



**Central Academy**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning

# Prospectus

2023- 2024

# A Warm Welcome to Central Academy



I am delighted to welcome you to Central Academy, which is part of United Learning Trust.

The United Learning motto is 'The Best in Everyone', and we wholeheartedly subscribe to this philosophy.

Here at Central Academy, we are committed to providing an outstanding learning experience through our broad and balanced curriculum. Our curriculum is far more than just a range of subjects, in its broadest sense it provides a full rounded education for all students, with excellent enrichment opportunities that broaden horizons and create lifelong memories for our students.

In recent years we have been really impressed with how our students have performed. Most recently in Summer 2023 with our students receiving some excellent GCSE and A-level results and a large number of Russell Group offers for our Year 13s going to

University.

Education is much broader than what happens in the classroom and we celebrate this as a school through our "Education with Character" program. This program focuses on education beyond the classroom, from extra-curricular opportunities to working with the Manchester United Foundation. Our Education with Character program is underpinned by our core values; Respect, Ambition, Determination, Confidence, Creativity and Enthusiasm.

We have something for anyone and everyone here at Central to ensure all students can succeed in the future.

We are a caring and inclusive school community who want the best for all our young people. I am excited to have such a strong body of staff here at Central Academy and really proud of the pastoral support we provide for our students.

We pride ourselves on high expectations for all students with our main focus being on learning. Therefore, all students at Central have the right to disruption free learning. As a school we pride ourselves on this simple expectation, therefore the behaviour system is simple, easy to apply and allows staff to focus on teaching excellent lessons.

Here at Central we look to strive for excellence in everything we do, never settling for just 'good enough'. As Principal, my standard is simple "the experience we provide our students' must be equal to the experience expected for our own children", if this isn't the case we must adapt and develop a better experience for our students.

As a parent, I understand the importance of the choice of your child's secondary school. At Central we provide a unique transition experience from personalised tours of our school to the transition summer school for all of our new Year 7 students. Nothing is too much to ask, therefore if you have any questions, please email the school at [info@rrca.org.uk](mailto:info@rrca.org.uk).

As Principal, I operate an open-door policy and welcome anyone to contact me directly with any concerns and I will always work with my staff to find positive solutions.

I hope you find the information in this prospectus useful. You can also find key information on our Academy website or through our Central Academy Facebook page.

**Dan Markham**  
**Principal**

# The Best in Everyone



Central Academy is a proud member of United Learning, a unique group of independent and state schools committed to providing excellent education, ensuring all students progress, achieve and go on to succeed in life. As a school we work collaboratively to achieve their “best in everyone” ethos.

This ethos perfectly aligns with our values; Respect, Determination, Ambition, Confidence, Creativity and Enthusiasm. Central Academy is a fully inclusive school and welcomes students and staff from all faiths and backgrounds.

## Our Vision:

*“To enable the young people of our community to shine on the world stage of their choosing”*

## Our Mission:

*“Central Academy is more than just a school, working with our school community to inspire lifelong learners that achieve their full potential in and out of the classroom, broadening horizons and creating lifelong memories”*

# Central Academy Values

At Central Academy our values are a very important part of everything we do. We use these values as part of our everyday language and directly link to our rewards system. At Central Academy our whole community are completely invested in our mission, vision and values all of which align with the ethos and culture set by United Learning. Our six values have been outlined below:

<b>Respect</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Showing consideration of the values, opinions and beliefs of others</li> <li>• Respect for ourselves, others and the environment</li> <li>• An understanding that we are all part of the Central family and are all unique</li> </ul>
<b>Ambition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspiring to be the best you can be, every second of every day</li> <li>• Aspiring to achieve the highest outcomes in and out of the classroom</li> <li>• Striving for the best career opportunities and knowing how to get there</li> </ul>
<b>Determination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be relentlessly resilient and never give up</li> <li>• Work as a team to achieve the best you can together</li> <li>• Thrive on challenge and crave learning</li> </ul>
<b>Confidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing mutual trust with everyone within the school community</li> <li>• Have an understanding of when to take risks for the right cause and knowing when and how to challenge the norm</li> <li>• Promoting self-belief. Every single person has the power to achieve greatness</li> </ul>
<b>Creativity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing and broadening horizons beyond our own community</li> <li>• Aspiring to achieve the impossible and making it happen</li> <li>• Relishing opportunities to become immersed within a creative curriculum</li> </ul>
<b>Enthusiasm</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrate our own talents &amp; achievements and seize every opportunity to explore new interests &amp; experiences</li> <li>• Being eager to learn from lessons and outside the classroom and show a love of learning</li> <li>• Always striving to build the confidence to lead, and the skills and attributes to succeed</li> </ul>

