



Prospectus

2025- 2026

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.

Last year we did get inspected by Ofsted and I am pleased that our 6th form was viewed as very good with aspects of our offer achieving some of the outstanding criteria.

In recent years we have been really impressed with how our students have performed. Most recently in Summer 2025 with our students receiving some excellent GCSE and A-level results and a large number of Russell Group including Oxbridge offers for our Year 13s going to university. This academic year our results improved further with our Maths and Law A-level performing in the top 1% nationally, something we anticipate will continue in 2026.

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 virtues of Respect, Resilience and Ambition.

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. In this 6th form this is even higher, with students expected to be self motivated in supervised study and contribute to the wider school through leadership opportunities e.g. reading program.

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 post 16 education. At Central we provide a unique transition experience from personalised tours of our school, Sixth Form taster days and our summer transition for all Year 12 students. Nothing is too much to ask, therefore if you have any questions, please email the school at 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.

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 Virtues

At Central Academy our virtues are a very important part of everything we do. We use these virtues 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 virtues all of which align with the ethos and culture set by United Learning. Our three virtues have been outlined below:

Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Showing consideration of the values, opinions and beliefs of others• Respect for ourselves, others and the environment• An understanding that we are all part of the Central family and are all unique
Ambition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aspiring to be the best you can be, every second of every day• Aspiring to achieve the highest outcomes in and out of the classroom• Striving for the best career opportunities and knowing how to get there
Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be relentlessly resilient and never give up• Work as a team to achieve the best you can together• Thrive on challenge and crave learning

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

Central Academy Sixth Form - Curriculum

It is a pleasure for us to introduce our Sixth Form to you. We are a thriving community of over 100 students supported by a dedicated Sixth Form team. Our students come to us both from our own Year 11 and from a variety of other schools in the area. The Sixth Form team is here to support each individual student at a crucial time in their life, one that is both exciting and challenging. Our aim is to equip our students to take up their place in the world, whatever that may be, by providing an education rooted in Central Academy values and United Learning principles. We offer a wide range of Level 3 courses that enable our students to progress to university, higher apprenticeships or employment. We seek to develop the attitudes and skills essential to success in 21st Century Britain through our teaching, enrichment opportunities and pastoral care, and by the information, advice and guidance we provide. Above all we aim to create opportunities for all our students to succeed in whatever they do. We look forward to celebrating the success of every student.



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 students 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)

Preparing students for their next steps in life, is the basis of our curriculum.

Consider – Academic excellence is at the heart of what we do. We offer over 20 different subject choices which allow students to take up the widest possible range of university or career options.

Choose – Choose 3 A-levels, 3 vocational options or a mixture of both and for competitive University pathways, choose 4 A-levels.

Extend – The Super Curriculum Project and Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) gives another dimension to your profile and is highly prized by employers.

Our Courses

We have a broad range of Level 3 courses (A Level or equivalent) that allow students to be ambitious in reaching for their career ambitions. Our mix of vocational and academic courses mean students can tailor their curriculum to their learning styles (exam or coursework centred), their interests and post 18 ambitions.

All the courses below are Level 3 and carry UCAS points needed for application to university.

Blue: Level 3 but not A Level

Subject	Exam Board
Art	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Art and Design
Art Textiles	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Art Textiles
Biology	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Biology
Btec Sport	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Sport
Business	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Business
Chemistry	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Chemistry
Criminology	WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Criminology
Drama	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE Drama and Theatre
D&T	Edexcel level 3 Advanced GCE in Design and Technology
English Lang	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Language
English Lit	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Literature A
Geography	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Geography
German	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in German
Graphic Communications	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Art and Design
Health and Social	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Health and Social Care
History	OCR Level 3 Advanced GCE in History A
Computer Science	Level 3 Advanced GCE in Computer Science
Law	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Law
Maths	Pearson Level 3 Advanced GCE in Mathematics
Further Maths	Pearson Level 3 Advanced GCE in Further Mathematics
Media	Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Creative Digital Media Production
PE	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Physical Education
Religion, Philosophy and Ethics	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Religion, Philosophy and Ethics
Photography	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Art and Design
Physics	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Physics
Politics	Pearson Level 3 Advanced GCE in Politics
Psychology	WJEC Eduqas Level 3 Advanced GCE in Psychology
Sociology	AQA Level 3 Advanced GCE in Sociology

All subject courses are dependent upon numbers and may not run if the minimum number of students enrolled upon them is not met. If there are any courses not listed that you would like us to consider please contact us as our curriculum is always evolving.

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. All our Sixth Form teachers are experienced subject specialists that know how to support students achieving success.



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 opportunities to ensure that all students develop the necessary attribute to be successful post-6th form. Students develop key United Learning character traits both in the taught curriculum and wider opportunities offered in Sixth Form.

