



THETFORD ACADEMY



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Welcome to your academy

Welcome to Thetford Academy. We have a clear aim for our pupils: that they are happy, safe and successful. This aim directly influences every action we take as a school. We have the highest expectations of our pupils and are committed to maintaining a calm, structured and supportive learning environment that enables them to prosper.

Thetford Academy offers a rigorous academic education from year seven right through to sixth form because we believe that our pupils should have access to the best that has been thought, said and created.

We ensure our pupils take part in a range of enriching experiences, from participation in sports clubs and teams to a multitude of trips and visits, at home and abroad. Pupils have opportunities to take part in a variety of vibrant arts, music and drama activities too.

Our custom-built campus has enviable facilities: classrooms and labs designed for modern teaching, and extensive grounds for a full range of sports. Our teachers are passionate advocates for their students, and can draw on the world-recognised expertise of the Inspiration Trust's education team.

As part of the Trust - twice ranked the top comprehensive schools group in the country for pupil progress to GCSE - we can draw on the resources and expertise from across our East Anglian family of schools to support our students and staff.

The academy has a proud culture of learning, aspiration, and community. It's a great place to be, and I invite you to come and see for yourself exactly what makes Thetford Academy such a special place, and the right place for your child to learn for their future.

Dan Carter, Principal





Our vision

Our vision is that every pupil can succeed, both in their academic results and as an outgoing and positive member of our local, national, and global communities. We achieve this by ensuring that everyone commits to achieving outstanding progress, enjoying and engaging in their learning, and being prepared to take on challenge without the fear of failure.

With more than 1100 pupils, Thetford Academy is a large school, but our strong links to nearby primary schools means that students don't feel overwhelmed. We offer an early transition in July matched with one to one appointments for parents, giving students and families the chance to find their feet informally before starting the new term in September.

Our academic curriculum is supported by a huge range of extra activities such as trips and visits in the UK and abroad, participation in music and art events, and a wide selection of sporting opportunities across a huge range of sports activities.

Thetford Academy is a member of the Inspiration Trust family of schools, which spans Norfolk and Suffolk. The trust has twice been ranked as the top comprehensive schools group in the country for progress to GCSE, and includes some of the highest performing schools in East Anglia. Our staff draw on world-recognised subject experts to ensure our students get the very best teaching.





Teaching and learning

We aim for the very best in classroom education enabling all students - from Year 7 through to sixth form - to achieve success and gain valuable knowledge and skills.

In every lesson we expect:

- To stretch, challenge and support our pupils
- To inspire interest and curiosity
- To develop reading, writing, and mathematical skills
- To provide opportunities to work in groups as well as developing independence and resilience
- To build confidence and encourage pupils to take responsibility
- Pupils to push themselves to make the best progress

Our teaching is well regarded within the profession, and we are a specialist centre for the training of maths, physics, and modern foreign languages teachers.

We work with our fellow academies within the Inspiration Trust to apply innovative teaching approaches and deliver a thorough, modern, knowledge rich curriculum. This ensures that students have the knowledge not only to tackle their exams, but the wider and richer knowledge they need to get on in the world after education.





Academy life

Our curriculum provides a wide range of subjects making sure that every student has the opportunity to tailor the choice of subjects to their particular strengths.

It is crucial that all achieve excellence in English, maths, and science, and we focus on numeracy and literacy skills from the moment students join us.

During their early years pupils will study subjects including art, biology, chemistry, computing, English, French, geography, history, maths, music, physical education, physics, religious education, Spanish, and technology.

Students have daily tutor time to ensure all our young people are fully supported, with tutors able to get to know their students in depth.

The academy is divided into four colleges: Alpha, Delta, Gamma and Omega. Each pupil is allocated to a college and we hope they will represent their college in one or more of the competitions that run through the school year.

Achievement points are accumulated for school work, attendance, and other activities and these lead to an awards ceremony at the end of each term.

An important feature of our academy day is our enrichment activities. Taking place immediately after lessons finish, we run homework and sports clubs to encourage students to ensure they have completed their school work or take part in an activity that builds their confidence and encourages teamwork.





Opportunities

Our academy ensures that pupils are able to take advantage of a wide range of trips and visits both in the UK and abroad, supporting their classroom learning as well as developing their confidence and personality based on exposure to a range of challenges.

We place great value on music, art, drama and sport.

Music is provided through music lessons and separate gradings, with growing links with the Thetford Music Project. These areas provide lots of experiences for pupils to encourage participation and enjoyment of the subject.

There are multiple opportunities for pupils to perform, with recent productions including *We Will Rock You*, *Grease*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as well as a touring Shakespeare show alongside professional actors.

We hold exhibitions of student artwork both in school and with partners such as the Ancient House Museum of Thetford Life.

Our sports teams perform very well in the local and county competitions and we have a number of pupils who have achieved county, regional and national honours in their sports. Our sports programme is not just for the elite athletes: everyone is welcomed at the training sessions where the focus is on developing skills and techniques.





Pastoral care

Every student is important and to ensure we identify and support their needs we operate a college system alongside our excellent Special Educational Needs and Disabilities department.

We operate a year group support system, with dedicated staff providing pastoral support alongside teaching staff, and careers and guidance advisors.

Academic mentoring is provided for students to help them achieve their goals.

We support our students with formal structures that include the academy council, year group councils, head boy and girl and prefects. Our vision is that pupils enjoy and engage in their learning - listening to their views is important in ensuring this happens.

Our uniform is smart and traditional. We encourage each pupil to take pride in their appearance and to be proud to belong to Thetford Academy and represent their community whenever they are in uniform.

We work in close partnership with parents and hold formal parents' evenings to give the chance to meet and speak with teachers about the progress their child is making.

The academy has a stringent safeguarding policy to ensure that every child is safe and protected from harm. This policy gives clear direction to staff, volunteers, visitors, and parents and carers about expected behaviour, and our legal responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all students.





Sixth form

Our sixth form offers a natural progression for students after GCSEs.

We offer a wide range of courses so that students can pursue their interests and work towards employment or university, with plenty of expert advice from our award-winning careers service.

Sixth form offers an important bridge to adult life, with students guided into taking more independence and responsibility.

While the sixth form is a distinct part of the academy, it retains strong links with younger years with a 'buddy' system encouraging our post-16 students to support children further down the academy.

Full details of our sixth form can be found in its own dedicated prospectus and on our website.

Apply for a place

Applying for a place is straightforward and follows the same Norfolk County Council process as other local secondary schools.

We hold open evenings and tours during the year to allow students and parents the chance to experience the college for themselves; please visit our website at thetfordacademy.org.uk for details.

INSPIRATION TRUST

Thetford Academy is part of the Inspiration Trust, a not-for-profit charity twice ranked as the country's top comprehensive schools group for pupil progress to GCSE.

Our schools follow a knowledge-rich curriculum, structured by traditional subjects, to ensure systematic and thorough teaching for all.

We also offer the widest range of sporting and cultural opportunities to our young people, and encourage them to play an active role in their school and the wider community.

Our family of schools work together to ensure that all students have access to the very best teaching expertise, exceptional facilities, and extracurricular activities to excite and broaden young minds.



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