These values underpin everything we do and are clear to see on a day-to-day basis. Every policy, procedure, interview and system have these six values at the centre. We expect all our staff demonstrate and use them on a daily basis and encourage our students and their families to do the same.

# The Curriculum



Our aim is to provide an excellent education for all our students; an education which brings out the best in all of them and prepares them for success in life. Our curriculum is designed to provide children with the core knowledge they need for success in education and later life, to maximise their cognitive development, to develop the whole person and the talents of the individual and to allow all children to become active and economically self-sufficient citizens.

By teaching our curriculum well we develop pupils' cultural capital: "the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement." (DFE National Curriculum, 2014)

At Central Academy our curriculum intent alligns with the United Learning core curriculum, founded on these core principles:

- **Entitlement** – We believe that all children have the right to learn what is in the United Learning Curriculum; schools have a duty to ensure that all children are taught the whole of it.
- **Mastery** – We want all students to achieve a full understanding of the knowledge specified in the Curriculum for each year, and teaching should not move on until this is achieved.
- **Stability** – We won't constantly amend the Curriculum: while we should make occasional adjustments in the light of feedback and experience, we will aim for stability over many years, so that teachers can develop expertise, and we constantly build assessments and teaching materials to support the Curriculum.
- **Concepts not context** – The Curriculum is intended as a concise specification of knowledge and content to be taught and learned; it is for schools and teachers to decide how to teach and bring it to life.

At Central Academy every student should:

- Have a strong set of core values aligned with the school and know how to apply this in their studies and in later life
- Develop strong relationships with peers from a range of backgrounds and with adults
- Know the difference between right and wrong and know what it takes to be a Central citizen
- Listen to others' views and know when to challenge/question in a positive way
- Understand the importance of learning and that the learning journey requires a lot of resilience in order to be successful
- Have an understanding on where they are and where they want to be
- Understand the value of technology and understand how negative use can be harmful
- Be safe and sensible when using the internet and social media
- Have a full rounded educational experience understanding the importance of family, community and what makes a true Central citizen.

# Teaching & Learning



At Central Academy we are very proud to have a diverse and highly qualified range of teachers who combine their own personal expertise and knowledge to plan well-sequenced lessons for all students to maximise their learning. Our approach is underpinned by Rosenshine's Principles in conjunction with Doug Lemov's 'Teach like A Champion' to ensure all students can engage in learning.

All of our lessons are forensically planned to ensure that the appropriate level of challenge and support is provided to all students. We are also very proud to have a range of dedicated Teaching Assistants who work with our teachers to ensure every student, no matter what their starting point, can be successful.

As a school we are very proud of our Homework provision. This provision is an important part of school life and as a parent it is very simple and easy to follow so you can support your child with their learning. Our Home Learning Program operates through Microsoft Teams & asynchronous resources like Sparx or Tassomai and builds on learning that has taken place in lessons. All subjects are covered in our Homework provision. As a school, we also provide a Homework Club each evening from 3:00 – 4:00 pm for any students wishing to have some personalised support from one of our teachers.

# Education with Character

Education with Character is part of everyday life at Central Academy. We aim to provide a wide range of experiences outside their formal lessons to broaden horizons and create lifelong memories. As a school, we have a diverse range of extra-curricular opportunities from sports and the arts to the STEM club and much more. Every year we build on this provision as new technology and interests develop within our school community. In Years 7, 9 & 11 we run a residential for all students to provide a unique experience outside of their day-to-day school life.

From Year 9, our students have the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, which is a highly esteemed and rigorous programme designed to challenge their physical fitness, leadership, teamwork, personal development and community involvement.