Interest(s) Articulacy Resilience Leadership
Teamwork Integrity Friendship Service



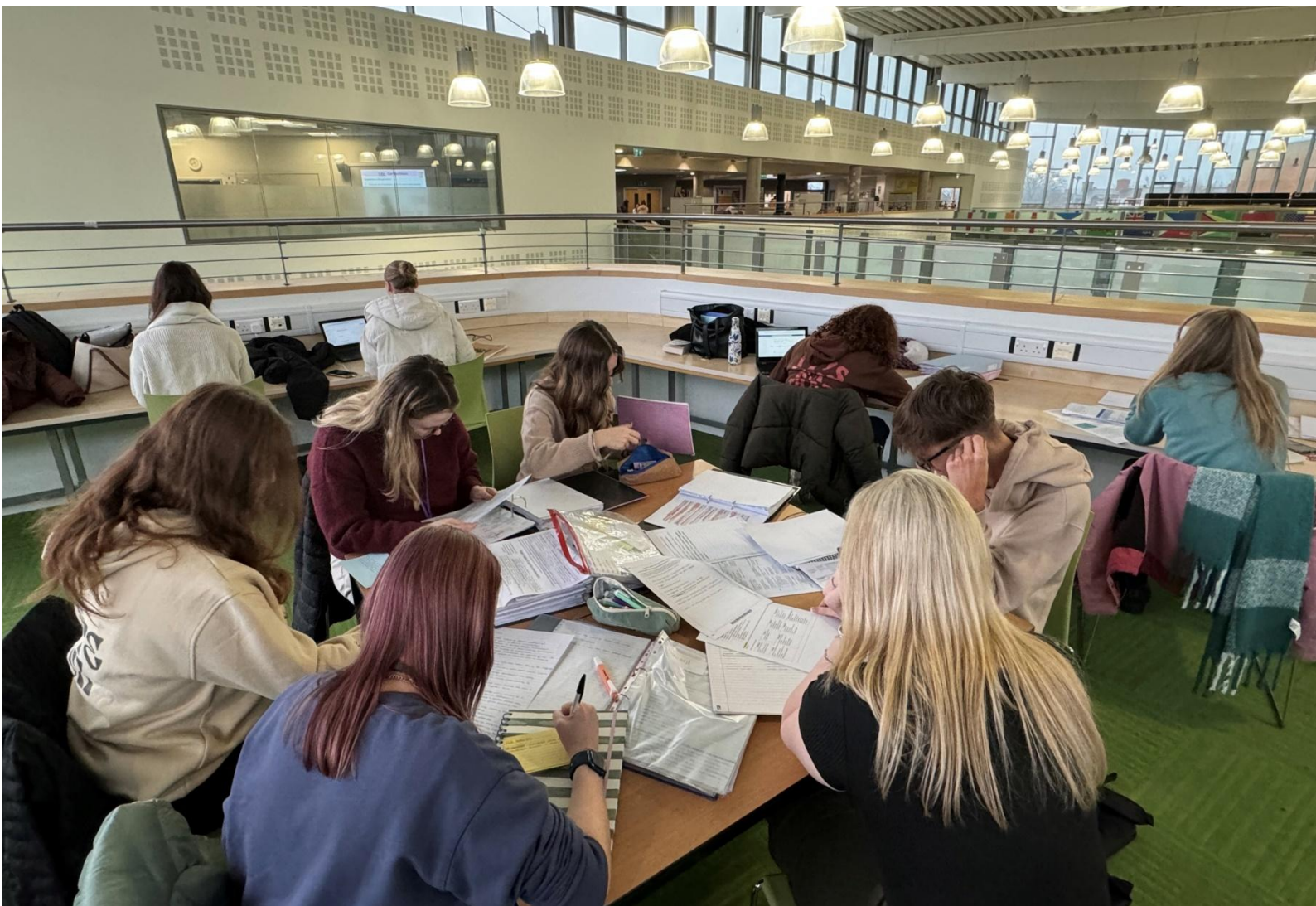
Leadership – Our students support younger peers as academic mentors and reading mentors in tutor time. They lead at key school events including public speaking, logistics and providing guidance to other students and those new to our community.

Student Voice – We listen to young people at Central Academy and act on their voice. As leaders on the Student Council, our students influence change and help empower our younger students.

Enrichment - Central Sixth Form is full of opportunities to develop character. Students make a full contribution to our community, leading on charity fundraising, mentoring younger students, attending higher education visits, university and apprenticeship fairs and subject school trips. We are proud to work in partnership with the early careers foundation with students being partnered with professional mentors in their chosen careers with access to bursary funding.

