pride ourselves in doing everything possible to ensure our students’ success and happiness.

FACILITIES AND RESOURCES



Barnfield West Academy moved into our state-of-the-art £30 million new build in February 2011. The building is equipped with the latest ICT facilities, which are at the leading edge of teaching and learning. Throughout the new building, staff and students have access to over 500 network PCs, wireless laptops, iPads, Kindles and extensive subject software. Interactive white boards and data projectors are an integral part of teaching and learning. The building also includes specialist rooms for all subject areas equipped with

the latest kit, a sports centre, fitness suites and a 3G all weather pitch. The Barnfield Sixth Form was launched in September 2011 providing a range of A/AS-Levels and Vocational courses in conjunction with its sister Academy, Barnfield South, and Barnfield College.

Our teaching and learning is further supported through our ground breaking learning gateway, which opens all our extensive learning facilities with a mouse click for our students anywhere, anytime.

We are a high achieving academy with 100% of pupils obtaining five or more GCSEs. OFSTED judged the Academy as “Outstanding”, describing it as being remarkable in the way it has improved learning and made outstanding progress.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

“Teaching in the Academy is innovative and exciting while contributing to the outstanding progress of students.” **OFSTED**

The OFSTED report said the following about the quality of teaching and learning:

Quality of Teaching: 1 Outstanding

The Leadership and Management of Learning and Teaching: 1 Outstanding

Inspectors agreed that the use of assessment is a model of best practice. High quality teaching, combined with the students’ positive attitudes and rigorous assessment ensures that all groups of students, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities make accelerated progress, particularly in acquiring knowledge and developing their understanding.

This outstanding teaching is due to senior leaders’ focus on improving consistency in the delivery of

lessons. The development of students’ skills is often excellent. Learning outcomes are skilfully designed to accelerate learning.

Teaching in the Academy is innovative and exciting so contributing to the outstanding progress of students. In lessons, teachers’ constant reappraisal of students understanding, combined with rigorous marking, provides students with clear guidance on their next steps for improvement.

Assessment information is used to set challenging work and ambitious targets for students, to track their progress over time, to report to parents, and to shape specific interventions for anyone in danger of falling behind.

Lessons are well planned and carefully structured with clear learning objectives shared with students. Students are aware of their teachers’ high expectations and greatly appreciate the substantial help and support



they receive. Teachers make very good use of technology, including interactive whiteboards, to deliver their lessons and most provide a wide range of activities that ensure students are actively engaged in their learning.

PERSONALISED SUPPORT

The OFSTED report said the following about the effectiveness of care, guidance and support:

The Effectiveness of Care, Guidance and Support: 1 Outstanding

“Prefects and House Captains take their responsibilities seriously. They are rightly proud of Barnfield West and actively participate in the smooth running of the Academy.” **OFSTED**

We go the extra mile with a daily student enrichment hour and 50 academic tutor groups delivering daily personalised learning sessions. Like a family, students mentor younger students with studies and homework. All pupils belong to a house. We currently have five houses. Enterprise, Excellence, Success, Integrity and Aspire are the proud names of these houses and watch words for the Academy. The five words represent everything that we instil in our students. The houses compete for merits every day of their academy life and on the sports field.

Every student is actively encouraged to contribute to academy life. A wealth of opportunities has been developed:

- House councils
- A comprehensive prefect system
- Peer mentoring
- Student interviews
- Student led businesses

Head Girls and Head Boys are members of the Junior Leadership Team who sit on the student council made up with members from each year group. Together they choose community projects to help others less fortunate than themselves.

At Barnfield West Academy, we believe in a holistic approach to education. We value success on the sports fields with our committed, hard playing teams and individuals with some competing at national events.

Health is a top priority with more than 80% of students enjoying a healthy school meal. We run a school based health service accessible by all students.

We carefully monitor students' progress and provide extra tuition for GCSE students.

BEHAVIOUR AND STANDARDS



“The highly individual nature of both pastoral and academic support provided for all students has an outstanding impact in their progress” **OFSTED**

Traditional values of respect, good behaviour and self-discipline are our bedrock. Students stand when adults enter a room, and enjoy wearing the Academy uniforms. We are committed to 100% attendance and punctuality.

Anti-bullying is our highest priority with students closely monitored at all times. Staff are on duty throughout the day as well as at the end of the Academy day.

OUR SPECIALISM



Barnfield West Academy has three designated specialisms with strong synergy; Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Enterprise and Creative & Cultural Industries.

Our lead ICT specialism is central to, and supports, the transformation of learning and teaching through extensive training for staff and a huge investment in ICT resources. These range from staff and student laptops, Kindles, iPads and gaming technology.

In Years 10 and 11, students' opportunities are extended further through careers, education and personal and social development. The Academy has its own Careers Advisors, who work very closely in supporting enterprise education. Links with the business community enable them to apply theoretical study to real life situations. This together with a comprehensive careers programme and many opportunities to pursue, enterprise contributes particularly well to students' understanding of education and employment pathways.

