



# BRISTOL BRUNEL ACADEMY



**Bristol Brunel**  
Academy





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# Message from the Academy Principal



On behalf of the staff and Academy Council, I am delighted to welcome you and your child to Bristol Brunel Academy. I am immensely proud of the community that we serve and the work that we do to ensure that all our students aspire to achieve beyond their expectations. We work tirelessly every day to ensure that our students are fully prepared for the future so that they become confident young adults.

We have high expectations of all our students and believe that anything is possible with hard work and determination. We take pride in developing your child's academic achievement through our inspiring, diverse and inclusive curriculum, developing their sense of responsibility, confidence and aspirations. Our staff are the experts and deliver a rich experience both academically and pastorally to support and nurture students as they progress through the school. The curriculum is both broad and balanced at Key Stage 3 to enable your child to get the best start possible, as they progress to Key Stage 4, options are varied and more specialised to allow your child to study at depth, preparing them for the next stage in their educational journey.

We value the relationship that we have with you as our students' parents and carers and want you to take an active role in your child's education with us at Bristol Brunel. Throughout their time with us they will experience the very best teaching and a curriculum created in collaboration with our Federation colleagues that will be challenging and inspiring, a robust assessment process that allows us to provide

information on your child's progress and ensures our staff are able to meet the needs of all students, an extensive enrichment programme where all staff offer a club through the academic year. The programme was praised by Ofsted in our inspection in June 2023, for its inclusivity and going beyond the academic realm, opportunities to develop their leadership qualities, a range of inclusive clubs that provide a safe space for students to talk about their views and opinions, an experienced pastoral and counselling team, to support the needs of all students.

We believe that every child can succeed given the right environment, a nurturing staff body and a wide range of experiences. We strongly believe that if we stand together, work hard and be kind anything is possible.

Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus and visiting us.

**Jen Cusack**  
*Principal, Bristol Brunel Academy*

# Message from the CLF Chief Executive



Welcome to the Cabot Learning Federation (CLF). Our partnership is sponsored by Rolls-Royce PLC and University of the West of England (UWE).

Our trust consists of more than 25 academies in Bristol, Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset and Somerset. Our family of schools includes secondary and primary academies; one all-through academy; overarching Post 16 provision; a studio school; special schools, and a suite of alternative provisions. Together we educate more than 15,000 children between the ages of three and 19.

We are proud that every CLF academy has shown marked improvement since joining us, as identified by Ofsted and pupils' outcomes. Our work is changing

the educational landscape across the region; at the CLF, we champion the success and life chances of all children, as exemplified in our HEART Core Purpose, and believe that every child can find a route to happiness and prosperity.

Our trust was created to enable staff to work more closely together to deliver the best education possible for the students who attend our academies. We are proud of the improvements we have seen in pupil outcomes and more of our students than ever before have qualifications that compare favourably with other young people nationally and across the South West.

In addition to our work in schools we perform a range of roles in government-backed initiatives designed to improve the schools sector. We support a large number of schools beyond our trust as a lead partner in the Five Counties Teaching School Hubs Alliance. We also run two Behaviour Hubs, an Attendance Hub and the Boolean Maths Hub, National Maths Hub. This places us at the heart of a network of over 900 schools across our region. We also invest in the future of the education sector, training and accrediting new teachers via our own School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) provision. This is a good example of how we seek to recruit the best people into the profession

and support them to become highly effective practitioners and leaders via further professional development throughout their careers.

Bristol Brunel Academy is a key partner in our growing family of CLF schools. Please do take the opportunity to get to know the school, its staff and the Principal, Jen Cusack.

Our vision is simple: we believe that by working together rather than in isolation we can accelerate school improvement, embed excellence in our academies, deliver our mission, and be an educator of choice for pupils and their families.

Our commitment to high expectations and standards, a joy-filled contemporary curriculum and excellent teaching is underpinned by an inclusive ethos which seeks to eradicate disadvantage and help all our pupils reach their full potential. This all combines to help us create more opportunities for lifelong success for our pupils as they become young adults.

**Mr Steve Taylor**  
*Mr Steve Taylor  
Chief Executive, Cabot Learning Federation*



### CLF CORE PURPOSE

Maintain **High expectations** in all we do, ambitious for ourselves, our communities, and our environment.

Create **Equity** of opportunity, promoting inclusion, removing disadvantage and rejecting discrimination.

Champion the success and life chances of **All children**.

Furnish pupils and staff with the **Resilience** to succeed as lifelong learners.

Harness our **Togetherness** to achieve more, collaborating proactively in seamless unity.