In addition to this, all students will take part in our Tutor Reading Program. This guarantees a minimum of 60 minutes of reading each week with their Tutor. For our Year 7 students, they will also have the opportunity to take part in our 6<sup>th</sup> form Reading Program, where they have one to one support with our 6<sup>th</sup> form students.

Working with local businesses and education establishments has always been vital here at Central. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated Careers Officer who works with all students Years 7-13 to support, guide and provide career opportunities. We collaborate with further and higher education establishments to offer independent advice to assist students in identifying the right path to suit their individual needs and aspirations. We are very proud of our careers provision with our students receiving top university offers and career opportunities at the end of their study.



# The House System & Leadership



Student leadership is an important part of developing our students' character and help prepare them for life beyond Central Academy. We offer a range of leadership opportunities across the school which continue to grow year on year.

All students have the opportunity to take part on our sports leadership program. This involves developing key coaching and leadership skills and working closely with our primary school community to deliver a range of sporting competitions and events.

We are also very proud to have a Student Council. This involves all year groups who work together with staff to improve key aspects in the school for example our Anti-Bullying and Eco Ambassadors . This group of leaders have been key in some recent developments from the rewards system to being involved in developing key policies within the school.

All students will be part of a house competing for the house shield in a variety of inter-house competitions. Our house names are named after our Carlisle Roman Heritage; Hadrian House, Luguvalium House and Valantia House.



# Pastoral Support

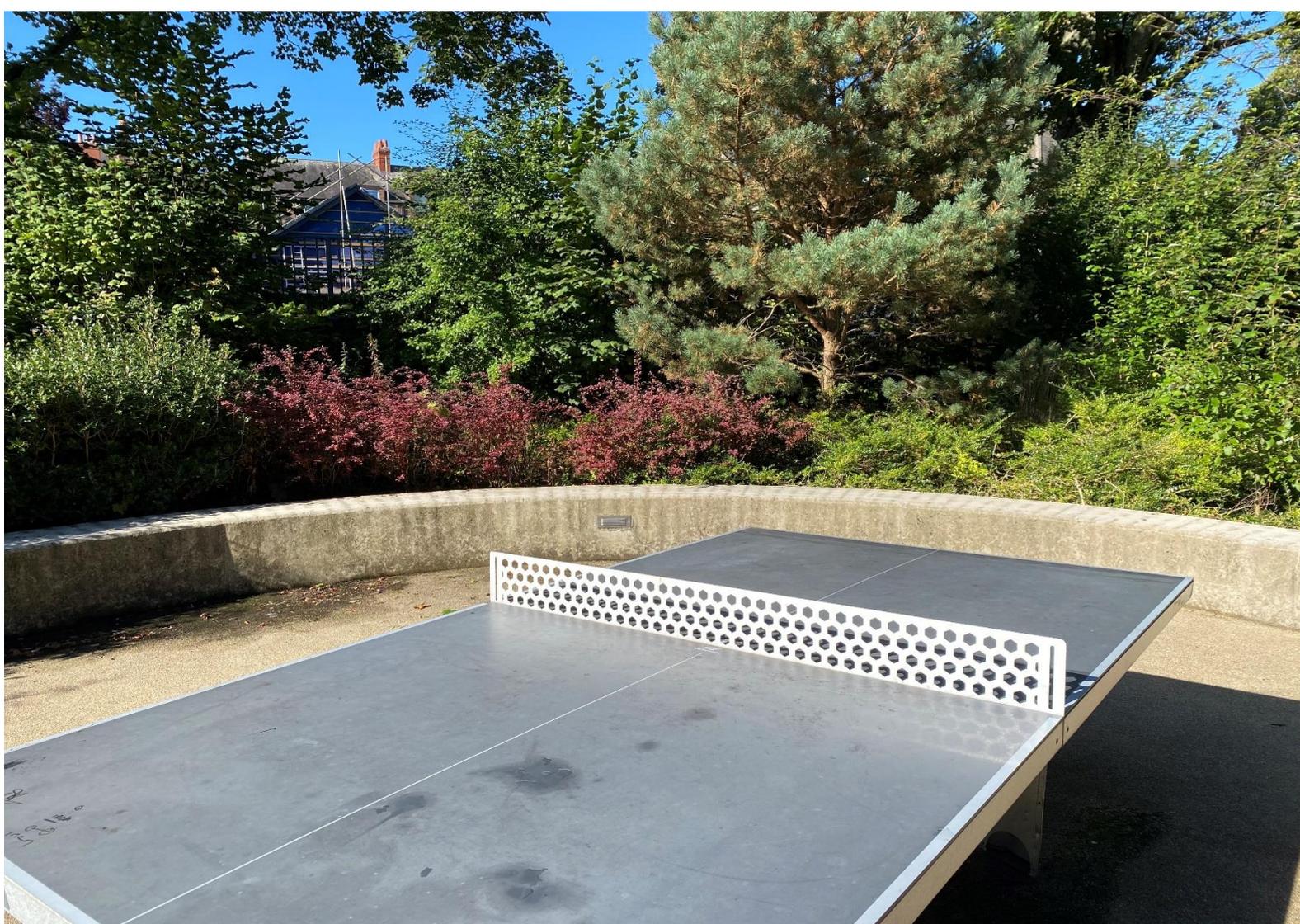
We have a strong focus on high standards of behaviour and conduct for all students underpinned by our core values. We believe that all students have the right to disruption free learning every lesson, every day. We are very proud of our pastoral care and safeguarding systems which ensure that all students feel safe and are confident in their learning environment.