To ensure that time spent at the Academy is enjoyable and educational, an example of a typical day is as follows:

07.30 - 08.45	Breakfast Club with breakfast in the dining room and a choice of board games and newspapers to read. The games room opens at 8am with a variety of games to choose from in a comfortable environment.
08.45 - 09.00	Registration
09.00 - 10.00	Lesson 1
10.00 - 11.00	Lesson 2
11.00 - 11.15	Break
11.15 - 12.15	Lesson 3
12.15 - 13.15	Lesson 4
13.15 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 - 15.00	Lesson 5
15.00 - 16.00	Lesson 6



“All aspects of the provision are outstanding.” **OFSTED**

The OFSTED report said the following:

The extent to which the curriculum meets pupils’ needs, including, where relevant, through partnerships: 1 Outstanding

The main aim of the curriculum provision at Barnfield West Academy is to ensure that we:

- Provide in-class and wider curriculum opportunities, which match students’ needs, aspirations and capabilities, and build upon prior attainment and experience
- Ensure the curriculum and enrichment activities meet external requirements, are responsive to local circumstances and provide enjoyment and breadth, balance and depth for the learner
- Work in partnership with parents and the wider community to provide a curriculum and other learning experiences that provide diversity and a personalised approach

KEY STAGE 5

Our brand new Sixth Form opened its doors in September 2011 as part of the state-of-the-art buildings within the Academy. This is a new and exciting venture, turning what was our existing provision for 11–16 year olds into one that is now for 11–18 year olds. The curriculum is a federal offer whereby students can study subjects within both Barnfield West and South Academies and across Barnfield College.

Students can opt to choose A-Levels, Vocational subjects or a mixture of both, giving students an offer of hundreds of different combinations.

As well as studying for a variety of courses, students have a large enrichment package that

is accredited through ASDAN CoPE, which is worth 70 UCAS points towards a student's university application. Enrichment activities include guest speakers, Duke of Edinburgh Award, field trips, supporting younger students, languages, sport and art to name but a few. Students, as part of this enrichment, also have an hour of academic mentoring with their tutors a week where attainment and progress are discussed.

Students are set extremely challenging targets that are based on the results of the top 25% performing sixth forms nationally and are monitored and tracked against these every half

term alongside strict assessment criteria. We want our students to be the best and achieve the best results. This is our aspiration and goal for our Sixth Form – to be outstanding and to be within the top 25% of all sixth forms nationally. Our students will leave the Academy with a great set of results and move into university or, high end employment or training as they are supported by outstanding teachers and pastoral staff who aspire to be the best and get the best out of their students at all times.

KEY STAGE 4

In Key Stage 4 all students study Mathematics, Science, English, ICT, Business Studies, PE and PHSCE as part of our core curriculum. Students have the option to choose from Art, Modern Foreign Languages, Humanities, Drama, Music, Design Technology, Catering, Health & Social Care, Digital Imaging and Food Technology. This ensures that we provide opportunities for different kinds of learning and to suit different skills and interests.



KEY STAGE 3



When students arrive at the Academy we deliver core subjects of Mathematics, Science, PE, Art, Design Technology, Music, Drama, Geography, History, RE, Modern Foreign Languages and PHSC. These are delivered through an integrated curriculum provision with independent learning projects focusing on key skills.

We run a number of programmes throughout the year to support learning, achievement, attainment and enjoyment.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Our Academy is open throughout the year with personalised programmes for our pupils:

- Literacy programmes to improve literacy skills
- Numeracy programmes to sharpen the numeracy skills
- Exam preparations – each subject area runs an extensive programme to support the pupils through critical periods of time

To ensure our students have the best experience possible to a global extent we have created strong links within schools in England and abroad.

- Links with schools in Botswana – our pupils fundraising support has paid for windows and a TV for a school there
- Links with South Africa and America – members of staff have been to see how the education system there is being run
- Links with Finland – to learn about different cultures

Other programmes have included: Carnival club, scrap booking, card making, origami, cooking club, additional needs support, language classes and gardening clubs to name but a few.

The student voice carry out regular surveys to ensure the clubs and activities provided meet the varying needs and requirements of our student body and all are welcome to attend.

HOME LEARNING



Home learning is set regularly. Key Stage 3 students are given independent learning projects on a half term basis in addition to home learning. As students get older the amount of home learning they receive increases. Home learning must be recorded in the student's planners and parents/carers are expected to check this on a daily basis.



PARTNERSHIPS WITH PARENTS

Our three way pact between students, parents and staff ensures students' success and welfare. Parents and carers are involved through regular newsletters, open evenings, arranged meetings, school reports and telephone calls.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP

Our parent focus groups have contributed dramatically to the Academy's success with innovative ideas, important parental perspective and much hard work on key aspects of the Academy.

"The extended day run by the Academy staff provides learning opportunities before and after school, as well as in the holidays. This has enabled the students to exceed their original examination targets." **OFSTED**

ADMISSIONS

Admissions to Barnfield West Academy are managed by the local authority and therefore the rules for admission are those as laid down by UK law in the 'Schools Admissions Code'.

If you wish to make an enquiry about the possibility of your child attending the Academy then please contact the Admissions Team at Unity House on the contact details shown below:

Admissions Team
Unity House
111 Stuart Street
Luton
Bedfordshire LU1 5NP

T: **01582 548 016**

admissions@luton.gov.uk

www.luton.gov.uk/admissions

Further information about choosing a school can be found on the Directgov website:
www.direct.gov.uk

To view the admissions policy of Barnfield West Academy, please visit our website:
www.westacad.barnfield.ac.uk

To arrange a tour or information about open days please call: **01582 569 569**

Barnfield West Academy

Legrave High Street
Luton LU4 0NE

T. 01582 569 569

enquiries@westacad.barnfield.ac.uk

www.westacad.barnfield.ac.uk