# Academy Vision and Aims

“

*Bristol Brunel Academy is a place where diversity is valued and celebrated. Relationships between staff and pupils are mutually respectful.*

*(Ofsted, 2023)*

”

We live the **Brunel Way**  
We develop **great staff**  
So .....  
**All our students excel**

## The Brunel Way Work Hard, Be Kind

We make **exceptional** things happen today, tomorrow and in the years to come.



Academically
Professionally
Socially
Personally
Within the community

What does this mean in reality?

### The BBA Backpack

Every student leaving the Academy will carry a BBA backpack containing the right qualifications, skills and qualities ready for a successful and positive future.

### Academically

AT BBA...

**We work hard to be the best that we can be.**

#### WHAT'S IN OUR BACKPACK?

- Self-agency
- Sense of self
- Sense of place
- Qualification
- Literacy and numeracy skills

### Professionally

AT BBA...

**We have pride in our appearance and in our work.**

#### WHAT'S IN OUR BACKPACK?

- Strong work ethic
- Employability skills
- Knowledge of Post 16 routes and careers

### Socially

AT BBA...

**We celebrate our differences and challenge inequality.**

#### WHAT'S IN OUR BACKPACK?

- Togetherness and Belonging
- Ability to build strong relationships
- Community Cohesion - ability to celebrate, live and work with people from different communities
- Self-management

### Personally

AT BBA...

**We take pride in who we are.**

#### WHAT'S IN OUR BACKPACK?

- Self-efficacy
- Self-esteem
- Healthy body and mind
- Resilience

### Within the community

AT BBA...

**We respect and take care of our community and environment.**

#### WHAT'S IN OUR BACKPACK?

- Self-discipline
- Ability to contribute to society and support communities
- Ability to look after others and the environment



# High Standards; High Expectations



“  
*Pupils are very proud of their school.*  
”  
(Ofsted, 2023)

“  
*Pupils follow an ambitious curriculum. It is designed to reflect the school's diverse cohort.*  
”  
(Ofsted 2023)



Everyday we have a strong commitment to ensuring that the learning of the majority is not compromised by the behaviour of a few.

We strive to be very consistent and to ensure that there are clear rules and expectations. We are very clear about what is expected and this creates a strong ethos, positive atmosphere and a productive and purposeful environment that students enjoy whilst learning and personally developing.

We know our students are proud to be part of the Academy and this is shown by students' smart appearance, good behaviour, punctuality and high attendance. We believe wearing the Academy uniform is an important part of belonging to our Academy. All students wear our uniform with pride. Parents/carers support us by ensuring their child wears the correct uniform.

The Academy has a site ban for mobile phones and electrical items which has allowed all students to

focus on their learning without being distracted in and between lessons.

We believe student participation is essential for the future improvement and development of the Academy. Our Student Leadership Council enables students to have a voice and opportunity to share in the Academy's development.

“  
They [pupils] feel a **sense of belonging** to the school.”  
(Ofsted 2023)

“  
Governors **know the school well.**”  
(Ofsted 2023)

“  
There are a **wide range of clubs** which pupils attend”  
(Ofsted 2023)

“  
Leadership, at all levels, is a **strength of the school.**”  
(Ofsted 2023)

“  
There is a **calm and purposeful atmosphere** in lessons and around the school site. Pupils appreciate the clear rules and expectations”  
(Ofsted 2023)

“  
Pupils feel **safe** in school and have a trusted adult they can talk to”  
(Ofsted 2023)

“  
Pupils read books regularly which **develops their love of reading.**”  
(Ofsted 2023)

# Inspiring Learning



## Every lesson matters, everyday.

The Academy focuses and continually seeks to improve teaching so that students are inspired and supported to achieve and make progress. We have a diverse and inclusive curriculum which enables students to improve their knowledge and develop their sense of belonging. We have high expectations of student engagement in lessons and their commitment to their learning.

There is a deep and rigorous focus on teaching; the Academy knows that this is what will allow students to find joy in their subjects and achieve the outcomes that they require for their future.

The Academy has a significant reputation for the quality of teaching and training. This allows the Academy to apply the latest approaches and strategies to support all students.

Assessment and feedback play a very important role in ensuring that students know exactly what they can do and precisely what they need to do to improve. We test students regularly because we know that one of our key responsibilities is to ensure that students can perform in exams and secure strong outcomes.

Reading is a key part of learning for every student, every day. We strongly believe that reading is a vital skill that unlocks the potential of all students.

“

*Leaders have high expectations of all pupils.*

*(Ofsted, 2023)*

”

# Inspiring Curriculum

The Academy offers an innovative curriculum that caters for each child, leading to qualifications that enable students to feel success and progress into their future.

We know that in an increasingly competitive world, strong qualifications enable students to continue along pathways that secure their success in the future. We are extremely rigorous and focused on raising the achievement and maximising the progress of all students. This is achieved through outstanding teaching and assessment within an innovative curriculum.