Each student has a Form Tutor who will see them every day during form time and every year group have a non-teaching Year Team Manager, as well as a teaching Head of Year. We also have a Mental Health Lead to support students with their mental health, as well as access to a Mental Health Practitioner and Barnardo's Family Support.

We have a strict uniform policy which has changed from September 2021 with the introduction of a blazer. We expect our students to wear their uniform with pride and be excellent ambassadors for Central Academy in the local community and beyond.

## Year 7 Outside Area

We know the transition from primary school can be a daunting experience for any child. Therefore, at Central Academy we provide a private outdoor space for Year 7 students with a range of benches and table tennis tables, this area has always been very popular in recent years. Students have the option to spend their break and lunch time in this space or mix with the other year groups.



# Manchester United Foundation



We are very proud to have our own Manchester United Practitioners in school providing a unique opportunity for any student in the Carlisle area. We are the only school, north of Lancashire that has this unique provision and all students have benefitted over the past three years since the partnership began. The main purpose of the partnership is to work with a range of students to provide mentoring and interventions to support both pastorally and academically. Alongside this, the Foundation provide a suite of holiday camps for all students to access unique learning experiences. This has involved army camps, sports camps as well as community projects.

The Foundation also feeds into our whole school rewards system. Already this year students have had personalised tours at Old Trafford and Brunton Park, tickets to matches, as well as our Adidas rewards bundles. This is just a snapshot of the type of rewards our students have received through the Foundation.

Over the past 12 months we are really pleased to be able to expand the provision further with the introduction of a Primary Liaison Officer who will be working specifically with our feeder primary schools. Providing these exciting opportunities for our wider community.



## Sixth Form

We have a growing Sixth Form which continues to flourish and so many of our students decide to stay with us, due to the outstanding curriculum offer we have at KS5. We are very proud of our student destinations with 2022 & 2023 being our best years with a large number of students going to Russell Group Universities alongside some outstanding apprenticeships and career successes.

As a school, we offer a full range of academic and vocational courses to ensure there is something for everyone. We also provide additional enrichment opportunities for our 6<sup>th</sup> form students from prefecting and the students leadership program. As our Sixth Form continues to rapidly grow we will continue to adapt and develop our curriculum to ensure we provide more opportunities for all of our Carlisle families.



# How to Apply for a Place at Central Academy



**Complete the form online at:**

[School admissions | Cumberland Council](#)

If you require a paper form or require any support completing the application you can contact Cumbria County Council using the details below:

**Email:**

[\*\*school.admissions@cumberland.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:school.admissions@cumberland.gov.uk)

**Address:**

School Admissions and Appeals  
Cumbria County Council  
PO Box 415  
Carlisle  
CA1 9GU

Tel: 01228 221582

Further information and our admissions policy can be found at <https://www.rcca.org.uk/information/admissions>

**The deadline for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**