Careers Guidance – Our daily tutor programme provides regular careers guidance including advice from local employers, presentations from successful alumni, university workshops and step by step guidance on applying to university or higher/degree apprenticeships.

Sixth Form Experience Facilities



We are always looking for ways to improve the Sixth Form experience for our students. We have two Sixth Form study areas for the exclusive use of Sixth Form students where they can meet, work and socialise. The facilities include:

- An open-plan common room with designated workspaces, break-out and socialising areas.
- A café style outlet which provides hot and cold food, snacks and drinks throughout the day.
- Dedicated set of Sixth Form laptops for use by students for independent work.
- Wi-fi access for students to use their own phones or tablets within the Common Room.

Manchester United Leadership Program

The Manchester United Foundation Pathway Programme aims to support a group of career driven individuals, building skills for the future to reach their full potential.

In addition to this, students will have access to additional qualifications, skill set specific workshops, professional development and access to unique opportunities through our work in the city and beyond.

This enrichment offer will run alongside students' A-level courses and will complement the character curriculum that is already studied from Years 7-13. This opportunity is bespoke to the individual and we are the only school nationally that offer this type of enrichment post-16.



Carlisle United Football Academy

This year we are proud to work in partnership with Carlisle United Football Academy. Each year, 20 CUFC apprentices join our Sixth Form as part of their education and scholarship programme. The apprentices are from all over the UK and around 25% will make professional footballers.

Their academic education is delivered by the Central Academy PE department.



High standards for future success

We use our 6th form values to support students in achieving their goals. This model allows students to understand and improve their study behaviours whilst being aware of their attitude and mindset. We support them by giving very clear expectations based on five habits which have been developed by our 6th form staff and students. They are very simple to do once but take resilience, integrity and determination to do every day.

Passion – Engagement with extra-curricular and super-curricular activities to demonstrate passion for your chosen subjects.

Pride – High quality work in and out of lessons; coupled with taking pride in your appearance and your school.

Independence – Take ownership for your learning, demonstrate self-discipline and autonomy.

Community – Support each other to ensure that all members of our sixth-form are happy, safe and secure.

Ambition – Work towards being the best version of yourself you can be by setting goals and knowing what you want to achieve in life.

As recognition of the Sixth Form students' growing maturity and independence, our dress code is based upon business principles. We believe that a business dress code will promote fairness and equality for all students. The dress code strikes a balance between some degree of individuality whilst recognising the importance of setting an example to the younger members of the school community.

SIXTH FORM DRESS CODE AT CENTRAL ACADEMY

Formal suits can be worn but are not compulsory.
Blazers can also be worn but are not compulsory.



Skirts, dresses, and chino shorts should be an appropriate length. Sports leggings and tracksuits are allowed when students are taking part in PE. Sports trainers are not allowed unless sportswear is being worn to take part in PE at the academy. Canvas shoes are allowed if they are not heavily branded.



Our Entrance Requirements

A. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

1. ENTRY TO SIXTH FORM:

At least 5 GCSE (or equivalent) passes at **grade 5** or above, including English language and mathematics (Students may be considered for entry with a English/Maths GCSE resit where suitable)

2. ENROLMENT ON A LEVEL COURSES:

At least a **grade 6** in the chosen subject or equivalent if studied at GCSE

3. ENROLMENT ON APPLIED GENERAL COURSES:

At least a **grade 5** or **level 2** pass in the chosen subject if studied at KS4

B. SUBJECT SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the minimum requirements above, the following subject specific requirements apply:

Subject	Specific minimum requirement (APS = overall average GCSE points score)
Biology Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE grade 5 in maths minimum GCSE grade 5 in all science and at least one grade 6 in combined or the relevant separate sciences APS 5.5
Physics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE grade 7 in maths minimum GCSE grade 5 in all science and at least one grade 6 in combined or the relevant separate sciences APS 5.5
Computer Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE grade 5 in maths GCSE grade 5 in computer science APS 5.5
English literature and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE grade 7 in English language and/or literature
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 7 in GCSE maths APS 5.5
PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> APS 5.5 or GCSE grade 6/6-5 in science
Psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE grade 6 in maths and grade 6 in English language
Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE grade 6 in maths and grade 6 in English language
Criminology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSE grade 6 in maths and grade 6 in English language

Please note that we review applications on an individual basis

The Application Process

Students are encouraged to attend our Open Evening on **Thursday 15th January 2026, 4:00 to 6:00 pm** and then complete and return their application form. Please use the pathways wheel to help guide your choices. The application form is on the school website, where paper copies can also be printed. Following receipt of your application form we will write to you with details of next steps. Both external and Central Academy students will be interviewed to ensure the right courses are chosen and there is a smooth transition from Key Stage 4.



If you require any further information please contact the school at
info@rrca.org.uk

The deadline for applications is 27th March 2026