Our curriculum at Key Stage 3, Years 7, 8 & 9, focuses on developing high standards in English, Maths, Science and a wide range of subjects.

At Key Stage 4, Years 10 & 11, our curriculum creates opportunities for students to learn in depth, challenging them and engaging a true curiosity for learning.

The curriculum includes a wide range of options, giving students a breadth of choice, which allows them to specialise and gain accreditation in many areas.

We also offer a strong programme of support for students with specific learning difficulties or with English as their second language. The Academy provides the physical environment and staff expertise to cater for a range of special educational needs. We are fully wheelchair accessible.

To expand students' knowledge and interests beyond their usual curriculum subjects we offer a range of enrichment activities. Every teacher offers an enrichment club, we are especially proud of our rich array of cultural and social opportunities.





# Inspiring Support

The Academy has outstanding pastoral care. The Year Teams ensure that students are fully supported to achieve and make progress.



“

*There is a strong culture of safeguarding throughout the school. Staff are well trained to identify concerns and to respond appropriately.*

*(Ofsted, 2023)*

”



## Tutor Groups

The tutor is responsible for their tutor group and plays a key role in the pastoral care of their students. Seeing their tutees everyday in tutor time enables them to establish strong relationships with each child.

They are able to monitor academic progress, attendance, punctuality and liaise with parents/carers to support learning. The tutors also help students achieve their goals, stay motivated and commit to their education.

We encourage all our students to talk with their parents/carers and teachers if they have any worries about school.

## Year Teams

Year Teams are very proactive in their work; regularly visiting classes and working with teachers to assist with potential issues before they have chance to grow.

Each Year Team has a non teaching Pastoral Year Leader and Pastoral Support Assistant who are line managed by an Achievement Year Leader. Each year group has a member of the Senior Leadership Team who oversees the provision.

## SEND and Learning Support

We have a large supportive SEND and Learning Support Team. The SEND Information Report as well as further information on Learning Support is available on the Academy website: [bristolbrunelacademy.clf.uk/key-information/send/](https://bristolbrunelacademy.clf.uk/key-information/send/)

## Brunel House System

We have a House System that seeks to praise, celebrate and reward student achievements. There are four houses; Amika, Malala, Rashford and Stephenson that students and staff are a part of and this adds another dimension to our thriving Academy.

Throughout the year students will compete in a range of competitions and are rewarded for performance in lessons, sporting achievements and for showing personal qualities.



# Inspiring Experiences in an Inspiring Environment

Bristol Brunel Academy was the first school to be completed under the Government's Building Schools for the Future programme. Our spacious, light building was designed by award-winning architects Wilkinson Eyre and built by construction company Skanska with sustainability in mind. It is an amazing place to learn using state of the art facilities and spaces.

The building design focuses on meeting the needs of our curriculum, staff and students. Built on three floors with a lower ground floor, each floor has a wide corridor or 'main street'. The building is also designed to be as student-friendly as possible, easy to navigate and lockers are available for every student.

The Academy is fully resourced with ICT and industry standard equipment. The library is at the heart of the building; emphasising our commitment and drive around literacy and reading. There are fantastic sporting opportunities as well as large outside spaces for students to use at breaktime and lunchtime.





# Inspiring Futures



## Working with Parents/Carers

We want parents/carers to be active partners in their children's education. We have Year Teams and Support Staff who liaise with parents/carers on issues around behaviour, homework and Special Educational Needs.

We encourage parents/carers to regularly talk to their children about life at the Academy. We keep parent/carers informed of their child's progress and Academy events. We have Parent Councillors who sit on the Academy Council.

## Partners in Education

From local schools to universities, we have a range of partnerships with other educational organisations with whom we can share resources, experiences and expertise. We already benefit from our partnerships with other academies in the Cabot Learning Federation and our learning partner the University of the West of England (UWE).

We will continue to build our network with other schools nationally and internationally to develop partnerships to enrich learning, benefit our students and staff, and offer opportunities for educational visits. The Cabot Learning Federation Teaching School also enables Bristol Brunel to access the very best teacher training and development.

## Wider Links

We work hard to develop links with local and national businesses in order to enrich our curriculum and extend the experiences that our students have. Businesses currently provide mentors, work experience, careers guidance and curriculum support. We run successful Careers Conferences which are well attended by local businesses and other partners across the city.



“

*Through the 'BBA Backpack', pupils acquire the skills and qualities they will need in the future.*

*(Ofsted 2023)*

”

**The Academy has a strong Careers provision with a focus that supports students' ambitions.**

We want to build students' self esteem and self agency through creating a strong sense of belonging.

“

*Pupils have a voice in the school which leads to positive change.*

*(Ofsted 2023)*

”





# Starting in Year 7

We know students and their families may be nervous about the move from primary to secondary. Students may be concerned about making new friends, getting lost around the building, the level of work or how to behave in lessons.

We make every effort to ensure students settle in as easy as possible and the process starts as soon as a student is offered a place.

At Bristol Brunel Academy every child matters, therefore, we liaise with primary schools to ensure we have all the necessary information for every student, in order to ensure a smooth transition process for all.

A member of staff from the Academy will visit new students in their primary school setting.

Students will be allocated a Tutor Group of approximately 29 students. We ensure each group has a balance of gender, ethnicity and ability.

In June/July, Year 6 students are invited to come to the Academy for Induction sessions, where they will meet their new teachers and the other students in their Tutor Group.

An Academy Information Evening will be held for parents, carers and students.

In September, Year 7 students will start before the rest of the school. This gives Year 7 time to get to know their way around the building before everyone else arrives.

## THE ACADEMY DAY

Students arrive at 8:20am and finish at 3:00pm

There are a total of six lessons per day, plus Tutor Time.

Each Year Group will attend a weekly assembly on a designated day, during Tutor Time.

Various enrichment activities and clubs take place during lunchtimes and after school.



## BBA Uniform

### Compulsory



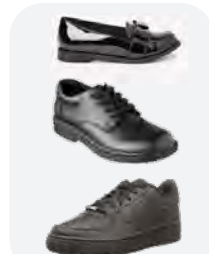
Black Blazer



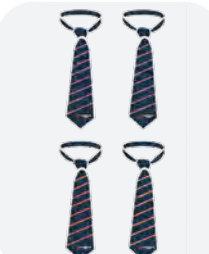
White long or short sleeved shirt



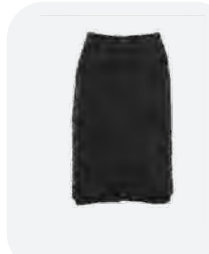
Black Tailored trousers-  
No leggings, chinos, Jeans or skinny fit



Black shoes or Trainers-  
Completely black trainers,  
no boots or heels



House Tie



Black Skirt - To the knee

### Optional



Black Cardigan – with BBA logo



Black V neck Jumper – Plain or with BBA logo



Tailored Shorts  
non-tailored shorts will not be allowed





# Accolades and Awards



## Anti-Bullying Alliance Awards

In 2021 Bristol Brunel Academy were recognised as an **Anti-Bullying Alliance Gold Award** school for their continued work and commitment towards challenging bullying behaviours within a school setting.



## The Diana Award - Anti Bullying

This Programme **raises awareness of bullying behaviour** and supports schools and young people to tackle bullying across the UK and beyond. A number of our students have undertaken anti-bullying training and have received The Diana Award. These young people are now our anti-bullying ambassadors.



## Centre for Race, Education & Decoloniality

Bristol Brunel Academy has made a Pledge to Commit to Achieve the **Anti-Racist School Award**.



## Eco-Schools

International **Eco-Schools Award Certificate** presented to Bristol Brunel Academy for continued excellence in improving environmental performance and learning.



## Halo Hair code

Our Academy champions the right of staff and students to **embrace all Afro-hairstyles**. We acknowledge that Afro-textured hair is an important part of our Black staff and students' racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious identities, and requires specific styling for hair health and maintenance.



## Duke of Edinburgh Award

At Bristol Brunel Academy we are proud to have a growing **Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE)** program with students in Years 9 and 10. We are currently completing Bronze and Silver Awards.



## ASDAN

Students in Years 10 and 11 are selected by the Academy to take part in the accessible and practical courses provided by the ASDAN education charity to help **develop their personal, social and work related abilities**.



## Modeshift Stars Education

The Academy was awarded the Bronze award in July 2023 for its delivery of **an effective travel plan**. We are now working towards achieving the Silver Award.



## Artsmark Silver Award

In recognition of the Academy's work in championing high-quality arts and cultural education, we were awarded the **Silver Artsmark Award** in July 2023.



# Final Words from the Principal

Thank you for taking the time to look through our prospectus, I hope that you enjoyed reading about the exciting opportunities that we offer and that you feel you have an insight into what we do and value everyday.

At Bristol Brunel we work hard to nurture the talents of all students encouraging them to be the very best that they can be. We want our students to make the most of their learning opportunities both within the classroom and

beyond. All staff work hard to develop a sense of belonging through our daily practice, our enrichment offer, our house system, our rewards programme and the Brunel Way Backpack.

If you would like more information please visit our website or get in contact with us at [info@bba.clf.uk](mailto:info@bba.clf.uk)

**Jen Cusack**  
*Principal*





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Principal: Jen Cusack



*Working in partnership with:*



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